



The Dukies' Association

Issue 9 • December 2017

DUKIE NEWS

The newsletter for all members of The Dukies' Association



New School Memorial is unveiled at the **NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM**

Also in this Edition: **Remembrance Weekend**
Dukies young and old came together back at the School

News from TDF
Generous donations through the Clocktower Society are really starting to make a difference

Your Stories
Including a review of The Grand Old Duke of York: a modern biography

www.doyrms.com/The-Dukies-Association-Home

From Simon Daghish, Chair of The Dukies' Association RECORD NUMBERS RECORDED

Dear Dukies,

As we unpack the Christmas decorations and the first mince pie passes muster, it is time to reflect on a fantastic year for the TDA and Dukies Alumni culminating in the biggest ever gathering of ex Dukies at the dinner, rugby and Remembrance parade in November which has become such a huge part of our calendar.

This year we saw record numbers at the annual dinner which was attended by more than 200 ex Dukies and their partners. At that dinner we made an appeal to the Alumni for donations to the Clocktower Society and were delighted by the response. The Clocktower Society supports the school and pupils who come from a military background but whose parents may no longer be able to afford the fees. We are now able to support 2 pupils a year but there are many more that need our support so we must



be tireless in striving to do all we can to help out.

In September we also had the pleasure of seeing a memorial unveiled at the National Arboretum commemorating all those Dukies who have given their lives in conflicts since the end of the Second World War. A huge thank you to Peter Godwin and all those who helped raise funds to make

this possible, it is a moving and appropriate tribute to our friends and colleagues.

Turning to 2018 we will again be putting on a gathering at the Army and Navy game which has turned into a substantial and highly enjoyable meeting of ex Dukies, I suspect less to do with the rugby but more focused on the beer and camaraderie which makes for a fantastic event.

So all that remains to say is a huge thank you to all Dukies past and present who have supported the TDA, the school and The Clocktower Society throughout 2017. It has been an incredible year and I wish you all a very happy Christmas (may all the presents not be socks and ties) and a very successful and healthy 2018.

Aye

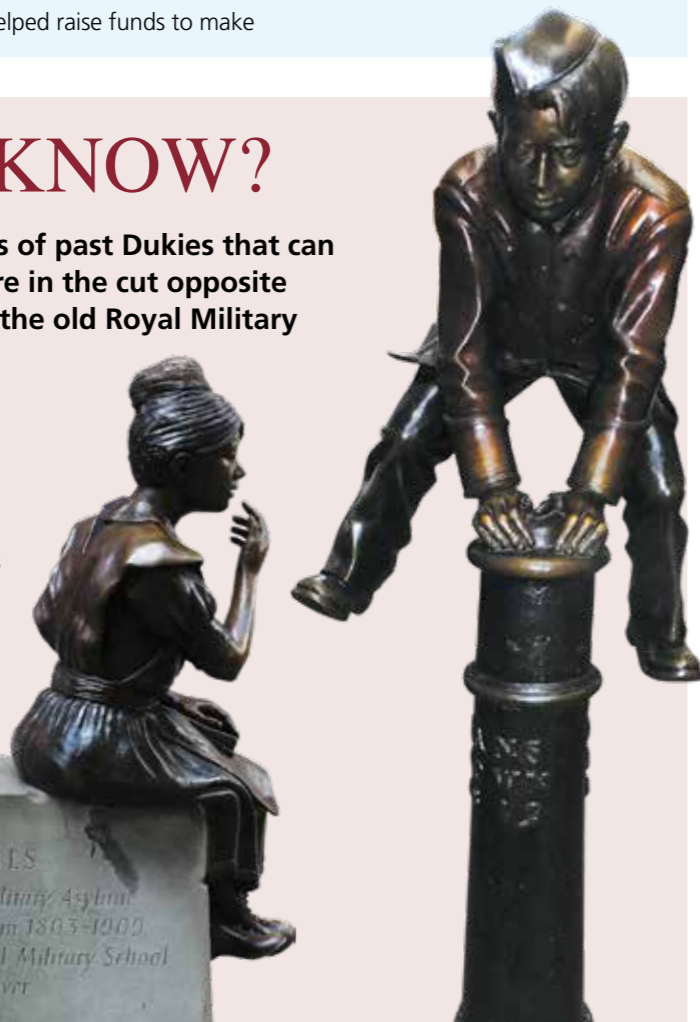
Simon Daghish

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a range of Statues of past Dukies that can be found off Sloane Square in the cut opposite Peter Jones store, near to the old Royal Military Asylum in London.

They were created by the Late Sculptor, Allister Bowtell who made such props as the original Cybermen from Dr Who, Rod Hull's Emu, as well as Tweedledee and Tweedledum from Jonathan Miller's Alice!

How amazing are they?! Keep an eye out next time you're in the area...



TWO PUPILS
1814 from the Royal Military Asylum
which occupied the site from 1803-1900.
When the Duke of York's Royal Military School
relocated to Dover



The Dukies' Association

PANEL MEMBERS

There is a TDA page on the School website 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

Alex Foreman
Principal, 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)

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

Friday 2 March 2018
0830 Dukies Inspiring Dukies Career Fair

1830: TDA v School Hockey

Saturday 5 May 2018
Dukies at Army v Navy

FRONT COVER PHOTO:

Wreath laying at the NMA School Memorial. Mr Alex Foreman, Mr Simon Daghish, Lt Col Edward Bartlett, and S/Sgt Christopher McKechnie R Sigs

News from TDF GENEROUS DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Dukies' Foundation continues to help the Dukies of today via the generous donations of our Clocktower members, enabling bursaries as well as discrete support to individual projects which really make a difference across the School.

A recent grant was given to purchase 10 new cutting-edge microscopes for the biology department. These microscopes



have digital cameras that can capture still images and video, allowing students to view a live stream on their laptops, share images with classmates, and print slides to use for study.

The new microscopes were presented to Biology Teacher

Mark Rixon by Chair of TDF, Mr Alan Jones, alongside the Chair of Governors, Mrs Georgina Martin.

Mark thanked TDF on behalf of the Science department and the School for the funding which will enhance students' learning for years to come, particularly at A-level.



Supported by:
The Clocktower Society



TDF Chair Alan Jones, Dukie Chris Crowcroft, TDF trustee Andrew Nunn, and Head of Science Marion Ferra, trying out one of the new microscopes

DUKIES ANNUAL GOLF COMPETITION

This year's competition was held at the Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club on Thursday 6th July with prizes being awarded after a meal in the Ramada Hotel, Dover.

Defying age, and very hot and humid conditions, Ray Barlow became the Dukie Champion for the third time, a remarkable achievement for a young man in his 80s!!

The golfing fraternity, together with many other Dukies, will miss the cheerful presence of Ray (Chas) Howorth who was a regular attender and loyal supporter of many school and Dukie events. We extend to Sandra and her family our sincere condolences on his unexpected and untimely death.

2018 COMPETITION

Next year's competition is to be held at The Wiltshire Hotel and Leisure Centre, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wilts on Sunday 13th May 2018 with a fun round of golf on Monday 16th for those wishing to partake. This has been a very popular venue among those who have competed in earlier years so we hope to see many new faces at next year's event.

Those interested in competing are invited to contact Peter Godwin by email at:-
p.godders@talktalk.net



THE CLOCKTOWER SOCIETY

Our new Principal, Alex Foreman, held his first Clocktower Dinner at the School in early October, where donating Dukies joined him for drinks and a three course meal. Alex shared his vision for the future of the School and a lively cross-table discussion followed with ideas (and wine) flowing aplenty.

I am pleased that The Clocktower Society is really taking off, doubling in size and funds raised over this last year. There are now 59 donor-



For information about donating to The Dukies Foundation and becoming a Clocktower member, please contact Jenny on jennifer.grant@doyrms.com.

members against our first target of 100. There is no fixed figure, we accept from a little to a lot, one-off or by monthly

subscription. Monthly subs make up nearly half our donors and average £30pm. Add gift aid and over a sample period

of years it adds up to more than £2000 - the power of tax incentive and accumulation.

These regular givers are each year producing sufficient funds to keep 2 Dukies in school, who come from military families, show hardship and special qualities. The first has just left for university having achieved well at A-level, on the sports field and in ceremonial. Due to family circumstances, he was faced with leaving School at 16.

Jenny Grant

Remembrance Weekend

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR

On Tuesday 7th November, eleven of the School's senior students and four American exchange students once again had the incredible privilege and honour of wearing their ceremonial uniform to provide an Honour Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey. A service embracing the rekindling of the torch was presided over by the Dean of Westminster to commemorate the start of the Torch of Remembrance's journey to Belgium for Remembrance Weekend.



DOVER MARINE RAILWAY STATION

Several different students were then invited to join the Service of Remembrance at Dover Marine Railway Station (now Cruise Terminal 1) on Wednesday, 8th November where wreaths were laid at the base of the Memorial and to see the Torch continue its journey to Ostend and Flanders.



Old Dukies started arriving in Dover for the annual Remembrance Weekend pilgrimage on Friday evening, gathering at the Red Lion for a gig by Dukie Band The Hong Kong Streakers Club and partaking in a tippie or two (or twelve).

MEMORIAL RUGBY

Next day it was time for the Remembrance Weekend memorial rugby, as reported on by Richard Catt (OBA) (TDA) – Chairman Dover RFC:

"The weather cleared, and having received special dispensation to move our 1st XV game to an away match, we once again had 2 pitches on which to play simultaneous games. Both games had more than enough players (with the OBA Over 35s boasting some 45 players of which 32 took the field). It was also great to see the U35s there in numbers, and all told with Old Dukies and Dover some 120 players took the field as rolling subs were the order of the day. Dukies O35s



winning 46-22 Dukies Under 35s winning 57-15

There were some 300 Old Dukies and Dover RFC members and players at the Dover RFC venue at Crabble for a great start to the weekend. Many of these later attended the record-breaking School dinner, where

for most, including myself it was our first meeting with the new Principal Alex and his Executive Assistant Emma - both a breath of fresh air, and focused on ensuring the school thrives.

Congratulations and thanks to all at Dover RFC and DYRMS-OBA Rugby for all the work put in to Saturday, and to Jenny and the School for the wonderful evening (with drum line) in the resplendent dining hall.

This was the 15th year that Dover RFC have hosted the rugby, and this was the best yet."

*Richard Catt
(Roberts, Kitchener,
Marlborough, 1968 – 1974)*



REUNION DINNER

The annual Reunion Dinner on the evening of Saturday 11th Nov saw 210 Old Dukies gathered in the School Dining Hall for a lively evening kick-started by a rousing performance from the School Corp of Drums.



Speeches were given by the Principal and Chairs of TDA and the OBA, touching on ways in which Old Dukies can help the Dukies of Today, while guests enjoyed a three course meal

and caught up with their peers. A fantastic evening was had by all, and with the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the Armistice, 2018 looks like being even bigger and better!



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



On Sunday 12th November, Dukies past and present were inspected by Principal Alex Foreman and TDA Chair Simon Daglish at the School's annual Remembrance Parade. The Old Boys' contingent was bigger than ever and was commanded by Dukies Tony Harris and Mike Owens. Wreaths were laid by 92 year old Dukie John Harrison (OBA) alongside one by Simon

Daglish (TDA), with Harrison also joining Messrs Daglish and Foreman on the podium for the march past.

A two minute silence at the Memorial followed, before a Chapel service where Lay Chaplain Steven Saunderson summed it up with the observation "Wow, when you guys sing, you really do sing!"



National Memorial Arboretum ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE

Dukies also attended the Armistice Day Memorial Service at the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday 11th November 2017, his Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester taking the salute at the parade that followed.

Following the service several Dukies gathered at the site of the new School Memorial for a quiet period of reflection. Christopher Charter read 'The Exhortation' while David Herberts laid an 'In Remembrance' cross, and Derrick Price a poppy at the foot of the memorial.



Left to right - those standing at the memorial. Christopher Charter, Peter Godwin, David Herberts, Derrick Price Laying 'In Remembrance' cross

National Memorial Arboretum SCHOOL MEMORIAL

Two years from the time donations started to be collected, the new School Memorial was unveiled in a glad on the bank of the River Tame in the grounds of the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire.

On Monday 18th September 2017, over 115 Dukies gathered at the NMA for a 'Service of Remembrance and Dedication'. The 'Remembrance' was held in the NMA Chapel and officiated by Lt Col Steven Saunderson, the School Vice Principal and Lay Chaplain, and The Right Reverend Dr William Ind, a former Bishop of Truro and pupil of the School (1951 - 1960)

At 12 noon the service opened with the Hymn 'And did those feet in ancient times' as the School Colours were received into the Chapel. There followed prayers and hymns 'Eternal Father strong to save', 'I vow to thee my country' and the school hymn 'O Lord thy banner floateth o'er us'. Lessons were read by Mr Alex Foreman, the School Principal, and by Brigadier Christopher Burson CBE (Wy 1952 - 1959).

Bishop Bill gave a most thought provoking 'address', emphasising the vision and compassion of the HRH Duke of York in promoting the formation of our School. Towards the end of the 'Remembrance' part of the service, a prayer was said in remembrance of Ray Howorth (Wn 1950 - 1955) who sadly died on 9th September 2017, remembered by many in his capacity as the Honorary Secretary of the OBA from 2002 to 2013. The service ended



with the 'National Anthem' following which the Colours were paraded to the site of the School Memorial for the 'Dedication' part of the service.

Within minutes of the congregation leaving the chapel to make their way to the site of the memorial, a 10 minute walk away, the 'heavens opened' with a heavy downpour of rain. Fortunately the members were approaching the 'Millennium Shelter' which was almost large enough to provide temporary shelter for all those attending the service. Some 15 minutes later the 'land-train' passed the shelter in the direction of the School memorial. This created a potential problem since it was known we only had a 30 minute window in which to complete the Dedication Service before the train passed again. There is

a saying 'that fortune favours the brave': on this occasion it proved to be the case for by the time we left the shelter and reached the memorial the rain had ceased.



Right Reverend Sir James Jones

The blessing and dedication of the Memorial was officiated by the Right Reverend James Jones KBE DD, Former Bishop of Liverpool and pupil of the School (1959 - 1967) and commenced with the unveiling by Mr Andy Barlow (Chairman

of the OBA) and Mr Derek Jones (Honorary General Secretary, OBA). There followed the Blessing and the laying of the wreaths. Mr Alex Foreman on behalf of the School Governors, Staff and Pupils, Mr Simon Daglish on behalf of TDA, Lt Col Edward Bartlett on behalf of the OBA, and S/Sgt Christopher McKechnie R Sigs on behalf of Dukies presently serving in the Armed Forces.

Following the laying of the wreaths, Lt Gen Sir Gary Coward KBE, CB read 'The Exhortation' followed by Major David Cresswell, the School Director of Military Music, sounding the 'Last Post' and the 'Reveille' and Lt Col Edward Bartlett reading the 'Kohima Prayer'.

*Peter Godwin
(Wellington, 1951 - 1958)*

Our heartfelt thanks go to Dukie Peter Godwin for undertaking the tremendous feat of bringing this project successfully to fruition, and to all the Dukies who contributed so generously to it.

On 24th November 2017 confirmation was received that the spelling mistake on the memorial has now been corrected.



BILL IND'S SERMON

Excerpt from Sermon Preached in the Chapel of the National Arboretum before the Dedication of the New Duke of York's Royal Military School Memorial – 19th September 2017

"I want to begin by saying how honoured both James and I are to be here in the presence of several Old Boys and also some of the contemporary staff of the school.

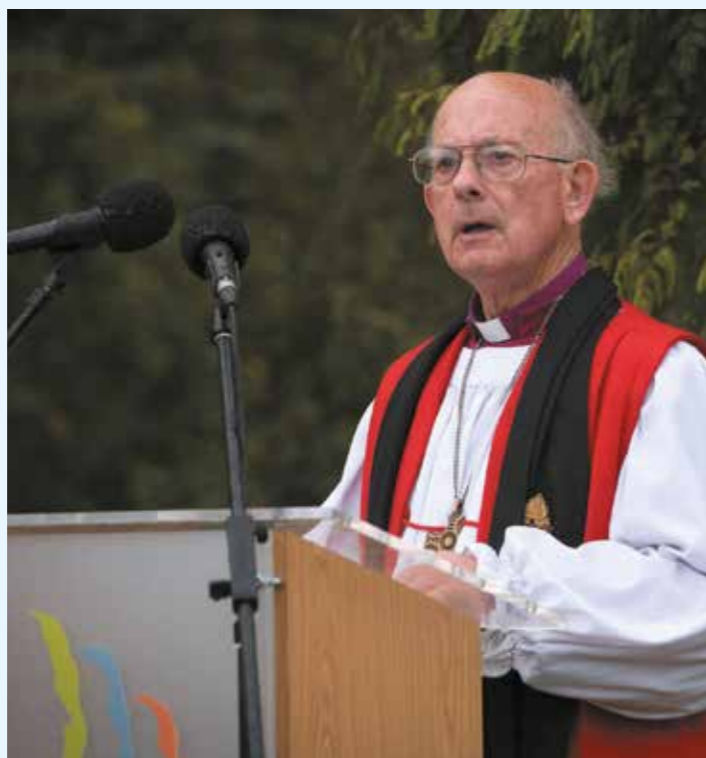
Above all I want to thank Peter Godwin and the team which has supported him over several years to bring about the occasion that we are celebrating today at this very special place, in the National Arboretum, to bless and dedicate the School Memorial in memory of all those who, as Old Boys of the School gave their lives in active service since the foundation of the school in 1803.

The best sermons are probably introduced by a text from the Bible but I want to do something a bit different. So the text is not to be found in the Old or New Testament but comes from 18th century England:

*The Grand Old Duke of York
He had ten thousand men
He marched them up to the top of the hill
And marched them down again*

Frederick, Duke of York, 2nd son of King George 111 was very easy to describe as a man of his time who seems to have lived what we might call a colourful life. He was a soldier and was very popular but actually wasn't very good on the battlefield.

His life, according to the records was full of scandal and news. He does not seem to have been the kind of person to have a school named after him but it is clear that there was also another side to him which is very easy to ignore or forget. In 1801 he founded the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, and in 1803 by an act of Royal Warrant the Duke of York's Royal Military



...the Armed Forces and Society itself has changed but that does not mean we can simply forget or ignore our roots.

School was founded at Chelsea and was known as the Royal Military Asylum, on the site now known as The Duke of York's Headquarters which houses the Saatchi Art Gallery.

The aim of the school, as the Duke saw it was to educate the orphans of the British servicemen who had been killed in the wars with France since 1793.

The thing that made what the Duke had done unique was that the school was founded not chiefly for officers' children. It looks as if, from the beginning, as well as being for orphan children of other ranks it included girls as well as boys. Indeed the school had the record of being only the second co-educational in the United Kingdom. It did not become a boys school until 1909.

So, from the very beginning the school has this particular flavour of being open to the children of other ranks. It therefore transcended what we now might call "class." These are the roots of the school and its history.

The Duke of Wellington famously described soldiers as "the scum of the earth who enlisted for drink." But the Duke of York had a very different view, or another voice which, by our presence here we represent, for almost all of us were children of fathers who entered the army as private soldiers.

Of course, the world in which we now live has changed dramatically and it is right and inevitable that the school should reflect this change not least because the Armed Forces and Society itself has

changed but that does not mean we can simply forget or ignore our roots. It is them which made the school and gave it its particular flavour and contribution which above all we celebrate.

All this has been brought home to me in a very particular way. This year, 2017 it is exactly 100 years since the Battle of Passchendaele. It is, without doubt, one of the most dreadful battles of the 1st World War.

And of course, there are still wars and we are here this morning in this place, set apart for memory, both old and new, and we represent a school which has much to remember which has helped to shape us and give us a particular identity. It shaped each of us in a way which is always personal but which is also part of a corporate memory. It gives us a sense of tradition, a sense of belonging even though we live in a world of change.

In a few moments we shall move on to the blessing of the memorial, part of our national remembrance, but it is important for the future that the Old Boys Association and the School find a way of expressing how important and significant this memorial is. A discussion is needed between the school as it now is and those Old Boys who belong to what feels a very different past.

How can we all be faithful to the Duke of York who founded the school that bears his name?

I hope that, with imagination and a sense of commitment we shall find a way which honours both the present and the past."

Reverend Bill Ind

OVER 60'S REUNION DINNER

We were delighted to have been joined by Lt Gen Sir Gary and Lady Coward and Mr Steven Saunderson as our guests, with Steven updating those present with the progress made on the most recent developments and those planned for the future.

Peter Godwin thanked those present for their continued support of this event, congratulating John Crisford on being awarded the CBE as well as welcoming in particular Bobby and Alison Brookes (USA), Rodney and Himi Calver (USA), Bill and Yoshika Dickens (Canada) and David and Carol Leigh-Howarth (Portugal) for undertaking such long journeys to join us. He also gave an



left to right;- Eddie Coke, Isabelle Ward (granddaughter of Eddie), David Judson, Penny Herberts, David Herberts, John Crisford and Rodney Calver

updated report on the NMA Memorial Project, thanking all those present for their generous

donations towards the costs. The future of these popular dinners is to be the subject for

consideration by TDA and the OBA at their next committee meetings.

European Championships

GRAND MASTERS HOCKEY

Playing for England Over 65s is a serious business. With six games in eight days this is a test of fitness as much as skill and so a lot of training, stretching and hill running has gone into these Championships. The squad of 18, plus manager and physio, assembled on the Saturday at the Opening Ceremony and then went for a practice session to shake the journey out of the system. First up was Scotland and a comfortable 4-0 win, even with a couple of yellow cards, followed by the Netherlands on the Monday which, if you know your hockey, is anything but comfortable. End to end hockey made all the training worthwhile: someone watching said it was twice as fast/intensive as the Over 60s and it felt it. Both sides had great chances, but heroics in defence resulted in a 0-0 draw.

Thankfully Tuesday was a rest day, which was spent touring Loch Lomond, the Trossachs and Stirling Castle, where



my father was based when I was between the ages of three and seven – wonderful memories of village life with few cars and walking to the village school, even if the only history I learnt was about the Battles of Stirling Bridge and Bannockburn, and Scotland's fight for freedom; none of this Greeks and Romans stuff, they didn't come this way. There were also memories of a School CCF camp to Drip Bridge in 1967 and the delights of the Highland midge.

Back to the hockey on Wednesday and a tricky game against Wales: 1-0 up but over-enthusiasm in pressing

for a second near the end saw the Welsh counter attack and score an equalizer. Back to the National Hockey Stadium on Thursday for a televised game against Belgium, who seemed happy to camp in their own half and seek to repel all attacks. They failed and England came away 3-0 winners with the pick of the goals coming late in the game. Only modesty prevents me naming the scorer, but documentary evidence can be found on You Tube around the 54th minute.

Friday was another rest day and a trip to the Kelvingrove Museum, followed on Saturday by a 9 o'clock start

against Ireland. 3-0 up by half time, England ran out 5-0 winners with two late goals. With the Netherlands defeating Germany and the latter defeating Wales, we had to defeat the Germans for the silver medal. Sadly, it was not to be: once again, end to end hockey - we hit the post - but it ended in a 0-0 draw and the Bronze. All in all, a pretty tough week, with some extraordinary fitness shown by some (not yours truly!) and some frustrating results, but enjoyable, both on and off the field.

If selected, it's the World Masters Tournament in Barcelona next June, with a very fit Australian side to contend with. So, if you see, an elderly guy running on West Heath in Hampstead, don't laugh – he could be someone playing for his place in the England Masters Hockey Team!

*Allan Mayo
(Haig & Clive, 1959 – 1967)*

SCHOOL NEWS

Grand Day 2017

HONOURRED GUEST

On the 7th July 2017, the School was honoured to welcome Lieutenant General James Bashall CBE as the Guest of Honour at Prize Giving and as the Inspecting Officer for the Trooping of the Colour.

General Bashall's role as Commander Home Command makes him the Chairman of our Board of Trustees and continues the 214 year historic link between The Duke of York's Royal Military School, the Ministry of Defence and the post of Adjutant General (the post Adjutant General was re-designated Commander Home Command in 2016).



The Trooping ceremony took place against a backdrop of a superb range of vintage military vehicles and replica aircraft, and the standard of drill within the Guards was excellent with the Band producing an outstanding performance. At the very start of the parade, a Spitfire flew low over the parade area and later on, there was a free fall parachute display by the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment "Tigers" parachute display team.

Alex Foreman, Principal, said: "This was my first Grand Day and I was extremely impressed by the high achievements of our prize winners as well as the excellent ceremonial parade by the whole School which is a perfect example of the leadership and self-discipline we nurture in our students."

During the Prize Giving Dr Geoff Soar delivered his final address as Chairman of Governors. Dr Soar has served the School as a Commissioner and Governor (2006 – 2012) and as Chairman of Governors (2012 – 2017)

Prince Edward, Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO ADC(P) had just reached the half way point of their 25 year life span – accordingly, in June they were surveyed and repaired by Hobson & Sons. They were returned at the start of July and looked pristine whilst on parade.

The School's current Colours (presented in 2003 by Field Marshal, His Royal Highness,



In Brief

"Old Dukie Dave Lett (1963 - 1968) donated his guitar to the Grand Day Raffle (with case in School colours, not pictured), and Tom Yonge in year 8 was thrilled to win it! Dave and Tom are pictured here with School CSP Oliver, Head Girl Migne and Head Boy William."



Jungles and volcanos NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA

In early July a group of 14 Dukies and staff ventured to Central America for four weeks. We spent the first two weeks in Nicaragua, trekking through jungles and up active volcanos.

We were amazed by how colourful and vibrant the towns and cities were and how friendly the people were. The first trek we went on was under the canopy of the jungle, where it was very steep and humid; we camped on the side of a mountain for a few nights and the local community provided us with food. This gave us an opportunity to try local food which consisted of rice and beans, fried plantain, eggs and avocados.

We then travelled up to Leon for our second trek; this time it was up three active volcanos. The first day was the most physically challenging as we had to climb to the summit of the volcano in very hot and humid conditions. The crater of the volcano had huge clouds of smoke coming from it - at the top there was even a man selling drinks! We then climbed the second volcano, which was much more exposed and steep, however it was shorter. We had to climb up with long boards on our backs,



which proved interesting with the strong winds. Instead of climbing down the volcano, we volcano-boarded which was a once in a lifetime experience.

For our last few days in Nicaragua we had "r 'n' r" in a coastal town called San Juan de Sur, which was much more lively and energetic than the other places we had visited. As surfing was the main attraction, we spent a day catching waves on a beautiful beach a few minutes away. We went to a burger place called 'Nacho Libre' where we had the best burgers ever.

We then crossed the border into Costa Rica, driving for three hours down a dirt track in a tropical storm; we arrived at The Turtle Trax Project in San Miguel

at midnight and put up our tents for the next six nights. We were staying right next to the beach where we spent our days, and at night we patrolled the beach in small groups to protect the turtles from poachers. On one of the days we walked up to the local school to meet the children, where we showed them how to drill.

After the Turtle Project we travelled to Manuel Antonio National Park, where we stayed in a small town called Quepos. The National Park was amazing, with perfect beaches, where we had to protect our bags from the monkeys and raccoons which were all over the beach.

Finally we went to San Jose for the last few days of our trip; we

spent a day white water rafting down a large river - an amazing adrenaline filled experience which we would love to do again! Afterwards we went for our well-deserved final meal at an Argentinean restaurant, before making the 30 hour journey home.

We would like to thank all of the staff that took us and made our experience so enjoyable, especially the RSM and our guide Pete as well as The Dukies Foundation and Clocktower Society for helping with the funding.

Saskia, Nick and Glory



Supported by:
The Clocktower Society



We will remember them

PASSCHENDAELE 100

The 31st July 2017 marked the 100th anniversary of the start of the Battle of Passchendaele, also known as the 3rd Battle of Ypres, with commemorative events being held within the area of the Ypres Salient.

Prince Charles, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prime Minister Theresa May MP and senior British military officers were in attendance alongside the King and Queen of the Belgians and senior Belgian government and military figures. Dukie, Brigadier Phil Kimber OBE attended as 11 Brigade Commander. The Rt Rev Dr Bill Ind, retired Bishop of Truro, also a Dukie was there in a private capacity.

A solemn service of commemoration at Tyne Cot followed an unforgettable and incredibly moving Last Post Ceremony and multi-media

presentation at The Menin Gate in Ypres the previous evening. These events were televised in both the UK and Belgium.

During the weekend, in addition to the privilege of attending these events, School CCF officers, Lt. Col Steven Saunderson and Major Andrew Nunn, visited the resting places of fallen former students of the Duke of York's Royal Military School and The Royal Hibernian Military School.

Wreaths were laid and markers were placed to commemorate them at the Ploegsteert Memorial, The Menin Gate, the

Tyne Cot Memorial and cemeteries in Poperinge and Ledgehem.

There are five former students of The Duke of York's Royal Military School commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial - **Lance Corporal JW Kaveney**, East Yorkshire Regt.

Lance Corporal JW Lewis, Hampshire Regt. **Serjeant FC Spiers**, Somerset Light Infantry. **Private GA Hayman**, Northamptonshire Regt. **Private B Knight**, Royal Berkshire Regt.

There are also two former students of The Royal Hibernian Military School



(which merged with DoYRMS in 1924) commemorated on it - **Corporal Denis Francis Divine**, Kings Own (Royal Lancaster Regt), and **Lance Corporal William O'Leary**, Hampshire Regt.

Eighteen Dukies are commemorated on the Menin Gate - **Lance Corporal J Pegram**, Ox & Bucks Light Infantry. **Bombardier A Belcher**, Royal Garrison Artillery. **Lance Corporal WJ Prosser**, Cameron Highlanders. **Lance Corporal RW Elder**, Gordon Highlanders. **Lance Corporal FD Maxted**, 5th Royal Irish Lancers. **Drummer P Pitman**, Irish Guards. **Trumpeter AHWG Scott**, Royal Horse Guards. **Lance Corporal AV Hungerford**, Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regt. **Private JD Lake**, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt. **Private W Anderson**, Highland Light Infantry. **Drummer JH Ellis**, Devonshire Regt. **Drummer HW King**, Royal Fusiliers. **Private RW Winter**, Northumberland Fusiliers. **Private TG Golding**, Gloucestershire Regt. **Lance Corporal HH Adshead**, King's Royal Rifle Corps. **Serjeant JE Wood DCM**, East Yorkshire Regt. **Private W Milne**, Gordon Highlanders. **Serjeant NJ Batters**, Devonshire Regt.

Seven Dukies are commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial - Rifleman William AB Clark, Royal Irish Rifles. **Rifleman Arthur V Somerset**, King's Royal Rifle Corps. **LCpl George A Axon**, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. **Private Herbert LW Freeman**, Lincolnshire Reg. **Private Reginald D Douglas**, Durham Light Infantry. **Serjeant Robert G Falkner**, Queen's West Kent Regt. **Private George P Langdon**, Royal Fusiliers.



on The Menin Gate - **Lance Corporal JH Morris** (alias JH Simms), Coldstream Guards. **Lance Corporal J Thompson**, 4th Hussars. **Private JH King**, East Yorkshire Regt. **Private J Kingham**, East Yorkshire Regt. **Private FH Schwer**, Cheshire Regt. **Private WC Neild**, Cheshire Regt. **Private JW Clark**, Royal Dublin Fusiliers. **Serjeant WL Crichton**, Gordon Highlanders.

The four Dukies who rest in cemeteries at Poperinge are **Drummer Herbert Summers**, The Buffs. **Corporal Frederick Crowe**, RAMC. **LCpl Archibald Smith**, RASC; while **Private Henry Millar**, The Leinsters, is at rest in Ledgehem cemetery.

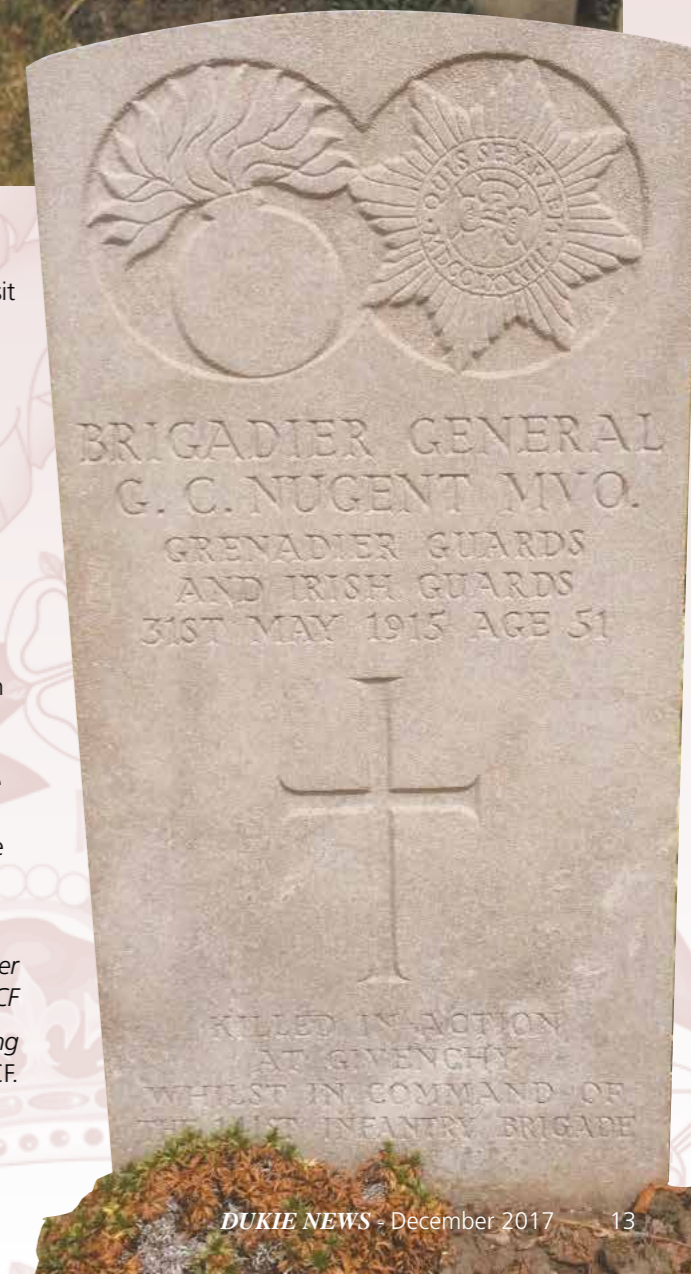
On the return journey Lt. Col Saunderson and Major Nunn made a detour via Bethune to visit the grave of "Dukie" **Company Serjeant Major Hugh Hayes**, The Welsh Regiment. Buried in the same location was a former Commandant of the School **Brigadier General George Colborne Nugent MVO late Irish Guards, 141 Brigade Commander**.

Both Major Nunn and Lt. Col Saunderson were struck by the impressive scale and organisation of these commemorative events. It was an honour to have been invited to attend and to have the opportunity to honour our fallen Dukies and Hibernians within the Ypres salient and at Bethune.

"We Will Remember Them"

Lt. Col Steven Saunderson, Officer Commanding DoYRMS CCF

& Major Andrew Nunn, Training Major and 2 i/c DoYRMS CCF.



Hockey Development

AMSTERDAM TOUR

THE PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT CONTINUES

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Paul Harrington (Haig, Roberts and Clive, 1957 - 1967) and Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, the School's junior hockey squads continue to truly flourish and improve.

After numerous evening training sessions over the first half of term with the coaching staff and an intensive 8 hours of drill, skills and mini games on the preceding Friday and

Saturday, the two squads enjoyed an amazing adventure and tour to Amsterdam over Half Term.

The students were put through their paces and professionally trained at coaching clinics at HC Spaarndam and Athena Hockey Club, before matches at Spaarndam and Zandvoort. Despite finding some of the drills and skills a little tough, the development and positive

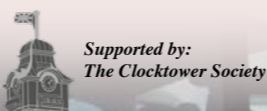
approach shown by both the girls and the boys was truly outstanding.

The squads also managed to get to a Premier League, Hoofdklasse game where they watched two amazing ladies' teams, HC Hurley and HC Oranje-Rood, fight it out for an exciting draw.

This was a very successful tour, and the impact of the training and intense games

and coaching will no doubt continue to be evident throughout the rest of the girls and the boys upcoming seasons.

Thanks once again to Paul Harrington and Irwin Mitchell for making this Development Programme possible, and for continuing to fund it into its second year.



YOUR STORIES

Adrian Nunn (1957 - 1966)

DAD'S DUKIE STORY

Recent articles in the Dukie News mentioned petitions to get into the school, the band and various other points. Our family have had quite a long history with the School. My father, James Nunn was the family's first point of contact with the school which he entered on August 23rd 1921 at the age of eleven

Although his birth certificate records him as George Albert James, and he started off being called George when first at the school, by his third year he had, for some reason, switched George and James and become James and this is how he remained for the rest of his life.

His father was in the Royal Field

Artillery H.Q. Staff "D" Bty. 256th Bde and had been killed in July 1917. He was buried in Poperinghe new cemetery and back in 2014 Ralph, Harrington and a group of friends kindly took a picture of his grave for me when they visited Ypres at the same time as a school contingent. (Dukie News issue

2, 2014) My father said that he had got into the School as a result of a petition by the widow of his company commander believed to be Captain Cyril Welsh who was killed with him.

One of his memories (always used against us at appropriate times) was of his first day at the school when he was given



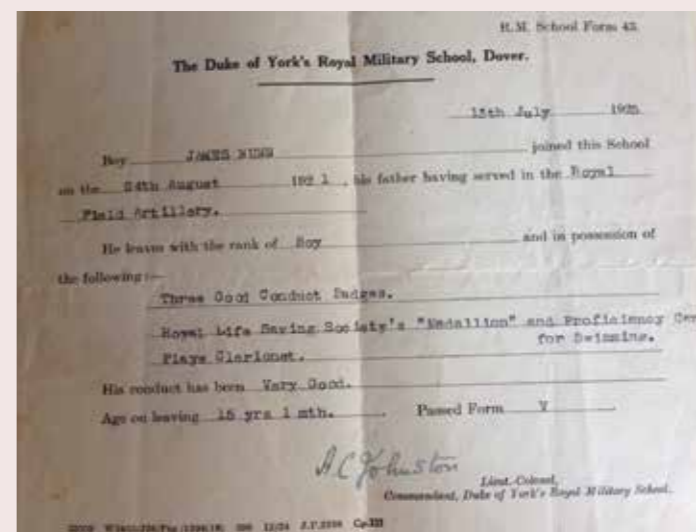
A picture of Dad taken in the first year shows him in the blue uniform of the time

a glass of milk and a slice of bread and dripping but was too upset to eat it. ("Many a time I wished I had that piece of bread and dripping and glass of milk later in life.....eat your (undesirable).....").

He started off with 47 boys in his class but this had dropped to 20 by the time he left in 1925. I have his reports from the school which were issued at the end of each term in December and July and which make interesting but short reading. There were two sections, a School Report which dealt with education and the more important Company (House) Report which dealt with his trade and team behavior. The School Report recorded - Conduct in Form, Educational Attainment for Age and Remarks of his Educational Instructor. The Company Report covered - Trade Employed and Attainment, Swimming, Gymnastics, Games, General Conduct and Character, and Remarks of his Company Sergeant-Major. Dad was in 'F' company, which was Roberts when I was there from 1957-1966, but there was still a remnant of the old nomenclature left in that my first drum instructor was called 'F-Co' because he was the last of the company Sergeant Majors (from 'F' company).

In the first year Dad's School Report had "Exemplary", "Good", and "Progress good has worked very hard this term.", - that is it! In his first Company Report his trade was the band and he played the clarinet 'fairly'. He was given 'Special' for swimming, apparently did not do gymnastics, for Games he was given 'Good. Rather small but does well, is interested and keen in all outdoor games", Conduct was "Fair" and under remarks "A willing boy for the company and a good worker."

He then had a period of "A very inattentive boy and wants a lot of watching, could do much better" but his last School Report was better. For science he had "Fair - could do very much better in this subject and generally - he plods along steadily and has made satisfactory progress.



Dad's school leaving report is below. (Note the spelling of 'clarinet'.)

Geography is his weakest point." It is somewhat of a surprise to me to see 'Science' picked out as a separate subject already in 1925. In his last Company Report his clarinet playing was "Very good", (this was to be his main instrument later in life) his swimming was "Proficiency", gymnastics was "Has gained a good number of points for his coy." he was "Very keen on games, plays for his coy. at cricket" he received a "very Good" for conduct and "A good clean boy who can do well. He has shown improvement this term." He must have got on well enough because I remember when I first came to the November Reunions with him soon after leaving school (when they used to have a beer tent behind what used to be the White Rose Club) he always made a bee-line for one of his old masters who was an honorary Old Boy.

He always said that he won the 3rd choir prize at one point, but there was never a record of this. Two days after leaving school he joined the cavalry of the line in Dover with a trade of musician. He was 4'10" and weighed 86 lb! In those days the military history sheet had a special section for boys who had been educated at the Duke of York's, the Royal Hibernian or Queen Victoria school.

Dad was sent to the 13th/18th Hussars where he already had an older brother serving. He had apparently solved his deficiency in geography by 1926 as he passed "Military and Empire Geography" as part of his 2nd Class certificate. He also lived it, serving abroad in Egypt, India, Germany and Singapore during his time in the army. His first thirteen years were spent on horses. The photo (overleaf) of the whole regiment of the 13th/18th Hussars on horseback was taken in 1934 in Sialkot in what was then India, (now Pakistan) - the band are in the rear.

In late 1938 he returned to England with the regiment and was appointed Band Sergeant. The regiment had left their horses in India and were mechanizing.

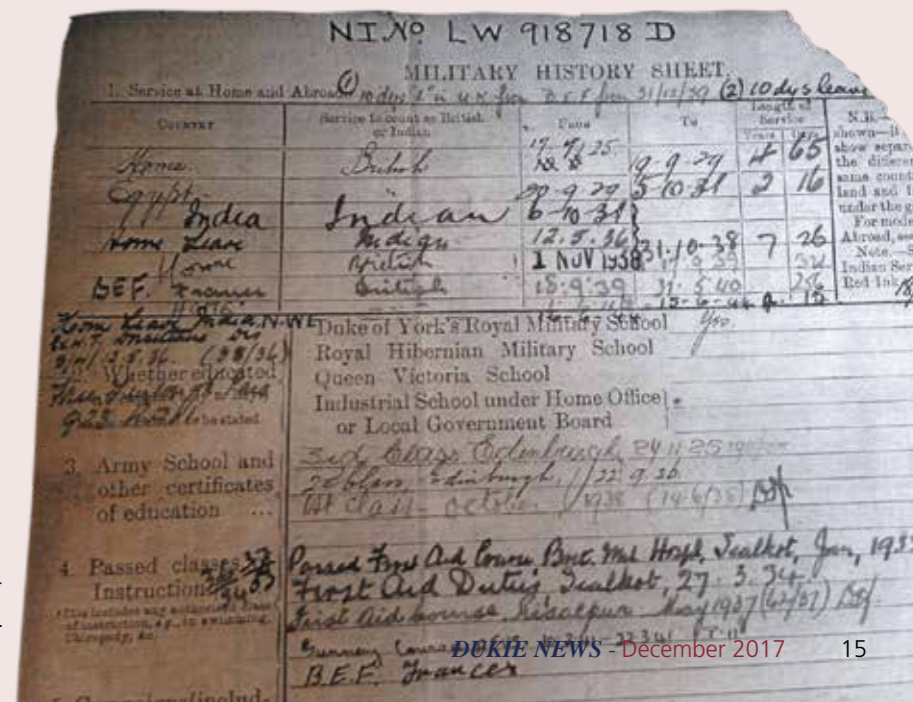
"The band was to form the

Regimental motor-cyclist troop. But, when nineteen new motor-cycles arrived, there were no instructors available. Each bandsman, therefore, was told that he was to be given a motorcycle as a birthday present. The official handbooks and instructions were issued and dates laid down on which tests and inspections would be carried out. The bandsmen were instructed to find for themselves ways and means of learning to ride and maintain their motor-cycles." From, History of the 13th/18th Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) 1922-1947. Major-General Charles H Miller. Chisman Bradsaw Ltd, London 1949

Dad said that they rode as a group all over Dartmoor to get off-road practice. It must have worked because on July 15th Her Majesty Queen Mary, Colonel-in-Chief visited the regiment and

"The Band troop gave a motor-cycle display, which demonstrated how well the bandsmen had carried out their work in 'self-training'".

On Sept 18th 1939 the Regiment left Shorncliffe for France. They spent the phoney war billeted near Douai until May 10th 1940 when they advanced to reach Louvain on 15th May. On May 17th they were told to withdraw and cover the infantry and made it back to their billet near Douai on May 20th. By the 27th they were counter-attacking at Comines to drive the enemy back across a





canal between Ypres and Menin. On the morning of May 28th the main body of the regiment were told to destroy their remaining stores and make their way to the beaches around Dunkirk. This they did via Poperinghe, so Dad was in the same place that his father was killed 22 years before. They arrived at Bray Dunes on May 30th where they dug holes in the sand and fell asleep. In the evening orders were received to march the seven miles to Dunkirk in groups of fifty. They arrived at the Mole which was under sporadic fire at 9 p.m. and had to cover the last two hundred yards at the double. The regiment boarded a cross channel steamer and Dad went below decks until he found an empty cabin and fell asleep. He arrived in Dover on the morning of May 31st and went with the regiment by train to Wootton-under-edge.

In 1942 Dad was posted to the 23rd Hussars who were rumoured to be going to North Africa (it never happened). His old regiment were first ashore in floating tanks on D-Day and he arrived back in France as an SQMS with his new regiment in (dry) tanks 9 days later. He was with the 23rd Hussars in the race across France, the Ardennes,

first to discover Belsen (but in hot pursuit so did not enter) and ended up in Husum in Denmark. Lucky for him they occupied a new cavalry barracks and there were still cavalry horses there so he was back riding a few weeks after VE-day. He returned to the 13th/18th Hussars when the 23rd Hussars were disbanded at the end of the war. He spent 35 years in the army (plus 2 as a boy soldier that were not counted), and retired as a Major

Quartermaster and then went on to various managerial positions in civvy-street. As Dad was a 'ranker' both my older brother Colin and I had the chance to go to the school.

I attended the school from the age of 9 having taken the exam in Singapore. I can still remember my horror at some of the questions. One was to calculate the volume of a mug in cubic inches given the dimensions. Easy, if you knew

what cubic inches were, I had only come across the linear kind. Another was of the form "my mother's sister's brother... who am I?" If I knew I had relatives I might have worked it out, but I had not lived in England since I was four so did not know what relatives were. My older brother Colin was at the school from 1951-1958 so we overlapped one year. He was in Haig, Clive and then Roberts. I was in Haig (junior house),



This photo, taken in 1978 behind Roberts, shows the only time the four Nunns were at school together. I ended up in the USA and Lloyd in Australia.



Adrian Nunn (1957 - 1966) came back to the School to talk about his career, Digital imaging and Giant Particle Accelerators to our A Level Scientists and our Year 11 Triple Award Students in November. Adrian is also a generous contributor to The Clocktower Society.

Roberts (junior school) and then Clive (senior school.) My school reports were decidedly longer than my fathers, but there were some similarities in what was written. "I am not altogether happy that Adrian is aware to the possibilities of failure....." (first term of my last year!) I did take the science route my

father had started, ending up with a chemistry PhD (after some hiccups clearly foreseen by the author of the above comment) and retired as head of a research centre for a pharmaceutical company. As I did not go into the army my children never had the chance to go to the school but I was not the last of the

Nunns to go there. My brother took the same path as our father, starting as a ranker and ending up commissioned, but in the RAMC so his son Lloyd was also eligible and attended from 1977-1984. Lloyd was Athletics captain and won the Victor Ludorum. He too joined the ranks but then went to

Sandhurst and was an ATO. (Dukie News issue 4, 2015) So it seems that we were all 'slow starters' when it came to life. Our father's bench at the memorial records our time there.

Adrian Nunn

Book Review

THE GRAND OLD DUKE OF YORK

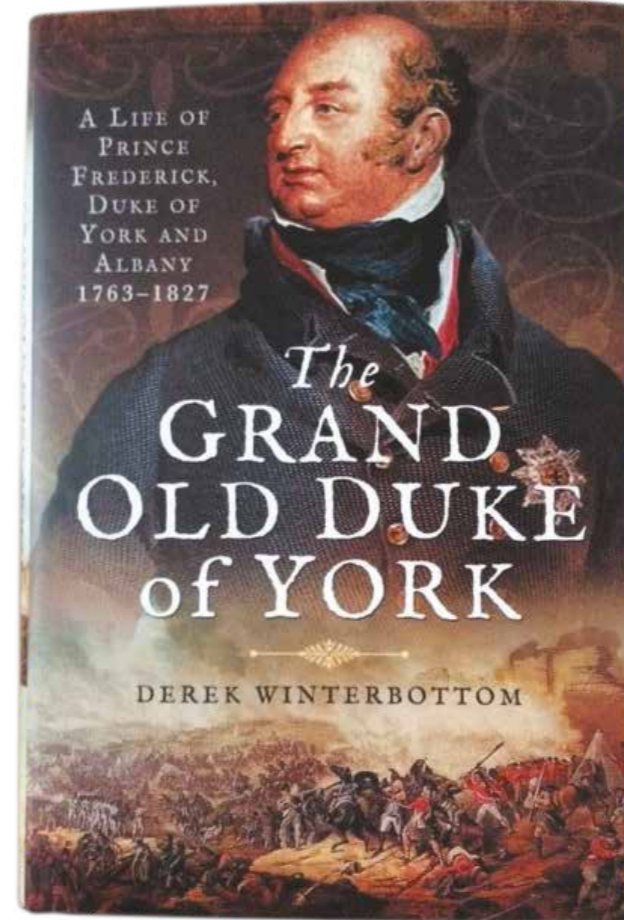
by Derek Winterbottom, Pen & Sword Military, hardback £19.99/\$33.95

Frederick, Duke of York & Albany, Founder of our School was described by Thackeray as "big, burly, loud, jolly, cursing, courageous..... most affectionate and loveable..... noble and generous to a fault (and) never known to break a promise." His 1807 portrait by Beechey, hanging in the School Dining Hall, appears to convey some of these attributes.

Derek Winterbottom (www.derekwinterbottom.com) has produced the first modern biography of a Commander-in-Chief who bears equal share in defeating Napoleon because he reformed the Army, recruited and supplied it, transported it to Wellesley/Wellington and dealt with the dirty business of money and politics. Mr Winterbottom credibly re-evaluates the Duke's record as a field commander, examines his achievements as army reformer, describes the ups and downs of his personal life and explains his reputation as 'the soldier's friend' to which countless Dukies since 1803 can attest; (reference to the School is accurate and generous).

At 200 pages, the text is concise, its style is fluent and properly referenced, the work of the experienced historical reporter rather than the historian-as-dramatist. As Winterbottom says, he owes much to the study by Alfred Burne who began the Duke's rehabilitation in 1949. Art Cockerill (The Charity of Mars 2002, an authority on Frederick published in Dukie News) would have agreed with this account of George III's favourite, second son.

Frederick's military education in prominent German states was punctuated by well-judged letters home to his father on matters military and diplomatic, in stark contrast to the erratic



His failures, little as he deserves blame for them, have eclipsed his remarkable successes

attitude of his elder brother 'Prinny.' He was regarded as "a good judge of men and their abilities." Of his commands in

the Low Countries 1793/4/9, his ratio of W-D-L betters most World Cup football managers. His "failures, little as he deserves

blame for them, have eclipsed his remarkable successes where he was in full command," says a modern historian. Yet a subordinate wrote "he has a very good understanding but he talks too much and is careless to whom." Frederick was a general at 30, after all.

What he learned in the field, he applied. Appointed C in C at 32 to which he gave 29 years service, he greatly improved soldiers' training, pay, rations, clothing, accommodation and medical care. And he looked after their children, founding our Royal Military Asylum known as 'The Duke of York's' from very early on, in the press by the 1820s, so 'Dukies' we have long been, in tribute.

We are shown the political machinations behind the Mary Anne Clarke affair (his mistress, bribed to bring him down, whose descendants include the Du Maurier acting/writing family), his childless marriage, his gambling – about his monument, the second tallest in London, "wits joked that he had to be placed so high to be out of the reach of his creditors" – and his love of the turf; he was a Derby winner. The provenance of the unflattering nursery rhyme is fully investigated too.

Recommended.

Chris Crowcroft
(Haig & Clive, 1963 - 1970)

OBITUARIES

RAYMOND CARPENTER

From Bournemouth Echo

PRINCIPAL clarinet with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Raymond Carpenter, has died at the age of 95.

Born in Woolwich, Ray spent his early years following his family around various postings from the UK to India, in his father's footsteps, a drum major in the Coldstream Guards.

At the age of nine he attended the Duke of York's military school in Dover. When he was 16 he signed up for the Royal Artillery Band and was immediately sent to Kneller Hall, the Royal Military School of Music, where he studied the violin and clarinet.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he returned to the Royal Artillery Band where his duties took him all over Europe and North Africa, making several lifelong friendships.

"In 1948 he bought himself out of the army with £20 worth of books, and a loan from his mother, in order to take up the job he had been offered in the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra as second clarinet to Hiram Lear. At the request of Sir Charles Groves he was invited to become principal in 1953," said Jeremy, one of his son's.

During his time at the BSO he performed in the tenures of Rudolf Schwarz, Sir Charles Groves, Constantin Silvestri, Paavo Berglund, Uri Segal and Rudolf Barshai, and can be heard on all the recordings from this renaissance period of the BSO. He was regularly the soloist in the major clarinet concertos with the orchestra, even having



one written for him by Graham Whettam.

In 1953 he married Cynthia Mitchell, a violinist in the orchestra and later the co-leader with the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, and together they had five children.

"Always mindful of his days as an underling in the army he treated all who played next to him or conducted in front of him with the utmost kindness and respect," said Jeremy.

Even though Ray retired in 1987, he continued to play with

various ensembles both classical and jazz, often with Cynthia. He gave musical lectures, and was instrumental in the production of nine CDs of previously unreleased recordings under the baton of Constantin Silvestri.

Ray also fought tirelessly in an attempt to save the Winter Gardens, the home of so many of the critically acclaimed concerts that he had been part of during the previous decades, sadly to no avail," said Jeremy.

He also wrote two books, 'The BSO: A Centenary Celebration'

in 1993 with Sean Street, and 'Constantin Silvestri; Magician - A view from the Orchestra', in 2011.

After Cynthia died in 2008, he continued to enjoy life, practising yoga until he was 93, reading and writing poetry and lived on his own at home until a week before his death.

Ray died October 29 after a short illness. He will be much missed by family and friends.

He is survived by a sister, five children and eight grandchildren.

(DR) PETER BIRCH

Kitchener & Wellington 1963-70

has died aged 65 on September 13th from oesophageal cancer. A memorial event at Woburn Abbey on October 16th was attended by Dukie contemporaries.

Peter, brother to Don and Lister also at the School, was SUO and CSP. He excelled academically, in sport (rugby & athletics) and in music (euphonium, later trombone in the band). At School he never acted publicly, he took it up at university (Bristol) which led to professional training at Bristol Old Vic where he made his debut in 1976.

Over three decades he appeared onstage in London's West End, in repertory and on tour as well as in television and film. Stage credits in first or second leading man roles in classic and contemporary plays included: Simon Gray's *Quartermaine's Terms*, Chichester Festival and Pitlochry Festival Theatres, *Young Vic*, Shakespeare at St George's and for the British Council abroad. Television ranged from *Auf Wiedersehen Pet*, *By the Sword Divided*, *House of Eliott*, *Portrait of a Marriage*, *Dennis Potter's Blackeyes* and *Poirot* to a series of *Casualty*. He also broadcast poetry and acted in

radio plays for the BBC. In film he appeared in *Aria*, directed by Bruce Beresford, opposite the debuting Elizabeth Hurley (whose brother is a Dukie).

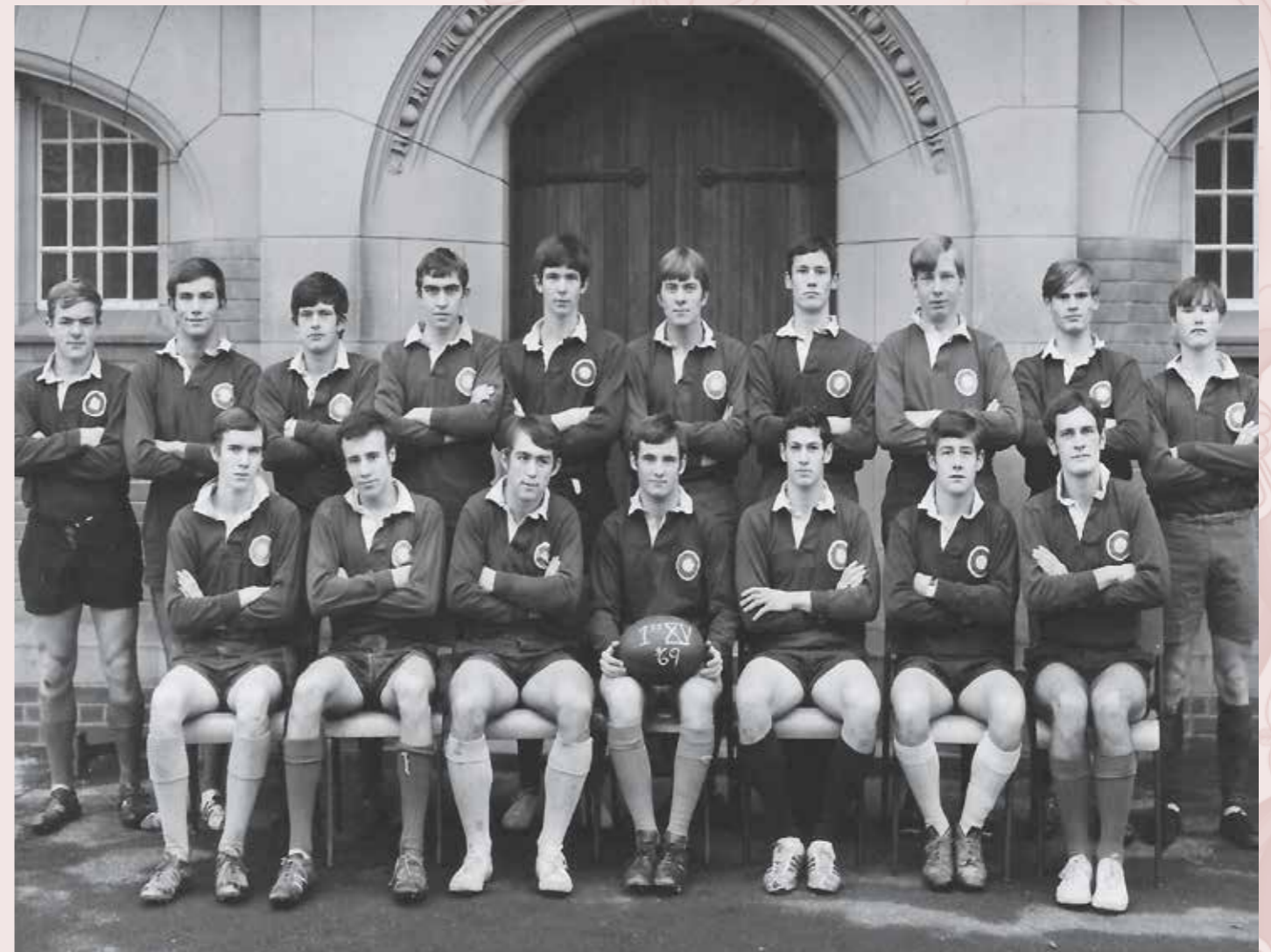
In the 1990s & 2000s Peter progressed into change management/conflict resolution using theatre-based communication techniques – clients included the Department for Education where he adlibbed as a maverick minister disrupting civil servants. He undertook deeper academic study, completing his doctorate at Manchester where he also worked for the faculty. He worked up professional

assignments through Manchester Business School and Cranleigh School of Management and most recently with the London Ambulance Brigade.

In 2012 he married Cristina Cano, from Cordoba in Spain. They have a much cherished son, Henry.

Chris Crowcroft

Peter is pictured back row, second from right, in the 1969 1st XV



PETER DAY

Peter Day's sister, Louise Scott, advised of the death of her brother Peter suddenly at home on 28th October at the young age of 62.

Peter was a member of Wolseley

and Wolfe Houses from 1966 – 1973.

ERROL HARRIES

Errol Harries' brother David advised that Errol passed away on Tuesday 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, later living in Dubai before relocating to Malta GC.

RAY HOWORTH

Ray Howorth, better known as Chas by his older friends, died unexpectedly of a heart attack on the 9th September. He will be remembered by many Dukies for his invaluable service as a

Committee member and the General Secretary of the OBA from 2002 to 2013 when he handed over to Derek Jones.

Ray was a member of Wellington House from 1950 to 1955 following which he attended the

REME Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, retiring from the army in the rank of WO1.

Ray's presence at Old Boy Golf competitions, school Remembrance Weekends and at the three yearly 'Over 60's

Reunion Dinners; will be sadly missed for he was a regular attendee at these events.

Cap Badges

WEAR YOUR FATHER'S WITH PRIDE

Even if you think it's not the right one!

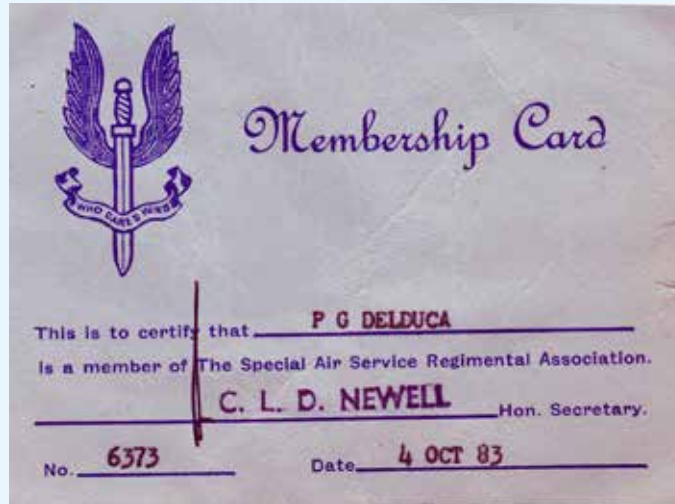
On arriving at DYRMS (as it was known in the 1960s), one of your first treats was a visit to the QM's Stores.

Here you were kitted out with - 2 sets of khaki battle dress, 1 greatcoat, 1 beret, 2 pairs of shoes + brushes to clean them, gym kit, swimming trunks (woollen, and saggy in water) and raincoat are the things that spring to my mind.....

.....oh, and one other important item, your father's cap badge.

As everybody had to have the relevant cap badge you were asked which one. "SAS" I replied. "Was your dad some kind of hero?" the man behind the counter said. "Name?" was his next utterance. He then looked at a list and fell about laughing. "Some hero! Army Catering Corps for you," adding a withering aside to another storeman, "there's always one".

The truth of the matter is that my father joined the Army to get away from his Italian father and his brutal, disciplinarian ways. At the time he was a fireman on a steam engine in the Midlands, a job he hated and so another reason to join up. When he did, he was asked what his previous job had been.



"Right, Royal Engineers for you, we need experienced railway engine crews right now". So much for getting away from a job he hated!

After a short while he managed to volunteer for the Parachute Regiment. Then came the introduction of the SAS to the European theatre of war as it expanded from its North Africa beginnings. My father volunteered again and passed the stiff entrance requirements.

All I know of his service in the SAS was that he was a glider pilot in the September airborne

landings following the June invasion of France, D-Day in 1944. He was hit by fire from a German heavy machine gun and left for dead by his comrades, which probably saved his life; he was found alive 3 days later. He was told later that had he been picked up just after being shot he would almost certainly have died from shock.

After a number of months convalescing he was deemed fit to resume duties but only as a member either of the Royal Army Medical Corps or the Army Catering Corps. He chose the ACC on the theory that "I would rather feed live bodies than pick dead ones up from the battle field;" and the Italian blood must have counted for something – his family made and sold ice-cream in the summer and were builders and laid mosaic floors in the winter.

Both he and I were ridiculed for his being in the ACC, in my case because I had been overheard by other boys in the QM's stores.



In his case it was by the RSM of the Black Watch in 1967. Dad was attached as the SQMS in charge of catering for the 1st Bn. Black Watch. The RSM decided that everybody was to go on church parade and all medals and honours must be worn.

On inspecting my father the RSM said "Are you really entitled to wear those wings?" (Dad wore his SAS wings above his medals). "I very much doubt it" he added in a very loud voice so the whole parade could hear. Dad said nothing but the CO overheard.

The CO then made enquiries and found out the truth, that he was entitled to them. The CO told my father he was to attend the parade again and to wear his wings. During the inspection the CO summoned the RSM to where he was standing, next to my father. He told him he was to apologise to my father for his previous remarks in as loud a voice as he had used when dealing out the insult.

It saddens me now that I never really had any pride in wearing an ACC cap badge on parade, I always hankered for the SAS one. How cool would that have been for an 11 year old? But I now realise that all members of the Armed Forces are needed to make the whole thing tick, for which all should be respected, and today I am proud to say my father was a member of the ACC as well as the SAS.

Pete Delduca
(Haig & Clive, 1963 - 1970)

