

Issue 7 • December 2016



The Dukies' Association

# DUKIE NEWS

The newsletter for all members of The Dukies' Association



We Will Remember Them  
**REMEMBRANCE  
WEEKEND**

Also in this Edition: **Royal Marine Band Service**  
Dukie becomes first vocalist for the band

**Junior Hockey Development Tour**  
The School's hockey team travels to Holland

**Your Stories**  
A selection of stories from Dukies about life after School.

[www.doyrms.com/The-Dukies-Association-Home](http://www.doyrms.com/The-Dukies-Association-Home)

## From Simon Daghish, Chair of The Dukies' Association BIGGEST TURN OUT IN YEARS

With the world in turmoil, and the unexpected now becoming the expected, it was lovely to spend some time with 170 Old Dukies at the annual reunion dinner last Saturday. The biggest turnout in years assured a fabulous evening enjoyed by all, with many tall stories, discussions about the names on the walls and general catching up making for a lively event and some sore heads on parade the next morning - when again it was lovely to see so many old Dukies standing tall on the parade ground.

The event was also tinged with a little sadness as the room toasted Chris Russell at his final



Reunion Dinner whilst in charge of The Duke of York's Royal Military School. It is fair to say that Chris has played a significant role in saving the school so it was nice that

so many stood to toast his achievement. We wish him well in the future and he will always be welcome at any of our gatherings.

Talking of gatherings, the TDA will be repeating last year's hugely successful gathering at Twickenham for the Army and Navy match so please speak to Jenny Grant for your tickets, once they are released in January.

So all that is left is for me to wish you all a fantastic Christmas, a very prosperous New Year and hopefully see you at Twickenham for the next fantastic event.

*Simon Daghish*



## THE CLOCKTOWER SOCIETY

Heartfelt thanks go to all our donors and supporters who make up the Clocktower Society.

As mentioned at the Reunion Dinner, and in leaflets given out on the night, the current focus for donations is student hardship support. Changes in the employment status of military parents have led to increasing numbers of student hardship cases being brought to the School and whilst the School looks to support these cases, it has its own financial constraints and is having to decline bursary applications.



We value every donation, as whatever you can offer helps the students to gain the very best from their time at our School and in some cases, enables them to continue their education here at the School despite difficult

family circumstances.

If you're interested in learning more about how to donate to the School, and in recognition becoming a Clocktower Society member, please email Jenny on [jennifer.grant@doyrms.com](mailto:jennifer.grant@doyrms.com).

Clocktower members are invited to Principal's dinners as well as to other special events at the School - the second Clocktower Dinner was hosted in September by Executive Principal Chris Russell at School House, a very jovial evening that sparked useful discussions.



**If you are interested in finding out more about the Clocktower Society please get in touch with Jenny on [jennifer.grant@doyrms.com](mailto:jennifer.grant@doyrms.com) or phone 01304 245080.**



The Dukies' Association

## PANEL MEMBERS

There is a TDA page on the School website [www.doyrms.com/The-Dukies-Association-Home](http://www.doyrms.com/The-Dukies-Association-Home). The panel meets four times a year, and welcomes input from all Dukies.

**Simon Daghish**  
Chairman (79 – 84, Wolfe)

**Chris Crowcroft**  
Vice Chairman (63 – 70, Haig and Clive)

**Jenny Grant**  
Alumni and Development Manager, DOYRMS

**Karl Biscoe**  
(57 – 62, Clive)

**Ian Kennett**  
(79-86 Haig & Marlborough)

**Adam Kent**  
Director of Finance, DOYRMS

**Allan Mayo**  
(59 – 67 Haig and Clive)

**Stu Milligan**  
(00-07, Roberts and Haig)

**Chris Russell**  
Executive Principal, DOYRMS

**Abigail Trench**  
(97 – 04, Alanbrooke, Marlborough and Clive)

**Andy Wilkes**  
(83 – 89, Wolseley)

**Chris Winter**  
(86 – 93, Haig and Wolfe)

All panel meeting minutes are available to read online.

## EVENTS

**Dukies Inspiring Dukies Careers Fair**  
Friday 3rd March

**Army v Navy Rugby**  
Saturday 29th April

**Grand Day**  
Friday 7th July

**FRONT COVER PHOTO:**  
Dukies on parade on Remembrance Sunday: 13th November



# TDA NEWS

## Royal Marine Band Service

### FIRST VOCALIST IS A FEMALE DUKIE

Dani Kemp is the very first vocalist to have auditioned for and been employed by the Band of the Royal Marines. Her basic training Passing Out Parade took place on 1 December, and DOYRMS Head of Percussion teacher, Stephen Socci, was there to congratulate her.

In early 2015, The School's Corps of Drums and other instrumentalists were invited to perform with the the Royal Marines Band Service, and at that time Mr Socci queried whether there were also any opportunities for vocalists. Dani went along and sang 'Beyond the Sea' and in August 2015, after further encouragement from Dukie Josh Flynn (who left in 2014 to join the band as a percussionist), applied to join through the Navy recruitment service.

As part of the recruitment process, Dani had to improve her levels of general fitness and underwent various fitness and 'determination' tests, psychometric tests, a medical and interviews. She sat a level 5 theory test at The Royal Marine School of Music and took part in auditions on different instruments where she played a main instrument

and learnt to play another. She also had three voice auditions singing songs that included "At Last" by Etha James, "Don't Rain on My Parade" by Funny Girl and "Anthem" from the Chess Musical.

Dani will be the Royal Marine Band Service's first vocalist and will also play the clarinet. Events she will perform at include The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, The Royal Festival of Remembrance at The Royal Albert Hall and on various Navy ships.

Alex Lynch has had a Dukies' lifetime ambition of playing in the Royal Marines band. To do this, as well as being accomplished on the Snare Drum, he needed to play the Bugle: players in the Royal Marines Band Corps of Drums are known as 'Buglers'. Alex enrolled on the BTEch Military Band Course organised by Maj D Cresswell (Retd), who taught him the Bugle while Stephen Socci taught him the Snare Drum. Alex worked very hard on his instrumental studies to achieve the standard required to apply for an audition, together with keeping his fitness up.

Dani and Alex have both now completed their 12 week basic



training at The Royal Marines' Commando Training Base at Lymington in Exeter and will join the Royal Marines School of Music in Portsmouth for three years.

In 2014, Dani gave an inspired performance in the School's musical West Side Story as the lead character Maria. Alex was the Drum Major in the School's Military Parade. Stephen Socci, Head of Percussion, said: "When I heard the news of Dani and Alex both being accepted into the Royal Marines band I felt very proud of their achievement and the work that they had both put in for their auditions. It is a great privilege to be part of this iconic band and after going to see them both at their initial training passing out parade I felt honoured to be invited and proud to be part of their journey on getting so far."

## In Brief

### CBE FOR DUKIE

Dukie John Crisford received the CBE, for Services to the Ex-Service Community as National Chairman of The Royal British Legion, in this year's Queen's Birthday Awards. John has been National Chairman of TRBL for the last couple of years, attended the School from 1950-56, and was in Kitchener House.

Colonel (Retd) Terry English OBE, FCIS, served with John, in Osnabruck, between 1995 and 1979 in the Pay Team of 25 Engineer Regiment later to become the team for 2nd Arm Div Engineer Regiment, following an amalgamation with 23 Engineer Regiment. Terry wrote:

"John was an outstanding member of an excellent team which brought much credit to the unit. He excelled both in his professional duties and in his social and sporting contributions. Later we both served in various roles within the TRBL and here again he demonstrated the qualities of intelligence, integrity, loyalty and leadership that he has shown throughout his career in the RAPC. In summary I believe that his award of the CBE is thoroughly deserved which reflects great credit on him and members of his family, particularly his wife Jean, who have always fully supported him in all his endeavours throughout the 40 years I have known him as a colleague and a friend".

Our congratulations go to John on this incredible achievement.

### SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

With reference to the item in Dukie News, Snippets from the Past...

While I was at the school, 1949/55, I received 6 shillings a month pocket money (and I never received any money at all from home). With this money, I had to buy all my essentials (for the month), Blanco, boot polish, Brasso (for my buttons, badges etc.), stamps for writing home, sewing materials (for darning my socks), soap, toothpaste, and everything else that was required to keep myself smarter than any regular soldier at the time ...

Ken Matthews.  
Haig and Kitchener 1949/55



## Science Visits

# MORE DUKIES INSPIRING DUKIES

Two more former Dukies have given inspiring talks to the Science Department this term. On 30th September, Professor Tim Foster (58-65, Kitchener & Clive) talked about "The Importance of Microbes" to the Sixth Form biology class.

Then in November, and all the way from Perth, Australia, Professor Simon Lewis (Kitchener - Wellington 1979 - 1986) came back to the School to deliver a talk on 'A beginner's Guide to Forensics Exchange Evidence.'

The students greatly enjoyed

both these talks and the School is very grateful to both Tim and Simon for giving up their time to inspire current Dukies.

The 2017 TDA Careers Day is now being organised, so if you would like to get involved please do let Jenny know on [jennifer.grant@doyrms.com](mailto:jennifer.grant@doyrms.com). We'd love to be able to offer the current students as wide a range of careers and industries as possible. A school breakfast and buffet lunch will be offered as part of the package!

The date of the careers day is Friday March 3rd 2017.



Simon Lewis



Tim Foster

# Walking with the Wounded DUKIE TAKES CHALLENGE

Dukie Ian Kennett (79 – 86 Haig and Marlborough) recently undertook a new challenge in aid of Walking with the Wounded – the Grand to Grand Ultra. As part of the Walking with the Wounded team he set off from the Northern rim of the Grand Canyon and ran, self-supported, 170 miles in 6 stages over 7 days, covering marathon or double marathon distances every day in heat and altitude through sand, canyons, mud and river beds up and down mountains facing heat, hailstorms and flash floods.

Ian hasn't hung up his running shoes yet – he has just registered for the London Marathon next April!



## Grand Day 2017

# OVER 60s REUNION DINNER

The Reunion Dinner organised by Peter Godwin is to be held at the Ramada Hotel, Dover, on the evening of Grand Day Friday 7 July, 2017, providing an opportunity for those old boys born before 1958 to attend the Grand Day parade, witness the exciting school developments introduced in recent years and to meet up with many old school friends at the dinner.

All the bedrooms in the Ramada have been provisionally reserved for this event, as has the Grand Marquee for the dinner. Based on the popularity of previous reunion dinners it is recommended that those wishing to attend apply early, particularly if they wish to B&B at the Ramada.

Contact Peter Godwin at [p.godders@talktalk.com](mailto:p.godders@talktalk.com)





# Congratulations 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

On September 7th, Dukie Lionel Hobbs came back to the School with his son Matt in celebration of his 80th birthday. Lionel came to the School in 1946, just after the School's return from Saunton Sands, and had five brothers who also attended.

Jenny took Lionel on a tour around the School including Lionel's former house Marlborough, he spent some time with Executive Principal Chris Russell who presented him with some gifts including a copy of his School file. Lionel also enjoyed lunch with students at High Table in the School Dining Hall.



## National Memorial Arboretum SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

Thanks to the generosity of over 180 Dukie old boys an application was made, and has been approved, for the School

to have a memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire in recognition of the service and

sacrifices that generations of The Duke of York's Royal Military School pupils and their HM Forces parents have made

since 1803, and continue to make in the service of our country.

Contributions towards the cost and longer term maintenance of the memorial are still sought. Anyone wishing to make a donation should forward a cheque made payable to 'The Dukies Foundation' and post it to: Peter Godwin, 63 Aulton Rd, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B75 5PY.

Those who would prefer to make a BACS payment should email Peter at [p.godders@talktalk.net](mailto:p.godders@talktalk.net) for the account details. Monies donated will be ring-fenced within the account solely for the Memorial Project.



## DUKIES' GOLF COMPETITION

This year's competition was held at The Wiltshire Hotel and Leisure Centre, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wilts on 5th/6th June 2016 and attended by 20 competitors and their wives. Those competing were blessed with good weather on the day of the competition and during the 'fun' round of golf the following day.

Congratulations to Allan Wood, the champion in 2012, 2013 and 2014, on winning this year's competition by narrowly beating the 2015 champion, Craig Greenbook. Those competing next year will be relieved to learn that Allan will not be able to attend the 2017 competition owing to a prior engagement!!

### 2017 Competition

The 2017 competition is to be held at the Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club, on Thursday 6th July 2017. First tee-off 12:30 hrs followed by dinner at the Club.

Bedrooms at the Ramada Hotel, Dover have provisionally been reserved for those competing.

Dukies competing are most welcome to attend the Reunion Dinner at the Ramada Hotel on Friday 7th July regardless of their age.

Those wishing further details should contact Peter Godwin. Email [p.godders@talktalk.com](mailto:p.godders@talktalk.com)



# REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

Joined by staff, families, governors and friends, Dukies past and present were inspected by Executive Principal and Commandant, Chris Russell, together with TDA chairman, Simon Daghish at the School's Remembrance Day parade on Sunday 13th November. A two minute silence was held at the memorial before a chapel service in which Dukies, who lost their lives in the World Wars and whose names appear on the chapel walls, were remembered.

This year, The Duke of York's Royal Military School was also proud to have taken on the management of the British Torch of Remembrance and the organisation of future annual pilgrimages.

During the Torch Kindling service at Westminster Abbey, presided over by the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend



Dr John Hall, students also paid tribute to military personnel who have lost their lives in conflict by forming a uniformed honour guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, as well as sounding The Last Post and Reveille. Exchange students from the Missouri Military Academy and Valley Forge were also in

attendance this year. During the service, wreaths were laid by the Belgian Ambassador and a representative of the Ministry of Defence.

Senior students also provided a Guard of Honour, buglers and drummers for a Service of Remembrance at Dover Marine Railway Station (now the cruise

terminal) in support of the British Torch of Remembrance, as the torch continued its journey to Ostend and Flanders. Members made the traditional march onto the ferry with standards and were received with generous hospitality by Captain Steve Johnson. Special thanks go to P&O employee and Dukie mum, Ann Marie Harrop from the Dover Port Manager's office, for arranging this.

The British Torch delegation travelled from Calais to Ostend via Dunkirk where the group paid homage to fallen British and Belgians at the War Memorial. The Torch was formally welcomed onto Belgian soil by the Mayor of Ostend. Civic ceremonies of dedication and remembrance also took place in Roeselare, Bredene and Ypres with Belgian friends, both old and new.





The pilgrimage culminated in Brussels with three national acts of remembrance. At the Gare Centrale, wreaths were laid and at the historic Town Hall, in a unique and generous gesture of fraternity, four members of the group were presented with a commemorative Peace Medal by the Federation Nationale des Combattants de Belgique. They were worn with great pride the following day at the King's Armistice Day Parade in the presence of King Philippe of the Belgians. Mr Russell laid a wreath along with senior members of the FNC at the Colonne du Congres, the resting place of the Belgian Unknown Soldier. He was the only non-Belgian or non-military person granted this singular privilege. A further parade followed in the evening where Mr Russell and Lt. Col Saunderson were given the honour of signing the Book of Commemoration.

That evening in the same place, in a moving ceremony, the Torch was formally extinguished, only to be lit again at Westminster Abbey next November at the commencement of the 53rd pilgrimage.

## The British Torch of Remembrance





## Remembrance Events

# WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

During the British Torch of Remembrance pilgrimage, the following Dukies and Royal Hibernians were remembered through the laying of wreaths at the Hop Store Cemetery, The Menin Gate and The Waterloo Monument in Brussels:

### Hop Store Cemetery, Vlamertinge.

**Serjeant Alexander Robert Towells**, Royal Field Artillery 189th Bde – Like all students at the School, his father was a serving soldier, a Serjeant Major in the Royal Artillery. After leaving the School, Alexander Towells had a number of civilian jobs before joining the Royal Field Artillery. Serjeant Towells died of his wounds on the 12th June 1917 aged 31 years old. His younger brother and fellow "Dukie", Lance Bombardier Edward Towells of the Royal Horse Artillery was killed in action on the 24th August 1918, aged 27 and is buried at Mory Abbey Military Cemetery in France. His son, Gunner Arthur Edward Towells died as a prisoner of war during the Second World War and is commemorated at the Dunkirk War Memorial.



**Second Lieutenant Christopher Corbin**, Royal Garrison Artillery, 141st Heavy Bty - Like all students at the School, his father was a serving soldier, a Serjeant in the 7th Dragoon Guards. Christopher Corbin enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery upon leaving the School in 1894 at the age of 15. On the 30th March 1917, Acting Serjeant Major Christopher Corbin was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant for "services in the field". He died of his wounds on the 5th June 1917, aged 36 years old.

### The Menin Gate.

**The Duke of York's Royal Military School - AH Scott**, Royal Horse Guards; **FD**

**Maxted**, 5th Royal Irish Lancers; **P Pitman**, Irish Guards; **R Reilly**, Royal Field Artillery; **A Belcher**, Royal Garrison Artillery; **JD Lake**, The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt; **AV Hungerford**, The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt; **RW Winter**, Northumberland Fusiliers; **HW King**, Royal Fusiliers; **JH Ellis**, The Devonshire Regt; **NJ Batters**, The Devonshire Regt; **JE Wood DCM**, East Yorkshire Regt; **TG Golding**, The Gloucestershire Regt; **J Pegram**, Ox & Bucks Light Infantry; **HH Adshead**, King's Royal Rifle Corps; **W Anderson**, Highland Light Infantry; **RW Elder**, Gordon Highlanders; **W Milne**, Gordon Highlanders; **WJ Prosser**, Cameron Highlanders.

**The Royal Hibernian School - WL Crichton**, Gordon

Highlanders; **JH King**, Yorkshire Regt; **JH Morris** (alias for JH Simms), Coldstream Guards; **J Thompson**, 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars; **J Kingham**, East Yorkshire Regt; **WC Neild**, Cheshire Regt; **FH Schwer**, Cheshire Regiment.

### British Waterloo Campaign Monument.

We remembered the 21 Dukies who fought at the Battles of Quatre Bras and Waterloo but in particular **William Taylor**, 13th Light Dragoons and **James Finnigan**, 28th Foot.



FNC Peace Medal





## Remembrance Events

# TDA REUNION DINNER

On Saturday 12th November, 170 Old Dukies from different eras (School leavers from 1958 through to 2012) gathered in the School Dining Hall for the annual Remembrance Weekend Reunion Dinner. Minibuses brought Dukies in from local hotels to enjoy a splendid three course dinner and entertainment from Dukie Band The Hong Kong Streakers Club. A fantastic evening was had by all!







## Remembrance Events DUKIES DOWNUNDER

Dukies Downunder had their own reunion on Remembrance Weekend, organized by Lloyd Nunn. Ten Dukies (from 1935 to 1997) attended, enjoying a delicious dinner on Saturday evening at the Warrandyte Hotel near Melbourne (and a hearty rendition of Play up

Dukies), before reconvening at the Warrandyte War Memorial on the Sunday Morning.

The next Downunder Reunion will be in Sydney in 2 years' time.

*Photos courtesy of Kendall Carter*



## Remembrance Events OLD BOYS RUGBY Saturday 12th November 2016

The weather was dreadful (isn't it always, they say!?) and injuries meant a slight drop in numbers this year. Sadly the Duke of York's U35 were very sparse (numbering 6 at kick off), so it was necessary to amalgamate the games into one match. The over 35s played the first half, with some monumental displays from several old hands including Ian Kennett and Lee Hayes. The second half saw the under 35s take the field and rolling subs ensued. The whole event was played in good spirit, with great commitment (uncompromising



in the tackle), with the eventual winners being declared as The Duke of York's Over 35s – by 24 points to 21.

We were hosted well by Dover RFC again with the majority of spectators enjoying the victuals

on offer in the club house, while reacquainting each other with old contemporaries, before departing for the dinner in the Dining Hall or one or more of the old haunts and local hostleries.

Thanks to sponsors Andy File and Len Wilby for funding the U35 and O35's new shirts, as well as to all involved from Dover and Old Boys Rugby. We look forward to next year with the hope of better weather and continued camaraderie.

*Richard Catt  
Duke of Yorks Old Boy and  
Chairman of Dover RFC*





# SCHOOL NEWS

## Junior Hockey Development Tour HOLLAND 2016

Thanks to a generous donation from Paul Harrington, Erwin Mitchell Solicitors and through The Dukies Association, thirty-two junior boys and girls were able to spend four days developing and enhancing their hockey skills in Holland over the October half term. Having trained hard once a week for the first half of term, along with a long session the day before, the students were all excited to travel and experience the adventure of a sporting tour.

Over the four days the group spent nine hours with top international players and coaches based in Amsterdam and were treated to training at some of the best and most sophisticated hockey centres available. The squad found the intensity of training a challenge, but measured up to it, giving their best throughout all three main sessions. The coaches, two Dutch ex internationals and a South African captain, were all complimentary about



the students' behaviour and their attitude during training and we could definitely see a marked improvement after each consecutive session. The different approaches and drills at each session kept the players interested and gave our staff a lot to learn from and take forward.

The tour was about developing skills on the hockey pitch, however it was also about experiencing new places,

meeting new people and seeing and interacting with a different culture. Therefore, the off pitch visits to a Dutch traditional cheese farm, a clog making workshop, Amsterdam's Central Square and seeing the wonderful windmills and canal networks all added to the enjoyment and fun of the tour.

The highlight of the tour was our two games against Dutch club sides. We found the standard of the hockey very

high and both sets of games for the boys and the girls were very challenging and hard fought. Although the results did not go our way, all got a huge amount out of the games and it proved to both the students and the staff that we had come a long way over the four days. The Dukies 'never give up' attitude and the determination of the players was amazing to see, and again the group was complimented on the spirit and nature we played the games.

Overall, a fantastic, productive and eye opening opportunity for all the boys and girls on the tour. We saw a lot of development and improvement in the groups and there was significant growth both individually and as a team.

Shane Cloete,  
Director of Sport



**Supported by:**  
**The Clocktower Society**

## In Pictures



# YOUR STORIES

Published in respectful memory of Art Cockerill, who thought so much of the School (obituary p18)

## A MOST NOBLE DUKE

On the occasion of a newly-created Founder's Day it is fitting to tell the history of the Royal Military Asylum, Chelsea, known from its beginning as the Duke of York's. How did it come to be created? What was its purpose? Who was involved and why?

The Chelsea institution was built as a sanctuary, an orphanage for the children of fallen soldiers. The idea was neither novel nor original. Officers of the Irish Command formed the Hibernian Society in 1765 and built an orphanage in Phoenix Park, Dublin for the abandoned children of British soldiers.

Although the Hibernian School catered exclusively to the children of soldiers and was governed by commissioned officers, it was a civilian orphanage. Even so, the institution took on a military veneer. This model influenced the character of the Royal Military Asylum founded in 1801. The claim that the RMA was the first co-educational school in England is true, but it is deceptive not to recognise that co-education originated in the Hibernian School.

The Chelsea asylum was founded by royal warrant proclaimed from the Court of St. James in April 1801. Frederick, Duke of York and Albany, is credited with founding the institution but he was more the catalyst who brought the idea to reality.

Frederick Duke of York and Albany (1763-1827), second son of King George III, was no self-indulgent royal. Lampooned by those who disparaged him with the nursery rhyme about marching 10,000 men to the top of the hill and marching them down again, he stoically accepted the slight. Yet, as noted by Dr. Alan Mackley of

the University of East Anglia, the rhyme was originally written in French (c1594) to mock the King of France, Henri IV. It was translated into English and plagiarised in the late 18th century with the Duke of York in mind.

*"...he came to understand the sufferings of the men he led. He earned their respect and loyalty..."*

York was a young, free spirit who grew into a strapping, well-built teenager. He was inoculated against smallpox at the insistence of his German mother, Queen Charlotte, by Dr. Jenner, the physician who discovered the immunity milkmaids acquired from being in close proximity to the cows they milked.

He headed for a military life while still in his boyhood, but not before he had thoroughly learned Greek and Latin. At age 16 he had his first romantic encounter with a dairymaid. He was a vigorous teenager. He was said to get two servants to 'stretch a garter between their teeth' at his height and to jump it with ease. He grew to six feet in height, which gave him a commanding presence.

When he was 17 he was made a brevet colonel, in the rank without corresponding pay, but what would that mean to royalty? He travelled to Germany to his uncle the Duke of Brunswick. Brunswick instructed York in his military duties. York pressed his uncle to introduce him to his hero, Frederick the Great of Prussia, and was taken to meet his famous namesake. Frederick took a liking to York and invited him along to attend reviews and field days of the Prussian Army.

At one such review he got a lesson in leadership. Frederick the Great was upset by the sloppy marching of one division described by the King as marching like 'cabbages and turnips.' As a result, a general was removed from his

command; an incident which York tucked away.

In 1792, York was gazetted a colonel in the Horse Grenadiers, known today as the Life Guards and his active military life began. He was 19 years of age. York was an acknowledged crack shot from a horse. He was moderate in manner and lived a level-headed life. His elder brother, Wales was often at loggerheads with his father. York cautioned him against rebellion. The brothers were inseparable friends, but it is my impression that their relations became strained during this domestic upset.

By the time York got his colonelcy in the Life Guards he was also his country's ambassador to the Frederick the Great. His understanding of European politics and diplomacy was astute. It was therefore not simply royal meddling when in 1783, at age 21, he advised the King to replace the British envoy at Vienna as incompetent, an echo surely of what he learned from Frederick?

Early in manhood he was inveigled into a pistol duel with a Colonel Lennox. Pistols loaded, the combatants strode each twelve paces, turned and only one, Lennox, fired. When the opposing seconds enquired, the Duke said he had no intention

of firing. If Lennox wanted to try another shot he was welcome to try, he said. The colonel declined. It takes a steel nerve to face a pistol at twenty-four paces without batting an eye.

When revolutionary France declared war on Britain in February 1793, the Duke, now of General rank, was given command of the British expeditionary force. He was 31, which was young for a field commander, true, but not exceptional. As for command by a royal, it was only 50 years since the Battle of Dettingen when his grandfather, George II, the last British monarch to do so, led troops into battle. York was the best man for a job where he was dealing on an equal footing with fellow commanders of royal lineage.

For his campaign in the Low Countries York was given one brigade of three battalions, each of about 1000 men. They were battalions of foot guards not infantry of the line. The expeditionary force had neither guns nor cavalry. Furthermore, York had written instructions limiting his course of action. His superior, General Lake was given his own to which the Duke was not privy. The entire set-up was an embarrassment.

York's instructions were to co-operate with the Dutch and Hanoverian allies. Leaving General Lake to watch his flank, York travelled to The Hague to find out what the Dutch had to offer - not much. The situation was not the same as that encountered by Marlborough nearly a century before. This time the Dutch public were in sympathy with the French revolutionists and not so willing to fight. Fortunately, the Austrians crossed the River Meuse, scattered the French and joined the Allies in Brussels. As



a result, the French abandoned Belgium. Their commander, General Dumouriez, came over to the allied side.

The situation is easily imagined. With 3000 men at his disposal, York represents England's interests. He has to deal with the Prince of Orange who has difficulty raising an army. The 13,000 Hanoverians are independent of York's command. His masters in England warn him not to split his force. They do however send another 3000 foot soldiers to reinforce his hand. They are raw, untrained recruits.

York makes the best of it. The Hanoverians mutiny and refuse to move unless they are given the same pay as the English. The Austrian commander asks York to address his troops who are being rebellious. York obliges, presumably in familiar German, and returns them to discipline.

Two important features characterise his experience in the Netherlands campaign. He was never defeated in battle. He always managed to retreat when he had to without an overwhelming loss of men and equipment. Secondly, he came to understand the sufferings of the men he led. He earned their respect and loyalty, and of their commanders. The officers with whom he served became his companions when he later came reshape the British Army as Commander-in-Chief.

There was Sir Harry Calvert, his aide de camp, Sir William Fawcett, Adjutant-General during the campaign, David Dundas, Secretary of War, Charles Stanhope of the Life Guards, William Windham, Secretary at War, and others; De Lancey, Steele, Lewis, Gamble. Many of these names reappear among the first Commissioners of our School. These were the men York gathered about him in the great work he undertook when, in 1795, he was appointed C-in-C.

Orders to commanding officers of regiments and military units flowed from York aimed at improving the lot of the common soldier. The stiff neck device they wore was abandoned, greased hair queues were no longer required, and families of soldiers were treated more humanely.



*'In the woods' (c1805) by Peter Goble.*

Boy soldiers were added to the regimental establishment: two per company, which added about 20 to each battalion. York formed three battalions of boy soldiers which went to South Africa for training and then to India. COs were instructed to give boys an elementary education.

Meanwhile, there came the idea of creating an asylum for the children of soldiers killed in battle. This was neither York's idea nor that of any of his close confederates. The source was a cavalry officer, Lt.-Colonel Le Marchant.

John Gaspard Le Marchant (1766-1812, he fell at the battle of Salamanca), of Guernsey family, served in the Netherlands campaign where he came to realize the inferiority of English soldiers compared with those of the Austrian Army. In 1795 he redesigned the swords of the cavalry, introducing a system of swordsmanship soon adopted by all British cavalry units. Le Marchant's instructions were applied throughout the cavalry and brought him to

the attention of the C-in-C. In 1799 he wrote a plan for training military officers which resulted in creation of the Royal Military College (now the RMA, Sandhurst) in 1801. Le Marchant was the RMC's first Lt.-Governor. Le Marchant's original proposal was for a college comprising three branches. The first was to train and qualify officers to serve on the General Staff. The second was for 'cadets of the Army and soldiers' sons.' The third was the 'junior course,' adolescent sons of officers, aged 13 to 15, to provide a general education suitable for a subaltern. Nothing came of the second and third sections, but the seeds for our School were sown.

It is entirely speculative, but reasonable, that 'cadets of the Army and soldiers' sons' was an idea that York and his friends developed. Why? Because in the year 1801 the royal warrant for creation of the Royal Military Asylum was proclaimed at the Court of St. James. While the premises in Chelsea were under construction, education of soldiers and their children in

reading, writing and arithmetic was underway.

Monitorial teaching was the popular method in the early 1800s, whereby selected students were given the lesson and they, in turn, taught fellow students. Monitors from the RMA, boys and girls, were in high demand to bring education elsewhere in the Army and in English parishes. Clergymen around the country used boy monitors of the RMA to introduce monitorial teaching into their schools. RMA boys were sent to Portugal (where Wellington was resting his army) to teach the men how to read and write. Two monitors were sent to Canada for the same purpose. These cases are recorded in the Board minutes. The £5 return cost of boys sent to Canada was in dispute; who should pay the bill?

York was ever concerned with improving the lot of the common soldier. His appellation of 'the soldier's friend' could never be applied to most military commanders.

Frederick Duke of York died in 1827. He had frequently visited the School during his lifetime and was regularly seen in its Sunday chapel. Boys in the uniform of the RMA lined the funeral route. The girls had been relocated to Southampton, the beginning of their eventual exclusion, so were denied paying courtesy to their royal benefactor.

This exceptional institution was known from the beginning as the Duke of York's, by word of mouth and in press reports. A prince of the realm York was, true, but what he and his colleagues achieved could not have been accomplished by a person of lesser rank. He deserves our recognition and gratitude. His care for the British soldier, family and children in need of the Army's charity leaves their estimated 3,000,000 descendants forever in his debt.

Frederick Duke of York and Albany deserves, and has surely earned not only his designation of the soldier's friend, but also as the friend of their children.

© Art Cockerill  
February 2016



# LETTER TO HOME -1968



20.10.68  
Robert's  
Home  
R.Y. R.M.S.  
lover.

Dear Lesley and Robert.

I hope you are alright.  
I am I hope Chris is alright  
as well. Today we had a parade we  
are now wearing our blues. Our  
housemaster is major Lominy.  
our mistress is a horrible she  
is ever so old. The lessons we  
have are quite easy especially  
maths. Also we do French and  
Latin. The history master always  
show does ancient tortures on you  
if you are naughty, the best one  
is the guillotine where he puts  
your head through the window  
and closes the window on you

2.

neck then everyone comes past  
and hits them. Yesterday the  
Under 13 team played Sir Roger  
Manwood at Sandwich and beat  
them 67-0 which is quite good.  
Last night we had a film  
it was called the Bo-Bo really  
it was an A but it was  
quite good. My worst subject  
is English we have Capt Lomine  
for it he is alright but I do  
not like him much. The other  
day I got two sides off him  
they are ~~two~~ sides of paper  
and you have to write about  
the subject the person who  
gives you them tells you to do

3.

I had to write about attention  
I had in our house got 4  
strokes the other night off Major  
Lominy for not doing his history  
They were ~~about~~ about half an inch  
thick and if you touched them  
started to bleed.  
Over the page I have put a  
map of the school  
We have watched some of the  
Olympic games and I know that  
British have won 2 Gold Medals.  
Love  
Colin.





## Bobby Brookes

# HOW I CAME TO MARRY A HOUSEMASTER'S DAUGHTER.

I was at the school from 1952-1960, one year in Haig, 7 years in Wolfe House (1960 house photo below). Clive House of course is next door to Wolfe and Freddy Page was the Housemaster 1948-1959. He was also a teacher of Latin and did his best to teach me this through forms 1-3. Freddy had three daughters, Angela the oldest, Dianne in the middle and Alison the youngest. When I moved to Wolfe in 1953 at the age of 11, Alison was 6; when I left the school in 1960 at 18, Alison was 13. Alison's nickname in Clive House was "The Brat", as she had a reputation (fairly or unfairly) of telling on boys who may have been up to "mischief".

In the early years after leaving the school I returned as an "old boy" on occasions to play rugby and cricket for the Old Boys vs School matches. One of these times was Grand Day weekend, July 1964. A privilege of becoming an Old Boy and revisiting the school was having access to the "White Rose Club", the school staff's "watering hole". I availed myself of this opportunity this particular weekend. The club had plenty of old boys around and I noticed a few of them were talking to Freddy Page so I went over to say hello. He had a daughter



with him and I thought it was the middle daughter Dianne (who's only a year younger than me) and said "Hello Dianne". She responded "It's Alison", to which I replied "My, you have grown up".

Back in those days, we had an "Old Boys dance" in the Nye Hall on the Saturday evening and Alison was with her dad at the White Rose Club hoping to meet any recent Old Boy who might offer to take her to the dance. I said I would be happy to take

her, which I did and she spent most of the evening talking and dancing with boys who had left the previous year (boys closer to her own age of 17!). I also invited Alison to come and watch the Old Boys vs School cricket match in which I was playing the following day, which she did. She informed me that she was coming to London in about 6 weeks to start a job as a secretary and would be living at the YWCA in Kensington. I told her I was living in London

(Earls Court) and gave her my landlady's phone number (no cell phones back then!) so she could call me if she wished, and I'd "show her around". I thought having a contact at the YWCA who could invite a bunch of girls to a party was very promising!

Well she did call me and we went out to the movies on a date, which ended as a bit of disaster as my car broke down on Fulham High Street and Alison had to push me through a traffic light controlled intersection! It was not an auspicious start! Things went better when I started taking her to my matches for Blackheath Rugby Club and she got an opportunity to meet some handsome eligible young men! Neither of us would suggest that our courtship went perfectly, but nevertheless, I ultimately proposed and she accepted. We were married at the school chapel on Sept. 24th, 1966 and a reception was held in the school library. Alison was 19 and I was 24. I tell people "I married a younger woman, I just did it 49 years ago". On Sept 24th this year, we will celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Below is the wedding photo of us outside the school chapel and above a photo of us at the same place on Grand Day 2014. We will be visiting for Grand Day in 2017 and hope to see you then.

Regards,  
Robert (Bobby) Brookes  
1952-1960 (Haig & Wolfe)





Peter Delduca

# MY LUCKY DAY

**How two of the 1963 intake got lucky with the entrance exam (and in my case, with the interview as well)**

It was early 1963 and fellow Dukie, David Cross and I were classmates at the British School in Berengaria, Cyprus. We were in the last year of juniors and due to sit our 11 plus exam in the summer term. However, the Army thought they needed their regiment elsewhere, so placed the battalion on notice of redeployment in March.

Someone had the forethought to say that a number of children were due to change schools in the middle of 11 plus season. It was decided that I and several others, including David would take our 11 plus before leaving Cyprus. The date was set and we were trained in exam technique followed by mock papers.

The Monday of the week of the real 11 plus was our last practice exam. We duly sat the exam and handed in the papers, a previous year's actual paper. As we left we were told to return to the class the next day for the

*“...Captain clear this desk, this young chap and I are going to have a game of marbles...”*

results. There we were taken into the class and told who had passed and who had not. Then the teacher said, “now we’ll go through all the answers so you fully understand what went wrong”. We spent the morning having all the questions explained to us, how to arrive

at the answer and how to put the answer in a form which was acceptable to the marker.

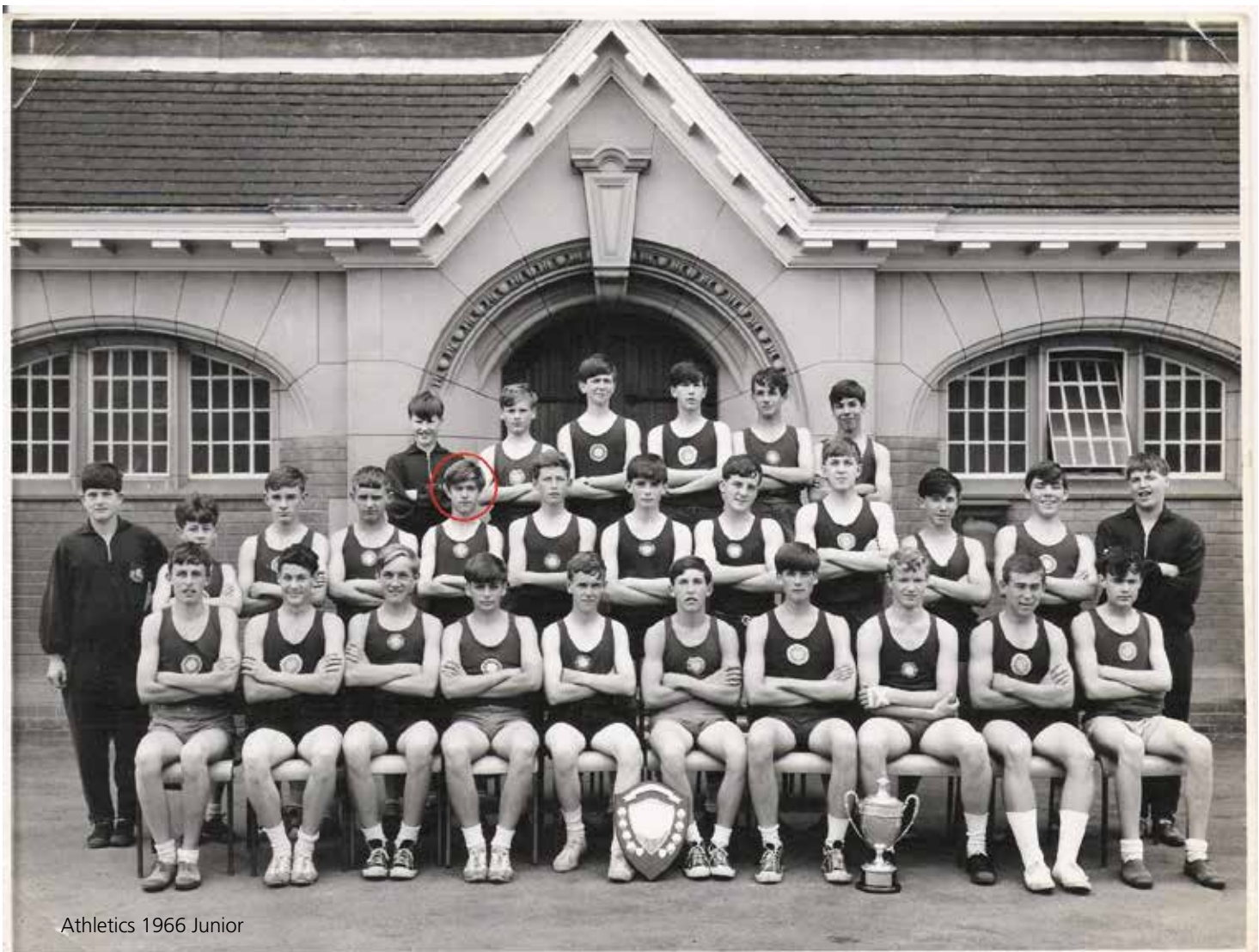
Next morning the headmaster came to the class where David and I were having a lesson, called us out and told us to go

with him. We were taken to an empty class room and told to sit at desks away from each other. He then announced, “in this envelope I have an entrance exam to a school in England which your parents have applied to send you to”.

He opened the envelope and took out the exam papers and placed them in front of us. David and I looked at the paper and one of us, I can't remember who, said “excuse me sir, this is the wrong paper. This is the paper we sat on Monday and were given answers to yesterday”. The headmaster looked taken aback, so the other of us, simply said “It's true Sir”. After a momentary pause he looked at us and remarked, “well it's your lucky day, just do the paper and hand it back to me”. So we sat the exam and handed in our efforts.

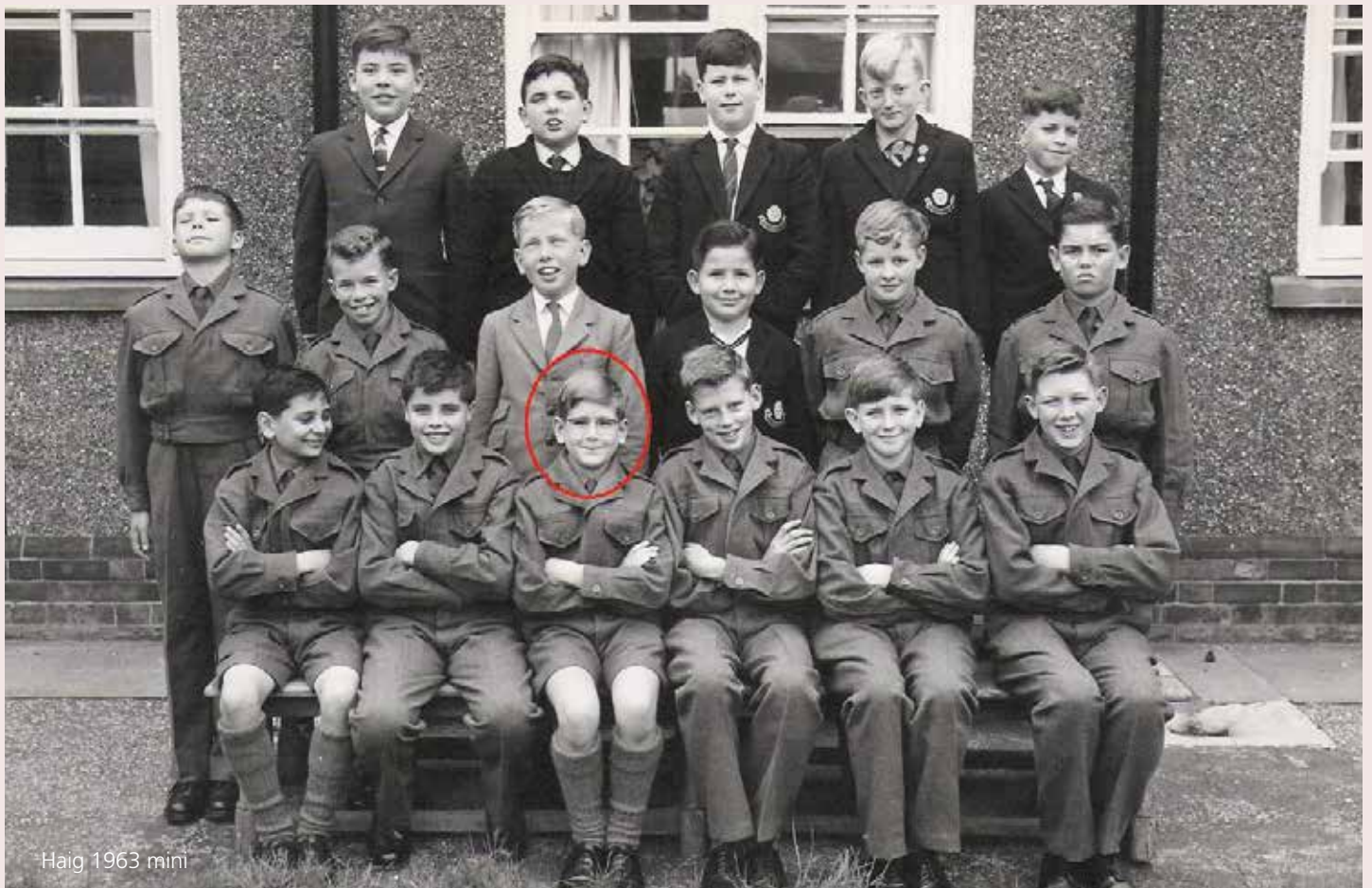
David and I took our real 11 plus exam two days later. I know I passed.

We both passed the entrance



Athletics 1966 Junior





Haig 1963 mini

exam, but surprisingly were put into the B stream class (1B), which I found odd as I was sure David and I must have done very well in the exam. The end of year saw both David and I promoted to 2A on the league table system of four up and four down used by the School in those days.

### My Interview

A couple of weeks after the good fortune with the exam I was again taken out of class by the headmaster, who took me to his office, hallowed ground.

We stopped outside and he said, "there are three officers in my office who want to talk to you, so go on in"

I walked in and was greeted by a young Captain who introduced himself and then introduced the others as Lieutenant Colonel Somebody and Brigadier Someone else. Now as every army brat knew, a Lt. Col. was God, or least that's what my dad would say. So not only was God in the room but also God's boss.

God's boss was the next to speak. "It's all right sonny, we're just here to have a little chat. We can start by asking what

on earth you have got in your pockets?"

"Marbles, Sir"

"Oh, I haven't played marbles since I was a lad. Captain clear this desk, this young chap and I are going to have a game of marbles"

"Alright sonny, get the marbles out of your pocket and explain the rules you play by".

I explained that we needed a circle to put some of the marbles in.

"Captain, get some chalk and draw a circle on this desk" was barked out and followed by "may I have some marbles please, sonny?" (I don't think the Brigadier was big on names, especially not my Italian one).

The next 15 to 20 minutes was spent with myself and the Brigadier firing marbles at the targets and the Captain grovelling about the floor recovering those which had escaped off the desk during the course of the game, during which some questions were asked and replies given. I don't recall any of that part of the interview. The Lt. Col. just sat on his chair pondering the sight of God's boss playing marbles

with a 10 year old army brat. The proceedings ended abruptly when God's boss said "Thank you for the game, please collect your marbles and you may leave. I shall be writing to the School for you." This was the first and only time the School had been mentioned.

### Postscript

Just before we left Cyprus our landlady, the Mayor of Limassol, held a farewell event at her seafront bar for us and a few other families who lived in houses she owned.

Part of the entertainment was a Greek magician. Through an interpreter for the English speakers - he didn't speak any English - everybody was asked to write a question on a piece of paper. The scraps of paper were collected and handed to the magician who put them in an iron bucket and set them alight. After a minute or so he doused the flames with water so that the bucket was about half-full.

"The magician will now answer some of the questions which were on the papers," the interpreter said. A big stick was produced and the magician

stirred the water with it, ensuring there were some ashes stuck to it. He held it close to his face and looked as though he was reading something on the stick.

"Where is Peter?" the interpreter asked. My parents gleefully pointed to me as I was trying to hide. "In answer to your question, you will go to the school you want to go to," came out from the interpreter, who was by now pointing at me.

The question I had written was "will I pass the exam and go to the Duke of York's School?"

How it was done I'll never know. The act was a complete surprise to the audience and I didn't tell anyone what I had written and he of course couldn't speak, let alone read English, or so we were told. As far as I remember the bits of paper were always in sight up until they were burnt; somebody else reading them wasn't likely.

So I returned to England safe in the knowledge that I would go to DYRMS, which indeed turned out to be true.

*Peter Delduca  
1963-1970 (Haig & Clive)*



# OBITUARIES

## ART COCKERILL

March 24th 1929-  
June 25th 2016.

Soldier, hydro-electric pioneer, engineer, author, librettist, publisher, and freelance contributor to Guardian Weekly, Arthur (Art) Cockerill died on 24th June at the age of 87 in Cobourg, Ontario.

Born in Blidworth, Northamptonshire, Art was the fourth of ten children, all of whom feature in Lay Gently on the Coals (Aesop Modern 2011). As the son of a WW1 regular soldier, Art entered The Duke of York's Royal Military School in 1939. A proud Dukie, he went on to write the School's bicentenary history The Charity of Mars (Black Cat Press 2002) and is a founder member



of The Clocktower Society. The School's motto was the title of his history of boy soldiers,

Sons of the Brave (Secker & Warburg 1984). His fascination with military history led to the authorised biography of MI5 chief Sir Percy Sillitoe (WH Allen 1975), and Winning the Radar War (with Jack Nissen, Robert Hale 1989). A children's book Emma on Albert Street (Black Cat Press 1997) was illustrated by Bill Slavin.

Commissioned into the Royal Engineers, he served post-war in Egypt. In 1957, he emigrated with his wife Beryl to Canada where he worked as a hydro-electric engineer. His largest project was in Labrador with lead investor Edmund de Rothschild. He also wrote the book for a musical, taking

advice from George S Kaufman and Tyrone Guthrie – Art was never shy.

Leaving Quebec in the 1960s, he moved with his second wife, Charlotte, to Cobourg, Ontario where he raised his family and pursued a successful engineering career which took him to Africa, the Caribbean and the Middle East. While working on airport installations in Libya, he had the opportunity to interview Gaddafi. He also spent time in custody. He established Delta Tech Systems, a technical publishing company which was "more lucrative," he joked, "than any other publishing I undertook." He championed social causes, ran for political office, and played the clarinet in the Cobourg Kiltie Band, a skill learned at military school. Active to the end, he contributed and collaborated on many articles on military history and education to specialist historical reviews.

He is survived by Charlotte, his wife of more than 50 years, and children John, Kate and Emma as well as seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. His daughter, Sarah, predeceased him in 2001.

His energy, joie-de-vie and uninhibited generosity to others means he will not be forgotten.

Chris Crowcroft



**Brothers (from left to right) Fred, Jack, Arthur and Harry in uniform, 1943**

## Peter Milne

Peter Milne (Roberts/Clive, AY 61/62 to 68/69) died of pneumonia on the 16th July with his family at his bedside. A memorial service was held on 1st August attended by Dukies Keith and Wilf Nicholls.

Pete was JUO for Clive and did a year's VSO in Zambia before going to Nottingham to study chemistry. He started work with Laporte in Luton before moving to Taiwan for 7 years. He returned to consultancy work in the UK before finding a position

with a firm in Milton Keynes.

He lived in Stoke Poges and leaves a wife, Anne, a son and daughter and several grandchildren.

## Norman Arthur John Henly

Norman Henly, born on 14th February 1937, attended The Duke of York's Royal Military School, leaving when he was 16 years old. He passed away in Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia, on 24th October 2016.

## Errol Harries

Errol Harries passed away on 30th August. He lived on Malta GC and died in the Barrakka Gardens, overlooking Grand Harbour. Errol was in Wolfe house in the early 60s. Errol was one of three brothers who attended the school. He served in the Royal Corps of Transport, Cyprus and in the Sultan's Armed Forces in the Oman. He later lived in Dubai before relocating to Malta GC.

### Mike Lobb wrote:

"Errol was a natural soldier, an 'all round' sportsman, a bon

viveur par excellence and a renowned racehorse enthusiast. For those of us lucky to have served in SAF in the 70s and 80s we well know how competitive and energetic he was in every aspect of professional and recreational pursuits. He could even more than hold his own as a 'staff wallah'. In MR, KJ, HQ Dhofar Brigade and WFR he was a joy to work alongside and always difficult to keep up with. He loved a party and was a generous host. His bar rarely closed if you were that way inclined. Which we mostly were. Over the past few years his





Arthur, aged 11 in the forecourt of St Andrews Flats, Northampton



Fred (seated) with his brother, Arthur, at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover 1940

## Kate Cockerill Visits School

In September, Art Cockerill's daughter made an impromptu visit to the UK from Canada and included her first visit to the School her father had attended. In Kate's words...

"Most of the trip was spent visiting friends from my days in London, touring art galleries and such. BUT two of the most wonderful events included a visit to the Duke of York's school where I was heartily welcomed by Jennifer Grant. Jennifer was most gracious, and gave me the cook's tour of the school, showing me where Dad apparently started his career with the DOY, introduced to me the librarian who had a display of Dad's books (amongst others), and the Executive President who hosted me at lunch in the lunch hall.



The school is most fabulous — what a wonderful place to study, learn, and begin building the foundations of one's life. As a person who did not go to a particularly structured school (only by comparison with what I saw), jiminy cricket the timed regime is amazing. I was particularly struck by the timing of waking, eating, schooling, sleeping and more! That might have been too much for me — but I totally appreciate the discipline it instilled and no doubt instills

to this day. I loved the uniforms. Was ok about the sleeping arrangements (what do you do if someone snores?). Felt v. happy that the children have an ability to make midnight tea and toast!

During my brief time there, the librarian asked me about Dad's favourite memory of the school. For the life of me, I said, I can't ever remember him mentioning, never mind regaling us with fond memories. BUT what he did say, and I was/am happy to recount, is that the Duke of Yorks was the making of him. It gave him an education and discipline. The most important thing was the education — of how to read, to analyse, to understand history, and appreciate the arts and much more. I said, too, that more than recounting any nostalgic memories to the students of today, if there was a message he would give them (or any child anywhere) it would be this:

You have a MIND, A BRAIN. USE IT. LEARN how to read. Because if you can read, you can do ANYTHING."

health had declined in Dubai and he moved to Malta last year where he was settling in, in his own inimitable style.

We have lost a loyal and longstanding friend and a proper comrade in arms.

Raise a glass to Errol, as he would want.

In Sadness,

On! On!

Donal"

### William Hassall

**Wendy Grimas wrote:**

It is truly with a heavy heart I write this note to inform you

our dear Dad passed away.

Dad passed away June 14, 2015, he was 90½ years young. Dad married his true love Jessie in 1945 and they were married over 64 years until Mum's death. Dad had an amazing and full life. He came to Canada in 1954 with the intentions of securing employment and a home as his wife Jessie and three children under the age of 5 would be joining him within 6 months. I was born 4 years later and often called their wee Canadian.

Dad was a master electrician and worked with Southam

Murray Printing for most of his life.

Dad was an avid fisherman, golfer and lover of nature. He played golf daily in the A flight division, and it wasn't until he was 89 that he played B flight, he wasn't overly pleased. He was so fit and healthy. His decline in health due to a heart ailment took him suddenly.

Dad never physically returned to England, but carried his home land in his heart. He was a huge West Bromwich fan and supporter. Through the internet I was able to help Dad connect

with places and memories and I know he did enjoy these vicarious visits.

*Dad's loving daughter,  
Wendy (the wee Canadian)*

### Bing Eades

Lt Col Eades passed away at the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury, on Thursday 4th August, 2016. He was 81 years of age. Bing was a boy at the school from 1945 (Saunton Sands) through to 1950 and Bursar of DOYRMS from 1988 – 1993.



## An International Collaboration

# THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA



The School presented The Phantom of the Opera this term together with our international partners from West Point High School, Virginia, USA. Students rehearsed, made costumes and built sets separately at their respective schools, then came

together to perform the play both in the US in October, then here at DOYRMS in November.

The Phantom of the Opera is a notoriously difficult play to perform due to complicated sets, costumes and music, but the students rose to the



challenge and gave some fantastic performances. The outstanding quality of the vocal range of some of the young performers, together with elaborate stage makeup, musical accompaniment and props resulted in a truly professional production.

Thanks go to The Dukies Foundation for their very generous sponsorship of this event.



*Supported by:  
The Clocktower Society*

