

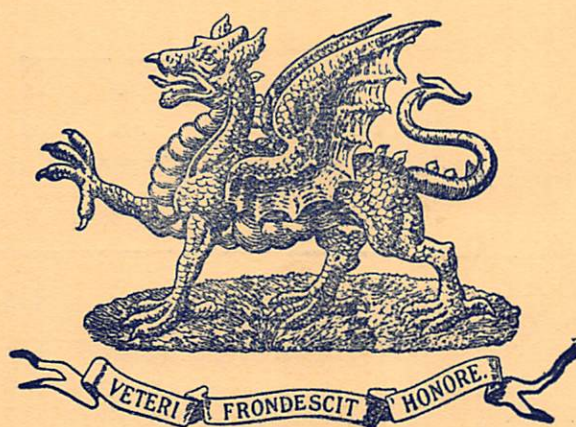
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THE DRAGON

THE REGIMENTAL PAPER
OF THE BUFFS.



No. 471 February 1939

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Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

3rd Battalion (Werrima Infantry) Australian Military Forces.

No. 471

FEBRUARY, 1939

Price: Sixpence

Personalia.

MAJOR D. S. Lister, who has recently been touring Denmark with the British Army Boxing Team, lunched on January 6th with H.M. The King of Denmark and Iceland. His Majesty very graciously gave his greetings to all in the Regiment.

We congratulate the following officers:— Major E. F. Hall on his appointment as G.S.O.2, 54th (E. Anglian) Division and Major G. D. Bacon on receiving the Efficiency Decoration; Capts. (Quartermaster) F. G. Verlander and N. G. Blake on receiving the M.B.E. (Military Division) in the New Year Honours, and Lieut. R. W. Edmeades on passing his promotion examination.

Major C. B. Lindsay writes from Toronto that the dinner to Sir Henry Pellatt, held on January 6th, was an immense success. Two hundred and forty-one who were members of the Queen's Own Rifles in 1910 were present, a great tribute to Sir Henry. There were innumerable references to The Buffs and the many interesting and amusing things that took place in 1910.

During the dinner a cable of congratulations from the Colonel of the Regiment was received by Sir Henry Pellatt.

Major W. H. Rowe, having completed his tour of duty at the Depot, is on leave pending re-joining the 2nd Battalion. He has been relieved by Captain G. E. F. Oliver.

We congratulate Major and Mrs. Dare, who recently celebrated their Silver Wedding.

We are informed that Capt. G. A. Steele died in July of last year. We offer our sympathy to his widow. Capt. Steele, as an Army Schoolmaster, was attached to the 1st Battalion for some years. Later he became an Inspector of Army Schools.

Lieut. P. B. Plumpton has arrived home on sick leave and is, we understand, making steady progress towards recovery.

We congratulate Lieut. D. C. J. Manners on obtaining seventh place in the list of successful candidates at the examination held in December of officers of the Supplementary Reserve and Territorial Army for appointment to Commissions in the Regular Army.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. G. I. Lushington on the birth of a daughter.

Our hearty congratulations to A. R. P. and Mrs. Stroud, who celebrate their Silver Wedding on February 6th.

We regret to record the death of Pte. W. McKay, 1st Battalion, to whose relatives we offer sympathy, and the wounding of I./Cpl. R. H. Carson and Pte. J. K. Mullens. On

January 20th a landmine exploded under a military trolley which was piloting a train for Jerusalem near Ramleh Station, causing the above-mentioned casualties.

Pte. Blake, of the 2nd Battalion, had a very successful tour with the Army Boxing Team in Denmark, winning three good fights and losing one by a narrow margin in which he was beaten by one of the best lightweights in Denmark. We congratulate him very heartily on being awarded his Army Boxing Colours.

David W. J. Cross and Albert H. Dunkling joined the Duke of York's School on January 4th. It will be of interest to Buff parents to know that there are now no less than eighteen boys at the School, the sons of serving or past Buffs.

Mr. W. H. Forrest, formerly bandsman in The Buffs, writes cheerily from Ontario. He wishes to be remembered to his old comrades and would like them to know that he is in good health.

Mr. Forrest served in the Regiment from 1897 till 1910 and again from September, 1914 to 1919. He went out to Canada in 1922. His wife is the former Miss White, whose brothers are the former Band-Sergeant W. J. H. White and the late Band-Corporal T. I. C. White, both of whom served with him under Bandmaster J. Elvin.

The number of Regular Army Recruits at the Depot on 15th December was 74. Thirteen joined during the previous month but nine were discharged. During the period 15th December to 15th January, 1939, eighteen recruits joined and five were discharged, the number of recruits for the Regular Army being on 15th January, 87.

This latter month shows a welcome increase in the number of recruits but much leeway has yet to be made up before the home battalion is anywhere near up to full strength.

We would be most grateful if those of our readers who pay their subscriptions to the journal by cheque, would kindly make out their cheques to "The Editor, *The Dragon* Newspaper." We were amused recently to receive one made out to "The Editor of the dragons,"

but doubt whether we have either deserved this nor can live up to it.

New Year Honours.

M.B.E. (MILITARY DIVISION).

- Blake.**—Captain Noel Gordon Blake, 1st Battalion, The Herefordshire Regiment, Territorial Army. (Lieutenant, Regular Army Reserve of Officers, The Buffs).
- Verlander.**—Capt. (Quartermaster) Frederick George, 4/5th Battalion, The Buffs, Territorial Army.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

- Hogben.**—6283162 C/Sgt. E. Hogben, H.Q., a daughter, Stephanie Anne, born at the British Military Families' Hospital, Lucknow, on 9/12/38.
- Lushington.**—On January 14th, 1939, to Cicely, wife of Godfrey Lionel Lushington, of Houpe Kahawatta, Ceylon, a daughter.
- Pawley.**—6284187 Cpl. F. Pawley, H.Q., a son, Frank Edmund, born at the British Families' Hospital, Lucknow, on 6/12/38.
- Pointer.**—6278884 Sgt. A. Pointer, "D," a daughter, Lillian Maud, born at Canterbury, on 7/12/38.
- Smith.**—6283773 Cpl. H. Smith, "A," a son, Michael James, born at Alton, on 10/12/38.

MARRIAGES.

- Barnsley—Dean.**—4743991 Pte. W. Barnsley, H.Q., married to Nellie Dean at Sheffield, on 17/12/38.
- Bryant—Churchley.**—6285203 Pte. R. Bryant, "A" (G.T.C., Hounslow), married to Alice Mary Churchley, at Fulham, on 24/12/38.
- Gambrill—Reeve.**—6283599 Sgt. T. Gambrill, "D," married to Ada Violet Reeve at the Methodist Chapel, Stoke Ferry, on 17/12/38.
- Paramour—Atkins.**—6283799 L/Sgt. W. Paramour, "C," married to Minnie Clara Atkins at the Parish Church, Ramsgate, on 17/12/38.
- Swaine—Dillingham.**—6285296 Pte. J. Swaine, H.Q., married to Daisy Dillingham at Wealdstone Gospel Mission, Harrow, on 24/12/38.

Turner—Twyman.—6287165 Pte. G. Turner, H.Q., married to Jessie Edith Twyman, at Birchington, on 26/12/38.

Wickens—Jeffery.—6282548 Sgt. F. Wickens, "C," married to Mary Ellen Jeffery at the Parish Church, Tenterden, on 26/12/38.

SILVER WEDDING.

Stroud—Newman.—Sergeant P. Stroud, 2nd Battalion, The Buffs, Wellington, India, married to Miss Emma Newman (daughter of R.S.M. and Mrs. Newman, of Carlisle) at Bombay, 6th February, 1914.

DEATH.

Stogdon.—On December 8th, 1938, suddenly, in Ceylon, R. H. A. Stogdon, only son of the late W. Stogdon, I.C.S., Chief Justice of Lahore, and the dearly loved and loving husband of Nell (formerly widow of Captain J. S. Sill, 2nd Battalion, The Buffs), and loved father of Rodney.

Wedding.

Sgt. F. Wickens (Dover) and Miss M. E. Jeffery (Tenterden).

THE wedding took place at St. Mildred's Church, Tenterden, of Sgt. Frederick Wickens, 2nd Bn., The Buffs, only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Wickens of Dover, and Miss Mary Ellen Jeffery, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Jeffery of Tenterden.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a white velvet dress and a veil held in place by a coronet of orange blossoms. She carried a bouquet of red carnations. She was attended by her sisters, Miss Doris Jeffery and Miss Jessie Jeffery, and by Miss Joyce Wickens, sister of the bridegroom, who wore dresses of blue velvet with poke bonnets and muffs to match. Master Roy Mannall, nephew of the bridegroom, was the page-boy. Mr. E. Kirby, an old friend of the bridegroom, was the best man.

After the wedding, a reception was held at the Cosy Corner Cafe. A considerable number of those invited were unable to attend because of the bad weather.

Obituary

Mr. Oliver Mason.

I AM sure that many, like myself, will have heard with profound regret of the death of that great Buff, Oliver Mason. It was only a few days ago that I was admiring the new heading of the first page of *The Dragon*, for which he was responsible. When I saw it, the thought at once struck me: "Oliver Mason never ceases to think of The Buffs." And this is literally true. I have known Oliver Mason for many years, and he has often said to me: "I wish I could help the old Regiment." As a matter of fact he did much to help the Regiment. Who can forget what he did for *The Dragon*. At a time when he himself was hopelessly overworked, he burnt much midnight oil, as Assistant Editor of *The Dragon*, in producing copy for the paper, which was then by no means in the flourishing condition it is now.

As a reporter on the staff of the *Kentish Express* he had a very full time job, but he never forgot The Buffs, and on every possible occasion when there was a gathering of Buffs he invariably turned up and tried to help the show by taking photographs, etc. It must be admitted that he was extraordinarily unfortunate as a photographer. Something always seemed to go wrong with his arrangements until at one time his photographs or attempts to take them became rather a Regimental joke. I remember particularly one occasion when this grand fellow, at great personal sacrifice, had travelled all the way to London to take a photograph of our Cenotaph Parade at the Horse Guards. He told me with enthusiasm that he had got "a real fine camera" for the occasion. But, alas! nothing resulted because his assistant inadvertently made him take several photographs on the same plate! However, what did it matter? We did not get the photographs, but who could fail to admire the grand spirit of Oliver Mason, who had travelled all those miles "to try and help the Regiment."

Kent, for which he has done much, will not easily forget "Revilo," and The Buffs certainly never will.

A.L.B.



Photo. H. Ashdown, Tenterden.

Sjt. F. and Mrs. Wickens.

Mr. Oliver Mason, a member of the staff of the *Kentish Express*, died at his home, 12 Pine Grove, Maidstone, on Wednesday. Mr. Mason, who was 50 years of age, had been in indifferent health for some months owing to heart trouble.

A native of Birmingham, he joined the Army at an early age and retired on pension some years ago with the rank of Sergeant-Major. For the greater part of his service he was in The Buffs (R.E. Kent Regiment), and he served in France throughout the war and was gassed. At one time he acted as schoolmaster and while serving at the Canterbury Depot was sub-editor of *The Dragon*, the Regimental Journal of The Buffs.

On his discharge from the Army, he entered the advertising branch of the newspaper industry and for the past 12 years had been at the Maidstone office of the *Kentish Express*.

He was a clever artist and cartoonist, and the "Kentish Expressions" by "Revilo" which appeared weekly were his creation. He was keenly interested in drama, and his expert opinion was frequently sought by amateur producers in the county.

Mr. Mason possessed marked ability in many directions and was a most prominent winner in literary competitions, run by newspapers and journals. He won hundreds of prizes, including several firsts, and not long ago was invited by the competition editor of a national journal to write an article giving hints to unsuccessful competitors. He was also invited to become one of the judges on the staff of a national journal.

Professional solutionists frequently wrote asking him to supply "lines" on commission and for a time he did, but when one of his "lines" won £1,000 for another man, he reverted to his own system.

He was kind hearted and generous to a marked degree, in a quiet, unobtrusive way. Often when his name appeared as a winner in a competition, he received letters appealing for help. At times he was not as careful as he might have been in dealing with these appeals, but recently it had been his practice to enlist the help of the police of the district from which the appeal had come, leaving them to decide whether it was a deserving case or not.

At Christmas time, he has gone out into the streets and brought back to his home several poor children and given them a "right royal time," and then sent them home loaded with food.

Such a man was Oliver Mason.

(With acknowledgments to the "*Kentish Express*.")

Mrs. Annie Louisa Shepherd.

On December 18th, 1938, at her home in Mitcham, Annie Louisa, wife of Ben Shepherd, big drummer in the 1st Battalion Band under Bandmaster Birkhead, in her 68th year. Interred in Mitcham Cemetery.

Mr. John Neill.

One of Canterbury's best-known and most picturesque figures—familiar to thousands of tourists—has just died in the Infirmary at the Public Assistance Institution.

John Neill, or "Johnny Sprigg" (as he was everywhere known) could be seen any day in Canterbury, wet or fine, peddling bootlaces and other articles.

He was far removed, however, from the usual type of street seller, for he had a passion for military uniforms which amounted almost to a mania.

He hardly ever wore the same outfit on two consecutive days, and he used to achieve the most incongruous effects by wearing odd items from half-a-dozen different regimental uniforms.

"Johnny's" favourite attire was the old-fashioned peaked cap known as a shako, but he was also known to wear an admiral's cocked hat at times. He used to buy them in second-hand stores, and must have had a huge collection.

Legends hung thick about "Johnny Sprigg," and one of the most persistent was that he possessed a big private fortune. No proof of this was ever found, but it is certain that he was never really hard up.

At one time he is reputed to have saved up £50 and given it to a Canterbury woman to keep for him, but when the latter died there was no record of what had become of the money.

For the last 10 years he had lived in a lodging house in King Street, and last May he went into the Infirmary.

A Bristol resident who formerly lived in Canterbury and knew Neill better than most people informs the *Kent Messenger* that he was born on December 4th in either 1862, 1863 or 1864, and was educated at the Royal Hibernian School, Dublin. He served with the 3rd Battalion, The Buffs and went to South Africa.

From 1903 to 1906 he had various jobs, from a tin miner in Cornwall to working in Scottish mills, after which he returned to Canterbury and for a time sold eatables on the Square in The Buffs Depot.

Later he played the drum to trippers, and took to selling all kinds of articles, from boot-laces to dream books.

A bachelor, Neill spent most of his life in lodging houses and could give the addresses of these in a great many of the English towns.

His only known relative is a niece who was last heard of in Canada.

From the fact that he often carried a small drum around with him, Neill was also known locally as "The Old Drummer," or "Drummer Harry."

Councillor J. G. B. Stone (Chairman of the P.A.C., Canterbury, and "Father" of the City Council) told a reporter that he had known Neill for many years, and added that he was a remarkable man in many ways.

"With his beard and striking features he commanded respect always," said Councillor Stone, "and I have never once known him the butt of children's gibes, despite his extraordinary attire.

"He was the only man outside my family who ever called me by my second Christian name, George, and sometimes when I had been speaking at vagrancy meetings he would come in my shop and start off: 'Now then, George, what have you been up to now?'

"He used to do very well out of his peddling, and was always to be seen in Longport Street when the coaches came in with visitors to the city. I believe he used to be in The Buffs at one time, and I always understood he had been a drummer."

Now "Johnny" has sold his last pair of boot-laces, and it is difficult to believe that the streets of Canterbury will see him no more. Even old soldiers have to fade away

(With acknowledgments to the "*Kent Messenger*.")

Reg. No. 2755 Mr. J. E. Wilson.

One of the first members to enrol into the London Branch was our late comrade, Mr. Wilson. He went under the nicknames of Johnno and Tug, and I do not think he missed a single branch meeting during the eleven years the branch has been formed.

Enlisting on December 29th, 1888, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion at Dover and subsequently to Aldershot, Ireland and Brighton. He was discharged to pension on December 28th, 1909.

One of the nicest Buffs it has been my pleasure to know, quiet and very methodical, he never forced his opinion in public. He preferred to speak his views quietly and privately. The late Mr. Wilson was proud of the fact that he was one of three branch members who took part in the Tournament at the Agricultural Hall in 1895.

He had a family of five children, all born in the Regiment, one of the sons being now a Staff Sergeant-Major of The Royal Engineers at Dover. The funeral took place at London on the 19th ultimo, when a wreath from his old comrades was laid on his grave.

Tug has passed over, but nevertheless we thank him for his wonderful Buff spirit of true comradeship.

J.E.E.

The Mayor of Canterbury Visits The Depot.

THE officers of the Depot, The Buffs, entertained the Mayor of Canterbury (Councillor Mrs. C. E. Williamson) and other well-known citizens, when they visited the Depot in order to witness a display of gymnastics by members of the Ramillies and Blenheim Recruits' Squads, on Wednesday evening. The visitors were met by the regular officers at the Depot, Major C. E. Wilson, M.B.E. (Acting C.O.), Major W. H. Rowe, Major A. W. Andrews, Captain J. F. Connolly (Adjutant), and Captain J. G. Atkinson, and escorted around The Buffs Museum, where numerous treasures of the Regiment's history are housed, including the Druce collection of medals and the Book of life of the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto, allied regiment to The Buffs.

Those who accepted invitations to be present included Mr. Stephen Williamson, Lieut.-Colonel A. Bredin, Alderman G. R. Barrett (Sheriff of Canterbury), Mr. W. Brett, the Town Clerk (Mr. G. W. Marks), Councillor J. M. Symms, Lieut.-Colonel N. P. Proctor (C.O., Recruits' Physical Development Depot), Major A. J. Peareth (Secretary of The Buffs Past and Present Association), Mr. E. Moss, Mr. J. B. Thompson, and the Chief Constable (Mr. G. T. Hall).

The party were entertained to tea in the Mess, when Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Connolly were also present.

Following tea, the gymnastic display was given under C.S.M.I. Soper-Dyer, A.P.T.S., Cpl. Bowling and L/Cpl. Krailing.

Welcoming the Mayor and the other visitors, Major Wilson conveyed a message from the C.O., Major G. R. Howe, who was on a visit to Egypt, stating that he had the chance of visiting the 1st Battalion in Palestine. The Depot was an integral part of their County Regiment, and he was very pleased that they were able to be present to witness part of the training. The men taking part in the competition that evening were doing nothing out of the ordinary, but participating in a phase of the recruits' normal training. When a recruit reached the end of his 16 weeks' period at the Depot, the C.O.'s silver medal competition was carried out.

The value and efficiency of the training received was very evident—particularly in view of Major Wilson's remark that only one or two of the men had even been in a gymnasium before enlisting.

After the competition, the Mayor spoke appreciatively of the work of the recruits and their instructors, with whose neatness and efficiency she had been greatly impressed.

The results were as follows:—1st, Pte. Holbrook (Ramillies Squad); 2nd, Pte. Ayres (Ramillies Squad).

Other medals, presented for shooting, were awarded to:—

BLENHEIM SQUAD: Pte. Rains, 71; Pte. Wills, 70; Pte. Crew, 70.

RAMILLIES SQUAD: Rec. L/Cpl. Doyle, 80; Pte. Wood, 75; Pte. Decent, 75; Rec. L/Cpl. Blake, 75; Pte. May, 70; Pte. Hodgson, 70.

The following attached officers were present:—2/Lieuts. Tyrrell, Dismore, Wilson and Blackburn, of the 4/5th Battalion, 2/Lieut. Cook (Gold Coast Local Forces), 2/Lieuts. Worts and Nash (Supplementary Reserve of Officers, The Buffs).

(With acknowledgments to "Kentish Gazette and Canterbury Press.")

The Buffs Golfing Society.

IN order that members may have a forecast of the events arranged for 1939, the following list of fixtures is published for the information of those who may be interested.

The member raising a team would be glad to hear from anyone who would like to play in any matches.

It is hoped that the Regiment will be able to enter a team for The Argyll and Sutherland Challenge Cup during the Army Golf Meeting.

Mar. 12. *v* Littlestone Golf Club. Littlestone. Lt.-Col. Howard Smith, White Oast, Wingham.

April 1—2. **Spring Meeting.** Prince's, Sandwich. Practice Day, March 31st. Hon. Secretary, Major H. E. Ward, Royal St. George's, Sandwich.

21. *v* The Jokers. New Zealand, W. Byfleet. Captain W. C. Lamarque, Milston, W. Byfleet, Surrey.

22. *v* The Woodpeckers. New Zealand. Capt. W. C. Lamarque, Milston, W. Byfleet, Surrey.

24—27. The Army Golf Meeting. Royal St. George's.

30. *v* The Tudor Club Golfing Society. Rye. Major E. Clarke, The Abbey, Cranbrook.

May 17. *v* The Tudor Club Golfing Society. Royal St. George's. Lt.-Col. J. Crookenden, Greenbanks, Barham.

June 29. *v* Canterbury G.C. Prince's. Lieut.-Colonel Howard Smith.

July 2. *v* Royal West Kent Regiment Golfing Society. Royal St. George's. Major H. E. Ward, Royal St. George's.

Aug. 6. *v* Rye. Rye. Captain C. E. A. Terry, Poulshurst, Brenchley.

20. *v* Canterbury. Canterbury. Lieut.-Colonel Howard Smith.

Sept. 26, 27, 28. **Autumn Meeting.** The Royal St. George's Golf Club. Hon. Secretary.

L.H.S.

The Army is a Grand Life.

AFTER five and a half years' continuous service with the Colours in various parts of India and Palestine, Mr. W. Smith has returned this week to his parents'

home in Selkirk Road, Tooting, preparatory to attending a course of vocational training organised by the Ministry of Labour Training Centre.

Mr. Smith served with The Buffs, and during his time abroad he visited the Himalayan Mountains, the oil fields and ruby mines of Burma, and the famous Taj Mahal.

"Football is the most popular sport in the Army," said Mr. Smith to a *Mercury* reporter, "and having gained some experience with Fairlight Athletic Club many seasons ago, I soon gained a place in my regimental football team.

"We played football almost every day during my service in foreign stations. I was selected to represent my brigade against the Corinthians during their recent world tour. We played them twice and lost both times, but it was a delight to be in even at the kill, for the sportsmanship displayed throughout the games was something to be remembered for all time."

Our soldier friend added that he received the *News and Mercury* regularly each week, and it was a great delight to read the doings of the local football teams. When he saw that Tooting and Mitcham had beaten the redoubtable Dulwich Hamlet in the Surrey Senior Cup Final, he gave a cheer, and his colleagues thought he had gone mad.

He made friends with local lads from other units and found some of them came from London and the Wandsworth area. "You should see how they literally devoured my *News and Mercury* in order to get some news from home."

Mr. Smith also took part in cross-country races abroad, and when he has got settled he hopes to play football again for "some club or other in the Balham and Tooting League."

"For a real clean, sporty life, I strongly advise any local lad who is down and out, to join the Colours," were Mr. Smith's parting words.

(With acknowledgments to the "*News and Mercury*" of 13th January, 1939.)

The Case of the Attachés.

ONE cannot fully appreciate the force of the expression "damning with faint praise" until one has heard a regular N.C.O. teaching young officers their tricks.

The "most unkindest cut of all" is that phrase: "The gentleman's got the right idea, but—"

How inexpressibly crushing is the indictment, and how many times during the recent attachment at The Buffs Depot was I that unfortunate gentleman who had the right idea. Better would it have been to have had the completely wrong idea, to have been as wide of the mark as our hopeful revolver shots, or as those of us who estimated the R.S.M. as a kind-hearted man without guile. A fatal error, indeed, for he is a man of extreme subtlety, punishing us for our misdeeds in the most charmingly courteous manner. The most extravagant goose-step, the wildest Roman stride, cannot have the cruel aftermath of his "Sle-eau Moch!" which caused us to walk like Agag in the evening shades, and to go most delicately about our business.

Then there was that other taskmaster, beguiling us into a false sense of security with such honeyed words as: "Well, gentlemen, this is just a little test of elementary training—you're allowed twenty-five seconds." There is a resounding crash as a fierce-looking officer from the Outer Wastes precipitates himself upon the invention of the thrice-cursed Czech. The skin is peeled from

his thumb, his nose impinges upon the radial arm, he commits the original sin of failure to pull back the cocking handle.

"Well," admits our Mentor. "The gentleman's got the right idea, but—"

Then there is the diffident officer, harassed by harrowing tales of privates running gorily amok in the gas chamber, who hazards a timid: "It's only tear-gas, isn't it, Sar'major?"

"That's right, Sir," is the crushing retort, "Lachrymatory gas we call it." We called it something quite different, and refused to believe that it was even a possible substitute for that strange but beneficent creature, the oyster of the prairie.

There were, however, occasions which have provided undying memories of a pleasanter nature. How well we shall always recall the naive remark of the elderly, but new, Territorial, who complained in the Mess that he was unable to sleep after Reveille! How vivid will be our recollection of that other Territorial who possesses two private A.F.V.'s, leading his men in the classic poses of a Grecian frieze along the skyline, the while a bloodthirsty S.R.O., to whom in private life fond mothers entrust innocent lads, swept across the plain with a fixed bayonet, ready to spit the tactical training officer like an ortolan—which, indeed, he richly deserved. There was a rumour, too, that the ginger-ale bill of one young S.R.O. was causing the P.M.C. some anxiety. It is apocryphally stated that on one occasion he was observed crouching on the ante-room floor muttering: "Gun fires one or two rounds and stops AGAIN!" On the last word, he seized the bottle-opener, slammed it home, removed the capsule, engulfed the contents of the bottle and reported: "Number One gun ready."

There were not lacking examples of the ludicrous. Yet another young S.R.O., having succeeded in altering the topography of the Old Park to a marked degree, failed utterly to sympathise with the twisted sense of humour of the tactical training officer when the latter gave the order to fill in all excavations.

One cannot forbear, however, to add a sincere tribute to the regular occupants of the Mess who witnessed their favourite armchairs in constant occupation by red-faced and exhausted persons, and who even viewed inept attempts upon the chaste squares of *The Times* crossword with a more than Christian resignation. It was truly a case of the descent of the Assyrian like the wolf on the fold, and if his cohorts were not always gleaming with silver and gold, that may have been the fault of he who, on the Grampian heights, was doubtless feeding his father's flocks.

The last day brought with it profound regrets. Even the bleak expanse of the Square looked less ghastly in the grey dawn, and one discerned traces of humanity, nay of kindness, in the glance of those long-suffering instructors whose hearts were doubtless about to grow fonder by reason of our absence—or is that just another regimental quiff?

But however strongly armed with information, which we are burning to impart to others, there is one spectre which will for ever lurk in the darker shadows of the Drill Hall. However confidently we instruct the troops, however conscientiously we may have "mugged it up" beforehand, there is a still, small voice which will bring us back to a proper humility by saying:

"Well, Sir, the gentleman's got the right idea, but—"

Past and Present Association.

DONATIONS.

During the period 18/12/38 to 18/1/39 the following donations have been gratefully received :—

	£	s.	d.
T. Trevor, Esq.	0	2	0

PLUM PUDDING FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Dover Ladies' Guild	1	1	0
Captain H. P. Williams	0	5	0
Ashford Branch	1	0	0

DISBURSEMENTS.

During the period 18/12/38 to 18/1/39 the following disbursements have been made :—

	£	s.	d.
Dec. 19. Grant	0	10	0
19. Grant	0	15	0
20. Grant	0	10	0
21. Grant	2	1	6

1939.

Jan. 1. Grant	1	7	4
1. Grant	0	7	6
4. Grant	2	2	0
9. Grant	2	16	0
10. Grant	2	10	0
10. Grant	2	6	3
17. Grant	1	10	0
18. Grant	0	10	0

NEW MEMBERS.

Annual Members.—Major P. J. F. Bouverie-Brine ; Privates C. Corbin, W. Crew, J. Culligan, G. Gathercole, A. Holland, L. Meldrum, E. Parish, W. Penn, P. Phillips, K. Raines, F. Smith, W. Watson, A. Wills (2nd Battalion) ; Mr. E. N. Robins (Margate).

Branch Meetings, February, 1939.

- Feb. 11. Ashford (Drill Hall).
- 18. London (Prince Alfred Restaurant).
- 10. Dover (Friendly Societies' Institute).
- 24. Medway (Drill Hall).
- 3. Sittingbourne (Drill Hall).
- 24. Ramsgate (Drill Hall).
- 13. Margate (Drill Hall).
- 25. Hythe (British Legion Hut).
- 3. Canterbury (Rhodaus Town).
- 14. Herne Bay Sub-Branch (Druid's Head and Drill Hall).
- 13. Folkestone (Drill Hall).
- 10. Sandwich (George and Dragon, Fisher Street).
- 7. Deal (Working Men's Club, West Street).

Fixtures, 1939.

- Feb. 18. 7th Battalion Dinner, Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden Lane, W.C.2.
- 25. London Branch Dance, Millicent Fawcett Hall.
- April 29. 2/5th Battalion Dinner, Carr's Restaurant, Victoria Station.
- May 6. London Branch Dinner, Thames House Restaurant.
- 27. Annual General Meeting, Canterbury.

- June 4. Cenotaph Service, London Branch.
- Aug. 13. Day of Remembrance, Canterbury.
- Sept. 9. 8th (S) Battalion Dinner (provisional).
- Oct. 14. 6th (S) Battalion Dinner (provisional).
- Nov. 12. Visit of Field of Remembrance.

Ashford Branch.

Our monthly meeting was held on January 14th. Mr. F. Harrison was in the Chair, supported by Captain W. E. Oakley. The Chairman took the opportunity to introduce our new Hon. Secretary (Mr. G. H. Wilkins) and to wish all members a happy New Year.

We had a fair number present, in spite of the inclement weather—it was pouring “cats and dogs,” and some of the members took the opportunity to get wet inside as well as out ; it was a much better “wet.”

Our annual dinner will be held on February 25th in the Masonic Hall, commencing at 7.30 p.m. We hope that as many as possible will come along and make it the usual jolly and successful re-union that it always has been.

The Children's Party was held at the Drill Hall on Saturday, January 7th, and judging from the happy little faces, was a huge success. The credit for this must go to our Ladies' Guild for the very able manner in which they carried out the big task of coping with 58 children and their parents at the tea-tables. Mrs. J. King (Chairman of the Ladies' Guild) kindly presented the gifts, so to the Ladies' Guild we give our heartfelt thanks for the way they assisted us in everything.

We regret to learn that our Vice-Chairman, Sick Visitor and several members are on the sick list, and wish them all a speedy recovery.

Mr. G. H. Wilkins, our new Secretary, is C.S.M. of “C” (Weald) Company, 4/5th Buffs, and if any member has a son or sons who wish to do his bit, C.S.M. Wilkins will be glad to see them on Wednesday nights from 7.15 p.m.—9.30 p.m. at the Drill Hall, and will give them full particulars.

Our Christmas Draw was a great success, and we wish to thank all who helped to sell the tickets and the donors of prizes.

WILKIE.

London Branch.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL.

Captain Enright expresses his very grateful thanks to all who assisted him either by sending donations, selling tickets or contributing to the Bun Penny Fund. As is well-known, the Appeal cannot be run as formerly owing to the legal restrictions recently imposed, hence the fact that the London Branch was able to do much is all the more pleasing. The letters of thanks from the recipients of the hampers, etc., convey a heartfelt gratitude to those who made their Christmas Day so happy, and this opportunity is taken of expressing their appreciation.

The essential thing in a large undertaking such as this Appeal, is to see that the hampers reach the right people—those in need of them. There is little chance of misplaced benevolence, however, as the condition of the recipient is well-known. This year, the distribution covered a wide area embracing many counties. The total hampers sent out was 70, whilst 12 received cash grants ; in addition to the hampers, 50

good joints were given away. The help was not only to old Buffs but to the widows and families of old members of the Regiment and the scope of activity included almost every battalion, including Regular, Service and Territorial.

It may be of interest to give the total quantities of food disbursed:—96 lbs. Christmas Pudding, 70 Boxes of Figs, 70 lbs. Mincemeat, 70 Quarten Bags of Flour, 17½ lbs. Cocoa, 70 Large Tins Evaporated Milk, 70 Large Tins of Fruit, 70 Large Pots of Soup, 35 lbs. Best Tea, 35 lbs. Butter, 35 lbs. Lard, 35 lbs. Biscuits, 35 lbs. Margarine, 70 lbs. Rice, 70 lbs. Strawberry Jam, 140 lbs. Sugar, 70 Custard Powder Packets (12 in packet), 70 Large Jellies, 250 lbs. Joints of Meat (approximately 5 lbs. each joint).

The following extracts from letters received may be taken as the general expression of all:—

"I am afraid I cannot write much, my heart is too full and I feel choked. I'll just say 'Thank you all' very much and hope it will convey what I feel. God bless you all."

A WIDOW.

"The Hamper received on Saturday was a great surprise—a God-sent gift for which I am indeed grateful. I have been assured of a happy Christmas, for which I am truly thankful to all who made it so."

LATE 4TH BN.

"I thank you and all members of the Branch who made it possible for me to have a Christmas dinner."

LATE 7TH BN.

"My wife and I sit down to write and thank you all for the Christmas Hamper and joint. I am proud to belong to such a wonderful organisation of fellow comrades. My wife thanks all the ladies who helped you. A bad Christmas was made a happy one and we both felt it."

LATE 1ST BN.

The above will suffice to show the good work this Appeal does each year, and it was instituted primarily for this purpose. It was inaugurated for a specific purpose—a purpose gained by the experience of seeing grand old men, and younger men, by frequent visits to their lodging houses or poor homes; to the sick having a hard time; to those widows and families struggling along on a pittance. Long may this help continue. In the response to the Appeal there are ladies, old officers and members who subscribe extra generously, whilst others give their mite. It is the great Buff spirit. Thanks are due to all, but Captain Enright personally conveys his thanks to Major A. J. Peareth for his assistance in preventing overlapping, and for his kind thought in sharing the gift from the Colonel of the Regiment with the Christmas Appeal. Another year has passed, and as the years roll by, never let it be said that a good old Buff—not a bad one—ever went without his Christmas dinner.

J.E.E.

The meeting on the 21st ultimo was not so well attended, as only 70 were present, no doubt due to the cup-ties, inclement weather and one of the occasions when many were of one mind. However, one never knows in the London Branch, as sometimes all are of one mind to attend and then the fireworks go off with a bang. The Chairman (Captain E. A. Carter) presided, and it was a real pleasure to have with us once again our beloved Vice-President, Major H. G. James, and console him on his recent sad bereavement.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Arising out of the Minutes, Mr. Geo. Cobb said that he wanted to enquire from Mr. Gordon Lindley

on a matter respecting the Bun Penny Collection, but would defer the same to another meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE, ETC.—The only vacancy to be filled was that of Vice-Chairman, and it was proposed by Mr. H. Borland, seconded by Mr. E. C. Ainge, that Mr. J. C. Neale Dalton be elected. Mr. Shute enquired if there were any other nominations, and on being informed in the negative, Mr. H. Foot proposed that the nominations be closed. The name of Mr. J. C. Neale Dalton was then put to the vote and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then read out the names of all officers, officials, committees and branch representatives returned unopposed and who were willing to re-stand as under:—

Present Holder.

Branch President :	Major R. W. Keown.
Chairman :	Captain E. A. Carter.
Vice-Chairman :	Mr. J. C. Neale Dalton.
Committee :	
1st Battalion :	Mr. A. Warren.
2nd Battalion :	Mr. E. Tong.
4th Battalion :	Mr. W. Sorrell.
2/5th Battalion :	Mr. W. Beall.
6th Battalion :	Mr. J. V. Philpot.
7th Battalion :	Mr. A. Cole.
8th Battalion :	Mr. E. Shute.
10th Battalion :	Captain C. F. Bingham.
Co-opted :	Mr. G. Austin.
Representing Members leaving the Colours :	
1st Battalion :	Mr. A. Petley.
2nd Battalion :	Mr. C. E. Vaughan.
Executive Committee	
Representative :	Captain J. E. Enright.
Sub-Committee	
Representative :	Mr. J. V. Philpot.
Branch Organising	
Secretary :	Captain J. E. Enright.
Finance Committee :	Captain E. A. Carter.
	Mr. E. C. Ainge.
	Mr. E. Tong.
	Mr. E. Shute.

It was proposed by Mr. Blacker and seconded by Mr. H. Foot that the members whose names had been read out be re-elected.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.—It was proposed by Mr. J. C. Neale Dalton and seconded by Mr. J. V. Philpot that Messrs. W. H. Card and A. E. Grant be elected as Vice-Presidents of the London Branch. In seconding the proposal, Mr. Philpot emphasised the good work both had done in keeping a personal contact with other branches of our Association and particularly the smaller branches. The visits each paid cemented a common friendship and was much appreciated not only by those branches but by London. They may be described more in the nature of missionaries doing good work. The voting in favour was unanimous.

THANKS.—Captain E. A. Carter from the Chair thanked the members on behalf of all elected for returning them once again to carry on the branch work. He felt, however, that the time had come and is long overdue when some of the younger members should come forward to serve the branch on the Committee and to offer themselves for election. He felt that in their minds they would really like to do so but have a feeling that it would be "butting in." He could assure them it would not be so. They would be welcomed and receive every encouragement and support.

DECEASE.—All stood in silence to the memory of the following:—Reg. No. 2755 Mr. J. E. Wilson, late 2nd Battalion; Mr. Oliver Mason, late 1st Battalion; Pte. McKay, 1st Battalion.

The Chairman in a brief announcement mentioned that the late Mr. Wilson was one of three who left Ireland in 1895 with the Agricultural Hall detachment from the 2nd Battalion; the other two members of the branch were Dan Foster and himself. Respecting the late Oliver Mason, many will remember his work for *The Dragon* and the sketches he used to publish. The members had also stood in silence for Pte. McKay, whose names appeared that day in the Press as having been killed in Palestine. He felt that he had died a true Buff and our sympathy goes to the 1st Battalion.

DANCE.—The attention of all present was drawn to the forthcoming dance on February 25th.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL.—Captain Enright gave a report in connection with the Christmas Appeal. He thanked all for making the Appeal a success notwithstanding the difficulties encountered, and so long as sufficient was received to carry on the good work, life was worth living. Mr. Geo. Cobb thought Captain Enright very optimistic, but he personally, looking on the fact that the branch was roughly 1,200 strong, did not think it was the success one would anticipate. There must be hundreds who have not subscribed. It was pointed out by the Secretary that perhaps next year, from suggestions he had received, it would be possible to get more in personal touch with more distant members.

DOUGLAS HOUSE, BOURNEMOUTH.—Captain Enright made an appeal for the installation of wireless at the above institution. The place was for the welfare of men who had been gassed in the War and were mostly suffering from T.B., and in many cases were confined to bed. There were two Buffs there—Messrs. Bertram and Clothier—both members of this branch. He specially commended the appeal because the organiser was none other than Mrs. M. Talbot Harvey, a member of the London Ladies' Guild and wife of that great Buff, Talbot Harvey, late 2/5th Battalion, who was badly wounded in the Great War and was still suffering from the effects. Both are resident in Bournemouth and have been great helpers to the London Branch and to Douglas House. "It is sad to think that we who are privileged to possess wireless should deny it to those who made our Empire safe," is an extract from an appeal sent out.

Mr. Philpot endorsed what Captain Enright had said as he knew of the goodness of Mr. and Mrs. Talbot Harvey to this branch and their devotion to everything appertaining to the welfare and succour of those still suffering from the effects of the Great War. He would propose that we give the maximum we could and he had pleasure in recommending a donation of £5. Seconded by Mr. Blacker and carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Major James and seconded by Mr. Blacker, that a letter dealing with this Appeal be forwarded to Headquarters at Canterbury.

A collection undertaken by Mr. Gordon Lindley in connection with bun pennies amounted to £1 15s. 0d.

WELCOME.—The undermentioned member attending for the first time was welcomed into the branch:—6195929 Pte. E. Wilson, late 1st Battalion.

Mr. S. C. Marshall, on behalf of the members, thanked the Chairman, the Committee and officials for the work they had done on their behalf during the past year. He said that Captain Carter had stressed the point of the younger members coming on to the Committee, but he felt that the work was being done so excellently that there was no necessity for this, and the younger members realised it. It was a compliment to that work that the younger members did not respond. Seconded by Mr. Cotton and carried unanimously.

MAJOR H. G. JAMES.—Our Vice-President gave us a very touching address dealing with the love and affection he had always received from the branch, particularly in his recent sad bereavement. It touched him very much the beautiful flowers sent by the branch and the Ladies' Guild and to see Captain and Mrs. Stone at the graveside as their representatives. The Major remarked how, in all his affliction and sorrow, he was at all times with his friends.

OUR PRESIDENT.—Major R. W. Keown made an announcement in connection with the forthcoming re-union dinner of the 7th Battalion on February 18th next and then went off to tell us something about dog racing. It was useless asking him for tips from "the dog's mouth"—whenever he heard of a "cert," it always lost.

HERE AND THERE.

We missed No. 3271 Mr. Dan Foster from the meeting. His seat by the door was vacant.

There are some who unavoidably cannot attend the meetings owing to night work and other causes, but they are not forgotten and we know they feel down-hearted every third Saturday.

A few we might mention are Messrs. Nobby Clarke, Billy Tozer, Sailor Cooper, Sweeny Todd, Dick Shepherd, Darkey Warchus, Bob Lacey, etc., but they are all coming to the London Branch Dinner on May 6th.

We should also like to hear from Blower Brown, Weary Ingram and a few others who have been far too long out of the line.

Bob Waby has been absent off parade for three third Saturdays and we are instructed by Eddy Shute to bring A.F. 252 along at the next meeting.

We observed Mr. Billy Beall creep into the meeting room, sit down, call for a stone ginger and drink it all himself. "Oh, I am driving a car home," was his excuse. This for the information of the 2/5th Battalion.

Worse than Geo. Cobb, who persists in calling for a grape fruit in a tankard.

Captain T. O. Cook was looking very fit—also his son Gid. We are still waiting to hear what present day soldiering at the Depot is like. I can hear his father saying: "In my day we tamed 'em!"

Our congratulations to Lieuts. Card and Grant on being elected Vice-Presidents of the London Branch.

Also to Mr. J. C. Neale Dalton on his election to the Vice-Chair.

The 6th Battalion were much in evidence last meeting. In addition to Captain E. A. Carter and Messrs. Grant and Card, we noticed Messrs. J. V. Philpot and R. Blacker playing "tip it" at a table near the door.

We also noticed Boy Kennings in the "den of lions." Also one or two others who will find themselves in the jungle unless very, very careful. When the big lion roars, skip away.

Captain Carter and Mr. Millman were engrossed talking about Cork in the days of the Irish Rebellion. Another "Gong" gone west.

Oh, we must not forget Harry Foot, who came along with Joe Green and Joe Hawkins. No, we shall never forget dear old Harry! But when are you going to give us back our water-bottles?

Congratulations to the London Ladies' Guild for the great show they made at their annual dinner. To must over 200 for a six-course dinner was just marvellous.

To see Joe Green dancing to the "Chestnut Tree" was worth the five shillings without the dinner.

We are grateful to Mr. Gordon Lindley for his bun penny efforts. The last meeting added another £1 15s. 0d. We can do with it!

We regret to say that No. 5459 Mr. Billy Everitt has had a bad attack of rheumatism and we trust he is now much improved.

LADIES' GUILD.

The London Branch Ladies' Guild held their New Year's Party for members and their families on Saturday, January 7th, at Westminster, when 100 sat down to tea. Many sent regrets at absence on account of the weather.

The Chairman welcomed the Hon. Lady and Miss Vera Lynden-Bell, Mrs. Gould and family, Miss Frances Gould, Mrs. Rennison and family (daughter of the late Colonel Backhouse), Major Keown (President, London Branch) and Mrs. Keown. She also gave greetings and best wishes from the Colonel of the Regiment and Lady Kennedy, who are abroad, and from General Sir Arthur Lynden-Bell, Mrs. Crookenden, Mrs. Neale Dalton, Major A. J. Peareth and many others.

Captain Enright and Mr. Billings very kindly removed the tables and the chairs were arranged around the room, so that everyone could get full view of the lovely Christmas tree laden with presents.

All lights were now put out and the tree lit up, and in walked Father Christmas, who was our dear old friend Mr. Joe Green. The excitement started, the children all cheering and calling "Good evening, Father Christmas." Janet Waby stepped forward and recited, relating to the tree and presents. Father Christmas then handed each parcel from the tree to Miss Lynden-Bell, who deputised for Her Ladyship, calling each name thereon and presenting it to the child.

Mrs. Spinner called first for three cheers for Miss Lynden-Bell, secondly for Father Christmas, who had come a very long journey to be with us.

The bon-bons had been pulled by this time.

During the evening the games were arranged by Mrs. Cobb, Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Philpot. The fun was very great to those who joined "The Army." Oranges, apples and sweets of all kinds were continually going round. The case of oranges was the gift of Mr. Cole (London Branch).

A very pleasant surprise was a lovely leather hand-bag sent to be raffled by Major Peareth, which realised £1 0s. 3d. Mrs. Gould picked No. 64, the lucky winner being Mrs. Philpot.

Our very grateful thanks to all who gave in money or kind or helped in any way to make the party the great success it was.

It was regrettable that Mr. Elvey and Mr. Austin were unable to be with us, being taken suddenly ill; they had erected the tree the previous evening and arranged the electric lights. We are pleased to hear they are better.

D.E.S.

LADIES' GUILD ANNUAL DINNER.

The Buffs Ladies' Guild held their second annual dinner and dance on Saturday, January 14th, at the London Commercial Restaurant, Mark Lane, E.C.3, when 200 sat down to a five-course dinner. The tables were beautifully decorated with all the choicest flowers and the whole room looked magnificent in all its glory.

The Chairman gave the toast of "Our King and Queen," and then read a telegram from Their Majesties. A few moments later she read messages from the Colonel

of the Regiment and Lady Kennedy, Mrs. Neale Dalton, Major H. G. James, Major and Mrs. Keown and Major A. J. Peareth.

The toast of "Our Ladies' Guild" was proposed by Mrs. Coley, who read a letter from General Air Arthur Lynden-Bell. She mentioned we were in our eleventh year and were doing great work, and providing Mrs. Spinner was still our leader we should go much farther afield.

Mrs. Spinner, in replying, mentioned the workings of the Guild, and stated cases had been investigated for both the 1st and 2nd Battalions, but the Guild funds were never used for that purpose—the member who investigated the case always paid her own expenses, which was proof of her love for her Regiment. She went on to say how the London Branch was a great asset to the Guild and to them one should take their hat off. She felt, too, she must make reference to Major Palin and Mr. Dawson of The Queen's Own R.W. Kent Regiment. She said we are the only regiment throughout the whole Army who have a Ladies' Guild. At our first dinner last year, the Old Contemptibles (friends of a member) were so taken up with our great work that they formed a Ladies' Club four months ago. She would like to know what our sister regiment "The Blind Half Hundred," were going to do on this our second dinner. It would be splendid if they formed a Guild because Kent was divided in two; then probably East and West could meet. The last phrase in Sir Arthur's letter was "Bless you all, and more power to you." She would like those words to be embedded in your hearts and to be borne in mind.

As the room was to be cleared for dancing and all were making their way to the lounge, Captain E. A. Carter slapped down the hammer. All wondered what had happened. He held up the "mallet" and said: "This is what the Ladies' Guild apparently need for their men." (Great laughter.)

When the dancing finished, The Broadway Melody Band played our Regimental March, "Auld Lang Syne" and "The King."

Captain Carter (Chairman, London Branch) said before we disperse he would like to express on behalf of all present their thanks for the very fine show our Ladies' Guild have put on.

Noticed during the evening was a table labelled "Queen's Own R.W. Kent's Ladies' Guild." Of course, quite unofficial, but good luck to them.

Our sincere thanks to the proprietor of the restaurant for the wonderful menu, also for sandwiches and cakes free during the dancing. Being a military man, he gave us the greatest attention, and we are very grateful.

D.E.S.

Dover Branch.

I should, in starting these notes, like to thank all branches and others who sent Christmas and New Year's greetings to the Dover Branch. Being new to the position of Secretary, I must apologise for the Branch being slack with their greetings, but I can promise that this will be remedied at the next festival season.

Now that we have started 1939, I do ask all members who have practically faded out of the Association to come along and re-join the Branch, also that the present financial members will at least get hold of one new member, so that the strength and reputation of the Dover Branch may be kept up. I also want to ask the younger members who are leaving the Service nowadays to come along and help the work of the Association, for it must be remembered that when some of us old

"crabs" join the great reserve, someone has got to take over the reins to keep up the proud name of the Past and Present Association, The Buffs. So come along to our headquarters, The Friendly Society, 42 Biggin Street, Dover. There will be plenty of entertainment, for our Chairman (Colonel J. Crookenden) has kindly offered prizes for knock-out competitions such as crib, darts, billiards, etc., at each monthly meeting, which is always held on the second Friday of each month. Now come along, Dover, and "Spring" to it!

A very interesting game of billiards was witnessed at the November meeting, when Chutnee Watts and Starry Sidwell met in the final of the Findlay Billiard Cup. Our Chairman, I noticed, was greatly interested, he being the holder of the cup for 1937. Sidwell was well handicapped and for a time Wattie got well away with the scoring, but in the last lap Sidwell made a great effort to finish a good loser by a few points. Congratulations, Tubby, and hard lines, Sidwell.

The branch are now looking forward to the visit of Colonel Findlay to play off the winner.

Once again I have the pleasure of congratulating the branch shooting team, "The Dragons," on winning their second match in the Dover, Folkestone and District League. The second win was against Dover Gas Co. by 48 points. Keep it up, "Dead-eyes," two matches, two wins, the cup is in sight! but don't forget your "Ovaltine"—Kent's Best. The following are the scores:—Colonel J. Crookenden 91, Mr. Hogben 99, Mr. Warren 98, Mr. Barker 96, Mr. Mead 96, Mr. Plater 93; total 573. Dover Gas Co. 525. What a team, eh!

On December 21st, 1938, the draw for the distribution of Christmas prizes took place at our Headquarters, and it was very pleasing to all present to see Pte. Lucas of the 2nd Battalion, who was on leave at Dover, drawing the prizes out of the drum. He sure did well for the Committee—all got what Paddy shot at. Come and visit us again, Lucas, when you get your next leave. Dover will always be pleased to welcome you, and also any others of the 2nd Battalion and Depot.

On Christmas Eve some members of the branch (Messrs. H. Frost, W. Frost, P. Barker, A. Willson and F. C. Evans) paid the annual visit to Dover Infirmary to distribute cigarettes and tobacco to old Buffs and others. Through my error we had no representatives of the Ladies' Guild with us on this visit. Sorry, ladies! I promise not to blunder again. I am sure it pleased the members present to see how comfortable the old chaps were in their new central-heated wards. Mr. Godden, the Master, showed us round the new up-to-date kitchens. What an improvement from, say, twenty years ago.

After the visit, it being a nice frosty and snowy night, we glided our way down Union Road to visit another member, Billy Symonds, mine host of the Hotel De-Primrose and how well that pint of old and mild went down! If you doubt me, ask the Adjutant, the Hon. Buck. A visit at the Old Endeavour followed by one at the Hotel De Angel, and by that time Buck had got his Eddie Cantor eyes moving each way; and so to bed to await the visit of Father Christmas.

I should like to congratulate Mrs. Crookenden and her energetic Committee on the very successful Children's Party held at the Biggin Hall this year.

Our January meeting was not very strong in numbers, but this was made up for by a knock-out tournament at darts, the first pair to start being our Vice-Chairman (Dr. Elliot), who had never thrown a dart before, and Mr. Coveney. Of course, the latter won, but the Doctor

got great support and plenty of instructions. The tournament was eventually won by Mr. Ross, Mr. Carter being a good runner-up.

On Monday, January 16th, Mr. W. Frost and your humble Secretary had great pleasure in accepting an invitation to attend the annual dinner and prize-giving of "D" Company, 4th Buffs. We thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and C.S.M. Marsh and the helpers must feel proud of the splendid show put up.

As it is about time these notes were in the post, I must say cheerio. Here's to the next time.

DEWBERRY.

LADIES' GUILD.

January 4th and I have just returned from the Biggin Hall, where the children of members have had their Christmas Party. A grand time they all had, including adults.

We were pleased to have with us ladies and children of the 1st Battalion, The Buffs, now staying at Lydd. Mrs. Morgan, one of our Vice-Presidents, was present; also Mrs. Morecroft and Major Peareth. We were very pleased to have with us again Major and Mrs. Ward.

After a good tea and games, Major Ward acted the part of Father Christmas, much to the delight of the children. They were very amused when treasures came from his bag as well as the Christmas tree. After the distribution of oranges, sweets and balloons, the grown-ups had some dancing.

There must have been well over 100 present at this jolly party. A good number of the Men's Branch were there.

Mrs. Crookenden and Committee certainly deserve the cheers so heartily given.

As our meeting is not held until the 19th, I am unable to report on that, hence these short notes. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday in the month at The Buffs Drill Hall.

L.E.E.

Medway Branch.

The monthly meeting of the branch was held at Headquarters on Friday, December 31st, 1938. Captain Barton occupied the Chair, supported by Mr. F. Cox (Vice-Chairman), the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Secretary and the usual gathering of members.

MINUTES.—The Minutes of the November meeting were read. On the proposition of Mr. Wellard, seconded by Mr. French, they were adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE.—General Sir Arthur Lynden-Bell wrote expressing his best wishes to the branch, also including a seasonable card.

Colonel Findlay sent a telegram expressing his regret at not being able to attend.

A letter of apology for non-attendance was read from Mr. Hills. A letter containing a donation towards the Branch Benevolent Fund was received from Mr. Knott, late of this branch, now London Branch. Further correspondence was read from the Secretary, Past and Present Association, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, concerning the combined meeting of the two branches on January 20th, 1939.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.—The elections were carried through in a very short time. Captain A. Barton was again elected Chairman; Mr. F. Cox, Vice-Chairman; Mr. King-Holt, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. A. Moorey, Hon. Secretary. The Committee

contains two new members in Mr. A. Wellard in place of Mr. Chambers, and Mr. A. Shirley; the remaining two—Mr. W. Daw and Mr. P. Hills—were re-elected. This gives the Committee an addition of one member over last year.

OTHER BUSINESS.—The Secretary was requested to make arrangements for the printing of branch membership cards for the ensuing year.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—Annual members are requested to pay their subscriptions in either to the Hon. Treasurer or Hon. Secretary as soon as possible. It would greatly assist the Association and branch if this request were complied with. No further business arising, the collection was taken, realising 3/-. The meeting was then declared closed.

A.J.M.

Margate Branch.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on January 9th, quite a large number of members being present. Mr. Moss presented a very encouraging report, and our Treasurer, Mr. W. G. Stewart, presented his financial statement, which showed that we haven't got that sinking feeling.

The following were elected as officers for 1939:—Chairman, Mr. W. G. Stewart; Vice-Presidents, Captain L. A. Barker and Mr. R. H. Harman; Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. P. Sankey; Treasurer, Mr. A. E. Crump; Secretary, Mr. P. G. Moss; Auditors, Mr. P. Kennett and Mr. G. L. Emden; Representative for Sub-Committee, Mr. W. G. Stewart; Committee, Messrs. H. Tong, R. Bass, J. Pettman, P. Kennett and E. Nethersole. A vote of thanks was recorded for the past services of officers.

It was decided to purchase another rifle for the use of the branch, and to continue membership of the S.M.R.C.

It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Johnson for all they have done for the branch since its formation. Mr. Jones, the present Steward, was also thanked for his services to us.

A challenge from the Dragon Sports Club for a games evening was accepted, to take place on February 13th—branch meeting night. Will all members please note, and attend?

PEARLY.

RE-UNION DINNER, "B" COMPANY, 1ST CADET BN., THE BUFFS (1897—1908).

The second annual dinner was held on Saturday, January 14th, at the George and Dragon Hotel. Our host (ex-Cpl. Stacey Jones) served a most excellent repast, which those present thoroughly enjoyed.

After drinking the health of the King, the toast of "The President" was given by ex-C/Sgt. F. Doughty, and drunk with musical honours.

In reply, the President (Colonel F. Manwaring-Dunstan) said how pleased he was to see so many of his old company present, after thirty years, to meet forty at a dinner such as this was a wonderful effort. He thanked all those who had worked to make this possible, especially ex-C/Sgt. Constable, who as Secretary had most of the work.

Letters of regret were received from Colonel Guy Lee, Brook Freemurton, Messrs. Feyer, White and Kemp, at present in British Columbia.

The marching song of the Cadets was played by the composer, Bandmaster A. Norwood.

One other toast was given—"Absent Comrades."

The harmony of the evening was contributed by Messrs. Miles, Kemp, Kennett, Philpott, Easton and Turner. Violin solos were played by Bandmaster Norwood. Mr. Smith ably presided at the piano.

BUGLER K.

Deal, Walmer and District Branch.

My notes this month will deal chiefly with our Annual General Meeting, which was held at Headquarters, West Street, Deal, on Tuesday, January 10th. Captain J. V. Hitchcock was in the Chair, supported by Messrs. Maxted, Conway, Collins, Hunt, A. Blown, Piddington, Oram (Hon. Secretary), and a representative number of members.

The Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were read and confirmed.

Apologies were received from Mr. P. G. Kingsford.

The correspondence was read and received.

The Hon. Secretary reported that the Rifle Club had held their Christmas shoot and that the Medal was won by Mr. A. Dunster.

The Hon. Treasurer was then called upon to give his annual report, and after he had explained to the meeting how he had got the money and spent some of it, he showed the meeting that the branch had got a substantial balance in the bank. A balance sheet was handed round for the members to study and remark upon. The Chairman then thanked the Hon. Treasurer for the work he had done during the year and complimented him on showing such a satisfactory balance sheet. It was then proposed and seconded that the balance sheet should be passed and accepted. This was carried unanimously.

The Hon. Secretary was the next to give his report. He outlined the various activities of the branch during the year, which showed that the branch had been well-represented at the different functions held. He also remarked on the Rifle Club that had been formed and urged more members to join up. Before concluding his report, he thanked Mr. Maxted for his untiring help and advice.

After the Chairman and Mr. Timblich had thanked the Hon. Secretary for his services, it was proposed and seconded that a vote of thanks be accorded him. This was carried unanimously.

The next business on the Agenda was to elect the officers for the coming year, the Chairman vacating his seat for this purpose. It was proposed and seconded that Captain R. M. Bourne should fill the vacant chair. This was carried (the proposition, not the chair). All offices were then declared vacant and the results of the election were:—Chairman, Captain J. V. Hitchcock; Vice-Chairman, Captain R. M. Bourne; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. T. Piddington; Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. F. Oram; Committee, Messrs. G. W. Maxted, M.C., E. Hunt, J. Collins, G. Conway, A. Blown, F. Newing and F. H. Orchard.

Before the meeting concluded, it was proposed and seconded that a very hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Captain J. V. Hitchcock for the continued interest and support that he gives to the branch (for one to attend a meeting and not find our Chairman there, is a very rare occasion). This was carried unanimously, amid much applause.

The usual collection was taken, and this amounted to 10/., which has been added to the branch funds. As this concluded the business for the evening, the meeting was then closed.

Since my last notes we have held yet another inter-games social, this being a return visit to the Deal Working Men's Club. Various games were played and the result was a win for the Club. My congratulations to the winners of the snooker match. It was a fine game with faultless play and some excellent handicapping. I really think that a tie would have been a more fitting finish, because as it was, there was only one point in it at the close of the game. (Which side was it that received a seven blacks start?) A competition was held during the evening for a set of darts presented by Mr. Orchard. This took the form of a hidden number game, the idea being the person who scored the same (or nearest) number as the one drawn at the end of the game was the winner. This not only caused a certain amount of sport but it also helped to swell our funds. Mr. G. Harper of the Club and Mr. A. Dunster were the finalists, and after another throw up, the prize was won by the latter.

By the time these notes are in print we shall have held another dance and social, so I shall have to give you a report on this next month.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of the late Mrs. Garrett. She was the wife of a very old Buff and also a member of the Ladies' Guild.

We are very sorry to hear of the illness of Mrs. Taylor, wife of the Secretary of the Sandwich Branch, and we extend to her the hope of a speedy recovery and return home. She is greatly missed by the members of the Ladies' Guild (Deal Branch), of which she is Hon. Secretary.

Our thanks to all who sent us greeting cards this Christmas.

W.F.O.

The 12th (Eastern) Division Battlefields Tour

A tour of the Battlefields has been arranged to take place at Easter next in connection with the 12th Division (in which the 6th Battalion, The Buffs served).

The headquarters of the party will be at Arras and the whole of the front line area occupied by the Division will be visited, wreaths being laid on the Division's Memorials at Monchy-le-Preux and Epéhy.

The tour will conclude with a visit to Ypres, where the party will attend the "Last Post" ceremony at the Menin Gate.

Mr. A. E. Grant (late of the 6th Battalion, The Buffs) has been appointed Secretary and will be pleased to send full particulars to those interested.

Our Contemporaries.

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

"Aldershot Command News." "The Tank." "Royal Fusiliers' Chronicle." "The London Scottish Regimental Gazette." "The Indian Army Ordnance Corps Gazette." "The Gunner." "The Hampshire Regimental Journal." "The Tiger and Rose." "Our Empire." "The Covenanter." "Defence." "East Lancashire Regimental Journal." "The Green Howards' Gazette." "The Oak Tree." "St. George's Gazette."

The 1st Battalion.



ONCE again Christmas and the New Year have passed by, and we spent them in far different circumstances than we planned only a few months ago. Christmas day was one of the hottest of the winter season, so in the morning two sides turned out and played strenuous hockey, after which a quick change and then Christmas dinners. Those of us at Sarafand had the dinner in the middle of the day, whilst the detachments had theirs in the evening after the day's patrolling was over.

The Commanding Officer visited the dinners at Sarafand and in a short speech wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and added that he hoped next year everything would be more settled and comfortable, and that those of us who are married would again have our families with us.

During the few days round Christmas a pantomime, "Cinderella," was put on through the unflagging efforts of the Reverend Williams.

It was a roaring success, and some of the items were so good that not many music halls could hope to better them.

The Ugly Sisters' bedroom scene was worth a guinea a minute, and some of us were greatly concerned as to whether Major Webster, in the audience, would survive the scene to its end.

We congratulate the whole cast; a really fine effort as the show was written and produced in three weeks.

There have been several delightful cocktail parties during the month. A mammoth one was given by Captain and Mrs. Williams and Major and Mrs. Davies (R.A.S.C.), conjointly on the departure of the latter couple for England and leave. The Williams are now lucky enough to be in sole occupation of one of the phenomena of Sarafand—a private bungalow. Other parties have been given by the Royal Horse Artillery, the Sisters' Mess, and No. 2 Wireless Company. There was a Fancy Dress Dance on New Year's Eve, and the Sisters at the Hospital are giving a huge dance on January 6th.

Major Spear has just returned after another of his sight-seeing trips. This time he went off on a ship called the *Rodi* and visited Beirut,

Cyprus, Athens and Rhodes, returning by the Italian Air Line—Ala Vitoria—from Rhodes to Haifa.

On December 4th Major Rice, Captains Reeves, Lewis and Dendy went out duck shooting and got nine birds. The following week they, less Dendy, went out again to Yibna and had a most successful shoot, in spite of the fact that Reeves got tired and wandered off to try his luck on the Yibna pigeons.

The beginning of this month sees a change over of companies, and "B" Company, with Major Spear in Command, goes to Bir Salem whilst "C" Company, Captain Lynden-bell in Command, comes into Sarafand.

On January 10th the new draft from England arrives, with Lieut. E. S. Scott. We welcome them all and hope they will enjoy themselves whilst with this battalion. The second draft went home a few days ago, and we were very sorry to say good-bye to C.S.M. Field—a great loss to our shooting team. Another draft goes in January and with it the Napoleon of No. 9 Post—Lieut. Harris St. John—on his way to the Depot; also Plumtre, who came off second best from a mine explosion. We hope to see him back after his leave, fit and well again.

It takes much longer for a letter to get here than to India.

Over Christmas letters were taking up to twelve days. Not a very good advertisement for Air Mails. We wonder if rumours we hear are true; that accidentally one incoming mail got mixed up and returned to England, and that one sack at Lydda got mixed up with the rations with the result that the Post Office received a sack of potatoes and the infuriated troops in some outpost got a sack of letters but no grub!

The Commanding Officer drove down to Gaza the other day and met our friends the Highland Light Infantry. He has covered no less than 1,500 miles during this last month, visiting our widely scattered outposts.

The majority of officers seem to have cameras and wireless now, also most barrack rooms have their wireless sets. England is very clear, and some of us listened in to the Oxford v Cambridge rugby match. At seven in the morning we get the last few dances from New York and Boston.

A gardening campaign has just started, and an effort is being made to beautify the surroundings of the Officers' Quarters. This is the land of bulbs, so most vehicles go out with spades attached and try and bring back a few.



Major R. B. Sandilands and Arab interpreter.

At the present time the scarlet anemone is coming out in profusion, and in a few weeks the countryside should be a glorious mass of red.

We must thank the Tel Aviv Hospitality Committee, who gave a free performance in the new cinema at Tel Aviv for the officers and troops, Sarafand. Several officers and forty men went in and thoroughly enjoyed the film "Victoria The Great." In the interval a swarm of Girl Guides came in and served lemonade and cigarettes to everyone.

There are still quite a number of people bathing, and a party goes in every Sunday from Sarafand.

Major Sandilands has started a small museum at Al Majdal, but at present says he cannot hope to compete with Canterbury. However, anyone discovering a mine or bomb please send it intact to the curator. All donations will be acknowledged providing the worst does not happen.

Yesterday the poor old horse that draws the vegetable cart was electrocuted as it stood outside the Mess. Apparently a cable broke loose, touched the metal standard, and the wet ground on which the horse was standing became charged. It was very lucky that no person was hurt, especially as the Commanding Officer nearly always takes a short cut to the Mess from his quarters past this particular electric standard.

Hockey.

We have entered a team for the Flowers Cup Competition, which in Palestine corresponds to the Army Cup at home. In spite of great difficulties we have built up quite a good team. Owing to three companies being out on detachment, most of the players are found from Headquarter Company and the company in Sarafand.

So far we have been very successful, and our practice games against the R.A.F. Hospital team here, who are the holders of the Cup, have heartened us all considerably.

The ground we play on is anything but ideal, but it is probably a good thing to play on bad grounds, because one will then thoroughly appreciate a good one.

Twice we have had battalion games, producing two sides, and on Christmas morning no less than eight officers played, which probably constitutes a record for all time.

We played No. 2 Wireless Company the other day and got beaten 8—2. The game was not nearly so bad as the score suggests, and has proved very useful to us as regards spotting where our chief weakness lies. Lieuts. Bell and Harboard were able to get in from Lydda to play in this match. We are hoping to see them in more often so that a team can be built up.

The draw for the competition takes place on January 14th.

Results of matches played at Sarafand on dates as shown:—

FOOTBALL.

30/11/38.	v R.A.F.	Won 2—1.
2/12/38.	v R.A.F.	Draw 1—1.
7/12/38.	v R.A.F.	Lost 1—3.
10/12/38.	v R.A.S.C. (14).	Draw 1—1.
16/12/38.	v R.A.S.C. (67).	Lost 1—3.
23/12/38.	v R.A.F.	Draw 2—2.

HOCKEY.

28/11/38.	v R.A.F.	Lost 1—2.
1/12/38.	v R.A.F.	Draw 1—1.
8/12/38.	v R.A.F.	Lost 2—1.
10/12/38.	v R.A.S.C. (14).	Won 5—1.
14/12/38.	v R.A.F.	Won 3—1.
16/12/38.	v R.A.S.C. (67).	Won 4—1.
20/12/38.	v R.A.F.	Won 5—1.
22/12/38.	v R.A.S.C. (14).	Won 5—1.
23/12/38.	v R.A.F.	Won 5—1.
29/12/38.	v R.A.F.	Won 3—1.

Sergeants' Mess.

I find it difficult to start and even harder to attempt to record the happenings of the Mess for this month, for I have been "caught on the hop," as the recruit said when the A.D.M.S. tumbled to his flat feet—having been told to produce *Dragon* notes at very short notice.

I am only *locum tenens*, the original incumbent having been ordered from the base to the front line at Yibna Detachment, an event which makes us all think that this trouble will not be long in finishing now.

On the whole we have had no time or opportunities for functions so our vices are limited to darts or a possible "spot of cards" from "Snap" to "Spoof," and an occasional firework display given by "Hoppo" when he is on "Prowlers."

Two-thirds of the members are away on detachment at various platoon posts and for those at Battalion Headquarters the duties run with uncomfortable regularity.

We have made no attempt to refurbish the Mess owing to the present conditions and lack of information as to how long we are to be in this station, but once we hear, then, no doubt, things will start moving.

Various members of other units pass through our Mess frequently and one old face that was pleasant to see again, as a reminder of the Gibraltar days, was that of W.O. II Snook (then Sergeant) of the A.E.C.

Mentioning "Hoppo" earlier on reminds me to thank our fellow-members of the Home Battalion for the courtesy extended to that gentleman and his "china plates," namely Paddy Kinsella and Bill Kennedy. We appreciate your welcome hospitality to the "Freeman Hardy Willis" trio, but why, oh why must you let them get married?

These lads also brought back with them the one and only "Gunner" (also married) and C.S.M. Dolbear, who is now settling down nicely to a long course of "Antipon" treatment.

Sgt. Blanch also got past the Customs at Southampton and arrived safe and sound. Unfortunately he had little time to settle in with us as he was posted to "A" Company at Al Majdal soon after arrival.

We are pleased to see that Sgt. Trinkwoń got the spare crown and keeps C.Q.M.S. of "B" Company; and we welcome a new face in the Mess in the form of L/Sgt. Gibbs, for three years our junior Armourer and now appointed the Battalion Senior Armourer. Good work, "Springs Gib."

Hunter, our former "tiffy," has paddled off to the Home Establishment, and we hope he will soon meet the Station Master's daughter.

"Olly" Wood has gone to the Depot, where, I understand, one can do a little sheiking, in addition to "bending the knee when you turn about." Who was it said: "Oh, to be in Canterbury now that Wood is there"? Some gay young Beachcomber, I bet.

Writing of departures brings to mind that we have still with us Jimmy Miles and Ginger Stone, but I do not suppose it will be very long before we say good-bye to them. Both have decided to sample "Civvy Street." We all hope they are successful in their new venture.

C.S.M. Field left us on the 21st December for civilian life, going away with a "modified." A farewell party was arranged for his send off and it was with a feeling of regret that we said good-bye to another senior and well liked member of the Mess. We all wish Teddy and Mrs. Field the best of luck for the future in all their undertakings. Unfortunately, I lose my dancing partner over this deal, but I'll grin and bear it.

Sam Wickham has returned from Australia looking remarkably fit and "cowboyish." He gives full marks for the excellent way he was entertained by our Allied Battalion (3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry) and by the members of the Garrison Sergeants' Mess at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. We express our thanks through the medium of these notes to all who helped to make the stay of C.S.M. Wickham so pleasant in Australia.

Our No. 1 and P.S.M. Sirett plugged in for fourteen days' leave in Cairo and by their appearances on return it was apparently "a bit of alright."

Beaten by time, I will now ring off as

PROWLER.

Corporals' Room.

An Englishman's aptitude to adapt himself to any circumstances was never more apparent than this past Christmas. Despite the fact that conditions here are still of a very unsettled nature, we live practically the same as the inmates of olden time medieval castles, not being allowed outside the perimeter wire unless on duty. The festive season was celebrated in true old English style. Alcoholic libations were restricted, as it was anticipated some slight increase might be made in the rebel activities. Fortunately, the day passed without a single call being made for our services and we were left to indulge ourselves peacefully and well.

Nearer to hand, however, circumstances were conspiring against us. Standing outside the cookhouse with nostrils extended in true "Bisto" fashion, I was regaling myself with the many succulent smells emanating from Hoy's Estaminet, when to my horror and the mutual disgust of the remainder of the battalion the fire call blew. In the ensuing melee, while escaping to a safe place, I narrowly escaped annihilation at the hands of several young signallers, each carrying a bucketful of water and in some cases pumps, hand. As the whole squad were proceeding at the double and the pumps, hand, were being carried at the high port, it will be realised what danger was run in attempting to cross their path. Plucking up courage, I ran across as quickly as possible, only to receive the full force of a pump, hand, carried in the hand of a very youthful and energetic fire-fighter, in the small of my back. The force of the blow carried me right across their path and laid me prostrate in a nearby ditch. From this inelegant position I was able to witness one of the most touching scenes it has been my lot to see.

Constable, with that grim and determined look he always wears, his chest at an angle of 394 degrees, dashed from some secret drinking den on hearing the fire alarm. Gathering together some of the C.I.D. on the way, they made a most expeditious unloading of the fire appliances at the guardroom. The fastest of the policemen was harnessed into the front of the engine and proceeded down the road at a smart trot. Nearing the corner, and getting ready to produce a nice smart gallop over the straight, past the C.O.'s office, it suddenly occurred to the poor young "animal" who was doing all the pulling that the destination of the fire was at the moment unknown. Deciding in the usual "beast of burden" fashion, he promptly put the engine down and proceeded to make enquiries. At that moment friend Constable, whose chest was nearing bursting point in view of his exertions, spied the drummer, who was doing his best to recover after blowing the fire alarm continuously for about twenty minutes. Can you imagine the change that appeared on the poor fire-fighters' faces when the drummer, after a most heroic effort, managed to gasp out: "At the guardroom, Corporal"!

We regret to say that by the time they again reached their starting point the fire was extinguished. We can only offer our condolences and hope that at some future date we shall be able to have a fire which will not be so close to the fire engine, and that they will once again see a demonstration of our fire-fighters at work.

We have much pleasure in congratulating Cpl. Pawley on his promotion to the ranks of "fatherhood." We trust that Mrs. Pawley is well and that at some future date we shall have an introduction to little

Frankie. In connection with the above, it would appear that by some mischance relatives wrongly addressed their Christmas present. I can hardly think that Frank was really intended to have the box of bon-bons and chocolate, though he ate them with considerable gusto. (I'm sure little Frankie wasn't!) We can only hope that the poor little offspring did not find himself saddled with a box of Daddie's cheroots. In any case, I don't think babies are born with teeth.

Cold weather having descended upon us, it would appear that Stooshie Brittain feels it more than we do. The appalling calamity which befell the Mess, recorded in our last Minutes, when Stooshi removed one of the finest sets of face fungi in the British Army, is now being remedied. We are glad to say that owing to the very severe weather he has started a new growth and we now sit nightly in the Mess admiring the daily improvement. The opening of a "book" on the length of time that it would take for it to regain its former splendour was vetoed as it was rumoured that he was using some foul preparation and the backers would therefore be handicapped. We like a flutter, but with science against us the odds are too great.

George Tolhurst has this Christmas been living a Jekyll and Hyde existence. Forsaking his nightly "Ovaltine," he has indulged in a pint of beer, to put it in his own words, "to keep in spirit with the company." We thoroughly admire his spirit, but George, why did you keep the brandy so well hidden? Surely it was not necessary to drink that at 12 midnight? Notwithstanding the brandy episode, George has established himself as a broker of no mean merit. Perhaps I should have said bailiff. To the detriment of the Regimental Games Store we have now made ourselves a cosy little Mess. All the Mess property which had been hidden in the Games Store having by the tireless efforts of George been produced, refurbished up and laid out in neat array. Your efforts, George, will not be unrewarded.

We would like, now that the Mess has been brightened so nicely, that more of the members would look in if only once a day. At the moment the interest in the Mess seems to be confined to a very small number of the members who are at present in Sarafand.

Forsaking the ranks of the "Ovaltinees," Young Boot Eustace" and even Richardson have been seen indulging nightly in the products of George Beer & Rigden. The sleep-giving qualities of the latter seem to be equally as good as those of "Ovaltine," for they both still manage to get in ten hours a day.

Stress of circumstance will always produce some most amusing happenings, but the one below I think requires quite a lot of beating.

Engaged in a punitive action some few days ago, a gallant band led by a certain N.C.O. carrying in his hand one Very light pistol and in the other a Mills grenade, emulating the feat of the Light Brigade, charged through a small village. The position at the farther end being somewhat of a danger, the N.C.O. decided that the Mills grenade would assist further movement. Imagine his horror when he saw the Very light pistol sailing nicely through the air, and the Mills (from which he had already removed the pin) reposing in his left hand. We congratulate the members of the party for the speed and orderliness of their withdrawal. Having thrown the Mills when he recognised his mistake, he is now looking for the lost Very light pistol. Latest reports show that up to the moment two large pieces of brass have been found and also the remnants of a butt.

There is an even better one about an orange, but having been a contributor for some time, I have found that it is always best to keep some small reserve for next month, when news may be very scarce.

In conclusion, we wish all members of The Buffs, both past and present, all the very best for the New Year, and thank everyone for the large and varied assortment of Christmas cards which we have received. Looking at them all it brings home more forcibly the old saying: "Stations change but not our Friendship."

P.S.—For the benefit of many ladies who we know have been worrying about their dear sons, winter woollies have now been issued and it will not be necessary for the ladies to prolong their knitting activities.

We respectfully suggest that the church bazaars or probably the usual winter soirees may prove a very deserving outlet for the precious woollies which have been knitted with such loving care. Would Mrs. O'Keefe please note that little Josie has two lovely winter vests of his own and has just received a further gift of two more. His little chest, thank goodness, is adequately protected.

The Band.

Last night was the first night of the pantomime and the Band at our disposal played as well as any first-rate orchestra. The panto itself excelled. Had C. B. Cochran been there he could not have done any more. Considering the talent at hand and the very short notice, the show could not have been bettered at Drury Lane. Well done, everybody.

Unlike the Drums and No. 3 Group, we have no sports news to publish. Our lads are out earning their pay. No doubt, though, when we do get together once again, we shall have quite a lot to write about, especially when our friend Robbins speaks of his adventures. By now I suppose he has captured no less than a hundred bandits single-handed! He was ably assisted by Bolt, whom we congratulate at the first leg of promotion. Now we have two more to join the mystery squad, Jones and Morgan, the inseparables. Good work! Bring 'em in!

The Band, out on detachments, are doing their little bit and are supplying Christmas music to their own little shows. Christmas night will see us that are at Sarafand giving a sing-song in the Mess Room. We hope to be able to write all about it during next month.

It is rumoured that our Palestine Cop (Woolnough) is after a certain Prince Charming.

The Rev. Williams, who officiated at Bordon and travelled with the 2nd Battalion during their trip in 1936, is here in Sarafand.

Our Band Sergeant is becoming fatter daily. Very soon I am afraid the Tank Corps will refuse him unless they make an extra large tank just for his conveyance.

Next month we hope to be able to tell readers of a little tour we are making with the pantomime. Enough for now, so we close, wishing all our readers a bright, happy and prosperous New Year.

The Drums.

Whilst snorting through the opening to the trio of Punjaub where it goes "Domp Domp! Domp! Domp! the Drum-Major murmured *Dragon* notes in my ear, and although I made a desperate attempt not to hear him, I lost, and am endeavouring to concentrate with that horrible collection of noises termed "Punjab" bursting one ear-drum and Breach' blurring sweet nothing about Peace Treaties into the other.

We wish most heartily to welcome C.S.M. Wickham back to the company, and I should like to say that it sounds like sweet music to hear him enquire: "Wot are you on then?" Welcome back to the Harris Shield Company, Sir!

Two of our prize beauties have left us for England, where they hope to crash the gates of matrimony.

They are Dmr. "Shadow" Tritton and the "Human Hair-pin," Pte. Bonce Latimer. The day Ted left us was a memorable one, for the Quartermaster's Staff with the aid of a 30-cwt. truck managed to find a topee that nearly fitted him! Best of luck to both of you.

Messrs. Underwood and Thirst have applied for a transfer to the R.A.O.C. as storemen and are pretty confident of securing it, but even if they could build a store big enough for "Nobby," where would the stores be put?

P.R.O. Crossley, now R.P.C. Crossley, has acquired that sweet melodious voice of a Regimental Policeman, especially when he murmurs "Tak ye 'ands oot pockets, lad," which has surprisingly taken preference to his "Gie us a match, mate."

We have once more in our midst "Ribs" Powell and "Mooky" Knight. The "Human Coat-hanger" has rejoined us from the detachment at Bir Salem, where he informs us that he had a marvellous time and could now pass any trade test pertaining to potato peeling.

Flash! Prowlers (the two-face monsters) have ceased. This is a good and great relief to all and sundry, but it is a case of "out of the frying-pan into the fire," because we are now faced with M.C.C. Guards. These guards have nothing to do with the cricket world (except that we are "batting" with one night in), are the usual two on and four off affairs in which we are employed as glorified wardens over the prisoners at the Concentration Camp.

The day, or rather evening, when we were endeavouring to masticate Mr. Hore-Belisha's cream crackers with the aid of a hammer and chisel, Cpl. Pawley received the news that he was blessed with a son and heir. Congratulations, Corp. Let's hope that Frank Edmund will become all you wish him to become.

Best wishes to the 2nd Battalion Drums, and a prosperous New Year to everybody.

CHHOTA-HAZRI.

Signal Section.

Owing to the accumulation of work in the Signal Section, I beg to apologise for the absence of last month's notes.

At the time of writing, there are very few Signallers remaining at the Base (Sarafand). L/Cpl. Tookey is at Bir-Salem with "C" Company, where he has been doing good work. L/Cpl. Thompson is at Lydda, and L/Cpl. Heath at Al-Majdal, whilst Philpott and White represent Sarafand. Sgt. Kennedy (Our Bill) has his work cut out these days with the Young Hands who have just arrived, but as usual he will produce the A1 Signallers. The sudden imprecation wrung from an agonised throat tells me that our dear George has those bright individuals on parade, where they are concentrating on the letter beer, as this appears to be their weakest letter!

Mr. Clarke has been released from hospital, where he was suffering with a poisoned foot, and it is hoped that he will soon have both feet on terra-firma.

Before I close, Sgt. Kennedy wishes to thank all members of the 2nd Battalion Signal Section for the help and companionship given to him whilst on leave.

I take this opportunity of wishing all and sundry a happy New Year.

JOE.

M.T. Section.

Dragon notes will be few this month owing to the lack of leisure hours, plus the fact that we have nothing in the news line.

The section is still split up into detachments that are stationed in out of the way spots, which are at the present time inaccessible except by the railway. We seldom get news from them except when they want something.

Last week, despite the fact that it rained heavily during the night, three sturdy young fellows set out for No. 9 Post with the intention of repairing some breakages and returning to barracks in time for dinner. Twelve noon found them stuck hopelessly in the mud in a very nasty spot near Gerdera. Far away in the distance the outpost could be seen. All methods of visual communication were tried and failed. So it fell to the lot of one of them to do the journey on foot. Everything turned out alright in the end. They spent the night with No. 9 Post and returned to Sarafand at noon the next day—Tiffy with a maimed engine, Ike with a burnt out clutch, and yours truly with a vow never to travel that particular (?) road again.

We have no news from the Lydda Detachment except such things as oil changes and the usual cry for stores and repairs to mechanical defects.

All our detachments return at the end of the month, to be replaced by others who have had, so far, a quiet time in Sarafand.

Our second course of instruction has just commenced. Unfortunately we have not the facilities for carrying out the instruction as per Manual of Maintenance for Mechanical Vehicles (Wheeled) 1937. We have no training course, so the actual driving instruction must be carried out on the open road where the standard of driving among the civil population is very poor, and road sense and courtesy very bad. However, we are confident that at the end of six weeks we will be able to congratulate ourselves on another great achievement.

I must thank "Crankspanner" for sending us his M.T. Section. "Crankspanner," my heart bleeds for you and your immediate friends (or are you secretly laughing up your sleeve!). Anyway, you drivers make very good "duty" men over this side.

Our M.T. Sergeant is going to England on a course early in April, so lock up your tools, you fellows! Also, he has something to show you, namely how frog-like motions are to be avoided by taking off in first gear.

Poor old Mac will never mistake petrol for kerosene again. The bald patch on his head will long remind him of that error.

The strength of our vehicles is 73 and 8 more cycles to come. By the way, less 6 in the workshops. Ask the last draft how they got there.

The M.T. Sergeant has taken to smelling salts on account of so many headaches given to him by the N.C.O.'s asking for a trip to some detachment or other on their motor cycles. (What is the attraction at at Rehovat? Is she fair or dark?)

"What's that noise going on out there, Sergeant?" Lo and behold, it is Mr. Stone trying to get into the garage with the doors closed. One of his wings folded up like a letter S, his foot still hard down on the accelerator and beads of sweat streaming down his face.

Where is the petrol that was delivered to Bir Salem, "Shrubby"?

Large holes may be seen beside the Al Majdal Road. Perhaps the M.T.O. can explain that. Drivers will carry shovels.

A.B.5, (L).

No. 3 Group.

To commence these notes, I must bid all readers of *The Dragon* a happy New Year. By the time these notes are in print the festive season will be past and New Year resolutions broken, but better late than never.

I cannot give any news of the festive season from Palestine, for the simple reason that the figure-head of the company has called for these notes on the 24th December; he was not going to risk not having any notes owing to large and uncomfortable heads, produced by the beverage of malt and hops. Therefore I shall write a few lines in my next notes on the way the 1st Battalion spent their first Christmas in Palestine.

Time is a great factor in this country, but Tim Belcher can still find plenty in which to practice carol singing. He was heard singing "God rest you merry, gentlemen" the other day. But Friends, Romans and Countrymen, I can assure you there is very little "rest" out here.

We welcome to the group, Pte. Crossley, who has come to us from the Drums for employment in Deverson's C.I.D.

The following have left the group on proceeding to Great Britain, and we wish them the best of luck in civilian life, or in their new round of soldiering in England:—A/Sgt. Hunter (R.A.O.C.), L/Cpl. Seymour, Pte. Witts and Pte. Rackham.

Old Man Green paid us a visit early in the month, and was made very welcome by certain members of the food spoiling department.

Ptes. Moore and Matfin are trying to join the Palestine Police and both have great hopes; the first is so small that he has to have the assistance of a ladder to get into bed with, and the latter is due for the Old Age Pension next year.

L/Cpl. Jefferys has put in for a transfer to the Royal Engineers, which we very much hope he gets; but at the same time we shall be very sorry to lose him.

We congratulate Cpl. Gibbs (R.A.O.C.) on his promotion to Sergeant, and hope that he gets much higher.

We are now in the middle of winter in Palestine, but at present one is reminded of spring.

Sport has been in full swing in the group; in the very able hands of L/Cpl. Belcher we have had some very good games of Association and Rugby football and hockey with the units stationed in this Garrison. We won all games of hockey and soccer, but lost the rugby.

I must close now, as it is Christmas Eve, and to the Mess I must proceed, to try my hand at getting merry. The season's greetings to all.

NIATTIRB.

Carrier Platoon.

I must apologise for the brief notes this month, because the usual scribe is out on detachment.

Well, the Carrier Platoon has settled down at Sarafand, but, alas! where are the hair-raising adventures often described by our old Palestine warriors? Life these days seems all guards, picquets and patrols. I think by the smile on our P.S.M.'s face that our piece of hard work (handiwork) in the front of our bungalow wasn't quite his idea of garden ornamentation.

I am sorry to say that the Carrier Platoon these days is sadly depleted. Most of the fellows have been taken to make the detachment sections up to strength, but I take this opportunity to wish them all a merry Christmas, a happy New Year, and a scarcity of Arab rebels during the Christmas revels.

There is one more item I must mention before I close these notes, and that is "Our Bill." We are all hoping that he enjoys his moonlight trips, and wonder whether he has added any more "Bows and Arrows" to his collection yet?

The Carrier Platoon send their best wishes to the 2nd Battalion and all at home.

IGNOM.

"A" Company.

Once again it falls on my shoulders to be acting scribe for *Dragon* notes, having lost our original one, due to the lure of "Civvie Street."

We have just said farewell to the old soldiers bound for English wenchies and Civvie Street, namely L/Cpl. Skeet (he will be missed by 2nd Class Certificate Wallahs), Ptes. "Tich" Harman, Wilkinson, "Doughey" Baker and "Policeman" Saint. They will be spending Christmas at home for the first time for many years, having done nearly all their service in India. We wish them luck in their new sphere.

As we lose so we gain, and we welcome to our fold Sgt. Blanch and seven Privates from "Blighty" (Bert says, "More men for Guards") and we hope they settle down in their new surroundings.

The C.S.M. is as bad as the latest "Drafty" as regards mail. He walks round saying "Did you get any mail to-day?" If the answer is in the affirmative, he walks off in disgust.

Pte. Allsopp (come and get it, you rats) wanders into the cookhouse at all times of the day with an important look. He says he wants "char" for the Company Commander, but we have our doubts, as he is the winner of the tea drinking competition.

Patrols, guards and escorts carry on as usual, but each week three men from each post go to Tel-Aviv. Though the leave is short, I notice that they come back full of vim and vigour.

Since this leave stunt commenced, local correspondence has increased fourfold. Even Joey is seen slyly writing to a certain Jewish wench.

The "Chota Hog" finds life very tiring. Where he finds the energy to escort our rations from Sarafand to Al Majdal is a mystery. Still, he does, and is in great demand on arrival, as he is the postman from Battalion Headquarters to Al Majdal.

The A/Quarter Bloke has one thing in his mind, and that is Christmas dinner. A great General said: "The Army marches on its stomach" (what's the M.T. for?), so we have to fill it. After we have eaten the dinner, I'm sure the company will join in unison and say "Good old Quarter," not to forget the cook, who has double the work to do during the *holidays* (ahem!).

The outposts of "A" Company (Nos. 8 and 9) have at last had suitable places built to live in. Having been under canvas for over two months, they are highly delighted with their new homes.

Since the commencement of these notes, Christmas has passed. After hours of hard work, the dinner was eaten in a few minutes; everyone proclaimed it an exceptionally good one (one up to you, Ginger!).

Our Company Commander, Major R. B. Sandilands, came up and just before dinner drank the health of all. We all hope that he enjoys having the command of "A" Company and that he enjoyed his Christmas dinner as much as we did, though it was not up to the

usual standard owing to the fact that all duties had to be carried out. Still, like all true soldiers, after a few moans about patrols, etc., we enjoyed ourselves.

On Christmas night, a patrol under the able command of C.S.M. Warren surprised a party of Arabs doing a spot of sabotage. They (the Arabs) evidently thought that we should be killing beer in the canteen instead of doing the job that is laid down; at any rate, we had no casualties.

Boxing night saw us once again having a birthday. This time the Arabs came to our back door, but after firing about 30 rounds got fed up with it and retired, so we all turned in to get the sleep that had been earned.

Sgt. Hanson, our acting "Q" Bloke, finds Sarafand very attractive these days. We do not know the reason, but think that it is the soft bed that he gets when staying there.

I'm not a newspaper reporter and I cannot compose a graphic account of all the phases in our life up to the present day, so if by chance you should criticise these notes, just remember that I am only a poor amateur at it.

Though it may be late, we, "A" Company, 1st Buffs, wish all Buffs and Buffetees, past, present and future, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

EASY.

No. 9 Post, No. 9 PLATOON.

Dear readers,—It has fallen to my lot to be the scribe for the post, and although I do not excell in this line, I will do my best to make these notes as interesting as possible.

I arrived at the post at a very opportune time, as the platoon had been sleeping under canvas, and when I arrived huts were just nearing completion and I was just in time for a house warming party which was given by the Jewish workmen and orange grove workers, and what a house warming! Beer, wine and eats in plenty and although the programme did not get completed, nobody cared much about that after the first dose of gunpowder served up by our hosts. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the platoon of thanking Sapper and Mr. Rodbrant and all concerned for their untiring efforts both in the erection of the huts and towards making the party the success that it undoubtedly was.

After moving into the huts, everyone felt much more comfortable and with the wireless to entertain us in the evenings when we are not on patrols, we are almost as well off as if we were in barracks.

The next item of importance is Christmas. Everybody enjoyed themselves as well as could be expected under the circumstances. The dinner was excellently prepared by our cook (Price), ably assisted by Aubourg and Archie. The supply of liquor was limited but even then some individuals found sufficient to get somewhat merry, while others preferred to wait until Boxing Day to commence their celebrations.

Before concluding my notes, it would only be fair to mention a few of the platoon's notabilities. No. 1 is our General Von, who has taken up the fire eating trick, but with the fire extending beyond his shirt immediately dived for water. However, he has proved beyond doubt that a Glengerry does make a perfectly good stove. Then there is our Vic-Eddie wallah who, thinking we had too much milk in our gunfire, found a new use for it. Then there are others who find Gederia interesting even after the pictures have finished.

Since the installation of the telephone one frequently sees a certain person at the mouthpiece, and I am beginning to wonder if it is Majdal or No. 8 Post that requires so much of his time, or if there is some other interest.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all the very best for a happy and prosperous New Year.

T.X. PEACHY.

"B" Company.

A good beinning for this month's notes, I think, is first and foremost to wish everybody a happy Christmas and the best of luck in the New Year.

Well, now to get down to business. This month, all one can hear from our two worthies, the C.S.M. and the Company Orderly Sergeant, is how many spare men are there? The answer is always the same — None.

We have said good-bye to a few more of the lads who have left us for "Civvy Street." C.S.M. Field decided to put aside khaki for good and don "civvies." We all wish him the best of luck; as also to the rest of the lads.

At last they have managed to tear Sgt. Stone away from hospital. At first he was quite lost and kept walking round asking in a heart-rending voice, with tears in his eyes: "Please give me something to do." At last the "powers that are" decided to confer on him the rare honour of permanent Battalion Orderly Sergeant. He's happy now, but rumour says his eyes are fixed on "Civvy Street." We wonder?

"Guardsman Gore" is now in the front line doing his bit. All that worries him now, though, is will he get his *Film Fun* alright.

The battalion played a Jewish team at football. The company was represented by L/Cpl. Cheeseman and Pte. Swain, who both gave a very good account of themselves.

The company goes on detachment next month. Everybody's looking forward to it. No. 11 Platoon are already out and have taken over Yibna Station from a platoon of "C" Company. Lieut. Dendy and Sgt. Davis are in charge and from reports from a very good source they are having the time of their "young lives," with modern furniture and all the comforts of home life. I believe they have even hot and cold water *ad lib.*!

The one and only "Trink" is now a high and mighty "Quarter Bloke." Congratulations! Don't forget the "big weeks," Sir.

Major Spear has gone on leave over Christmas and handed over the company to Captain Reeves during the festive season. P.S.M. Jones is now acting C.S.M. and the new "Papa" of the company.

Christmas this year had to be rather curtailed owing to the "War," but we hope to make up for it at a later date. Things started to get exciting on Christmas morning. A fire broke out in the Guard Room but was put out before much damage was done. After that, we were left more or less in peace for the rest of the day.

Well, I think that is about all for this month, except for one query. Who was the bright lad who started dancing "The Lambeth Walk" and finished up using a fire extinguisher? Well, cheerio till next month.

A.H.T.

"C" Company.

Christmas draws near and although our primary job is the railway line, we are also busy with thoughts

for the festive season. The menu has already been planned and a very good one too, but the problem of making raw material eatable is also engaging our attention, and we have our pioneer, Pte. Rutter of "Finch's post" fame, on the go to produce the necessary oven. Having had plenty of experience in the vicinity of Yibna, we have no doubt that he will turn out the best with the various means at his disposal. Dawkins, our recently appointed Company Cook, had got all his plans laid, and judging from the different talks I have heard, everything will go smoothly.

The Trooping Season has started and once again we hear the same old stories of "when the next boat is going." Those who are lucky enough to get anywhere near Battalion Headquarters are constantly getting the lowdown, and come back full of hopes for themselves and others, only to see the aforesaid hopes dashed to the ground with the next issue of Battalion Orders. Recent departures to the U.K. are Golding (Mole), Grimes the doctor, Brookman of boxing fame, Scrounger Sullivan, Head the Armourer, and last but not least, Mahogany Killick, the Company Clerk, mostly known as Darkie, especially when required to "Don't forget the big week, Darkie." He will be missed by many of the sheiks who always needed extra cash. Young Speedy Campbell is now installed in Killick's chair and is very keen and interested in his work. To those who have been lucky enough to catch the boat we wish the best of luck, and thank them for what they have done for the company during their tour abroad.

Whilst on this subject, we also wish to say farewell to Gilo (Pte. Giles), who was attached to us as cook, and thank him for his untiring efforts to keep us filled up with food as well as the luscious amber fluid. Perhaps when we see him at Canterbury in years to come he will be able to explain the difference between "One pint per day" and "One pint at a time." Best wishes to Gilo, and good luck.

We welcome to the company Sgt. de Vroome and Cpl. "Tinkle" Bell, both of whom are well-known to us, and in addition Ptes. Bradshaw, Eke, Purvis, Latham and T. Knight of the last-joined draft. We hope that they will all settle down and enjoy themselves in "C" Company.

The company is now settled very comfortably along the line from Lydda to Yibna and, thanks to the untiring efforts of our Company Commander (Captain Lynden-Bell), each platoon post has its own wireless set, canteen, oil stoves and all the other small items required to make life bearable in this land of "milk and honey." L/Cpl. Tookey and Pte. Petley of the Signal Section have given yeoman service in maintaining communication with Battalion Headquarters in addition to four other posts. They thoroughly enjoy themselves on the roof of Bir Salem irrespective of weather. Our latest asset is a telephone in the Company Office, which, apart from helping us to maintain rapid communication enables us to get in a little earlier with the proverbial "Spouseyrno" and also to deal successfully with Herr Sphon and his "ORRANNges" from "Yaa-rru-salem."

LATER.

Christmas has now passed over and I am glad to say that all the aforementioned plans fully materialised. The dinner produced by Dawkins, assisted by Rutter and Johncock, was first-class, and although we had to wait till 6 p.m. to "get in," everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The visit of our Company Commander to the dining tent was attended by the usual toasts, after which we retired to the billet and had a sing-song till about 8 p.m., when our very able nurse, Sgt. Beal, came and put us all to bed as we all had of

be up and moving at 4.30 a.m. next morning. Our Christmas visitors were:—our Commanding Officer, who went along the line to all our posts and conveyed his best wishes to the men; our Padre, the Rev. Power, whom we have to thank for a very nice service on Christmas Eve; and Captain and Mrs. Williams, who must have enjoyed the experience of being bogged in the sand and also having a ride in the Pick-up.

The company are due to move into Sarafand before January 14th, after three months on detachment. Apart from a well-needed rest, it will give us an opportunity to see some of our friends in the other platoons. We shall miss our old haunts and several people will be sorry to have to hand over their cosy little nests. Chaffer will be sorry to lose his own private skylight, or the "ole in the wall," as it is now known. Blake will miss his supply of rabbit and bones; the C.S.M. will miss his field allowance, and if time and space permitted, I could go on missing till all my kit was missing. Oh, I nearly forgot to mention that Mitchell will miss his marriage allowance.

Time is now getting short, so these notes will have to come to an end, and whilst not offering an apology for such "duff stuff," I will ensure that our regular scribe of fiddling fame, or Clarence, as we know him, will perform next month.

See you on the line.

H.V.D.

"D" Company.

"I say, everybody, I have made a wonderful discovery," exclaimed the Chief of the Room one morning after coming off night patrol. A little voice in the corner chimed out and said: "What, have you just woke up?" Of course, no names, no pack drill, but a few days afterwards it was brought to my notice about meeting a Tattooed Lady.

Although it is rather peaceful at Lydda, except for a disturber of the peace with an elephant gun, things seem to be looking up for some fellows. I have noticed that one or two of the seniors have complained of dizzy heads first thing in the morning.

The C.S.M.'s turkeys have now gone to the block, which had made him rather heartbroken, and he has been heard to say that he is thinking of starting a chicken farm. Shortly he will be issued with *Chicken Farming*, Vol. I. The C.Q.M.S. has already indented for these volumes.

The designation of this company is expected to be shortly changed to "D" (Railway) Company, as we are now all part shareholders in the Palestine Railway, or at least we judge we are, seeing as how the lads are riding in State in armoured cars.

We congratulate P.S.M. Hills on his promotion to the new rank. Also to L/Cpls. Fowler, Snapes, Ward, Davis and Marshall, and we hope they will continue to climb the ladder of fame.

P.S.M. Hills and his gallant followers are busy at Kfar Sirkin, clearing the way for the Palestine Expresses. The newly-wed has left them to take a Master-Cook's Course in England. Lucky blighter—another honeymoon—and don't forget, Johnny, we expect a "D" from you.

Good attempts have been made to display a football team, but unfortunately our platoons are far apart and we cannot yet get the team together. We have played two games with the R.E.'s, the first we drew 3—3, the second we lost 3—1. Still, keep trying, lads!

Continued on page 62.

The 2nd Battalion.



THE past month has not been an easy one for those responsible for collecting *Dragon* notes, the battalion being on leave from 2nd December until 3rd January during which period there was only a very small party remaining in barracks. Christmas was, however, celebrated with customary pomp.

The Children's Party on 14th December was, as usual, a great success. It is sad to think that this party may be the last to be organised for this battalion by Major Dare. Mr. Walker undertook the arduous duties of Father Christmas and carried them out with credit.

On Christmas Day the advanced party of the Shropshire Light Infantry and our Maintenance Party held a combined dinner. The room was well decorated and the repast both good and plentiful. Altogether it was a very pleasant little party. Both Major Attoe, Commanding the Shropshires, and our own Commanding Officer visited dinners. They afterwards went on to drink healths in the Sergeants' Mess.

On the return of the battalion from leave, preparations were at once put on foot for our move to Pembroke Dock, the date of the move of the Main Body having been finally fixed for 17th January. The Advanced Party have already gone and are in the process of taking over our new home. Here we are packing and cleaning in preparation for the move and the "handing over" to the King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

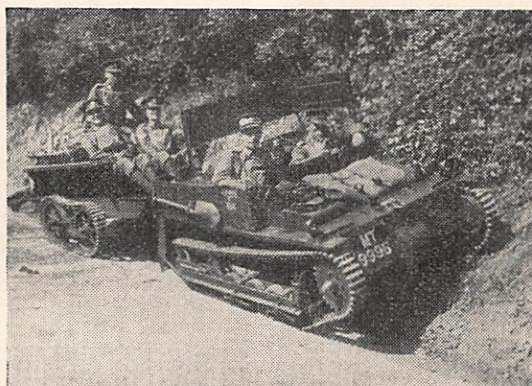
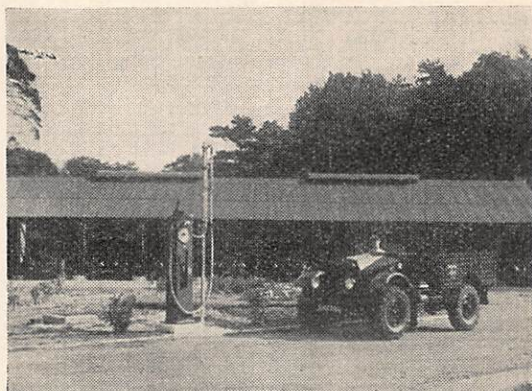
The 17th will not be a very pleasant day for anyone, as we shall be on the go before dawn and do not arrive in Pembroke Dock until after dark.

Not many people seem to be shedding tears at the thought of leaving Bordon. The fact is that it can hardly be described as a popular station. Looking back on the last few years one must agree that there are many worse places. It is undoubtedly healthy, the barracks are, on the whole, good, there are the usual excellent facilities for sport provided by the Aldershot Command, and the training is as good as can be found anywhere. Regrets may come later, especially to those who are faced, when going on leave, with buying railway tickets from Pembroke Dock to London or to

YESTERDAY

Photos : Sgt. H. Osborne

TO-DAY



Kent. As for a week-end in London, that will only be possible for the very rich.

Looking over the years we have spent in Bordon the most striking thing is the change that has taken place in our organisation and equipment. Into Bordon we came with our Horse Transport and our Vickers and Lewis

Guns and away we go re-organised and almost completely re-equipped. These years have been momentous, although few of us have realised it at the time.

A note must be made of the "Boys," who got through the fourth round of the Boys' Army Football Cup by beating the boys of the

Royal Warwickshire Regiment at Bordon on 11th January. Trained by the Bandmaster, they go all out and are a pleasure to watch.

Finally, our heartiest congratulations to Major and Mrs. Dare on their Silver Wedding anniversary, on January 14th, and may there be many more anniversaries to come.

Ministry of Labour Government Vocational Training Centre, Slough.

A visit was paid to the Government Vocational Training Centre at Slough on January 9th by a party from the battalion under Captain Oliver. During their tour of the Centre the party were able to see a normal afternoon's work being carried out. Amongst those working there were one or two familiar faces, including L/Cpl. Hobbins, who, having almost completed his course, was about to take up a job with Short's at Rochester.

The following points with regard to a Vocational Course at Slough may be of interest.

(1) Like all Government Training Centres, the Slough Centre is run by the Ministry of Labour, and therefore mainly on civilian lines. The soldier can thus get accustomed to the routine of civilian work before he actually takes up a job.

(2) A soldier undergoing a course at Slough can take up practically any trade he wishes. Carpentry, bricklaying, painting, upholstering and metal-work of all descriptions are some of the trades taught there.

(3) A course at Slough lasts for six months, at the end of which time a man is turned out at a trained workman with the certainty of a job. His working hours are 8 a.m.—4.30 p.m. daily, and 8 a.m.—12 noon on Saturdays. Half-an-hour is allowed off for the midday meal, which is provided by the Centre. All other meals must be provided by the soldier himself, who is also responsible for his own lodgings. The majority of the men there live in lodgings near the Centre, for which they pay about 25/- per week. The lodgings appear to be good, as is also the food supplied by the Centre.

(4) Recreational facilities are available at the Slough Social Club, where there is also a "wet" bar. Men can join this club for a small subscription.

(5) Smoking is not permitted during work hours.

At the end of their tour, the party were very kindly given tea by the Training Centre, after which they returned to Bordon, having spent a most enjoyable and given tea by the Training Centre, after which they returned to Bordon, having spent a most enjoyable and instructive afternoon.

A.S.K.A.

Cross-Country Running.

During the month of December the running team, except for a few, were enjoying annual furlough, and I feel certain that this break has made them feel equal to the task before them.

Our hopes for getting a good course at Pembroke are at the moment not very great. Our Office i/c has been in close communication with the outgoing battalion but with very little success. However, we have P.S.M. Hurley going with the advance party and he may be able to find a little time to devote to this important problem.

I have tried during preceding months to give a list of the runners left in the battalion, so that old members of the team who have left us, and also many others who have taken such a keen interest in us, will see for themselves that we still have the makings of a good team. As our activities were cut off last month, I think that these notes will afford a golden opportunity.

LIEUT. ANDERSON.—Our Officer i/c. Not yet had a real chance to prove his ability, but I think this year will see good results.

P.S.M. HURLEY.—Still trying. Hopes to be well there at Windsor (with postcard).

PTE. GRAHAM.—A young runner who did extremely well last year and will do even better this year.

PTE. SAXBY.—Another of our younger members. Was not at his best last season, but as results this year have shown, has improved.

L/CPL. PEARCEY.—A very keen runner. Will do his best at all times.

PTE. HESSELL.—Last year's young soldier. With training will do well.

L/CPL. DEVINE.—A good man, and I still think that we shall see him even further to the front.

PTE. HAMMOND.—Young soldier. Will improve with training.

PTE. W. PAYNE.—Has always tried hard in the past. Very strong, but lacks speed.

L/CPL. HARRISON.—Like Payne, but has every chance of improving.

PTE. MILES.—Still young. Has done well, and with added strength will do even better.

PTE. SWAINE.—Well-known, and if he trains will be one of the best.

L/CPL. MILES.—I feel sure that there is a lot more to be got from this N.C.O., and I think that we shall see a lot of him this year.

PTE. WHITE.—Our leading man. Will be on Vocational Course by the time these notes appear, but will be at Windsor.

PTE. NEILL.—A find, and I hope he will easily replace one of our losses.

PTE. JOHNSON.—Will do well, if he can spare the time to train properly.

PTE. BELL, PTE. O'CONNOR, L/CPL. THOMPSON, L/CPL. WOOLNOUGH, L/CPL. TATE, PTE. HEAVER, L/CPL. LINFIELD.—All these will be likely to face the starter at Windsor, and I hope that we shall be able to produce some good men from them.

PTE. HOLDSWORTH.—Would easily take his place in the team if he wished. Still, we hope that he will be with us.

From the above list it will be easily seen that we are not so badly off as we first thought, and I am certain that if all put their shoulders to the wheel, we shall once again face the General at Windsor Great Park.

T.C.H.

Sergeants' Mess.

With thoughts of leave fast receding into the background, and being on the eve of proceeding to Pembroke Dock, I'm sure I will be pardoned for the brevity of these notes.

During the leave the barracks was run by the same old faces in an admirable manner, and of course there were also those staunch souls who although on leave

popped in and out hoping against hope that there would not be anything to do and invariably finding plenty! Christmas cheer was much enjoyed by at least two of our members, one of whom is still enjoying the delights of the Near East. I refer, of course, to Ned Bartlett and Jack Fletcher, who received promotion to Warrant Officer, Class III and C/Sgt. respectively, on which occasion we offer our heartiest congratulations and hopes that the former gentleman may soon be amongst us and assist in some measure to flush the throats of such gentry as seem to have an infinite thirst. Jack, we feel sure, will find the compiling of a Company Account much more to his liking than bringing his intellect to bear on problems relative to musketry. Harris has also been substantiated as Paid Lance-Sergeant, to whom congratulations are also due.

NOTICE.—For Sale—one alarm clock. Guaranteed absolutely reliable, in fact *too* reliable to the present owner. Apply to the C/Sgt. of "B" Company, who is prepared to take a part-worn "ready-reckoner" or a patent "sheep counter" in part exchange. Poor Jack—to buy a nice new clock to awaken early in the morning and to awaken before the allotted time is indeed a tragedy comparable only to *Hamlet* or the first three months of a S.I.M.'s life (eh, Durzey?). One experience of our now fully fledged S.I.M. has been the receipt of an indent for revolver ammunition stipulating .55 in. Surely the good fellow responsible for this requisition must have recently hailed from Chicago on a Not-so-Small Arms Course.

There has been much activity this past month, arrivals and departures being prolific. A surprise arrival was that of "Sacco" Page, after a spell at Netley Hospital, and we hope he will soon be back to normal after a spot of leave. Doughy Baker is now at Kneller Hall on a Student's Course, and we hope we shall never see him back again! That is rather in the nature of a back-handed compliment, for if such should be the case, it will mean Doughy has attained his ambition and may with impunity add a flowing beard to his already flourishing fauna. C/Sgt. Farrell is awaiting the word "Go" before packing for Palestine in relief of C/Sgt. Hicks of the 1st Battalion.

At least one of the ancient warriors amongst us will no more quaff a flagon of ale at Pembroke Dock, namely Jackie Wass, that familiar if minute figure the size of which belied the energy usually emanating therefrom. To you, Jack, we wish all you wish yourself, and "same like" to Mrs. Wass and the nippers. May they enjoy long life and good health under the capable administration of Mr. Wass.

Slim Belson, our overworked M.T. Sergeant, had a little spot of bother towards the end of December, trying conclusions with a lively crank-handle, which we regret to say won the scrap and left Slim with a fractured wrist. A few more weeks may see him O.K. again, however, and we hope such will be the case, with no ill effects.

Christmas Day was a very cheery affair in the Mess. The Commanding Officer and many officers came along and quaffed our good cheer, and the air was redolent with heartiness and goodwill; seasonable wishes and hopes for 1939 were exchanged. "The Brick" was raised with all solemnity on the 2nd January and about 23rd December, when the rather meagre assembly in each case compensated in enthusiasm for their lack of numbers.

A very sad task this month is to write of the passing away of a very old friend of the Mess, Mr. Sparkes, known to all as George. Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family in their very sad bereavement. George was always cheerful when amongst us, although we now

know that very often he was in considerable pain, and at dances or functions he was invariably the centre of any particular piece of merrymaking. The Mess was represented at the funeral by R.S.M. Ransley and Mr. Harry Dixon represented the Honorary Members.

A hearty welcome to the Mess is extended to Darkie Corps, a denizen of that mysterious place "the Q.M. Stores," a gentleman who has much influence and hence is much to be humoured! Take heed, all ye who are chill and of heavy heart.

Buffy Howe is at the moment undergoing a little mental "uplift" at the School of Education on familiar ground, and apart from education should manage to extract some pleasure out of his stay beneath "them thar hills."

The C.R.A. queue has been much lengthened over the Christmas by the inclusion of Gambrill, Wickens and Paramour into the ranks of the "Great Down-trodden." Poor old fellows! On their return from leave we were told the usual stories of a quiet wedding: "Just a few guests, you know!" and to my eternal shame I once mistook the statement to be "Just a few gassed, you know!"! Ahem! hardly decent, what? But to these chappies eternal wishes for happiness unalloyed.

Our four stalwarts who attended the Field Works Course at the end of the year returned with excellent reports and are to be commended on their industry whilst at Chatham. They should supply a very good foundation on which to build the knowledge of the battalion as a whole on the subject of Field Works, with all its attendant intricacies and snags.

When these notes appear, we shall all have the "low down" on Pembroke Dock, but for now it's farewell, Bordon, and all the friends we left behind there.

WHANG HO.

"A" Company.

We are all trying hard to settle down once more, after running loose for a month, and are finding it very hard. To assist us, we have the move looming before us. Thousands of boxes are stacked up in the Company Store (At least, "Jonno" says there are. He has a few blisters he proudly exhibits, caused, he says, by "screwing 'em down").

Jerry is very busy rushing round saying good-bye to all his friends. It is rumoured that he is handing them over to the new lads who will be taking over from us here. Lord Harvey finds it very trying work getting ready to move. He is even too exhausted to fight for his chair in the Recreation Room these days.

Our Advance Party has not yet reported on the "lie of the land" at Pembroke Dock, but each mail is eagerly looked forward to in the hope of hearing something about our new home. The general opinion is that it cannot be worse than Bordon, even if the pubs do shut on Sunday.

Many new romances seem to be blossoming since the company went on leave. "Bandwaggon" Gos is not the only one who settles down each evening to write and explain the situation. "Stew" (L/Cpl. Bryant) and several others may be seen any evening doing their stuff. Rumour has it that several marriages will be taking place soon. We can always eat a piece of cake, blokes!

In conclusion, we wish to welcome the following to the company:—L/Cpl. King, Ptes. McDonald, Frost and Maltby, and wish them a pleasant time with us.

So, until Pembroke Dock I will leave you.

BING.

"B" Company.

The past month has been our annual rest period—or does leave sound more correct? It seems that all enjoyed themselves and are glad to be back. Quite a few are walking about with that "browned off and empty pocket feeling." Leave will soon be forgotten, as our minds now become engaged with the move to Pembroke. Any time now we will hear famous old saying: "Get outside and help with the heavy baggage." All "B" Company will get a move on (both of 'em!). I can see the C.S.M. and C.Q.M.S. having to take their coats off and showing us young 'uns how to transfer the heavy baggage from one place to another. Here's hoping that our journey will be a pleasant one and that the weather will be fine. More about the move in the next issue.

Leave, of course, has prevented any sport taking place, but we are looking forward to plenty of it at Pembroke. The strength of the company is very weak, and we shall have a hard job to choose our teams for the different sports. I feel sure, though, that with the aid of the M.T. and Carriers we will manage to give a good account of ourselves.

We welcome as our new Company Commander Captain R. F. Parry, who has recently joined from the 1st Battalion. We feel sure it will not take him long to settle down with us, and sincerely hope he will enjoy having us under him.

Sgt. Message has returned to us from his long and arduous course of "Field Work," and he has our congratulations on obtaining an excellent certificate.

Lieut. Anderson is leaving us and will join "C" Company. We are sorry to have him leave. Also he will be greatly missed from our running team. Pte. Hessel is also going to "C" Company—another of our runners! I can see myself having to turn out next year.

L/Cpl. Brown has been posted to the Depot for a tour of duty, and we hope he'll do well and show the recruits a thing or two. If he cannot show them, he sure will be able to "tell" them.

A draft of seventeen have left us for the 1st Battalion. Most of them have only been with us a few months, but even so we will miss them. They are on their way now, and we all hope they are having a pleasant trip and that they will enjoy their new station.

Before I forget, I want to congratulate, on behalf of the company, C/Sgt. Bartlett on his promotion to W.O. III, and Sgt. Fletcher on his promotion to C/Sgt. Also L/Cpl. Thompson on passing an examination toward obtaining a commission. Last, but not least, we congratulate our one and only "Squeaker" on his being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, a possession to be proud of, and which is well and truly earned. I hope to get one too, soon—about eleven years hence.

I really cannot close these notes without mentioning the fact that "Wiggitt" is *not* in hospital. In fact, he hasn't been in for at least six weeks. A really grand achievement to be sure. He has still as long as a "Chink" to do yet, so he may manage another short spell of comfort before the cruel hands of "Civvy Street" claim him.

UMP.

"C" Company.

Well, here we are again, wishing all the readers the best of luck for the New Year, and hoping that all troubles will be easy to overcome.

The company has returned from leave in lots. L/Cpl. Howard was called back to proceed on a P.T. Course, and when the compiler of these notes saw him he was in the process of getting over Christmas leave. The bulk of the company returned on the 3rd instant, and the later arrivals were Sgt. Cox and L/Cpl. Bonham, who joined from the 1st Battalion. Sgts. Paramour and Wickens were both safely married whilst on leave and to these couples we wish the best of luck and happiness.

To return to a more pathetic note. George Berry has departed to the land of black magic (West Africa). He was escorted to and placed on the London bus, after many attempts, as he was loth to leave (the Sergeants' Mess). Well, good luck, George, and don't forget the tusks that you promised the writer, or was it diamonds?

Chalky White as gone on fourteen days' leave prior to joining the Government Training Centre at Hounslow. He intends to return and assist the battalion team to win the Army Cross-Country Cup again when called for. He also intends to run for a civilian team.

Again the company is to lose its Company Commander. Captain Oliver has been selected to go to the Depot for a tour of duty in place of Major Rowe. To offset the departures we welcome to the company Lieut. Anderson, who has taken over the company from Captain Oliver, and with him has come Pte. Hessel. Both of these are cross-country runners. Is it the "come back" of "C" Company's old place in the running world of the battalion?

Sgt. Martin is to be congratulated on securing 86% of marks on his course at the School of Engineering, Chatham. This is equal to a "D". To L/Cpls. Howard and Finnigan and Pte. Fox on obtaining their Second Class Certificate of Education we offer our heartiest congratulations, and have much pleasure in noting their names for E.P.P.

The main life in barracks at the present time is preparing to vacate the rooms for the incoming unit. The Advance Party leaves on the morning of the 7th, Main Party and Families on the 17th and Rear Party on the 21st.

So until life has become more settled I will say cheerio.

SUBSTITUTE.

The Band.

Leave has now finished, and all the Romeos are mourning their Juliets.

On December 3rd we had an invitation from the B.B.C. to visit their sports ground and play a game of football. Needless to say, we won 5-2, and after a very enjoyable game we adjourned to tea. After tea, they kindly arranged a dance for our benefit, and even "Mary" shook a "wicked hoof"—except for his huddles with the young lady. He said they were discussing hockey, but I'll leave it to you. A very enjoyable day was had by all, especially the efforts of our friend "Loopy" Lane, who was the barman.

Out of the sound of hammers and "coffins" bumping downstairs there came the sweet voice of our Stanley—Closier to you—wishing us all good-bye as he departed for Slough. Best of luck, Stan, and don't forget to call on us sometime. Our strong, silent man has decided to leave us too, and before the time these notes are in print he will be in Leeds, finishing off his knowledge of hairdressing. We are sorry to see you go, Toots, but you may be sure all our best wishes go with you.

The Boys gave The Royal Warwickshires' Boys a thorough good hiding on the Daly Ground. Knox, Maxwell and Rowlands scored one each, while their opponents failed to beat "Rudy." Maybe it was his nose that kept the ball out. Well done, youngsters! Bring the cup home if you can.

Whilst on the note of congratulations, we extend it a bit more, right to Sgt. Baker, who is leaving for Kneller Hall. All the best, Sergeant, and don't forget we're still the best Band in the Army, and if your Band ever gets stumped for the Director's inspection, don't be afraid to come for some tips.

Everybody seems to be leaving, but we've still got an ace up our sleeves. The 1st Battalion Boys are coming from Canterbury to Pembroke to make more room at the Depot. Sorry to take them away from you, you 1st Battalion fellows, but we need talent. Hope you don't get too "browned" in Palestine.

NUNK.

Signal Section.

Here we are, back at Bordon once again, and everything is hustle and bustle in preparation for the move to Pembroke Dock. Chuff, Frank and three members of the platoon have already established their headquarters at the aforementioned spot.

It was very interesting to see our former S.O. Captain P. Lynden-Bell, well to the fore in the 1st Battalion notes. Does he remember the re-transmittin' scheme from Shorncliffe to Canterbury? (We do!)

It is nice to see Phillips and Parkhouse safe and sound with us once more.

We, the older members of the esteemed and honourable platoon, to wit, Taff, Streak, Swinbank, 280, paid a visit to the G.T.C. at Slough. The trip was very interesting, and much talk ensued about the possibilities of reaching 1/9 per hour, etc. Of course, you younger budding Sigs must not be discouraged, as you no doubt will have a trip similar to this in 1944.

Who said it was half-past two, looking at the tin of health salts!

Galvin is rocking himself to sleep these days deep in the knowledge that at least he saw her when he was on leave, even if she doesn't write. Chicken Chapman, the "Cheeky Chappie" of Bordon, has also had an affair *d'amour*, and it now appears that he is attempting to gain the world's title for the most writing on the back of the envelope. The latest is:—"R.P.R.A.F.A.Y.C."

Where did Taffy spend Boxing Day? Not in a decent, respectable place, I'll warrant.

Time marches on, so does ours, and before we close, we would like to convey our best wishes to Sgt. Kennedy (W/E) (?) and the Signal Platoon.

LAST LAP.

M.T. Section.

Well, here we are, back from annual leave. Everywhere there is bustle—orders fly backwards and forwards, re move to Pembroke.

Pte. Brown (the only sane man in the section), Spelman and Marfitt will have done their first convoy drive. If they arrive back, I will record their arrival in next month's notes.

Pte. Spelman returned from leave and looked round for something to break, so he promptly reversed his truck into another—result, 1 headlight broken. He is now apparently satisfied, but I have seen him looking

longingly at the petrol pump. Well, what is one petrol pump!

In December's notes the "Dook" referred to the writer as this new innocent recruit. Well, Ted, you should have more respect for an old soldier—one who has been on Active Service too, in a place which you or very few white men will ever see. Cough on that one!

Sgt. Belson has had the bad luck to dislocate his wrist. A truck backfired and "Ouch!", was it like that, Sergeant? "Ouch" does not express this, but I am afraid of the little blue pencil being wielded through these notes, so that must suffice.

We now have a full complement of drivers once again, and as the M.T. is going by road to Pembroke on the 16th January, some useful experience should be gained.

We welcome to the section our newly-passed-out drivers. We hope they enjoy their stay with us.

Consequent on the move of the battalion, some strange faces have appeared and have actually taken over trucks. Pte. Dilworth and Pte. Spinner are back at duty with us, and can be seen at any time. I record this, for sometimes even the Brigadier could not find Spinner.

Well, time marches on, and so must these notes. Now I am going all Welsh. Cym Wreugkt Pylosto-swith. I think this is Welsh. Anyway, when I played it over on the piano it sounded pretty good, and the announcer said "We must apologise for a break of two minutes, due to a technical 'itch'."

STINKER

(The Budding "Crankspanner").

1st Battn., "D" Coy.—continued from p. 57.

On Christmas Day a visit was made to the grave of the late Captain C. T. Kenward by Major Penlington, Captain Reeves and Lieut. Lewis, and also men of the company. Major T. N. Penlington placed a few flowers on the grave. We also saw the grave of L/Cpl. Curtis, who was killed in 1936 in an accident. Both are in good condition. The headstone on the grave of Captain C. T. Kenward will be erected very shortly.

One of the most important events during the last month was the arrival of our C.S.M. from U.K. leave. This was a great relief to Sgt. Bridgeman and our O.C. He was met at the station by C.Q.M.S. Pattenden (who is attached to "D" Company), and you can see them any night and day working out how much our worthy C.S.M. is in credit after drawing no pay whilst on leave.

We are very sorry to announce that Major H. S. Knocker has left us temporarily for Camp Commandant. Lieut. Bell has now assumed Second-in-Command.

LATE NEWS.—Christmas dinner is just over and we will give you a full account next month.

H.A.P.-py.

Regimental Gazette, 4/5 Battn.—continued from p. 68

6204078 Pte. A. Mockett, "A" (R), transferred to 9th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, 19-1-39.

DISCHARGES.

6280805 Pte. J. Baker, "D" (F), discharged on termination of engagement, 23-11-38.

6281728 Pte. F. Barton, "D" (F), discharged on termination of engagement, 13-12-38.

864512 Pte. G. Douglas, "A" (R), discharged on joining Supplementary Reserve, Infantry of Line, 11-11-38.

6286526 Pte. R. Gutsell, "C" (T), discharged on joining Regular Army (R.A.S.C.), 4-1-39.

6286041 Pte. J. Matthews, "A" (M), discharged on joining Royal Navy, 8-1-39.

Beneath Bell Harry.



REFRESHED from Christmas leave, we return to find recruits pouring in! At the time of going to press we have seven squads at the Depot. The Blenheim Squad leave us on Thursday, 19th January, for Pembroke Dock. Other squads now training are Ramillies, Oudenarde, Malplaquet, Dettingen, Douro and Talavera.

We also have a large contingent of attached officers undergoing a course of training. 2/Lieuts. Tyrrell, Dismore, Blackburn and Wilson of the 4/5th Buffs and 2/Lieuts. Swann, Nash and Worts of the Supplementary Reserve. Lieut. Cook of the Gold Coast Local Forces is also attending the course.

The poor unfortunates who were left behind during Christmas leave had a sorry tale to tell about burst pipes and floods. Major Howe's dining room was badly damaged by water from a burst pipe. All is now well and we console ourselves with the rapid progress of the new barracks.

This month will see Major Rowe return to the battalion at Pembroke Docks and Captain G. E. F. Oliver will take his place at the Depot. To Major Rowe we wish the best of luck, and to Captain and Mrs. Oliver we offer a hearty welcome and trust that they will enjoy their stay at the Depot.

Our hockey team has renewed its activities with fresh vigour. We defeated the R.P.D.D. 3—1 and lost 4—3 to the Y.M.C.A., Maidstone.

On Wednesday, 18th January, we entertained the Mayor of Canterbury, Mrs. Williamson. With her were Mr. Williamson, Mr. Barrett, Chief Constable Hall, Mr. Brett, Lt.-Col. Bredin, Mr. J. M. Symms and Mr. Moss.

The party first visited the Regimental Museum and evinced much interest in the exhibits, especially in the Druce Collection of Medals.

Tea was served in the Officers' Mess and then the Mayor and Aldermen attended the Competition for the Commanding Officer's Silver P.T. Medal, by members of the Blenheim and Ramillies Squads.

Major C. E. Wilson welcomed Her Worship The Mayor on behalf of the Depot and explained the conditions of the competition and the amount of service which the recruits taking part in the competition had. He asked the visitors to see for themselves what progress the men of their county regiment were making.

The competition produced a higher standard than ever. The winner was Pte. Holbrook, with Pte. Ayres as runner-up. They were awarded Silver and Bronze Medals respectively. Shooting medals were also presented to:—

BLENHHEIM SQUAD.—Silver Medal—Pte Raines, 71; Bronze Medal—Pte. Wills, 70; Bronze Medal—Pte. Crewe, 70.

RAMILLIES SQUAD.—Silver Medal—Rct.-I./Cpl. Doyle, 80; Bronze Medal—Rct.-I./Cpl. Blake, 75; Bronze Medal—Pte. Wood, 75; Bronze Medal—Pte. Decent, 75; Bronze Medal—Pte. Godgson, 70; Bronze Medal—Pte. May, 70.

After the Mayor had presented the prizes and spoken some words of congratulation to the competitors the R.S.M. called for three cheers for Mrs. Williamson.

The visitors then visited the Officers' Mess and attended a small sherry party.

Sergeants' Mess.

Our first notes to be written in the New Year, and I hope that all the resolutions are still standing good. The weather, thank goodness, here at the Depot has improved, and we have got rid of that horrible snow. For our Christmas we certainly had a white one, and to see the married members pushing their "one man power" cars across the square through about 9 inches of snow was a sight worth watching. It was noticed that the R.S.M.'s car carries a good deal of top weight.

Despite all this extra hard work, it did not stop us from having a really good party on the 21st December for the children, when Father Christmas was kind and paid us a visit. I am not going to let readers know who Father Christmas was, but he certainly carried out his job very well. How members of the 1st Battalion Mess would laugh if I did by any chance let out his name! The party was carried out more or less on the same lines as last year. Tea was at 4.15 p.m., and again our thanks must go to Sgt. Chambers for putting up an excellent show. After all the good things were disposed of we rolled downstairs for a cinema show. Donald Duck and other favourites, supposed to be for the kiddies, but enjoyed more by the fathers and mothers, I am thinking! Then came the great time when the room in which the tree was placed was opened. How the children look forward to this, and to see the looks on their faces is worth all the work that a show like this entails. Father Christmas was well and truly mobbed, and he had a lot of good presents in his sack. When these were all disposed of, mothers and fathers collected up their families and made their way again into the snow.

Seven-thirty saw us all again assembled in the Mess for our Christmas Draw. This was again run by Sgt. Wheeler, and well run too. Prizes ranging from boxes of biscuits, etc., to really fine chicken, not of course



Blenheim Squad, 1938

Back Row (left to right)—Ptes. J. Culligan, W. Crew, K. Raines, A. Wills, Rct. L/Cpl. E. Parish, Ptes. A. Holland, N. Watson, C. Corbin, P. Phillips.

Front Row (left to right)—Ptes. L. Meldrum, W. Penn, Cpl. Haverson, Sgt. G. Patterson, L/Sgt. Rackley, Ptes. G. Gathercole, F. Smith.

forgetting the bottles, were nicely arranged for all to see. Our old friend Mr. Mould and S/Sgt. Aylemore very kindly drew out the winning tickets, and also the losing ones, and everything went like clockwork.

During the actual Christmas period the Depot was very quiet, for most members took leave. It certainly seems strange after having spent such times abroad when one has a large company to visit at dinners on Christmas Day and then to come here with such a small number. Actually there were only eight men for dinner, as all the recruits were on leave.

We kept up our usual custom and had all the Officers in the Mess on the 23rd for a drink with us, after having visited the troops' dinner on that date. This is a custom that I for one hope will never drop out. Major Wilson, who is answering Commanding Officer in the absence of Major Howe, said a few nice words to us and then invited all members who were in barracks on the 24th to the Officers' Mess. I can only say to that: "Thank you very much, Sir," and let you know in these notes how greatly appreciated it was by all members. We only had one thing missing and that was the presence of Major Howe. His few witty words during such a period were greatly missed but were ably made up for by Major Wilson.

On the 27th of the month we are giving a dance in the Gymnasium in aid of the Museum, and we are therefore looking forward to a good show.

Our worthy R.Q.M.S. is back with us again after his trip to hospital, and is really looking very fit. Keep batting, Bill, and keep the coat on. Sgt. Wood has joined us from leave for his tour at the Nursery. To him we extend the usual welcome and hope that he will long remain as a dining member of the Mess, *i.e.* don't get married. Rumours are around that two of our present single members are thinking of taking on the

chains of married life. Be careful, Snipe and Johno, for the ladies are terrible people. Our other single member (no names, no pack drill) believes in the old saying "Safety in numbers," and has no serious intentions, yet!

Sgt. Chambers, our goodly Cook-Sergeant, is attending a Sergeant Master Cook's Course and we are all wondering what they are going to teach him. I have heard that the Lyons firm have their hands on him so we are expecting some really good buns, etc., on his return.

To close our notes, we must extend a hearty welcome to Captain G. E. F. Oliver, who joins us on the 24th, and assure him that he will be taken great care of by members of the Mess.

STOP GAP.

Corporals' Room.

After the excitement of Christmas and the New Year celebrations, we have now settled down to normal routine once again. We are having a very busy time at present owing to an influx of recruits, but it certainly does keep people out of mischief.

A new P.A.D. scheme has just commenced and the training of all our newcomers in the intricacies of A.R.P. is in progress, so we shall see our non-coms. in a couple of days performing with zeal and a little thankful experience. For example, our small boy, "Larrie," performs with the fire hose as well as the captain of the local brigade!!

Our social and sporting activities have been very limited so far this year, but we shall be getting into our stride early in February when we are looking forward to a football match and social evening at Maidstone with The R.W.K. Depot.

Cpl. Livemore has left us for dear old Wales, and we welcome in his place L/Cpl. Brown and wish him a happy and successful time during his tour.

Our 2nd Battalion "chef," L/Cpl. Jury, is down here for a short stay in the absence of our Sergeant Master Cook. We hope his stay will not be too short for him to solve successfully the mystery of the fish cakes (a very long standing mystery), and also that he will be completely happy while he is with us.

A strange new sight can be seen daily on the square—"Smudger" (Mile End) Smithy shouting his head off. Yessir! he has forsaken his scholastic duties for a spot of action, owing to the fact (so 'tis said) that our college was causing him to spend too much money on hair restorer. But I can think of a better one than that! Harverson is his worthy successor, and we sincerely trust that the very trying psychological problems which are presented to him hourly will not send him off his rocker. Now, now, fellows! Nobody asked for any rude remarks!

I very much regret that one of my favourite subjects has gone so completely on the straight and narrow that I fear unless he does something heroic I shall not be able to mention him anymore. Yes, our "Bloi" Krailing has gone so completely "halo" that he spends his week-ends in the barrack-room, sleeping. Nice work! But I forgot to mention that he has not long been back from a fortnight's leave, so perhaps he is still recovering. Oh, but I have unobtrusively spoilt it. Must be from sheer habit.

Other news in brief. Wellstead has changed his initials to G.B.R. "Butch" Ellis has a secret romance somewhere on the Elham Valley line. "Buffy" is still running his puppet show for nothing. "Jimmy" Hooker rides without spurs. "Wes" Stokes was nearly creeping. Clarke has gone completely into his shell.

No news is good news, so *au revoir* until next month.

RIGDEN.

A Soldier's Thoughts on Sitting for a Second Class Certificate.

To-morrow I sits for me second,
Last time I sat for me third,
The Army's gone all educational now,
To do some of the things I don't quite know how.
I sits and I thinks, I writes and I groans,
The air is punctured wiv 'orrible moans,
And I dreams of all the mistakes that I'll make,
And of poor teacher's heart which is sure to break.
Last night I sat in a map-reading class
And visions of failure before me did pass,
Wot wiv spot 'eights and contours in all them there squares,
And working out gradients, it fair makes me swear.
"I've hopes of your passing," to me he did say,
And so I could too, if I but knew the way.
The war with its 'orrible bloodthirsty scenes,
Enacted round Ypres, Le Cateau and Rheims,
'As got to be learnt and stored safely away,
To come out again on that terrible day;
So wiv English, The Great War and Geography,
And columns of figgers meaning nothing to me,
Of Blenkirons, Sandys, Rastas and Brandts,
The thought of them all makes me breath come in pants,
"Lights Outs" has just sounded so to sleep I must go,
And fix my poor brain on what little I know.

PTE. L. MELDRUM,
Blenheim Squad.

The 4/5th Battalion.

THE BUFFS DRILL Halls are once again shewing signs of activity after the Christmas holidays, and training has recommenced in earnest.



Officer 1801

The Regimental Cadre Course was concluded on Sunday, December 11th, and it is to be hoped that the officers and N.C.O.s who attended have benefited by the course, and that the training of the companies will be improved in consequence.

We are very pleased to hear that Lieut. A. D. M. Hilton is now on the road to recovery after his illness, and hope to see him up and about again soon.

The Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command, Adjutant, Quartermaster, Transport Officer, Intelligence Officer and the Medical Officer attended a very interesting T.E.W.T. on 15th January, which was arranged by the staff of the 133rd Infantry Brigade in the Lewes district.

Eight other officers of the battalion will be attending a similar T.E.W.T. in the same area on 22nd January.

All ranks of the battalion were very pleased indeed to learn that Captain F. G. Verlander had been mentioned in His Majesty's New Year Honours.

Captain F. G. Verlander was made a member of the British Empire, and all ranks heartily congratulate him on receiving a reward which he so fully deserves.

The Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command and the Adjutant journeyed to Hastings on the evening of 17th January in order to meet the new G.O.C.-in-C. of the Eastern Command, Lieut.-General G. C. Williams.

The battalion held a most successful Boxing Meeting in Canterbury Drill Hall on Thursday, January 12th.

It was extremely well organised and much hard work had evidently been put in by Capt. J. C. Jackson (the Boxing Officer) and his Committee.

The boxers themselves did credit to the battalion, and even though the boxing itself was not of high order, all competitors shewed an excellent spirit, and with further training will do well in the art of self defence.

The Drill Hall was packed, and about seven hundred formed an enthusiastic audience.

The following are the results :—

FLYWEIGHT.—Boy H. Wood (Canterbury) knocked out Pte. Ellis (Ramsgate); Pte. Larkin (Ramsgate) beat Boy Mummery (Canterbury); Boy Ashby (Canterbury) beat Pte. Hillman (Ashford); Pte. Sullivan (Margate) beat Pte. Hendy (Herne Bay).

BANTAMWEIGHT.—Boy Mackelden (Canterbury) beat Pte. Harding (Ashford); Pte. Smith (Margate) beat Pte. Godden (Herne Bay).

FEATHERWEIGHT.—Boy L. Wood (Canterbury); beat Pte. Lancefield (Ashford); Pte. Morford (Folkestone) beat Pte. R. Edwards (Canterbury).

LIGHTWEIGHT.—Pte. Last (Ramsgate) beat Pte. D. Smith (Canterbury); Pte. Sullivan (Margate) beat Pte. Parfitt (Ashford).

WELTERWEIGHT.—Pte. Pilcher (Margate) beat Pte. Corneilious (Margate); Pte. Edwards (Canterbury) beat Pte. Waghorne (Ramsgate).

MIDDLEWEIGHT.—Pte. Tomkins (Herne Bay) beat Pte. R. Baker (Canterbury).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT.—L/Cpl. Blake (Canterbury) beat Pte. Leadbeater (Tenterden); Pte. Hawkes (Ramsgate) beat Pte. Welsh (Folkestone).

The object of the meeting was to select a team to represent the battalion in the Territorial Group Boxing which takes place at Bromley Drill Hall on January 28th, 1939.

The following were the officials at the meeting :—Colonel A. S. Turnham, O.C. Troops, Canterbury, Referee; Mr. W. H. Baines, Canterbury, Judge; Councillor Holloway, Canterbury, Judge; R.S.M. G. Fawcett, Depot, The Buffs, Timekeeper; C.S.M.I. L. Soper-Dyer, A.P.T.S., Timekeeper; R.S.M. T. Burt, 4/5th Battalion, The Buffs, M.C.

To all these officials we are very grateful indeed for their very kind assistance.

The Permanent Staff Instructors worked very hard and successfully at their duties as whips.

Sgt. Gurney acted as ring master and put in many hours and lots of trouble whilst erecting the ring.

We are very grateful indeed to the Depot for the use of the ring which they very kindly loaned to us.

“A” Company.

Welcome in 1939, with a hope that it will prove a very successful one to all Past and Present of the 4/5th Battalion.

Well, one ambition of Ramsgate's has been fulfilled, and that is to draw level with Margate in numbers, and before long we shall have the lead. So wake up, Margate. The New Year opened quite well as regards the attendance, but there are still a few men we should like to see appearing more often. Remember that camp is a bit earlier this year or we shall be getting the usual cry: “Why have I not got my Bounty?” You are to blame, not the P.S.I., who happens to be the person to take the can back.

Let us hope that those Officers and N.C.O.'s who have been lucky enough to be selected to attend different courses in the near future will gain instructions, as those did that attended the Cadre Course last year, which was proved in taking of squads afterwards.

Sandwich seems to have run aground again for recruits, but inside information tells me that in about two month's time the C.S.M. hopes to bring a likely fellow along. That is a bit hopeful, so what about it, the remainder of the detachment? Remember the old saying, “Look ahead,” as the C.S.M. has done.

HAPPY.

“C” (Weald) Company.

Being well launched into the New Year, we are all starting to think harder about the year's training that lies ahead of us. Now that we have a Bren Gun and an anti-tank rifle in the company, we feel that we have at last got a bit of meat that we can get our teeth into. The trouble at the moment is that each detachment wants to have them at the same time. Anyway, we have started training with our new weapons and they should be the source of considerable interest to old hands as well as new. We look to those N.C.O.'s who have just been attending the Cadre Course at Canterbury to instruct us and help us out of difficulties.

On Wednesday, December 7th we held a Company Dinner at the Odeon Cafe, Ashford. It was a most enjoyable evening and we are most grateful to all those who entertained us. We were very pleased to have such a large gathering of Officers with us, including Captain Hardcastle and Captain Geering. A show of this kind was embarked on rather in the nature of an experiment. Judging by reports given afterwards, it is difficult to decide whether a Company Dinner is more or less popular than platoon dinners. One thing is that it does enable the company to get together and compare notes. We do not see much of each other outside camp.

We should like to take this opportunity of congratulating our P.S.I., Sgt. Thorndycroft, on receiving his Long Service Medal. We hope also that he will keep in mind the fact that he is now a fully fledged member of the “Ancient Order of Swede Bashers”!

Annual Camp, this year on entirely fresh ground, still seems a long way off, but time soon goes. So let us try and go there well up to strength. Recruits obtained now are much more use to us than right on top of camp. It will be interesting to see whether the little handbooks on Voluntary National Service, which we are all to receive at the end of the month, will increase our numbers at all.

“D” Company.

We now hear that we are definitely going to leave our “home by the shore” and are being moved further inland; to be exact, into the next street! We have been at our present Drill Hall since it was re-converted from a seaplane shed in 1920, and are now going to share

the Liverpool Street Drill Hall with the 168th Heavy Battery.

The shooting matches on Thursdays have been fairly well-attended and the first team have been fortunate enough to win one match during the month. They beat our second team, which means that now both teams do not share the bottom place in the League!

On Wednesday, January 11th, the Children's Christmas Treat was held at the Drill Hall, and some 100 in number sat down to tea. L/Cpl. Cock nobly carried out the duties of Father Christmas, but afterwards complained that the treat should have been held during the recent cold spell. A cold "draught" soon revived him, however.

We extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Wilson, who has been posted to Dover. Both he and Mr. Tyrrell are at present undergoing a course at the Depot and we feel sure they will give a good account of themselves.

During the month of December, selected N.C.O.'s attended a Cadre Course at Canterbury. All derived a great benefit from the course except three from Dover, who are now said to be suffering from neurasthenia caused by the noise from the Kearsney "tank." They are all very thankful that they are not members of the Tank Corps!

The drills have been well attended during the month and now the new Army year is getting into full swing no doubt we shall see some of the pre-camp faces.

Prizegiving of Littlebourne Platoon.

The annual social evening, prizegiving and dance of the Littlebourne Platoon, the 4/5th Buffs, was held at the Drill Hall, Littlebourne, on Saturday, December 17th. Mr. J. Friend (O.C. Littlebourne Detachment) presided, and he was supported by Major H. S. Hardy (formerly Adjutant of the old 5th Battalion, The Buffs), the Adjutant of the 4/5th Battalion, The Buffs (Major T. Roscow Reid), 2/Lieut. G. R. D. Hews and 2/Lieut. L. H. Dismore. Entertainment was provided by ex-R.S.M. Jones, who sang "On the Road to Mandalay," and R.S.M. T. Burt, who contributed a humorous interlude.

Major Hardy, who presented the awards, spoke of the fine traditions of the Regiment and said that from the fine performances recorded in the prize list and the excellent type of men in that platoon, it was obvious that those traditions were being worthily maintained.

He spoke of the urgent need for men to come forward and ensure that they were trained to meet any emergency which might unfortunately arise. To-day, with new weapons and greater reliance upon individuality in the field, it was a matter of impossibility to turn out an efficient soldier without an adequate period of training. He instanced an occasion before the last war, when those who spoke of the possibility of a conflict in which this country would be involved were laughed at.

No recruits were forthcoming—yet when hostilities did commence, recruiting offices were besieged and depots overwhelmed by a sudden influx of men. This showed that the right spirit was there but that the young men did not realise their responsibilities in time.

Expressing thanks to Major Hardy, Major Roscow Reid referred to the high esteem in which Major Hardy was held by people in that part of Kent in general and by The Buffs in particular. They would no doubt be interested to know that the efficiency of the battalion would be greatly enhanced by the fact that it was being equipped with the most modern weapons, Bren light automatic machine guns and anti-tank rifles having been, in some cases, already received. The part of Littlebourne would be to assist in the supply of that essential feature of a battalion's organisation, transport,

while the neighbouring platoon of Canterbury was to be equipped as a Bren gun carrier unit. Turning to the recruiting problem, Major Reid said that the battalion was now in the happy position of being able to choose the type of men they wanted. They often heard, in response to appeals for recruits, the statement "We shall be there if the need does arise." Yet, during the crises when it was generally supposed that the need had, in fact, arisen, only nine men came along! The striking contrast to this was the excellent response to the appeal for recruits to the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service, who had recruited 140 for the two companies which had their headquarters at Canterbury.

Mr. G. R. D. Hews, who represented "B" Company Commander, Captain G. Mount, conveyed the latter's greetings and said that, as most of them knew, Lieut. A. D. M. Hilton was lying seriously ill in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. He was happy to be able to tell them that his condition had that evening shown some improvement. (Applause.)

During the remainder of the evening an excellent programme of dancing and entertainment was enjoyed.

The Regimental Gazette.

Officers.

COMMANDS AND STAFF.

The following Majors relinquish their appointments:—

J. E. King, The Buffs, as Adj. (attd. to Gen. Staff), Liverpool Univ., Manchester Univ., Nottingham Univ. Coll., and Univ. of Sheffield Contgts., O.T.C. (January 1st).

THE BUFFS.—Lt. R. W. Edmeades is secd. whilst empld. as Asst. Instr. Armoured Fighting Vehicles Sch. (December 5th).

THE BUFFS.—Maj. E. F. Hall, M.C., is secd. for serv. on the Staff (January 8th).

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Major E. F. Hall, M.C., The Buffs, to be G.S.O. 2nd Grade, 54th (E. Anglian) Div. (January 8th).

The King has been graciously pleased to confer the Efficiency Decoration upon the following Officer under the terms of the Royal Warrant dated September 23rd, 1930:—

4/5TH BN., THE BUFFS.—Maj. G. D. Bacon, M.C. (ret.).

4/5TH BN., THE BUFFS.—S. E. L. Macaskie (late Cadet, St. Edmund's Coll. Contgt., Jun. Div., O.T.C.) to be Sec. Lt. (January 18th).

The 1st Battalion.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

6282518 Sgt. A. Trinkwon, "B," promoted C/Sgt. and appointed C.Q.M.S., 10-10-38.

7583661 Cpl. E. Gibbs, H.Q., appointed Lance-Sergeant, 17-9-38.

6285777 Pte. J. Davis, "D" and 6285466 Pte. E. Marshall, "D," appointed Unpaid Lance-Corporals, 29-11-38.

6282316 L/Sgt. V. Toms, H.Q., promoted Sergeant, 10-10-38.

The undermentioned are appointed Paid Lance-Sergeant:—

6284425 Cpl. W. Cole, H.Q., 16-4-38; 6285573 Cpl. F. McCormack, H.Q., 16-9-38; 6284696 Cpl. C. McKay, H.Q., 10-10-38; 6284237 Cpl. A. Wells, "B," 10-10-38; 6285094 Cpl. T. Kiley, "A," 10-10-38.

The undermentioned are promoted Corporal:—

6284731 L/Cpl. G. Sage, H.Q., 16-4-38; 6282553 L/Cpl. W. Finch, "C," 26-8-38; 6284471 L/Cpl. A. Broom, H.Q., 10-10-38; 6285684 L/Cpl. J. Blower, "A," 18-11-38.

The undermentioned are appointed Paid Lance-Corporal:—

6283426 L/Cpl. A. Phillips, H.Q., 16-4-38; 6285073 L/Cpl. C. Jones, H.Q., 26-8-38; 6283325 L/Cpl. W. Davies, H.Q., 16-9-38; 6279243 L/Cpl. H. Spice, H.Q., 1-10-38; 776194 L/Cpl. G. Constable, H.Q., 1-10-38; 6285624 L/Cpl. F. Kirby, H.Q., 10-10-38; 6285737 L/Cpl. A. Knight, "B," 30-10-38; 6285769 L/Cpl. R. Richardson, H.Q., 18-11-38.

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL.

6280222 C/Sgt. F. Turner, "A" (E.B. Rly. Bn. A.F.I. (I)) and 6278663 Pte. J. Thirst, "D," awarded Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (with gratuity).

CHANGE OF NAME.

6283873 Pte. T. Hill, H.Q., assumed his true name of Thomas James Bailey on 24-12-38.

EMBARKATIONS.

The undermentioned B.O.R.'s departed Sarafand en route to Haifa for embarking on H.T. *Dorsetshire* sailing for the U.K., on 1-12-38, for reasons stated:—

Transfer to the A.R., K.R.'s, 1935, para. 382 (c) (i).

813883 Pte. A. Saint, "A"; 6285032 Pte. B. Gorby, "B"; 6607880 Pte. F. Witts, H.Q.; 6285039 Pte. D. Wilkinson, "A"; 6285051 Pte. C. Sullivan, "C"; 2025660 L/Cpl. F. Hope, H.Q.; 6285030 Pte. R. Head, "C"; 6285035 Pte. C. Riseley, "D"; 6285038 Pte. S. Killick, "C"; 6285045 Pte. W. Woolner, "D"; 6285058 Pte. F. Giles, H.Q.

Vocational Training, U.K.

6285026 Pte. G. Harman, "A"; 85040 Pte. W. Baker, "A"; 6285028 L/Cpl. T. Skeet, "A"; 6283172 Cpl. P. Luscombe, H.Q.

Posting to the H.E.

7 83295 L/Sgt. K. Hunter, H.Q. (R.A.O.C.); 6284980 Pte. H. Brindley, H.Q.; 6282685 Pte. G. Tritton, H.Q.; 6734127 Pte. C. Brookmen, "C"; 6280990 Pte. W. Sinclair, H.Q.; 6279450 L/Cpl. R. Whittington, H.Q.; 6284971 L/Cpl. W. Bonham, "B"; 6284496 L/Cpl. J. Seymour, H.Q.; 6284791 Pte. W. Consitt, H.Q.; 6008276 Sgt. O. Wood, "D."

For Discharge.

6283358 Cpl. W. Carr, "B."

The following B.O.R.'s departed Sarafand en route to Port Said for embarkation on H.T. *Somersethshire* ex-Port Said on 23-12-38:—

For Vocational Training.

6283329 Cpl. P. Eke, H.Q.; 6283325 L/Cpl. W. Davies, H.Q.; 6285071 Pte. L. Griffin, "C"; 6285081 Pte. C. Mount, "B"; 6285097 Pte. Musselwhite, "C"; 6527768 Pte. R. Smith, "B"; 6285190 Pte. H. Hutchinson, H.Q.; 6285198 Pte. H. Warren, "B"; 6285186 Pte. S. Donovan, H.Q.; 6285085 Pte. S. Rackham, H.Q.; 6631119 L/Cpl. F. Reeve, "A"; 6285177 L/Cpl. A. Cullis, "B"; 6283178 Pte. H. Wood, H.Q.; 6285077 Pte. W. Jackson, "A"; 6285158 Pte. E. Murton, "D"; 6285184 Pte. J. Brewer, "B"; 6285194 Pte. H. Marsh, "D"; 6285205 Pte. E. Latimer, H.Q.; 6285215 Pte. J. Chidwick, "B."

For Discharge.

6278727 C.S.M. A. Field, "B."

Course A.S. of Cookery.

6283334 L/Cpl. J. Ray, "A."

The 2nd Battalion.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

6281577 C/Sgt. A. Bartlett (H.Q. 7th Div., Palestine—super), promoted W.O. III and appointed P.S.M.

6279910 Sgt. E. Fletcher, "B," promoted C/Sgt. and appointed C.Q.M.S., 28-12-38.

6281713 C/Sgt. G. Gillett, H.Q., relinquishes temporary appointment of C/Sgt., 27-12-38.

6282300 L/Cpl. G. King, "A," appointed Paid Lance-Corporal, 17-12-38.

6284169 L/Cpl. C. Watts, H.Q., promoted Corporal, 17-12-38.

6286878 L/Cpl. H. Copley, "A," appointed Paid Lance-Corporal, 9-1-39.

6284362 L/Cpl. W. Bonham, "C," appointed T/Paid Land-Corporal, 9-1-39.

731869 L/Cpl. F. Marsh, H.Q., promoted Corporal, 9-1-39.

6282077 T/L/Sgt. W. Ingram, "D," appointed Paid Lance-Sergeant, 4-1-39.

6283504 Cpl. J. Dawson, H.Q., appointed T/Paid Lance-Sergeant, 4-1-39.

6285629 T/Cpl. L. Golder, "D," promoted Corporal, 4-1-39.

6279450 L/Cpl. R. Whittington, H.Q., appointed Paid Lance-Corporal.

6285477 L/Cpl. H. Tate, H.Q., appointed T/Corporal, 4-1-39.

6284496 L/Cpl. J. Seymour, H.Q., appointed Paid Lance-Corporal, 6-1-39.

EMBARKATIONS.

The undermentioned of companies shewn embarked in H.T. *Nevasa* at Southampton on 31-12-38 to join the 1st Battalion, The Buffs, Palestine:—

"A" Company.

6280529 Sgt. L. Goodsell, 6286888 Pte. W. Little, 6286887 Pte. T. Ward, 6286861 Pte. H. Gibson, 6286899 Pte. J. Mullens.

"B" Company.

6286843 Pte. W. Anderson, 2045677 Pte. T. Benford, 6286837 Pte. H. Bryant, 6286846 Pte. S. Champs, 6287130 Pte. S. Edmonds, 6287112 Pte. R. Gibbs, 6287127 Pte. J. Gollop, 6287109 Pte. W. Hawkins, 6287135 Pte. R. Kent, 6287140 Pte. C. Kilby, 6012456 Pte. A. Linnett, 6286944 Pte. G. Russell, 6286859 Pte. W. Truelove, 6287125 Pte. V. Tebb, 6287110 Pte. G. White, 6287111 Pte. C. White, 6287128 Pte. W. Yeomans.

"C" Company.

6287103 Pte. P. Ashdown, 6286890 Pte. W. Colyer, 6286889 Pte. R. Fitness, 6287116 L/Cpl. P. Finnigan, 6287100 Pte. R. Fox, 6286836 Pte. R. Jackson, 6286279 Pte. J. Martin, 6287107 Pte. K. Ogg.

"D" Company.

6282630 Sgt. F. Brabon, 6286849 Pte. A. Dixon, 6286859 Pte. D. Jarman, 6286856 Pte. A. Johnson, 6286240 Pte. F. Finn, 6286507 Pte. J. Milton, 6286844 Pte. H. Markwick, 6011610 Pte. G. Porter, 6286857 Pte. J. Ripley, 5949188 Pte. J. Smith, 5949174 Pte. J. Tape.

H.Q. Company.

6286666 Pte. P. Bennett, 6286820 Pte. D. Bailey, 6286679 Pte. R. Carson, 6286626 Pte. G. Cook, 6286649 Pte. T. Fullagher, 6286682 Pte. A. Hart, 6286685 Pte. T. Healy, 6286638 Pte. T. Jones, 6286619 Pte. J. Pasiful, 6286643 Pte. J. Ratcliff, 6286466 Pte. W. Sturnham, 5335559 Pte. A. Vivash, 6286683 Pte. G. Weeks.

6285078 L/Sgt. G. Berry, "C," embarked on M.V. *Accra* at Liverpool on 4-1-39 for passage to Lagos to join Nigeria Regiment, R.W.A.F.F.

POSTINGS.

6279670 Sgt. S. Page, "A," posted to battalion and to company shown on 30-12-38.

The undermentioned are posted to the Regimental Depot, 3-1-39:—
6287322 Boy A. Hobbs, H.Q.; 6287320 Boy H. Page, H.Q.; 6287168 Boy J. Roper, H.Q.; 6287151 Boy P. Wheatley, H.Q.

TRANSFERS TO ARMY RESERVE.

The undermentioned are transferred to Army Reserve:—

6285009 Pte. F. Leadbeater, "C," 15-12-38; 6285064 Pte. L. Parry, "B," 3-1-39; 6285053 L/Cpl. D. Dunbar, H.Q., 5-1-39; 6285072 Pte. W. Owen, "D," 11-12-38; 6285087 Pte. A. Hodges, H.Q., 11-12-38; 6285156 Cpl. E. Green, "D," 8-1-39.

DISCHARGE.

6287137 Pte. R. Tucker, "B," discharged 31-12-38.

The Depot.

RECRUITS.

Attested as shewn:—

Pte. H. McMulliss, 20-12-38; Pte. E. C. W. Skinner, 28-12-38; 6011264 Pte. A. J. Powis, 2-1-39; 6285397 Pte. F. E. Scott, 2-1-39; Pte. W. T. Drake, 31-12-38; Pte. T. F. Nevis, 5-1-39; Pte. E. J. McPherson, 3-1-39; 6287091 Pte. E. N. Hamblin (enlisted into Regular Army (The Buffs), from Sup. Res. 4-1-39; Pte. L. G. V. Mills, 9-1-39; Pte. W. E. W. Joynson, 5-1-39; Pte. H. J. Oels, 7-1-39; Pte. W. J. Hayes, 10-1-39.

ENLISTMENT—BOY.

Boy W. D. Waterman, enlisted at Canterbury for 1st Battalion, The Buffs, 15-12-38.

POSTINGS.

4968781 L/Cpl. F. Brown, posted to Depot for a tour of duty, 27-11-38.

6287314 Pte. E. Shoebridge, posted to Depot from No. 1 R.P.D.D., Canterbury, 6-1-39.

6279670 Sgt. S. Page, posted to 2nd Battalion, The Buffs, 30-12-38.

6285221 Dmr. J. Balkham, posted to 2nd Battalion, The Buffs, 13-1-39.

TRANSFER TO ARMY RESERVE.

6285045 Pte. E. Woolner, transferred to Army Reserve, 12-1-39.

DISCHARGES.

The undermentioned are discharged:—

6283358 Cpl. W. Carr, 17-12-38; 6287308 Pte. J. Boyce, 2-12-38; 6287332 Pte. A. Carter, 16-12-38; 6287311 Pte. J. Jacobs, 16-12-38; 6287198 Pte. E. Poulton, 16-12-38; 6287306 Pte. C. Williams, 16-12-38; 6286162 Pte. R. Kadayaw, 4-1-39; 6287191 Pte. F. Newnes, 6-1-39; 6287176 Pte. A. Reed, 6-1-39.

The 4/5th Battalion.

ENLISTMENTS.

The undermentioned recruits have been attested and posted to companies as shewn:—

Boy J. Evans, "B" (C), 8-12-38; Pte. W. Furner, "B" (C), 8-12-38; Pte. O. Scott-Martin, "A" (R), 29-11-38; Pte. R. Shardlow, "D" (F), 5-12-38; Pte. C. Taylor, "D" (F), 5-12-38; Pte. R. Green, "D" (F), 5-12-38; Pte. A. Shardlow, "D" (F), 5-12-38; Pte. R. Vass, "A" (R), 6-12-38; Pte. C. Kensall, "A" (R), 8-12-38; Pte. J. Petts, "D" (F), 5-12-38 (Trained Man on enlistment); Boy D. Cole, "B" (C), 13-12-38; Pte. A. Welsh, "D" (F), 12-12-38; Pte. F. Packman, "B" (S), 13-12-38; Pte. A. Akhurst, "B" (S), 13-12-38; Pte. A. Matchman, "B" (S), 13-12-38; Pte. A. Turner, "D" (D), 6-12-38; Pte. J. Devlin, "D" (F), 4-1-39 (Trained Man on enlistment); Pte. A. Midgett, "A" (S), 11-1-39 (Trained Man on enlistment); Pte. J. Apperley, "D" (D), 5-1-39; Pte. J. Philpott, "D" (F), 9-1-39; Pte. F. Chambers, "A" (R), 10-1-39; Pte. L. Sheene, "A" (R), 10-1-39.

TRANSFERS.

6286945 Pte. G. West, "B" (C), transferred to London Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own), 14-12-38.

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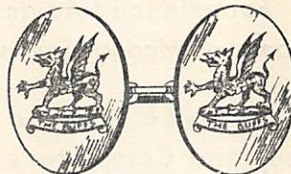
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