

No. 288
Supplement

THE IRON DUKE

The Duke of Wellington's
Regiment Memorial
Supplement





DSMIT

THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

The Memorial Supplement

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

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BUSINESS NOTES

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Editor:

Major Simon Morgan,
9 Grange Farm, Grange Road, Tiptree, Essex, CO5 0QQ.
Tel 01206 625375. mobile 07748 962350.
E.mail: editorironduke@btinternet.com

Business Manager:

Captain John Hogg, Regimental Association,
The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding),
Bankfield Museum, Boothtown Road, Halifax,
West Yorkshire HX3 6HG.
E.mail: dukeshrq@btconnect.com. Telephone 01422 356795

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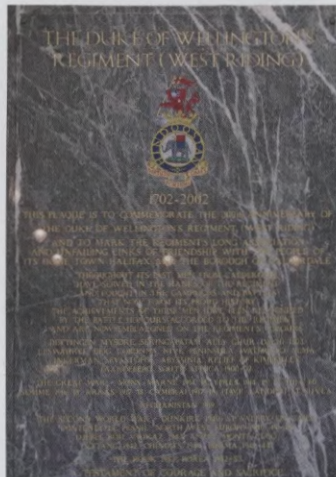
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Introduction

On 17th May 2018 in the centre of Halifax the Duke of Wellington's Regiment Memorial was unveiled by the present Duke following a solemn and moving service in the Minster. These extraordinary events were the culmination of three years of hard work, careful planning, intense creativity and dogged persistence on behalf of not only the organising committee but the whole of the Regimental family and friends. It was, most probably, the last significant act in the 304 year history of The 'Dukes' and how fitting it was that it took place in the Regiment's home county, the West Riding of Yorkshire. It was decided the story of how it came to pass deserves special treatment. Accordingly we have issued this supplement to The Iron Duke devoted entirely to the Memorial, its inception, creation and installation..

Virtutis Fortuna Comes

Inception



The Memorial Plaques currently displayed in the Town Hall of the District of Calderdale

Like many great stories this one started when another one ended.

On 6th June 2006 the Duke of Wellington's Regiment was amalgamated with the Green Howards and the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire to form the Yorkshire Regiment, thus bringing to a close 304 years of service to the Crown and the Nation by the 'Dukes'.

The sense of loss felt by all those who were serving, had served or were associated with the Regiment through ties of blood or friendship and county affiliation was particularly acute. Those who have had the privilege to serve in the British Army naturally assume their own particular corps or regiment is special but the 'Dukes' had a number of reasons to consider themselves unique.

The Regiment was the only one named after an

individual who was not of royal blood; a singular honour bestowed on the 33rd, the Regiment most closely tied with the Great Duke's career, by Queen Victoria in 1852, the year after the death of the Duke of Wellington. It was the only Regiment to carry four Colours on parade. Two 'Honorary' Colours were awarded to the 76th Regiment of Foot (later the 2nd Battalion, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment) by the East India Company for their exemplary service in the sub-continent. Last, but by no means least, they had created for themselves a formidable reputation for playing Rugby and had been Army Rugby champions a record 13 times – more than any other Regiment in the British Army. The influence of this prowess stretched well beyond the Rugby field. Because rugby was a focal point in the Regiment involving all ranks from the Commanding Officer to the most junior Private it created a special character of openness, robustness and quietly confident competence.

This character was recognised by all as a foundation stone of life in the Regiment.

Despite these distinctions, the 'Dukes' were not the first famous and hallowed regiment to pass into history nor, sadly, are they likely to be the last, but the passing of the 'Dukes' left a palpable sense of loss. Something important and meaningful, not only to the Regimental family but to the Nation, had disappeared virtually without trace. The name of the Iron Duke, arguably one of Britain's greatest warriors, no longer appeared anywhere in the order of battle of the British Army and all the service and sacrifice members of the Regiment had contributed over the last three centuries seemed to have vanished along with it. Then someone had an idea.



Brigadier Andrew Meek CBE

In late 2015 Brigadier Andrew Meek CBE, President of the 'Dukes' Regimental Association, received a suggestion from Lieutenant Colonel Tim Nicholson that a memorial statue should be created to mark the 304 years of service to the Nation by the Regiment.



Lieutenant Colonel Tim Nicholson

Andrew welcomed the idea enthusiastically and wrote to all the Regimental Association members as follows:

"Since assuming the role of President of the Association I have been keen to ensure that the Regiment has a fitting and enduring memorial. This in no way diminishes those already in place particularly in Halifax (the Town Hall and at Wellesley Park - home of the old Regimental Depot and RHQ) as well as others in Europe (Anzio and Erquinghem Lys to name but two) as all these are excellent however they are either somewhat specific or out of the way to the general public. I was therefore delighted to receive a proposal from Tim Nicholson for a memorial to the Regiment at a suitable location in North West Europe.

The logic for this idea is simple: from 1702 the 'Dukes' served for 300 years at various times in Northern Europe. Although our battalions fought all over the world in many and varied campaigns, it is Europe in which the Regiment spent the most time and fought arguably the longest and hardest fought battles. Many 'Dukes' lie in cemeteries from the beaches of Normandy to Northern Germany, or are commemorated in lists of those with no known grave (Thiepval, Tyne Cot and the Menin Gate). However there is no single unifying memorial linking our 300 years of campaigns in Europe in a location that will be seen by many for many years to come. And it is this last aspect, the need for our existence and history to be known by as many as possible, that I feel is of particular importance.

At this stage this is simply a concept and one that has received support from our past Colonels. Furthermore it is one that I am keen to see realised. Naturally there is much work that will be required to deliver the concept including: the cost (it must be affordable); the design of the memorial; and the siting. The first stage of what will clearly be a challenging project will be to form a small working party to undertake the strands of work required, work that will take a number of years to reach a conclusion.

Thus this letter is not simply to inform you of this potentially exciting project but also to ask for volunteers to come forward to help with the work that will be needed to translate the concept into reality. I do not underestimate the difficulties that may lie ahead but it is my belief that if the name and deeds of our great Regiment are to be known and understood by the coming generations the least we can do is to erect a suitable and lasting memorial.

If you feel you would like to contribute please let me know."

The response was overwhelmingly positive. The Memorial Project had begun.

Location, Location, Location

The idea was simple enough, but it was soon obvious that bringing that idea into reality was anything but straightforward. So many questions had to be answered.

Andrew Meek wrote to the Association again:

“My previous note on the subject of a proposed memorial for the Regiment generated an excellent response and one that was wholeheartedly in favour of the idea. However, it is clear from the content of many emails that I perhaps failed in one respect and that was to set out in a little more detail the thinking behind the concept. I say this because there has been much correspondence on the matter of where such a memorial might be placed despite the fact that what such a memorial might specifically commemorate has not been agreed. With that in mind I thought it might be useful to set in a little more detail some of the ideas in order that a debate can be had about the ‘what’ so that once this discussion has reached a conclusion we can move on to the ‘where’ not least because the former will automatically inform the latter.

We have to decide what exactly it is we are commemorating. There is an argument for a memorial that celebrates the totality of the achievements of the Regiment over its 300 year history. There is also an argument for something more focused, to commemorate the service we gave in the region that saw the Regiment participate in more campaigns than in any other part of the world. Thus, a location somewhere in Northern Europe would draw together all the most significant campaigns the Regiment was involved with over the whole 300 years of its existence. It was after all in Europe that we fought under Marlborough and Wellington, served in the last battle commanded personally by the King of England (Dettingen and King George II), confronted the forces of the Kings of France, of Napoleon, the Kaiser and Hitler, and helped hold the line against the threat posed by the Warsaw Pact.

For all these reasons the idea was put forward to locate a memorial somewhere in one of those countries, in a place that already has large numbers of visitors so that whatever we put in place would be seen by not only visitors from the UK but by the people of those countries that were formerly allies - or enemies for that matter.

It is of course axiomatic that such a geographically determined option will exclude all the other foreign fields where the Regiment distinguished itself. But, and in no way wishing to diminish the very real contributions and sacrifices made by the Regiment outside Europe, the Regiment saw more service in Europe than any other part of the world including those times when our country’s very existence was under threat.

The alternative, of course, is to widen the purpose of the memorial so that whatever is put in place commemorates

the whole history of the Regiment and its 300+ years of history. Such an approach could incorporate many aspects to our history be that the geographic, the personal (for example the fact that The ‘Dukes’ were the only Regiment not named after a member of the royal family) or the quirky (dare I mention rugby football?). Any one or all of these factors could be used to determine the location of a memorial.

In considering this approach we should not forget that there are already memorials that celebrate the very existence of the Regiment in Halifax: the hugely impressive plaque in the Town Hall, which now has alongside it one to the Yorkshire Regiment, plus the somewhat smaller one at Wellesley Park itself.

Once we have agreed what it is the memorial is to commemorate the big question of location – in its broadest sense, but of course not in detail – will largely be determined. Of course there will be other significant questions that will have to be addressed including: how to ensure that the memorial will be in the selected location for a lengthy period of time (100+ years); who the visitors are likely to be; how it will be maintained; and I could go on but these are in many respects supplementary questions to the major one asked here – what is the memorial to commemorate.

I believe that the overarching aim of this project must be to leave in place a long lasting (thus permanent) reminder of who we were and what we as a Regiment achieved. Although not specifically stated, the aim is not to create a place of pilgrimage for former ‘Dukes’ (we have to ask ourselves how many of us will there be in 35 or 40 years?), but to leave a long lasting reminder to a much wider, potentially international audience of who we were and what we, as a Regiment, achieved.

I therefore invite you, should you wish, to address quite specifically this question of what this memorial should be for. In the New Year I intend to assemble a small group of people who have expressed a willingness to be more closely involved to review, with me, the thoughts and opinions that I have already received and those that come in response to this communication. That will give us a firmer base from which to move forward. I look forward to the response to this letter with eager anticipation!”

This letter posed two questions: what was the memorial to commemorate and where was it to be located? Andrew realized that an answer to one of those questions would provide the answer to the other. He decided that location was the next key step in deciding how this project was to proceed.

Tim Nicholson’s original idea was to commemorate the large number of campaigns fought on the European mainland by putting a statue in France, Belgium or



The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire

Holland; an idea rooted no doubt in the extensive research he has done over recent years in those countries and excellently written up in *The Iron Duke*.

Andrew put this to the newly formed Memorial Committee who took the view that a European site would be seen by too few of the Regimental family and those who they would be looking to fund it. One of the Committee, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Ward, had quite extensive experience of the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in Staffordshire and suggested this as a site. On first examination it seemed an obvious choice. The NMA was visited and a surveyor engaged to come up with possible ideas.

The ex-Regimental Secretaries Lieutenant Colonel Walter Robbins OBE, Major David Harrap and Major Bob Heron, well in tune with sentiments in the Association and our home community in the West Riding, were of the opinion that there was only one place to site the memorial and that was Halifax.



Lieutenant Colonel Walter Robbins OBE

They lobbied Brigadier Michael Bray CBE, who was on the Committee and he prepared and submitted a briefing note, part of which is reproduced below:

"The Case for Halifax

I believe that as a committee working for the Association it is our responsibility to give a high priority to the views of our members, expressed or assumed. From the balance of my informal discussions around the Regiment, it is likely that our members would rather have a memorial in Halifax than at the NMA.

It will be a very long time before the 'Dukes' are totally lost in the mists of time and succeeding generations of Yorkshiremen lose all interest in the Regiment, albeit that it was where their forefathers served. A statue in the centre of Halifax reflecting this heritage will be seen by many of our people who would never go to the NMA and will be a strong reminder of "our Regiment".

For over 240 years we have recruited men from the West Riding of Yorkshire, especially from within the environments of Halifax where our Regimental depot was established and which we have always seen as our 'home' town. Our memorial's aim is to commemorate that heritage, our soldiers' commitment over the generations to the nation and our home county's support for them and their families.

We have always had a strong emotional attachment to the area. There will be few West Riding families who have not had a member serve in the Regiment and with this we have enjoyed a great deal of support from the institutions and people who live there. We are 'family' there and like all memorials there is a strong argument for siting it where the family sees it."

His arguments prevailed and an approach was made to Calderdale Council who, to the Committee's delight, were immediately enthusiastic at the idea of a permanent memorial in the centre of the town. The first suggestion was to place it in the 18th Century magnificence of the Piece Hall. Unfortunately, at that time, the Piece Hall was undergoing a major restoration. Had the Committee's approach been earlier there might have been a possibility but the work was too far progressed and no place could be found for the Memorial.

Robert Summerfield, an officer for the Council and who was to prove very supportive over the ensuing two years, suggested a number of other sites and after careful consideration it was concluded that a commanding location at the top of the Woolshops pedestrian area would be the best place.

The over-riding consideration had always been that the Memorial should be positioned so that it could be seen by the greatest number of people who had a connection with it. Halifax had been the Regiment's hometown for

more than two hundred years and over the generations many families and businesses in the town and its surroundings would have had a member serve in its ranks.

The area of the Woolshops, which is a large complex of retail premises not more than four stories in height, is owned by the Council but let on a long lease to the Woolshops owners.

On 26th June 2017 the Committee held its first meeting with the Council representatives. The meeting was chaired by the new Chief Executive, Robin Tuddenham, with the projects long-term supporter, Councillor Geraldine Carter, in attendance. Robin opened the meeting by saying that the purpose of the meeting was not to decide if the 'Dukes' could put a statue in the Town but how to make it happen. This thoroughly positive approach was typical of the cheerful, supportive and constructive cooperation the project received from members of the Council staff throughout the project. They were a pleasure to work with.

The Committee was particularly impressed when it was told that it is the Council's intention to pedestrianise Market Street, which runs across the top of the Woolshops. If that happens, the Memorial will dominate an even bigger communal area.

Sadly, Walter Robins, who had argued so persuasively for the Memorial to be sited in Halifax did not live to see it in place. However, his son John Robins QPM, now the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, was a great supporter of the project and provided invaluable assistance particularly in providing the services of the West Yorkshire Police band for the unveiling ceremony.



View of the Woolshops from the position now occupied by the Memorial



Halifax Piece Hall

Dramatis Personae

A big bold project requires a similarly gifted team and in the New Year of 2016 a small group of the Regimental hierarchy assembled who resolved to establish a committee and patrons. The initial organisation is shown below:

Patron

The Duke of Wellington OBE DL

Vice Patrons

General Sir Charles Huxtable KCB CBE DL, until his death in November 2018, Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE DL, Brigadier W R Mundell OBE, Colonel R R St J Barkshire CBE TD DL, Colonel C J Dent DL

Committee

Brigadier Andrew Meek CBE, Brigadier Michael Bray CBE, Colonel Alistair Roberts MBE, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Ward, Major Peter Robinson MBE, Captain John Hogg

The Unveiling Day

Major David Harrap, Major Bob Heron

The Fundraiser

The Committee immediately set to work and Brigadier Michael Bray gives a vivid description of how it came together. Its first task was to find and appoint a professional fundraiser.

"The Committee, chosen by and chaired by Andrew Meek, had all worked together over many years in the Battalion and tackled the task with the enthusiasm of a rugby scrum in full cry, exhibiting that common characteristic of committee members, two thirds on transmit and one third on receive. Nevertheless, Andrew, whose leadership throughout the project was outstanding, produced coherent minutes within a few hours of the end of each meeting; an essential for the efficient conduct of business.

As fundraiser Caroline Cary, wife of Brigadier Richard Cary, was a very happy find, not only for her skill and incredibly hard work but also as the granddaughter of Lieutenant Colonel Ben Sayers DWR who commanded the Depot in Halifax at the start of World War II. She was an admirable member of the Committee in every way.

The Committee met every other month for nearly three years in London, Halifax or Devon (our chosen sculptor's studio). Individual members worked on particular aspects between meetings and a great deal of help was provided most willingly by experts whose contributions are recorded later."



Caroline Cary

Caroline was to play a significant part in the project. Here is how she described the initial encounter:

"It was late in October 2016 that I received a phone call from Richard Ward, who was on the Appeal Committee for The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Memorial Appeal. The Committee was looking to see how it could get some help to raise the funds for the project. Richard had been involved with the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) at Alrewas, Staffordshire and from there had heard about the work I had done with the appeal team headed up by its patron, HRH Prince William and its Chairman, Major General Patrick Cordingley with whom I had worked previously on another project. I had been working with them for 2 years and together we had raised £15.7 million overall. The 'Heroes' Square' element, for which I had been actually responsible, raised £1.2 million for the new Visitor Centre that had just been opened and I was about to finish the project.

It was a welcome phone call and as I was able to tell Richard that I was actually a granddaughter of a 'Duke': Lt Col Ben Sayers who had fought and was wounded in WW1, served with the Regiment on the NW Frontier in India between the wars and commanded the depot in Halifax after the WW2. My mother had even been born in India. I knew if they wanted my help, I would love to be involved in this Appeal as I would also be able to learn more about the Regiment and its history and my family's connection with it."

With Caroline's appointment the home team was almost complete. There was one further element to be added.

Tim Sinclair, the former Public Relations Officer on the "Dukes" 1977 Londonderry Tour, now ran his own PR Firm called Wolfstar and was brought on board to help publicise the project.

Capable through they were the Committee needed outside assistance. Others who provided invaluable assistance were Paul Nutton and Maggie Sutcliffe of Philip Ryley, surveyors in Halifax, who were appointed the Committee's project manager, The Halifax Courier, for so many years a supporter of the Regiment, also played an important part in informing people of the project and gaining their support.

Calderdale Council, in the guise of Chief Executive Robin Tuddenham, Robert Summerfield who leads on corporate projects and Geraldine Carter, were now well onsite. Along with them were Mohammed Shah, traffic department, who saw that the plinth was installed in exactly the right place. Kate Peach dealt

with the planning aspects; Hollie Good and Chloe Hines produced the information boards and Sue Hanson dealt with protocol matters. The Committee also received useful support from members of the museums service. In particular John Spencer, the Curator of the Regimental Museum at Bankfield and a veritable expert on all matter pertaining to the history of the 'Dukes'. The Committee is extremely grateful for their enthusiasm and efficiency.

Once a site for the plinth had been found the Committee were extremely lucky to have the support of two excellent local companies for its provision and engraving. Marshalls (the contact was Gordon Hines) provided the stone free from their quarry on nearby Scout Moor, which was very generous of them. The shaping and engraving of the stone were done by Scribble Stone Ltd (Jason Fry, Scott Williams and Stuart Mallinson in particular) based in Hipperholme. The Committee found them to be extremely easy to work with and their cooperation and advice, so cheerfully given, was invaluable.



Brigadier Andrew Meek CBE, Brigadier Michael Bray CBE, Major Peter Robinson MBE , the Fund Raiser Caroline Cary, Captain John Hogg, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Ward, Colonel Alistair Roberts MBE, Major David Harrap, Major Bob Heron"

Genesis

The team assembled and the site selected the question now was simple: what was the Memorial going to look like? The Committee needed a sculptor and whilst the members were skilled and experienced in many fields the commissioning of important works of art was not one of their specialities! However, they approached the search with true military efficiency. A list of ten artists who clearly had the capabilities to produce a major regimental statue was compiled. The ten were sent a brief and invited to provide their ideas. Seven of them submitted proposals which were carefully studied by the Committee.

This was the brief the candidates were given:

The memorial is to:

- Commemorate over 300 years (1701 - 2006) of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment
- Reflect the 33rd and 76th Regiments of Foot
- Explain the link to The Duke of Wellington (and thus the name of the Regiment)
- Celebrate the connection with the West Riding of Yorkshire and the sterling qualities of the Yorkshire soldier.
- Convey a history of the Regiment and promote further reading and research.
- Maximise the symbolism of all elements.

The memorial design should, where possible, include:

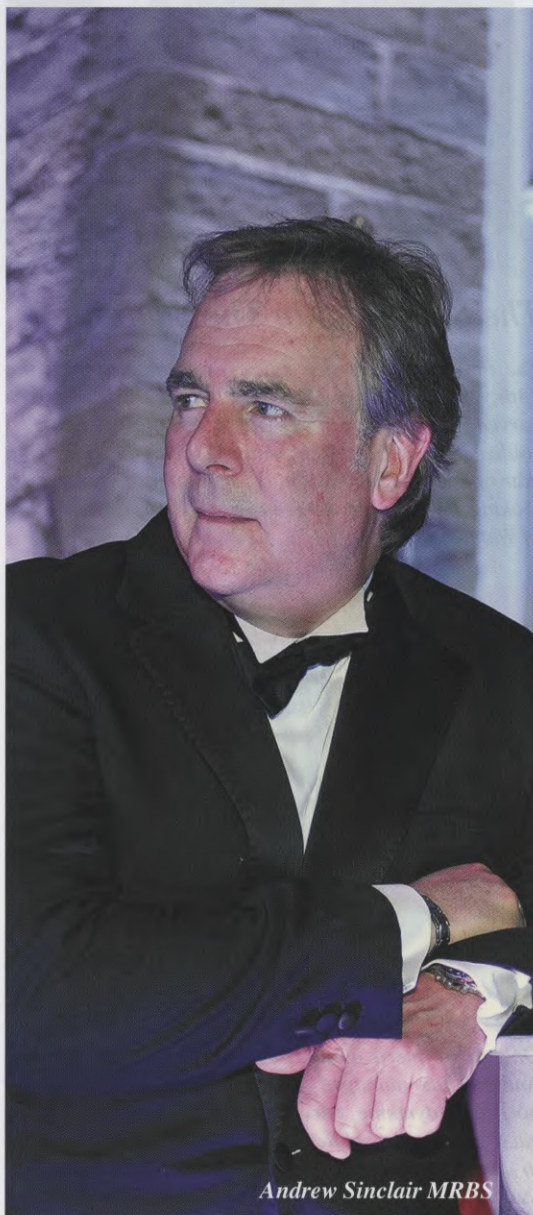
- The crest of the Regiment (the Lion rampant)
- Include the motto '*Virtutis Fortuna Comes*'
- The Honorary Colours (including the Spearheads) with the battle honours emblazoned
- The Indian elephant and howdah
- Commemorate the First Duke of Wellington and his part in the history of the Regiment
- An indication of the importance of the game of rugby football to the Regiment
- Reflect the family culture of the Regiment

Other Factors that were deemed to be important.

- The memorial is to be visually appealing and well proportioned
- It is to sit well within the chosen context
- In designing the memorial, the long term maintenance requirements and changing landscape must be considered.
- Modern technologies are to be employed where feasible and consideration given to 'future proofing'

- Consideration is to be given to the use of alternative materials as a cost saving means (if required).
- The location and the support of the local Council mean that these will be factors that could have influence on the final agreed design of the memorial.

The winner was Andrew Sinclair MRBS, who runs the Sculpture School in Devon. His exceptionally imaginative and unusual ideas impressed the Committee and given the contract he immediately set to work.



Andrew Sinclair MRBS

Evolution



Andrew Sinclair MRBS and Diane Coates

Andrew's partner, Diane Coates, acted as his assistant throughout.

Here she describes the evolution of the design and its construction:

"Celebrating the 300-year history of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, this monument tells the Regiment's story through the characters, symbols and motifs depicted within its unusual, ground-breaking design. The dynamic placement of the main figures and the narrative elements of the sculpture are designed to draw the viewer into the sculpture, creating a 'wow' factor that resonates on many levels.

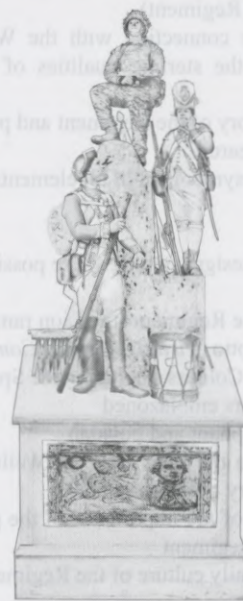
As a military sculpture it is a revolutionary design, telling the Regiment's history as a sculptural story weaving throughout the bronze – there is no front or back, simply the entire story in the round. There is something for everyone: military precision in the uniform details; historical facts; emotional connection to the soldiers, their families, the Regiment and its place in Halifax, Calderdale, the West Riding – Yorkshire.

The Story Within The Sculpture

The three main life-size figures are soldiers from the 18th, 19th and 21st centuries, placed as if on steps carved into a rock edifice. The first historical figure, a soldier from the 33rd Regiment of Foot at the time of the War of Spanish Succession, is loading his musket whilst looking towards the Sergeant from 1815, at the Battle of Waterloo.



On artistic merit alone, this sculpture is exceptional. Andrew has managed with his realistic figures and portraits, dynamic curves and movement evident in each figure, the soldiers' faces evocative of strength, to give a visual depiction of British grit, determination and solid reliability. Andrew Sinclair's sculptures are



Drawings from Andrew's original submission to the Committee

unique in their highly skilled attention to detail. This aspect of his work makes them resonate with life, adding a quality of realism rarely seen in contemporary sculpture today. His characteristic technique of sculpting some elements in high detail, then blurring others through his loose application of clay strokes has the effect of a camera lens zooming into focus, highlighting important features and drawing the viewer further in to discover more.



The Sergeant is holding his pipe in his left hand and the spontoon in his right. Both soldiers proudly sport their haversacks, containing the famous Havercake.



Standing above them, as if safe-guarding the Regiment's place in time, is the soldier from the 20th Century, circa the Afghanistan campaign, complete with his flak-jacket, webbing and SA80 semi-automatic weapon.



The fourth life-size figure seen emerging from the edifice base, is an officer from WWI. With his Webley 365 revolver in his right hand and ready to blow the whistle in his left, he is leading his men over the top of the trenches. Sculpted in a different style and pose to the first 3 soldiers, he represents the fraught dynamic tension of a soldier in battle. This was an early addition to the original concept which was readily agreed to by the Committee.



The 'rock edifice' serves as a bas-relief which symbolically reflects all that is important to the Regiment. The Honorary Colour draped over it, bears the name "HINDOOSTAN" and the emblem of an elephant both granted by the East India Company to the 76th Regiment in honour of their part in capturing the great cities of the Indian Mughal empire and the names of the battle honours awarded to the 76th in this campaign and later.



A late edition to the design are the 10 name plaques on the side of the rock 'edifice' honouring the Regiment's members who were awarded the Victoria Cross. The plaques appear as if woven into the rock, connected by a thread of roots, representing their attachment to the Regiment, their 'brothers in arms', their families and of course, their Yorkshire heritage.



The staff is topped by the unusual engraved ceremonial spearhead unique to the 'Dukes' Honorary Colours. Since regiments received names rather than numbers, the 'Dukes' was the only one named after a man not of royal blood and the only one to carry four colours – two regulation and two Honorary.

The Honorary Colours' spear tips bear the inscription:

76TH REGT

THESE COLOURS WERE PRESENTED TO THE REGT BY THE CHAIRMAN & COURT OF DIRECTORS OF THE HONOURABLE EAST INDIA COMPANY IN TESTIMONY OF IT'S MERITORIOUS SERVICES AND DISTINGUISHED BRAVERY IN THE DIFFERENT ACTIONS ACCORDED UPON THEM



A mother and her two children from the WW2 era can be seen in bas-relief underneath the colours, the mother and son holding the Colour pole, whilst the small daughter cuddles a soft toy. In the background framing this element are the rich green Yorkshire dales. This family bas-relief is a sculptural metaphor for the strong family support given by the soldiers' relatives, as well as the solid family connections within the Regiment itself.



The monumental portrait of the Duke of Wellington (quintessential to the Regiment's identity) and the Regiment's namesake, is an accurately scaled portrait sculpture whose measurements were taken from the original marble sculpture by Joseph Nollekens, at the Duke of Wellington's London residence, Apsley House.



Tucked under the crag beneath the Napoleonic sergeant is a bas-relief of an Indian elephant, ridden by his mahout in front of the howdah. The elephant emblem, originally granted to the 76th Regiment for its actions in India, became an enduring and much valued symbol of the Regiment after the 33rd and 76th were brought together in 1881 to form the two regular 'Dukes' battalions.

The inclusion of the 'Dukes' rugby player, Graydon Williams, represents the importance of rugby to the Regiment and their pride in winning the Army Rugby Cup 13 times. His contribution to the 'Dukes' rugby history is emphasised by the artist's placement of Graydon's name on the rugby ball, replacing the trade mark wording of 'Gilbert'.

The drum, close by the feet of the 1702 soldier represents the raising of the regiment in that year "by Beat of Drumme" by command of Queen Anne to fight in the Spanish War of Succession. The base of the monument displays the affectionate local names given to the Regiment: The 'Dukes' and The Havercake Lads a reflection of the practice of recruiting Sergeants to wave an oat (Hafer) cake on their swords to entice hungry young men to join.

The Early Stages

The Maquette

Each individual soldier was moulded and cast separately first, before Andrew could begin to sculpt the 'edifice' on which the soldiers would be placed.

The moulding process comprises of three layers of silicone rubber being applied to the clay sculpture: the first coat is painted on thinly, ensuring all the detail and crevices are filled with rubber. Plastishim (an invention of Andrew's) is applied to form the dividing walls of the mould before the two thicker layers are added. The last outer jacket is created using fibreglass sheet and resin.

To ensure perfect moulds and casts, Andrew always considers the moulding process at the start of each sculpture by making his armatures with removeable hands or arms. Exquisite detail can be achieved, even in small maquettes.



Using threaded steel bar and armature wire, the armature was constructed to take the weight of the three main soldier figures. Importantly, each arm supporting the bronze resin soldier casts was constructed to move and rotate, giving Andrew flexibility in sculpting his design.

Once the clay sculpture is complete, the maquette was cast in bronze resin, before being unveiled by the Duke of Wellington at Apsley House in London on 6th March 2018.

It is interesting to note that the design of the finished life-size sculpture is different to the maquette. During the sculpting process and as a result of various Committee meetings, new ideas and additional features were requested and included into the final piece.

Using the maquette as his main reference point, Andrew Sinclair works out the scale for the first life-size soldier. He then constructs a steel armature, welding it into place on the steel and mdf dolly purpose-built for the job. A polystyrene moulded head is added, then Andrew blocks out the basis of the figure using polystyrene sheet,

then carving it to refine the body shape before 'claying-up'.

After a thin base-layer of clay has been applied to the armature, Andrew immediately gets his design into place using his Rapid Sketch Technique method of clay application - linear strokes of clay. As well as the essential human anatomy, he also creates the design of the uniform clothing at the outset.

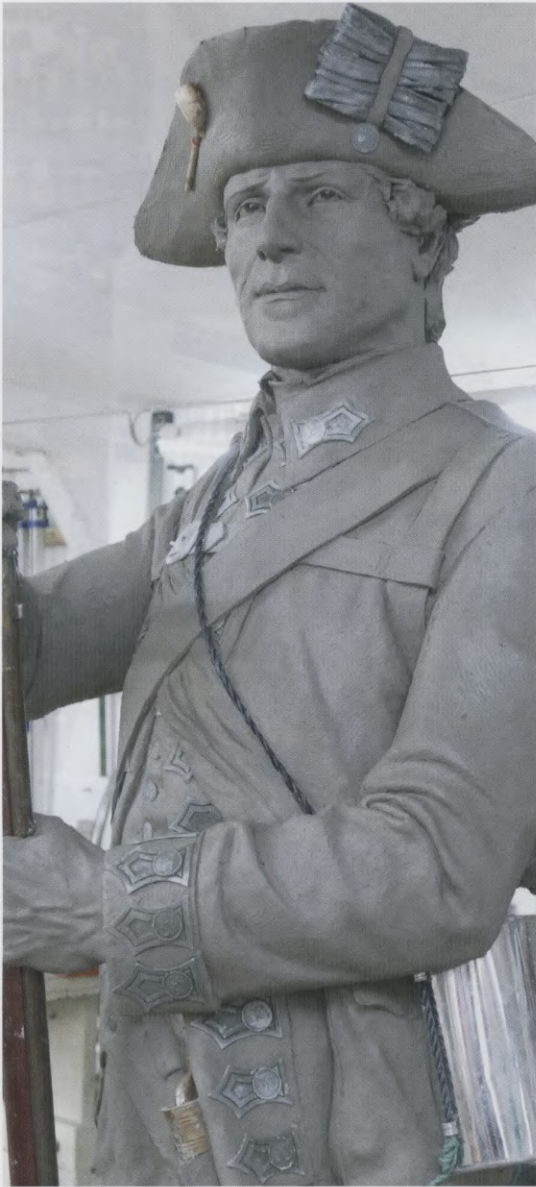
Working closely with the historians and re-enactors from the Duke of Wellington's Regiment was a huge pleasure and enabled Andrew to create correct historical facsimiles of all the soldiers' uniforms.

The intricate detailing in the sculpture is evident to anyone who looks at it closely and amply displays Andrew Sinclair's professional approach for which he is renowned. Andrew enjoys employing modern materials and techniques to aid his sculpting methods as can be seen by the use of moulded and cast buttons and buckles which were supplied by the Regiment's Museum in Halifax.



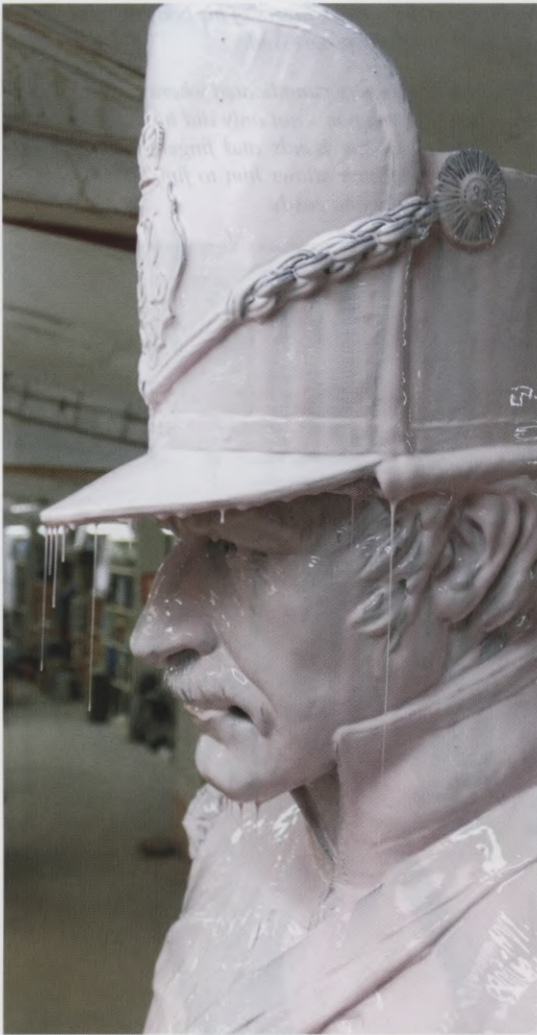


Andrew using his Rapid Sketch Technique method of clay application



The heads are sculpted in the same way as the figures, sketched into place using linear clay strokes first, before being refined in stages. Andrew wanted the soldiers faces to seem familiar yet not portraits of specific people so he created them using his broad sculptural knowledge.

Once he has a clay sculpture Ander needs to create a mould. The moulding process comprises of three layers of silicone rubber being applied to the clay sculpture: the first coat is painted on thinly, ensuring all the detail and crevices are filled with rubber. Plastishim is applied to form the dividing walls of the mould before the two thicker layers are added. The last outer jacket is created by using fibreglass sheet and resin. These images show



the progression from the 'sketch' stage of creating the clay sculpture to the finer detailed sculpting techniques that bring the sculpture 'into focus'. Some of the uniform details have been moulded and cast in resin first before being added to the clay - including the wooden water bottle.

Incredibly realistic details are sculpted in clay by Andrew Sinclair, creating many life-like features: the trousers really do look like there are legs inside them! Intricate attention to detail can be seen in the shoes, the spats, the frogging.

Once the sculpting is complete, Andrew cuts into the clay, then removes a steel pin to release the steel armature allowing him to effectively amputate the arm without damaging any of the sculpting. He can then finish sculpting the hand separately. Then the arm, the hands and the sergeant's pipe can be moulded and cast with simplicity.





The creation of Soldier 3, the modern day soldier who tops the memorial, was particularly challenging. It began with scaling-up from the maquette, then building a steel armature and blocking out the body shape with carved polystyrene.



Andrew then sculpted the clay figure using his Rapid Sketch Technique to imbue the sculpture with dynamic energy curves and the vital anatomical proportions. He also added the intrinsic shapes of the soldier's uniform,

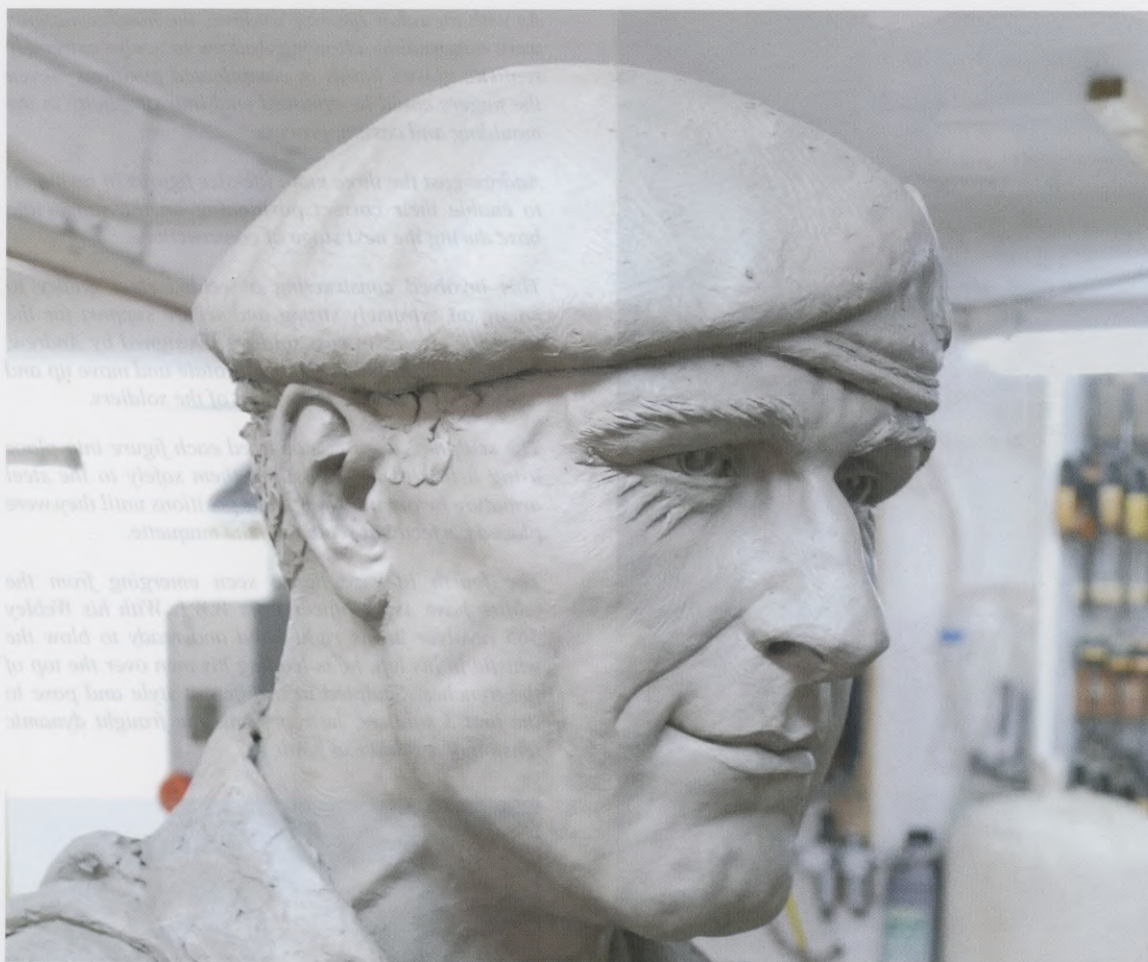
building up the surface layers of his body armour, jacket and webbing as he progressed.

This sculpture is very complicated where the hands hold the automatic weapon - not only did he make the arms removeable, but the hands and fingers also separate from the gun, which allows him to finish sculpting the hands beautifully and easily.



Andrew sculpted the face, using linear strokes of clay to place the anatomical structure of the facial features, before refining the clay application to gradually create the facial features and skin texture, developing an individual character for this 21st century soldier.

The complicated system of pockets, webbing, laces and buckles of this soldier's uniform was an interesting test to Andrew's skills. He and his team fabricated various elements like the comms unit from mdf, the buckles were moulded from real webbing and multiples were cast in resin before adding them to the clay sculpture. The laces were created from a flexible, longer-lasting polymer clay because it wouldn't crack and dry-out like his regular clay.





The SA80 weapon was purchased so that Andrew and his team could mould and cast it - a more effective and economical method for its re-creation in bronze, rather than sculpting it in clay.



As with the other life-size soldiers, the hand armatures were removeable, allowing Andrew to sculpt extremely realistic gloved hands in complicated positions - even the fingers could be removed enabling simplicity in the moulding and casting process.

Andrew cast the three main life-size figures in resin first to enable their correct positioning on the supporting base during the next stage of construction.

This involved constructing a welded steel gantry to create an extremely strong and secure support for the three life-size resin cast soldiers. Designed by Andrew, the three individual arms could rotate and move up and down as well as bear the weight of the soldiers.

The sculpture team manoeuvred each figure into place using a forklift truck, bolting them safely to the steel armature before adjusting their positions until they were placed perfectly in scale with the maquette.

The fourth life-size figure seen emerging from the edifice base, is an officer from WW1. With his Webley 365 revolver in his right hand and ready to blow the whistle in his left, he is leading his men over the top of the trenches. Sculpted in a different style and pose to the first 3 soldiers, he represents the fraught dynamic tension of a soldier in battle.





Several features on the 'Edifice' have been fabricated individually because the finish produced is better than it would be if sculpted in clay. The 1703 drum was made by Andrew's technical assistant Ross using mdf and rope and attached to the edifice during the clay sculpting process.

The Army Rugby Cup was actually moulded and cast from the real thing - the silver cup being delivered by a

soldier who kept a close eye on proceedings! The cast is perfect, displaying all the engravings and was inserted into the clay edifice below the sculpture of Graydon Williams, their chosen rugby player.

Andrew built a steel safety cage to fit onto the fork-lift truck which provided the ability to place the top soldier in position and remove him when required.

The armature design for the Honorary Colours was a masterpiece of engineering - Andrew had to form a 'gate' which opened to allow the modern soldier to be attached or removed when necessary as the 'fabric' of the colours needed to drape around his leg.



Andrew's partner Diane sculpted the Colours and the decorative detail - the embroidered foliage was sculpted individually, then multiples were cast in resin and applied to the clay. Similarly, the lettering on the scrolls was out-sourced to Exeter Signs, then applied to the clay.

The moulding of the 'edifice' was the largest and most complicated mould of Andrew's 30 year career to date!

With help from his assistants, Iola and Ross, a mould comprising of 24 jackets was created over a period of 2 weeks, using 100 kilos of silicone rubber.

The 'edifice' sculpture weighed over 1 tonne in clay, more with the fibreglass-resin mould on top. Its convoluted shape and many jackets required a very large space and considerable strength to remove them all safely. Once removed every single piece was washed and re-assembled, ready for the next stage - making the wax casts.

Before a sculpture can be cast in bronze, wax casts have to be made. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Memorial Sculpture is the sum of many parts and each one required a wax cast.

The next few pictures show the wax casts in various stages. The wax casting stage gives the sculptor one final opportunity to refine or re-define the details on his sculpture.







Some parts of the sculpture could only be made and added to the sculpture in wax, such as the rope and the water bottle, some of the braiding and tassles etc.

The complex detail of the Honorary Colours was greatly enhanced through working on the wax cast - the cord and tassles had been sculpted, moulded and cast separately so were only attached to the sculpture at this stage.

As with the sculpting of the memorial, the three main soldier figures were poured as bronze casts first. In the same way as a jigsaw is pieced together, each individual figure was poured in small pieces, then welded together.

The foundry is run by Paul O'Boyle, who specialises in casting in phosphor bronze which is extremely rare these days - the majority of foundries use silicone bronze. The fine quality of phosphor bronze offers greater depth of colour in the patination process.

It is estimated that the bronze memorial was cast in well over 200 small pieces and then welded together like a giant 3D jigsaw. Huge care and attention was paid to the details of the sculpture - the skills of the foundry-men are evident in the beautiful finish - no evidence of the welding can be seen in the finished piece.

Andrew and team built a bespoke crane to fit the steel cage on the fork-lift truck which meant the entire project was handled internally, without the need to hire in a crane and crane operative.

Before the 2006 soldier was welded in place at the top of the 'edifice', Paul created a camouflage effect on the soldier's uniform and completely finished the patination and waxing.

The 3 main life-size soldiers were initially created as individual sculptures which gave Andrew and his team total flexibility at the time of assembling the entire memorial. This approach crucially enabled their placement to be adjusted where necessary to ensure a perfect fit and achieve the ideal design.

Paul's welding specialist, Mick, used his expertise to weld all the figures and the individual bronze casts (the weapons, arms, hands, drumsticks, spontoon etc) to complete the bronze memorial sculpture.

Achieving a stunning patination requires experience and skill. Assorted chemicals are stippled onto the heated bronze to create an alchemy of colour - Paul's expertise is evident, as can be seen on the actual memorial sculpture.

The three main soldier figures were finally positioned after they had been individually patinated. Using a crane system attached to the fork-lift truck (which Andrew designed) the soldiers were welded into place.

The Installation

At 6am on Tuesday 14th May 2019, driver John arrived

at the studio in Boodleigh, Devon to begin loading the sculpture onto the low-loader. His expert handling and experience made the whole process look easy and simple. Two and a half hours later, the carefully wrapped sculpture began its journey from Devon to Halifax, Yorkshire.

At 6am on Wednesday 15th May 2019 the moment of truth arrived along with the realisation that everything now depended on the accuracy of our measurements! With complete control and precision, driver and crane operator John lifted the 'Dukes' Memorial Sculpture onto the beautiful stone plinth, created by Marshalls and Scibblestone. Sculptor Andrew, bronze-caster Paul and stone-mason Jason manoeuvred the bronze into place, ensuring the steel fixings slotted into the pre-drilled holes on the plinth's surface. The stainless-steel fixings were then glued into place with a fast-drying cement ensuring the one and a half tonne bronze sculpture was permanently secured.

On the third 6am start of the week, Andrew was hoisted up to the top of the sculpture on a cherry-picker to fit the official unveiling cloth to the bronze - which was quite a challenge in the wind and rain!

The unveiling cloth was a bespoke design especially created for this sculpture by Andrew's assistant Iola. A great deal of practicing in advance ensured that the unveiling cloth would work efficiently on the day.

It has been an honour and a pleasure to create this historic memorial sculpture for The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. It became part of our lives, and for 2 years we lived and breathed the 'Dukes' history and culture. Working with the Committee has been brilliant, bringing together a great team, whose energy, enthusiasm and efficiency enabled us to create a magnificent tribute to all who served in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. We are proud to be part of their legacy."

Acknowledgements

The Sculpture Team

Andrew Sinclair MRBS - Sculptor
Diane Coates - Assistant Sculptor
Ross Andrew - Sculpture Technician
Iola Weir- Sculpture Technician
Rob Ledger - Lettering by Exeter Signs

Foundry

Paul O'Boyle - Bronze-caster
Mick Ciurdas - Welder

The Plinth

Jason Fry & Scott Williams - Scibblestone
Dave Stanger - Marshalls

Photography

Diane Coates
Dave Keightley
Gerard Spinks

Bankfield Museum - Historical reference
Richard Harvey - Association Website Editor,
John Spencer - Museum Curator

The Fundraising

Whilst Andrew and Diane were busy creating the sculpture Caroline Cary was busy organising the fund raising events. She takes up the story:

"Our sculptor Andrew Sinclair's work and commitment were second to none. He worked tirelessly to incorporate all the details spending many hours, days and weeks researching the history and getting the advice he needed on every aspect. It was also because of his work that I was able to share the vision at the early stages as we knew he would deliver an inspirational and truly evocative piece. The Committee did not leave a stone unturned and volunteers came 'out of the woodwork' – Tim Sinclair and his company Wolfstar were there all the way through and came up trumps for our PR at Apsley House and for the final event.

Those working in the background doing the accounts, running Bankfield, proofing, answering questions on the queries that came via email, post and social media were most supportive. All needed our time. Our Vice Patrons could not have been more helpful and were always there in support of all I did, and it was a great sadness that General Charles was not able to see the final memorial in place. I am so grateful for all their support and the teamwork that came with it.

With all fundraising projects you never know how easy or hard it is going to be and you have to think unconventionally. I knew that this would be quite a lot to ask given the aim was so narrow – a memorial to a single regiment – so we had to think of all sorts of ways that we could raise funds. I was lent lots of books, letters, pamphlets and many other things about the history of the Regiment when looking for inspiration.

The more I read the more it encouraged me to look for help from those who were well-positioned to incite interest and encourage, not only anyone who served in the Regiment, but also to persuade individuals and organisations outside the Regiment to give money to a cause to which they were neither directly affiliated or only loosely connected. This is one of the reasons we came up with some of the fundraising events outside Yorkshire, before we positioned our final event to showcase the unveiling of the memorial a couple of months later.

In the meantime, a website memorial page was created and online donation links were activated. Books were read, letters were sent, calls made and meetings took place. Every day after the initial few months, a cheque, a bank transfer or a thank you letter landed on my doorstep – the response was amazing. Letters arrived that were almost illegible at times either written in haste or by someone who just wanted to have their final input

into The 'Dukes'. Five, ten, twenty pound notes arrived from around the world some wrapped inside some heartfelt letters remembering a loved one now gone and some anonymous – it was amazing to see how many loved this Regiment and gave what they could for this Appeal and it is for all those small and large donations that we achieved our goal. Clubs banded together, West Yorkshire's Masonic Lodges were conspicuously generous and sometimes people met up for a social at the pub and had a collection.

I felt so honoured to be part of this, to have some of the conversations I have had with people who wanted to tell me about their time in service, or offer up ideas. I will never forget the email I got back from one person who remembered my grandfather - the late Hugh Le Messurier: "Dear Caroline, of course, I knew 'Ben' Sayers at the Depot. White hair and reddish complexion. He was there with Sammy Baker and a number of officers called up. All best wishes Hugh."

The fundraising events consisted of a Rugby Event in February 2018 at The Leathersellers' Hall, a magnificent and recently completed livery hall, a rare privilege as it is not open to the public, by kind invitation of David Santa-Olalla. Throughout the 20th century the 'Dukes' were synonymous with the game of rugby football and this connection is the reason we organised a fundraising event with an evening's talk by Nigel Melville. Nigel is a Yorkshireman, captained England and now is a key figure at 'HQ' in Twickenham.

Our second event was held at Apsley House thanks to the generosity of our Patron, The Duke of Wellington. We were honoured and extremely lucky to be able to have the event at No 1 London as there was no better place at which to launch the Appeal and at the same time reveal the design for the Memorial in maquette form. The response from everyone on the evening was that the design had the 'wow' factor and also reflected the essential elements of the over 300-year history, its close links to the West Riding as well as to the Wellesley family.

The Hindoostan Shooting Club then chose this appeal for its inaugural HSC Charity Clay Day at the Bisley Shooting Ground in Berkshire. Bisley will be well known to many 'Dukes' for target shooting but it also has a very fine clay shoot. The HSC, is a private members shooting club originally formed by serving and retired officers of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. This was a fun day and a significant amount of money was raised for the Appeal from persons outside of those in the "Dukes". The Duke of Wellington's Regiment returned to Halifax on Friday 8th March its home town for some 140 years; for the fundraising dinner in aid of the Appeal held at

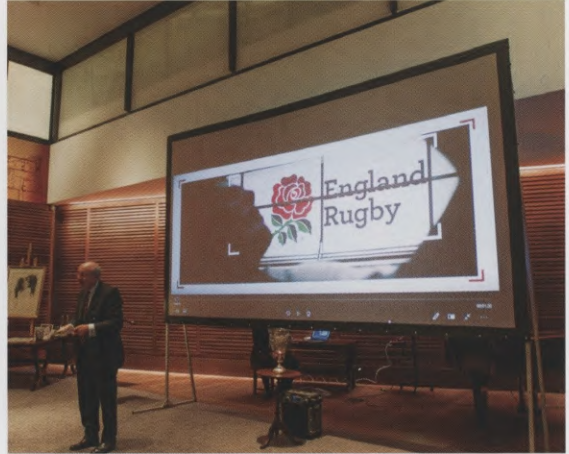
The Arches, in Dean Clough Mills. The event was the third of its kind for the Appeal aiming to raise enough funds to close the gap to the final target.

Little did we realise the full extent of the support the Appeal would receive from not just within the Regimental family but from a whole host of individuals

hours of support: The Appeal Committee and in particular Brigadier Andrew Meek; Steve Duncan CEO of the Community Foundation for Calderdale; Tim Sinclair; David Ridgeway, Diane Coates, Janet Gull, Suzanne Macdonald, John Golding and the Yorkshire Committee.”



David Santa-Olalla welcomes the attendees at the Rugby Event



Brigadier Andrew Meek addresses the audience



Nigel Melville delivers his Talk



The Auction in full swing



The 'Back Row'



The Audience listens attentively



Charlotte Bell, Suzanne McDonald, Magician and Soldier Richard Jones and Christopher Bell



Claire Marsden & Sandy Meek



Simon Morgan & Carolyn Roberts



Paddy Dent, Harriet Highley, Diara Dent, Caroline Cary & Charles Dent



Jack Scroby & Caroline Cary



What it was all about



The Maquette arrives at Apsley House



The Duke of Wellington opens proceedings



The Duke unveils the Maquette



The sculptor Andrew Sinclairs and the President of the Regimental Association Brigadier Andrew Meek



The Yorkshire Regiment Drums at Apsley House



The Yorkshire Regiment Drums and Colour Party



Clay shoot in full swing

The evocative and historic Bisley Clubhouse



The Top Table prepares for the auction



The Auction Prizes



The Auction in Progress – Andy McNeillis wields the gavel



The Hindoostan Shooting Club show off their caps



Fund raiser Caroline Cary shows off her HSC honorary cap



“a magnificent setting at the Arches”



The pre-dinner reception



The diners enjoy their meal



Committee member Peter Robinson addresses the diners



John Hogg gives a rousing rendition of Rudyard Kipling's Barrack Room ballad 'Tommy'



The Yorkshire Volunteer Corps of Drums



The spectacular 'Victory' drum display



TV antique expert Adam Partridge conducts the auction

The Plinth

The sculpture was taking shape and the funds to pay for it were coming in but there were many other things to consider if this project was to create a meaningful and last memorial to the 'Dukes'.

It had occurred to the Committee early on in their deliberations that it might seem negligent to produce a memorial to the Regiment's service to the Nation without knowing how many men had served in it. No one had any idea. As far as could be discovered, this matter had never been researched for the 'Dukes' or any other regiment. So, Michael Bray volunteered to work it out and was greatly assisted by the 'Dukes' Archivist, Scott Flaving.

He looked at every battalion in turn, where it was, what it was doing, what its starting strength was at the beginning of the year, what was the likely turnover and what the end of the year strength was. This was not too difficult for the 33rd and 76th although he had to make a decision on from which year to include the soldiers from 76th, which did not become 2 DWR until 1881. The 76th was raised in 1787 and Arthur Wellesley briefly joined it that year before moving in 1788 to the 41st Regiment then various other regiments before finally joining the 33rd as a Major in 1793. So, it seemed, with this early connection with the Great Duke whose name it was to adopt as 2 DWR in the later Army reforms, proper to regard the 76th as 'Dukes' from its start. (He joined the 76th on Christmas Day 1787 and only served with them until 23rd January 1788 – just under a month. All of this time was spent in Dublin primarily attending balls and social functions as ADC to the Lord Lieutenant). Calculations got much more complicated from the second half of the 19th Century, when TA/reserve units appeared, leading up to WW1 when the Regiment produced 23 battalions and WW11 when there were DWR units serving as artillery and armoured regiments. And then there was the Home Guard!

The rule for inclusion was that the unit must have worn the 'Dukes' cap badge. Cadets were not included.

Some figures may be of interest:

In 1702 the 33rd first paraded with a strength of 830.

By 1900, 22890 men had served in the 33rd/1DWR. Having had a relatively quiet WW1 in India but a busy WW11, by 2006, 36200 men had served in 33rd/1DWR.

By 1913, 12090 men had served in the 76th/2DWR. 2 DWR had a busy WW1 in Europe and in Burma in WW11. When it amalgamated with 1 DWR in 1948, 21780 men had served in it.

In WW1 80000 non-regulars served in the 'Dukes' of which 6382 were killed in action.

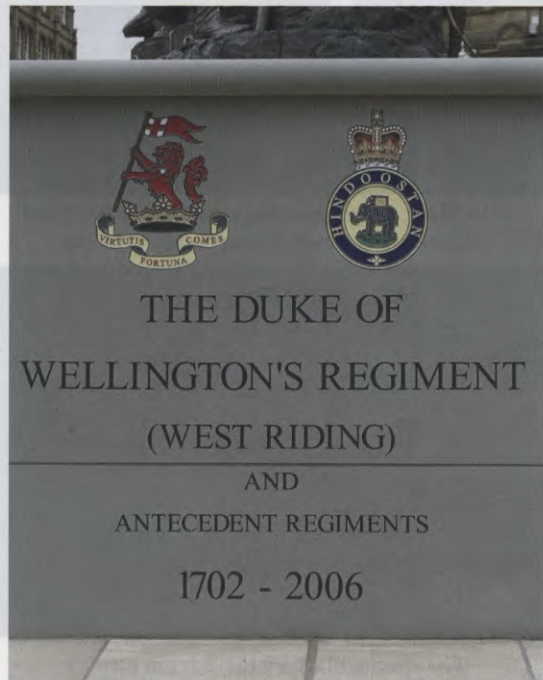
19500 TA served in WW11 and a further 25000 in 18 battalions of Home Guard, badged 'Dukes'.

By 2006, the grand total of men who had been 'Dukes' was approximately 205000. This, it was decided, was the figure that should be shown on the Memorial plinth.

Besides the number of those who had served what else was to go on the plinth? As everyone knows, the matter of composing script in committee can be a very tortuous process and so it will be no surprise to know that the Committee spent a huge amount of time on this. They had four sides of a large square plinth on which to put appropriate information.

It was surprisingly difficult to produce a list of towns of which the 'Dukes' had the Freedom. Local government boundaries and names had changed; in some cases the documentation had been updated; in some not. In Skipton the 'Dukes' had honorary citizenship but not the freedom!

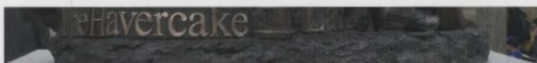
Another question that arose was who was to own the Statue in the future and acquire an interest and motivation in looking after it? It was always a priority throughout the project to focus on being the West Riding





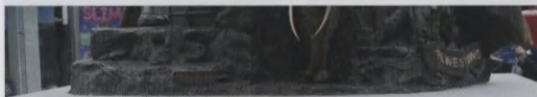
This Memorial was unveiled by
His Grace The 9th Duke of Wellington and
The Worshipful The Mayor of Calderdale
On the 17th May 2019.

The Memorial was funded thanks to the generosity of
members of the Regimental family, members of the
public and by grants from charitable trusts.



This Memorial commemorates 304 years of service
to the Nation by The Duke of Wellington's
Regiment (West Riding) and its antecedents.

It pays tribute to the 205,000 men, mostly from
the West Riding of Yorkshire, who served in
The Regiment, and to the families and the
communities who supported them.



The Regiment was awarded the Freedom of
Halifax, Huddersfield, Spensborough, Mossley,
Barnsley, Bradford, Sheffield, Craven District
and the Honorary Citizenship of Skipton.

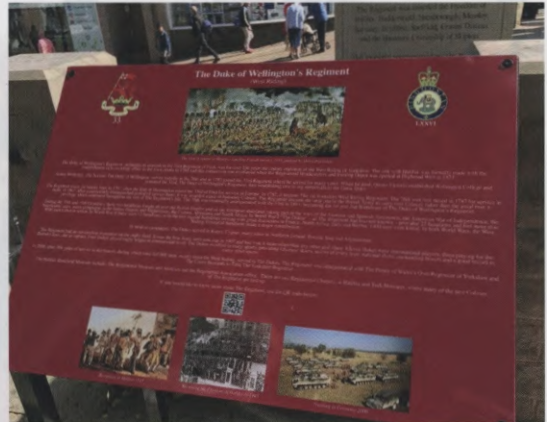
This memorial was presented by The Regiment
to the Borough of Calderdale as guardian of
The Regiment's West Riding heritage.

Regiment and not just Halifax's regiment. The plinth says, "Presented by The Regiment to the Borough of Calderdale as guardian of The Regiment's West Riding heritage." Hopefully that will remain the situation.

Another idea that came to the Committee later in the project were the sign boards. At Wellington College, Michael Bray had produced a very fine board telling the history of the 'Dukes', which had been unveiled at the 2018 lunch there.

The Committee decided to replicate this idea in Halifax. In the event, one board was produced that told the story of the Regiment and another telling the story of the Statue. They now sit on either side of the Statue and copies of both decorate the walls of a new Council office called "The Wellington Room."

For this work of creating information boards 'The Iron Duke' printer, Hart and Clough of Cleckheaton, was used. Richard Clough could not have been more helpful, coping with many changes and providing excellent advice on such matters as text layout and font size for the various iterations of board size. Once the builder (Richard Porter of D.D.Porter Ltd) had put up his hoardings, Richard Clough designed and installed some very Regimental signs explaining to the public what was happening.



The Unveiling Day

Finally it all came together: the Committee, the Council, the money, the sculpture, the plinth, the Duke of Wellington and, of course, the 'Dukes' themselves. All made their way to Halifax for the unveiling on the 17th May 2019.



To those who were there the day's events will live long in their memory. To those who were not the photographs below will hopefully give some sort of idea of the

extraordinary atmosphere that pervaded the streets and piazzas of Halifax. A mixture of sadness, reflection, comradeship but above all pride.

The unveiling day with its numerous moving parts was conceived, organized and executed by David Harrap and Bob Heron our old RHQ team from Wellesley Park.

There were four main events: a reception for VIPs, Civic Representatives from all our 'Freedom' Cities, Towns and Districts and all the major donors and supporters to the Memorial Project in the Piece Hall Caygill Rooms, a service in the Halifax Minster, the unveiling itself and finally a Regimental reunion held in a marquee erected in the magnificent setting in the courtyard of the Piece Hall; probably the largest collection of 'Dukes' under one roof that will ever be seen again.

We were particularly honoured that all the Cities, Towns and Districts across the West Riding for which the Regiment holds the 'Freedom' were able to send their civic leaders to represent their communities and with this reflect our deep and long heritage ties to the West Riding.



His Grace The Duke of Wellington with the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire and the Lord Mayors and Mayors of the 'Dukes' Freedom Boroughs.



The Halifax Minster Service

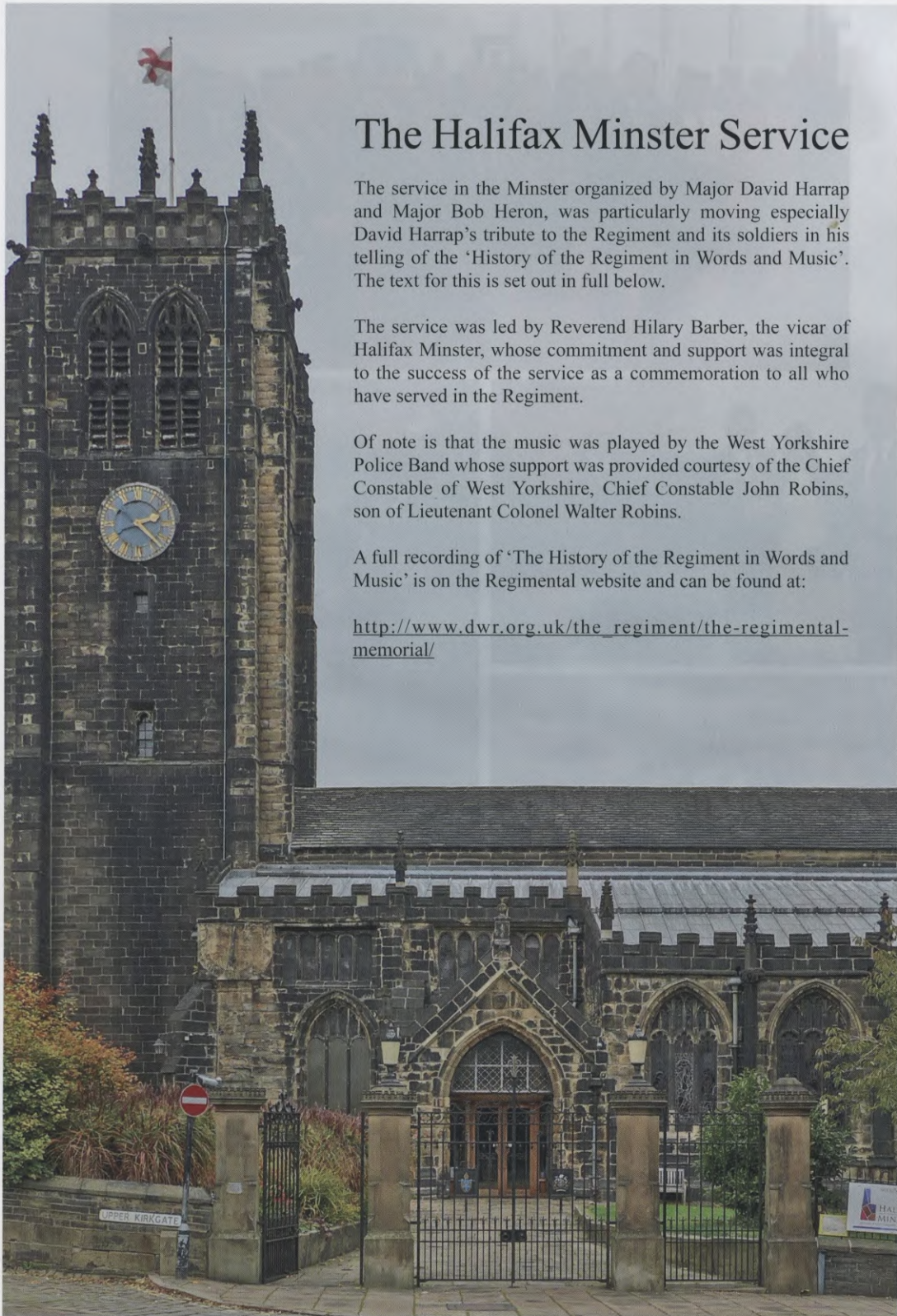
The service in the Minster organized by Major David Harrap and Major Bob Heron, was particularly moving especially David Harrap's tribute to the Regiment and its soldiers in his telling of the 'History of the Regiment in Words and Music'. The text for this is set out in full below.

The service was led by Reverend Hilary Barber, the vicar of Halifax Minster, whose commitment and support was integral to the success of the service as a commemoration to all who have served in the Regiment.

Of note is that the music was played by the West Yorkshire Police Band whose support was provided courtesy of the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, Chief Constable John Robins, son of Lieutenant Colonel Walter Robins.

A full recording of 'The History of the Regiment in Words and Music' is on the Regimental website and can be found at:

http://www.dwr.org.uk/the_regiment/the-regimental-memorial/



Here is the Order of Service in Full

Introduction

“We are not a smart, social Regiment. We do not seek to be ever in the headlines. We do not pretend to have some special expertise. Indeed perhaps what makes us special is that we do not seek to be any of these things. We are ordinary straight forward folk who stick together. We have in the ‘Dukes’ some of the best soldiers in the world – good, honest, straight forward Yorkshiremen. From these first class soldiers we have consistently obtained first class NCOs and Warrant officers and hence a powerful Sergeants Mess. Finally we have officers who are not afraid to get their boots muddy

and who understand the soldiers they lead. Add to these loyal and supportive families and you end up with a first class, professional Regiment. A Regiment which will do any job it is given and will stick at it until it is successful. In short you get the Duke of Wellington’s Regiment.” So wrote General Sir Charles Huxtable in 1990, our then Colonel of the Regiment.

This is the story of our Regiment in words and music following the themes that are reflected in the memorial we are about to unveil.

Raising of the Regiment

Lord Huntingdon, The Spanish War of Succession, the 33rd

In 1701 the Spanish War of Succession broke out. For Britain this was a war to prevent the vacant throne of Spain falling under French dominion and to maintain the balance of power in Europe. Britain never welcomed a unified Europe under a dominant France.

In March 1702 George Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon, was commanded by Queen Anne to raise a Regiment of foot to fight in the war.

The recruiting practices of the day left much to be desired “Criminals were drafted in wholesale and the debtors prisons were emptied. The Recruiting Acts were seized upon to rid the countryside of poachers and suspect persons”. But these same ruffians were soon transformed into the redcoats who triumphed across Europe under Marlborough. The binding force was draconian discipline and blind obedience to words of command. The prototypes of the Duke of Wellington’s Regiment were not expected to show initiative.

In those early days each Regiment was known by its Colonel’s name. As Colonel succeeded Colonel so the name of the Regiment changed and we became in turn Huntingdon’s, Leigh’s, Duncanson’s, Wade’s and so on’s Regiment. This constant name changing led to much confusion and in 1751 it was decided that all Regiments were to be numbered in order of seniority. With this we became the 33rd Regiment of Foot. The number we have proudly retained ever since.

A march that all soldiers of the newly numbered 33rd would have known well, sung and marched into battle to, is British Grenadiers. It dates from the late 1600s. At that time each infantry Regiment had a company of Grenadiers. Their task was to lead the assault storming the palisades by throwing hand grenades lit by a burning wick tied around their wrist. They needed to be strong, fearless men and were regarded as the elite of the Regiment. .

March: The British Grenadiers

The 33rd and the West Riding

The American War of Independence, Earl Cornwallis and the 33rd (or 1st Yorkshire West Riding) Regiment

In 1777 16 year old Robert Shaw, of Bradford decided to enlist. He later wrote ‘to my great joy I met one of the 33rd Regiment’s recruits who said “Come on my boy I will show you a place where the streets are paved with pancakes and where the hogs are going through the streets carrying knives and forks on their backs and crying who will come and eat”. I decided to become a gentleman at once, accompanied him to the recruiting party’s place of rendezvous at the Sign of the Leopard and was introduced to a recruiting sergeant. The sergeant said.. Are you willing to serve the King...yes sir...well here is a shilling to serve King George III in the honourable 33rd Regiment of Foot, commanded by the honourable Lord Cornwallis.”

John was given a further crown to drink His Majesty’s health and regaled with stories of the Regiment’s deeds in the Americas fighting the revolutionaries. Then with 18 other recruits he marched to Chatham for his basic training. ‘While at Chatham we were exercising and learning the military evolutions under Corporal Coggell whose experience and skill in such matters were equalled by few in the Army. There were 19 in number in the 33rd Regiment who, after only six months practice, challenged the whole garrison to contest with them in military discipline.’ His training complete, Robert and his fellow recruits marched on to Portsmouth where they embarked for Philadelphia to join the 33rd and he fought with the Regiment throughout the Revolutionary War.



Notwithstanding the 33rd's success in attracting recruits in the West Riding the war exposed the wider Army's ever present problem - recruitment. To help address this it was decided in 1782 that all Regiments should be linked with a county and Colonels of Regiments were asked for their preference. In response Lord Cornwallis wrote " . the 33rd Regiment of Infantry has always recruited in the West Riding and has a very good interest, and the good will of the people, in that part of the country." Cornwallis's request was approved and the 33rd became the 33rd (or 1st Yorkshire West Riding) Regiment.

The nickname "The Havercake Lads" soon followed. Havercakes are oat pancakes that were traditional fare in the West Riding - Hafer being the old Norse word for oats. The 33rd's recruiting sergeants were renown for fixing a Havercake on the ends on their swords to dangle in front of hungry lads as a promise that they would be well fed if they joined the Regiment. It had worked with Robert.

Those ties to the West Riding, formally established in 1782, have been valued and nurtured ever since.

In celebration and honour of our West Riding Heritage can we sing four verses of that great Yorkshire Anthem "On Ilkley Moor Baht'at" – "On Ilkley Moor Without Hat" for the non- Yorkshire.



"On Ilkley Moor Baht'at"

On Ilkley Moor Baht'at – the following verses

*Wheear 'as ta bin sin ah saw thee,
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at?!
Wheear 'as ta bin sin ah saw thee?*

*On Ilkla Moor baht 'at?!
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at?!*

*Tha's been a cooartin' Mary Jane
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
Tha's been a cooartin' Mary Jane|*

*On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at*

*Tha's bahn t'catch thi deeach o'cowd
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
Tha's bahn t'catch thi deeach o'cowd*

*On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at*

*Then we shall ha'to bury thee
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
Then we shall ha'to bury thee*

*On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at*

*Then t'worms 'll cum and eat thee oop
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
Then t'worms 'll cum and eat thee oop*

*On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at*

*Then ducks 'll cum and eat oop t'worms
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
Then ducks 'll cum and eat oop t'worms*

*On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at*

*Then we shall go an'ate oop ducks
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
Then we shall go an'ate oop ducks*

*On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at*

*Then we shall all 'ave etten thee
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
Then we shall all 'ave etten thee*

*On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at*

*That's wheer we get us oahn back
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
That's wheer we get us oahn back*

*On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at
On Ilkla Moor baht 'at*

The 76th, India and The Honorary Colours

General Lake, Hindoostan and the Elephant



By the early 1700s the great Mughal Empire in India was under stress and breaking up into rivalling factions. Over the next century and a half, the British East India Company, which had started life as a mere trading company, was to gradually quell those rivalling factions to become a governing body that held military supremacy across the continent.

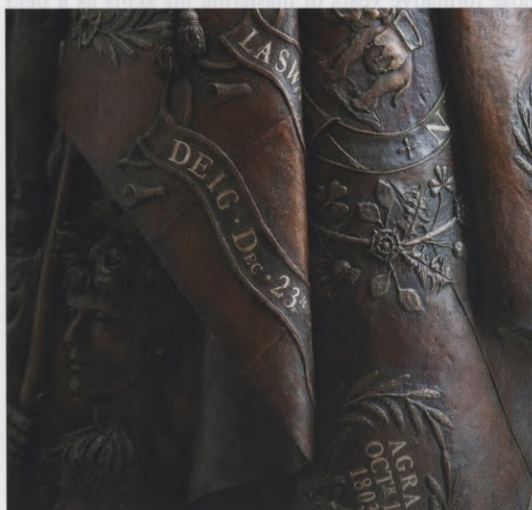
The 76th played its part in this. The regiment had been raised in 1787 specifically for service in India. In the early 1800s war broke out in Hindoostan, in northern India. It was in this war, that General Lake with what was an entirely native Army except for the 76th captured the great Moghul capital cities of Delhi and Agra. Doing so secured the key foundations for what was to become the British Empire in India. Throughout the campaign the hardest fighting tasks had always been given to the 76th. They were not found wanting. In General Lake's words 'Bring me my boots and the 76th and I am ready to go anywhere' and their prowess on the battlefield earned them the nickname 'The Immortals'.

The East India Company, in recognition of their exceptional part in the campaign, granted the Regiment the right to emblazon on its colours the emblem of an elephant circumscribed by the word Hindoostan. The Regiment, uniquely, was also given a full stand of Honorary Colours. The right to carry the Honorary Colours has been jealously guarded ever since. It made

the 'Dukes', and now the Yorkshire Regiment as our successors, the only regiment to carry four Colours and the only Regiment still with a stand of Colours of the full traditional size carried into battle.

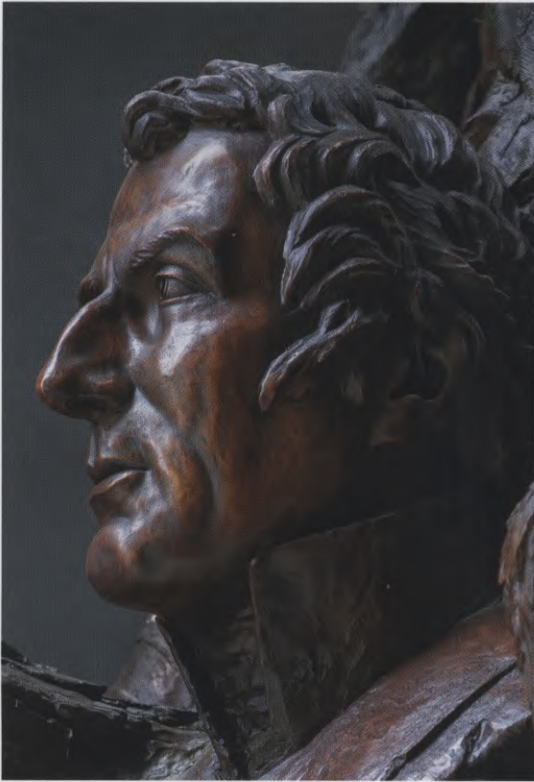
March in the Honorary Colours - Logie O'Buchan (slow march of the 76th)

The Honorary Colours were received by The Duke of Wellington and Maj Gen Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter



The Iron Duke

Arthur Wellesley's Commission, India, Waterloo, Queen Victoria and our name



A young Arthur Wellesley purchased his commission as a major in the 33rd in 1794. Six months later he became it's Lieutenant Colonel. In 1797 he took the 33rd to India. Over the next 9 years he was to rise through the Ranks of the Army in India at the crucial time that the East India Company was establishing it's trading and military supremacy across the continent. Throughout those formative years of mastering his skills as a field commander the 33rd were nearly always with him. It was only when he was appointed to Major General that he formally gave up his command of the Regiment writing:

"I have commanded them now for nearly 10 years during nine of which I have scarcely been away from them and I have always found them to be the quietest and best behaved body of men."

In 1806 he was appointed Colonel of the Regiment and in 1815 the 33rd fought under him at Waterloo, the battle that established his reputation as Britain's greatest Military Commander. On 18th June 1853, the year following the Great Duke's death and the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, Queen Victoria commanded that, in his honour, the 33rd be named "the 33rd (or the Duke of Wellington's) Regiment.

The close ties between the Regiment and the Duke's

family have continued ever since. Most notably the 6th Duke served as an officer in the Regiment. His unstated ambition must surely have been to be the Duke of Wellington commanding The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Tragically it was not to be. In the war he was a seconded to the Commandos and killed at the Battle of Salerno in Italy.

In due course his cousin, who had a successful war time career, became the 8th Duke of Wellington. In 1974 the Queen granted him the singular honour of being appointed Colonel in Chief of the Regiment and, with this, he became the only non-royal Colonel in Chief in the Army.

Today we have the 9th Duke with us to unveil the memorial in Halifax. A project he has been a staunch supporter of from its inception. Your Grace it is a privilege to have you with us.

We are now going to hear Wilhelm Zehle's great march 'Wellington'. Wilhelm was a composer for the Prussian Army and it is fitting that he should be a Prussian. Some 45% of those who fought under Wellington's command at Waterloo were German speakers and it was the arrival in the nick of time of General Blucher with the Prussian Army that sealed Napoleon's fate.

March: The Wellington March



The Depot, Halifax and Sport

The Cardwell Reforms, building of the Regimental Depot (Wellesley Barracks), Regimental Headquarters, The Museum and the Regimental Chapel.

The Cardwell Reforms, building of the Regimental Depot (Wellesley Barracks), Regimental Headquarters, The Museum and the Regimental Chapel.



In the 1870s a program of much needed reform was introduced across the Army. A key part of this was a programme of localisation whereby infantry Regiments were paired off, given a defined recruiting area and a home training depot. The 33rd and 76th Regiments were paired off to become the 1st and 2nd Battalions The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, their home recruiting area confirmed as the West Riding and Halifax was selected for the home depot. This choice became the subject of fierce local debate. Public meetings were held where it was declared that:

“drum and fife bands would be playing through the streets to attract recruits and this would keep factory operatives in a high state of excitement instead of being untroubled in their industry”.

A local vicar preached “only those who live in military towns can adequately judge the effects on a congregation of large numbers of men without the opportunity of entering the married state”.

However the counter argument that it would bring a “great military spirit to the town” won the day and the new barracks were built. On 30th August 1877 the local newspaper recorded “Yesterday evening a detachment of the 33rd and 76th Regiments arrived in Halifax by special

train from Aldershot. They were met at the station by the Band of the 6th West Yorkshire Militia and marched to Highroad Well.”

The depot in Halifax was to be the home of the Regiment for the next 83 years till it was closed in 1960 as National Service came to an end and with this its training function. Nevertheless Halifax continued, as it does today, to be the home of the Regiment's Headquarters, its museum and its chapel here in Halifax Minster.

It was during this time that Rugby came to play an important part of the ‘Dukes’ story.

Rugby and the ‘Dukes’ were synonymous in the Army. The ‘Dukes’ won the Army Rugby Cup and had more internationally capped players in its ranks than any other regiment in the Army. But its significance went well beyond mere sporting prowess. Rugby sat at a focal point in the Regiment and because it was played by both soldiers and officers it created an atmosphere of openness across the rank structure that flowed across the Regiment and a culture where respect and authority were earned rather than granted. It is a quality that sits well with the robust, spades a spade men of the West Riding.



Our next piece of music is Cock of the North a piece of music played at all Beatings of Retreat and one that sits well with a northern Regiment.

March: Cock of the North

WW1



The Regiment deployed 14 battalions on active service in the 1st World War. The majority of these were Territorial and 'Kitchener' Army battalions filled with men recruited almost entirely from the West Riding. It was they that cemented the bonds between Regiment and County. We know well of the great toll of casualties and hardship the war inflicted. So rather than recount this I would like to share with you two things.

The first is a letter from Arthur Poulter, a private soldier in the 4th Battalion, to his wife. Its words speak of the quiet, straightforward simple dignity that would have been a quality of so many of the men who made up the Regiment's ranks. Arthur was a stretcher bearer. Before the war he had worked as a drayman for Timothy Taylor's Brewery in Keighley. A job that built in him the physical strength that he was to call on on the battlefield. In April 1918 the battalion was thrown into battle to stem a breach in the line made during the last great German offensive of the war. During the course of hours of intense fighting Arthur went forward to tend the wounds of some 40 men carrying 10 of them to safety on his back under sweeping machine gun fire. On the last time he was seriously wounded - shot through the mouth. This was his letter home:

Dear wife,

I expect you will know I am wounded but you will be wondering where I am hit. Well I am blind of my left eye but it will be all right in a week or so. I have had three stitches put in neck and three in cheek. When you write home you can tell mother to write and give her my address as I don't feel like writing myself at present. I

do not think I shall get back to England, but I shall not get back to fighting in a month or two. I hope you are all keeping well and as for myself I am just meddling but hope to be all right soon. Well I am not in much writing form, so now I will close.

From your husband,

Arthur

Arthur was awarded the VC for his actions on that day.



The second story is about a violin acquired by Sam Sweeney winner of the BBC Folk musician of the year award in 2015. It tells us of the talent and hopes that died with so many of those young men who answered the call to arms. This would have been true on both sides of that terrible conflict.

Sam Sweeney recording including The Last Post

A recording of Sam Sweeney telling the story of the unfinished violin of Pte Richard Howard DWR killed at the battle of Messines in 1915 can be seen on youtube. Type in 'Sam Sweeney unfinished violin'. There is also a video of Sam playing the violin at Richard's graveside. It is deeply moving.



WW2

In the 2nd World War the two regular battalions bore a heavy burden of the fighting though in both cases far from home.

The 2nd Battalion was on the North West Frontier of India bordering Afghanistan when the Japanese invaded Burma. From their rocky, mountain fastness they were rushed across India, issued with new weapons as they sailed across the Burma Sea and thrown into battle on the far side of the mile wide Sittang river. Severely outnumbered by the Japanese, the brigade commander prematurely blew the bridge across the river stranding half the battalion on the far side. C Company under the robust leadership of Jack Robinson were the luckier ones. He gathered his company, forced the Japanese off the bridge head and then under cover of darkness built a ropeway for them to swim and scramble across the remnants of the bridge. Those elsewhere faced a bleak choice – prisoner of war or swim the river. Bill Norman our Regimental archivist for many years, chose the latter. He described to me the sorry sight of those who made it scrambling through the mud on the far side, weaponless, shoeless and virtually naked. What was left of the battalion was gathered together and re-equipped ready to face the 700 mile withdrawal to the safety of the Indian Border. It was a fighting withdrawal all the way with the Japanese looping round to set up road blocks. Jack Robinson who had led his company so valiantly at the Sittang lost his life at one of those roadblocks. The 2nd Battalion finally made it to India to fight another day. Given the odds against them it was an astounding achievement. By the end of the war the tables had been turned and the British Chindit columns, including the 2nd Battalion, were now the masters of the jungle.

Meanwhile the 1st Battalion were deployed in 1943 to North Africa, fought against the Africa Corps in Tunisia before going on to Italy and landing at Anzio with its gruelling, costly four months of fighting before they were able to break out. This was followed by the long haul up the Italian peninsula in hugely difficult mountainous terrain. Throughout the Battalion was commanded by Brian Webb-Carter, General Evelyn's father. He was a revered commanding officer. He handed over command just before the Battalion's final battle to secure Monte Cece a mountain which dominated one of the principal routes through the Northern Apennines. The battle was fought in torrential rain and mud and it was here that Richard Burton earned the award of the Victoria Cross, the last Victoria Cross to be awarded to a member of the Regiment. Tragically also in the final moments of the battle Colonel Patrick Shiel, who had just taken over from Brian Webb Carter, was killed.

Despite the intensity of the fighting there was an acute awareness amongst the soldiers that the priority for



support was being shifted from Italy to those fighting in France and Germany. With this came a sense of being undervalued and a rumour spread that Viscountess Astor, then a Member of Parliament, had derided those fighting in Italy as 'D Day Dodgers'. She always denied this. Nevertheless the song we are to sing became immensely popular - it speaks of the longing for support from home.

D Day Dodgers (tune Lili Marleen) – following verses:

We are the D-Day Dodgers out in Italy
Always on the vino, always on the spree.
Eighth Army skivers and their tanks
We live in Rome – among the Yanks.
We are the D-Day Dodgers, in sunny Italy.

We landed at Salerno, a holiday with pay,
Jerry brought the band down to cheer us on our way
Showed us the sights and gave us tea,
We all sang songs, the beer was free.
We are the D-Day Dodgers, in sunny Italy.

Naples and Cassino were taken in our stride.
We didn't have to fight there. We just went for the ride.
Anzio and Sangro were all forlorn.
We did not do a thing from dusk to dawn.
We are the D-Day Dodgers, in sunny Italy.

Once we had a blue light that we were going home
Back to dear old Blighty, never more to roam.
Then somebody said in France you'll fight.
We said never mind, we'll just sit tight,
The windy D-Day Dodgers, in Sunny Italy.

Now Lady Astor, you think you know a lot.
Standing on a platform talking tommyrot.
Dear England's sweetheart and her pride
We think your mouth's too bloomin wide.
We are the D-Day Dodgers, in Sunny Italy.

Look around the mountains, through the mud and rain
See the scattered crosses, some that bear no name.
Heartbreak, and toil and suffering gone
The boys beneath them slumber on
They were the D-Day Dodgers, who'll stay in Italy.

The Modern Soldier

Korea, Cyprus, Ireland, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan



Nearly every year since the end of the 2nd World War the British Army, and with this the Regiment, has had soldiers on operations – Palestine, Korea, Cyprus twice over, Ireland, Bosnia and most recently Iraq and Afghanistan.

Unlike his counterpart of 1702 where success was founded on drill and iron discipline the modern soldier has to operate in complex, fluid and often intensely politicised environments. He has to be a man who is able to take the initiative.

One of the unsung stories of the Regiment is the 1st Battalion's achievements in 1994 during the war in Bosnia. That year the UN declared three safe havens for the besieged Bosnian population where they would be under UN protection –Tusla, Srebrinca and Gorazde. The first two Tusla and Srebrinicia were a Dutch Army responsibility. When the Serb Army confronted them, the small Dutch Force felt compelled to withdraw with devastating consequences - all the men and boys of both towns were taken into the forest and massacred. Gorazde, the largest of the three, was due to be protected

by a French Battalion supported by a company of 'Dukes'. The French Battalion was withdrawn at the last minute by a phone call to the battalion commander from President Mitterand who assessed the task as too dangerous. This left just the single company of 'Dukes'. Suffice to say, had it not been for that company of 'Dukes', and the soldiers of the Royal Welch Fusiliers who followed on, the people of Gorazde would have suffered the same terrible fate as those in Tusla and Srebrinca.. Here now is a story from Gorazde that tells of what can be asked of a young modern soldier.

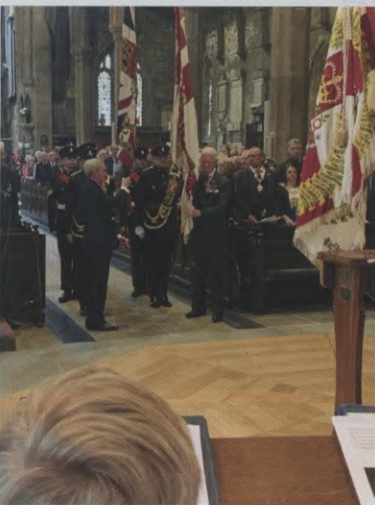
Recording of Wayne Mills. Do listen to it via the Regimental website.

Wayne Mills, the corporal in charge of that section was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross.

As our final Piece of music the band will play Aaron Copeland's Fanfare to the Common Man. He composed this in the 2nd World War as a salute to the private soldier.

Music: Fanfare for the Common Man

The Service in Halifax Minster



The Unveiling Ceremony

The unveiling ceremony in the Woolshops was led jointly by the Duke of Wellington and the Mayor of Calderdale who both gave moving speeches set out below. The ceremony was watched by all the Lord Mayors, Mayors and Civic Leaders of our Freedom Cities, Towns and Districts as well as the major donors and supporters and a huge gathering of ‘Dukes’ and the general public spread the length of the Woolshops ‘square’.

It also involved a Colour Party from the 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment carrying the Yorkshire Regiment Regulation Colours and the Honorary Colours, the 33rd Re-enactment Group who escorted the VIPs from the Town Hall to the memorial site and provided an Honour Guard around the memorial, the Yorkshire Volunteers Corps of Drums (led forward by Drum Major David Rimmer – ex DWR) who gave us an exceptionally accomplished Victory Beating and the West Yorkshire Police Band. The day was blessed with splendid weather and was brought to a close by a rousing rendition of ‘The ‘Dukes’ are Coming up the Hill’ by the multitude of ‘Dukes’ watching on from all around the square.



The Duke of Wellington’s Speech at the Unveiling Ceremony “Madam Mayor thank you so much for your kind words of welcome. I am delighted to be here today and to see so many people including the Lord Lieutenants of West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire, the high Sheriff of West Yorkshire along with the Lord Mayors and Mayors and civic leaders of those towns who conferred their Freedom on The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment. My family has a long association with the Regiment an association that started with Arthur Wellesley, the first Duke. Since then my family has maintained a close interest in the fortunes of the Regiment no more so than during the years that my father was Colonel in Chief.

I am honoured to have been asked to unveil this

Memorial. Although I have not seen the completed piece, I have been shown photographs and it is clear that the Memorial is unique. Unlike so many memorials, it is celebratory in nature because it recognises the 205,000 soldiers who served in the Regiment (and its antecedent regiments), the families who supported those soldiers as well as the West Riding where the majority of them were recruited. In recognition of this and the fact that we have had such close links to Halifax for over 200 years, the Memorial is a gift from the Regiment to Calderdale and the people of the West Riding. Our intention from the outset was to commission something of enduring merit that enhances the town centre. In executing this commission Andrew Sinclair, the sculptor, has exceeded all expectations and produced a work of genuine artistic merit.

Today’s ceremony is only possible thanks to the generosity of Calderdale Council (who have been particularly supportive of this project and provided this prestigious site) along with the generous donations received from within the Regimental family and the wider public.

The heritage of The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment now rests with the Yorkshire Regiment and for me it is particularly pleasing to see my family crest incorporated into their cap badge. Thus it is excellent to see the Yorkshire Regiment so well represented here today in particular with the Colour Party who have upheld the high standards of the Army and the Regiment.

Whilst The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment no longer exists, this Memorial will ensure that its memory is kept alive in the very heart of its recruiting area.

I would now like to ask Madam Mayor to join me to unveil the Memorial.”



The Mayor of Calderdale’s Speech at the Unveiling Ceremony

“Good Afternoon everyone and a very warm welcome to Halifax on this very special occasion.

I would like to thank everyone for being here today to witness the unveiling of this historic sculpture. I would particularly like to thank His Grace The Duke of Wellington for being with us today to perform the official unveiling.

Having come into office just two days ago, I feel extremely proud and privileged to stand here today not only as the Mayor of Calderdale representing the people of the Borough at this unique event but also, on a personal level, representing two members of my family who served with the ‘Dukes’ for many years but who are sadly no longer with us, my husband’s father and grandfather. How proud they would be to see this memorial in Halifax town centre.

Whilst the Regiment has had links with the West Riding of Yorkshire for over 200 years, the town of Halifax has

been the heart of the Duke of Wellington’s Regiment particularly during the period from 1877-1960 when the Barracks was based here at Wellesley Park. During this time and until 2006, the links between the ‘Dukes’ and the town remained strong.

Calderdale Council signed the Armed Forces Covenant in 2012 and has an obligation to show support for the Armed Forces through its actions. It continues to recognise those who have performed military duty on behalf of this Borough and is a clear demonstration of the value of their selfless contribution.

Whilst there is no longer a military presence in the town, I am delighted to see such a wonderful number of young men and women in the local Army Cadets and Air Training Corps who will hopefully go on to serve this country.

I am sure that this lasting memorial will be treasured, protected and cared for by Calderdale now and in the future.”

The Unveiling









The Regimental Reception in the Piece Hall

This was an occasion of much joy tinged with a certain sadness. When would so many of us meet under one roof again? Brigadier Andrew Meek addressed us all. Here is his speech:

Brigadier Andrew Meek CBE's speech at the reception is reproduced here.

"Ladies & gentlemen:

I will not take much of your time as there are far more important things to do than to listen to me. But today is a genuinely significant occasion for the Regiment because we now have a permanent memorial celebrating the 'Dukes' sitting right here in the centre of Halifax. And what a Memorial it is.

However we would never have got to this point had it not been for the significant support all of you here have shown for the project over the past 2 years. All of us on the Appeal Committee are hugely grateful for that support because it has meant that what was something of a pipe dream all those months ago is now a very firm reality. The generosity shown by all of you so many ways has been simply fantastic.

Today would not have been possible without the help and assistance of many people and organisations. Thus I would like to thank the Rev Hilary Barber and Alan English at The Minster not just for the service earlier but also for looking after our Chapel so well over many years. For the music in the Minster and at the unveiling I am very grateful to the Band of West Yorkshire Police and the Chief Constable, John Robins, who is of course a son of the Regiment.

Nick Taylor and Carrie France have ensured that The Piece Hall is the best possible venue for this reunion - thank you. And of equal importance is Timothy Taylors who have given us the Havercake Ale with which to celebrate this event,

The Drummers of the Yorkshire Volunteers have roused us with their Victory Beatings (and made us all feel young again) whilst the 33rd Re-enactors have added a real sense of history to everything.

And my thanks to Mr Jan Telensky for generously publishing a book to commemorate today.

I am especially grateful to David Harrap and Bob Heron for all they have done to ensure today has gone so well. There are many others who have helped to whom I shall be writing formally.

And finally I would like to thank the Appeal Committee (Michael Bray, Alistair Roberts, Richard Ward, Peter Robinson, John Hogg and Caroline Cary) who individually and collectively made this whole project not only a success but a real joy as well.

As has already been said, The 'Dukes' were never a smart or social regiment: we never sought the limelight but just got on with the job at hand. But when I embarked on this undertaking I decided that these principles would be ignored for once because this would be the one and only chance we would have of telling the world about ourselves in what might be termed a proper manner.

Andrew Sinclair has provided us with a simply wonderful and to my understanding, unique Memorial. It is a work of art in its own right and there is no other like it that I can think of. It tells our story in an intriguing way, a story that will only be fully revealed through repeated viewings.

More significantly the Memorial will ensure that our heritage will continue to live on in Halifax and that as a Regiment whilst we may have gone but we will never be forgotten!

Please join me in a toast to The Duke of Wellington's Regiment"



The 'Dukes'

1702 - 2006
Virtutis Fortuna Comes













So there it is, the story of how a most remarkable memorial to a most remarkable Regiment came to grace the centre of Halifax.

We will close with some words from the Mayor of Calderdale:

“It was a huge honour and privilege to be asked to help unveil the Duke of Wellington’s Regimental Memorial in Halifax on Friday 17 May 2019. That I was only two days into my term of office made the occasion even more memorable.

The design of the memorial, detailing the history of The Dukes is really special. It is a wonderful reminder of the service the regiment has given over the centuries. To have the tribute in Halifax, the Regimental Home of the The Dukes, seems very fitting.

I know that the memorial will be admired for generations to come, and I am very proud that the Dukes will be forever remembered in the town through the statue, and of course, the fascinating displays at the Bankfield Museum.”



This Memorial was unveiled by
 The 9th Duke of Wellington and
 His Royal Highness The Duke of
 Edinburgh, The Mayor of Calderdale
 On the 17th May 2019.
 The Memorial was funded thanks to the generosity of
 the Regimental family, members of the
 public and by grants from charitable trusts.

**BERTIE'S
 TOP TIPS**
 THE 10TH BATTALION