

Spring 2018
No. 284

THE IRON DUKE



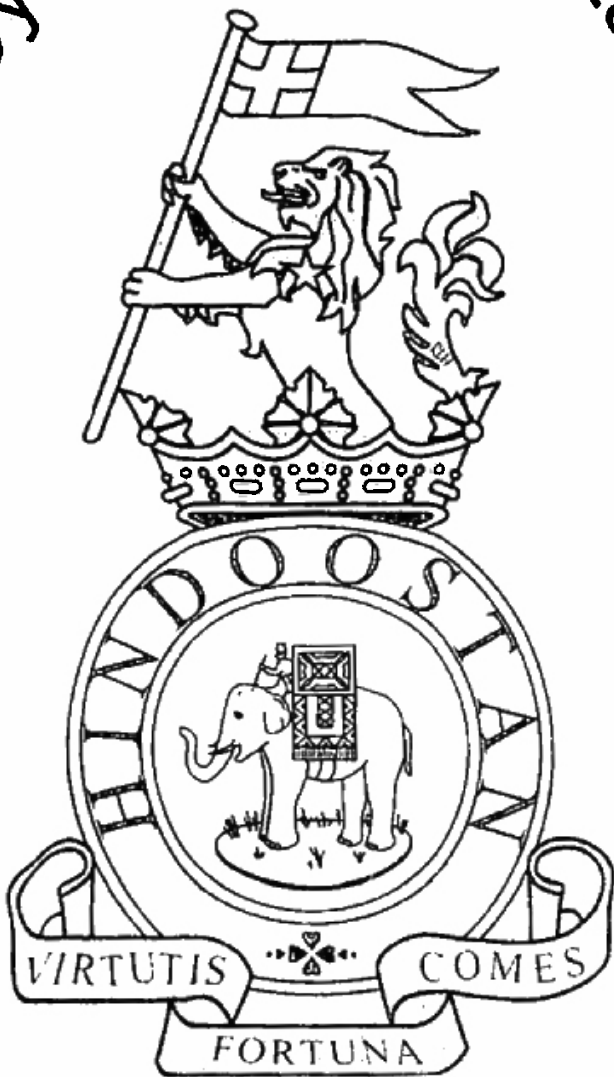
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The Molar Dining Club

Digitised by The Regimental Archives





The Duke of Wellington's Regiment



The 33rd in square at Waterloo repelling French cavalry, 1815, painted by David Rowlands.

Arthur Wellesley, who eventually became the Duke of Wellington, joined the 33rd Regiment of Foot in 1793 and shortly afterwards, as commanding officer at the age of 25, took them to Holland for his first active service. He served for many years in the 33rd and they fought with him in the centre of the defensive line at Waterloo when, as commander of the Allied army, he held and defeated Napoleon's army. The Duke died in 1852 and in the following year Queen Victoria established Wellington College and renamed the existing regiment as the 33rd the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Thus were created two living memorials to the Great Duke.

The next Duke of Wellington to serve was Henry, sixth Duke, commissioned into the Regiment in 1935, but killed in action at Salerno, Italy in 1943. In 1974, HM the Queen appointed Valerian, eighth Duke and a distinguished soldier, to be Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, the first and only non-royal person to hold such a position. He held this post until the amalgamation of the Regiment in 2006.



1702-2006

The 33rd Regiment had been raised by the Earl of Huntingdon in 1702. The 76th Regiment, in which Arthur Wellesley had also served, had first been raised in 1787 for service in India. There, in 1803, after a particularly distinguished period of service, the 76th was awarded a pair of honorary colours. The Regiment became the only one in the British Army to carry four colours rather than the usual two; a privilege which continued throughout the rest of the Regiment's life. The 76th was eventually amalgamated with the 33rd in 1881, becoming the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, these two battalions fought all over the British Empire and on the European mainland – taking part in the wars of the Austrian and Spanish Succession, the American War of Independence, the Napoleonic wars, many campaigns in the Indian Empire and Afghanistan, the Crimea, Abyssinia, and South Africa. In World War I "the Dukes" – as the Regiment had become known – provided 22 battalions and lost more than 8000 men killed in action. In World War II there were 12 battalions, with the two regular battalions serving with great distinction in France, North Africa, Italy and Burma. In modern campaigns, the Dukes have served in Korea, Cyprus, many tours in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan.



The Regiment's four colours with Valerian, eighth Duke of Wellington

Since the late 18th century, the Regiment recruited its soldiers from the West Riding of Yorkshire, establishing its headquarters and training depot in Halifax, where now there is an Association office and regimental museum in the Halifax Museum. In common with the College, the Regiment had an outstanding reputation on the rugby field. It won the first Army inter-unit cup in 1906 and has won it more often than any other unit since. Eleven Dukes were international players, three playing for the British Lions, one as captain. The Dukes excelled in many sports, providing Olympic skiers, sailors of every type, national shots, outstanding boxers and a good record in many other sports.

The Regiment was amalgamated with the Green Howards and the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire to form the Yorkshire Regiment in 2006. The Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association has now become part of the Wellington Community.



Sports in the Regiment

The magnificent Regimental History Board that was unveiled at Wellington College on the occasion of the Officers' Lunch on 17 March 2018.

The photograph at the bottom of the front cover shows the members of the Dukes' Molars' Dining Club at the Imperial Hotel, Halifax, 23 February 2018. from left, Peter Robinson, Mel Smith, Ken Johnson, Bob Heron, Chris Hosty, Paul Mitchell, Paddy Ennis, Bob Tighe, Walter Robins, Terry Butterworth, John Hogg, Brian Syke, and Andy Pigg.

THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

*Dettingen
Mysore
Seringapatam
Ally Ghur
Delhi 1803
Leswarree
Deig
Corunna
Nive
Peninsula
Waterloo
Alma
Inkerman
Sebastopol
Abyssinia
Relief of Kimberley
Paardeberg
South Africa 1900-02
Mons 1914
Marne 1914, '18
Ypres 1914, '15, '17*



*Hill 60
Somme 1916, '18
Arras 1917, '18
Cambrai 1917, '18
Lys
Piave 1918
Landing at Suvla
Afghanistan 1919
North-West Europe
1940, 1944-45
Dunkirk 1940
St Valery-en-Caux
Fontenay-le-Pesnil
Djebel Bou Aoukaz 1943
Anzio
Monte Ceco
Burma 1942, '43, '44
Sittang 1942
Chindits 1944
The Hook 1953
Korea 1952-53*

Vol. XCIII

Spring 2018

No. 284

BUSINESS NOTES

Published twice a year - Spring and Autumn.
Annual Subscription - £10.00 payable in advance to the
Business Manager on 1st April.

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**Copy for the Autumn 2018 edition should reach the
Editor by 1st September 2018**

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Editorial

Memorial Appeal

Along with about 150 others granted the privilege, I attended a reception at Apsley House, Hyde Park Corner, the London home of the Dukes of Wellington. The event had several aims: to thank those who had already donated to the Regimental Memorial Fund; to encourage other prospects to do likewise; and to show off a scaled, three-dimensional model of the Memorial itself (a “maquette”).



The memorial will show almost life-size models of our soldiers at various periods of our history.

The Duke, whose generosity in lending us his home was widely appreciated, spoke first, as Patron of the Appeal to welcome those present, to emphasise the family's strong connections with our Regiment, and thank those who have played a part in the project so far. Brigadier Andrew Meek CBE, our Association's President, then described the progress that had been made with the appeal and the Memorial itself, and the way forward; and finally the sculptor, Mr Andrew

Sinclair gave us the thinking behind his creation. And then there was something of a scrum around the model as it was inspected in minutest detail.



His Grace opens the reception

The President has more to say about this in his column, but readers should be assured that it will look magnificent; unique, imposing, impossible to pass by without pause. The statue will stand in a central Halifax site on a stone plinth and overall it will be about fifteen feet high, truly impressive. It will, we were told, be completed in the autumn of this year and unveiled next spring.

Photographs of the event and the model appear elsewhere in the Journal, as does a report on a successful fundraising rugby evening at Leathersellers' Hall, in the City of London. We should be pleased with the progress made so far and congratulate those who have played a part.

1918

Readers have followed in the footsteps of the battalions of our Regiment throughout the centennial anniversaries of the Great War. We are nearly at the end. This edition offers a personal account of Cambrai in November 1917, and then jumps forward to the great German offensives, beginning in March 1918. All of our Western Front battalions, less the 10th in Italy, were engaged at

one time or another in these epochal battles. At first, we were knocked for six, losing most of the ground that had been gained on the Somme and at Passchendaele. The Allies knew it was coming, but were unable to withstand the fury of the assault. The men on the ground must have wondered how the situation could be recovered. But it was, through their courage and determination.

It proved to be Germany's last throw of the dice, and after a few months the offensive had run out of steam, and in July the allies were back on the front foot. In this and the Autumn Iron Dukes we will cover this final, astonishing in many ways, last year of the war.

Great Men and Women of the Regiment

I would welcome contributions from readers who wish to highlight the achievements and characters of the men and women who made the Regiment what it is. Officers, Warrant Officers, NCOs or soldiers, ancient or (relatively) modern, and (can I write this these enlightened days?) "wives of..." There is probably space for a few villains as well as all the heroes. I look forward to seeing what you can do!

Smart Person Wanted, Apply Within.

An uncertain grasp of the relevant new technologies and hands that are no longer fit for typing duties compel me to start the search for a new editor of this Journal. My predecessor, Brigadier John Greenway, told me that it was a ten year job and my first issue was in autumn 2006, so I have stayed the course. I expect to produce one more after this, in autumn 2018 but there may be some flexibility.

At this stage I would add only that I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities the job offered, especially to walk with the shades of our predecessors on the battle fields of northern Europe from 1702 to 1918, and, I think I can claim now, to really understand where we came from, what we have done, and what sort of people we are. There is no "job spec" but I am happy to have an informal chat with anyone who would like to know more. It is a commitment of course, but one that is cyclical and allows plenty of time for other things, and I never had to give up anything I was doing before I started, to make room for it.

The President's Colum



Much of the past year has been spent developing the concept of a lasting and fitting memorial to the Regiment and I am delighted to report that the project has now reached a stage whereby we can say with some certainty that it will become a reality. Following a lengthy and detailed selection process, the sculptor

Andrew Sinclair has been formally commissioned to make the Memorial. His design captured the essential aspects of our history as well as the nature of the Regiment and the first major milestone to the project was reached on 6th March when the maquette of his design was unveiled at a wonderful reception given by our Patron, The Duke of Wellington, in the magnificent surroundings of Apsley House. I should point out that private receptions at No 1 London are very few and far between so we were more than fortunate to have the event in such a fitting venue. Furthermore the evening was something of an impromptu Regimental reunion which made it all the more enjoyable. But of greater importance was the reaction of everyone present: there were no adverse comments at all and everyone seemed genuinely impressed with it. The important point to note though is that the finished piece will not necessarily be an exact replica of the maquette because there will be certain aspects that need altering albeit very slightly. Thus if you have feel some part of the design needs to change, do please let the Committee know but please be aware that it may not be possible to meet each and every request! The focus for the project now switches to the creation of the full sized Memorial, a task that will take the better part of a full year which may seem a long time but this reflects the size and complexity of the finished piece. Looking ahead, the intention is for the Memorial to be unveiled in Halifax in May 2019 and as soon as a date is confirmed we will let everyone know.



Brigadier Andrew Meek with the sculptor, Andrew Sinclair.

The event also marked the formal launch of the fundraising appeal although in reality it started late last year when letters were sent out to everyone on the Regimental database. All of us involved in the project have been really delighted with the response we have had from within the Regimental family as to date over £70,000 has been donated. Alongside this is the £50,000 the Association Trustees have agreed to grant to the project which means we are half way to reaching our target. This also demonstrates that there is genuine support for the project, support that is matched from within the West

Riding and in particular Halifax. Having said that I am under no illusion as to the challenge we face is raising the remaining funds in order to complete the Memorial.

Whilst on the subject of memorials, I must mention the wonderful board that was unveiled at Wellington College by Lady Honor Wellesley, daughter of The Duke, at the recent officers and wives lunch. The board, which has been produced and generously funded by the College, provides an excellent précis of the Regiment's history and links to The Great Duke and thus further strengthens the ties between us and the College. I am particularly grateful to Brigadier Michael Bray for leading this project to such a successful conclusion.

Staying with history, we were recently made aware of the sale by auction of Private McGuire's Crimea medals. He was the subject of what became known as 'the failed VC' due to the fact that following his escape from Russian captivity he killed two of his captors. The recommendation that he be awarded the VC was rejected by Queen Victoria on the grounds that "*His deed was one of very doubtful morality, and if pointed out by the Sovereign as praiseworthy, may lead to the cruel and inhumane practice of never making prisoners but always putting to death those who may be overpowered for fear of their rising over captors.*" McGuire was instead awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and was one of the first 15 recipients of the award.

Given the unique nature of Private McGuire's medals it was decided that we should if at all possible acquire





them for the Regimental Museum at Bankfield and I am delighted to say that we have been successful. They were bought for £7,000 which was a good deal less than we were led to expect. The intention is for the medals to form the centrepiece of a new Crimea display in the Museum which will be developed in the coming months.

As ever I more than grateful to the small band of volunteers who maintain the business of the Association in particular John Hogg who oversees it all. But the truth of the matter is that we continue to need new people to come forward to help in a variety of roles so if you feel you have a few spare hours in the week please let us know: the more people we have to help, the more the Association will be able to do.

Editor's Note: The McGuire story was told in the Daily Telegraph on 18 January this year, in the context of the sale of his medals. The newspaper commented that had Queen Victoria not stopped the award of the Victoria Cross on the grounds of the dubious morality of his actions, his medal group would be worth a huge sum. As it is the price is one which the Regiment has been able to afford. When last the Editor heard of this story the medals had not yet arrived at our Museum at Bankfield, Halifax.

Fundraising Event Photographs

Apsley House – Reception hosted by His Grace the Duke of Wellington; 6 March 2018



The sculptor carefully places the maquette on its display table.



Minute examination by Andrew Meek, Peter Robinson and Michael Bray.



Andrew Sinclair, the sculptor who has an international reputation. Readers may have noticed that his splendid statue of David Bowie was recently unveiled.

Leathersellers Hall – An Evening with Nigel Melville; 8 February 2018

Nigel Melville is Director of Professional Rugby at the RFU. He won 13 England caps, and guided Wasps and Gloucester to Premier League success before becoming USA Team Coach. In addition to Mr Melville's stories, the audience was treated to an auction with first rate

prizes, conducted with professional aplomb by Nick Bonham. We are grateful to the Master Leatherseller, Mr. Antony Barrow and his Clerk Brigadier David Santa-Olalla, and all those who helped make the evening a success.



(above) An attentive audience waits for the proceedings to begin.



(left) Nigel Melville at the Rostrum.

(bottom) Nick Bonham persuades his audience to dig deep.



Dukes News Round-Up

The Dukes of Fenchurch Street

No, this is not a Netflix Victorian costume drama. No less than 17 Dukes rallied round Malcolm Norman, the leader of the Poppy Appeal effort at Fenchurch Street Station in the City of London, last November. 11 showed up for the early morning shift – these Londoners start work early; the 0525 Central Line tube from Leytonstone to Liverpool Street station was packed; the first trains were rolling into Fenchurch Street at about 6.00 am and they were packed too – and by the time the evening rush came around, some had had to go, and others came and many stayed the whole day, so then there were 13 stalwarts persuading the Essex Commuters to put something in the bucket, even though many of them had already done so that morning. Getting through the Dukes' rush defence without making a (voluntary, obviously) contribution was no easy task!

No doubt many former Dukes help out with the Poppy Appeal, standing outside a supermarket or other high

footfall location, taking in the donations and handing out the poppies and other bits, bobs and badges that the Royal British Legion makes available these days. In the writer's experience people are extraordinarily generous to the Poppy Appeal, and it is a delight to have to lower the bucket to enable a child to drop something in, knowing that the accompanying parent will have to explain what it is all about. Your local Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) would love to hear from you. Your town/village/community website will tell you who to contact locally.

The Fenchurch Street Dukes were: Malcolm Norman, Donald Palmer, Tim Nicholson, Andy Brear, Tim Brear, Rob Harford, James Charlesworth, Rob Palfrey, Will Peters, David Harvey, Humphrey Bradley, Sean Bowman, Andy Shand, Garath Williams, Paul Tetlow, Jeremy Hill, Robert Taylor, with special mention of Ollie Norman who came to keep an eye on Dad. Well done Malcolm and all.



Fenchurch Street Station.

Westminster Abbey Gardens



The line of infantry regimental plots looking south towards Parliament Square from the position of the Yorkshire Regiments. Major Rob Palfrey, the DWR Coordinator for this event, is on the right. There seem to be more and more people each year.

As ever, veterans crowded into Westminster Abbey Gardens on the Thursday 9th November in 2017 - before the parade at the Cenotaph on the Sunday, to commemorate the dead of two world wars. Once this was an event that was always graced by Her Majesty the Queen Mother, who walked slowly along the regimental plots with a word or two with some of those in front of them. Then the Duke of Edinburgh took the task on until 2016, and for a few years he was accompanied by Prince Harry. It is now the Prince on his own. He does it very well.

The format never varies, although those attending have to get there much earlier than they used to, because of the security arrangements. There is a short service, and then the Prince circulates around the roughly triangular path that fronts all the plots. Afterwards everyone goes off to their traditional pub for a pint and a chat.

Tickets are available to any member of the Regimental Association, and the allocation is rarely over-subscribed. Apply in good time through our HQ.



A cross in remembrance of some of our dead from the Korean War.



Prince Harry in front of the Dukes' plot. Immediately after the Yorkshire Regiments are the Staffords, whose Staffordshire Terrier Mascot usually steals the show. One day we should take along an elephant, although it will have to be quite a small one to get through the security scanner.



Tim Nicholson and David Miller in front of the DWR and Y&L plots, with David Miller's daughters behind".



A cross for Second Lieutenant Howard Fawley, whose death in Northern Ireland was remembered in our last edition.

5833 Sergeant Spence W, 2 DWR, Mons 1914

A report by Scott Flaving.



Just a week before the book launch of 7th April, 2017, one of the authors of the latest Regimental History, "Death of the 'Dukes'", Scott Flaving, returned a book to his local library near Wakefield. The book was about the First World War and a young library assistant, on receiving the book and noting its subject matter,

mentioned that her great-great uncle had been in the Boer War with the 'Dukes' and had been called up again for the Great War. Both parties were soon amazed to discover that her great-great uncle featured prominently in the 'Death of the 'Dukes'" as, by a great coincidence, her ancestor was no other than 5833 Sgt William Spence of 2 DWR. He had led a bayonet charge which cleared the street in Wasmes allowing many 'Dukes' to escape from the town during their withdrawal from that area of the Mons battlefield. He was posthumously awarded the DCM for this action as, sadly, he died of wounds a few days later in the Wasmes Colliery 'Hospital', leaving a widow and two children.

As a result of this chance meeting, three members of the Spence family, including Sgt Spence's great nephew and great-great niece, were able to attend the book launch at Huddersfield Drill Hall.

Editor's note: the action took place on 24th August 1914, near Mons, by which time the Germans had crossed the Mons-Condé canal and there was a great deal of confusion. Sergeant Spence is mentioned twice in the Bruce history of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, the first time in a quote from Corporal Williams, as he watched Lt Russell's platoon, to his right, overwhelmed at about midday on the 24th. "I saw the Germans charge the platoon, who fought to the last with the bayonet, and were all either killed or wounded. The Germans were piled up in heaps all around them.... All our officers were either killed or wounded and the Germans were all around our rear. Sergeant Spence ordered us to fix bayonets and to cut our way back. I bayoneted a German but was clubbed on the head with a rifle before I could get my bayonet free, and that is all I remember until I came round a German prisoner".

The second quote is from Lieutenant Colonel Gibbs, CO 2 DWR, just over an hour later "... on emerging into the side street in rear, I was just in time to see Sergeant Spence, who had collected a handful of men, charging down the road after some Germans who had worked round from the left... This action of Sergeant Spence's part without doubt did much to enable the rear platoons to get away without loss.

He is buried in Hautrage Military Cemetery along with 50 other Dukes from the action at Mons in August 1914, including the Adjutant, Captain Denman-Jubb, and Lieutenants Russell and Thompson.

Lieutenant Colonel CM Bateman, DSO and Bar, 1/6 DWR.

By happy chance the Editor met John Bateman of that well-known Keighley biscuit maker Grandma Wild's at Apsley House, and learned that his grandfather, named above, had commanded the 6th West Riding Battalion (1/6 DWR) in the Great War. This gallant officer was prominent in Territorial Force affairs after the war, and his medal group will certainly be an object of desire for collectors. Mr Bateman is hoping to find additional information about his grandfather and anything that is produced will be reported in this Journal.

Our own records tell us quite a lot. He landed in France with the 1/6th in April 1915 and was wounded in the shoulder from a shell explosion in September of that year, getting back to the Battalion in November. As a captain he was awarded the DSO in January 1916 as well as an MID, and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in June, taking command of the Battalion. The bar to his DSO was announced in the Birthday Honours List in 1918, the same year he qualified for his Territorial Decoration (TD). He was gassed and hospitalised in October 1918. He commanded the 6th Battalion again in 1920.

Lieutenant Huffam VC, 1/5 DWR.

Julian Morley, the Grandson of Corporal Frank White of 2/5 DWR, is organising a ceremony in Haucourt in September, at which a plaque will be attached in a suitable location, commemorating the gallantry of Lieutenant Huffam. The Division was attached to the Canadian Corps, whose men behaved with great courage and energy, winning no less than seven VCs. Full story in the next Iron Duke. The Regiment will be represented at both the Huffam event and the very large Canadian Memorial event (celebrating seven VCs) the next day. Anyone will be welcome and those interested can get further details from the Editor. It is in a perfect location for exploring several Dukes' battlefields, lying in pleasant countryside between Arras and Cambrai. The Editor will be there, and will report in the next edition.

Molars' Dinner

The Dukes' Molars LE Group enjoyed a Christmas lunch with wives at the end of 2017.

This was followed up by a black tie dinner at the Imperial Hotel Halifax on 23rd February 2018. Photograph and names at the foot of the front cover.

Any Dukes LE not receiving emails and wishing to be informed of events should contact John Hogg at DWR AHQ. To qualify, an LE Officer must have served with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment at some stage of their career.



From left, Marilyn Hogg, John Hogg, Kath Noble, Brian Noble, Tracy Hey, Peter Robinson, Linda Heron, Walter Robins, Barry Hey, Terry Butterworth, Sandra Ennis, Paddy Ennis, Bob Heron, Roy Pierce, Barbara Pierce, Anne Smith, Mel Smith, Vicki Pigg and Andy Pigg.

A 50th Anniversary Reunion – JIB Shorncliffe

A report from Geoff Bailey

Imagine three old 'Dukes' sitting outside a bar in Halifax enjoying their beer and retirement. Then, in conversation, it came to light that we had known each other both men and boys for 49 years.

Geoff Bailey, Ernie Pemberton and Dougie Mailard had joined up on the 18th of September 1967. An idea was born – How about having a 50th Anniversary Reunion down at the place where it all began, at JIB Shorncliffe, in Kent in 2017. This would give us a year to organise the event.

Then reality set in – we would need a great deal of help. Enter (Stage Left), Maj (Retd) Pat Ralph MM, late of the Green Howards. Pat is currently the Assistant Secretary of the Yorkshire Regiment Association, who also served at Shorncliffe with us. We contacted Pat and put the idea to him and to our relief he took up the challenge and the wheels were put in motion.

It took 10-11 months to organise but with the

considerable efforts of Maj (Retd) Pat Ralph MM and the cooperation of the 1st Bn, The Royal Gurkha Regiment it came to pass that on the 15th of September 2017, three old 'Dukes' set off on Friday morning for a weekend at Shorncliffe.

A Friday night meeting in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess gave a lot of retired soldiers time to reflect over the last 50 years. A great night was had by all who attended the event.

Saturday began with a traditional Army Breakfast followed by a number of demonstrations showing current issue weapons, clothing, equipment and radios which showed a great improvement over the 50 years.

Lunch provided a great surprise with a Gurkha style curry followed by a few beers and a constitutional stroll around the old camp with a siesta in the late afternoon.

Saturday evening started in Regimental style with dinner, courtesy of 1st RGR in the WOs' and Sgts'

Mess. The food wine and beer to follow were excellent and enjoyed by all. After retiring to the bar later, the beer flowed as did the 'war stories' – to the echoes of "Swing that light, pull up a sand bag....." We talked and compared ourselves to the 3 Musketeers who left Shorncliffe. There should have been four, with Pete Sugden who unfortunately could not join us owing to other commitments – so we drank his share as well – well it would have been churlish not to.....

Inevitably, all good things must come to an end and as Sunday morning arrived we all set off home have enjoyed a truly great weekend in great company.

Our special thanks as extended to Maj (Retd) Pat Ralph MM for organising such a great weekend and also to the 1st Bn, Royal Gurka Regiment for opening their doors and their hospitality to us.

We all now look forward to the 100th Anniversary..... We wish.



From left, Ernie Pemberton, Geoff Bailey, Dougie Mailard.

The Regimental Racing Car

Alan Westcob, our man in South Carolina, USA, was surprised to find the regimental racing car in his part of the world, or so he assumed from its number.

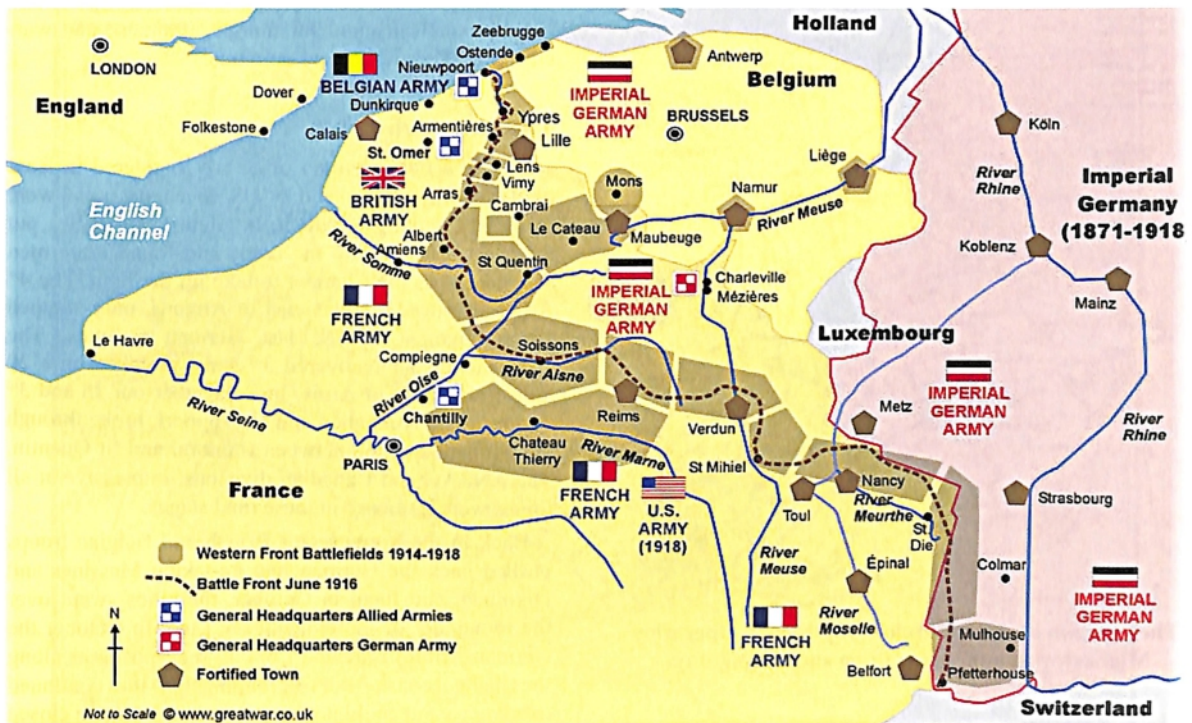


New Association Member?



The gentleman shown in the photograph was spotted wearing a regimental tie. Association HQ would appreciate anyone who recognises the gentleman to identify him, so that he can be added to our database, and may wish to join the Halifax Branch.

The Dukes in the Great War – November 1917 to June 1918



The main battle zones of the Great war

Location of Battalion

1917 would see three major battles, all described or touched on in previous issues of this Journal: Arras, May to June; Passchendaele, June to November; and Cambrai, November. The Dukes played a part in all of these. In late summer and autumn the 49th Division, including our territorial battalions 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 1/7 DWR, were fighting their way up the slopes of the ridges that surrounded Ypres to west, north and south. 2, 8, 9 and 10 DWR were also engaged in the battles of the third Ypres, or Passchendaele. The 62nd Division, with our second line territorial battalions in 146 Brigade, 2/4, 2/5, 2/6 and 2/7 DWR were licking the wounds sustained at Bullecourt in May, and in November would be deployed in the assault on Cambrai, initially an astonishing success, and although it proved costly and its gains could not be sustained, it would teach many useful lessons for the future conduct of the war.

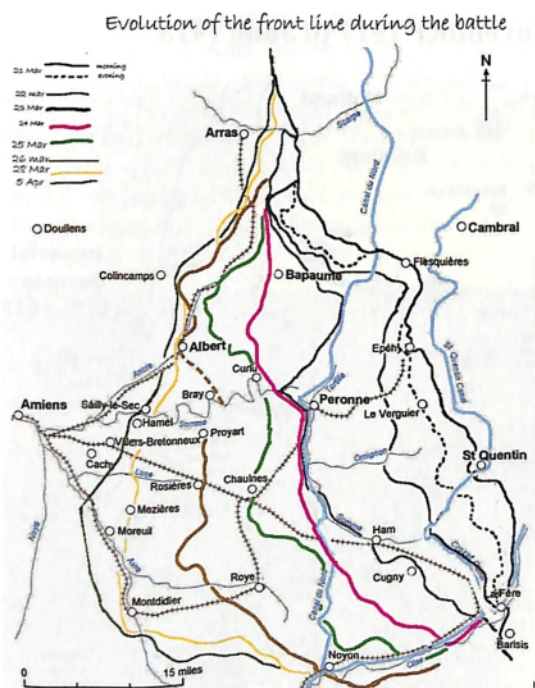
12th (Labour) Bn (the 11th Bn never left UK) had been in the rear areas of the Western Front since April 1916, and in 1917 served in both the Ypres and Somme sectors. Their tasks, often under RE direction, included such things as working to keep railway lines open, manhandling ammunition, and on construction of various infrastructure projects. 13 DWR was one of a number

of France based garrison units converted into service battalions to reinforce the much depleted divisions that had been in action during the 1918 German offensives. It was initially engaged in construction of defences, but got into the line in mid-August, and in September was part of the general advance.

Outline of Events November 1917 to November 1918

It is useful to have in mind an outline of the shape of events from the end of 1917 to victory in 1918. The November '17 gains of Cambrai did not last long. In March '18, reinforced from the east, a German counter-attack took back all that was gained and more, at great cost to both sides. General Van der Marwitz's order to the 2nd German Army, on November 29th said: "The English, by throwing into the fight countless tanks, gained a victory near Cambrai. Their intention was to break through but they did not succeed thanks to the brilliant resistance of our troops. We are now going to turn their embryonic victory into a defeat by an encircling counter-attack. The Fatherland is watching you, and expects every man to do his duty".

Thus in March 1918 the first of the great German



The position on 21st March 1918, the day Operation Michael was launched and on succeeding days.

offences began with Operation Michael; 65 divisions attacking the British 3rd (to the north) and 5th (south) Armies, a broad westerly thrust from Arras to Noyon, taking in such as St Quentin, Albert, Bapaume, Peronne with a central target of Amiens. The 5th was almost destroyed but the 3rd rolled back and hung on, enough to deny the German High Command's objectives of taking Arras and Amiens, and thence wrap up the British and Commonwealth forces from south to north. Once surrounded and cut off from supplies they might well have had to sue for terms. This was probably the closest to defeat that we had been.

In April the second offensive, Georgette, sent 45 divisions against our 2nd Army around Ypres. Driven back off the northern heights of the Salient, so bloodily won, back past Messines and Passchendaele and up to the outskirts of Ypres itself, but the aim to cut us off from the Channel ports was not achieved. Together Michael and Georgette cost Germany 330,000 casualties.

Then in May the Blucher-Yorck offensive deployed 41 divisions which strove to destroy the French 6th Army on a 25 mile front east of the river Aisne. It got to within 60 miles of Paris, but halted, like the others, through sheer exhaustion. In this month US troops were in action for the first time, and proved fairly effective, no doubt helped by their freshness and long preparation for the battles to come in France. (In a recent presentation

by respected military historian Gordon Corrigan, the USA's contribution to eventual victory by the Allies was described as tactically and militarily insignificant, but diplomatically and for morale, immense and war-changing. There are many opinions!)

The Tide Turns

In July a final German offensive foundered in front of 3 French Armies and 5 US divisions, who were ready and waiting for them. In August the British put their last reserves into the battle and found more men to send across the Channel to take up the fight. The 4th Army advanced 7 miles east of Amiens, only stopped by deployment of the last German reserves. The same month our recovered 3rd Army attacked on a 20 mile front south of Arras. In September our 1st and 3rd Armies, with Australian and US support, broke through the Hindenburg line between Cambrai and St Quentin. The ANZAC and Canadian divisions, impressive at all times, were immense in these final stages.

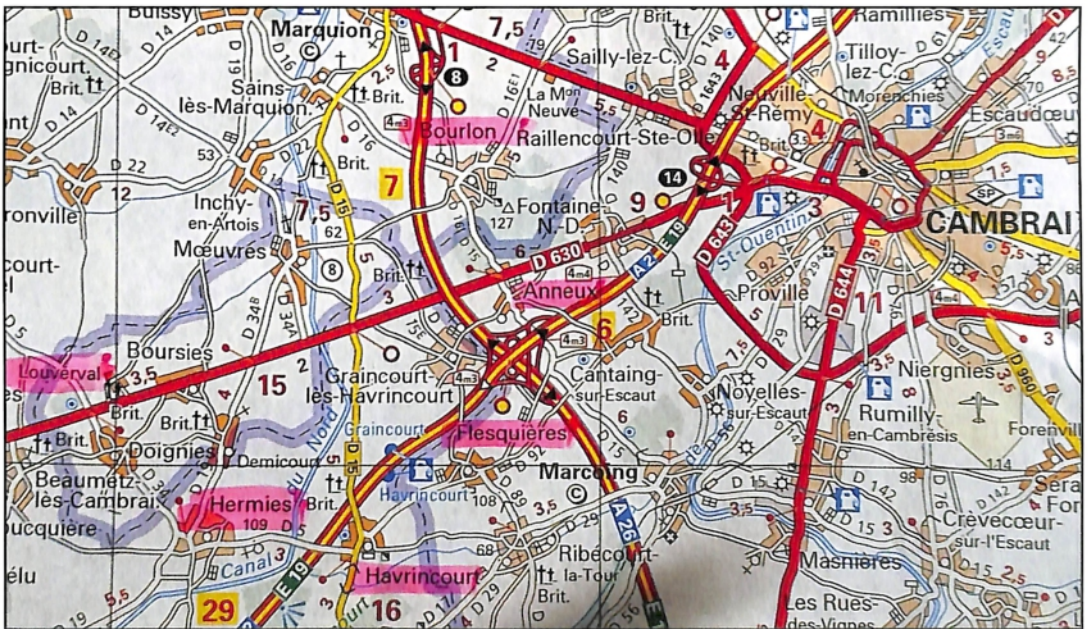
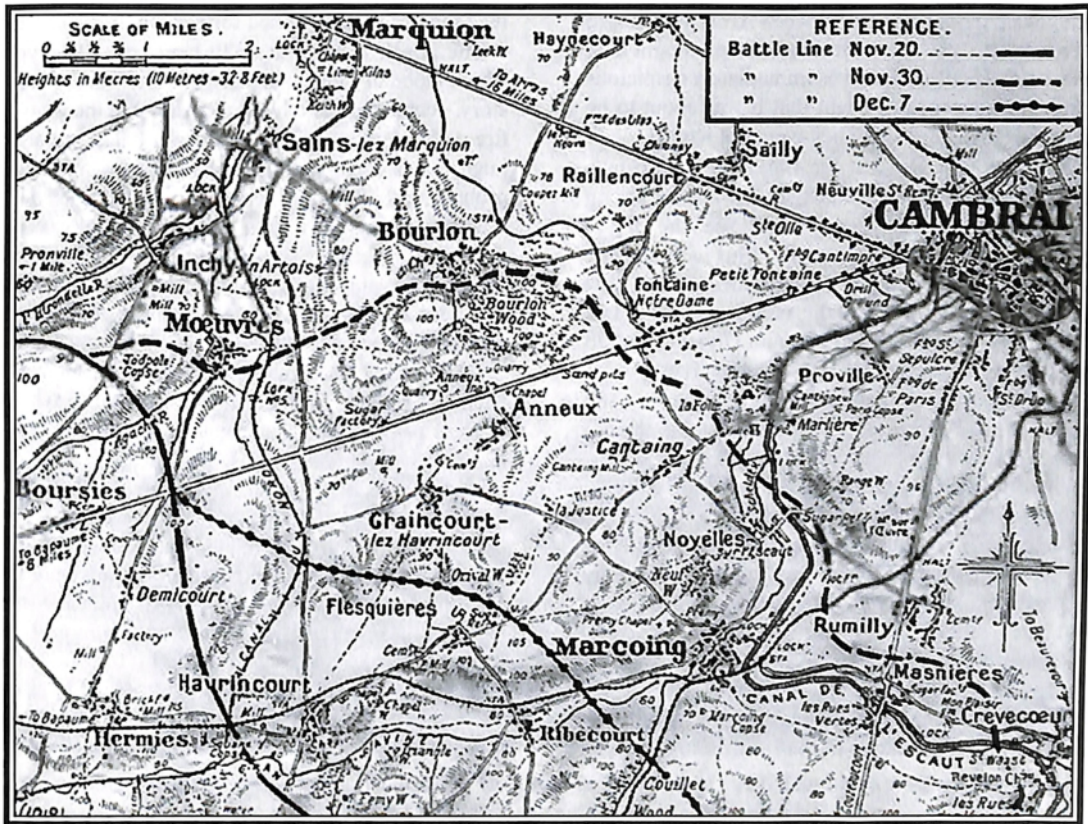
Back in the Ypres sector British and Belgian troops pushed back the German line, re-taking Messines and Dixmude, and then, in October, the allies swept over the remainder of the Hindenburg Line. In October the German Armies retreated from all their positions along the Channel coast. After re-grouping the Allies continued to advance and could not be stopped. The British closed in on Ghent and Mons, and US forces took the line of the Meuse in southern Belgium. On November 11th, at Compiègne in France, the Germans surrendered. It was over. We will look at the Dukes' units contributions at various times in this fateful year.

We begin by going back a few months, with further details of the Cambrai offensive.

A Narrative of the Battle of Cambrai 1917.

This article takes as its core story extracts from "HJT"'s articles in the Iron Dukes of 1931 – 1932. The action described here is of the second phase of the Battle of Cambrai, commencing on 24 November 1917. Many then, and now, regarded Cambrai as a hastily thought through "harum scarum" plan that somehow evolved from an idea for a heavy raid into a ground capturing and holding six division assault. Others regard it as the greatest success in the war so far. The attack was strongly promoted by Tank Corps commander Brigadier Hugh Elles and his Chief of Staff, Lieutenant Colonel John Fuller, who wanted their "big beasts" to operate en masse, to force a breakthrough, rather than being dribbled out piece-meal along the front in support of plodding infantry.

HJT served in the Gordon Highlanders from 1915 until May 1917. He was selected for officer training and in



The main places mentioned in the following narratives are on these maps, one roughly contemporary to the action and one modern. The main road running west from Cambrai goes to Bapaume.

due course arrived in France in 2/7 DWR (186 (WR) Brigade) near Achiet le Petit, between Arras and Albert, part of a large draft of new officers and men brought in in October 1917. The Battalion was immediately suspicious that strong reinforcement meant that it was about to be sent somewhere hazardous! They were not wrong.

Orders were received that the Battalion was to take part in operations at Havrincourt, a well-known strong German position where "you could see the Jerrys walking about the bloody streets!" This would be a major attack on the Hindenburg Line, with the 62nd West Riding Division spearheading the assault on the village, with the 36th Ulster and 51st Highland Divisions to left and right respectively, with their own objectives.

The assault was to be preceded by tanks in mass – 186 Brigade had been allocated 20 - these noisy machines having been secretly brought up under cover of darkness, to defeat observation by German aircraft, seemingly successfully. Memories of the disasters at Bullecourt earlier in the year were still fresh in 2/7 DWR, where the enemy were fully aware of impending assault. Secrecy was key to success, although many were sceptical that it would be achieved.

The Battalion moved up to Bertincourt, a devastated village (like all in the vicinity). They were in the area totally wrecked by the Germans when they withdrew from their Somme positions to the Hindenburg Line. In

his billet HJT spent time chopping up fallen beams to feed the fire in their ruined former inn.

The attack went in at 0620 hours on 20 November. Major Goodall's tale in the last Iron Duke tells part of the story. Technological advances meant that the guns could fire with adequate accuracy without being registered, a huge bonus for tanks which had been unable to cross ground mashed up in the preliminary barrages at Ypres a couple of months earlier. Whilst the tanks were still unwieldy, slow (on average 100 Yards in 5 minutes in the assault) and unreliable, there, too, useful progress had been made, not least in infantry/tank cooperation and understanding.

HJT did not go in with the first wave but was held back in reserve; it was quite normal to leave a few officers behind, so that there was someone to take up command when all those who had gone up with the first wave became casualties, which was frequently the case. He writes: "The massed tanks took the Germans completely by surprise, making avenues through the wire. Our infantry was on them before they were able to get up from their over-deep dugouts. They were literally captured in hundreds before they could get up to fight. The German SOS rockets outdid any firework display, and what with them, and our own troops' flares, it was pandemonium. The artillery weighed in and soon the air was thick with contact aeroplanes going backwards and



The west side of Bourlon Wood in November 2017.



The main road junction in Bourlon in November 1917 and in November 2017. The black and white photograph was copied from one in the café opposite the church.



forwards with messages as to our progress. We soon got to know that Havrincourt had been carried by storm, and our boys gained their first objective in the Hindenburg Line with negligible casualties, and, later in the day, were pushing on towards Bourlon Wood itself."

Prisoners later revealed that many of the German units were fresh from the Russian front. On the right the Highlanders were stuck on Flesquieres, "a proper strong point", which would expose the flanks of divisions to either side (as happened in the Scarpe battles earlier). The Battalion was pulled back and re-grouped in Bertincourt. On 25 November, JHT's birthday, orders to move forward were received and acted upon. As it approached Bourlon Wood it came under a barrage of enemy artillery, "shook out into artillery formation", and took shelter in shell holes where available. Short rushes took them clear of the barrage belt. The next task was to cross the Bapaume-Cambrai road. "Naturally the enemy had its range; shells fell with monotonous regularity at even distances upon it. We travelled along parallel with the road at about 40 yards from it, and crossed it in rushes to about 40 yards parallel on the other side." They captured Graincourt and Anneux, and were stopped on the edge of Bourlon Wood.

On 21st November 186 Brigade began its assault on Bourlon Wood. Now almost without tank support it was unable to make further progress. The Division was pulled out of the line after its splendid achievements, and replaced by 40th Division, but was back in the line on the 23rd. Some gains made by 40 Division had been reversed by German counter-attack. 62 Division must attack Bourlon Wood - again. On the 26th, after a very cold night with blizzards and unsupported by artillery as 3 companies of the Highland Light Infantry were lost somewhere on the line of assault, the advance began. It made little progress; the enemy had been pushed back but was far from defeated. As troops emerged from the

protection of the wood they came under intense machine gun fire. Despite this the brigade achieved most of its immediate objectives.

HJT had found a German rifle, which he declared to be superior to his own, and used it for sniping. He also commandeered a German spade which he again declared to be of a superior type. The fighting was by now very local, taking trenches at bayonet point and clearing out dug-outs. JHT and his men were exhausted, and increasingly subjected to counter-attack. The Division ground to a halt

The 62nd was relieved by 47 Division, and pulled back. "We heard that dismounted cavalry were going to take over from us. Sure enough the Somerset Yeomanry appeared behind the line. They amused us rather by attempting to do the relief in parade ground style. They wanted to be all standing in line behind and wait for the word before we got out and they got in. They made far too much row. Consequently we had no sooner clambered out of our holes when a terrific machine gun and rifle fire swept the position. We flopped like lightning and lay there pressing ourselves down onto the earth for dear life."

HJT led his men back to the edge of the wood, where they had entered, and were told they were in reserve. There was now continuous shelling and stray bullets passing through and many new casualties, on top of the many already taken in the preceding action, were taken. After a series of misadventures, and one piece of luck when he wandered into a position held by the 1st Surrey Rifles where he met his brother, he got back to his Battalion.

The Cambrai offensive ended on 4 December, with the formations that took part largely back where they started. For most it was a comparatively quiet few winter months.

Opposite Page

(Top Left) The gates of Havrincourt Chateau, where Lt Col Best, CO2/5 DWR (see last issue page 15) was killed on 20 November 1917.

(Top Right) Hermies Hill Cemetery, containing the graves of 40 Dukes, some from November 1917, and others from September 1918. There are a good number of CWGC sites with our men from different months and years, as the war rolled back and forth over the same ground.

(Middle Left and Right) The memorial to the 62nd (West Riding) Division is just outside the village of Havrincourt. An unknown hand had put flowers at its base.

(Bottom) There are 233 Dukes men named on the Cambrai Louverval Memorial on the road between Cambrai and Bapaume, almost all from November 1917.



From March 1918 – the German Offensives

Operation Michael, 9 DWR and 62 (West Riding) Division

The First Attack

War Diary 9 DWR: “London Trench (near Oppy), 21 March 1918. Great enemy bombardment commenced along the whole front. Great quantities of gas shells were used. Gas masks worn by all ranks for five hours” The Battalion withstood these massive barrages, even pushing forward to counter enemy probes. Elsewhere along the British line allied forces had been pushed back, so on 22 March 9 DWR also pulled back in conformity. “At 10.00 am the enemy made repeated attacks on our bombing stop in London Trench. Each time he was driven back without making any headway leaving many dead in the trench. At 4.00 pm information was received that 50th Brigade on our left had withdrawn leaving our left flank in the air so our post line was compelled to withdraw”.

On March 23rd the battalion took up a defensive position at Hermies, a small village next to the Cambrai-Bapaume road, close to the Canal du Nord and the Hindenburg Line. The photo below shows the northern edge of the village as it is now. On that edge 9 DWR took up a hurried defensive position on 23 March 1918, “a great hand to hand struggle took place and the enemy was driven off, leaving hundreds of dead in front of the wire... 4000 of their men rushed the village and there were heaps of dead in front of our lines. Our machine gun fire was deadly and artillery gave admirable effective co-operation”. There were six attacks between noon and sunset.

The next few days saw a scrambled withdrawal,

as flank units and formations either withdrew under immense pressure, leaving others’ flanks exposed, or themselves had to pull back, opening up the flanks of their neighbours. The once familiar 1916 battle-scarred towns and villages along the Somme front came back into view. The 9th eventually came to rest on 4 April at Villers-Bocage, north of Amiens and west of Albert, the latter having been taken but the former not.

62nd Division at Bucquoy.

General Braithwaite, commanding 62nd (West Riding) Division, said that he regarded the action at Bucquoy as perhaps the finest achievement of his Division. In reserve on 21 March, three days later the Division was rushed up to Bucquoy. Whole allied armies were rolling back in some disorder, and by now the German thrust was turning northwards. Albert fell on 26 March and 62 Division was ordered to “stabilise the line”. Amiens, with its essential rail junction, was under threat. 186 Brigade (the three Dukes’ battalions, 2/4, 2/5 and 2/7) was in Bucquoy and 185 (West Yorks) and 187 (KOYLI) Brigades in Achiet le Petit, somewhat to the south east. In great haste they put up makeshift defences, using whatever materials they could find to hand. Reorganisation of brigades had added a machine gun company to each, but reduced them to three infantry battalions. The guns were in ideal ground for their effective use, and these weapons played a major part in battles to come. Major Goodall’s account also mentions this battle.



The current northern edge of Hermies; the road is to the right and the canal 200 yards or so to the left, channelling any assault through what is now, and was then, open ground.

During the early evening of 25 March a number of divisions withdrew through the line now held by the 62nd, and at 7.00 pm the Division took control of its front, although men and equipment were still pouring through their positions. Early the next morning there was some adjustment, moving out into more open countryside between the east side of Bucquoy and Pusieux, a little to the south, with 185 Brigade to the north, 186 to the south and 187 in reserve. Further adjustment was needed later in the day as German attacks were by now coming up from the south, as the offensive was redirected northwards to roll up what was left of the 5th Army and the still largely intact 3rd Army, to secure Amiens and cut the allies off from the coast.

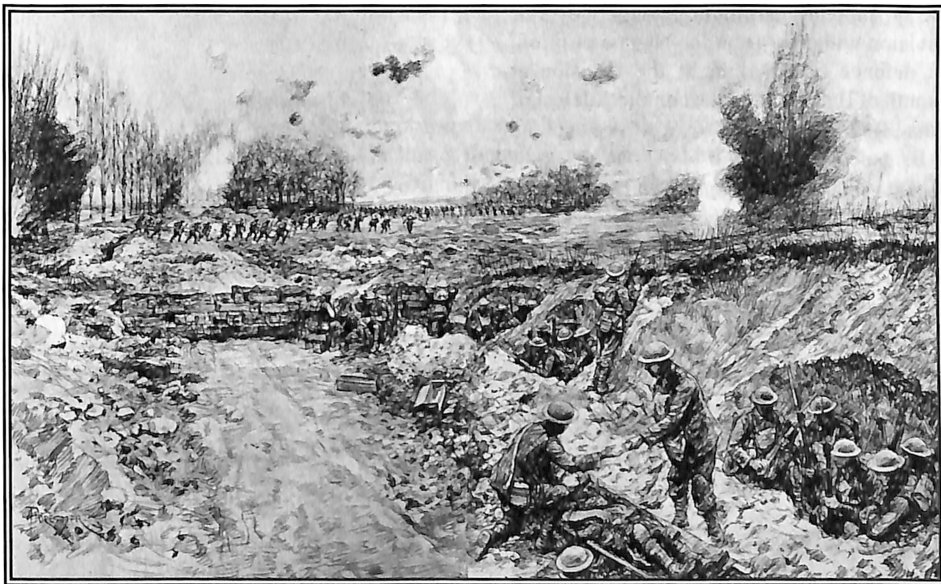
By late afternoon five heavy attacks by the Prussian Guard had been beaten off. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's history of the war reads "South of Pusieux there was a gap... Into this gap in the nick of time came first the 4th Brigade of the Australian Second Division and later the New Zealand Division.... It was a very close call for a breakthrough without opposition. Being disappointed in this the Germans on March 26th spent the whole afternoon in fierce attacks on the 62nd Division, but got little but hard knocks from Braithwaite's Yorkshiremen who, we remember, had been on the move since early morning the day before".

The following day in fighting in Rossignol, under heavy attack, A/Lieutenant Colonel O.C.S. Watson DSO of 5

KOYLI (187 Brigade) earned the Victoria Cross for "most conspicuous bravery, self-sacrificing devotion to duty and exceptional gallant leading during a critical period of operations..... The assault he led was at a critical moment, and undoubtedly saved the line. Both in the assault and in covering his men's retirement he held his life a nothing, and his splendid bravery inspired all troops in the vicinity to rise to the occasion and save a breach being made...." He was killed covering the withdrawal.

On 28 March 186 Brigade were defending their positions from 10.00 am until noon. According to "The West Riding Territorials in the Great War" one platoon of 2/5 DWR which occupied an advanced post became isolated from the rest. When last heard of at about 1 o'clock it was known to be still holding out....when the position was finally reached (re-taken) this platoon had been overwhelmed and not a man was left alive".

Machine guns were taking great toll on the enemy and by the 29th orders were given to start to push forward, taking back some of what had been lost in the last few days and ensuring that all gaps were covered. The Germans were particularly successful in their bombing parties creeping up old trenches to within throwing distance of the new, hastily prepared, positions. Assaults continued in fits and starts until March 31st, when the Division was relieved. On this front the Germans had just about run out of steam.



This drawing is taken from a contemporary Illustrated London News. In the Daily Telegraph of 4 April 2018, in a daily column to commemorate events of the Great War 100 years ago, a piece from War Correspondent Philip Gibbs is quoted. "So it was with the West Riding troops around about Bucquoy, where they had dug a line of defence after beating off attacks at Pusieux early in the battle. They were assaulted five times all day and night, by the First Guards Reserve and the Third Prussian Guards, who had direct orders to take Bucquoy, and they beat off these waves with frightful losses to the enemy and the loss of many of their own good men..... The Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment fought most gallantly, and in one week these men and their comrades took prisoners from seven German divisions, showing the weight of numbers against them.

49 (West Riding) Division and the Battle of the Lys (Operation Georgette).

(See map in Outline of the War page 13)

The aim of the second great German offensive, named Operation Georgette, was to capture key rail and road routes, to cut General Herbert Plumer's 2nd Army at Ypres off from the Channel ports. Once denied resupply from the huge dump areas on the coast, all the Allied formations would quickly be in difficulty. The rough line of German advance was Armentières south to Festubert and Givenchy.

The 49th Division had been in the Ypres sector all of 1918 into April. The German assault fell on 9 April and 49 Division moved that night to positions near Armentières. The initial fighting was south of the town, but the Allied forces had already made plans to abandon much of the ground taken in the latter half of 1917, and indeed had already done so, leaving a defensive "crust" to conceal the move from the enemy.

On 10 April 1/4 DWR was in action at Erquinem, covering a crossing of the Lys, which would enable 34 Division to pull back. The Divisional Commander wrote "The GOC 34th Division wishes to place on record his great appreciation of the services rendered by the 147th Infantry Brigade during the period it has been attached to the Division under his command. The action of the 1/4th Battalion Duke of Wellington's south of the Lys on 10th April, the skilful rear-guard fighting under cover of which the Division withdrew from the Nieppe position, the stubborn defence of the right of the Division at Steam Hill (south of Bailleul) and the complete defeat of a whole German Regiment on the 16th April, are exploits of which the Brigade may be proud".

It was here that Private Arthur Poulter won his Victoria Cross, acting as a stretcher bearer. "On ten occasions (he) carried badly wounded men on his back to a safer locality, through a particularly heavy artillery and machine gun barrage.... Again, after a withdrawal over the river had been ordered, Private Poulter returned in



The memorial to Private Poulter in Erquinem Lys.

full view of the enemy who were advancing, and carried back another man who had been left behind, wounded. He bandaged up over 40 men under fire and his conduct throughout the day was a magnificent example to all ranks. This very gallant soldier was subsequently seriously wounded when attempting another rescue in the face of the enemy".



Arthur Poulter VC



Far and few are the Regiments with a French roundabout named after them, and conveniently next to a large supermarket in Erquinem Lys.

Extracts from War Diary 1/7th DWR

9/11th April 1918

P & O CAMP - LA CRECHE - LE NIEPPE

Camp was cleaned, packs made up etc. ready to move at 1.30pm. At 10am 150 other ranks paraded in drill order at a presentation of ribbons by General Plumer (GOC II Army) to officers, NCO's and men of the Div who earned immediate rewards during the period Oct 1917 to date....

The Germans were reported at CROIX-DU-BAC. The 101st Bde (British) was defending ARMENTIERES & ERQUINGHEM-LYS. ... we were ordered to occupy the NIEPPE SWITCH in B.16.c. A & C occupied the existing trench system, B dug-in in support & C billeted in a farm at N end of Btn sector. The pack animals came up with S.A.A. about 4pm. At 6pm a good many 5.9's were sent over by the Hun Artillery but we had no casualties. Various units of the 101st Bde came through us from ARMENTIERES during the night with the result that by 5am we were practically front line. At about 7am a low flying Boche plane was brought down by Lewis Gun & rifle fire, but it fell too far from our line to enable us to get identifications re prisoners. During the night the enemy had pushed his Infantry & Machine Guns forward to PONT-DE-NIEPPE, about 1/2 mile from our line. He attempted to debouch from the houses there about 6am but was held up by MG & rifle fire. His shelling became very heavy at times & at 12 noon our casualty listed showed 20 other ranks and 1 officer 2Lt DAWSON wounded.

During the afternoon, casualties were on the increase, luckily very few were fatal..... a contretemps occurring just w of LE NIEPPE about 9pm, soon after the section began assembling. A large Boche patrol attempted to cut us off but they were driven off after a slight skirmish. About 11.30pm A & D Coys having reached LA LEUTHE (1 1/4 mile S.E of BAILLEUL) dug in just S of this place. B & C went into the house for the night.

12th

LA LEUTHE

Two strong patrols were sent out during the morning to get in touch with units holding the line & to gain some first-hand information... The men are very cheerful & up to now (3pm) casualties are slight. 2Lt Hutley killed, 2Lt Haslam & Maj Bennett wounded.

Boche attacked about 4.30pm with light barrage but heavy MG and rifle fire. Right flank was soon seen to be falling back as a good many stragglers were coming down the road to BHQ. The HQ personnel were put out in a defensive position & also to hold up stragglers...

13th

LA LEUTHE

Slight mist. ... Quiet day until 2.30pm when Boche attacked under cover of good barrage, very heavy rifle & MG fire. Right flank was eventually seen to be retiring, our two front line Coys held their ground, troops on right continued to move back & troops on left were also found to be coming back. Situation began to look serious with possibility of Btn being completely outflanked.... front line eventually had to move back to a line by BHQ in order to avoid being completely cut off. About 6pm counter-attack on right by a (Y&L) Btn straightened out the line, fighting continued until about 8.30pm when thing became quiet. BHQ was by this time about 30 yds in advance of our front line but decided not to move as we felt pretty strong. Remained there until midnight when orders were received to withdraw to line of Railway just South of BAILLEUL. with withdrawal was successfully carried out, the Btn going into reserve in BAILLEUL.

The Iron Duke will catch up with 10 DWR in Italy in the next issue.

Major Tom Goodall DSO MC

Compiled by Scott Flaving

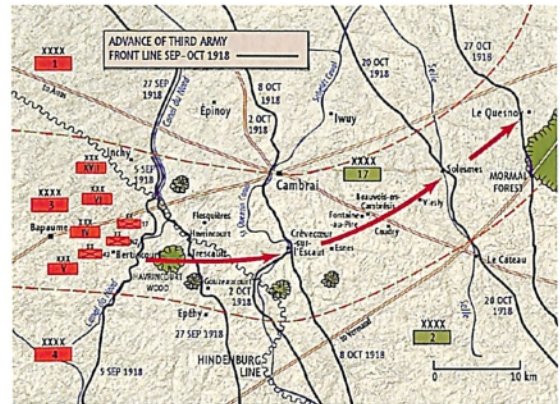
This is the last of three articles about this gallant officer, and takes us to the end of the war, and beyond. The last piece ended with Major Goodall's battalion, 2/5th, in the fight at Bucquoy, described earlier in the article about 62 Division's actions in that area.

After three weeks rest at Thievres the Battalion entrained at Mondecourt and was taken through Paris to the French area around Rheims and there joined the 5th French Army. Besides the 62nd Division, the 51st Highland Division had also been selected to assist the French Army. The 62nd Division concentrated at Germaine in the Forest of Rheims on 19th July, 1918. The next day both British divisions, fighting alongside the French, began the counter attack, being in action for 10 days without respite. On the 22nd a brilliantly planned and conducted attack against two German machine gun battalions netted more than 200 prisoners and 45 machine guns. On 27th/28th July, 1918, the 62nd (Pelican) Division was ordered to attack the German positions at Bligny and the high ground to the west of the village. This it did, with the 8th West Yorkshire Regiment (Leeds Rifles) being singled out for the award of the Croix de Guerre by the French authorities for their determination and gallantry in pushing the Germans off the heights. The Commanding Officer of the 8th West Yorkshires at that time was Lieutenant Colonel N A England DSO, who had joined a Volunteer Battalion of Duke of Wellington's Regiment prior to 1908.

On the 29th July the 62nd Division was withdrawn from the line, congratulated by General Bertholet, GOC 5th French Army, and they returned to the British sector for reorganisation, having suffered further casualties of 13 Officers and 400 Other Ranks. Despite this, morale was very high.

The Battalion was moved up to the line again on 24th August to take part in the successful advance from Arras, pushing the Germans back towards Germany. After overcoming strong opposition at Behagnies and Sapignies, the Germans began to give way and further actions at Havringcourt and the Hindenburg Line brought the Battalion to Marcoing. Here, moving through the Hampshires, the Battalion, in face of great opposition seized the crossings of the River Escaut. Later the same evening a strong enemy counter-attack was completely repulsed and the Battalion took 450 prisoners and 23 machine guns. It was for this engagement that Private H Tandy was awarded the Victoria Cross. Mr Perceval Phillips, a War Correspondent, wrote,

"The fighting, south and south-west of Cambrai, where various English, Scottish and other battalions had been engaged, has resulted in a further advance round the town on that side. One of the finest exploits has been the storming of the German salient east of Marcoing by men of the West Riding Regiment."



At Fresnoy, on 4th November, the Battalion advanced 7000 yards in a day, outstripping the Artillery support. On 8th November the Battalion advanced over 3,500 yards, with little opposition, as far as Vieux-Mesnil and took three prisoners and three machine guns. All bridges across the River Sambre had been blown up and the Battalion crossed over into the town by means of a temporary plank bridge, to the great enthusiasm of the civilian population. In these last five days the Battalion had covered 30 kilometres of new ground in drenching wet weather. The Division entered Maubeuge and at 11 am on 11th November hostilities finally ceased. After a week's halt they marched out of Maubeuge en route for Germany, the sole Territorial Division to have been selected to form a part of the Army of Occupation.

The Battalion finally reached their destination at Mechernich on Christmas Day, 1918. The Colour Party, which had been sent to Huddersfield to collect the Colours, reached the Battalion at Blumenthal on 23rd December. The Battalion remained in the Mechernich area as part of the Army of Occupation until March 29th, 1919, when it was reduced to cadre establishment of five Officers and 46 Other Ranks.

On 11 January, 1921, the London Gazette published his demobilisation, – Territorial Force Reserve Inf Capt T Goodall DSO MC from 5 Duke of Wellington's Regt to be Capt 12 Jan 1921. He had been gazetted as a Major during the war while holding the appointment of 2i/c from 5th December 1917 to 13th February 1918.

Tom Goodall, now Captain Goodall DSO MC, returned to his business practice in Mirfield, dealing with probate wills, as documented in 1929, amongst other things. On 5th June, 1936, the London Gazette announced the dissolution, by mutual consent, of the

solicitor's partnership between Tom and his brother in law Gonville Kirwan Black. At this time Tom was president of Mirfield Club. In 1939 he was living at 33-35 Kitson Hill, Mirfield, with his wife, Agnes, and two sons Richard, and Philip; Peter is not mentioned in this record. There were also two domestic helps living at the same address.

After the outbreak of war in September, 1939, he applied to join the Home Guard and by 1941 is listed as a Major in the 41st Battalion (DWR) based in Huddersfield, with Companies at Batley, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike and Mirfield (B Company).

In September, 1954, a property sale notice in the Yorkshire Post shows he was living at 2 King Street, Mirfield, and working as a solicitor.

He retired from the firm Goodall and Son, solicitors, in King Street, Mirfield on 5th April, 1960, his work being continued by his sons, Richard and Peter, announced in the London Gazette of 8th April, 1960.

Maj Tom Goodall died at his home, 22 Church

Lane, Mirfield, on 2nd November, 1977, aged 95 years. His obituary in the Iron Duke of 1977 reported:

“Maj Goodall had a distinguished career in the 2/5th Battalion during the first World War being awarded the MC and DSO. The funeral service took place at the Church of Christ the King, Battyeford, Mirfield, on Monday, November 7, followed by private cremation. The Colonel and all members of the Regiment were represented by the assistant Regimental Secretary.”

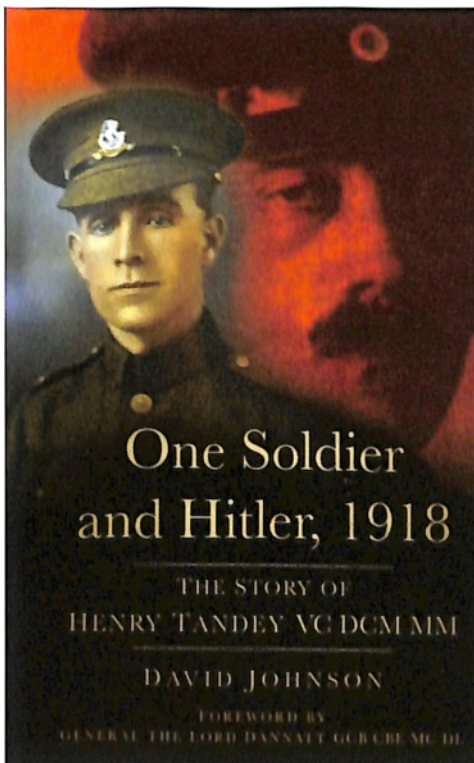
He left £36,550 in his will.

He also left an amazing legacy; in early 2015 a relative donated to the Regimental Archives at Bankfield Museum a suitcase full of documents relating to his military service, from which some details have been included in this article and other items have been copied and displayed alongside his medals in the Officers' Mess, Huddersfield Drill Hall which was the home of the 5th Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and its antecedent and successor Units.

BOOK REVIEWS

ONE SOLDIER and HITLER, 1918,

The story of Henry Tandey VC, DCM, MM, by David Johnson.
Published in 2014 by Spellmount ISBN 978 0 7524 6613 2 @ £14.99



This book, which was published some time ago, has not previously been reviewed in the Iron Duke. Perhaps now is the time as the events recounted in the book are almost 100 years ago. It is a book on one of the Regiment's most famous soldiers, Henry Tandey who remarkably won the VC, DCM and MM within a month whilst serving on the Dukes in 1918 just as the war was coming to a close.

The book has two themes, the alleged story of Tandey sparing Hitler's life at Marcoing near Ypres in October 1918 and the astonishing story of Tandey's courage the same year. David Johnson has cleverly pieced together what few facts are available and intertwined the stories of these two vastly different men and wisely casts reasonable doubt on the likelihood of Tandey sparing Hitler's life. Tandey himself was unaware for many years of this alleged act of mercy and at times encouraged the legend and later went to pains to dismiss it...as one might!

Tandey came from a troubled family background and poor fellow never really enjoyed a happy family life himself. He enlisted in the Green Howards in 1910 quite probably to avoid the turmoil of his home. He spent the majority of his service in the 2nd Bn Green Howards and was wounded several times and twice repatriated. On return he joined different battalions.

He was clearly a good soldier but time and again he spurned responsibility. When the 12th Green Howards were disbanded in the autumn of 1918 Tandey joined the Dukes and it is here that he won his three gallantry medals in the space of a month, (DCM -28 Aug 18, MM - 12 Sep 18, VC- 28 Sep 18) a quite remarkable feat. And so he becomes the only soldier to have won all three and survived the war. Earlier editions of the Iron Duke have covered the citations particularly in October 1933 that of the Victoria Cross. Quite apart from the Hitler legend it is a good story.

There is a further tale of the matter of the Fortunino Matania painting of the 2nd Green Howards at Ypres in 1914 which shows a soldier carrying a casualty. This is Henry Tandey who was later allegedly recognised from the painting by Hitler. The picture was painted in 1923 at a time when Tandey was serving in the 2nd Dukes but the majority of his war service was with the Green Howards so there was probably a stronger link with that regiment and it was mostly with them that he attended the Great War reunions. Although the author is convinced the painting depicts Tandey he does not add credence to the legend that Hitler raised the subject to Chamberlain at Munich in 1938.

There are a number of minor inaccuracies but the only howler is the author's contention that the Somme was initiated to relieve pressure on the French. This was not the case as it was an Allied plan to relieve the Russians on the Eastern Front. The plans for the Somme were subsequently adjusted because of the German assault at Verdun. I would also comment that the index is poor although the appendices are interesting.

I wonder if any readers ever met Henry Tandey? He died in 1977, over 40 years ago. However a very good friend of mine, a retired surgeon operated on Henry in 1975 at the Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry and in the post operative period got to know something of this great gentleman. On one occasion he even had his medals brought in for my surgeon friend to see. He remembers "an incredibly modest brave soldier, who was remarkably fortunate to survive, given his actions. My friend has a photo of Henry holding his medals and it is illustrated in the book. This raises the issue of Henry's impressive medal group which was something of a saga when they were sold but the author sensibly points out that as the medal group is now safely in the Green Howard museum, thanks to Sir Ernest Harrison and the two Regiments are as one in the Yorkshire Regiment it is somewhat academic.

In my researches for this piece Walter Robins shed an amusing light on Tandey. Walter's father was in the 2nd Battalion from 1919 to 1926, and he told the story of Tandey medals being kept in the Company safe and

only returned to him for church parade on Sundays, but taken from him again immediately afterwards, as he was liable to deposit them behind the bar of the local pub against his drinks bill knowing the regiment would redeem them. Annoyingly I reflect that my father would have known all this as he was in the 2nd Battalion at the same time.

I commend the book to those who are interested in our history; it is an easy read and David Johnson has done a good job in telling this remarkable story.

Evelyn Webb-Carter

Private Tandey VC DCM MM lives on.

Comment from Michael Bray

Earlier this year our local theatre staged a play about how Private Henry Tandey DWR had the opportunity to shoot Hitler towards the end of WW1. The programme read – “

Private Henry Tandey VC

Written by Mike Grogan

Ben Bracken as 'Henry Tandey'

How one single shot could have changed world history! One actor & three musicians tell Henry's incredible story It is the 28th September, 1918 in northern France. A humble British Private has the opportunity to change the course of history by preventing World War Two!

This is the compelling story of Henry Tandey VC, the most decorated British soldier of the Great War who with one single shot could have made the world a very different place.

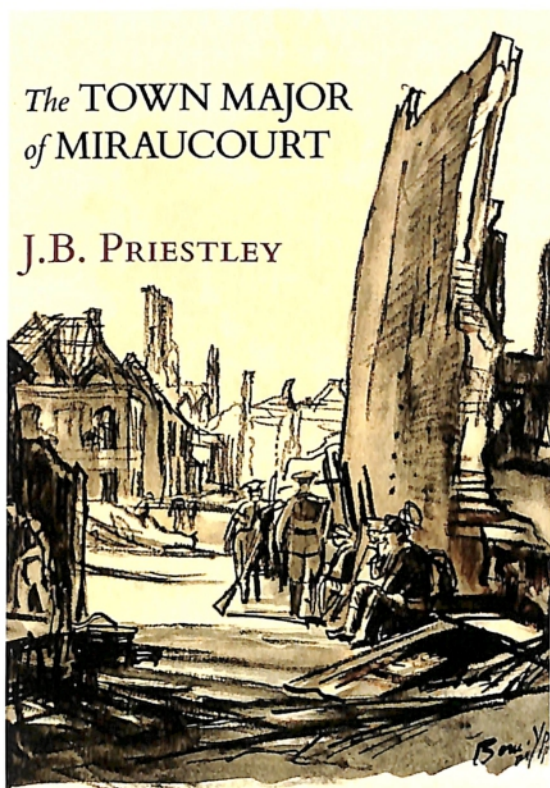
Clearly this is fiction. Had such a circumstance occurred, no one would have known about it. Hitler would not have known that he was in Tandey's sights; Tandey would not have known the identity of a distant target. Puzzled by this I spoke to General Evelyn Webb-Cater, who told me that the story had been around for a long time. He had spoken to Tandey about it and the latter could throw no light on the matter.

It appears to have been a story invented by the Germans, presumably after Hitler came to prominence, as part of their propaganda campaign. Odd though. On the internet, if Tandey's name is entered, up comes the History Press website with a piece written by David Johnson, who wrote a book called *The Man Who Didn't Shoot Hitler*. He demonstrates the pervading legacy of an invented story.

Mike Grogan, the author of the play, if I have found the right man, is an Irish motivational speaker living in the Philippines. No comment!

The Town Major of Miraucourt

A new edition of a JB Priestly WW1 story published by Turnpike Books, Flat 6, 490 Roman Road, London E3 5LU, 07967 717428, turnpikebooks@gmail.com. ISBN9780993591334, £5.00.



The tale begins with Priestly at the Medical Board Base Depot at Rouen in summer 1918, after being gassed, where he was variously employed censoring letters and paying “vast hordes of troops who always appeared to come from either the Hebrides or the West Indies; you sat there hour after hour while some purple quarter-master-sergeant called out the most outlandish names”.

Of the depot he writes “a large factory building which swarmed with men who never seemed quite real, unlike the men one knew in the trenches, who had been real people to a hair. There was something ghostly about these fellows, perhaps because they were very tired, very bored. Only the sergeants, spick and span, terrific saluters and callers to attention, were familiar figures. You met them, keeping the old flag flying, the brass buttons polished, at every base; real professional soldiers, waiting for this unwieldy amateur affair, this blood-thirsty melodrama of bombing bank clerks and machine-gunning gardeners, to blow itself to pieces.”

Priestly wrote that he had “lost his bearings” once in September 1914, when he “walked into a dismantled picture palace with a dirty blanket over my arm and tried to sleep on the same floor with about five hundred other recruits and fifty old tramps who had sneaked in for shelter. Perhaps I had never exactly found my bearings during the four years that followed, when every horizon spat and belched and erupted and rockets of death went hooting and flaring every night; but I had come to some sort of terms with the shattering idiocy, like a man sharing a house, year after year, with a lunatic”.

He was sent with a draft of men to a corps HQ. An abortive train journey took two days to go nowhere, so the men were transferred to lorries “and went rattling down roads given over to dust and Chinese coolies”. Having delivered his charges at Corps HQ, he had to find his way back to Rouen, and after some adventures, including meeting “an ancient Irish Colonel who was living in the smallest and chalkiest Nissen hut I have ever seen. He appeared to have been there for a long time, and may have been left over from some other war”.

Eventually he finds himself in the Miraucourt of the title, “one of those villages and little towns that are hidden from you until the last moment, when they spring out, like a waggish uncle, and give you a pleasant surprise.”

The village had hardly been touched by the war. The Town Major, an enormously fat officer, had a small military staff: an adjutant, a sergeant major, two corporals and six men, (“...even in the motley army of the last desperate year, in the flotsam and jetsam of soldiery I had noticed in the labour depot at Rouen, I had never seen half a dozen such awkward and forlorn creatures gathered together on parade”), all with seemingly nothing to do. He spends the night, observing this strange cast of displaced soldiers and a few local French.

At last he returns to Rouen. This, the publisher tells us, is Priestley’s only fictional account of WW1. It is tiny, the size of a pocket book with just 54 pages, and costs £5. Yet his wonderful turn of phrase and rolling style, informed by his own experiences, real enough fiction or not, of the world behind the lines, make it fascinating and informative.

Tim Nicholson

MULLET OR NO MULLET ?

By Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter



The subject of "The Mullet" has arisen again rather like a bad penny. It is quite likely that actually nobody cares, so why bother to write about this again? Well, you can blame Michael Bray who maintains a crucial relationship with Wellington College and in the context of a board being placed in one of the College Quads the query came up. A mullet is merely a heraldic device which indicates that the holder is a third son of a peer. It is a small white five pointed star normally placed on the crest which adorns the coat of arms. See the illustration of the coat of arms of the Great Duke and a version of the Regimental Badge shown here.

I responded very emphatically that this had come up in my time as the Colonel of The Regiment and I had consulted the Duke himself, which is the 8th Duke, of course. He responded with some clarity :

" I am quite sure that my original opinion is correct ie that as a third son the mullet should be worn on the shoulder of the lion contained in the crest. As you know Arthur Wellesley, when in command of the 33rd and throughout his service with the 33rd was the third son of the Earl of Mornington and although his father died when he was young it was correct for him to wear the mullet on his crest. The important thing to remember is that the First Duke and the family subsequently only discarded the



mullet on the crest and coat of arms when the descendants of the Duke's elder brothers died out and the Mornington title went to the third Duke. The mullet has not therefore been worn (by the family) since that time. It would however be entirely correct and appropriate for the Regimental badge to carry the mullet on the crest since that was the crest in use by 1st Duke during his service with the 33rd. He added; I hope this letter will put an end to any controversy which indeed I had hoped when I wrote in 1975 (to General Bobby Bray). "

So I repeated all this to Michael Bray but being in possession of a complete set of Iron Dukes I thought I might just look up in Scott Flaving's excellent index any previous correspondence on this arcane subject and sure enough there had been. In 1953 Graham Tedd, then I believe the Regimental Secretary, made similar observations that the important thing to remember is that the Regiment is named after the First Duke and no other and therefore the presence of the mullet is correct. But in 1955 Graham Tedd returns to the charge having changed his mind and states that:

The Duke was ennobled in his own right in 1809 and elevated to the Dukedom five years later he received his own grant of arms and therefore he had no need to difference his

arms with the mullet. He adds: *The Duke of Wellington* (This would have been the 7th Duke) *made the following observation on the matter of the mullet: "I have long regretted that the Regimental badge was incorrect. I suggest the mullet is removed!"*

When I was interested in this subject way back in 1999 I did ask the Regimental Muse, Donald Isles and his view supported that of Graham Tedd and the 7th Duke. So we have a situation where the interested party namely the 8th Duke is at variance with his father, the 7th Duke. I rather wish I had not delved into the past copies of the Iron Duke and let this sleeping dog lie. So with an oath I wrote to the College of Arms for they surely are the experts and can say with equivocation which is correct. The response from Norfolk Herald is as follows:

I have looked into this very carefully by reading all the relevant files at the College of Arms and the various attachments you sent me.

Whilst there have been inconsistencies in the past in interpreting the two regimental badges, I am quite clear that the regimental badge should display a mullet, whereas, the regimental cap badge should not. I think it is clear from your correspondence that most people understand why this is so. However, for the avoidance of doubt, aimed entirely at those who come after us, the regimental badge, erroneously referred to as the regimental cypher, is the badge which appears within the cirlet of the Regimental Colour. The regimental cap badge is self-explanatory.

So it seems that Valerian, the 8th Duke was correct and that the Regimental badge should include the mullet whereas the cap badge should and indeed does not. That must be the end of the matter.....unless you know better?

With the 76th in India.

The Autumn 2017 edition left the 76th poised to take the fortress of Deig by storm, but the defenders had had enough and fled in the direction of Bhurtpore, yet another of a seemingly endless line of strongly defended forts that frustrated the British ambition of winning this war. It was held by the Rajah of Bhurtpore, Ranjit Singh, who had toyed with the idea of allying himself with the British, but decided in favour of Holkar, who had been chased out of Deig by General Lake's forces in December 1804.

In the Deig operation the force as a whole had 43 killed and 184 wounded, although the 76th share of the casualties was small, five killed and 19 wounded, including the Assistant Surgeon, Mr W Bean and Captain WJ Scott. Bhurtpore proved to be a bloodier affair.

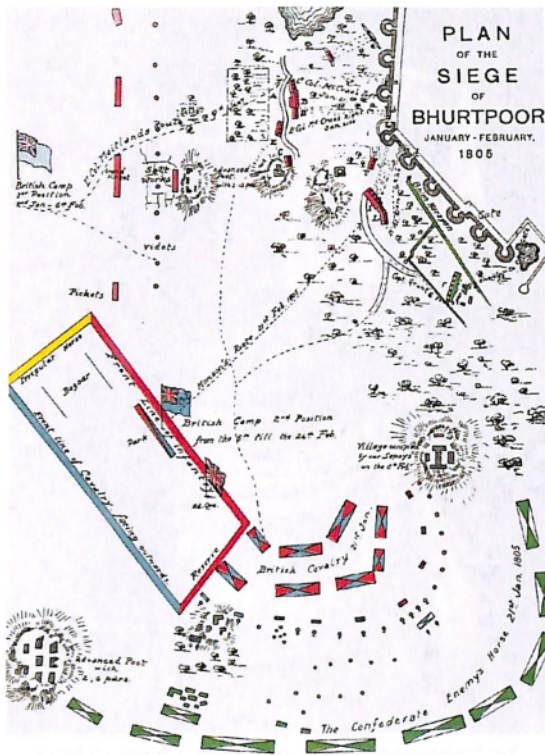


Yashwantrao Holkar, at the time Regent, later Ruler, of Indore.

Just to remind readers, Gerard Lakes' Army consisted of three regiments of King's cavalry, but each weak and not above 500 men in all; five regiments of native cavalry, not above 1600 men; the flank companies of the King's 22nd Infantry Regiment, the 76, the 101st (Bengal Fusiliers), an East India Company Regiment that later transferred to the British Army, and three battalions of native infantry. He also had an engineer force with British officers and companies of native pioneers, and 65 guns and howitzers of various calibres. Lake's Army now had 7,800 men of all arms.

On 2 January 1805 the Army was reinforced by the 75th Regiment (that number had been used several times as regiments were raised and disbanded again, but by now was the Stirlingshire Regiment, later to merge with the Gordon Highlanders), and arrived at Bhurtpore. The fortress is some 30 miles from Agra, in a wide plain that was covered with pools of water. Losing no time the Commander prepared a forward trench, emplaced his guns, and sent Colonel Maitland to force the breach that the guns very quickly made. All this is shown on the plan at the top of the sketch.

Three assault columns were formed, around 500 men, comprising the flank companies of the 22nd, 75th and 76th Regiments. This did not go well. The attack started at 8.00 pm on 9 January, so it was dark, the ground was difficult, the enemy opened up a tremendous fire of guns



and small arms, men got lost and the whole operation became disjointed. The 22nd, forming part of the left column, occupied the breach but were not reinforced.

The centre column was halted by a deep drain at the main entrance to the fort, and the right attack managed to drive the enemy from his guns, and spike them, but were unable to find a way to follow up this success. However leaders were wounded, Colonel Maitland the overall commander was killed, and the force was withdrawn to their trenches, at which point the greatest casualties were taken, as men were left behind, scattered in the night, and were sought out and butchered by the enemy.

Almost all of those who took part were killed, wounded or missing. Given how successful previous siege operations had been, it is reasonable to surmise that this attack had been mounted in too much of a hurry, without enough detailed planning and coordination, and even a little complacency.

The Army regrouped, set out its guns to achieve greater fire effect on the walls, and a further assault was planned. Another breach was made in the walls. On the 21st, again in three columns, including 150 men of the 76th, and equipped with portable bridges to overcome the ditch, in went the second attack. Whilst men went forward to throw the bridges over the ditch, the 75th and 76th lined up to keep up unceasing small arms fire on the walls. Unfortunately



1 Assault on the "long-necked" bastion by General Nicholson's main column.

2 Colonel Wilson's escalade.

3 The Pathan bastion attacked by General Reynell's main column.

4 Colonel Delamain's assault.

J. Burdett del.

THE STORMING OF BHURTPPOOR,

(SHOWING THE NORTH EASTERN PORTIONS OF THE ENCEINTE, WHERE THE ATTACK WAS MADE.)

a dam had been broken, and the width and depth of the ditch was considerably enlarged. The bridges were too short. Some men swam across to mount the breach, but the fire from the defenders was murderous and the attackers lost nearly 600 men killed or wounded, and once again withdrew. The 76th had lost 2 officers and fourteen men killed and four officers and 61 men wounded.

The Army moved to a new camp, and again regrouped. Reinforcements in the shape of a division of the Bombay Army arrived, including the 86th (Royal County Down) Regiment and eight companies of the 65th (York and Lancaster).

On 20th February a further assault was mounted, yet again in three columns, each with its specific objective, to carry the bastions either side of the main entrance, as well as to force the entrance itself. A “forlorn hope”, led by Lieutenant Templeton of the 76th, led the way, but to no avail, and in this assault 894 men were killed and wounded, of which the 76th share was three officers and 59 men.

Templeton – described as “a little man possessed with the heart of a lion”, survived to lead another “forlorn hope” the very next day. He succeeded in planting a small Union Jack on top of one of the bastions, but then fell. The main force, in one column, then mounted an assault on the entrance. General Lake’s despatch read “...I determined to make another attempt....the troops, most confident of success, commenced the attack and persevered in it for a considerable length of time, with the most determined bravery; but their utmost exertions were not sufficient to enable them to gain the top of the breach. The bastion, which was the point of the attack, was extremely steep,

the resistance opposed to them was vigorous, and as our men could only mount by small parties at a time, the advantages were very great on the side of the enemy.”

After two hours of heavy fire and with burning coals, logs of wood, and “pots filled with combustible materials” raining down, a withdrawal was ordered. Preparations were made for yet another assault, but instead the General ordered a siege to be laid, to pin Holkar, still the enemy leader, within the fortress. But Rajah Ranjit Singh thought it best to come to terms – his losses too had been considerable, and a new siege train had arrived to support a fresh assault – and on 10th April 1805 Holkar was permitted to march out. Ranjit Singh paid a large indemnity to the British and kept all his possessions.

This had been a shockingly costly campaign in the end. It had started so well, with extraordinary successes and relatively light casualties, but four months of siege warfare took a terrible toll, and as it progressed the defenders grew in confidence as the attackers licked their wounds and counted the cost of four failed assaults.

On 21st April the Army, again reinforced, set out in pursuit of Holkar, but the political winds had changed, and a more conciliatory mood prevailed. Arriving at Dholpoor the Regiment learned that it was to prepare to return home to England. On 16 February 1806 the 76th embarked on the *Lady Castlereagh*. The journey home was not without incident, including a brush with a French frigate, and this will be recounted in a final episode of this saga in the next edition, together with a final commentary on the Regiment’s remarkable record from March 1788 to 1806, 18 years of continuous campaigning.



Singh and Holkar meet in 1805, in a contemporary drawing.

Regimental Association

President: Brigadier AD Meek CBE.

General Secretary: Major J Hogg, Bankfield Museum, Boothtown Road, Halifax HX3 6HG.
Telephone 01422 356795.

BRANCHES

Halifax/Bradford: 7.00 for 7.30pm second Tuesday of each month in the Saville Room, North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax. *Secretary:* Mr P. R. Taylor, 7 Amy Street, Ovenden, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX3 5QB.

Huddersfield: 8.00pm last Friday of each month at WOs & Sgts Mess; TA Centre, St Paul's Street, Huddersfield. *Secretary:* Mrs P. Harley, 55 Daws Royd, Almonbury, Huddersfield HD5 8SN.

Keighley: Details of Branch meetings can be obtained from the Branch Secretary, Mr Dave Connor, 07258 672114.

Sheffield: 8.00pm second Tuesday of each month at WOs' & Sergeants' Mess, 38 Signals Regiment, Manor Top, Sheffield. *Secretary:* Mr C. Withers, 18 Wheel Lane, Grenoside, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S35 8RN.

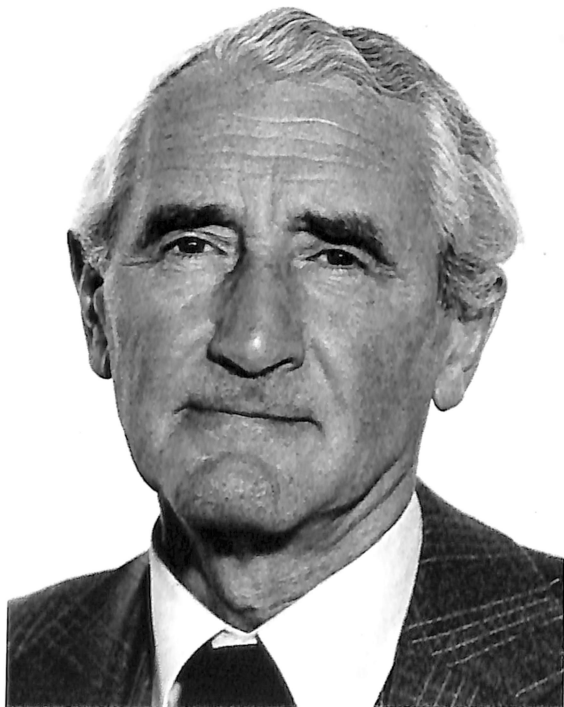
Skipton: Details of Branch meetings can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs Mary Bell, telephone 01756 790155, email m_bell@talk21.com.

York: 8.00pm first Monday of each month at the Post Office Social Club, Marygate, York.

Obituaries

We deeply regret to record the following deaths, and on behalf of the Regimental Association offer our sincere sympathy to those bereaved.

Alistair Paterson — RMO to 1st Bn 1943-1945 — 1917 – 2015



It has only recently come to our notice that Alistair Paterson, who was the long serving Regimental Medical Officer to the 1st Battalion in North Africa, Italy and the Middle East died aged 97 in 2015. He served under my father for about 18 months and I know that he was highly regarded as an outstanding medical officer often working close to the front line and in the open. He was mentioned in despatches in Tunisia. His citation, which says it all, reads as follows:

"During the attack on the Jebel Bou Aoukaz feature on May 5/6 May 1943 Captain Paterson displayed exceptional devotion in attending to the wounded under heavy fire. The Regimental Aid Post was situated near advance Battalion HQ which was in view of the enemy and subjected to particular heavy shelling. In spite of this, Captain Paterson never allowed himself to be deflected from his duty of attending to the wounded in the open and worked unceasingly for some 17 hours in circumstances of great danger. His example was an inspiration to his medical section."

I and many others visited Tunisia a few years ago and we saw the very exposed position of Battalion HQ and so can appreciate the extent of Alistair's courage. The citation reads as it might have been for a more

prestigious award. He was mentioned in despatches once more in 1945 but there is no citation to refer to.

After the war he returned to medicine and became an eminent surgeon whose work helped shape the development of neurosurgery and neurology in Scotland. Recognised as one of the leaders in his field, he became head of neurosurgery at Glasgow University's Institute of Neurological Sciences from its formal establishment in 1970 until his retirement in 1984. His wife predeceased

him and there were no children.

I got to know Alistair as he was a regular attender at the 1943-45 Overseas Dinner Club and although I only attended once as a guest before I became Colonel of The Regiment I was a regular guest thereafter and Alistair was always charming and frequently recounted stories in his gentle Glaswegian brogue. He was a lovely man and I am so glad I got to know him.

Evelyn Webb-Carter

Dr John M Reddington



John Reddington

After leaving the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst (RMAS) John joined 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Strensall, Yorkshire, in 1948. He was subsequently appointed Regimental Signals Officer and served in this role in Chiseldon, Wiltshire; Minden, British Army of the Rhine (BAOR); and, for two and a half months, in Korea until wounded by a mortar bomb, losing his right eye. In the Commonwealth

Hospital, Kure, Japan, he developed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) which was not recognised medically at the time. After a period of light duties at the Regimental Depot his condition deteriorated and he was invalided from the Army for reasons given as "partly attributable to gunshot wound to right eye".

In 1971 John Reddington was an impoverished TEFL teacher working in London. He had recently returned from Los Angeles, California where he had gained a Diploma in Educational Therapy, an unusual qualification at the time. He was passing Earls Court station on the way to his digs when he picked up a discarded copy of the Telegraph. He looked at the jobs page and saw an advert for teachers and lecturers in Brisbane, Australia. John applied and 9 months later he arrived in Mount Gravatt College of Higher Education (later amalgamated with Griffith University) with only \$4 in his pocket. He had to give an advance on his salary.

Upon his arrival no one knew of his appointment and a lecturer from his department had to be called in to confirm his lectureship. When a relieved John asked by why no one seemed to know about him the reply was a tongue-in-cheek "Welcome to Queensland".

During his tenure at Mount Gravatt he received his Masters in Applied Psychology and in 1987 he achieved an academic prize for his research in the area of dyslexia. At this time he was head of the Dyslexia Association of Australia. In 1991, he retired from Griffith University as a senior lecturer in Educational Psychology and went into private practice as a child psychologist until he was 86. His academic work was published many times over.

The main focus of his academic and professional research that culminated in his PHD was his commitment to seeing his work on childhood early screening called PSILD (Parent Screening Inventory for Learning Difficulties) come to fruition. This ongoing battle to have his approach to early childhood screening recognised and adopted by the Queensland government was reflected in his meeting with the Commissioner for Mental Health in Queensland just ten days before his passing. Some schools have already successfully



At a Signal Platoon Reunion.

adopted his screening system. He was also a strong advocate for children's rights and the Convenor of the Concerned Psychologists of Queensland.

Two years ago he led British ex-Servicemen's Association (BESA) in the march on ANZAC day. He said he always remembered his school friend John Milner who died aged 22 leading his men up a hill position in Korea when there was a minutes silence on Remembrance Day.

He kept in close touch with the Regiment, attending the celebration for the end of the Korean War in Bradford in 2003, and has contributed a number of letters and one historical article, to the Iron Duke over the years. He leaves a son, Jonathan in the UK, and a daughter Francesca in Australia, and three grandchildren.



John at a Dukes' officers' dinner at the RMAS, with General Sir Charles Huxtable and Colonel Peter Mitchell, both of whom had been with him in the 1st Battalion in Korea.

Extract from *Fortune Favours the Brave, The Battles of the Hook* by AJ Barker

The author has just described a stretch of track under direct observation of the enemy which was not to be used under normal circumstances because it was too high a risk.

"Yet men did take this risk and sometimes they paid for it. One who paid was the Signal Officer, Lieutenant Reddington. Tall, slim and good looking, with a rather long face and straight features, John Reddington had the youthful appearance of a schoolboy. Rather highly strung – with a character that was both strong and gentle – the rougher side of life had not yet pared all the illusions of life from his outlook. Five minutes on the "two hundred yard dash" were to effect a rapid change. On this particular day Reddington had gone up to the front line to bring back one of his signallers. For some reason which must have seemed very trivial after the event it was important for him to get back to Battalion Headquarters. En route, just before the start of the critical part of the track, he stopped at the Mortar Platoon's Command Post. "What do you think?" he asked Lieutenant Bill Blakey, the Mortar Officer. "Go on" he replied, "make a dash for it".

So Reddington's driver set off, but he had failed to engage the jeep's four wheel drive, and half way along the "two hundred yard dash" the engine faltered and stalled. Simultaneously shells screamed over and the vehicle was engulfed in smoke. Reddington's companions were only shaken but a splinter of steel had struck their luckless officer. In trying to save minutes, Reddington had forfeited an eye and a military career."

Stuart Neath



Stuart Neath was born in Yatton near Weston-Super-Mare on the 14th April 1963. He attended Reigate Grammar and excelled in most activities but especially rugby and was selected as captain of rugby in his final year. Stuart left school with 3 A Levels in 1982 and initially worked as a Broker and Technical Assistant for Lloyds of London. However, he found this a rather dull job and was looking for something more challenging, so he left after a year and attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1983.

At Sandhurst he found his vocation and fully embraced the army life. He was selected for the Academy first fifteen in the back row and John Steele (who played in the Academy team with Stuart and is a former player and Head coach of Northampton RFC, CEO of UK Sport and the RFU) commented "Stuart was one of the best flankers I ever played with". Unfortunately, Stuart picked up a serious knee injury and was back-termed prolonging his time at the Academy. He passed out from Sandhurst in 1984 and was commissioned into the Duke's. His first posting was to Gibraltar where he enjoyed all that "the Rock" had to offer. Following Gib he moved with the Regiment to Bulford where he was made Mortar Platoon Commander, serving in Belize and Kenya. In 1987 he moved with the Battalion to Palace Barracks and served in Northern Ireland during the troubles.



In 1988 he attended JDSC at Warminster and a year later was posted to HQ UKLF as ADC to General Sir Charles Huxtable, CINC UKLF, a posting he absolutely loved and was rightly proud of. He re-joined the Regiment at Tern Hill and was promoted to Captain as Battalion Adjutant. In 1993 He was posted to Staff College in Camberley as SO3 Higher Command and Staff Course with his last posting being back with the Battalion in Bulford. During his Army career Stuart suffered several serious injuries which eventually caught up with him and in May 1995 because of these injuries he was medically discharged from the Army.

Stuart threw himself into civilian life and initially worked for the Royal Post Office as a Training Consultant. After several years as, in his own words, "being a corporate slave", he struck out on his own and worked as a successful independent consultant with a number of companies. He moved and settled in Stratford-upon-Avon where he loved the social life and made a number of lifelong friends. He also worked alongside fellow Dukes, Craig and Stuart Preston with the Inspirational Development Group, helping to set up businesses in India and Oman as well as being instrumental in building the commercial partnership with the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Over the

years, literally thousands of clients benefitted from his outstanding ability to coach and develop leadership behaviour. In this time, he also became an author, co-writing a book entitled, "Be your own career consultant".

Stuart contracted the horrendous disease Motor Neuron and for the last few years of his life battled the disease with his usual determination, courage and bloody mindedness. In his last year, despite his failing health he wrote and published a children's book called "Olive". This book was based on his brother Duncan's dog who is a rescue dog and suffers from a serious disability. Stuart was determined to use Olive's story to highlight the struggles faced by people with a disability and all the proceeds from the book have been donated to the hospice he attended in Stafford-upon-Avon. Although Motor Neuron was robbing Stuart of his strength and health he still managed to complete a sequel to Olive the week before he passed away on the 28th Nov 2017.

Stuart was devoted to his brother Duncan and Duncan's Children Celyn and Tirion. He loved nothing more than being in their company and listening to their stories as they grew up. Anyone who met Stuart couldn't help but be struck by his honesty, love of life and fierce determination to be the best at whatever he did. He will be greatly missed. VFC.

Warrant Officer Arthur E Gilbert

25 August 1923 - 14 February 2018



The information on the passing of Arthur Gilbert, who served with the 1st battalion in WW2, has been passed to us by Gary Morehead, Community Support Officer of the Bakewell Royal British Legion. We are grateful to him both for this and for his care for Mr Gilbert towards the end of his life.

Gary writes: "Arthur lost his last battle with age and infection on the 14th of February, without major regrets and advancing to meet his wife Iris who died in 2007. I was with him just before his death, trying to tend to his needs, to give him physical comfort and love as a fellow veteran. We closed with a soldier's prayer and then he was made as comfortable as possible and moved onward.

His regiment and friends who he served with and who died close to him were never far from his mind. Salerno, Monte Christo, San Marino, to the Gustave Line. They were all vivid and present, bad weather, bad ground, cold and a persistent foe.

After the war, Arthur was invited to remain with the regiment but chose to leave in 1947 and get married to Iris. They lived in Youlgreave for the remainder of their lives. He was a member of the legion until

recently when with reduced membership levels, support was not available and his membership lapsed. Following intervention from RBL County HQ instigated by his daughter, he met me in hospital and asked me if he could join Bakewell Branch. I agreed and while awaiting some recovery before re-joining, he enjoyed the full benefits and services of our branch.

I have been helping his daughter Susan Smithurst with home clearance and moving towards the fitting funeral that he wanted and deserved.

The funeral and interment took place on 5th March in his village, Youlegreave, at the Methodist church followed by his interment at the Youlegreave village burial ground next to his beloved wife Iris. This was followed by tea, cake and social at one of the local pubs."

Major John Hogg, representing the Regiment, attended with a wreath and a Regimental Flag. The service was well supported by family and friend, and, as Arthur had been a member of a brass band, the band played, and two Royal British Legion Standards were on parade.

Letters

From Dr John M Reddington

Dr Reddington sent this shortly before he died. His obituary is also in this issue.

Looking back on my Army years, except for the Korean War, one of my most lingering images is that of acting as a defence officer on a desertion charge at Strensall, Yorkshire.

The Adjutant, Major Derek Roberts, appointing me, said "Let's see if you can pull something off!" The accused, a private in the Northumberland Fusiliers, had failed to arrive at the boat, in Liverpool, which would have taken him to the Korean War. To prove desertion it is necessary to establish that the accused had no intention to return.

On the day the Prosecuting Officer, a Captain in the Northumberland Fusiliers, greeted me with, "Well, what do you think he will get?" Taken aback, I replied that as Defending Officer I would do all I could to bring about a verdict of "not guilty". His response: "look, old boy, we all know he never made the boat by a long chalk". My response; "nevertheless. I believe I must act according to my responsibilities for the defence". "Oh come off it man. You know he and the others are as guilty as the day is long".

Fortunately the prisoner had retained a railway ticket with the date showing he could have reached the boat in time. This ticket became property of the court. I also told the accused he must reply to the Prosecuting Officer only with simple "Yes" or "No" answers.

My predictions were more than borne out during the trial when the Prosecutor leant forward bodily, shouting at the prisoner, "Do you *really* mean to tell me that you

intended to get on that boat?" "Yes" – with yes and no answers to further statements. The Court found the accused "Not Guilty" on the charge of desertion, but guilty on a charge of "Absence without leave". He was given a one year sentence (only) in a military prison – compared with three years all the other accused had received for desertion.

That same evening I repaired to a popular hostelry, the Starre Inn, York, where I found my adversary sipping a beer alone at a small table/. On seeing me he immediately downed his ale, crashing the glass on the table with a sickening thud. He then walked rapidly passed me very closely, sporting a singularly unpleasant grimace. Obviously I had not "played the game". By chance that evening in the Officers' Mess, I was telephoned by the accused's sister. I assured her that time spent in a British Army "Glasshouse" was no Easter picnic, and her brother now only to endure one year not three, as all the others had received under the Army's painful jurisdiction.

Justice had been done and something which would have normally been seen as an aggressive provocation had been withstood, the concept of reasonable doubt had remained unblemished, and one conscripted soldier had been saved from a painful and humiliating two years in an English "Glasshouse".

Editor's Comment on the next letters:- Scott Flaving, an energetic correspondent with the Journal, has written three letters, the first ostensibly coming from Major Goodall, who would be well over 125 years old! Readers should note that this is therefore a piece of informed fiction. The error in the brigade number in the last issue, at which the good major very properly bristles, is of course entirely my mistake.

Brigadier 'Boy' Bradford VC MC

Page 16 of edition 283 (Autumn 2017) stated that Brig Bradford was appointed commander of 146 Bde – he was in fact GOC of 186 Infantry Brigade, which was the Brigade of 62nd Division which contained the four second line DWR TF Battalions – 2/4th, 2/5th, 2/6th and 2/7th. One of the Company Commanders of the 2/5th Battalion had an interesting encounter with Brigadier Bradford in November, 1917, shortly before his death:

“The Brigadier General gave a lecture to the Officers of the 2/5th Bn Duke of Wellington’s Regiment (West Riding) on the attack to be made, shortly to be known as the ‘Battle of Cambrai’. I was very impressed by his talk and his final words were, “trust in God.”

I was walking back to billets with the Officers of the Company and we were discussing the Brig General’s talk when he himself approached me from behind and put his arm in mine. He asked how we were feeling about the coming battle and I told him the Officers, NCOs and Men were full of it and determined to make amends for the failure in the Battle of Bullecourt on May 3rd last.

Immediately after the Battle of Cambrai opened on 26th November, 1917, D Company attacked and captured the strong point of Havringcourt Chateau with one German Officer and 58 Other Ranks and releasing a British Intelligence Officer, who was unconscious, and a Sergeant of the King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who was slightly wounded. As our Colonel had been killed by a sniper before the battle opened, I reported direct to General Bradford at Brigade Headquarters.

Later in the day, as the battle proceeded, the Company arrived at a point from which we were to attack the final objective and there was a Tank to help us. The Officer in command of it said he could not proceed with it as, if he did, he would not have sufficient petrol to get back to his unit. I impressed upon him that our objective for the day was the German trenches in the Hindenburg Line on the north side of the Bapaume - Cambrai main road and it was most important that we should capture and occupy them. At this point the Brigadier General arrived on the scene. I explained the position to him and he took the matter in hand. He ordered the Tank Officer to put a strip of wood in the petrol tank to ascertain the amount of petrol in it. The Brigadier was evidently satisfied that there was sufficient petrol to do the job and told the Tank Officer to get on with it. He did so and the troops in D Company finished the day having captured all their objectives.

This was the last occasion on which I saw Brigadier General Bradford. He was killed by a German shell which exploded near his Headquarters on the 30th Nov, 1917. His death was a great loss to, and mourned by, all ranks in the Army and Headquarters throughout the country. I attended the funeral in the Churchyard of the

nearby village Church. The time given in Orders was 12 noon but, when I arrived there at that time, it had taken place at 11 o’clock, an hour earlier.”

Tom Goodall

OC D Company, 2/5th Battalion The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment

Remembering our Fallen in Northern Ireland.

From Scott Flaving

On Sunday, October 28, 1979, I was on duty in one of the offices in Springfield Road Police Station. It was a fairly quiet day and I was typing up a report which had been compiled by Sergeant Major David Bellamy, attached to our team for the tour. He was doing some acrobatics trying to mark up a map on the wall as I was attempting to correct his English, and we were sharing some banter when a call came through for the duty officer to assist the police downstairs. Although he was not the duty officer, it was very much his style to go out of his way and, as he was the senior rank present, he felt it his duty to go. He left the office quickly and was tragically killed by an IRA machine gun just moments later while leaving the front gate of RUC Springfield Road, accompanying the police in their Landrover to an incident.

His loss was a great personal blow to myself and a tragedy to his family, as well as to the Battalion where he had proved to be a very popular and respected member of the Regimental family, despite being APTC attached.

The Tunnellers.

From Scott Flaving.

In the article on The Tunnellers on page 17 of edition 283 (Autumn 2017), I would like to add the following:

For a talk I was asked to give at the National Coal Mining Museum just outside Wakefield, West Yorkshire, my research found just a small number of ‘Dukes’ soldiers had been recorded as being attached to Tunnelling Companies, particularly from 2/5th (TF) Battalion and the 10th (Service) Battalion. The 10th Service Battalion records show that two men were attached to Tunnelling Companies but a more interesting Regimental link was the award of the DCM to 14755 Pte S Wakefield in the London Gazette of 22 1 1916, page 965:

“For conspicuous courage at Mauquissart on 26 October, 1915. When the enemy opened a heavy fire on the shaft head, though ordered to move back under cover, he continued to work the pumps which supplied air to the men in the mine and kept the mine free of water even after the shaft head had been struck by a shell.”

I had been aware of this award from a 10th Battalion Officer’s Diary which I had transcribed some time previously – unfortunately, this work mentioned that

the DCM had been awarded to a Pte Warneford. It was some time before a piece of cross research on the diary with Dr Bill Smith, of Skipton Academy and now something of an expert on our 10th Battalion, cleared up the confusion and properly ascribed the award to the right man.

The novel *Birdsong*, by Sebastian Fawkes, the son of the late Major P R Faulks MC, who fought with the 1st

Battalion in the North African and Italian campaigns, 1943-44, also deals with the subject of the Tunnelling Companies rather well.

The form enabling readers to make a contribution to the Memorial Appeal Fund is repeated on the next page. As has been shown the Appeal has got off to a good start, but there is still some way to go and any support, however small, will be very much appreciated.

From Keith Brooks

When we had the "Beast from the East" it set me thinking of my driver training at Palace Barracks, Hollywood, Belfast, in the winter of 1957/58. We were given two weeks to learn and pass, in the even it took another week before we were considered competent enough.

The enclosed photograph shows the MT Cadre at a disused airfield somewhere near Belfast. The Austin 1 Tonners we learnt in had crash gear boxes which entailed double-de-clutching. It was aid that if you could drive them you could drive anything. The other battalion vehicles were Land Rovers and Bedford RL 3 tonners.

The officer in the picture was I believe Lieutenant

Huffam who used to build full size vintage cars in his spare time. I am fourth from the left next to Lieutenant Huffam. Others I can remember are Tony Douglas, Arnold Sherriff, Tony Joyce, Ken Cockayne, Keith Whiteead, Terry Dewing and Harry Whitely.

After a year at Palace Barracks I was posted to HMS Sea Eagle, a naval shore base at Londonderry, where we were involved in Border Patrols with the RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary).

At th end of my National Service I returned to civilian life. I am now eighty years old but still retain affection for my time in the Dukes.

Were you there? Your memories of this tour would be welcomed – Editor.



GIFT AID DECLARATION:

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Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

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I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

The Friends of DWR would like to keep you up to date on our work and events by post or email. If you would prefer the Appeal NOT to contact you in the future regarding events, services and fundraising activities, please tick this box.

Return forms and cheques to DWR Memorial Appeal Office, The Close, Boscombe, Wiltshire, SP4 0AB.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL
DWR Memorial Appeal Office, The Close, Boscombe, Wiltshire, SP4 0AB.

PAYMENT DETAILS - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY (ID Version)

REGULAR PAYMENT

If you would like to make a regular payment in support of the Appeal please complete this part of the form.

• To: your Bank/Building Society. • I wish to set up a regular gift (Standing Order) of

£..... (Amount in words)

Bank/Building Society:

Bank Address:

Post Code:

Your Title.....

Forenames.....

Surname:

Account No: Branch Sort Code:

Account name:

Please debit my account monthly quarterly yearly other (please specify)

Start date/...../..... until further notice.

The Friends of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Fund

Account number: 00913285 Sort code: 30-93-76 Reference: DWR MEMORIAL

SINGLE PAYMENT

Single one-off donation: • Either by CHEQUE made payable to The Friends of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Fund • or BANK TRANSFER (BACS).

I wish to donate the sum of £..... and, as I am a UK tax payer, I have completed the Gift Aid declaration (attached)

Please mark the back of the cheque DWR MEMORIAL. (Please include this completed form along with the Gift Aid form attached).

Return forms and cheques to DWR Memorial Appeal Office, The Close, Boscombe, Wiltshire, SP4 0AB.



THE STORMING OF MAGDALA ON EASTER MONDAY.
The 33rd Foot (Duke of Wellington's Regiment) make their way up to the Koket Bir

A fairly recent photograph of Magdala and a contemporary drawing showing the 33rd climbing towards to heights. This year is the 150th anniversary of the Abyssinia Campaign, during which the Regiment won its first Victoria Crosses, awarded to Drummer Michael Magner and Private James Bergin, who clambered round a defended gate and, taking the defenders by surprise, open it to let in the assaulting troops.



Nearly all the key elements of the Memorial can be seen in this photograph of the “maquette”, from the modern soldier at the top, the Great War officer blowing his whistle as he leads his men over the top at bottom left; the Napoleonic era man on the right, and a soldier who fought with Marlborough or George II bottom front. The eagle eyed will also notice the bust of the 1st Duke of Wellington between the heads of the two lower figures, and tucked in between lower down, the Army Rugby Cup and a player with a rugby ball. See inset photograph”.