

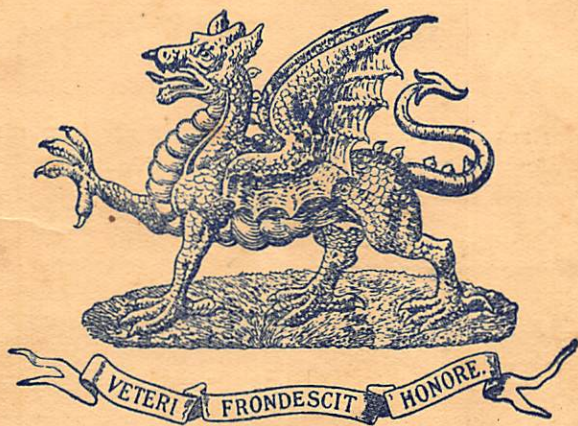
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THE DRAGON

THE REGIMENTAL PAPER
OF THE BUFFS.



No. 425. April, 1935.

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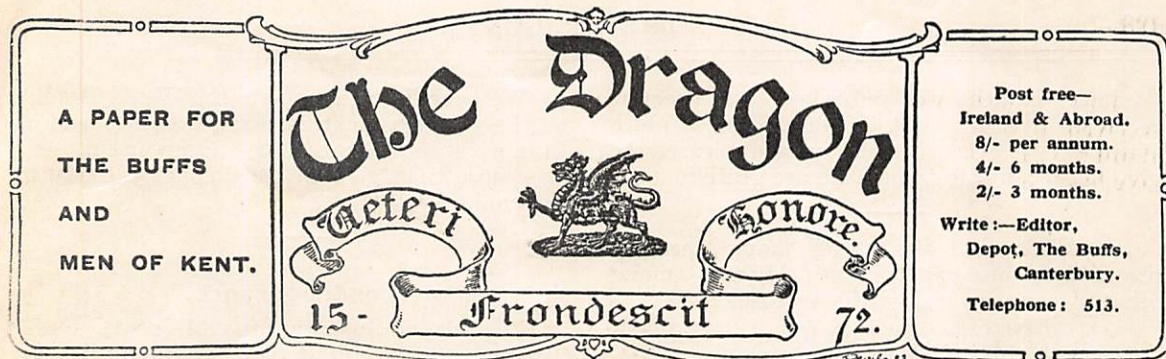
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Allied Regiments.

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3rd Battalion (Werrima Infantry) Australian Military Forces.

No. 425.

April, 1935.

Price Sixpence.

Personalia.

Cable sent on 16th March, 1935.

"TO His Majesty The King of Denmark, Copenhagen. The Buffs offer their humble duty and loyal congratulations on the engagement of the Crown Prince.—LYNDEN BELL."

Cable received on 17th March.

"To General Lynden Bell. Heartiest thanks.—CHRISTIAN R."

H.R.H. the Duke of Kent,
Colonel in Chief,

Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

It is with the greatest pleasure that we offer to our sister regiment of Kent our warmest congratulations on the recent appointment of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent to be their colonel-in-chief.

The Colonel of the Regiment presented the following officers at the Levée, at St. James' Palace, on March 22nd:—Majors George Hamilton and Humphrey Stronge, Captain John Geering, Lieutenants Christopher Hill, Arthur Jelf, Stewart Johnson and Ernest Tassell, 2nd Lieutenants Ernest Edlmann, Richard Edmeades, Anthony Rawlings, Henry Howard, Martin Horley, William Williamson and Alexander Hilton. On 28th March, Sir Arthur attended the meeting of the Kent Territorial Army Association in London and on April 3rd, was present at the Selection Board meeting for the Duke of York's School at the War Office.

We have to thank Brigadier-General R. McDouall for the interesting account of his recent cruise in the Mediterranean.

Many Buffs will have heard with regret of the death of Brig.-General T. C. Stansfield, which occurred at Hythe, on February 22nd. The older Buffs will remember him as Adjutant of the 2nd Mounted Infantry Battalion at Harrismith, 1905—1908.

Colonel H. and Mrs. Findlay have been staying with Colonel and Mrs. Crookenden while moving from Roper House to their new home, "Mill i' th' Mint," Harbledown, Canterbury.

Colonel Edgar Burns (looking very well) was present at the Cranbrook Branch smoking concert, on 16th ultimo.

Sincere congratulations to Colonel B. S. Collard on his brevet promotion.

Major G. Hickman arrived home a few days ago from Rio via Madeira and Lisbon.

We congratulate Major C. F. Witts on his appointment as manager at Lloyds Bank, Buckland, Dover.

Last month we published an account received from the 1st Battalion, of Captain Baird's visit, this month we are pleased to give his account for which we are grateful.

Captain and Mrs. Goff have recently returned from a trip to South Africa; among other places they visited the Victoria Falls.

Mrs. Goff's horse, "Hopetoun," which ran so well last year, was scratched for the Lincolnshire Handicap.

Captain R. and Mrs. Watson, have at last returned home from the States—we understand they contemplate taking a house in East Kent.

Captain Foster Hall, according to present arrangements, is returning home from Singapore via Canada, this summer.

We are sorry to hear that since her recent return home from Maymyo, Mrs. Willows has been ill, we wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

Many Buffs will regret to hear of the death of Mr. L. Gardiner, which occurred at Ashford last month. During his service with the Regiment he was Signalling Sergeant in the 2nd Battalion, 1902—1909.

After the Army Cross Country Championship, on the 19th March, in which our fellows, after holding the Championship for 3 years, finished second, the Colonel of the Regiment sent the following message to C.S.M. Ongley and our Cross Country team—"I am confident you were as great losers as you have been, for 3 years, splendid winners."

We are glad to hear that the Draft which embarked in the *Neuralia*, was successful in winning outright the prize for the best kept Messes, Hammocks, etc., by getting first for three weeks in succession.

The Medway Branch, strength 101, has made a donation of £10 to the Benevolent Fund as a mark of its appreciation of all the fund has done in the past for its members.

What a splendid thing it would be if this Jubilee year, all Branches could afford to follow this excellent example.

We heartily congratulate the Weald Branch on the very excellent Smoking Concert, held at Cranbrook, on March 16th. Everyone present was more than glad to see Colonel J. Body in the chair.

London Branch.

Lt.-Colonel Guy Lee and Major H. C. T. Stronge were present at the last London Branch meeting on March 16th last.

We were pleased to note that Mr. Gordon Lindley was looking very fit at this meeting after a short holiday on the Continent.

Over sixty officers and other ranks of the 8th (S) Battalion attended the Battalion reunion on 9th March, in London.

It was a most enjoyable evening and moreover, a record number of new members to the Past and Present Association were enrolled to the total of one life and nine yearly. Several in addition paid their subscriptions.

We hope to take a nice party to Sittingbourne on the 30th March, when that Branch holds its First Annual Dinner.

We hope to be able to put up a good show in the Jubilee Pageant in London. More definite details will be announced next month.

At the time of going to press we hear that 218 have already warned in for the London Branch Re-union at the London Bridge Hotel. The Dinner and Dance is on May 11th (Jubilee week) and accommodation is for 300.

The next meeting of the London Branch will be the 'Century' meeting. How this branch has flourished since its first general meeting at the Windsor Castle.

The secret is that every member enters the meeting with comradeship tightly tucked under his waistcoat and leaves outside any grumbles, religious and political scruples.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

BIRTH.

Taber.—752822 Dmr. A. Taber, a daughter, Barbara Fileen Ann, born at Helena Hospital, Shorncliffe, on 18/2/35.

ENGAGEMENT.

Captain P. R. H. Fox and Miss Farquharson.

The engagement is announced between Captain P. R. H. Fox, M.C., The Buffs, only son of Sir Harry and Lady Fox, of Corlismore, Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs, and Mary Jeanette, only daughter of Mrs. Farquharson, Keith, Banffshire.

MARRIAGE.

Barham—Garrett.—On February 27th, 1935, Harold Arthur, son of Colonel and Mrs. Barham, of Hole Park, Rolvenden, Kent, to Patricia Elizabeth, daughter of the late Captain V. E. Garrett and the late Mrs. E. V. Gill.

Historical Records of The Buffs, 1704—1914.

By CAPTAIN C. R. B. KNIGHT, late The Buffs.

DONATIONS during the past month have been received from Lieut.-Colonels R. S. I. Friend, L. C. R. Messel and J. F. Whitacre-Allen.

It is not possible yet to give the exact date of publication, but this will be announced as soon as possible.

Proofs are being read by Lt.-Col. L. Howard Smith, R.S.M. P. W. Ransley and Miss Olive Tomlinson, in addition to the author and myself. The collating of the various corrections is a matter of time and it must be remembered that the index cannot be set up until the last page of proofs has been passed.

The index, it may be remarked, will contain 28,000 words.

It is anticipated that the publication of this volume will stimulate the sales of previous volumes and readers of *The Dragon* are reminded that there are not many of these remaining.

The prices of these are as follows :—

Vol. 1 (1572—1704) original binding, 25/- ; Vol. 1, in blue cloth uniform with the forthcoming volume and the War volume, 15/-.

Vol. 3 (The Great War), 7/6.

Orders for these, accompanied by cash, should be sent to Colonel H. Findlay, C.B.E., Dragon Office, Depot the Buffs, Canterbury.

Orders and donations for the forthcoming volume should be sent to me.

MAJOR F. W. TOMLINSON,
Hon. Sec., The Buffs' History,
Old Cottage,
Sandwich.

Signed : F. W. TOMLINSON,
Major.

8th Battalion Re-union Dinner.

ON Saturday, March 9th, the 8th Battalion held their twelfth Annual Re-union Dinner, which was the usual success. It says a very great deal for a Service Battalion which was disbanded some time prior to the conclusion of the War that even now, some twenty-one years after, as many as 60 members should be present, and it reflects very pleasantly on the success of the teaching of those old stalwarts who made the Service Battalions.

It was rather disappointing to see so few officers present and we hope that they will roll up in greater numbers next year. We had, however, Major A. G. Hamilton as our Chairman, and he was in his usual cheery good form with a kindly word or jest for everyone he met.

After the toast of "The King," Mr. G. Lindley proposed the toast of "The Regiment," and prior to so doing appealed for more members for the London Branch of the Past and Present Association—an appeal which was so successful that Mr. E. S. Waters collected names and subscriptions from one new Life and nine new Annual Members, as well as overdue subscriptions from four old members.

Mr. Leonard then spoke of the difficulties of the Dinner Committee, insisting that members should give longer notice of their intention to attend the dinners; and afterwards Captain Overy restored our good humour with a fine selection of Rabelaisian stories. We cannot understand why he has hitherto hidden his talent and the Committee has been instructed to book him as a regular turn.

The final toast was that of "The Chairman," ably proposed by Mr. T. Trumble, and received with much acclamation. After a brief reply from Major Hamilton, we adjourned to various corners of the building.

Very great regret was expressed at the absence through illness of Mr. J. G. Scott, our hard-working Secretary, and we hope he will very soon be restored to full health.

It was a great evening and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present, all of whom had served with the 8th Battalion. If we can only keep our numbers at these gatherings up to the present standard, we shall go far to prove that old soldiers never die (even if some get slightly balder or more corpulent with the passing years), and that the Regimental Spirit of the 8th Battalion The Buffs is still as strong and healthy as ever.

Our Trip to Burma.

THE best trip we have ever had, and a welcome we shall never forget briefly describes our recent visit to the 1st Battalion. And that we may live to visit them again is not only our greatest wish but should also be the aim of every other retired officer who can see his way to making such a trip. He will never regret it.

Now for our doings.

The Hudson Allens gallantly met us at 7 a.m. on our arrival at Rangoon and were the first to entertain us, and the extent of their hospitality can best be gauged by the attractive programme they provided for us during the 36 hours we were with them, five of which only were spent in our beds. Here it is. The use of their car, a race meeting, theatre, dance and cabaret, a water polo match and a visit to the Mingaladon Golf Club. In addition they very kindly provided us with a bearer for the rest of our trip and bedding for the two of us for our train journeys.

What a beautiful race-course Rangoon is, and how picturesque and attractive the charming little Burmese ladies that attend it. But, phew! it was hot. So hot that I refused to leave my punka in the stand to go down and back the horse I was quite convinced would win the second race. Well, it did win and the tote return was just on £18 on a 7/6 bet. Gosh, almost as bad, but not quite, as John Crookenden's experience at Hong Kong. He ought to tell that story in *The Dragon* some day. It will make you weep!

Then came the night train journey to Mandalay, where we, or what the mosquitoes had left of us, were met by the Morgans, Harold not being on leave at the time of our visit. And then off to lunch with the Airys who, in spite of only having arrived a few days previously, were already settled down in their bungalow within the Old Palace walls as if they had been there for months. Hot baths—a thoughtful arrangement—awaited us.

Our next adventure was the trip by the Morgans' car to Maymyo, a beautiful hair-pin drive of some 40 miles to a country and climate not unlike the best in Scotland. A hurried tea, and then a trip to "A" Company, who were in bivouac some ten miles out. Here we found George Howe, Willows, Penlington, Red Parry, Alexander and Atkinson just about to light their camp fire, having returned from a dip at the jungle fowl—or I should say one jungle fowl, as that is all they had brought back with them.

And then back to the Morgan stronghold with its cosy and delightfully smelling log fires. At dinner that evening we were joined by Curly Jackson and the Marshalls. There must be something very invigorating in the climate and life at Maymyo. Curly looked, and is, as young now as he was in the Nelspruit and Dover days of over thirty years ago. He sang in his bath then. He sings in it now. Splendid, and what a joy to meet him and all of those with him, and what a happy family they are.

The next day began at 6 a.m., nine of us proceeding by rail to Goteik Gorge, a thrilling and awesome affair. My tummy still squirms when I think of my passage across it by trolley. On this trip Mrs. Morgan excelled herself. A three-course piping hot breakfast

in the train, a jug-full of iced cocktails on arrival, and the most marvellous lunch, including strawberries and cream was the fare she provided for us. Was it surprising that we slept during the whole of the journey back until just nearing our destination, when Curly woke up and began to sing! Oh yes, there are troublous happenings in Burma too!

The next two days we spent with the battalion, lunching with the Marshalls, dining in the Mess, sight-seeing, and visiting the Parrys, Mrs. Penlington and others. And then back with the Morgans to Mandalay, where we all stayed with Mr. Lacey Nicholls, the Commissioner, and his wife, who gave us a wonderful time.

It is not for me to attempt to describe the thrills of Mandalay. I should fail dismally. Rather let me persuade those interested to read *The Lacquer Lady*. Here they will find a wonderful description of the country and its charming people, together with the remarkable story, brilliantly told, of how we came to acquire Burma. A thrilling book and most of what is described in it still remains to-day.

Here for two days with our white topees, straight from Simon Arzt, cameras, field-glasses and all, globe-trotters from head to toe, we "sight-saw" without a break. And here we enjoyed a marvellous dinner with Bernard Hammond Davies and his merry mess-mates in the Detachment Mess. And what a dinner! Every dish prepared under the supervision of our host, prawns the size of lobsters, and a special menu sketched by the Mess Corporal for each of us.

And finally the grand finale consisting of dance and cabaret at the Gymkhana Club, where at about 3 a.m. Harold Morgan gave us a pas-seul equal to, or better than Charlie Chaplin at his best. And then, full of regrets, as our time with the Regiment was now at an end, we left for the river boat which was to take us down the Irawaddy to Prome. Mrs. Morgan and the Lacey Nicholls came with us for the first two days, whilst on board were also Percy Fox and Miss Farquharson, to whom he has since become engaged. A happy party indeed, and congratulations and good luck to the young couple. Whatever others may say, this river trip is well worth while. In *The Lacquer Lady* will be found a vivid description of the beauty and interest of the river and the charm of the people, ever smiling and generous to a degree. This all remains as it was with just one addition, namely, the Burma oil fields by which we passed.

Another night journey from Prome to Rangoon, where we stayed the next night with friends, completed our wonderful and never-to-be-forgotten trip, and it only remains to thank all in the 1st Battalion for the great time they gave us, and to tell them they have not done with the Bairds yet. White topees and all we intend to become camp followers again wherever they may be sent and hope other retired officers will join us in the trip.

About these white topees, by the way, we are already wondering what the Lucknow fashion is? Perhaps the same as at Port Sudan where a passenger boarded our ship in black boots, socks, shorts and a bowler hat. Perhaps Simon Arzt will not be able to manage that!

H.H.C.B.

Records of Other Regiments.



THE ROYAL IRISH FUSILIERS (PRINCESS VICTORIA'S).

BATTLE HONOURS.

Borne on the Regimental Colour:—"The Sphinx" (superscribed "Egypt"), "Monte Video," "Talavera," "Barrosa," "Java," "Tarifa," "Vittoria," "Nivelle," "Niagara," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Ava," "Sevastopol," "Tel-el-Kebir," "Egypt, 1882/1884," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1899/1902."

Borne on the King's Colour:—"Le Cateau," "Marne, 1914," "Ypres, 1915, '17, '18," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Arras, 1917," "Messines, 1917, '18," "Lys," "Macedonia, 1915/1917," "Sulva," "Palestine, 1917/1918."

* * * * *

The Royal Irish Fusiliers, now a single battalion regiment, "linked" with The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, are the modern representatives of two gallant regiments which were formerly numbered as the 87th and 89th Regiments of Foot. Both these regiments were raised in Ireland owed their origin to the French Revolution. At first the British people looked on that great upheaval complacently, and maintained an attitude of benevolent neutrality. The horrors of "the Reign of Terror" caused a revulsion of feeling, but even then there was no desire on the British Government's part to interfere in the internal affairs of France; in February, 1792 William Pitt reduced the Navy Estimates, telling the House of Commons that "unquestionably there never was a time in the history of this country when we might more reasonably expect fifteen years than at the present moment." Within a few months of those words being uttered, we were engaged in a war which lasted for twenty years, and was of greater magnitude than any other war in which Britain has ever been engaged, except that of 1914/18. The French Revolutionary Government declared their intention of overthrowing all other Governments in Europe, and on 1st February, 1793 they declared war on Great Britain. To cope with these enemies several new regiments were added to the British Army during the year 1793, two of them (both recruited in Ireland) being the 87th and 89th Regiments of Foot.

Both regiments took part in the campaign in Holland in 1794, thus having their baptism of fire before they were twelve months old, and for the next two decades they were rarely at peace, and still more rarely on home service.

The 87th gained great distinction during the Peninsular Campaign, particularly at the Battle of Barrosa, where Sgt. Masterson captured the Eagle of the 8th French Regiment of the Line. This was the first French Eagle to be captured in the Peninsular War and it is said that a second Eagle (that of the 47th French Regiment) also fell into the hands of the 87th that day, but owing to wounds and fatigue its captor was unable to prevent the French from regaining it. As a reward for their success in capturing this trophy, it was ordered that the 87th (or Prince of Wales's Own Irish) Regiment of Foot, should henceforth bear on their Colours the badge of an Eagle, with a laurel wreath and the number "8" below.

Sir John Fortescue, the famous military historian, says of Barrosa, "the battle is one of the bloodiest and one of the most creditable to the British Troops to be found in the history of the British Army." Barrosa Day (5th March) is always kept as a fête day in The Royal Irish Fusiliers, when the memory of their gallant predecessors is recalled by the regimental song:—

"Here's to the Eight and the beautiful Seven,
Who fought at Barrosa in Eighteen Eleven;
Fixed their bayonets, did advance,
And took the Eagle from the Eighth of France."

Sergeant Masterson, the man who took the Eagle, was promoted to Sergeant-Major and afterwards granted a commission. It is of interest to note that his grandson served as a Sergeant in The Royal Irish Fusiliers, being granted a commission in The Devonshire Regiment, with which regiment he served in the Boer War, and was awarded the Victoria Cross.

According to regimental tradition, the 87th were retained at Hong Kong during the second Chinese War, because the 8th French Regiment formed part of the Allied Field Force, and it was felt that the sight of the Eagle badges lost by their predecessors might cause friction. The Eagle itself was shown among the trophies at Chelsea Hospital until April, 1852, when it mysteriously disappeared, and is believed to have been stolen by a patriotic Frenchman.

In 1827, shortly after their return from a long spell of service in the East, which included active service against the Pindarees, the Gurkhas, and the Burmese, the 87th were honoured with the title of "The Prince of Wales's Own Irish Fusiliers," this title being changed only a few months after to "The Royal Irish Fusiliers."

The Battle Honour "Ava" commemorates the services of both 87th and 89th in the first Burmese War. This campaign (as a result of which the valuable province of Assam, famous for its tea plantations, was added to our Eastern possessions) was of a very arduous and trying nature. The Battle Honour was not lightly earned, for nearly two hundred officers and men of the 87th and 89th were killed or wounded in action, while probably twice as many died of disease or were invalided, since the climate of Burma was very bad for Europeans in those days, when sanitation and medical science were still in their infancy.

In 1881 the 87th and 89th were united as 1st and 2nd Battalions The Royal Irish Fusiliers. The 89th (Princess Victoria's) had previously been an ordinary line regiment, wearing green facings and the usual spiked helmet; on becoming 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Fusiliers, the facings were changed to blue (as already worn by the 87th) and the helmet was replaced by a Fusilier busby.

During the Great War The Royal Irish Fusiliers had fourteen battalions, and their war-cry of "Faugh-a-Ballagh" ("Clear the Way") was heard on many fronts. Forty-four new Battle Honours were earned by the Regiment during 1914/18. After the close of the Great War, the 87th took part in the North-West Persia Campaign 1919/20 and the Iraq Campaign of 1920/21. In 1922 the regiment was in danger of disbandment at the time when so many magnificent Irish regiments were swept away, but this unhappy fate was averted by reducing both The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and The Royal Irish Fusiliers to single battalion regiments and linking them together for draft-finding purposes.

R. MAURICE HILL.

Milestones.

THERE are periodically, in the history of a regiment, epochs which seem to have defined themselves. Sometimes it may be war and sometimes nothing that one can lay one's hand on.

The impending retirement of Lieut.-Colonel J. V. R. Jackson marks such a period, for he is the last officer left who joined during the South African War. Looking back through the years and remembering not all of the officers who joined from shall we say Greatwood down to Jackson, one cannot refrain from saying that taking us all in all we were a very happy company. Some, of course, went to the 1st Battalion out East, and others to the 2nd in South Africa; we met and formed friendships as the years passed and battalion feuds became a thing of the past (we, I think, can take credit for that).

The names that pass through my mind—and there must be many others, are Archer Houblon, Ransford, Percy Harland, Stuff Lucas, Eric Norman and Philip Flower; George and Reggie Friend, Howard and Gilead Smith; Arthur Trueman and Henry Hardy; George Chapman, Chichester, Fort, Soames, Weary Green, Guy Lee, Miles Beavor and Rory Slacke; John Crookenden and Tim Studd. Happy days!

F.W.T.

Correspondence.

Ciboure,
Basses-Pyrénées.
April 1st, 1935.

Dear Mr. Editor,

I wonder has it struck anyone that, with the relinquishment of his command this month by Colonel Jackson, there also disappears the last of the medals for the Boer War from the Active List of the Regiment?

Battle Honours with their medals, and medals earned by the Regiment not carrying Battle Honours serve also a useful purpose in defining the "Generations" of the Regiment.

My own contemporaries joined while the generation of the Zulu War was still represented by Colonel Backhouse.

To the best of my recollection, Colonel Home was the last I saw wearing the old Indian General Service Medal with red and blue ribbon. Perhaps someone can inform me whether Colonel Home wore this medal for the "Perak" Campaign with the Regiment or whether he had earned it individually for another Indian Campaign? The Perak Campaign, so interestingly described recently in *The Dragon* by Captain Foster Hall, was accountable for one of the medals awarded to the Regiment without carrying a Battle Honour with it. For British troops this clasp was somewhat rare as the only British infantry entitled to it were the 3rd, 10th and 80th Foot.

The next generation was that of Chitral, with the General Service Medal with red and green ribbon. This generation was brought to an end with the command of Colonel Power.

Then came our own generation, now coming to an end with Colonel Jackson.

It would be interesting to try to forecast to whom the distinction is likely to fall of terminating the two generations at present under way, the generation of the Great War and that of the new Indian General Service Medal for Burma which, like the Perak Campaign, carries with it no Battle Honour.

The 1st Battalion in 1903/04 had the rather rare distinction of being officially on "Active Service" in Aden though no medal was awarded, and Colonel Ravenhill had the distinction, more rare still, of being awarded the Distinguished Service Order for Service which carried no accompanying medal.

Perhaps some of our senior retired officers may be able to inform us what earlier medals, Taku Forts or perhaps Crimea, were still to be seen among the Active List when they joined?

I imagine that it must be rare when the "Oldest Soldier" in the Regiment is other than the Commanding Officer; so that it would seem that, in all cases that I can recollect, it has been the Commanding Officer who has had the honour of being the last to wear the various medals on his regimental uniform.

Yours sincerely,
EDMUND F. GOULD.

February 24th, 1935.

Dear Colonel,

Please accept my sincere thanks for your very nice letter conveying the sympathy of my comrades, past and present Buffs.

We were married in Singapore in 1880.

I am, Sir,
Yours very sincerely,
O. N. HARRIS.

Herne Bay.

Reminiscences.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Since you were kind enough to publish my reminiscences, I have remembered a few more incidents in which I have been mixed up, which I have now jotted down.

On my voyage to Cape Town, one hot day I went to sleep on a deck-chair with a lighted cigar between my first and second fingers. I woke up with the impression that a red-hot poker was being driven into my back, the reason being that a dear little boy had carefully removed the cigar and put it down the back of my neck. I had to roll on the deck to put the infernal thing out, and then I dealt with that little boy until his yelps produced his mother. This little episode had a sequel when we were transshipping at Port Elizabeth from the ocean-going ship to a small coaster. There was a big sea running and the mother, her little treasure and her baby were with me in a small and very wet boat. The mother seized the occasion to go into hysterics, but not before she had deposited the baby in my lap. When we reached the coaster a huge basket was let down into which the mother and her treasure were placed and hauled up on deck. I, on the other hand, was presented with a rope ladder and, to the joy of the seaman, attempted to climb up it with the baby crushed in my arms. Half-way up the vessel gave a huge roll and we swung out over the sea, and of course the baby took that opportunity to get rid of all its corners and slipped out of my arms. Just before it touched the water one of the men in the boat caught it with a boat-hook and as the boat rose on the next wave hauled it up on deck. The lady seemed to have recovered from her hysteria and over our interview I draw a veil.

Months after the above painful episode, when I was settled down in Natal, one of my brother officers who had got away on a civil job was driving along the coast road North of Durban with another man in a dogcart. They saw a python, which had apparently lately dined on a small deer, asleep by the side of the road. They stopped, got out and, as they thought, killed the snake, and then stuffed its body under the back seat and drove on. The snake awoke, and being unhappy, inserted its tail round the legs of the man who was driving and then fell out of the cart, drawing the man as far as he could go under the seat. He yelled and the pony ran away, and the other man was only just able to stop it in time to save his friend by really killing the python.

Years after this I was travelling in the wilds of Japan with another Buff. Things were very primitive and the usual bathing arrangements were a big tub of water which was heated by red-hot stones which had to be extracted before you got in—we had had a certain amount of competition for the first of the water and one night my friend got ready first and jumped into the tub and sat down, only to shoot out with a yell as one of the biggest stones had been left in the water. For some days he had to take his meals standing up.

A little later that year I was travelling across America and when going over the Rockies we were all tumbled out of the train for a meal—no dining-cars in those days. We sat down at a long table presided over by a very haughty-looking damsel who gave us to understand that we had to take whatever was given us. The soup arrived, and was pretty awful, and a rough-looking miner didn't seem to like it and gently said: "Hi, Miss." When he had attracted the young lady's attention and also that of all of us, he said: "You might let that there chicken run through this water again!" For once she had no reply.

One more recollection of a South African afternoon. One bright day in Pietermaritzburg three of us rode out to call on a dear old lady, the plump widow of a Dutch Chief Justice. On the way we borrowed a pony-cart from our Padre and had it pulled by some Kafirs to the house we were bound for. On arrival we explained that we had come to take our old friend for an outing, and after considerable persuasion we got her to perch herself on the back seat of the cart. My old horse being reputed to have once been in harness, was put into the shafts and the other two horses attached to him tandem fashion by ropes and mounted by my two friends while I drove. We started quite nicely, but gradually the pace improved and then we met a fence, which the leader cleared in style; the second horse straddled it and its rider fell off. My old horse stuck in the ditch and the back seat with the old lady fell off. She subsequently remarked: "Dey was going so fast I sought I had better get out." We had to pay for the cart and consequently were very hard up for months.

Yours,

A. J. W. A.

Victory March.

The Editor, "The Dragon."

Dear Sir,

I understand that no trace or record can be found of the 2nd Battalion taking part in the great Victory March held in London during July, 1919.

This march was considered the greatest military ceremony ever held in England. Every Army, Army Corps, Division, Brigade and Regiment were represented, also every nation who fought on the Allies' side.

The departments of the British Government were present, also the Governments of the Allies were represented, in some cases the heads of the Government.

The rendezvous and dispersal of the troops took place in Hyde Park.

The march was approximately twelve miles through the streets of London and at the head of each contingent was the Commander who had commanded during the War.

The whole force marched past the King, who was accompanied by members of the Royal Family and heads of our Allies, who stood on the steps of the Queen Victoria Memorial, outside Buckingham Palace.

Those chosen to represent the 2nd Battalion were those who had served almost continuously throughout the War, and who had at some time or other during the campaign distinguished themselves. They were as follows:—

Captain R. B. Sandilands, M.C., M. in D.
 R.S.M. A. W. Andrews, D.C.M., 2 M. in D., F.D.
 C.S.M. Cook, M. in D., F.D.
 C.Q.M.S. Blackman, M.S.M.
 C.Q.M.S. Austin, M.S.M.
 C.Q.M.S. Slender, M.S.M.
 Sgt. Potts, M.S.M.
 Sgt. Ambrose, M.S.M.
 Sgt. Howard, M.M. and M. in D.
 Sgt. Freeman, M. in D.
 Sgt. Gifford, M. in D.
 Sgt. Mannering, M. in D.
 Sgt. Webb.
 Sgt. Wilkins.
 Another.

M. in D. denotes Mention in Despatches.

F.D. denotes Decorated by the Allies.

It may be possible to trace the missing name, and if now considered worthy, the event could be recorded, although some sixteen years late.

Yours faithfully,

O. O. PARTY.

A Charming Compliment.

Mylncroft,
Furnley Green.

Dear Sir,

Since the 2nd Battalion has been in these parts I have received notices from the Regiment of interesting forthcoming events, stating day, time and place, in consequence of which I was able to witness the 2nd Battalion win the Aldershot Cross-Country Run in such fine style.

I understand that all retired officers, who live in the neighbourhood, receive similar notices.

I am sure I am voicing the feelings of all Old Buffs in saying that this gesture is very much appreciated. We realise we are not forgotten, and that the old saying we learnt early in our service—"Once a Buff, always a Buff"—is being kept very much alive by those still serving.

Yours faithfully,

L. W. LUCAS,

Lieut.-Colonel.

The Editor, "The Dragon."

c/o Drill Hall,
4th Battalion The Buffs,
Shellen Street,
Folkestone, Kent.

March 13th, 1935.

The Editor, "The Dragon."

Dear Sir,

May I, through *The Dragon*, thank the Committee and members of The Buffs Club, for obtaining me a situation at Folkestone as the Steward of their Club? Also the Adjutant of the 4th Battalion The Buffs, for the post of Caretaker of the Drill Hall.

I would like to make special mention of Sammy Martin for the kindly assistance he has given me in settling into these two jobs, not forgetting Mrs. Sammy, also for finding me such a fine four-roomed cottage quite close to my employment. Not only has he assisted me in this, but he has personally seen that a new stove was put into the front room. He has seen the Gas Company re the lighting and gas stove; in fact he has set me up in civilian life, not as a newcomer, but like an old hand. I have entered civil life fully equipped and fully confident of success, through the kindly efforts of Sammy and Mrs. Sammy. In fact, I've left The Buffs to join The Buffs. Thank you, Sammy. May success follow you through life. It's the spirit of the Regiment. "Once a Buff, always a Buff."

King thoughts to the members of the Sergeants' Mess and members of the Band, 2nd Battalion The Buffs.

Well, Sam, here is a motto for your pub: "Don't let beer get the better of you, come here and get the better beer."

J. M. RICHARDS (OLD JOE).

How to get "The Dragon."

For those wishing to receive the Paper direct through the post each month, the rates of subscription are:—

1 year, 8/- 6 months, 4/- 3 months, 2/-

Remittances should be sent to the Editor, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.

A Visit to the Ruby Mines at Mogok.

"THREE clubs." "That's not enough, Pam!"

"Oh well, no bid then!" "You can't do that now, we've told you that before." "How do you expect me to play this silly game when you all keep jumping up and shoving your heads over the side—oh, but you must look now!" And so we spent the journey up the river. A combination of bridge and sight-seeing—of rubbers and rubber-necking. The most peaceful way of seeing the country is to travel by one of the Irrawaddy Flotilla boats—no dust or bumps—you sit in a deck-chair under an awning and the scenery of Burma unfolds itself to your eye mile after mile. At this time of year (February) the river is low and has dropped some forty feet below the level of the rainy season, and directly the mud banks appear above the surface the Burmans rush out and plant their rice. So instead of brown mud the whole landscape is bright green. The golden pagodas rising above the trees and the huts of the native villages are reflected vividly in the brown water, and the colours at sunset are indescribable.

We arrived at Thabeitkyn in the evening, where we slept in a dak bungalow, and next morning we set off by car to Mogok. It is a sixty mile drive along an indifferent road, with more hairpin bends than I have experienced before. At each halt the greenest-looking passenger was given an outside seat in case of emergency, but the view from the top of the pass, which is nearly 5,000 feet, is so wonderful that we forgot to feel sea-sick any more. I was told that these mountains are the oldest in the world. How do they know? but I believed it.

Mogok itself is nothing to write home about. A collection of native dwellings, a large bazaar and half-a-dozen European houses. But as you sit on the terrace of the circuit house and look across the lake to the blue mountains beyond, you might fancy you were in Switzerland and not Burma. The lake, by the way, came into being when the ruby mines in that area were worked out.

The charm of the place is of course the ruby mines. Most Englishmen are at heart gamblers, and for that reason I suppose I got a thrill from watching the mine in operation. It is a gamble. There is little to indicate even to the expert when and where these precious stones may be found. They know that rubies occur only where two kinds of stone have interfused, but like the pearl in the oyster, they must explore before they can tell whether the stone is there. For weeks or even months the mine may work without a find, and then one lucky day they may come upon sufficient to pay for their past labours and to show a handsome profit. The "Pigeon's blood" ruby is hardly ever found outside this district, and commands a price which makes your mouth water. On Armistice Day they dug out the "Peace Ruby" which sold uncut the next day for three lacs, and the purchaser refused double that amount for it the following week. This is of course exceptional, the average size of the good stones being that of a pea, and not worth more than a thousand rupees each. The supply can't meet the demand, which comes principally from Paris and New York.

Now why can't we go and grub up these precious stones and make a fortune? There is plenty of unworked land and little competition, and we should only have to find one good stone a month to earn more than we do soldiering. I suppose the answer is that others have tried and failed.

The Mediterranean.



TUNIS - Souk des Etoffes.

Dear Sir,

I have just returned from a cruise round the Mediterranean in Lord Fairhaven's yacht *Sapphire* R.Y.S. Although we had some pretty rough days, on the whole we got through very well, under the skilful guidance of that famous navigator, Captain Reavely, R.N.R. He has been sailing the Mediterranean for forty years and what he doesn't know about that uncertain sea is not worth knowing.

Firstly, then, we came to Gibraltar, where we were entertained by those dear old friends of the Regiment, Their Excellencies Sir Charles and Lady Harington. The General made things very easy for us to see all the sights on the rock, and Lady Harington took us to a meet of the Calpe Hounds, of which she is Joint Master with (Larrios) Marquis de Marzales. Many were the enquiries for The Buffs, "Micky" Power "Stuffy" Lucas and all.

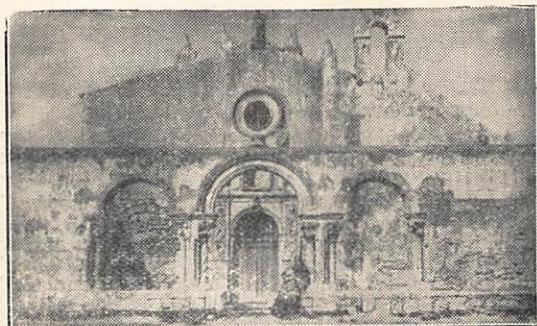
Our voyage took us along the North Coast of Africa, Algeria and Tunis. At Oran we saw many of the famous Foreign Legion, looking extremely smart and prosperous.

At Tunis we visited the site of Ancient Carthage and were hospitably entertained by the Governor-General Azan and Madame Azan. The General is very proud of his "dear D.S.O." which our King conferred upon him in the Great War. We were invited to inspect a detachment of French African Cavalry (Spahis), magnificent fellows in scarlet cloaks. And by the kindness of the Squadron Commander (Capitaine Roz-Grey) we were able to ride with them about twelve miles in the interior. I must say flannel trousers were not the best garments for this exercise conducted "au galop." I enclose a photograph of the French Generals' G.H.Q. showing his type of married quarters.

The French run Tunis as a Protectorate. The Arab Bey is the nominal head; the French General is his Minister of War, and another French gentleman is Prime Minister. The Army is also French!

Next we came to Malta, which has changed so much since my last visit forty years ago. Open spaces, first class roads, excellent golf links of 18 holes—all good grass and a green fee of 3d. per day. This must be the cheapest place in the Empire. (Buffs Golfing Society please note!)

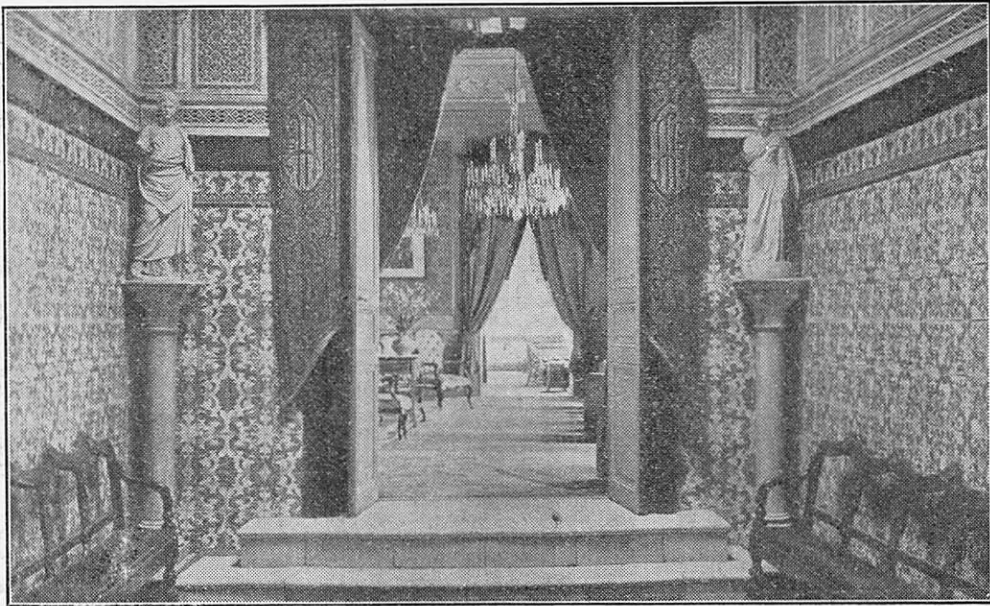
SYRACUSE.



Church of San Giovanni Alle Catacombe.

Visit to Ruby Mines—continued.

So with a sigh we left Mogok, tore ourselves away from the mines, and tried to forget the picture of Burmese coolies picking out priceless rubies with their fingers from piles of sifted stones. They had collected a cigarette tin full that week and were not doing badly on the day of our visit. The return journey was even more beautiful than the outward one—the sun set behind the mountains as we topped the pass. I must have been asleep in my chair on the Irrawaddy boat when I was aroused by the remark: "You have revoked again, Flash!"



Married Quarters.

Hence to Syracuse, the wind being favourable. We saw there the ancient Catacombs or caves where the earliest Christians hid themselves, also the amphitheatre where they were thrown to the lions.

Passing through the Straits of Messina, the Scylla and Charybdis of the Ancients, we came to Naples. Here one can see all the most beautiful statues by the Roman and Greek sculptors of the first century B.C. and first century A.D., as well as the dug out cities of Herculanium and Pompeii.

It is interesting to observe the effect of Mussolini's discipline. No motor horns whatever are permitted

and people walk only on one side of the street, *i.e.*, up one side and down the other. The Fascist police shepherd the people on to the pavements and off the road all the time. Here also were many troopships full of Italian soldiers off to Abyssinia.

Our last run was to Cannes from Naples; being held up at Elba by contrary winds for three days, but here we are, after a stormy night, the sun is shining and the sea is calm, and All's Well.

Yours,

R.McD.

Our Contemporaries.

WE acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following journals:—

"Aldershot Command News." "The Covenanter."
 "Our Empire." "The Suffolk Regimental Gazette."
 "The Snapper." "The Hampshire Regimental Journal."
 "The Queen's Own Gazette." "The Gunners."
 "Journal of The Royal Army Service Corps." "The Royal Tank Corps Journal." "The Indian Army Ordnance Corps Gazette." "St. George's Gazette."
 "Journal of the Honourable Artillery Company."
 "The Snapper." "Journal of The Nigeria Regiment."
 "The Tiger and The Rose." "The London Scottish Regimental Gazette." "The Green Howards' Gazette."

SOME DATES.

- Apr. 6. Oxford *v.* Cambridge Boat Race.
 May 6. Royal Procession and Thanksgiving Service.
 June 18—21. Ascot.
 19. Dragon Club Dinner.
 Aug. 3—9. Canterbury Cricket Week.
 11. Service of Remembrance.

The Past and Present Association.

DISBURSEMENTS.

During the period 18/2/35 to 18/3/35 the following disbursements have been made :—

	£	s.	d.
Feb. 19. Grant	1	10	0
19. Grant	0	4	6
23. Grant	1	10	0
23. Grant	1	0	0
26. Grant	1	0	0
26. Grant	2	0	0
Mar. 2. Grant	0	10	0
4. Grant	0	15	0
4. Grant	1	10	0
5. Grant	0	10	0
7. Grant	2	0	0
9. Grant	1	10	0
12. Grant	2	15	8
14. Grant	1	0	0
15. Grant	0	2	6
16. Grant	2	0	0

NEW MEMBERS.

Life Members.—Sgt. L. Baker; Ptes. W. Hollman, E. Lamming, B. Poole, L. Woods, L. James, R. Curtis, L. Ashdown, P. Coote, G. Covell, J. Davis, E. Ellender, W. Edwards, F. Gammon, F. Hadlum, G. Jarvis, J. O'Rourke, J. Philips, G. Ripley, R. Ruane, J. Skipwith, L. West, H. Wilson.

Annual Members.—Captain R. S. Wellman, M.C.; Lieut. G. B. Mason; 2/Lieut. F. H. Howard; Messrs. F. Dixon, R. Knowles, E. Lowdell, R. Richardson, R. F. Blan, H. Carter, F. Clem, A. E. Pope.

Fixtures.

- April 27. 2/5th Battalion Dinner.
- May 11. London Branch Dinner.
- June 16. Cenotaph March.
- 23. Wrotham Picnic.
- Aug. 11. Service of Remembrance.

Branch Meetings, April.

- April 13. Ashford (Drill Hall).
- 20. London (Prince Alfred Restaurant).
- 12. Dover (Friendly Societies' Institute).
- 27. Medway (Unity Club).
- 5. Sittingbourne (Drill Hall).
- 26. Ramsgate (Drill Hall).
- 10. Margate (Drill Hall).
- 5. Canterbury (Rhodaus Town).
- 9. Herne Bay Sub-Branch (Druid's Head and Drill Hall).
- 9. Folkestone (Drill Hall).
- 9. Sandwich (Rifle Range).
- 2. Deal (Deal Working Men's Club, West Street).

Shooting.

Herewith results of Postal Shoot for the month of February, 1935 :—

The Depot	...	...	...	...	575
Ashford	...	...	...	...	575
Dover	...	...	...	...	570
2nd Battalion	...	...	...	...	490
Sittingbourne	...	...	...	...	480
Ramsgate	...	...	...	...	428

THE DEPOT.

							Total.	
L/Cpl. Berry	20	20	20	20	19	99✓
Sgt. Hoskins	20	20	19	20	19	98
Sgt. Curliss	20	19	19	20	19	97
Pte. Baron	19	18	19	20	20	96
R.S.M. Ransley	19	18	19	19	19	94✓
Cpl. Honeybunn	20	17	16	19	19	91✓
								575
C.S.M. Farrow	17	19	19	18	17	90✓
Q.M.S. Shorter	18	17	18	17	17	87

ASHFORD.

Mr. Lambkin	...	...	19	20	20	20	19	98
Mr. Gascoine	...	...	19	18	20	20	19	96
Mr. Avis	...	...	19	20	19	20	18	96
Mr. Elkington	...	...	19	19	19	20	18	95
Mr. Hogben	...	...	18	20	19	19	19	95
Mr. Harrison	...	...	18	18	20	19	20	95
								575

Mr. Salmon	...	...	16	19	17	18	20	90
Mr. Hogwood	...	...	15	18	17	18	18	86

DOVER.

Mr. Deal	...	...	20	18	19	20	19	96
Mr. Miles	...	...	19	19	19	19	19	95
Capt. Hallam	...	...	19	19	19	18	20	95
Mr. Mace	...	...	19	20	18	19	19	95
Mr. Hudsmith	...	...	18	19	18	20	20	95
Mr. Mead	...	...	19	18	19	20	18	94

570

Mr. Barker	...	...	19	19	20	18	18	94
Mr. Warren	...	...	18	18	18	20	19	93

2ND BATTALION.

L/Cpl. Frye	...	...	18	16	16	18	20	88✓
C.S.M. Wickham	...	...	16	17	17	18	18	86
Cpl. Howe...	...	...	14	16	18	15	18	81✓
S.I.M. Fletcher	...	...	17	13	17	15	17	79
Sgt. Osborne	...	...	14	16	15	18	15	78✓
Cpl. Austen	...	...	15	19	13	16	15	78

490

SITTINGBOURNE.

Sgt. Larkin	...	...	19	18	17	18	18	90
Mr. T. Foord	...	...	17	16	16	19	19	87
Mr. W. Mount	...	...	17	17	18	17	13	82
C.S.M. Clancy	...	...	18	15	18	15	14	80
Sgt. Davies	...	...	13	16	19	14	16	78
Mr. C. Chappell	...	...	14	16	5	16	12	63
								480

Mr. J. Skinner	...	...	14	14	7	15	12	62
Mr. H. Martin	...	...	15	7	14	15	6	57

RAMSGATE.

Mr. Adams	...	...	16	15	17	19	16	83
Mr. Kemp...	...	...	17	16	14	16	14	77
Mr. Sackett	...	...	7	17	15	17	14	70
Mr. Moody	...	...	15	13	12	17	12	69
Mr. Lambert	...	...	15	15	16	17	5	68
Mr. Hughes	...	...	11	14	14	14	8	61
								428

Ashford Branch.

It is with deepest regret that I have to commence my notes for this month with the announcement of the passing of two of our members, Mr. Arthur Waghorn on March 5th and Mr. Jack Gardner on March 15th. Both of these members were old and trusted comrades, having been members of this Branch since it was formed in 1926. We shall miss them greatly. Mr. Waghorn was buried at Ashford, on March 9th and Mr. Gardner at Willesborough, on March 20th. The Branch was represented at both funerals and floral tributes were sent.

On Saturday, March 9th, the monthly meeting was held at the Drill Hall.

We were again honoured with the presence of our President, Captain A. C. Crothall, who presented Meritorious Bars to Mr. E. J. Sherrard and Mr. W. Manktelow. He also presented the following prizes won by members of the Rifle Club during the past year:—

Findlay Cup, Mr. F. H. Harrison; Captain Oakley's Prize, Mr. H. T. Avis; Branch Prizes, 1st, Mr. L. Lambkin, 2nd, Mr. W. Elkington; Bell Medal, Mr. H. T. Avis; Daily Mail Certificate, Mr. W. Elkington; Daily Telegraph Certificate, Mr. W. Elkington; News of the World Certificate, Mr. A. E. Gascoine; 3 Silver Spoons, Mr. H. T. Avis; 1 Silver Spoon, Mr. A. E. Gascoine.

Mr. L. Lambkin, Rifle Club Secretary, presented his Balance Sheet for the past year. This showed a satisfactory credit balance. Mr. F. H. Harrison moved and Mr. E. J. Sherrard seconded that the Balance Sheet be accepted also a hearty vote of thanks be accorded Mr. L. Lambkin for his services. (Carried unanimously.)

Mr. L. Lambkin in reply pleaded for better support for the club. They had managed to win the Inter-Branch Shooting Cup last year and were leading again this year on points, but they had to rely on the same few members each time. If any of these fell sick at any time we had no other good shots to replace them. This should not be so. He felt certain that there were many members in the room to-night who could do as well or better than the members of the team if they would only come down and practice. It was an interesting sport and an inexpensive one. Fifty rounds of ammo. could be purchased for 1/6. There were numerous prizes to be competed for and there would be more according as the club increased in membership. Many of these competitions were handicaps, so that everyone had a sporting chance. If only members would come along for one or two evenings and try their luck he was sure they would soon be as enthusiastic as he and the remainder of the team were. The range is open from 7.30 p.m. till 10 p.m. every Friday evening.

The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony.

The mystery prize presented by our Chairman, Mr. J. E. King was won by Mr. W. Manktelow.

On Saturday, March 16th, a party from this Branch visited Cranbrook at the invitation of The Weald Branch, to be present at a Smoking Concert held at the Drill Hall. Unfortunately I was unable to be present, but according to report, I missed a real treat. Col. Body, Chairman of The Weald, welcomed the Ashford Branch and said how pleased he was to have the oldest Branch of the Association with them that evening. Col. H. Findlay, Col. B. S. Collard and Captain A. E. Loyd Harcastle were also present. The concert party engaged were absolutely top-hole. In fact "It might have been worse," but could not have been better, and as for the refreshments, well, my mouth has been watering ever since Mr. King told me about them on the next day. Hats off to The Weald Branch for a really splendid show.

Late News—I hear strong rumours of some wonderful shooting by the Ashford Branch this month, so Dover and The Depot, "Look through your peeps" or you'll be 'Also Ran's' again this year.

T.H.H.

London Branch.

The 99th meeting of the above branch was held on March 16th last, with the usual great gathering of members. Captain E. Smith took the Chair and was supported by a large number of officers.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Arising out of the minutes the chairman explained that the question raised by a member at the last meeting respecting the introduction of political opinion into the Association, stated that the Branch Committee would abide—as it always had done—with the rule that the introduction of politics was strictly forbidden.

Captain Enright referred to the cutting handed to him at the February Meeting concerning the case of —, who got into a little trouble at Folkestone. Colonel Findlay had telephoned him prior to this man's release and he was met, looked after and seen safely to his abode in the country.

It was reported by the Secretary that Major James was very ill, but the latest news was that there was a little improvement. The members received the news with great sorrow and all present hoped for a very quick recovery. This branch was most touched with the kind thought of Major James who, lying on a bed of sickness, sent a message through Mrs. James to all present.

Mr. Borland stated that since he made his proposal last meeting, that it would be a nice action to bring along as guests of the branch our old men who enlisted in the 'Seventies,' the Branch Committee had been very carefully into the question and Captain Enright had written to him on the subject expressing the Committee's views. He realised that the majority of the old men were not enjoying the best of health; it would mean a conveyance to bring them to the dinner and take them home afterwards. Members would have to be asked to look after and be responsible for their welfare and further, the fact of meeting their old friends might be too much. He had, therefore, consulted with his second, Mr. Elvey and now wished to withdraw the proposition. This was agreed.

SITTINGBOURNE BRANCH.—The Chairman made a further announcement respecting the First Annual Dinner of this Branch and asked as many as possible to attend.

LONDON BRANCH DINNER.—It was reported that the tickets were going very quickly and that 181 had already warned in. All intending to be present at this great function were strongly advised—NOT TO DELAY.

MERITORIOUS BARS.—The President, Major R. W. Keown, M.C., spoke highly of the Branch work and of those whose zeal and labour on behalf of the members had been the reason for their selection as recipients of the Association Meritorious Bar. Bars were then presented to the nine members whose record appeared in a previous issue of *The Dragon*.

TOWER PAGEANT.—The Branch President gave full details in connection with the Historical Pageant in which the Branch was staging an episode in connection with the Regiment.

ADOPTION OF MEMBERS.—After explaining the reason for adopting members, a box was placed upon the table to receive donations.

CONCERT PARTY.

After the meeting terminated, ladies were admitted and the Branch Concert Party gave a really fine show. Mr. T. E. Ward was the pianist—he must have felt tired by 11 p.m.—whilst the following artistes kept us up to high spirits, Mrs. Buxton, Mrs. Waby, Messrs. Scott, Hovey, Brumhill, Murrey, Shute, Manning, Marshall, Goss and the Hughes Twins. Such old favourites sung in the Regiment many years ago brought back memories—"When your hair turns to Silver," by Mr. (Snowball) Manning, "Old Love Letters," by Mr. (Molly) Marshall.

The members who have within recent years left the colours were put back in harness by the following:—Mr. (Sgt.) Goss splendidly singing "My Pal," and Mr. Scott giving a wonderful dancing performance.

The Twins of Mr. (Corporal) Hughes gave a really wonderful show in song and dance. There is a great future for the four year olds.

Mrs. Buxton, despite a cold, sung in her best style, whilst Messrs. Hovey, Shute, Brumhill, etc., were top hole. We are grateful to all the party and hope to hear them again before long.

J.E.E.

LADIES' GUILD.

MINUTES.—The minutes for the month of February were read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE.—A letter was read from Mrs. Scarlett saying how pleased she was to become a member of the guild. Mrs. Buxton wrote returning thanks for letter to her in her bereavement. The following members wrote conveying best wishes to the meeting and to Mrs. Lamb, much to their regret at not being present, Mrs. Keown, Mrs. Clchester, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Field, Mrs. Hakin, Mrs. Taylor and Miss Redman.

SICK.—It was with much regret the members heard that Mrs. Dalton had to go into hospital again with eye trouble, also that Mr. Dixon had met with a serious accident, but were pleased to hear that our sick members, Mrs. Field, Mrs. Manning, Mrs. Dixon and Mrs. Green were improving. We wish all a speedy return to health.

WELCOME.—All new members were welcomed, it was rather unique, there were three generations of the Kennedy family.

GREETINGS.—Mrs. Crookenden said she would convey the best wishes of London to Mrs. Albury, Hon. Secretary, Canterbury Branch, who is still ill, also to any branch guild in Kent she would be visiting.

RAFFLE.—Our sincere thanks to Mrs. Love for giving a glass biscuit jar to raffle, which realised 4/4.

PRESENTATION TO MRS. LAMB.

On 6th March last, there was a vast assembly of members of the London Ladies' Guild to do honour to our worthy Honorary Secretary, Mrs. M. Lamb. The great attendance fully proved the esteem in which Mrs. Lamb is held. Moreover, we were happy to have with us on this occasion, the Hon. Lady Lynden Bell, Mrs. Guy Lee, Mrs. N. Dalton, Mrs. Crookenden, Mrs. Hollis and the following officers of the London Branch, who were invited to the Presentation, Colonel Guy Lee, D.S.O., M.C., Major R. W. Keown, M.C., Captains E. A. Carter, M.C., E. Smith and J. E. Enright.

After the tea, the Guild Chairman, Mrs. D. E. Spinner, read out the wording on the Illuminated Address, a beautiful work of art executed by Captain Smith. It read:—

"Presented to Mrs. Mary Lamb on behalf of the members of the London Branch Ladies' Guild, in recognition and appreciation of her devoted zeal and work on behalf of the members during her five years as Hon. Secretary, by the Hon. Lady Lynden Bell."

The Chairman then handed the address to her Ladyship, who presented it to Mrs. Lamb. Then followed the presentation of a beautiful Westminster Chimes Clock bearing the inscription:—

"Presented to Mrs. M. Lamb, by the Hon. Lady Bertha M. Lynden Bell, on behalf of the members of The Buffs Ladies' Guild (London), in recognition of her services as Hon. Secretary, March 6th, 1935."

The Guild President said that it gave her very great pleasure to make this presentation to Mrs. Lamb. The Colonel of The Regiment had asked her to say how very sorry he was at not being able to be present, but associated himself with everything that might be said and he thanked Mrs. Lamb for her great work on behalf of the Guild and the Regiment. Continuing, her Ladyship said that Mrs. Lamb had worked very hard for the cause of the Guild as Hon. Secretary for five years and hoped that she would be able to give many more years of toil in the interest of the members. On behalf of the London Ladies' Guild she had much pleasure in making this presentation. (Applause.)

Mrs. Lamb was very much touched and when returning her thanks, spoke highly of the family spirit prevailing in the Guild. Mrs. Lamb requested her Ladyship to take back to the Colonel of The Regiment her great appreciation for his kind message; she thanked her Ladyship for coming such a long distance to make the presentation. To Captain Smith she would also like to convey her thanks for the beautiful work he had executed in the 'Illuminated Address' and which would add a sentimental value to the gift. It was a real pleasure to her to see present, Colonel Guy Lee, Major Keown, Captain Carter, Captain Smith and Captain Enright. The London Branch of the Association had always endeavoured to help her and support her in her work for the Guild. It would be an impossibility for her to carry on as Hon. Secretary without the loyal support of the Ladies' Guild. This had always been forthcoming; the Chairman, Mrs. Spinner, the Vice-Presidents, the Committee and the members of the Guild, had at all times backed her up and that was the real cause of any success the Guild had attained. Lastly, she thanked every one for the splendid presentation and trusted that she would be able to give many more years' service to the Guild and to the dear old Regiment.

Medway Branch.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Medway Branch, Past and Present Association, The Buffs, held at Unity Club, Chatham, 23rd February, 1935.

Captain A. Barton presided. There was also present, Mr. Brunger, Vice-President, Mr. F. W. Potter, Hon. Secretary, Mr. King Holt, Hon. Treasurer, and thirty members.

MINUTES.—The minutes of January meeting were read and Mr. Cox proposed, Mr. Barnes seconded that they be adopted as read. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Letters were received and read from:—General Sir Arthur Lynden Bell—who sent to the branch his greetings and good wishes. From the Sittingbourne Branch inviting the members to attend their 1st Annual Dinner. From the 8th Service Battalion inviting all that served in the 8th Battalion to attend the 12th Annual Dinner; and the London Branch, their dinner.

The Chairman expressed the members' pleasure of hearing from and receiving the good wishes of the Colonel of the Regiment.

It was hoped that no less than twelve members would attend the Sittingbourne dinner and that Captain Barton and Mr. Potter would attend the 8th Battalion dinner, and that names would be given from those who wished to attend the London Branch dinner.

Mr. Cole wrote expressing his inability to be present and sent good wishes to all.

MEETING.—Change of date: Owing to the Dinner of the Sittingbourne Branch taking place on the date of our next meeting, Mr. Potter proposed and Mr. Cox seconded that the next meeting be held on 23rd March, to enable all who wished to attend the dinner to do so. Carried.

GRANT.—The Chairman pointed out to the meeting that much help was given to members by the Headquarters of the Association and that the credit of the benevolent account warranted and could stand presenting the Headquarter fund something in return for the many financial gifts the branch had received.

Mr. Shirley proposed and Mr. Cox seconded that the sum of £10 0s. 0d. be forwarded from the benevolent account to the General Secretary. Carried.

LADIES' GUILD.—The members were happy to hear that this new venture was going on well—and expressed their good wishes to the Ladies' Guild and all who were making it a success.

CLOSURE.—There being no further suggestions forthcoming, the meeting was closed. The sum of 5/- was collected for the benevolent funds.

Dover Branch.

LADIES' GUILD.

We held our Annual Meeting on March 21st, Mrs. Crookenden was elected Chairman for the year, Mrs. Findlay, Vice-Chairman, Mrs. R. Carter, Treasurer, Mrs. Byrne, Mrs. Moyes, Mrs. Sidwell, Mrs. Hogben, Mrs. Mead and Mrs. King on the General Committee, Mrs. Carter was appointed Secretary.

The Entertainments Committee is as follows—Mrs. Moyes, Mrs. Byrne, Mrs. Hogben, Mrs. Sidwell, Mrs. Mead, Mrs. King, Mrs. Sayer, with Mrs. Pierce as Chairman.

Our Annual report and balance sheet were read and proved very satisfactory—the bank balance being £34 1s. 3d. and before long we hope to increase that.

On April 12th, we are going to hold a Whist Drive at The Garden Hall, do please all come and bring your friends.

We still have several sick members and wish them a speedy recovery.

The Branch were all sorry to hear of Mrs. Albury's accident and hope she will soon be out of Hospital.

Sometime in May, we shall be holding a Jumble Sale, so if any members have anything in that line, they are requested to keep it for us.

It was decided at this month's meeting not to send out post cards to notify the monthly meetings, the place, time and date of these meetings will always be the third Thursday, at 3 p.m., in the Drill Hall, unless members are notified.

Margate Branch.

Our Monthly Meeting was held on the 13th. Mr. R. H. Harman in the Chair. It was reported that our late Social Secretary, Mr. W. Philpott had been admitted to Hospital and we wish him all the best and a speedy return to health. During the evening, the Chairman presented the Merit Barto to the Secretary, Mr. P. G. Kennett.

Congratulations to our Treasurer, Major A. S. F. Witts, T.D., on his promotion. Best of luck to you Sir, "Come up and see us sometimes." The Secretary was asked to represent the Branch at the Sub-Committee Meeting on the 30th.

Many thanks to Mr. Moss for the very nice box he made to keep the "Jack and Woods" in.

PEARLY.

Folkestone Branch.

There is not a great deal of news this month, as we have not so much been doing things as preparing to do them.

However, we did have our Branch supper, at the Esplanade Hotel, and a very bright little show it was, in spite of the lack of numbers. We were very disappointed that illness prevented many of our guests from "H.Q." from coming, and we hope they have all made good recoveries. Members are asked where possible, if they are practically certain that they are going to support a show, to do so early, as so often they do so late that secretaries are forced to issue invitations at the last minute to busy people with heavy engagement lists, whom we should like to have with us, who have to refuse because they have already accepted invitations elsewhere; on the other hand, those who are practically certain that they will not come are asked to think twice before putting up their names just for the pleasure of letting the secretary see a good thick list, as that only leads to unnecessary expense. But to return to the dinner; it really was a very successful little show, and the Hotel did us really well, considering it was the first time we had been there; we were very happily entertained by Mrs. Haisell, Mr. H. Marchant (at the piano), Mr. McGuire and his quartette, and Mr. Jimmy Taylor singing "With her head tucked onderneath her arrm." Mrs. R. G. Wood won the Regimental History, which realized 27/-.

Mr. Joe Maggs, who is at the Star and Garter Home from the London Branch, had a very bad passage with his heart the other day, but we are very glad to hear that he is now once more making good progress.

Mr. Wilkinson, our Secretary, is organizing a whist drive in the Drill Hall, on the 15th March, the proceeds to be in aid of Branch Funds, which are badly in need of repair.

On 18th April, we shall receive a visit from the Hythe Branch for a shooting match against ourselves, the Detachment, and the "D" Company Club. It ought to be a most enjoyable evening.

In conclusion, our first Group Meeting, in conjunction with the other member Branches of the Group, Hythe and Dover, will be held in the Club and Drill Hall, on Friday, 5th April. The "D" Company Club have very kindly offered to help us out, are applying for an extension, and helping us financially, so we ought to have another very good evening. There will be practically no business, if the Chairman will allow it, and the evening will be devoted to games and entertainments.

A.C.R.

LADIES' GUILD.

The usual Monthly Meeting and Whist Drive was held at the Drill Hall, on March 13th and there was a good attendance.

We were all very pleased to have Mrs. Crookenden and Miss Hamilton present, Mrs. R. G. Wood, J.P., our Chairman, announced that she hoped all the members would make a special effort to support the Men's Branch Whist Drive which was being held on Friday 16th March. It was in aid of their funds which were low and the Ladies' Guild were anxious to help to make it a successful evening.

We are all very sorry that our Vice-Chairman, Mrs. D. V. Cote, has had to undergo an operation in Manor Court Nursing Home, but delighted to know that she is making good progress and will soon be with us again. Our best wishes for her complete recovery.

Our Annual Outing will take place in June and will be a trip to Windsor, Hampton Court and London.

The winners of prizes at the Whist Drive which was held after tea, were Miss Ferred, Mrs. Everest, Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Doggett.

The Lucky Ticket was drawn by Mrs. Crookenden, but was drawn again. Mrs. Diamond being the winner.

A.I.F.

Deal Branch.

Our monthly meeting was held on 5th March, at H.Q., 42/44 West Street, Deal.

Capt. J. Turk, M.C., presided, supported by Messrs. Redsull, Newing, Hare, Maxted, M. G. Graves, Pope, Hon., Secretary and about twelve members. Apologies were received from Messrs. L. B. Watson and W. Oram.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Arrangements were next made for the Annual Supper and Social and the rest of the evening was spent at snooker, billiards and darts. Funds were helped by a competition on the dart board. And a set of darts given by Mr. Orchard, was won by Mr. E. Hunt, who gave them back for another competition at our next meeting.

H.G.P.

LADIES' GUILD.

The annual meeting of the Ladies' Guild connected with the Deal, Walmer and District Past and Present Association, The Buffs, was held at St. Andrew's Hall, Duke Street, Deal, on Tuesday afternoon, when Mrs. Crookenden (vice-president) presided, supported by Miss Backhouse (chairman), Mrs. Hulke (vice-chairman), Mrs. E. Pope (hon. secretary), and Mrs. W. C. Redsull (hon. treasurer), others also present including Mesdames Taylor, Wood, Maxted, Potter, Dadd, Bourner, Marsh, Nutley, Turk, Foad, Garratt, senior, Garratt, junior, Gainey, Hare, Jackson, Carrier, Curtis, Wells, Blown, Twyman, Jones, Dunster, and Thresher.

Miss Backhouse read a letter from Mr. W. C. Redsull, who sent greetings and presented a painting to be used as an emblem. The painting was of the Buffs' badge, including a dragon and laurel, and the gift was accepted with thanks.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Secretary said that at the end of the second year of their existence the strength of the Guild was 45 members, and they were in a good financial position. The meetings had been fairly well attended, and they had been able to raise funds by various means. She thanked all the helpers. They started the year with a credit balance of £6 11s. 4d., and the cash at the bank now was £12 7s. 3d. (Applause.)

Mrs. Crookenden congratulated Miss Backhouse on her success and the good work which had been done. Miss Backhouse, who was the sister of an officer, was very keen, and had the Regiment close to her heart. They were also fortunate in Mrs. Hulke and Mrs. Pope. There was a great deal of work for a secretary, who had to attend to an endless number of letters and notes, taking a good deal of time and tact. (Hear, hear.) They all had to live up to the Regiment, and help those in distress. It was an excellent sort of thing for which to work. They were there not for the benefit of their own petty feelings, but for the Ladies' Guild, and they had been doing a very important work in pulling together. They could not carry on unless every member played a part, not merely by giving a good deal of money or gifts in kind, but in the spirit of keenness which kept the show going. Best wishes had been sent from London, and a new Guild at Chatham already had 30 members. Dover, Folkestone, and Canterbury were in a better position than Deal, as in those towns a room could be obtained practically free. If they continued as they had in the past they were sure to be successful. (Applause.)

Miss Backhouse remarked that it was up to them to do even better, but they wanted more members, and should meet as often as they could, encouraging the feeling that they were all one big Buffs' family. Miss Backhouse referred to the very generous help of Miss Mackenzie, whose father was a captain in the Regiment.

Mrs. Pope read a letter of thanks from the local branch for the help at their social and inviting the Guild to a supper-dance on April 5th, at the Rechabite Hall.

In place of Mrs. Hill and Miss Conway, Mesdames Gainey and Turk were elected to the Committee. Referring to a suggestion by Mrs. Pope that perhaps a change in the secretaryship would be a good thing, Miss Backhouse remarked: "It was said to Queen Victoria, of blessed memory, that it would be very diplomatic if she did certain things, but she turned to the Minister and said; 'To be diplomatic is a thing

I do not understand, and I do not wish to hear.'" When we hear of a new secretary, it is something we do not understand, and do not wish to hear. (Laughter and applause.) Miss Backhouse suggested that they might hold a picnic at the Sandhills, and reminded those present that the monthly meeting was held on the second Wednesday of every month.

Sittingbourne Branch.

Minutes of the 75th Monthly Meeting, held on Friday evening, 2nd March, 1935.

Major D. J. Dean, V.C., was in the chair supported by Mr. A. J. Bedelle, and a good number of members were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved of.

The correspondence received during the month was read.

Mr. S. Chapell proposed that a vote of thanks be given to Sgt. Larking for the work he had done for the Branch, this was seconded by all those at the meeting. The Chairman then thanked Sgt. Larking on behalf of the Branch.

Sgt. Larking then replied, thanking us all for the thanks given to him and said that the work he had done for the Branch, he only felt it his duty to do, and would still continue to do so as long as he was well and able, and he also hoped that members of the Branch would bring some young men along to join the Territorials.

The Minutes of the General Committee Meeting, held on Friday evening, 22nd February, 1935, were read.

The matter arising out of the minutes was, the use of ammunition for the Inter-Branch Shoots and visiting teams. Proposed by Mr. H. Martin that the ammunition used for Inter-Branch Shoots be free. Mr. J. Skinner seconded the proposition and it was carried.

The Secretary was asked to write to Newington Workmen's Club and invite them down after our next meeting night.

The visitors for the evening after the meeting were Halstow Workmen's Club, who were winners of the mystery prize, which realised 7/6.

Weald Branch.

The Branch Annual General Meeting was held at the Drill Hall, Cranbrook, on January 24th, 1935.

The following Officers and Committee were elected for the ensuing year:—

Chairman: Colonel John Body, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D.; Vice-Chairman: Major E. Clarke; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Captain A. E. Lloyd Hardcastle; Assistant Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Captain E. Boulding.

COMMITTEE.—Benenden: Mr. S. E. Fuggle, D.C.M., M.M.*; Mr. L. H. Marchant. Cranbrook: Mr. F. J. Chittenden*; C.Q.M.S. E. T. Tapp. Hawkhurst: Mr. W. J. Wickens*; Captain J. P. Geering; Mr. J. Goldsmith. Horsmonden: C.S.M. H. Brooks*; Lieut. W. Tassell. Lamberhurst: Mr. G. Turner*. Sutton Valence: Mr. A. J. Whalley*. Tenterden: Mr. E. Couchman*; Lieut. J. C. Jackson; Mr. H. George. Wittersham: Mr. A. Paine*. Yalding: Colonel E. B. Burns, T.D.*

*Denotes Sub-Area Representative.

In the absence of Colonel Body, who was prevented by doctor's orders from attending, Major Clarke was in the Chair.

The Hon. Secretary reported that the Branch now consisted of 204 "live" members after striking off nearly 100 others who for various reasons had got badly in arrears with subscriptions.

During the year, £8 5s. 8d. had been granted to members for sickness, etc., from Association and Branch Funds.

A letter was read from Captain V. T. Dampier Palmer, O.B.E., who had been Vice-Chairman since the Branch was formed in 1928, stating that as he had left the district, he did not think it was right for his name to be reconsidered for election to that office. The Hon. Secretary was asked to express to him the grateful thanks of the members for his interest in the Branch during the years he had been Vice-Chairman and to express the hope that he would still be able to attend Branch functions from time to time.

Major E. Clarke was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman in his place.

A very successful Smoking Concert was held at the Drill Hall, Cranbrook, on March 16th. Over 100 members were present, including some 16 from the Ashford Branch under the leadership of their Chairman, Mr. King. We were delighted to see them, as also we were to have Colonel Findlay and Colonel Collard with us from Canterbury. Beer and light refreshments were provided and also a really first class entertainment arranged by Mr. R. Lindley, who is well-known in the district as an amateur actor of distinction. Colonel Body presided, and we were delighted to have him back with us again after his illness. He was given a great reception.

A letter from the Colonel of the Regiment expressing his regrets at not being able to be present was read and a message was sent to him from the members by the Secretary. We were very sorry not to have him with us.

The singing and playing of Mr. Lindley's party was of a very high standard and was greatly enjoyed by everyone. The opinion was generally expressed that an entertainment of this kind at 1/- was very much better than a dinner at 3/-, and we hope to have similar functions in the future. The catering was most admirably carried out by Sgt. W. Cross and his family.

A.E.L.H.

Canterbury Branch.

The usual monthly meeting was held on Friday, 1st March, at Rhodaus Town. Those present included Capt. H. Whitfield (Branch Chairman), Major F. Keeler, T.D., and H. A. Newman (Branch Hon. Secretary), the attendance was very good, but we hope to see a larger number in the future.

On Saturday, 16th March, our Annual Dinner took place and a very large gathering spent an enjoyable evening.

Letters were received from several officers of the Branch, expressing their regret at not being able to attend.

A letter was received from Sir Arthur Lynden-Bell regretting his inability to attend and wishing those present a very happy evening.

A letter was also read, from Colonel H. Findlay (Headquarters Secretary), stating that although unable to attend, he wished the members a very enjoyable time, but he sincerely hoped that more members would rally round and give the Branch the support which it deserved.

An excellent programme of music was provided after doing justice to a splendid dinner. Those contributing, included Messrs. Ellis, Miller, Mussered, Mac Carter, J. Boyne, A. Gawler, W. Addley, W. Newington, A. Gawler, G. Deeks and Knowles. Messrs. Ellis and Boyne at the piano.

During the interval a pleasing item was performed by Major F. Keeler, T.D., in presenting Meritorious Bars for service rendered during 1934 to Messrs. S. V. Clark and W. Broadbent.

The recipients on being thanked for their past service, suitably replied. The entertainment came to a close at 11 p.m. The catering was excellently carried out by Messrs. F. Gilham and Sons.

H.A.N.

LADIES' GUILD.

It is regretted that no notes have been recorded during the past few months and no doubt other Branches have been wondering whether Canterbury Ladies' Guild was still in existence.

Unfortunately, our Secretary, Mrs. Albury, has been very ill and has been in and out of hospital for some time. About two months ago she fell when walking down some steps and broke her leg. This necessitated her being taken to hospital where an operation was performed. This did not prove successful and another was necessary, which it is understood, did not mend as it should. A third was performed this week and at the time of submitting these notes I am sorry to say Mrs. Albury is not very well. The Guild wish her a speedy recovery to good health.

Our February Meeting, at Rhodaus Town, only brought nine members out. The weather no doubt had a lot to do with it, as it was very cold and miserable. The following were present—Mrs. Howard Smith, Mrs. Furley, Mrs. Groombridge, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Devlin, Mrs. Kennet and Mrs. Andrews.

The March Meeting held on the 20th, was much better. Mrs. Howard Smith, our Chairman, being supported by Mrs. Crookenden and Mrs. Andrews who has undertaken the duties of Secretary during Mrs. Albury's absence.

The 1st Battalion.



THE early part of February saw the assembly of the Battalion at Kangyi Camp, which was concluded by the arrival of "B" Company from Mandalay on the 22nd. Except for the small rear party left by "B" Company and the maintenance party at Maymyo, this camp may be considered remarkable for being the first time the Battalion has been together since the last cold weather season at Bareilly.

We do not wish to encroach on Company notes by giving any details of the march out to Camp, but we would like to offer our congratulations on the fact that not a single man fell out. This may not appear to be anything out of the ordinary to the readers of *The Dragon* accustomed to the good roads at home, but we feel it will be appreciated by those who understand the conditions in Burma. At the best, the road is purely water bound macadam, while a greater portion of it is the uneven surface of a simple bullock track, where clouds of dust add considerably to the discomfort of the troops in the ranks.

The members of the draft which arrived in January call for special mention for the way in which they kept their places with the "seasoned" veterans.

It is with great sorrow that we have to record the departure of Major Peareth who has just left us for England and retirement.

Past and Present—continued from previous column.

Two new members were enrolled, both of whom are ex-1st Battalion. Mrs. Evans, whose husband is R.S.M. and Mrs. Glazier. They were welcomed by Mrs. Howard Smith and by what one hears they are impressed with our Branch.

As there were 22 members at this meeting a bumper games party was organised by our Chairman. As to be expected, this was a great success. Prizes were won by—1st, Mrs. Danton, 2nd, Mrs. Kennett and Mrs. W. Biggs. Mrs. Groombridge very kindly put up a bottle of pickles to be raffled and this was won by our Chairman.

It was the most cheerful meeting we have had for some time and it is hoped more members will attend our next meeting, which is on **Wednesday, 17th April, 1935**, when our chief item will be Community singing. The piano is now in good order so we hope to have a bright afternoon, and cordially invite all those who are not members to come along and join us. There are several in married quarters at the Depot, who should certainly come along and show us that they too have husbands who are Buffs and to know other Buffs' wives.

D.E.A.

Sergeants' Mess.

At the time of writing these notes everyone is at camp ready to start the fray for 1935, and we hope for last time in Burma. When I said "everyone" I had forgotten those at the base whose duties prevent their attendance, although we know that it was bad luck on them, knowing full well they would have enjoyed themselves so much better out here amongst the dust and Line Inspections. It is a terrible conscience they must have going to bed in the feather variety, or is it what one might call a hard neck.

Several columns of dust have risen in Stafford Ride (now then, Arthur!) to get all the battalion out here, and Daine Rumour had it that "B" Company were willing to get out of the train at that place to make one more, but as it was a downward gradient at that place the driver found it too difficult to stop.

Everyone seems to have turned Chinaman, for the Mess at nights is littered with Mah Jong sets, some locked up, others with pieces of ten missing, and I gather that training is helped on with the thought of Ponging and Chowing to come. One certain member is such an addict to the game that he is only known as "East Wind," and he certainly earns that in more senses than one. I mention also that one very industrious member (no names) having ambitions took over Gas Officer and practised on all and sundry, much to the enjoyment of some, and the disgust of others. But what would we do in such a station, without some enjoyment of sorts and certainly at the expense of others? Thank goodness the place wasn't torn down after all Jim's efforts to make it comfortable with the share out of the green baze cloth. I am rather afraid that excuses to get in for the proverbial week-end are not too good this year, although several were helped out by the doctor with the unusual one of anyone wanting dental treatment. Anyway, it is a new one on us, to think that after a few N.C.O.'s and men had got in they found the dentist about 400 miles away.

The Intelligent Sergeant and Squad arrived safely on the 12th, and having no shoe-horn handy, was unable to get inside the special tent arranged for him. I might mention that it was really a shame he had to march that last nine miles, being in the anaemic state he was, and only one jar of Purge awaiting him. Naturally he is a little lost at present, Laurel having had the misfortune to be made to remain behind. Of course the latter was most upset at this. You see, he had saved those little flags from last year, and now they won't let him play.

How about this for innocence? A certain individual did his best to obtain the attendance of the Medical Officer. After several excuses had been offered with failure, he asked the most intelligent-looking person present for a further suggestion (I am not referring to Hardy), and the poor fellow replied: "Shall I tell him you have got hysterics, Sir." And he wondered why the Sir did.

The President of the Governor's Cup functions very well, but has not yet had the opportunity to have his usual yearly debate around the same, due, I think, to the fact that there are several new members who have not yet been initiated. He is suffering at present from a lack of food, and it works out as follows:—Jacky Brown, who several of the Home members are conversant with, arrived in camp with rather an over-developed corporation, and as the native herbs were not doing all he expected of them, he naturally went on diet, actually giving up, as he said, 4 important items of food, to wit, porage, soup, rice and sweet. His condition became so poor that he had to commit a bad habit of visiting the cookhouse several times during a morning and so the promise of the extras to

"Pongo" did not arrive. I might mention that he still takes pity on "Pongo" on having no masticators by offering the soup just occasionally.

To get down to the serious side. We welcome to the Mess L/Sgt. Toms, who has gone to "B" Company, feeling sorry at the same time that these boats find it more convenient to arrive just before "B" Company Training starts.

At the time of writing, C.S.M. Diamond is one day out from Bombay and will be with us on March 8th, and so we show our word of welcome a little previous to seeing him. I might mention that the piano had been carefully overhauled only a short while ago.

George Gillett has flitted away to the A.F.I., but luck was with him in the choice of stations, for at present he is functioning in Maymyo and is living in the same quarters as occupied by Jack Cross during his tour with the same unit. We wish him the best of luck and success, and give him at the same time a gentle reminder that he is on the spot for at least another year and might pay a visit to us occasionally.

The Grand Old Man ("Porly") has suddenly made up his mind that it was nearly time he gave the youngsters a chance, and after 28 years (I believe that is correct) sails for home on the S.S. *California* this month. You'll find it strange, no doubt, "Porky," for some time to come, and you have most certainly earned that private trip on the boat mentioned, and so we wish you all that we can, and hope that you will have years to enjoy that pension.

L/Sgts. Campbell and Cole are off for a spot of leave, and I advise them to keep a wise head. There are more married families in the 1st Battalion than most units. So please inform the Quartermaster early if you decide during the next six months about getting married or, in other words, taking the plunge.

To go back to the humourous strain. Archie is worried. You see he is wondering whether his lungs will last out camp. Even though the clock fails at times to disturb his slumbers, T.B. has more drastic measures, and so after Reveille he is chased from tent wall to tent wall.

As a finish up I have to report the very regular visit to the local bazaar of the Caterer. Is he, I wonder, at the only opportunity he has (viz: camp) out to qualify for the Shiek's Cup? On these days one can see all the Shan maidens from miles away on the visit for stores for the next five days, and those who know him must agree that our present Caterer has very taking ways, even if it is only taking money over the bar from those poor unfortunates who condescend to have a shake of the pot.

SACCO PROTÉM.

Corporals' Mess.

Dragon notes! Heavens, yes! I'd forgotten all about them!"

"They are due in to-morrow."

"All right, I'll do 'em!"

You see, it began like this. "Quarter-Guard" (alias three by day and six by night) has to go to Poona to study foodstuffs (no, not liquids only!). He came to me, explaining the situation, pretending to be sorry to have to forsake the pen for the rolling-pin (he must have remembered Gene Tunney's reply to George Bernard Shaw). Phil should have got the job, but he is doing two now and studying Majors and their relative Minors in his spare time. And I, simple soul, took upon me the job of taking notes.

With the departure of "A" for camp there remains only "H.Q." Wing, those left behind for duties and those waiting for their boats. Amongst the latter were

a few old and trusted friends to whom we find it hard to say good-bye. I refer to the Grandfather of the Regiment (Sgt. Holness), who has for many years been a respected member of our Mess, and his daughter's husband, Frank Brabon: Bye-bye, "Porky," we are all sorry to see you go and wish you the best that fortune can bring in Civvy Street.

Then there is "Monk." Of course, he will be with us again in six or seven months' time. Have a good time, my Chief Rabbi, and throw care to the winds. We take this opportunity of wishing luck to L/Cpls. Tilley and Satterley and Cpl. Causer on their trip to England.

Whilst in Maymyo and before the departure of "S" and "A" for camp, we were honoured by several visits from Mr. Bellamy. Mr. Bellamy proved an interesting, congenial and versatile companion. We should like to see more of him.

And now, Dear Editor, I am stuck. I arrived here, in Kangyi, after four days' marching with a bootful of blisters and not a *Dragon* note in my head, but I have it on good authority that Joe Savill and Jock Murdoch, Flo Bean and Ginger Lewis enjoyed their issue of rum on the march (I wonder how many T.T.'s rations they had?). It appears they had a heavy day one particular Thursday, when "Duce," "Monk" and Frank Brabon paid a flying visit to Kangyi. "Ginger" has not got over it yet, and "Monk" has not yet got over "Ginger."

We are glad to welcome to the Mess, L/Cpls. Brice, Richards, Jessop, Barrett and Nash.

LATE NEWS, MAYMYO.

"Monk" has done a guard, his third in ten years.
"Duce" felt lonesome and went out on his own.

LATE NEWS, KANGYI.

"Wanga" and "Jonah" are feeling lonesome.

"B" Company arrived here on the 22nd. "Trader Horn" got stuck on a first class road with a bullock-cart minus one wheel.

The Camp Mess is full these nights. It is good to have the battalion together again after years of detachments, if only for three weeks. The weather is marvellous, bracing mornings and sunny days.

Wishing every success to "Quarter-Guard" on his course, and leaving studious Phil to his music, I close amidst a bable of crochets, semibreves, rissoles and A.B. 48's, having acquired a grand thirst dictating these notes to a very willing typist.

"HIKER."

Headquarter Wing.

We have arrived in Kangyi! At least all of us who could produce no legitimate excuse for dodging it, and from all that one can hear, those that did dodge it are wishing now that they hadn't. Life in Barracks these days is 'No Bed of Roses' apparently.

There is very little change from last year, the same old lumps and bumps still mar the landscape and the same old feet carry us up and down the aforesaid bumps.

The running team is leaving for its first practice spin under Bdmn Longman as I write these notes and amongst the pack can be seen the sturdy form of our A/C.Q.M.S. attempting to emulate the feats of his youth, when he says that he once covered 10 miles in 1 hour. Personally I take this yarn with a large pinch of salt, especially as he colours it by saying that he was carrying the tripod at the time.

The Tug-o-War team is still in training and by all accounts should pull the rest of the Battalion all round barracks! Let's hope so at any rate.

The Home Establishment and Leave Wallahs will have left for Dear Old England by the time we return to Maymyo again, we take this opportunity of wishing them all the best in their new spheres. I know of one who was very near to tears when he said goodbye! So the old 1st Battalion can't be so bad after all, Eh! Mary.

The Bandmaster is still in Hospital, but by the time we return he should be about again. We hope to see him looking very fit.

At present we have our noses in front in the Harris Shield, with the Boxing, Cricket and Hockey all completed. We hope that we shall still lead when the final placings are declared. Although the Football team will feel the loss of L/Cpl. Satterley, the real need is for two inside forwards and these I am afraid will take a lot of finding, still, the other Companies are just as badly off, so the Football this year will be very open.

PRESSED.

Band Notes.

Bdmn Rowcliffe and Dixon have now left us for the Home Establishment, and L/Cpls. Clegg, Satterley, Bdmn. Wood and D. Butler for six months' leave in U.K. To Dixon and Rowcliffe we offer our best wishes for success in their new sphere and to the others a real good leave in England. Watch those English lassies! Maggot. Remember Grannie!

The B.M. is still in Hospital at the time of writing and as we are in Kangyi we have heard nothing of his progress. We hope he is doing well and will soon be amongst us again.

We have, for the first time, brought a Band to Camp. The composition is somewhat unusual, but they manage to knock out a surprising amount of melody in spite of this. We hear they are to play at Mess whilst in Camp and also to give a concert to the Battalion. Well it will all help to pass the time!

In the Keble Shield Cricket we met with a defeat at the hands of the Signallers. Saunders was away at Lucknow on escort duty and this may have made all the difference. Still we do not wish to detract from the Signals' success as they also had two good men away. This leaves us third in the Keble Shield Cricket, the lowest position we have ever occupied in any Keble Shield Sport to date. This goes to show that the competition is much more keen this year and augurs well for the Harris Shield.

We are doing enemy in Camp, with the exception of a lucky five who are scrounging on Stretcher bearers, and two who have crawled on to the Provost Sergeants Staff. No, dear reader, not as Janker Wallahs, but as Janker Chasers and Makers!

Well there goes First Post, so I must close.

SE NO E VERO E BEN TROVATO.

Signal Section.

So this is Kangyi! After four days' hiking we saw the familiar training grounds. Well we hope this will make a change from the duties we did in Barracks while the rest of the Battalion were in Camp. I haven't much to say about Camp at present, as we have only just arrived, but a few words about the things that have happened in barracks.

Firstly, we beat the Band at Cricket in the Keble Shield. They won the toss and put us in, we didn't make a very good start, losing 4 wickets for 20 runs, but then Lieut. Alexander and Paramour put on 40 runs and this made our prospects seem much brighter, but alas, a collapse followed and we finished up with a total of 79. Not enough, we thought, to beat the Band who are the lucky possessors of half the Company batting strength. However, this was not their day and with two wickets to fall, they still required 16 runs, these they could not make and we finished the winners by 8 runs.

Detailed scores:—

Signal Section.	
Lieut. Alexander, lbw, b Reece.....	25
L/Cpl. Bevan, c Ross, b Butler.....	0
Pte. Seymour, c and b Judd.....	5
Pte. Keam, b Butler.....	0
Pte. Walsh, c Martin, b Butler.....	4
L/Cpl. Paramour, b Butler.....	26
Pte. Williamson, c Longman, b Butler.....	4
L/Cpl. Bignell, c Satterley, b Reece.....	2
Pte. Matfin, run out.....	0
Pte. Barton, not out.....	4
Pte. Lovett, c Ross, b Reece.....	7
Extras.....	2
Total.....	79

Band.

L/Cpl. Eke, c Alexander, b Bevan.....	3
Pte. Longman, c Walsh, b Bevan.....	20
Pte. Butler, b Bevan.....	0
Pte. Hodgson, c Bignell, b Bevan.....	1
Pte. Ross, b Barton.....	8
L/Cpl. Satterley, not out.....	28
Pte. Judd, run out.....	2
Pte. Brindley, c Alexander, b Barton.....	0
Pte. Martin, b Barton.....	0
Bdmn. Reece, c Paramour, b Barton.....	1
Pte. Osborne, b Barton.....	3
Extras.....	5
Total.....	71

Bevan 4 for 33. Barton 5 for 29.

We played the Group, but lost by 6 wickets, so in the Keble Shield Cricket we finished with second place, an advance on last year.

Kennedy is still punching up for Poona and can be seen at any time with Staa in his hand. Keep it up Bill and bring back a "D."

Some of the Section made a trip to the famous bridge at Goteik in the Northern Shan States and I have persuaded L/Cpl. Rogers to write a short account of it for *The Dragon*.

"3799."

A TRIP TO GOTEIK.

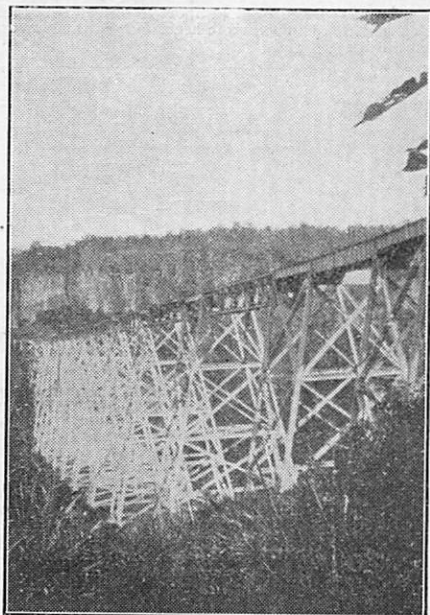
A party from the Signal Section spent a very good day at Goteik bridge and Gorge.

The bridge is a wonderful feat of engineering as can be seen by the accompanying photograph.

It was built by an American firm and was commenced in January, 1900 and finished in September, 1902. It is 2,260 ft. in length, the highest point is 870 ft., has ten spans of 120 ft. each and 7 of 60 ft. A train must not cross in less than 2Rs. minutes, the bridge weighs 4,270 tons and the total cost was 16 lakhs of rupees.

A very steep slope and track runs down by the side of the bridge to the bottom of the gorge and a large cave runs from the end of the gorge under the bridge, which can be seen high above, looking just like a toy.

The cliffs on either side are very steep with trees growing out and it is a really wonderful sight looking upwards, and one can understand why a warning poster is posted at the top to the effect that visitors to the cave do so at their own risk.



Goteik Bridge,
Northern Shan States.

The distance from Maymyo to Goteik is about 100 miles and this is covered in 3 hours by the train and the next train back is 3 hours later, in this interval, one has just sufficient time to see and appreciate the wonders of the bridge and the gorge.

The above, which is mostly statistics, may not prove very interesting to the casual visitor, but to anyone who has seen the bridge, it will bring back vivid memories of one of man's triumphs over Nature.

COMMAS.

"A" Company.

I am afraid that the notes for this month will not only be a little short, but under the trying conditions of camp, life may prove a little below the usual in interest, however, what there is to record I herewith forward.

Kangyi, well remembered I expect by the members of last year's H.E., is once again our place of abode, with night marches followed by dawn attacks one of our chief occupations.

Our Company is at present under the command of Lieut. F. W. B. Parry, Major Marshall being in hospital. We wish the latter a speedy recovery and hope he will soon be once again fit to carry on his duties.

I do not know whether I should record this or not, but someone has just reported to me that a certain Lance Corporal of our Company has become engaged, and that a bullock cart is a permanent fixture outside the gateway of a certain bungalow in the B.I. Lines, ready for the happy couple to elope, only, of course, should the afore mentioned Lance-Naik think it advisable. However I take this opportunity of congratulating the worthy swain and hope to soon see him settled down (I've heard this expression used before, so it must be correct, eh Taffy?)

The march to Kangyi this year was completed by all the Company, very good going, especially when one has sore feet and the "Bun" wagon only a few yards behind.

Ptes. Buxton, Phipps and Tritton are now enroute for the U.K. to serve in the 2nd Battalion, we hope they will soon settle down in their new surroundings.

Before bringing these notes to a close we offer our congratulations to the following on their family increase.

Sgt. Warren, a son, and Cpl. Davis, a daughter.

We would like to know how a certain Lance-Corporal managed to come in 12th in the last Cross Country run, did he hire a bullock cart or was it due to no wind resistance? Perhaps Taffy could also enlighten us on this!

R.T.H.

"B" Company.

Here we are again Toffs, with one month's notes behind as usual, but never mind, there won't be enough to bore you stiff this time. Before starting with my rubbish I would like to welcome to the Company, Lieut. E. A. and Mrs. Airy, L/Sgt. Toms and Pte. Fuller, with their families. We hope they will soon settle down to their new surroundings and have many happy years with the Company. We also welcome Mrs. Mannal, who is stopping with us temporarily. Of course, everyone was pleased to see the Draft arrive, who are now well settled down, and helping us out with Guards and on the sports field. They are getting quite Old Soldiers now and well tanned with the sun.

The Company have fired their A.W.T. Course with the exception of a few odds and ends, C.S.M. included, who has been on a short leave and returned looking quite fit with his vocal chords in good order. I might mention he tried them out the following morning after his return.

Lieut. E. P. C. Bruce has left the Company for a short while, to take charge of "C" Company during training. He was greatly missed during firing and also on the Hockey field, but still, "B" Company's loss is "C" Company's gain for a short time only, we hope.

Ptes. Payne and Gallagher have left us during the month for "Blighty." The Company all wish them the best of luck in Civvy Street and hope to see them sometimes on Remembrance Day, at Canterbury.

Cpl. Message is shortly leaving us for a Small Arms course at Pach. We hope to see him return with the coveted "D".

I have enclosed some snaps, obtained at Mandalay, which I hope will interest our readers. I also hope to be able to send a few of our Camp at Kangyi.

We only arrived in camp about half an hour ago, after spending a day and a night getting here, with a nine miles hike through the dust at the end of our journey. I would like to mention, that this is the first time in History, that the Detachment at Mandalay has been dragged from its peaceful surroundings to take part in Battalion Training. Good Old "B".

The Hockey team has been putting in quite a lot of work since the Harris Shield Game, and have made a couple of alterations in the team. On return from Maymyo, they played the Burma Military Police, losing 2-0, which should have been a draw had they not changed the team round. The next game was against the Sappers and Miners, in which the Company turned out a darker side for the purpose of finding new talent. To be expected, they lost 5-1. They then turned out against the Gymkana Club where they showed much better form and won 3-2. The following week they played the return match with the same team, which resulted in a fine win of 4-3 for the Company. The team then appeared to gain much more confidence and managed to beat the Sappers and Miners 3-2, which I think is a great feat as it is the First time the Sappers and Miners have been beaten by the Company.

There is not a lot to say about the Football team this month. They have played and won three games with the Burma Rifles with some very high scored, also a few inter-platoon games have taken place, in which the draft have been showing very good form. I can safely say, that the Company should be able to put in a 100% team for the Harris Shield this year. Oh, by the way, I hear that Tiny has signed a contract for another nine years with the team, but of course that may not be true.

THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW.

- (1). Who is chancing it first, Bumper or Larry?
- (2). When is Ben transferring to the Sappers and Miners?
- (3). How is Tom progressing with his course, will he gain a "D"? Wick.

"C" Company.

Dear Readers,

In this, my initial introduction to *The Dragon*, in the capacity of an unfortunate compiler, who apparently must possess at least one of the many qualifications of his greater brethren usually located in The City of Ink (I make my bow).



A Few of "Erb's" Household.

I hasten to add that the qualification referred to, is that of dodging, not the popular column, merely the ripe cabbage or perhaps any other odious fruit handy to the hand or season.

In my wanderings I have met those of the Poker Faces whose sole applause for the efforts of Ink Slingers (Company) usually consists of words calculated to convey their thanks with the utmost brevity. In my generosity I use the plural tense, our brothers mostly use the singular, meaning one word, description (Tripe).

For the benefit of our more unfortunate readers who are quite unable to sample the entertainment and joys of this magnificent country, may I say that the expression "Tripe" exhibited above, does not, definitely, mean the Dark Room of the Pig or other animal subjected to this common form of disease, but something much more hot and snappy (and to the point). My readers of the Military Pattern will no doubt understand my reticence and will be satisfied with my explanation of this word (taken from The Koran in the dark and examined in the cruel light of day, it has an initial letter with a strong taste, Messrs. Beer and Rigden know it very well) my apologies Gentlemen, I cannot offer 'em in person for fear of gossip, anyhow, the firm referred to cannot ask me "To have one," my tastes are typically Burmese and I offer my hero worship to those of The Burma Rifles who pampered by a grateful C.M.A. have an abundance of this world's goods, in barrels, the contents resembling the black treacle of my youth. Tain't treacle Sir.

Whilst on this subject, isn't it really amusing how most countries are self supporting? Here we have an interlocking arrangement, the local gentry get into touch (our Dear friend, Very dear friend too), the C.M.A. and The Burma Rifles obviously flirt and sow the seed, the flower produced is commonly called the Lime, which plucked in its innocent youth and sprinkled over the above trio, gives us that very marketable commodity, The Burmese Cocktail.

For fear of collecting the holy wrath of the Regimental Cussman, sorry, I mean the Sub-Editor, I will away and deal with the doings of the Company whom I am supposed to represent in this monthly battle of the unfortunates, I therefore humbly apologise for unwittingly encroaching on his preserves, but I ask you readers, How the Heeccccccz was I to know *he* had visited the Burma Rifles.

I must go back into the dim long ago in order to get some logical order into my efforts, I therefore commence with the time that saw us blazing the trail to Kangyi, that beautiful old world village, bungalows built at the very lowest cost, estate agents on the corner, H. and C. laid on by any old method you like, thoroughly modern and up to date, two minutes from station and two weeks from bus halt, no, that hardly seems right somehow, anyway we started.

Strolling along sweetly scented country lanes, a Pub on every corner, volunteers from the Group carrying our portable property, and old Brick Dust, the contractor staggering along behind with a pipe line laid on full of beer, we left our homestead for our country retreat.

Four days of the above treatment found us in our new abode, where we were met by the local town council, Lord Mayor, Police division and representatives of the *Kangyi Echo*, I mean, in short, the School Master, an energetic gent who seems pretty fit except for a perpetual itch, in the region of the palm.

We have been doing wonders to the country-side, levelling off, you know, I think it most unfair that a few insignificant hikers at home should get a place in the papers when we try so hard to get into the Society Columns. I have however been around with a hopeful heart.

For a cosmopolitan Army we aren't doing too badly, having a "borrowed Company Commander, C.S.M. and C.Q.M.S."

In the sporting department we have met with mixed results, at the moment we are holding the ladder, while the remainder are sitting on the furniture, but we are full of beans and hope to bring our fellows along in time to give us a place in the sun this year and a place in the moon next.

We all have great hopes of the cross country team pulling off the event and also the Tug-'o-War team doing great things.

The footer is really in the melting pot for all companies, so here again "here's Hoping."

Sgt. Gillett has just departed from our midst to take up a job which we all hope will be of considerable benefit to him, his going has robbed the Company of a big hearted helper and a loyal soldier, on behalf of us all I extend to him the very best wishes of every man jack and hold him up to the younger fellows as an aiming mark for ambition, do the same my lads and get the rope moving the same way.

Personally I am no believer in tabulating yards of data connected with sport, unless it is of value in computing Regimental Records, therefore I will endeavour to keep our notes down to general references only, we all know that the education of the soldier in sport and work is based on "The Team" rather than the individual, so watch it my lads.

In training one can always find the lighter side and I was the fortunate spectator of one instance of this, at the end of the C.O.'s exercise one had the picture of a mule sitting in a bog up to its neck, a pretty sight my readers and unfortunately no camera record, the leader, a gentleman of repute, Pte. Upton, a Burmese interpreter of great promise, did wonders (to dry the Bog clean up) addressing the world in general for five minutes without breath or repetition must be a record. As these notes are being ground out, the Dance Band (in camp too) are enriching the air with airs (no joke that), I have a suspicion the performers are merely removing growths from the instruments, one performer in particular usually opens the proceedings by blowing out a stream of Cockroaches (B.F. evidently) all of you are wrong this time, the abbreviation means B Flat.

Sorry I keep roaming all over the country, but will make an honest endeavour to keep straight in future, now then, wrong again.

One hears rumours to the effect that this Company is going to fly back home, later reports indicate, however, that the Flight is to take two days, will say no more, one understands that soap is effective inside socks for such rapid travel.

By the way, Mr. Editor, my editorial is finished you know.

Here is a one act drama, very secret and confidential, only to be opened in the dark.

EAST IS EAST AND WEST IS WEST.

Players.....Thomas's Atkins.
Place and Time.....Kangyi, Night 'ops.

BRAINY GENT.—"Here, give us that compass, we'll soon find the way." Company edged closer interested to think someone knew. "Now, see where that arrier is pointing?" (we edged closer) "well, that's North, so if we look the other way, that's South" (somehow we knew that). The next problem was to find East and West, so we gently reminded him we had to go East. "Aw, that's easy, come on (we went, West). We had to thank Count Eux for finding the Char and Wads, his Motto being, "Where there's a feast, try opposite to East."

THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW.

1. What makes "Baldy" think aeroplanes land on the hills of Kangyi?
2. Who is the Gent in No. 10 who represents a young Hippo when asleep, a Mule with tooth ache when laughing, a tree trunk at 200 yards and a Gun Boat in action when walking?

Chin Chin my children (What's the favourite for the Derby?)

NOTE.—The Editor cannot accept responsibility for any queries.

AZZUWERE.

"S" Company.

These notes find us at Kangyi Camp, preparing for the Battalion Training, commencing at a later date in the month. The training hasn't been very hard up to the present time, but we cannot hope for its continuance on the arrival of the remainder of the Battalion, the only thing is to hope for the best.

Two of the annual events of the Company have been held whilst in Camp. First, the Inter-Section Football Knock-out, which was won by No. 6 Section; who had the pleasure of illuminating last year's winners at "Khairme's."

The Second event was the Inter-Section Machine Gun Shoot which was won by No. 1 Section, the same being judged by the Company Commander and the Company Sergeant Major. We hope to see different winners in the oucoming year when we hope to be at Lucknow.

Our able manager, namely the C.S.M. has found one or two "Dark Horses" in the two or three cross country runs that have been held up to date, and hope to see them the winners of the Harris Shield Cross Country Run to be held on the Battalion's return to Maymyo.

There are still further events to take place in the Harris Shield, namely the Football and the Battalion Rifle Meeting. On the record of the Company Team at Mandalay they should win the former. Although we musn't forget that we have the "Gentlemen of the Battalion" to compete against.

I think, in the last month's notes, some mention was made in reference to the number of our men returning to Maymyo with "Toothache" and regret to say that the Editor of last month's notes has returned with a similar complaint, but please don't think that he is the only one.

It is rumoured that "Tom Mix" is sitting for his First Class Certificate of Education. I expect he hopes to be placed in charge of our "posse." No wonder No. 1 Section won the Inter-Section Shoot. Still, all joking aside, "Good Luck" to him.

We have heard that we are to lose our Company Commander (Captain J. R. Willows) and also the Company Sergeant Major (C.S.M. Burt), but hope that this is untrue as we are quite a "happy family" and I am sure we couldn't have a better pair than these two.

A recent Company Commander, Captain G. E. Sankey, M.C., has left us for England and I am sure the Company all wish him "Bonne Voyage."

We are all wondering what the present attraction is in Maymyo, for there has been quite a number of N.C.O.'s of the Company having week-ends for the purpose of visiting — (we should like to know what). If anyone can give us any idea as to what it is, we should be very much obliged.

We all wish Pte. Robertson the best of luck in Civilian life.

I am afraid that is about all that can be written this month, but will endeavour to have more news next month, as I believe by that time we shall have had our annual turn-over and also the next draft from England will have arrived of which some will join "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

M.N.

FOR SALE.

In the Makuyu district of Kenya Colony, 34 acres of land together with well built three roomed bachelor's bungalow and out-buildings—Price £500.

Good climate—tennis—golf.

For particulars apply to the Editor, *The Dragon*.

The 2nd Battalion.



AFTER a very mild season the weather has begun to be really cold. Rain, snow, frost and hail have been with us most of the month. The cold weather, however, has not been able to interfere with the spirit of hospitality, even though it has prevented many activities.

The other Regiments in Bordon have been busy entertaining the officers. On 19th February, several of us dined with the Cameronians and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

In return for all the hospitality we have been shown since our arrival here we have been giving a series of Regimental Guest nights to our neighbours, at which we had great pleasure in also seeing some old members of the Regiment.

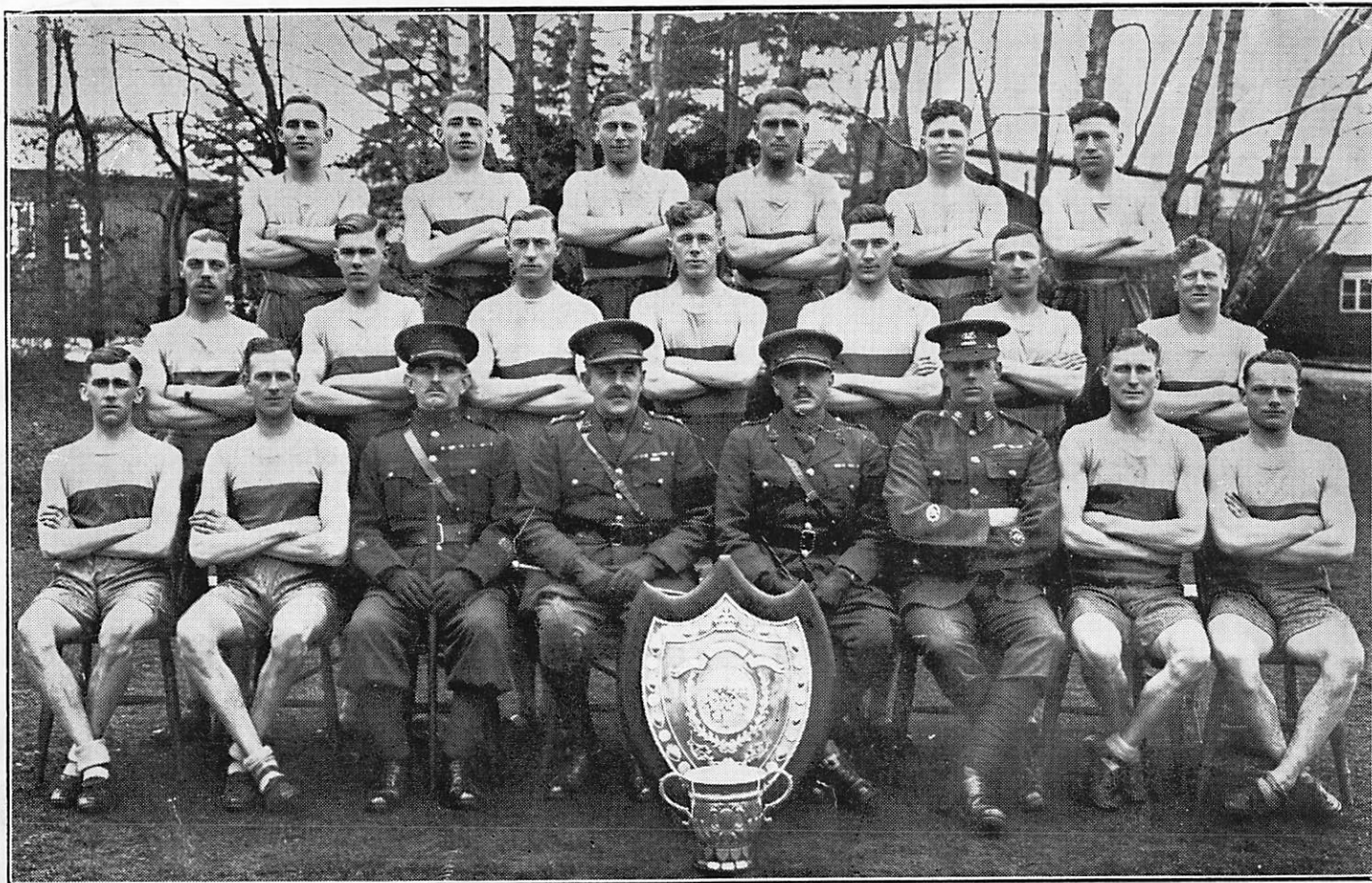
The 43rd Light Infantry dined with us on February 14th, The Royal Artillery on the 21st, The Royal Irish Fusiliers on the 28th, and The Cameronians on March 7th. Some of the Royal Irish Fusiliers were old friends of many of us who were with the 1st Battalion in India, and it was very nice to see them again.

During the month we had much pleasure in seeing Captain Causton, Colonel Lucas, our Divisional Commander, Major-General J. Kennedy, our Brigade Commander, Brigadier Mackesy, Colonel Guy Lee and Colonel Beavor. Captain Fox has just returned from sick leave and we are very glad to see that he has recovered from his serious illness. We must also offer Captain Fox hearty congratulations on his engagement. Major and Mrs. Hart called in to see us on their way to the sea from the north, which was a great pleasure.

The Cross Country Running Team have been covering themselves with mud and glory. The team and their trainer, C.S.M. Ongley, deserve all the best congratulations that we can offer them. The results speak for themselves:—

February 13th, against The East Yorkshire Regiment, 98 pts. to their 225; February 16th, against 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment, 150 pts. to their 150 (this was not a full team on our side); 5th place in the Southern Counties Run, this was run on February 23rd.

2nd Battalion The Buffs, Army and Command Cross-Country Team Champions, 1936.



Block kindly lent by the Aldershot Command News.

Back Row (L. to R.)—

Pte. S. Howsham, L/Cpl. R. Dudley, Pte. J. Swaine, Pte. L. Hayde, L/Cpl. W. Skinner, Pte. G. Watts.

Second Row (L. to R.)—

Pte. B. White, Pte. J. Pearcy, L/Cpl. F. Dixon, Pte. G. Joynson, Pte. W. Payne, Pte. R. Alnwick, Pte. G. Skinner.

Sitting (L. to R.)—

L/Sgt. T. Hurley, L/Sgt. P. Belson, R.S.M. P. Ransley, Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Thomson, M.B.E., Major N. D. Rice, O.R./Q.M.S. A. Ongley, D.C.M., Sgt. A. Trinkwon, Cpl. H. Philpott.

February 28th we won The Aldershot Command Run with a score of 184, some 400 points above the second team, The Welch Regiment. This looks well for our future in the Army Championship.

We are now in the midst of our Officers' week, a very strenuous time for us all. Capt. Wale has come to stay with us for this period to put a polish on his tactical knowledge. Captain Reid has been attending a Physical Training course at the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot and Captain Milton has been to the Army School of Cookery during the month.

Lieut. Coates has been racing at the Army Race Meeting at Aldershot, but was unfortunate enough to have a nasty fall, we are glad to see that he is none the worse for the experience.

On March 8th, The Bordon Drag met at the Mess. A large field attended and were entertained in the mess before moving off.

We welcome 2/Lieuts. A. C. Rawlins, F. H. Howard, B. M. Horley, who have joined us.

Major G. F. Hamilton has returned from the 1st Battalion and has taken up his duties as Second in Command and Officer I/C. Training. We are all very pleased to see him back again.

Cross-Country Running.

Our next event after our effort in the South of the Thames on February 9th was an away fixture with the 2nd Battalion The East Yorkshire Regiment on February 13th. This unit we had met on many occasions during our previous stay in the Aldershot Command.

The course lay over familiar ground, starting from the Queen's Hotel, thence over the golf course to Elnuor Bridge, over the Long Valley, around Cocked Hat Wood, across Norris Bridge to Pyestock Wood, on to Ively Farm, Cove Reservoir and back to the starting-point.

Owing to having a fixture on the following Saturday, it was necessary to rest some of our team. Frankham was soon in the lead, being followed closely by Alnwick. Then came Watts, Sgt. Trinkwon and Percy, the remainder all running well. A very good run and a good win for our team.

Complete result :—

2nd Bn. The Buffs.		2nd Bn. The East Yorkshire Regt.	
L/Cpl. Frankham ...	1	Pte. Guthrie...	5
Pte. Alnwick ...	2	Pte. Rose ...	7
Pte. Watts ...	3	L/Cpl. Furness ...	10
Sgt. Trinkwon ...	4	Pte. Edwards ...	18
Pte. Percy ...	6	Pte. White ...	19
Cpl. Belson ...	8	Cpl. Bell ...	20
Pte. Hayde ...	9	Pte. Cutting... ..	21
Pte. Inman ...	11	Pte. Day ...	22
Pte. Skinner ...	12	C.S.M. Hoc ...	25
Sgt. Bell ...	13	Pte. Jackson ...	26
L/Cpl. Dudley ...	14	Pte. Wilkinson ...	27
L/Cpl. Skinner ...	15	Pte. Smith ...	28
Total ...	98	Total ...	228

Not counted in :—

Pte. Joynson ...	16	Pte. Louchran ...	29
L/Cpl. Philpott ...	17	Pte. Keirl ...	30
Pte. Dixon ...	23	Pte. Richardson ...	31
Pte. Whitmarsh ...	24		

On the 16th came what has now become our most sensational fixture during our several years of running. This was against the 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment. On the 22nd January we ran this unit at Bordon, and they performed quite well and I naturally told them so, but never at any time did I tell them they were likely to beat our team. By the time the Command Championship came along they had nearly convinced me that they would beat our team, in fact all Aldershot had the same views, the reason being that this unit actually tied with us on February 16th. Ours was not a full team, neither did our men race all out on this occasion, having in view their 10-mile race to come on February 23rd. This was the first occasion that our team had failed to beat a unit team since the Army Championship in 1931, when The D.C.I.I. beat us. The result was that The Welch Regiment were bound to beat our team.

Complete result :—

2nd Bn. The Buffs.		1st Bn. The Welch Regt.	
L/Cpl. Frankham ...	1	Pte. Oliver ...	4
Pte. Alnwick ...	2	Sgt. Johnson ...	5
Pte. Watts ...	3	L/Cpl. Cole ...	6
Pte. White ...	7	Pte. Jones ...	8
Pte. Swaine ...	9	Pte. Evans ...	10
Pte. Long ...	12	Pte. Goodwin ...	11
Pte. Inman ...	14	Pte. Greenfield ...	13
L/Cpl. Skinner ...	18	Pte. Jones ...	15
L/Cpl. Philpott ...	19	Pte. Smith ...	16
L/Cpl. Dudley ...	20	Pte. Bayley ...	17
Pte. Howsham ...	22	Pte. Llewellyn ...	21
Cpl. Belson ...	23	Pte. Wedlake ...	24
Total ...	150	Total ...	150

Not counted in :—

L/Sgt. Hurley ...	26	Pte. Sargeant ...	28
Pte. Percy ...	27	Pte. Rogers ...	29
Pte. Hayde ...	31	Pte. Hughes... ..	30

On Saturday, February 23rd, the battalion team competed in the Southern Counties Championship for the first time. This event was held at Hassocks, Sussex, over a ten-mile course. A team of twelve to run, the first six to count.

Our team had had no previous experience of this distance, and considering the heavy going and the standard of the event, put up a very creditable performance. Although L/Cpl. Frankham rather failed on this particular day, it was a good experience for him. He has run many better races. Pte. Alnwick ran remarkably well for his 46th place. The time will come very shortly when he will be up with the leaders in all important events. Cpl. Belson was the surprise of the day with his 47th place, being just in rear of Alnwick; a very great effort. Then came Long, with another fine effort, 67th in the race. He only needs to keep it up and he will be well-placed in the Army Championship. Pte. White at 73rd place and Pte. Inman at 82nd place completed our scoring six. A very good six. Supporting these very fine runners were :—Pte. Watts, only just behind at 87th; these small runners of ours had put up a great show over the very heavy 10-mile course, against the best runners in the South of England. Then came Sgt. Trinkwon and L/Sgt. Hurley, arguing both in words and deeds as to who is the best runner. On this occasion Sgt. Trinkwon was 91st and L/Sgt.

Hurley 92nd, although I am afraid the tables were considerably turned at a later date. Pte. Swaine had done all that was expected of him for his 99th place. Sgt. Bell had kept the tale end going at 147th. Pte. Hayde was well-placed at one time, but a shoe falling to pieces over most of the distance soon brought him back to 149th. He has, however, made amends in the Aldershot Command Championship with a great effort.

These positions were sufficient to gain the team fifth place, only four points behind the fourth team. That our team were successful in beating the team entered by the Aldershot Command Harriers proves the strength available for the Army Championship on March 19th.

Complete result (27 teams competed) :—

	<i>Points.</i>
Surrey A.C.	76
Belgrave Harriers	85
Polytechnic Harriers	143
Ranelagh Harriers	344
2nd Battalion The Buffs	349
Mitcham A.C.	361
Aldershot Command Harriers	369
<i>2nd Bn. The Buffs.</i>	
L/Cpl. Frankham ... 34	Pte. Watts ... 87
Pte. Alnwick ... 46	Sgt. Trinkwon ... 91
Cpl. Belson ... 47	L/Sgt. Hurley ... 92
Pte. Long ... 67	Pte. Swaine ... 99
Pte. B. White ... 73	Sgt. Bell ... 147
Pte. Inman ... 82	Pte. Hayde ... 149
—	
Total ... 349	

Only four clear days before the battalion team were again competing in an important event, the Aldershot Command Championship, on February 28th. We had to make the most of the four days, and in spite of some very serious rumours on the strength of the opposing teams, we were fairly confident of our success. Our team really meant business on this occasion. The course was suitable for fast running; and was under the usual seven miles, being about 6½ miles. The rain had made the going a little heavy, but at the same time it was not a difficult course.

Many of our officers were present at the start, both past and present. Amongst others were Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Thomson, Lieut.-Colonel Lucas, Lieut.-Colonel Guy Lee, Major Hamilton, Major Rice, Captains, Essell, Sandilands, Rose and Dare, Captain and Mrs. Wale, Captain, Mrs. and the Misses Milton, Mrs. Causton, Captain and Mrs. Symonds, Mr. Spear, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Walters, Mr. Oliver, Mr. Craddock, Mr. Scott and Mr. Edmeades. General Kennedy, G.O.C. 1st Division, was also present.

Our team were soon to the front; they were allowing no one a yard too many on this occasion. L/Cpl. Frankham took the lead after about a mile. Ptes. Alnwick and Long were running second and third, but Spr. Swan, R.E., was quite handy. All the remaining members of our team were well up.

At Norris Bridge, about half-way, L/Cpl. Frankham was opening up a good lead and running very strongly. Alnwick and Long were still there at second and third with Spr. Swan just in the rear. Hayde was well up in the single figures, as also was Cpl. Belson once more. Great going this. Watts and Inman were inside the first twelve places and running well; White and Swaine both putting up a good show and inside the first twenty places. Then comes Sgt. Hurley, L/Cpl. Philpott and Sgt. Bell inside the first thirty places, making a complete team of twelve. Sgt. Trinkwon was having a bad day, but was still within reach of our twelfth man, L/Cpl. Skinner and Joynson being just a little further back.

At Cove Reservoir, about 1½ miles from the finish, L/Cpl. Frankham appeared in sight with a grand lead, running strongly and making for the finish in great style. An even better sight was to see Alnwick and Long next appear at 2nd and 3rd place, although Spr. Swan, R.E., was still there with them. Swan was eventually 2nd, Alnwick 3rd and Long 4th. Swan has had much more experience than our two men. Hayde was still there at 8th place—no troubles this time, all was going well, even for Hayde. A wonderful effort, and he well deserved his position. Then came Cpl. Belson (no holding him this season), Watts and Inman was soon along, being inside the first twelve. White and Swaine had both run well for their 17th and 18th places. Just a small gap, and then we had Sgt. Hurley, L/Cpl. Philpott and Sgt. Bell home, to complete our scoring twelve.

After the race the Shield was presented to the Commanding Officer, each member of the team receiving first team medals, L/Cpl. Frankham and Pte. Alnwick also receiving 1st and 3rd individual medals. L/Cpl. Frankham, Ptes. Alnwick, Long, Hayde, Cpl. Belson, Ptes. Watts and Inman all gained Command Badges. These are awarded to the first fifteen in the Championship, our share on this occasion being seven.

L/Cpl. Frankham won his first Command Championship, and the battalion team their fifth Command Championship in succession.

Result :—

<i>2nd Bn. The Buffs.</i>	
L/Cpl. Frankham ... 1	Pte. White ... 17
Pte. Alnwick ... 3	Pte. Swaine ... 18
Pte. Long ... 4	L/Sgt. Hurley ... 29
Pte. Hayde ... 8	L/Cpl. Philpott ... 34
Cpl. Belson ... 9	Sgt. Bell ... 38
Pte. Watts ... 11	
Pte. Inman ... 12	Total ... 184

	<i>Points.</i>
1st. 2nd Bn. The Buffs	184
2nd. 1st Bn. The Welch Regiment	575
3rd. 43rd Light Infantry	847
4th. 1st Bn. South Staffordshire Regiment	921
5th. 2nd Bn. The Wiltshire Regiment	1,115
6th. 2nd Bn. The Royal Tank Corps	1,283

24 teams competed.

The battalion team will be competing in the London to Brighton Relay on April 13th, starting from Big Ben at 11 a.m.

A.V.O.

ARMY CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

The Army Cross-Country Championship was held at Aldershot on Tuesday, March 19th, 1935, starting and finishing on the Queen's Parade opposite the Command Central Ground.

There was a large gathering of spectators to witness the event, amongst whom were all our serving officers and a large number of past officers and friends of the Regiment.

On this occasion, after a very hard race, we had to take second place to the 2nd Battalion The Lincolnshire Regiment. This unit were able to turn out a very fine team and thoroughly deserved their win.

Before proceeding further with the actual championship, I would like to remind readers of some of our past efforts, also those to date during the present season. I feel sure all will realise that all members of the team have always put their all into the various events. Although to-day we are only the second best team in the Army, I feel that it has been a great honour to train and guide them through the past eight Army Championships and fully realise that we shall come forward again next year as strong as ever.

Owing to the present day keenness in all Army sport and its thoroughly organised system throughout all commands, units, etc., I feel it is most difficult for any team in any event to go on winning year after year. To reach anywhere near the top requires much time and consideration, also the ability to be able to place a team in the field on the particular day in the very best condition.

Our past successes have been :—

Winners of the Shorncliffe Garrison, 1931-32-33-34.
Winners of the Eastern Command, 1931-32-33-34.
Winners of the Kent County Championship, 1932-33-34-35.

Winners of the Army Championship, 1932-33-34.
Winners of the South of the Thames Championship, 1934.
Winners of the Blean Beagles Cup, 1932-33-34.
Winners of the Rochester Road Race, 1934.
Winners of the Coleman Cup, South of the Thames, 1934.
London to Brighton Relay, 1933-11th; 1934-5th.

During the present season :—

Winners of the Bordon Group Run.
Winners of the Bordon Inter-Company Run—"C" Company 1st, "B" Company 2nd.
Winners of the Kent County Championship, 1935.
2nd in the Aldershot Command Young Soldiers' Championship.
5th in the South of the Thames Championship (Being winners in 1934 the scoring six cannot compete again). The team were 5th in the twelve to count.
5th in the Southern Counties Championship.
Winners of the Aldershot Command Championship.
2nd in the Army Championship.

Eleven teams and twenty-seven individuals were entered, representing the best runners of the Army. Amongst those competing were Sgt. Sutherland, the holder of the Army Championship and Scottish International, who has again had a good season; L/Cpl. Ginty and Gdmn. D. Patience, who both have run so well for the Belgrave Harriers during the present season. Sgt. Holmes was once more fit and back into his team and ran extremely well. Each team were either winners or runners up in their respective Command Championships. So the standard here is very high.

It was an ideal day for the event. The course was not a difficult one, except for one short and stiff climb. Except for the fact that about four of our team had recently been sick with colds, etc., everything seemed set for our fourth win in the event. Ours was a very strong team. Had everyone been right on the top of his form we may just have won. As it was, we had three or four that did not rise to the occasion. The Lincolns ran a good race, and I think were always in a winning position.

At about the third mile, L/Cpl. Frankham and Alnwick were nicely placed, being about fourth and fifth in the race. Watts, Long and Swaine came next, all in a good place; at the same time the Lincolns were going by well. Inman, White, Sgt. Trinkwon and Sgt. Bell all came by well, and things began to look hopeful. But the remainder were too far back to be able to pick up in a race of this standard. Percy, in his first Army Championship, was doing well. Then came Cpl. Belson and L/Cpl. Philpott, the former not running so well as he has been doing this season. Sgt. Hurley and Hayde were rather back.

After about six miles, Alnwick came by just in front of Frankham, running about fifth in the race. A little later he had a bad time, falling back a bit and Frankham overtaking him; both these two men had run well throughout. Frankham had been on the sick list for some days just before the Championship. Inman was not going well and making a lot of ground. Long and Swaine had both put in a good day's work, as also had Watts. Sgt. Trinkwon, another of the invalids, had a good day. Pte. White, also on the sick list before the

run, did well for his twenty-seventh place. Sgt. Bell had made another great effort to pull the event round in our favour and had put up a grand show for his 36th position. Those young men of some twenty-odd years who think they are getting too old, should read very carefully here. If the heart is in the right place, the body will respond. Pte. Percy for his first appearance did extremely well. He will be a great addition to the team next year. L/Cpl. Philpott ran well and I don't think we could have expected him to have done better—always a good solid runner who gets an average place. Cpl. Belson was unfortunate in having an off day, for this season he has had some very fine runs. Owing to this we had expected something outstanding from him. Unfortunately it did not come off this time. There is still time to make amends. L/Sgt. Hurley has not reached his high standard this season, on the odd occasion he has run well. Perhaps next year he will again come into his own. Pte. Joynson did quite well; never over-fast, but always sure of a good place. Pte. Hayde was another runner that could have made the difference between 1st and 2nd place. Recently suffered with a cold and the "flue," but somehow was unable to convince those in authority that this was really so. Had he been taken in hand on the first occasion I sent him sick, I think he may have been fit early enough to have been capable of putting up his usual good effort. As it was he was too good a runner to leave out of the team and at the same time was not fit enough to give of his best. This is where most of our trouble lay.

It was a great race. Everyone had done his best to try and hold on to our Army Championship, but on that day we met a team that was better than we were, and we must give them credit for their hard-earned success. Next year we must come back again and make a strong effort to recapture the event. The task is not too great for we still have a good team when they are all at the top of their form, also a good number of young hands that will by then be strong enough to take their places in the team.

Individual Result.

		mins.	secs.
1st.	Sgt. R. R. Sutherland, A.P.T.S. (Holder)	42	11
2nd.	Sgt. Holmes, 2nd Bn. Lincolnshire Regt.	42	27
3rd.	L/Cpl. Ginty, 2nd Bn. Coldstream Gds.	42	46

Team Result.

		Points.
1st.	2nd Bn. The Lincolnshire Regt. ...	283
2nd.	2nd Bn. The Buffs (Holders) ...	362
3rd.	1st Bn. The Welch Regt. ...	577
4th.	2nd Bn. The Gloucestershire Regt. ...	663
5th.	1st Bn. The Oxford and Bucks L.I. ...	759
6th.	2nd Bn. The North Staffordshire Regt. ...	910
7th.	1st Bn. The York and Lancs. Regt. ...	951
8th.	2nd Bn. The Somerset Light Infantry ...	966
9th.	2nd Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt. ...	...
10th.	1st Bn. The Royal Sussex Regt. ...	1,375
11th.	Guards Depot ...	1,500

Team Places, 2nd Bn. The Buffs.

L/Cpl. M. Frankham	4	Pte. B. White	... 27
Pte. R. Alnwick	... 5	Sgt. H. Bell	... 36
Pte. P. Inman	... 11	Pte. J. Percy	... 53
Pte. D. Long	... 13	L/Cpl. H. Philpott	... 63
Pte. J. Swaine	... 14	Cpl. P. Belson	... 90
Pte. G. Watts	... 20		
Sgt. A. Trinkwon	... 26	Total	... 362

Not counted in :—

L/Sgt. T. Hurley	... 94
Pte. G. Joynson	... 95
Pte. L. Hayde	... 99

Points scored by the battalion team in past years :—

	Points.	Place.
1928	779	5th
1929	787	5th
1930	629	3rd
1931	439	2nd
1932	274	1st
1933	288	1st
1934	219	1st
1935	362	2nd

We can still go on to make a record of consecutive appearances in the Army Championship, for each team has to qualify to compete in the Championship. So far we have a total of eight. A few more will do it.

The following were successful in gaining their Army Badges. These are awarded to the first fifteen runners in the Army Championship :—I./Cpl. M. Frankham and Pte. R. Alnwick.

Having finished seventh and eighth respectively, I./Cpl. Frankham and Pte. Alnwick have qualified to represent the Army in the Inter-Services Championship.

The team received the second place medals, also a welcome back by the battalion. On Wednesday night, March 20th, they were given a dinner in the Sergeants' Mess, when the Commanding Officer and officers of the battalion visited and expressed their appreciation of their successes gained during the season. Our thanks are due to R.S.M. Vaughan and the Warrant Officers and N.C.O.'s for making the evening a great success.

Many messages were received both before and after the race. These were much appreciated by the team.

A.V.O.

Football.

During the past month the weather has put a stop to many matches, more especially in the Senior and Junior Leagues.

On Wednesday, February 13th, the battalion played the 2nd Medium Brigade, R.A., at Longmoor. A very poor game resulted in a win for our opponents by 2—0.

The ball admittedly was not easy to control, but our fault lay in that we rather underestimated the powers of our opponents, and so paid the penalty. A change-over between the forwards and halves in the second half could not produce a goal, and we lost deservedly. Whiskin played a good game at left-half.

The team was :—Pte. Longley ; Pte. Bird, Pte. Johnson ; Pte. Corden, Pte. Packman, Pte. Whiskin ; Pte. Squire, Bandmaster Foster, Pte. Walton, I./Cpl. Tiley, Cpl. McBride.

On Saturday, February 23rd, in the Junior League, the battalion lost to the 2nd Battalion Cameronians by 1—3. The Scotsmen were smaller than we were but very much quicker on the ball, and deserved their win. Some good football was seen, but we lacked pace and were weak in front of goal. Swain played a very promising game at left back and should prove an asset when he learns more about positional play.

The team was :—Pte. Mitchell ; Pte. Bird, Pte. Swain ; Pte. Krailing, Pte. Gorse, I./Cpl. Clarke ; I./Cpl. Potter, Pte. Bryant, Pte. Burton, Pte. Collins, Pte. Leadbeater.

On Wednesday, March 6th, the battalion lost to the 2nd Field Brigade, R.A., by 2—5, after a game which could hardly be described as gentle. It must be said that the team was not blame for most of the free kicks, and generally deserved a better fate.

The team was :—Pte. Longley ; Pte. Burton, Pte. Walton ; Sgt. Farrell, Pte. Packman, Pte. Whiskin ; Pte. Squire, Bandmaster Foster, Pte. Corden, I./Cpl. Tiley, Pte. Leadbeater.

In this match Packman was again tried at centre-half, but was not a great success. He must gain more control over his legs. Leadbeater was promoted from the Junior League. He has plenty of pace, but needs more dash.

In the Garrison Inter-Company League "S" Company has done well, being beaten only once, by 6 goals to 5, after leading 5—0.

Matches in the Athletic Shield have been begun. Up to the present, "S" Company has beaten "A" by 7—1 in the first round, and "24" beat "13" by 2—1 in the other first round match. The ultimate result is still very open.

Hockey.

As the result of being knocked out of the Army Cup Tournament, it seems that interest and consequently enthusiasm have waned. This, together with the absence of several regular first team players, including Dawson in hospital and Edwards and King on courses, accounts for the series of defeats which we have suffered during the past month, and which culminated in the terrific hiding we received at the hands of the 1st South Staffordshire Regiment, who defeated us by 10 goals to 1.

Casualties on account of injuries and other unavoidable causes are to be expected, and can to a certain extent be catered for, but loss of interest and enthusiasm are difficult to contend with, and these must be eradicated if we are ever to produce a team capable of capturing the Army Hockey Cup.

Next year will find quite a number of vacancies in the side which did so well in this year's Army Tournament, and it must be our aim, in the fixtures remaining this year, to try and discover the necessary talent to fill these vacancies.

The following are the results of the matches played during the past month :—

- Feb. 9. Lost to Alton H.C. 4—2.
 11. Lost to R.I.F. 2—0.
 13. Defeated Charterhouse School 5—0.
 14. Lost to R.I.F. 5—0.
 20. Lost to R.M. College 2nd XI. 2—1.
 23. Lost to 2nd Cameronians 3—0.
 26. Defeated 19th Field Brigade R.A. 3—0.
 Mar. 5. Lost to 1st Bn. South Staffs. 10—1.

The Inter-Company Athletic Shield Tournament is drawing to a close, and from results to hand, it seems that "B" or "S" Company will head the table.

There have been some quite exciting tussles in the Tournament, and although some of the games have been more reminiscent of the Irish game of hurling than of hockey, nevertheless the competition has brought to light one or two players who should develop into battalion players of the future.

E.H.W.

Sergeants' Mess.

During the past month, we have been able to hold a dance in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club, under the supervision of R.Q.M.S. Ricketts, who, in his usual style, gave us an excellent show. The Band was on form and all those present thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We are still in the air, as far as our Mess is concerned, although it is now looking a great deal more like home than it was a month ago. It is rumoured that by next month, we will be really settled in. We hope so.

C.S.M. Simon has decided that the pen is mightier than the dart, and has given up the management of the dart throwing enthusiasts in favour of wielding the pen at the Vocational Centre at Aldershot. It is hoped that he will find his arm-chair waiting for him. Whilst on his course, he is attached to The King's Own Royal Regiment in Blenheim Barracks, which we vacated in 1930, and he is looking forward to his daily stroll to and from his "Work."

Sgt. Richards has very suddenly found employment and left us at very short notice. The members are all very pleased that Joe has fallen on his feet, and doubly pleased that he is amongst friends. He is now the manager of the "D" Company club at Folkestone, in relief of Mr. "Millionaire" Martin, and he will no doubt very soon settle down. Sammy Martin, we are given to understand, has bought up a chain of breweries throughout Kent. Dan Duffy has a few years to do, and has forgone his Rolls-Royce in order to take an option when Joe retires.

Before leaving us, Joe told us that he will be with us on June 22nd, when a party from Folkestone is coming up to see the Tattoo. We shall be glad to see them all.

We held a Monthly Spoon Shoot recently, with amazing results. As the outcome of a stupendous expenditure of '22 ammo., the R.S.M. has invited the Bandmaster to tea. This may seem somewhat disconnected, but it happened in this manner. Our gallant Rissole King put up a wicked 17, and the R.S.M., refusing to be beaten, spent a day and a half in the miniature range, eventually emerging with a card scoring 84!! Together with his handicap, he claimed the Silver Spoon, much to the disgust of Sgt. Bills, who is normally a bung shot, but who managed to score 88 on his card. The R.S.M. once won a Silver Spoon at Shorncliffe, when shooting as an Old Contemptible against the Mess. Now he puts one and one together and invites the Bandmaster to tea.

One of our Bisley cracks has his name on the "Wooden 'Un" this month. Sgt. Trinkwon made 22, but by the time a minus handicap had done its work, what was left was below zero. He has not yet been heard asking for his replica.

For the benefit of readers in warmer climes, just a little reminder of the Mother Country you all miss so much. At the time these notes are being written, there is some snow on the ground, howling wind and a temperature at about the level of Trinkwon's score. In the last week we have seen the sun, also rain, sleet and hail. "Oh! to be in England—"

I must register a protest against the veiled insinuation contained in *The Dragon* notes of the 1st Battalion Sergeants' Mess—"busy out East." Further information can be had on application to any company at home.

So until next month, I will try to forget "*Dragon* notes to be in."

ELDEVRE.

Corporals' Mess.

What ho, you cads! gather round your Uncle W.H. and I will tell you the story of the *Nancy Lee*—well, not exactly of the *Nancy Lee*, but the next best thing. Yea, verily and gadzooks. Spring, romance, "poky die," and the thousand and one scents of blooming (!) Bordon are in the air again, and amongst those whom Cupid is "fixing up" we must number one "Toby." His latest "flame" dreams of him every night and it seems that she aspires to promotion from Chief Cook and B.W. to the bar, so that she may feast her eyes

upon our "Tobe's" comely countenance. Ah! Love is a fickle jade, but we have to hand it to "Toby" for real devotion to the cause. We said something last month about cross-eyed persons being unlucky, whereas the reverse is actually supposed to be the case in so far as the female of the species is concerned. So we crawl in the dust and beg forgiveness for errors, one, awful, but take consolation from the fact that "Toby's" tryst may now take a normal course and not be haunted by bad luck—unless the third party in the case takes it into her head to "take him for a ride" in her tramcar! A little dicky bird has also whispered that Clem Cowley was thinking very seriously of getting married a few weeks ago. We now learn that he has been rescued from that awful fate, and decided to practise no more the correct deportment of the "underdog" and give pram drill a rest for a while. Of course, a "refresher" on the latter can always be arranged at short notice!!!

At the last meeting of the denizens of the Dug-out, the winners of the various billiard handicap awards received their prizes, and in response to the usual and time-honoured clamours for "speech," a few well-chosen words were uttered by the lucky ones (Aye, "Moggy," I said lucky!). Warre-Dymond is away burnishing up that Field-Marshal's baton and so was unable to personally acknowledge the first prize, but a letter of thanks has been received, which was read with interest by most members. The "Admiral," however, was present and stepped up smartly for one "gasper case," this being the runner-up's reward. Our nautical hero commenced his speech in the good old quarter-deck manner (bluff and hearty), but his final words slipped up on a piece of soap or something—frinstance, we should like to know exactly what Warre-Dymond would have said if he had been present!!! L/Cpl. Tiley, our most recent worshipper at the shrine of Cupid (*i.e.*, the Naffy counter), tripped up very cooly to accept the third prize and had a few words to say regarding the grooves in the table. It's a funny thing, but when I play they usually lead right off the table altogether. In fact, a "throw in" rule would be a great improvement on the rules of billiards, as far as I am concerned, at any rate. Our feline friend, "Moggy" Catt, was lucky enough to find all the grooves, and thus, making the biggest break was child's play. I suspect from the way that Fate seemed to favour Catt that his prayers went thus: "God bless mother, God bless father. Aw! give us a break!" and he got it! His oration dwelt upon a certain Oliver Cromwell, and as I thought I knew all the pubs in the district I thought "This is a new one on me," so I looked up the local Directory to find out the whereabouts of the Oliver Cromwell. But as it wasn't there, I had to give up the idea that it was a pub and transferred my attentions to the Encyclopaedia Bordonica. There I found that Oliver Cromwell was a rather peppery individual (probably an ancestor of one of Mr. Hore-Belisha's political rivals), who, it appears, dished out some instructions about removing a bauble. The story goes that Oliver was a certain fiery old gent who perceived Charles I. playing with a yo-yo in Parliament during a debate on whether his head should be removed or not, and shouted in his ire, "Huh, Charley, be yourself! Take away that bauble!" The bauble (and the king's head) were later removed and placed in a clean dry spot—but it still lies in the House of Parliament as a weapon for the Speaker in moments of stress! The history lesson over, we will resume the normal trend of our notes.

"Buffy" Howe, clad almost nightly in his Sunday best, continues to give the lie to the saying that "civvies" here are not used half as much as at Shorncliffe. But all is not as it seems without cherubic looking Romeo. He tries to hoodwink us by saying that he only goes out so often to reconnoitre good

positions for mortars. It is hoped that he has selected some good positions. I should think that he has surveyed every bit of country within a radius of ten miles and sounded every landlord on how wet it seems to be in this locality. It is no exaggeration to say that three-quarters of the time we have spent at Bordon it has rained. Now if anybody says, "But wait until the summer comes," I shall go sick. I waited for it at Shorncliffe for nearly four years, and was then caught for a guard when it did come!

An unusually large number of social and entertaining events have taken place during the past month. On February 15th, the Corporals of the Cameronians provided the opposition for a game of football, but as is usually the case when we play, the weather was terrible. The team deserves at least a cheer for playing at all for the full time. Very appropriately the game ended in a draw with two goals each, and as we heard that the "Cams'" team included quite a number of battalion players, a draw was a very creditable effort on our behalf. Tiley scored our two goals, and efforts were made for his S.Y.T. to be on the touchline to provide the necessary stimulus to further efforts in busting the back of the net, but all in vain. Just before the game started, the referee complained that a tent-peg was sticking up out of the ground, but on investigation it only turned out to be Joe O'Keefe, so the game was started without further ado.

The same evening, the Dug-out had an extremely Scotch flavour (not financially, we hope), because a number of the "Cams'" team came over to continue the rivalry by engaging in another sort of game—"Buffy" Howe knows all the rules! The national beverage is the chief item to be considered before the game starts, and once it got going conviviality and general chattiness was rampant. I for one was very surprised that I was able to get home that night without being challenged to a fight by "Buffy" Howe, who seemed to think that the mantelpiece could be improved by the addition of a few pieces of cut glass! "Nelly" thought otherwise the next morning! By the way, Nelson, who answers to the name of "Admiral" or "Nelly," has performed a very valiant month's duty in the Mess. By the time his month was up everyone could eat and drink by numbers, not to mention the ceremony of removing one's "ammos" before entering the Dug-out. Booking up a game of billiards invariably necessitated a cross-examination on one's past life, and if anyone got a game "buckshee" whilst "Nelly" was Caterer, they darned well deserve it! "Chalky" White now tends to our needs, and as the effect of his "uplift" course is still upon him, it is quite a change to be able to find the papers and periodicals a few days after their date of issue, and not have to dodge an extremely grimy dish-cloth grasped in the hand of our "Nelly." We hope he will not take any of this too much to heart, because we would not have had it otherwise for worlds. "Without fear or favour" is the motto we uphold, and "Wot I says I sticks to."

The Shooting Committee have certainly got down to it lately, with the result that two shoots have been arranged with promise of more in the near future. These took place in the miniature range, and our thanks are due not only to the Committee but also to the S.I.M. for giving up his time and labouring on our behalf—on a Wednesday afternoon an' all! The first shoot was to give the Committee a guide on the future handicapping of firers and the second shoot was fired under handicap conditions, but that is no excuse for our "Dead-eye" (Axford) presenting a beautifully unsullied target after he had shot! Corps must also be numbered among our "Bungs"; he was cunning enough to register only 6 in the first shoot, thus causing

his handicap to soar "pluswards." He did not get out of receiving the Wooden Spoon, however, in company with Winny, who was "Lord High Bung" on the second shoot. "Spud" Austin topped the bill after the first shoot, which "goes fer to show" that whatever else may be the matter with "Spud," he knows how to keep his "heye on the hobject haired at." The Handicap Shoot favoured Friedman, to whom a Silver Spoon has been presented. We heard that Clem Cowley was "sweating" on the Spoon (the Wooden 'Un?), but he was foiled in the first case, by Corps selecting a "bull" in the wrong field, and in the second case by Axford-seeing things.

As was anticipated, the company boxing provided thrills and excitement a-plenty, and a great deal of friendly rivalry was prevalent. Several Corporals found themselves together in the ring, and there is really no need to say how sportingly the scrapping was carried out and that there was much amusement caused by the generally good-humoured remarks which flew about. In Paddy Scallan we now have a real horizontal champ, in fact, a positive rival to Jack Doyle. Gentlemen,—our crooning bruiser, Paddy! On being asked if he was likely to tour America, Paddy remarked that only one thing will stop him—the fare! Charles Kelly, one of our far-famed musketeers, put up a great performance against Joe O'Keefe and Bill Martin and Cowley also had a darned good go at each other. The Musketeers' stock slumped a bit after these reverses, but it is O.K. again now in view of the sign of obvious affluence displayed by the possession of one "stink-wagon." When our worthy confrere (Best) first appeared in barracks with his rusty (sorry, printer's error! That's meant to be "Trusty") steed, word went round that L/Cpl. Best had found the Loch Ness Monster and had brought it back on a leash as a mascot for the Signal Section. Knowing full well that such a thing was not out of the question as far as our heroic Corporal was concerned, we heard that the Signal Sergeant became very wrathful. But all was well when the monstrosity was revealed to his awestruck gaze.

And now for a few

THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW.

Where was "Buffy" when the lights went out?

SMALL VOICE: "Performing one of his Indian tricks!"

If the Orderly Officer gets a "Present," does the B.O.S. get a butt salute? Answer can be provided by friend "Cosher."

What regiment of foot is the Ox and Jocks?

LATE NEWS FROM 'CHANGE.

Mars Bars are depreciating. Crunchies up two points.

WHANG HO.

The Band.

The outstanding event to take place this month, will be the Kneller Hall inspection, by the Commandant, and Director of Music, on 29th March: an account of which I hope to record in next month's issue of this worthy magazine. The programme will be as follows:—

Slavonic Rhapsody, No. 2 (Friedman); "Spain and Hungary" from Moskowski's Suite; Piano Concerto (Mozart), Soloist, Boy O. Birkin; Male Voice Choir; Selections by the Dance Orchestra; Three pieces by the String Orchestra.

The string orchestra have been handicapped by the absence of our 'cellist. We are glad to say he is out of hospital now, having had the rest he has desired for some time: needless to say old George still looks sleepy.

The dance band have had several engagements this month, all of them have pleased the organizers of the respective dances.

On March 18th, the band will be going to Kneller Hall to play the school at football, after the game, will be tea, and time for a stroll round the school, and then on to a musical concert.

We have had plenty of sport this month. The "24" Company Hockey team comprising of band and drums, have played "13" Company in the Athletic Shield, and beat them by 5 goals to nothing. They were surprised.

We have had numerous football matches, unfortunately I have mislaid the results, but we had one lose, and seven wins, which should place us top in the Bordon Football League.

Our Band Sergeant, Sgt. Richards, has left us to take up a situation at the Buffs Drill Hall, Folkestone. We are all sorry to think we shall never hear his witty remarks, and humorous jokes any more, but everyone in the band wish him the very best, and hope to see him again when we are in Folkestone at any time. Good luck Joe.

The band played at a concert to the Bordon Garrison, on 3rd March. Everybody listening thoroughly enjoyed it. "The Flying Dutchman" was specially asked for by Major Bayley of the Y.M.C.A. staff.

The younger members of the band are now doing weapon training, and judging by the shooting at the miniature range, there will be a good many marksmen amongst them.

Our P.E. tests were carried out with flying colours. "Toots" and Ginger Rayment doing the mile in fine style. Old "Doughy" was well to the fore with the rake. Paddy Dixon, our saxophone player, had the honour of receiving a Silver Medal, instrument, and 1st Saxophone Prize, from the hands of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, on Speech day, at Kneller Hall, this month. All the band send their hearty congratulations to him. Soon we will be very busy preparing for the Aldershot Tattoo, the Jubilee Celebrations, and the engagement season. On top of that, we shall squeeze in Weapon training, and our Annual Musketry Course. And some witty person said, "the band have an easy time!!!"

We send our best wishes to the 1st Battalion Band, reminding them that I am writing this as snow is falling outside, and it is d— cold.

YANK.

The Drums.

Continuing from last month, we have again played the Buglers of the 43rd L.I. at football and won, 7—1. "24" Company team composed of Band and Drums, played "13" Company in the Inter-Company Knock-out Competition and won, 2—1.

The Inter-Company Hockey League found "13" and "24" drawn together again. Result, "24" won, 5—0.

During the past month a good many of our members have been laid up with "flu", but I am glad to say that they are all now recovered after careful nursing, shortage of pay and an overdose of Sick Leave.

We are now looking forward to the Aldershot Tattoo and hope it keeps fine for us. We go to Aldershot on May 27th for intensive rehearsals.

There being nothing further to report, I will now close, till next month.

COPSY.

The Boys.

As promised in last month's notes, here appears a full report of Boys' Boxing.

BOYS OVER 9 STONE.

Lewer, E.	} Reid	} Reid
Reid, A.		
Beale, G.	} Beale	} Reid.
Galloway, A.		
Lord, N.	} Bolt	} Bolt
Bolt, F.		

BOYS OVER 8 STONE.

Smith, J.	} Smith, J.	} Smith, J.
Dilliams, G.		
Smith, A.	} Smith, A.	} Johnson
Mitchell, A.		

BOYS UNDER 8 STONE.

Johnson, R.	} Johnson	} Johnson
Amos, J.		
Birkin, O. drew bye.	} Birkin	} Johnson

All boys put up a good show especially Johno and Tank, and the standard of boxing was very high amongst the Boys. Of course, the ring floor had a few stray dents in it by the time the champs had finished bashing their way to the finals. Our Corp. was doing well when an unlucky one landed and he awoke in the dressing room. The snake-up afterwards was the chief attraction, before which Captain Milton delivered a very nice speech, thanking everybody who took part in the boxing.

Only one football match has been played during the last month, against the Faugh's and ended in a draw, 3—3, but an "away" match in the near future is anticipated at Sevenoaks.

Lord and Williams are next on the "Married Pairs Roll." These lads always receive letters with strange codes on the back (tokens of love we think). Are you fixed up with best men yet? Lewer, the herb from Guildford, has also made a certain proposition to a young wench, she was so attracted by his polished boots that they fell in love at first sight.

Slim has just got his equipment, its so smart (so it should be, he cleans the brasses every day). Reid also is a great cleaner, our Corp. uses his bucket as a mirror every morning for a mow.

The trumpet squad, A. Smith, Galloway and "Lofty" Garratt, often go out for extra bugle practice (and of course they do bags of blowing). Woodstock's enthusiast, Mitchell, does his "Feory" in his sleep, as the rest of his spare time is taken up absorbing the interests of his flute (Visions of K.H. loom largely before him).

Our Corp. is the latest hockey goalkeeper, of course, he learns all the ins and outs of this art from Gussy. "Paderwisky," alias Olly, is following Slim's example (namely, acquiring a pair of highly polished boots). Snakiness is calling from the C. of E., so must close until next month. Au Revoir.

G.R.A.B.

Signal Section.

The month of March, notorious for its high winds and generally uncomfortable weather, has arrived heralding its good intentions with fine bright sunny days such as one can only read of in penny 'Mags.' The bug-bear of flag-bashing is now deemed the most exhilarating and pleasurable pastime imaginable. The general 'all round' improvements in the 'young hands' is most gratifying, time is marching on and the classification days will not be long arriving, but by team work and a little push from each individual candidate, we can achieve 100% results. All signallers should realise that each man is a responsible unit within himself, initiative and common sense are essentials at all times.

A decided improvement has been noted in the billiard scores of comrades Murray and Newman since our last notes, but someone should try to 'pipe' Tubby and Holdsworth down at 'darts,' they're getting far too confident of their invincibility, Tubby should be good at throwing things with the job he holds at present.

Sorry to announce that a sudden malady assailed comrade Ritchie, but after a short sojourn in the local 'Crocks' ward, he decided that he'd have to be pretty bad to make it even a temporary 'hang out' and returned to the section with all speed. Carter seems to be anxious to usurp Beal's none too glowing reputation, perhaps this is only a passing fancy, we all hope so.

Don Juan doesn't seem so interested in women of late!—a secret passion is suspected, perhaps a well dressed Maidstoneite has managed to hook him?—but why conjecture? he must admit that waitresses, even of C. of E. pattern, are not exactly of the clinging class (excuse this rough humour Abel).

Holiday, preparing for his next meeting with his fiancé, no doubt, has polished his 'Statuette' preparatory to presentation, undoubtedly a man any girl would be proud of.

We turned out a scratch team to meet the Cameronians' Signal football team, which we heard was made up of Company players, but we only lost 3—2, but our play was infinitely superior.

A short survey of the 'Old Hands' brings up the following points—Why should Hobday be questioned so often about his height? and why should Mitchell moan so insistently of late? (who 'does' know?) And I ask you, is it a manly sport, this shuv-ha'penny? Did you know that Wraight did ALL his own work whilst his two assistants smoked all his cigarettes and had the day off when same 'cigs' were a decoy to having the day off himself? I ask you.

MUSKETEERS.

Employed Group.

I must apologise for the omission of my notes in last month's issue, but owing to my being on leave I'm afraid it was unavoidable. However, I shall endeavour to give a complete resume of events which took place during my absence.

First and foremost, we have a feat worthy of recognition, the superb achievement of "Tich" Cornish in the Inter-Company Boxing, in winning the 1st String Bantamweight. "Tich" is mighty bucked with himself these days, while his trophy decorates (in all the splendour of its frequently polished surface) the otherwise drab surroundings of the Orderly Room. Oh! to be a "Champ"!!!! Squibbo also won his weight, though we took this as a matter of course, and expected it from a man of his experience in the Ring. However, congratulations to them both.

Our Pioneers, namely "Ditcha," Gilbert, "Squibbo," "Bing," and "Taffy" Goodman have just returned from a scrounge in Aldershot (officially to pass Trade Tests) and we gather that, with the exception of "Bing," all have succeeded in satisfying the Examiners. Hard lines, "Bing." Rumours have been current, however, as to the lamentable doings of our one and only "swill-tub," alias "Ditcha," who we are informed spent his leisure? ? hours dallying in a certain well known store, glamorously eyeing the charms of the many females behind the counters (or was it one in particular?) His "modus operandi" was to buy a few necessary (?) articles (value 3d.), during the course of which purchase he somehow managed to prolong the otherwise legitimate conversation, and usually wound up by suggesting a "date." What a man!!!!

The latest result of the Corporals' Room shoot, in which a number of our members competed, has brought to light the prowess of friend "Cupid" with the rifle (small bore '22). "Cupid and his wooden spoon" are the talk of the Group these days, and methinks, a course of pokey-die is indicated—a strenuous one too.

A new occupation in the group, originated by our old sweat "Jimmy," and demonstrated to the "unbelievers and scoffers" is rug-making. Collections of old socks (grey wool) have found their way into our room during the past fortnight, and unwinding processes have been all the go. "Tich" Cornish has also followed the lead, and is designing a large one for his bottom drawer. On behalf of "Tich," I would request my readers who have any spare army socks to send them over—But they must all be washed.

Steve leaves us shortly for a six months' course on the Square, and judging from the remarks passed, it's about time. However, we hope he will soon settle down as a "duty wallah," and show the lads how to do it. Good luck, Steve. His inseparable pal, Bill, returns to the Orderly Room next month, and gets down to some more finger exercises, which, I have no doubt, he will be only too glad to do.

SKIVER.

"A" Company.

We have nothing outstanding to write about this month, as the Company has been on Individual Training for the past three weeks.

We have played, in the way of sports, "S" Company at football in the Inter-Company Knockout Shield, and lost 7-0. The score flatters "S" Company, because we had just as much of the game as they did, only their forwards were on form, but ours were not. We have in the Company, quite a few good footballers, but they had never, before this game, played together as a team.

Our Hockey team has not done too well this year as we have only managed to draw one game and we lost the remainder.

The team put up a very good show against "B" Company, drawing 1-1, because where "B" Company have nearly the Battalion team, we only had three playing who knew anything about the game, so I must congratulate the remainder of our team for doing what they were told and not using their sticks the same as for playing golf.

We welcome to the Company, Pte. Chamberlain, who has just finished a tour of duty at the Depot. We haven't seen him performing at any sports yet, but we hope that he is a keen sportsman, so that he can assist us in the future.

G.D.G. (T.X.)

"B" Company.

With a hot water bottle at my feet, knees wrapped in a blanket and my ears tucked into the collar of my greatcoat, I sit down to write my notes for the month. By the foregoing it will be understood that the cold spell has settled on Bordon. Yesterday the ninth, we were subjected to a veritable blizzard and to-day only the high wind seems to prevent a heavy fall of snow. Every possible means have been tried to entice some warmth into our chilled bodies, at the time of writing, with little success.

The only consolation we have in the weather, we are experiencing at the moment, is that it keeps dry the veritable quagmires which have sprung up between the blocks. It is now possible to proceed through barracks without falling ankle deep in mud.

Our activities in the sporting sphere have been somewhat disappointing. After an exceptionally good start in the Inter-Company Hockey, we have only just managed to hold our own in the last two matches.

Our first match with "A" Company, rather staggered us, for they held us to a draw, the final score being 1-1. It seemed, from a spectators point of view that the result was mainly due to the many opportunities missed by our forwards.

The next match with "13" Company, resulted in another draw, this time the score being 2-2. This match was a keen struggle from start to finish and had the halves kept their positions more, the result might have been a trifle different. "13" Company, however, must be congratulated on the fine game they gave us and it must be confessed that they were the fresher team towards the end of the match and at times appeared as if they would get the deciding goal.

In the Inter-Company boxing, the Company gained third place. I will not go into details, for some more able scribe than I am, will give full results, but will offer congratulations to our team on an exceptionally fine performance.

At soccer, we lost 2-0 to "B" Company, Cameronians and 5-0 to "H.Q. 24" Company. Both matches were well contested, but our fellows should not give in until the final whistle blows.

Whilst on the subject of sport: I have attended all Company fixtures and have been amazed at the lack of support. Come on fellows, your team plays all the better for a cheer or two.

PARS PERSONAL.

THE COMPANY SERGEANT MAJOR.

C.S.M. Williams was unfortunately caught by the influenza epidemic and was in bed for a week. We sincerely hope he has fully recovered.

"OUR TWO OLD CHAPPIES, ALIAS THE OLD SCHOOL TIES."

Grave reports reach me of the intended retirement of our famous pair, Gainford and Clarke. Both are well known for their sporting abilities and we should be sorry to lose them.

Gainford still studies books with titles like "Life in the Rhodesian Police," whilst Clarke having acclimatised his inner man, is thinking of opening a speakeasy in Skegness.

"BATTLING MITCHELL."

Proceeding to the Corporals' Mess on Friday last, I saw our boxing champion behaving in a very furtive manner. My curiosity having been aroused, I followed him and eventually ran him to earth in the wood to the South of "Runniar." Imagine my surprise when he seated himself on a log and began to study a "Drage's" catalogue. Oh! Mitch, do tell us when it will be! We feel sure you will make a dashing bridegroom.

In conclusion we offer a hearty welcome to Mr. Howard and hope his stay in the Company will be a long and happy one.

"C" Company.

Some poet Johnny said that "The pen is mightier than the sword," but this pen is not true to form, so if these notes are below par, blame the pen.

Things have been very quiet in the Company during the last month: training having been completed for a while, the "local lads" are recuperating by taking over employed jobs, if you just take a peep into the Dining Hall, you will see some of them looking like a Sainsbury's shop assistant juggling with plates and mugs, the remainder of the Company occasionally get into harness and do "two on and four off," so that the other lads can be assured of a good night's "kip."

Again our Cross Country running team has come into its own, by winning the Aldershot Command, so we offer the team our congratulations with the rest, also to the "C" Companyites who were members of the team.

This seems too good to omit, so if Mr. Editor will forgive my audacity for attempting to put this in these notes, I will relate what a little bird, belonging to the champion company, whispered to me:—A certain member of our Company, on enlistment, wrote the following epistle to his mother—

"Dear Mother,

They put me in barracks, they took away my clothes and gave me khaki, they took away my name and gave me No. 575, they took me to Church, were I had never been before, they made me listen to a sermon for forty minutes and when the Padre got up and said No. 575 'Art thou weary, art thou languid,' I got fourteen days in the 'Nick' for speaking the truth."

Jock has reached the first fence in the "Matrimonial Stakes," careful Jock, otherwise you may fall at the last ditch. Well, here's wishing you all the best for your future, and don't forget that little bit of the service, "To love, honour and O pay," sorry, I mean "obey."

In conclusion, I again must offer my profuse apologies for shortness of notes, but no gangsters have shot barracks up or racketeers tried to smuggle "Woodbines" and ginger pop into our peaceful haven of rest. I will say "Au revoir" until next month.

SNOZZLE.

"S" Company.

First and foremost, my notes this month must be on Cross Country Running. The whole Company are upstanding in their congratulations to L/Cpl. Frankham on his fine win in the Aldershot Command Cross Country Championship, and also to the following members of the Company on being placed as follows:—Pte. Alnwick (3rd), Pte. Hayde (8th), and Pte. Swaitc (18th). We wish these runners all the best of luck for the Army Championship which is being run at Aldershot on the 19th, and we hope to see them do just as well in this event.

As my last notes had to be in before the finals of the Boxing Championships were fought, I was unable to record the names of the winners; I see that a full account was given in the March issue of *The Dragon*, but this does not prevent me from offering the Company's congratulations to the following, on winning the Battalion Championships:—Cpl. O'Keefe (1st String, Featherweights), Pte. Lavery (2nd String, Featherweight) and L/Cpl. Parrish (2nd String, Lightweight).

During the last month, the following football fixtures have been played:—

February 19th, 1935, v. "H.Q." "B" 2nd Buffs (a local Derby). In this game our team, after a hard fight, came out the winners by the odd goal in seven. Our scorers being—Cpl. O'Keefe, L/Cpl. Potter, Ptes. Atkinson and Baldwin.

February 21st, 1935, v. "S" Cameronians. A very keen and hard fought game, with our neighbours putting up a fine show, but our team proved just too strong and finished the winners by 6 goals to 4. The scorers being—L/Cpl. Potter (2), Ptes. Atkinson (2), Crooknorth (Penalty goal) and Baldwin (1).

February 28th, 1935, v. "A" Ox and Bucks (43rd). A good game, but the 43rd could not hold our team, who finished the winners by 5-2. L/Cpl. Potter (3), Ptes. Perry (1) and Crooknorth (1).

March 5th, 1935, v. "A" 2nd Buffs (another local Derby). We must offer our congratulations to "A" Company on putting up a fine show against a much superior team. There was no question as to the result from the start, and when the final whistle sounded, the ball had found "A" Company's net no fewer than seven times with no reply. Our scorers:—Cpl. McBride (3), L/Cpl. Potter (2), Ptes. Crooknorth and Atkinson (1 each).

On looking at the Bordon Inter-Company League Table, I find that we are placed 2nd with the same number of points as the leading team, but this team is one game in hand to us.

March 6th, 1935. This brought a change from football to hockey. Our foe of the field being "A" Company, 2nd Buffs. In this, as during the football the previous day, we had the run of the game and finished the winners by 6 goals to 1.

Beneath Bell Harry.



SINCE last month, the Hardy Cup boxing contest with the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Depot has taken place. The result was a win for our neighbours by 5 fights to 2. The two "extra" contests were won by us, making the final result for the evening:—
Queen's Own, 5 wins,
The Buffs, 4.

The better team won, but the effort made by our boxers was very creditable considering that we have only 60 recruits to select a team from.

The good "man-power" situation of our two regular battalions means that the quota of recruits at the Depot is kept low. "What one gains on the swings, one loses on the roundabouts!"

The detailed results of each fight are shown elsewhere.

We were very pleased to have a visit from Major-General Minshull-Ford, who brought with him Majors White and Rowell. The last named is an Australian officer and was very interested in Lieut.-Colonel Jackson's recent visit to our allied Australian Regiment.

Major Wilkins and Mr. Tuff have just returned from a tour of the Aisne battlefield. We gather that they had a very interesting time and, although fortunate in the channel crossings, were equally unfortunate in coinciding with one of the few cold "snaps" that we have had this winter.

As was foreshadowed in last month's notes, we have to bid farewell to Captain and Mrs. Hoare, and we wish them the very best of luck with the 2nd Battalion at Bordon. At the same time we extend a very hearty welcome to Mr. Oliver.

2nd Battalion—continued from p. 154.

We must not forget to record our congratulations to our noted Company Clerk on being selected to play for the Army Wanderers on 2nd March.

Cpl. Dumont has left us for the wide open spaces of Salisbury Plain, and is at present worrying over a Barr and Stroud at Netheravon.

With a few exceptions, the Company has finished its Annual Machine Gun Course for another year, and many are the new badges floating about the Company.

The Company, less the Mortar Platoon have also fired their Rifle Course. I understand the Mortar Platoon is having its trip to the ranges during the first part of May, and then a trip to Cobham Ridges when our allotment of bombs come through. At present they are touring the surroundings of Bordon on Detachment Training.

CRANKHANDLE.

The hunting season is now drawing to a close and a spate of hunt balls combined with point-to-points is upon us. This season must be near a record, as, up to date, hounds have only been stopped three times by the weather.

Boxing.

The Annual Hardy Cup Competition between this Depot and the Depot Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment was held in our Gymnasium on February 27th.

The Queen's Own proved to be successful and carried the cup to Maidstone.

We were greatly indebted to Captain F. W. Crafter, The East Surrey Regiment, who very kindly came all the way from Shorncliffe to referee, and to Captain H. H. Malpass, Royal Army Pay Corps, and Lieut. D. A. Pringle, Royal Corps of Signals, who kindly acted as judges.

FEATHERWEIGHT (H.C.).

HAMMERTON (B.) *v.* NISSON (Q.O.).—A very even fight, both men receiving much punishment. Hammerton was the stronger man but should have taken more advantage of his reach. Nissen won on points.

LIGHTWEIGHT (H.C. 1ST STRING).

BEST (B.) *v.* SHARP (Q.O.).—Sharp began like a hurricane, beat his man to the ropes and pummelled him until the referee stopped the fight after the first few seconds.

LIGHTWEIGHT (H.C. 2ND STRING).

AUGUST (B.) *v.* FORD (Q.O.).—This was a very tame fight in which there was very little action. Ford won on points.

SPECIAL FEATHERWEIGHT CONTEST.

FAST (B.) *v.* MARCH (Q.O.).—Fast opened well, but in the second round Marsh landed two beautiful uppercuts which seemed to give him more confidence. However, Fast improved in the last round and was awarded the verdict on points.

INTERMEDIATE (H.C.).

BLAIR (B.) *v.* STEPHENSON (Q.O.).—Both men started strongly, but it was soon evident that Blair could not stand the pace, and the fight was stopped in the second round in favour of Stephenson.

WELTERWEIGHT (H.C.).

SPELMAN (B.) *v.* GREGORY (Q.O.).—Spelman began furiously and landed many strong swings to the head. Gregory was very game, but was knocked-out in the second round.

WELTERWEIGHT (H.C. 2ND STRING).

SNAPES (B.) *v.* KING (Q.O.).—The opening round was one procession of wild swings by both men. King evidently damaged his hand on his opponent's head, as the referee stopped the fight in the second round and awarded the decision to Snapes.

SPECIAL MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTEST.

HUDSON (B.) *v.* CHEVIS (Q.O.).—This was easily the best fight of the evening. Both men exchanged blow for blow in each round and were completely tired out at the end. Hudson was the better boxer and gained the verdict. The referee congratulated both men on a splendid display of sportsmanship.

MIDDLEWEIGHT (H.C.).

COX (B.) v. PETERS (Q.O.).—Peters opened very fiercely and soon showed he was too strong for Cox, who was blown by the end of the first round. The second round also went to Peters, but Cox fought gamely and made a little headway in the third round. This was quite a good fight and Peters was awarded the verdict.

Miniature Rifle Club.

A consistent good shot, Sgt. Curliss, has embarked to join the 1st Battalion, and to replace him in our team appeared somewhat difficult. However, congratulations are extended to Pte. Godsmark, who in his first competition shoot obtained the useful total of 94. An all round improvement has been shown by all other members; Baron, always reliable, getting a 99; Q.M.S. Shorter, usually erratic, getting a 94 (excitement probably prevented this being nearer a possible; C.S.M. Farrow, Sgt. Hoskins, L/Cpl. Berry and the R.S.M. getting back to their usual form.

A match against the R.C.O.S. was arranged on their range, which gave us a little more experience if nothing else, resulted in a win for us by 554 to 536.

FRITH SQUAD.

No. 814100 Boy H. Snapes has broken the record for the highest score obtained by a recruit at the Depot in Part III. Table A by obtaining a score of 100 out of a possible 105. He is to be congratulated on obtaining that excellent total.

The previous record was obtained by Frye (George Howard Squad) in March, 1933, and was 99.

No. 6285789 Pte. L. Newing equalled this score on the same day that Snapes broke the record.

Another good score (97) was obtained by No. 6285902 Pte. C. Ellington.

Recruits Cross Country Results.

THURSDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY.

Name.	Squad.	Mins.	Secs.
1. Rose	Frith	13	15
2. Huggins	Do.	13	21
3. Huskisson	MacDowell	13	24
4. Ashby	Do.	13	45
5. Cheeseman	Frith	13	52
6. Carswell	Do.	14	10
7. Hunt	Do.	14	14
8. Slater	MacDowell	14	22
9. Young	Do.	14	25
10. Joynson	Frith	14	28
1. Frith Squad, 245 points, 55.5%			
2. MacDowell Squad, 283 points, 48%			

WEDNESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY.

Name.	Squad.	Mins.	Secs.
1. Huskisson	MacDowell	13	12
2. Rose	Frith	13	17
3. Ellington	Do.	13	21
4. Ashby	MacDowell	13	44
5. Snapes, H.	Frith	13	54
6. Hall	Do.	14	7
7. Cox	Do.	14	28
8. Huggins	Do.	14	29
9. Marsh	Do.	14	38
10. Carswell	Do.	14	42
1. Frith Squad, 483 points, 62%			
2. MacDowell Squad, 420 points, 40%			

WEDNESDAY, 6TH MARCH.

Name.	Squad.	Mins.	Secs.
1. Huskisson	MacDowell	12	54
2. Ashby	Do.	13	1
3. Rose	Frith	13	11
4. Keely	MacDowell	13	25
5. Cox	Frith	13	32
6. Furlong	Do.	13	34
7. Hall	Do.	13	37
8. Smith, J.	Lindsay	13	40
9. Huggins	Frith	13	53
10. Fuller	MacDowell	14	2
1. MacDowell Squad, 684 points, 51%			
2. Frith Squad, 697 points, 43%			
3. Lindsay Squad, 330 points, 10%			

Recruits' Weapon Training Results for the Year 1933-34.

Squad.	Miniature Range.		30 Yards Range.		Highest Individual Score on 30 Yds. Range without Repetition.	Highest Scorer in A.R.A. Competition H.P.S. 90.
	No. of Firers.	H.P.S. Final Average.	No. of Firers.	H.P.S. Final Average.		
Leigh	29	65.9	29	80.7	Gainford 95	Gainford 75
Clinton	35	66.25	35	79.29	Friedman } 96 Ward	Towner 63
Don	27	69.5	27	82.85	Richey 98	Kirby 70
Howard of Effingham	25	72.84	25	83.52	Collins 97	Harverson 69
King	33	66.37	33	78.3	Higgs } 88 Gilmore	Cullen 84
Thorn	30	69.5	30	81.2	Maslin 94	Krailing 75
Drummond	34	68.41	34	81.1	Fraser 94	Dixon 68
Grey	26	65.84	35 26	76.09	Hadlum 97	Ellender 77
Frith	28	68.1	Not yet completed.			

Sergeants' Mess.

We congratulate C.S.M. Farrow on winning the George Porter Billiards Cup. This is his first time of winning this coveted trophy, it may well be his last, as he is due to leave us at the end of the year.

This competition proved interesting, as most of the Mess Members and a few Honorary Members competed. R.Q.M.S. Mould and his Handicapping Committee did their job very well indeed.

We held a dance in the Mess on February 8th, and it proved, as usual, a huge success. These little occasions are thoroughly enjoyed by our visitors, but it would be a good thing if our own members came along in stronger numbers. These are the "very thing" to learn "toe-tapping," so there's no excuse for the future.

On February 23rd we journeyed to Herne Bay, at the invitation of the Herne Bay Constitutional Club, and were entertained to a series of games of billiards, skittle-billiards, darts, etc. We lost the billiards, but won the skittle-billiards and the darts. We had an excellent evening and were treated right royally. The members gave us an open invitation to visit the Club whenever we might be in the vicinity.

Unfortunately, we could not fix in a return match, but we hope very much to have a Home and Away fixture next year.

Sgt. Faulkner has been whiling away his leisure hours for the benefit of the Mess in french polishing the Mess furniture, for which we are very grateful. This celibate must be the envy of the married members' wives or the bug-bear of the married members, as he can lay a carpet flat, or on the stairs, polish furniture (and other liquids), hang curtains, or do anything in the domestic line. He probably likes this as a hobby, hence his remaining unmarried, lest he should have to perform the feats as a duty.

The members will soon be digging out their flannels and white boots for the coming cricket season. We should muster a fair team this year, with the addition of Sgt. Perry as wicket-keeper and bat, and Sgt. Glazier as a bat and bowler. The "tail-enders" will have to use the nets from the outset, as we want to build up a reputation like that of our soccer team.

The R.S.M., Q.M.S. Shorter and I/Sgt. Crouch represented the Depot at the Canterbury Branch Past and Present Association Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 16th.

Corporals' Room.

By the time these notes appear in print, Oakie will have left us for Civvy Street. We shall miss him talking of the M.O.'s 'ut and similar words, but we wish him all the very best and hope he will not stay long signing on the old dotted line.

A very unusual occurrence happened one night. "Pale-face" (Sutton) entered the Mess and asked to do the Batchelors a good turn. Several members are still suffering from shock and are wondering whether he had to be single for that night.

Michael has now started removing crockery, apparently having enough chairs. When is the happy day, Mike?

Is it correct that "Snipe," descendant of the famous "Ally Sloper," is signing on, and who did he "tee-ee" this time?

"Bangers" seems to be doing very well in his present capacity, although he tries hard to make everybody uncomfortable at meals.

Cycling is getting a craze among the semi-single members. Even Alf has procured one to visit the outlying district trying for new scalps for his belt.

It is suggested that a couple of settees or divans be obtained for the use of members who find sleeping in a chair rather uncomfortable.

We were very pleased to be visited by a member of the 4th Battalion Mess, namely Cpl. Hutchcraft. We hope he enjoyed his short stay with us whilst undergoing a refresher course.

The 4th Battalion.



WE wish to congratulate our Commanding Officer most heartily on being made a Brevet Colonel. Everybody will, I know, be very pleased to hear this and that he has been prevailed upon at last to stay with us for another year.

At last the clerk of the weather has had pity on us and gave us a nice fine day for our Tactical Exercise, which we held on February 23rd and 24th, near Chartham. We

tried our hands at wood and village fighting. After lunch, the Colonel threw his Battalion across the River Stour, in the same masterly way as Caesar used to. We must thank Major Robinson, who commands 59th Field Company, Royal Engineers for lending us the 'Kapok' bridging material and for allowing his Sergeant Major to come and show us the correct drill. He was so successful that the bridge was over the river in a very few minutes. The extraordinary thing about the whole operation was that no one fell in! I think this must be the first time in history that some public spirited buffoon has not obliged!!

Six of our officers are being presented by the Colonel of the Regiment at the Levée to be held on March 22nd.

Two very successful concentrations have been held in "B" Company, at Sittingbourne and Whitstable. They were very well attended, over seventy N.C.O.'s and men being present on both days.

"D" (S) Company's Annual Dinner and Prize Giving was held on March 5th in the Drill Hall. This was a most enjoyable evening as it always is. While talking of "D" Company, we are very sorry to say that we are losing C.S.M. Martin at the end of the month. We wish him the best of luck as landlord of the "Prince of Wales," near Canterbury.

We wish to congratulate Herne Bay Platoon on winning the '22 Winter League shoot. Their shooting was consistently good. Below are the scores:—

MINIATURE RANGE—WINTER LEAGUE.—
The final scores in the above League and Individual Sweepstakes are published for information.

Detachment.	February Score.	Grand Total.	Order of Merit.
Herne Bay	647	2,529	1st.
Dover "A"	679	2,524	2nd
Canterbury	648	2,448	3rd
Margate	535	2,346	4th
Littlebourne	562	2,289	5th
Whitstable	552	2,110	6th
Sittingbourne	542	2,082	7th
Ramsgate	398	1,834	8th
Dover "B"	456	1,825	9th
Cranbrook	286	1,458	10th
Folkestone	425	1,301*	
Hawkhurst	363	1,379	11th
Sandwich	—	1,022*	

*Three shoots only.

INDIVIDUAL SWEEPSTAKES.

Pte. Marsh	191	762	1st
Pte. Phillips	188	760	2nd
Lieut. E. G. Parish	180	746	3rd
Sgt. Larkin	183	716	
C.S.M. Clancey	165	635	
Sgt. Davis	183	633	
L/Cpl. Tripp	188	579 (3 shoots)	
2/Lieut. A. D. M. Hilton	173	541	
Pte. Dixon	133	529	
Sgt. Reynolds	158	467	
Pte. Baldwin	73	387	
Cpl. Macey	63	282	
L/Cpl. Colvin	84	146 (2 shoots)	

Our Boxing team is fighting for the Dover T.A. Garrison Cup on April 6th. May they win it back this year.

"D" (S) Company and "H.Q." Wing.

DOVER.

Having successfully negotiated the crossing of the "Kapox" at Chartham, we returned once again to our usual haunts and Drill Halls are now busy getting ready to commence firing our Annual Course. The weather, we hope, will be kind to us when we scale the heights around the Citadel, firing Part 1, and again when we reach the wilds of Lydden, in the hope that we can complete our course prior to camp and so obtain our reward on arrival at Camp.

We are glad to see one or two recruits still coming along, but sad to relate we are not getting those recruit machine gunners, the Drums and Transport seem to be the favoured branch, but we have still hopes of obtaining a few more very soon.

The rangetakers have started their extra training on Sundays and are getting some very useful practice, hoping to maintain their high standard of classification of last year. We can still do with a few more men who are eager to take up this course, but it seems that they have a dread of getting headaches.

We held our Prize Distribution and a Supper in the Drill Hall on March 5th. A very enjoyable evening was spent although the space this year was excessive, but we felt more at home being in the Hall instead of going to an outside room. We were fortunate in having the Commanding Officer, Major Dean and The Adjutant with us, together with several local residents, and we were given the impression that their visit was enjoyed. Our O.C. (Capt. Bacon) was in great form during his speech and now that we are "The" Company we have got to look to increasing not only our numbers, but our efficiency, so that during Camp we can say the title is well merited. Unfortunately the Brigade Commander and Col. Burns and others, were unable to attend, but we thank them for their very kind wishes for our enjoyment.

Our shooting team has again put up a very good score in the league, but unfortunately we were not able to beat Herne Bay this year owing to having a very bad shoot the first month. We heartily congratulate the winners and are glad to see that they have been so very consistent in all their shoots. It was the hope of the detachment to gain the prize for the third year in succession, but we had to admit defeat this time, but only by a very small margin, and next year we must try and get in more practice before the first shoot and so rectify this year's failing. In the Dover and Folkestone, we still maintain second place, although we have lost a few points of our lead, but this is only to be expected, seeing that just at the vital day some of our team had to catch the 'flu, but the reserves came along with a better score than at one time seemed possible. In the shoot on Wednesday, March 6th, our individual scores were:—C.S.M. Maskell, 93; C.S.M. Sidwell, 92; Sgt. Clark, 95; 1/Sgt. Abbott, 83; Pte. Mellis, 98 and Pte. Phillips 97. The last shoot in this league takes place at Folkestone in the early part of April and it is hoped that our full team will be available.

We are shortly to say good-bye to C.S.M. Martin (Sammy), after being our C.S.M. for a number of years, and we all wish him success in his new venture, and will drop along and see him when we visit the City. He will be greatly missed by the Folkestone detachment who I have no doubt will have more to say about him, so I will leave that to them. We are very pleased to see one of our old friends now installed in the Folkestone Club in place of Sammy, I refer to Sgt. (Joe) Richards, and we trust that his stay with our Company (in his capacity as steward) will be a lengthy one.

We are now looking forward to the Easter Training and are hoping that a good muster will come along each day so that we can get out in the country and do some field work.

L/Sgt. Donovan attended a short course at the M.G. School at Netheravon and by all accounts he had a good time. We congratulate him on the result, but trust that he has now no "Devizes" ties, or had he thought about getting married before he attended this course?

"The" (S) Company and "The" Company Club.

FOLKESTONE.

We will flatter ourselves by presupposing that others read these little literary gems which pour with monthly regularity from Folkestone into Canterbury. We would respectfully call to their notice the fact that the name of the Company has been once more altered by higher authority, and this time in a most important particular; the designatory letter of the Company has been "D" from days immemorial, even, some say, from the old days of the 1st V.B. The East Kent Regiment, interesting relics of which gallant battalion are still faithfully preserved in "The Club"; or rather, they are to be seen there most evenings—faithfully preserving themselves. But the Company Commander washed out all this ancient tradition at one fell swoop at the Company dinner on Tuesday, 5th March, at the Drill Hall, Dover, by directing the following correction to be added to the addenda and corrigenda page of all relevant training manuals:—"for "D", substitute "The" throughout." This is definitely a great thought and shows that the Company Commander is worthy of the title which we hasten to bestow upon him of "The" Company Commander, as, having arrived first in the field and pinched the definite article, it only remains to others to designate themselves "A Company" or "Some Company," as the case may require.

On 23rd February, a T.E.W.T. was held at Canterbury, in the vicinity of Chartham. The Battle opened in a very normal way, under quite pleasant weather, and we finished the morning with the clearing up of a village (Chartham), lining the streets and looking up at the top windows of the houses opposite; we hasten to add that our intentions were entirely honourable; some of our number were 'huffed' while carrying out too minute a scrutiny by being told by Captain Bacon that we had, like King Ehud, "received a blow beneath the fifth rib, that we died," the place of origin of the blow being the ground floor window of the house to which we had our backs. This was a startlingly useful piece of information, as we had all imagined that the enemy our side were being dealt with by our chaps on the other; village warfare definitely seems the sort of game where you want to have a good grip of the rules before you start playing, and not rely too much on picking them up as the game goes along. The Chartham detachment covered itself with glory, and were among the first men into the Artichoke.

After lunch we prepared ourselves for a great spectacle and military operation, nothing less than the crossing of the mighty Stour in full spate; we all gathered on the Bank, about 10 yards below the ordinary brick bridge, on which stood the wealth and fashion of the locality wondering why we chose a spot where there was already a fairly sound bridge to build one whose soundness decidedly remained to be proved; those who had made themselves skilled in the art of bridge-building on the evening before, assembled the Kapok assault bridge with tremendous energy and dexterity, all the knots were tied right, and when the R.E. Sergeant-Major gave the commands 'Prepare to lift and carry—Lift—Carry—GO STEADY THERE,' a vast snake of duck-boards erected on plough-yokes tied to Rowton House mattresses, held aloft by groaning stalwarts and secured at innumerable points by long guy ropes, crashed forward like a battering-ram at a steady 15 miles an hour. The contraption looked rather like the skeleton of one of the coaches for the battle of flowers at Nice. Horatius and Spurius Lartius, as in the good days of Rome, passed across bearing their Malls and posts-picketing, 2, and, like their Roman predecessors—"as they passed, beneath their feet they heard the timbers crack"; after a lot of tricky navigation the bridge nose was settled on the further bank, Horatius jumped off and secured it while Spurius Lartius started making quite a young grove of posts-picketing. The R.E. Sergeant Major crashed across in winning style and started furiously tying up guy ropes to the posts. The technical side of the business, the 'free show' part of it, was over, and a grave doubt began to assail us: 'What would be required of us? Would the 'Powers that Be' be satisfied that they had jeopardized the lives of two brave young fellows? Or would they want all of us, even including ordinary chaps like you and me, to go to meet death in the icy waters with a song on our lips?

We were not left long in doubt. The Colonel said something about, 'Walk across first, and then run back,' Sgt. Watson did one or two very pretty casts, but the fish weren't rising, with a rope which was happily christened the safety rope, drawn across from Bank to Bank, the Rev. Man came out and pronounced absolution and said we could all dry our clothes in the Village Hall, and we prepared for the worst.

The Colone went over in true Blondin Style, followed closely by Major Dean, who had pretty obviously seen the trick done before. Then "The" Company Commander got away to a fine start, hotly pursued by Shem and Japhet; No, that doesn't make sense; I mean that Captain Bacon made a most gallant assault, but that Captain Brooke and Mr. Roberts were close at his heels all the time; we must take more care of these similes. It wasn't too bad walking over, except that if you trod on one end of a duck-board the far end rose up to meet you, which made navigation difficult. Going back running was much easier, as one got a sort of automatic swing, and if one went from exact centre to centre of the boards they kept pretty quiet on the surface. The whole scheme was very enjoyable and novel, no-one got wet (one of the guides standing in the water in waders got stuck in the mud, from which he had to be rescued), and it was a very satisfactory wind-up to the day.

At the Company Dinner we were glad to meet our opposite numbers at Dover, and found that C.S.M. Sidwell had organized a first-class show for us. From the Battalion we were pleased to welcome the following guests:—The Commanding Officer, Major Dean, The Adjutant; and from outside it:—Captain Wyeth, Dr. Elliot and Councillor Morecroft. The entertainers included those ever-popular favourites with us, Mr. Jimmie Taylor and Mr. McGaskell, and Mr. Miles and his piano-acordion. We wish to congratulate everyone who won prizes, and especially Cpl. Elson on obtaining the prize for the best shot in the Company, and also on being the N.C.O. taking the most interest in his men; also we congratulate Sgt. Fuller and the other N.C.O.'s and men of the Signal Section who won prizes.

Captain C. H. M. Brooke and Lieuts. A. C. and P. L. Roberts have all been across to "La Belle France" on T.E.W.T.'s and Battlefield tours recently, and very interesting, instructive, and amusing they found them. Captain Brooke quartered at Soissons on the 44th (H.C.) Divisional Tour, dealing with the first month or two of the war, when we were being driven on to Paris, and Messrs. Roberts stayed at Arras on the 133rd Infantry Brigade Tour dealing with the last few months of the war when we made our final assault on the Hindenburg Line and drove the Germans out of France. Captain Brooke afterwards wished he had gone on the Brigade Tour, as he had served in those parts during the war, and not farther South, but his explanation that he plumped for the first tour "because the Germans got perilously near Paris in 1914" seems a very reasonable one.

The Club have had two games nights recently, both against the Star and Garter Home, Sandgate; we visited them the first time, being defeated by 11 games to 9 in a very good evening. We were then very sorry to learn that one of the two Buffs there, Mr. Maggs, was very ill indeed. However, when they played us the return, we were relieved to hear that he had made a great improvement. On our own ground we managed to beat them 10-9, so they are still one

up, and we hope to wipe that out some day. Being all sick men, they naturally have to come and go early, but it speaks highly for the club when we say that some of them simply refused to go, no matter what was in store for them at the other end. The Secretary has received a very nice letter of thanks from the Matron, Miss Allsopp.

The Club supper will be held shortly, and tickets, at about 3/6 or 4/- will soon be on sale. This will be the usual very cheery affair, and all should make an effort to turn up.

Sergeant Richards of the 2nd Battalion, or Mr. Joe Richards now, has taken over duties as steward of the Club as from Sunday, 10th March, and everyone is certain that he will make a success of it, for he enjoyed the club so much during his short stay here with the 2nd Battalion. And it requires someone as steward who appreciates fully all that the club means to its members, and is willing to see to it that things never slip back. Mr. Richards is definitely that man.

We have not been doing too well in the shooting line recently; we did rather poorly at the Folkestone League, Dover League, and Inter-Detachment League Shoots, but that cannot be helped I suppose, except by practice and renewed effort. We have started Gas Lectures, and a short course of N.C.O.'s Lectures for those intending to take promotion examinations in April; also, the Easter Training Programmes will soon be out; it is hoped that as many as possible will turn up.

Lastly, in connection with, but independently organized from, the Jubilee celebrations, there is going to be a "Territorial Sunday" on May 12th, and we are going to try and organize with the 234 Battery, to make a successful ceremonial parade of this; being only a week before Camp, it will be an excellent opportunity for us to get used to the feel of uniform again; but all ranks are reminded that every third Wednesday in the month is now a "Uniform Parade"; they are also reminded that there is now a notice in the club from the Secretary of the 234th Battery R.A. Club, stating that their Club's new rules make all our serving members honorary members round their side; and those very few signallers who did not brave a fierce east wind on Sunday the 10th are now once again reminded that Extra Trainings have commenced on Sundays.

By the time the next issue of *The Dragon* appears in print, C.S.M. Martin, who has been part time instructor to the Detachment for 8 years and steward of the club for 7 years, will have left us for a real civvy job, his first since he left the army. He is going to be the new landlord of the Prince of Wales in King Street, and all the best of good luck to him there. Members of the detachment will regard this as a further reason why T.E.W.T.'s should be held in Canterbury.

A.C.R.

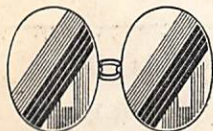
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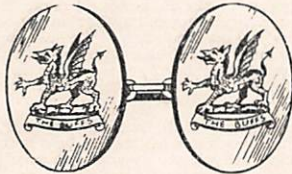
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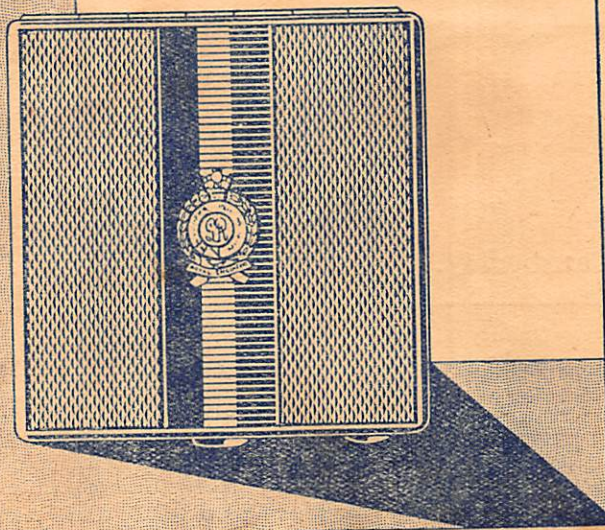


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