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# INVICTA

THE JOURNAL OF  
THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS, THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT



JANUARY, 1965

# INVICTA

## The Regimental Journal of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment

Volume V, No. 1



January, 1965

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### THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS, THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT (3rd, 50th & 97th)

The White Horse of Kent with motto "Invicta"

Blenheim  
Ramillies  
Oudenarde  
Malplaquet  
Dettingen  
Guadaloupe, 1759  
Belleisle  
Vimiera  
Corunna  
Douro  
Talavera  
Albuhera  
Almaraz  
Vittoria  
Pyrenees  
Nivelle  
Nive  
Orthes  
Toulouse

Peninsula  
Punniar  
Moodkee  
Ferozeshah  
Aliwal  
Sobraon  
Alma  
Inkerman  
Sevastopol  
Lucknow  
Taku Forts  
New Zealand  
South Africa, 1879  
Egypt, 1882  
Nile, 1884-85  
Chitral  
Relief of Kimberley  
Paardeberg

South Africa, 1900-02  
Mons  
Aisne, 1914  
Ypres, 1914, 15, 17, 18  
Hill 60  
Loos  
Somme, 1916, 18  
Arras, 1917, 18  
Vimy, 1917  
Amiens  
Hindenburg Line  
Italy, 1917, 18  
Struma  
Gallipoli, 1915  
Gaza  
Jerusalem  
Defence of Kut al Amara  
Baghdad  
Sharqat

Afghanistan, 1919  
North-West Europe, 1940  
Alem Hamza  
El Alamein  
Robaa Valley  
Medjez Plain  
Centuripe  
Sicily, 1943  
Trigno  
Sangro  
Anzio  
Cassino  
Trasimene Line  
Argenta Gap  
Leros  
Malta, 1940, 42  
Defence of Kohima  
Shweli

Colonel-in-Chief: His Majesty King Frederik IX, K.G., King of Denmark

Colonel of the Regiment: H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.

Deputy Colonel of the Regiment: Major-General D. E. B. Talbot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L.

#### ALLIED REGIMENTS OF THE CANADIAN ARMY

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada—Colonel-in-Chief: H.R.H. Princess Alexandra, The Hon. Mrs. Angus Ogilvy, G.C.V.O.

The Royal New Brunswick Regiment (Carleton and York)—Colonel-in-Chief: H.M. The Queen

The Essex and Kent Scottish—Colonel-in-Chief: H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.

#### ALLIED REGIMENT OF THE NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES

2nd Battalion (Canterbury and Nelson-Marlborough and West Coast) The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment  
Colonel-in-Chief: H.M. The Queen

#### REGULAR AND TERRITORIAL BATTALIONS

1st Battalion—Meeanee Barracks, Colchester, Essex

4th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.)—Canterbury

5th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.)—Broadstairs

4th/5th Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (T.A.)—Tonbridge

#### UNITS OF THE CADET FORCE AFFILIATED

1st A.C.F. Battalion The Buffs—Canterbury

2nd A.C.F. Battalion The Buffs—Folkestone

1st A.C.F. Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment—Sidcup

2nd A.C.F. Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment—Tunbridge Wells

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS—OLD INFANTRY BARRACKS, CANTERBURY, KENT

Regimental Secretary: Colonel H. R. Grace, O.B.E., D.L., J.P.

Tele. No.: Canterbury 65281, Extension 61



# The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment

## OFFICERS REGULAR ARMY STAFF AND COMMAND

- Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., i.d.c., p.s.c., G.O.C.-in-C. Western Comd.
- Brig. P. E. Crook, C.B.E., D.S.O., B.A., p.s.c., f.s.c. (U.S.), H.Q. Jamaica Defence Force
- Brig. D. H. Gwilliam, M.B.E., p.s.c., p.s.c.(a), H.Q. 133 Inf. Bde. (T.A.)
- Col. A. J. M. Flint, M.B.E., p.s.c., f.s.c. (U.S.), Service Adviser to British High Commissioner, Lagos
- Col. P. R. H. Turner, p.s.c., f.s.c. (U.S.), Ministry of Defence
- Lt.-Col. M. R. Read, M.C., p.s.c., H.Q., B.A.O.R.
- Lt.-Col. B. McGrath, M.C., p.s.c., Intelligence Corps Centre
- Lt.-Col. D. N. Court, p.s.c., H.Q. A.F.S.E.
- Lt.-Col. H. B. H. Waring, O.B.E., p.s.c., Ministry of Defence
- Lt.-Col. I. H. Roper, M.C., J.S.N.C.G.D. Winterbourne Gunner

*Fedde 24th London Regt*

*Fedde 24th*

### OFFICERS POSTED TO COMMAND BATTALIONS OF OTHER REGIMENTS

- Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan, M.C. ... 1 Mx.
- Lt.-Col. E. G. Woodman, M.C. ... 1 Queen's Surreys

*Fedde Buffs*

### LIEUTENANT-COLONELS

- Elgood, P. N., p.s.c. .... 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)
- MacDonald, E. W., p.s.c. .... 1st Bn.

*Vanck Regt*

### MAJORS

- |                                    |                                  |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Bailey, J. D. B. ....              | Ministry of Defence              | Abplanalp, V. C. ....              | H.Q. B.A.O.R.                      |
| Rickcord, M. B. ....               | 28 Commonwealth Inf. Bde. Gp.    | Winstanley, R. G., f.s.c. (B.E.)   | 1st Bn.                            |
| Eason, J. A., T.D. ....            | H.Q., 19 Inf. Bde.               | Hamilton, C. M. ....               | Ministry of Defence                |
| Crumplin, W. C. D., p.s.c.         | (T/Lt.-Col.)                     | Gatehouse, H. R., M.B.E. ....      | 1st Bn.                            |
| Worts, J. B., M.C. ....            | Ministry of Defence              | Osborne, E. C. S. ....             | Sennelager Trg. Cent., B.A.O.R.    |
| Willis, C. F., M.B.E., T.D. ....   | H.Q. Bahrain Garr.               | Shearburn, S. R. O'R. ....         | 1st Bn.                            |
| Scull, D. S. ....                  | Ministry of Defence              | French, B. G. J. ....              | Army Apprentice School, Carlisle   |
| Nash, J. P., E.R.D., p.s.c. ....   | 1st Singapore Inf. Regt.         | Griffin, C. J. ....                | 1st Bn.                            |
| Macmillan, I. A., p.s.c. ....      | A.O.R.E.                         | Stratford-Tuke, R. A. F. ....      | Inf. Jnr. Ldrs. Bn., Oswestry      |
| Dent, J. E. (T/Lt.-Col.) ....      | Denmark                          | Dodson, K., p.s.c. ....            | Ministry of Defence                |
|                                    | SO11 (Inf.) Fort Benning, U.S.A. | Lees, H. D. ....                   | J.P.R.S., Aden                     |
|                                    |                                  | Fletcher, J. S., p.s.c. ....       | 1st Bn.                            |
|                                    |                                  | Norton, J. D. ....                 | Assistant Military Attache, Ankara |
| Ambrose, W. G. R., p.t.s.c. ....   | Ministry of Defence              | West, C. T. F., p.s.c. ....        | H.Q. B.A.O.R.                      |
| Peckham, A. D., M.B.E. ....        | H.C.B.D. (P.S.)                  | Leigh, P. S., M.C., p.s.c.(a) .... | 44 (H.C.) Div./Dist.               |
| Squire, S. J., M.B.E., p.s.c. .... | Army Apprentice School, Chepstow | Woolstencroft, D. H., p.s.c. ....  | Home Counties Bde. Depot (P.S.)    |
| Thornycroft, F. E. ....            | Ministry of Defence              | Ward, M. W., p.t.s.c. ....         | R.A.R.D.E., Fort Halstead          |
| Blum, D. E., p.s.c. ....           | Ministry of Defence              | Dracopoli, M. P. St. F., p.s.c. .. | H.Q. Home Counties Bde.            |
| Franklin, A. W., p.s.c. ....       | 1st Bn.                          | Tennent, H. C. L. ....             | 5 Buffs (T.A.)                     |

### CAPTAINS

- |                         |                       |                                      |                                |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Davison, J. H. ....     | 4 Buffs (T.A.)        | Reid, J. D. W. ....                  | H.Q., 19 Inf. Bde.             |
| Neve, R. W., M.C. ....  | 1st Bn.               | Cleaver, G. F. ....                  | H.Q. Rhine Area                |
| Baker, R. W. M. ....    | 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)     | Dewar, C. M. C. ....                 | H.Q. Malaya Area               |
| Tarver, C. L. ....      | H.Q. 51 Inf. Bde. Gp. | Taylor, E. A. ....                   | Cyprus                         |
| Newall, M. R. M. ....   | H.Q. 17 Div.          | White, J. J. ....                    | School of Infantry, Warminster |
| Pybus, I. D. ....       | Staff College         | Champion, C. G. ....                 | H.Q. 6 Inf. Bde.               |
| Durtnell, R. J. ....    | 2nd N. Rhodesia Regt. | Boucher, S. M. ....                  | 2/6 Q.E.O. Gurkha Rifles       |
| Lea, R. ....            | 1st Bn.               | Shephard, J. N. ....                 | 1st Bn.                        |
| Williams, R. T. P. .... | 5 Kenya Rifles        | Pearce, N. C. ....                   | Queen's Own Rifles of Canada   |
| Butler, C. D. B. ....   | R.M.A., Sandhurst     | Cole, P. E. ....                     | 1st Bn.                        |
| Langhorne, J. ....      | 1st Malaysia Rangers  | Tarver, H. N., B.Sc. (Gen.), x. .... | 1st Bn.                        |
| Hiscock, P. ....        | 1st Bn.               | Holman, J. C. ....                   | H.Q. Western Comd.             |
|                         |                       | Whitty, R. H. ....                   | Cyprus                         |

### LIEUTENANTS

- |                               |           |                                   |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bateman, G. B. (T/Capt.) .... | 1st Bn.   | Grove, C. M. M. ....              | R.M.C.S., Shrivenham        |
| Clinch, M. J. (T/Capt.) ....  | 1st Bn.   | Gwilliam, P. A. ....              | Home Counties Brigade Depot |
| Gerelli, J. E. ....           | 1st Bn.   | Critchley, P. P. ....             | H.C.B.D. (P.S.)             |
| Pearson, C. J. ....           | 1st Bn.   | Cockram, J. M., B.Sc. (Econ.) ... | 1st Bn.                     |
| Strang, J. P. R., B.A. ....   | 1st Bn.   | Talbot, R. D. B. ....             | 1st Bn.                     |
| Donovan, E. K. ....           | 40 A.Y.T. | Butler, M. R. ....                | 1st Bn.                     |

### 2nd LIEUTENANTS

- |                     |         |                         |         |
|---------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| Baillie, I. G. .... | 1st Bn. | Shephard, D. H. A. .... | 1st Bn. |
| Jackson, T. ....    | 1st Bn. | Dent, R. D. J. ....     | 1st Bn. |

*F-24 Buffs*  
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*F-24 Buffs*

*Vanck Buffs*

*Buff*

*R 1955 - Feb 60 - PATER & ROSE*

*3-4-66*

*2nd 60 - PATER & HODGES*

*Dec 66 PM R.W.K. 1955*

*25 December*

**QUARTERMASTERS**

Kille, W. E., M.B.E., p.s.c., Lt. Col. 4/5 R. Sussex (T.A.) Ransley, E. J., M.C., Maj. .... 1st Bn.  
 Grubb, J. E., M.B.E. Capt. .... 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)  
 Stephens, S. V., Maj. .... Sheffield University O.T.C. Faulkner, G. T., Capt. .... 5 Buffs (T.A.)

**SERVING WITH 1st BATTALION**

Lt. D. R. Gowdy ..... Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Major M. G. O. Parrish ..... R.A.M.C.  
 Rev. W. G. H. Willis, C.F. .... R.A.Ch.D. Major A. F. A. Austen, M.C. .... R.A.P.C.  
 Lieut. M. A. MacFarlane ..... R.A.E.C.

**SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS****MAJORS**

Trumper, J. M., S.W., E.R.D. ... Atchd. Ministry of Defence  
 Butcher, D. A. T. .... H.Q., Royal Nigerian Army

**2nd LIEUTENANTS**

Knowles, A. W. .... 1st Bn. Tweedie, M. J. C. .... 1st Bn.  
 St. John Perry, C. H. .... 1st Bn.

**QUARTERMASTERS**

Rose, J. R., Maj. .... Leave U.K. Simpson, G. V. I., Capt., M.B.E. 1st Bn.

**TERRITORIAL ARMY  
STAFF AND COMMAND**

Colonel J. Tilleard, T.D. .... H.Q. 133 (Kent and Sussex) Inf. Bde. (T.A.)  
 Major C. R. Robinson, T.D. .... H.Q. 133 (Kent and Sussex) Inf. Bde. (T.A.)  
 Capt. P. N. P. Plunkett, T.D. .... T.A. Increment 44 (H.C.) Div./Dist. (T.A.)

**4th BATTALION BUFFS (T.A.)**

Hon. Colonel: Colonel D. J. Dean, V.C., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Woodcourt, 1 Park Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent.

**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL**

Willows, D. A.

**MAJORS**

Jarman, R.  
 Auld, C. W.  
 Ackland, C.  
 Browne, P. S.

**CAPTAINS**

Davison, J. H. (Trg. Off.)  
 Medlicott, J. P.  
 Johnson, R. F. (A/Maj.)  
 Howland, N. M.  
 Gracie, I. A.  
 Pitcher, R. A. (A/Maj.)  
 Sayer, C. H.  
 Wallace, W. R. D.  
 Taylor, F. E.  
 Stevens, B. F.

**LIEUTENANTS**

Trevis, J. E.  
 Hamilton, N. J. M.  
 Clements, J. E.  
 Helbling, A. A.  
 Copland, S. D.  
 West, K.

**2nd LIEUTENANTS**

Davison, C.

**QUARTERMASTERS**

Capt. Griffiths, F. L. (Mx.)  
 Capt. Excell, F. C. (T.A.)

**MEDICAL OFFICER**

Major Cassidi, F. P., R.A.M.C.  
 (T.A.)

**PAYMASTER**

Capt. Woodman, H. H. K.,  
 R.A.P.C. (T.A.)

**CHAPLAIN****5th BATTALION BUFFS (T.A.)**

Hon. Colonel: The Lord Cornwallis, K.B.E., M.C., H.M.L., Ashurst Park, Tunbridge Wells.

**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL**

Neville, F. G., M.C., T.D.

**MAJORS**

Tennent, H. C. L. (Trg. Major)  
 Balding, G. E. E., T.D.  
 Baddeley, W. D., T.D.  
 Gower, C. M.  
 Hollies, R. J., T.D.  
 Wright, R. P.

**CAPTAINS**

Morgan, R. J. S., M.C. (Adjt.)  
 Turner, G. P. (A/Maj.)

**CAPTAINS**

Proctor, A. D. M.  
 Garnsey, G.  
 Jones, C. D. G.  
 Hayton, J. W.  
 Jakob, F. J.  
 Orr, M. I. C.  
 Dineley, G. (A/Capt.)  
 Hes, J. C.  
 Daniel, M. R. M.  
 Mackeson, Sir Rupert, Bt.  
 Bingham, A. J.  
 Baldoock, D.  
 Bond, M. E. T.  
 Ochs, R. F. L.

**2nd LIEUTENANTS**

Fell, A. L.  
 Carte, B. A.  
 Pye, W. O. S.  
 Record, A.  
 Collyer, M. W. B.  
 Bates, C. A. S.  
 Short, R. J.

**QUARTERMASTERS**

Capt. Faulkner, G. T.  
 Lieut. Simpson, B. E. (T.A.)

**MEDICAL OFFICER**

Capt. Talty, S. K., R.A.M.C.  
 (T.A.)

**PAYMASTER**

Capt. Joshua, D. W., R.A.P.C.  
 (T.A.)

**CHAPLAIN**

Rev. Lloyd, P. J.  
 R.A.Ch.D. (T.A.)

**4th/5th BATTALION R.W.K. (T.A.)**

Hon. Colonel: Colonel Sir Henry D'Avigdor-Goldsmid, Bt., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., M.P., Somerhill, Tonbridge.

**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL**

Elgood, P. N.

**MAJORS**

Large, J. L., T.D.  
 Pennells, H. D. A., T.D.  
 Ogilvie, J. B., T.D.  
 Clemence, M. J.  
 Watson, K. E., T.D.  
 Devonshire, M. N.

**CAPTAINS**

Baker, R. W. M. (Reg. Adjt.)  
 Stacey, O., T.D.

**CAPTAINS**

Fraser, C. G.  
 Gregory, M. K.  
 Cyster, P. L.  
 Burrell, G. K.  
 Tizard, L. A. S.

**LIEUTENANTS**

Sutton, J. D.  
 Finnis, S. R.  
 Gibbs, W. J.

**LIEUTENANTS**

Taylor, M. S.  
 Andrews, A. J.  
 Smith, M. J.  
 Rucker, P. A. S.  
 Evans, G. W.  
 Poole, G. R.  
 Starkey, R. C. A.  
 Leeson, F. M.

**2nd LIEUTENANTS**

Kelly, M. P.  
 Dixon, R. C. B.  
 Metzgen, H. G.

**QUARTERMASTERS**

Capt. J. E. Grubb, M.B.E.  
 Lieut. Corke, A. R. (T.A.)

**MEDICAL OFFICER**

Major Barlas, J. A., R.A.M.C.  
 (T.A.)

**PAYMASTER**

Major Cheffins, R. A. J., M.C.  
 R.A.P.C. (T.A.)

**CHAPLAIN**

Rev. Swan, O., R.A.Ch.D. (T.A.)



# INVICTA

## THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

**I**F the New Year opened brightly for some or not so well for others, with a hang-over or with good resolutions, there is little doubt that it opened most auspiciously for Brigadier Paul Crook and Lt.-Col. "Blick" Waring with the announcement in the Honours List of the award to them of, respectively, a C.B.E. and an O.B.E. In congratulating them both most warmly on these awards, a message of good wishes must surely also go to another reader of this Journal, that most admirable Jamaican Officer, Lt.-Col. Joe Moody, who was commissioned into The Queen's Own during the last war and served in the 10th Battalion of that Regiment, on the award to him also of an O.B.E.; he is now serving in the Jamaica Regiment.

The first issue of Volume V of this Journal is a reminder to readers that, with Volume IV now complete, they may wish to have a bound copy of that volume made, to join the other three already on their bookshelves. Those who wish to do this should send their copies of the 1964 issues to Regimental Headquarters, which will get them bound for as little as 32/-. Any missing issues can be added at Regimental Headquarters, free, gratis and for nothing.

The attention of readers is particularly drawn this month to the splendid photographic coverage given by the Kent Press to the return home of the 1st Battalion just before Christmas, and to the article by the Commanding Officer which appears in the news from the Battalion; to the news from H.M.S. Kent, from foreign parts; to "News from the Depot," making its first quarterly appearance, albeit a somewhat brief one; and to the draw for the 1965 Inter-Branch Darts Competition. The absence of the partially-promised summary of the replies received in the "What d'you want?" research exercise will doubtless be spotted by some readers. Replies are still trickling in and it was felt that a little more time should be allowed; a summary will, however, appear in the February issue.

Finally, Major John Norton, who is Assistant Military Attaché in Ankara, has just added a First Class Interpreter-ship in Turkish to the equivalent distinctions in both Russian and Chinese which he already holds. While marvelling at, and congratulating him on his brilliant linguistic achievements, one is bound to ask oneself, at the same time, what outlets and appointments the Army has to offer for someone with such exceptional talents.

## EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**O**N the occasion of the birthday of the Colonel of the Regiment, the following telegram was despatched from Regimental Headquarters to Kensington Palace:—  
H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent,  
Kensington Palace.  
The Deputy Colonel and All Ranks of her Regiment with their humble duty send every good wish to their Colonel on the happy occasion of her birthday.  
DENNIS TALBOT,  
Deputy Colonel.

**T**HE following reply was later received:—

Major-General D. E. B. Talbot,  
The Queen's Own Buffs,  
The Royal Kent Regiment,  
Old Infantry Barracks, Canterbury.  
I send you and All Ranks of my Regiment my warmest thanks for your kind message.  
MARINA, COLONEL.

**H**.R.H. PRINCESS MARINA, Duchess of Kent, Colonel of the Regiment, on 8th December received Lt.-Col. H. B. H. Waring on relinquishment of his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion.

**T**HE Deputy Colonel was present at the preview, on 4th January, of a Handicrafts Exhibition held at Central Hall, Westminster, in aid of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals. The Army stand in the exhibition was manned by Major Alan Peckham and three Junior Soldiers of the Regiment, some of whom were exhibitors. As Patron of the P.D.S.A., H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, visited the exhibition on preview day and those members of the Regiment who were in attendance were presented to her.

**T**HE Deputy Colonel wishes to thank all concerned for the many Christmas cards he received from members of the Regiment and from the Branches of the Regimental Association and Ladies' Guilds, all of which he very greatly appreciated.

**T**HE Anglo-Danish Society held their 40th Anniversary Annual Dinner and Dance at the Dorchester Hotel, London, on 21st October in the presence of H.R.H. Princess Margaret, the Earl of Snowdon and H.H. Princess Elisabeth of Denmark. The Deputy Colonel and Mrs. D. E. B. Talbot attended, as guests of the Danish Ambassador and the Society.

**W**IDOWS of Officers who lost their lives in the Services, or sons of such Officers, who have now or may have in the future the problem of their boys' education to contend with, may like to be reminded that the Wilfrid Barham Exhibition still exists at Malvern College and is worthy of their consideration. The annual value of the Exhibition is now £74 and, for further details, those interested should write to C. B. Lace, Esq., Secretary of the Malvernian Society, The College, Malvern, Worcestershire.

In a similar way, War Memorial Bursaries exist at Tonbridge School for the sons of those who lost their lives or were taken prisoner or became incapacitated whilst on active service with H.M. Forces during the 1939-45 war. The maximum value of these Bursaries is £50 per annum and anyone interested should get in touch with the Clerk to the Governors of Tonbridge School, Skinners' Hall, 8 Dowgate Hill, London, E.C.4.

**L T.-COL. GROVE** represented the Regiment at the funeral of Viscount Monckton of Brenchley, which took place at All Saints' Church, Brenchley, on 13th January; and the Deputy Colonel did likewise at the Memorial Service held in Southwark Cathedral the following day. The late Lord Monckton served in The Queen's Own during the First World War.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Major-General C. H. McVittie on his appointment as Colonel Commandant, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

**IT** may be of interest to readers to know that 2nd Lieutenant M. J. C. Tweedie is to be posted to Home Counties Brigade Depot (Permanent Staff) on 8th February, 1965.

**IN** this column in the November issue (page 431) mention was made of the Soldiers' Widows Fund. Over 28,400 soldiers have now joined the Fund, representing 39 per cent of the married strength of the Army. Twenty-four shillings per year is what a soldier's subscription to the Fund amounts to. This surely is worthy of the attention of every married soldier who is not already a subscriber.

**A** CORRESPONDENT from Johannesburg has written to say that the British Forces Committee of the South African War Graves Board are now actively engaged in the care and maintenance of South African War graves. The Committee have, in some instances where they have been able to do so, created Gardens of Remembrance in which have been concentrated remains of isolated cemeteries which could not readily be maintained. A central Monument is erected in such Gardens, giving the historical facts.

Below is a list of those of the 2nd Bn. The Buffs who were killed in the action at Baakenlaagte on 30th October, 1901. Their names will appear on the Monument in the Garden of Remembrance in Primrose Cemetery, Germiston, where they have been re-interred:—

Second-Lt. H. S. Corlett, Ptes. A. Bowen, C. D. Coppins, A. Lee, C. Love, H. Mumford, S. Murphy, A. Packman and F. Richardson.

Students of regimental history will be interested to note the slight differences between this list and that which appears on p.607 of the 1814-1914 volume of The Buffs Historical Records.

**A** JOB is available as chauffeur-handyman for, preferably, a married man so that wife could cook evening meal for small family. Wages approximately £11 per week, plus rent free three-roomed cottage with bath and modern conveniences. Full details available on application to Lt.-Col. Grove at Regimental Headquarters.

**A** LETTER was recently received from George H. Huggan, T.D., of The White Cottage, Flixton, Scarborough, Yorks, one time Captain R.W.K. (S.R.) and later Major T.A.R.O. As a 2nd Lieutenant he sailed from Devonport on 16th February, 1916, in S.S. Persic for Mesopotamia. With him were 2nd Lieutenants C. H. Cave and L. I. Vine Stephens. While serving with 2 R.W.K. he remembers Captain Wilberforce Bell, 2nd Lieutenants Booth, Henn, Chester, Chadwick, Bradley, Wilson, Tindell, Lees, Northey, Pattison, Hilden and Day. He would like to get in touch with anyone who remembers him.

**IN** the announcement, which was made on page 487 of the December issue, of the death of David Wale, the wording should have been "son of Captain and Mrs. N. G. Wale" and not as published. A very sincere apology to both of them for what was, indeed, a wholly unintentional omission.

**ANY** retired Officer who would like to become Deputy Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Kent, involving part-time work and experience of organisation and administration, should get in touch with the Commissioner, Brigadier J. V. Davidson-Houston (rtd.), at his home at Magpie Shaw, Speldhurst, Kent.

**WE** have been notified of the admission to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, of W.O.II Joseph Leslie Ambrose—No. 8534 and 6278103—aged 75. He served in The Buffs from 24th June, 1907, to 25th March, 1928, and holds the 1914/15 Star, and the British War, Victory, Defence, L.S.G.C. and M.S. Medals.

**THE** following changes of addresses are notified:—

Lieut. M. J. Smith (Serving Officer 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)),  
68 Poplar Grove,  
Maidstone.

Major L. P. Critchley,  
M.B.E.,  
Whitegates,  
Birkenhead Road,  
Hoylake,  
Wirrall, Cheshire.

Major C. S. Clarke,  
Orchard House,  
Long Burton,  
Sherborne, Dorset.

Major R. O. Iliffe, M.B.E.,  
32 Vandon Court,  
Petty France, S.W.1.

Capt. M. J. Smith (rtd.),  
Sunnycroft,  
Seaton Avenue,  
Hythe, Kent.

Capt. W. R. D. Wallace,  
5 Sydcote,  
Rosendale Road,  
Dulwich, London, S.E.21.

**THE** following recently visited the Regimental Headquarters Offices in Canterbury:—

Captain P. E. Cole, Major and Mrs. C. T. F. West, R. D. B. Talbot, Esq., Captain M. R. M. Newall, Lt.-Col. J. E. Dent, Captain C. D. B. Butler, Major P. S. Leigh, C.S.M. P. F. Johns and Major J. N. Shipster.

## George Knight Clowes Memorial Prize Essay, 1965

Prizes: 1st prize £35,  
2nd prize £15.

Closing date: 31st March, 1965.

Subject:

"Because of the revolutionary development in weapons, and changes in the pattern of war during the past 50 years, some people now doubt the value of military history as part of an officer's educational curriculum.

"Give your views on this, and discuss in general terms how best the experience of the past can be reconciled with modern trends and made to serve present and future needs in the military field."

General conditions for this essay competition will be the same as for the 1964 competition.

## PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Supplements to the London Gazette

### Regular Army

Lt.-Col. P. R. H. Turner from Queens Own Buffs (E.L.I.) to be Colonel, 31st August, 1964.

### Regular Army Reserve of Officers

Lt. D. C. M. Newall relinquishes his commn., 7th November, 1964.

### Territorial Army

Capt. J. E. ff. Roberts (Maj. Res. of Offrs., D. & D.) resigns his commn., 31st August, 1964.

Lt. L. A. S. Tizard to be Capt., 1st October, 1964.  
Frank Michael Leeson (late R.A.F., Res. of Offrs.) to be Lt., 15th September, 1964.

### Territorial Army Reserve of Officers

Maj. R. C. G. Tuppen, having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the T.A. Res. of Offrs., 14th December, 1964, retaining the rank of Maj.



## Christmas Cards

**C**HRISTMAS cards addressed to the Deputy Colonel and All Ranks of the Regiment were received at Regimental Headquarters from the following:—

Commander and All Ranks H.Q. 133 (Kent and Sussex) Brigade (T.A.).  
 Lt.-Col. H. H. Prince Georg.  
 The Colonel and all Officers, the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).  
 Sergeants, 2nd Bn. The Essex and Kent Scottish.  
 The Commandant and Staff, Corps of Commissionaires.  
 Lt.-Col. D. A. Willows and All Ranks 4 Buffs (T.A.).  
 Warrant Officers and Sergeants, 1st Bn. The Essex and Kent Scottish.  
 Captain R. T. P. Williams.  
 The Mayor of Royal Tunbridge Wells.  
 Chairman and All Ranks, 1/4 The Buffs.  
 Lt.-Col. J. E. Dent.  
 Lt.-Col. M. I. Jackson and Officers, 3rd Bn. Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.  
 Officers and Men, C Company, 3 R.N.S.W. Regiment.  
 Major-General R. A. Riddell.  
 W.O.'s and Sergeants, 1st Bn. The Queen's Own Buffs.  
 Lady O'Dowda.  
 Regimental Headquarters, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).  
 The Chairman of the Council, London Borough of Bromley.  
 Lieutenant-General Sir William Turner and All Ranks, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.  
 Sir Henry and Lady D'Avigdor-Goldsmid.  
 The Honorary Colonel and all Ranks, 2nd Bn. (Canterbury and Nelson-Marlborough and West Coast) The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.  
 Colonel and Mrs. D. J. Dean.  
 Chairman and members Sandwich Branch, Regimental Association.  
 President and Staff, City of London Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association.  
 Colonel Ulf Jessen.  
 Lt.-Col. E. W. MacDonald and Officers, 1st Bn. The Queen's Own Buffs.  
 Mrs. N. I. Whitty.  
 Colonel A. A. E. Merlott-Chitty.  
 Brigadier J. B. Ashworth and Headquarters, The Royal Sussex Regiment.  
 Lieutenant-General Sir W. Wyndham Green.  
 Erling Kristiansen, Esq.  
 The Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Ramsey.  
 The President and Members, Catford Branch, Regimental Association.  
 Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs. Borton.  
 Col. C. A. L. Shipley and Staff, Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Fusiliers.  
 Officers and Members, Herne Bay Branch, Regimental Association.  
 All Members of the Folkestone Branch, Regimental Association.  
 All Members of the Denmark Branch, Regimental Association.  
 Captain and Mrs. C. G. Champion.  
 The Lord Mayor of London and the Lady Mayoress.  
 Chairman and Members, Kent Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association.  
 All Members, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Branch, Regimental Association.  
 The Chief Constable and All Ranks of the Kent County Constabulary.  
 N. W. F. Fowler, Esq.  
 All Members, Bromley Branch, Regimental Association.  
 Major-General H. A. Hounsell.  
 Lt.-Col. F. G. Neville and All Ranks, 5 Buffs (T.A.).  
 All Members, Sevenoaks Branch, Regimental Association.  
 The Mayor and Mayoress of Gillingham.  
 All Members, Ashford Branch, Regimental Association.  
 All Members, Sittingbourne Branch, Regimental Association.  
 All Members, Sittingbourne Ladies' Guild.  
 All Members, 11th (Lewisham) Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.  
 President and All Members, 6th (S) Bn. The Buffs.  
 President and All Members, Brighton Branch, Regimental Association.  
 Chairman and Members, Canterbury Branch Ladies' Guild.  
 All Members, Maidstone Branch, Regimental Association.  
 All Members, Bromley Branch, Regimental Association.  
 All Members, Ramsgate Ladies' Guild.

C.O. and Officers 2nd (A.C.F.) Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.  
 President and All Members, Ramsgate Branch, Regimental Association.  
 The Mayor and Mayoress of Ramsgate.  
 The Mayor and Mayoress of Canterbury.  
 Colonel of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).  
 Major-General F. J. C. Piggott and All Ranks, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.  
 All In Pensioners, Royal Hospital, Chelsea.  
 Colonel F. K. Theobald and Officers of the Kent County Army Cadet Force.  
 Lt.-Col. P. N. Elgood and Officers, 4/5th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (T.A.).  
 Lt.-Col. D. A. Willows and All Ranks, 4 Buffs (T.A.).  
 C.O. and All Ranks, Royal Danish Lifeguards.

Amongst those who were kind enough to send Christmas cards to the Regimental Secretary and the Staff of Regimental Headquarters were the following:—

J. W. M. Iversen, Esq.  
 Lt.-Col. B. McGrath.  
 Mr. J. Dawkins and family.  
 Major V. C. Abplanalp.  
 Lieutenant-General Sir William Oliver.  
 Major and Mrs. Pitkin.  
 M. Noor Din and Sons.  
 Mr. and Mrs. H. Brown.  
 K. G. Farwig, Esq.  
 Major E. H. F. Watts and family.  
 Captain J. M. Lunn and family.  
 Brigade Colonel, Commanding Officer and All Ranks, Home Counties Brigade.  
 Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Craddock.  
 Lt.-Col. W. E. Kille.  
 Major and Mrs. Dunglinson.  
 Colonel R. F. Pearson.  
 Lieutenant-Commander M. V. Redshaw, R.N.R.  
 Captain R. Lea.  
 Major and Mrs. J. P. Nash.  
 Lt.-Col. and Mrs. T. R. Reid.  
 Lt.-Col. D. N. Court.  
 Lt.-Col. V. Newton-Moss.  
 Major and Mrs. R. A. F. Stratford-Tuke.  
 Mr. H. Short.  
 Mr. M. W. Johnson.  
 Major F. E. Thornycroft.  
 Major and Mrs. D. P. R. Barrett.

The Regimental Secretary and all members of the Regimental Headquarters staff would like to thank most sincerely all those who so kindly remembered them in this way.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

### MARRIAGES

THOMPSETT—SINGH. On 28th November, 1964, at the Kingston Methodist Church, Georgetown, Pte. L. Thompsett to Chitrakha, also known as Doris Singh.  
 GREEN—BACCHUS. On 27th November, 1964, at Queens-town Moravian Church, Georgetown, Pte. M. Green to Zahiran Rahman Bacchus.

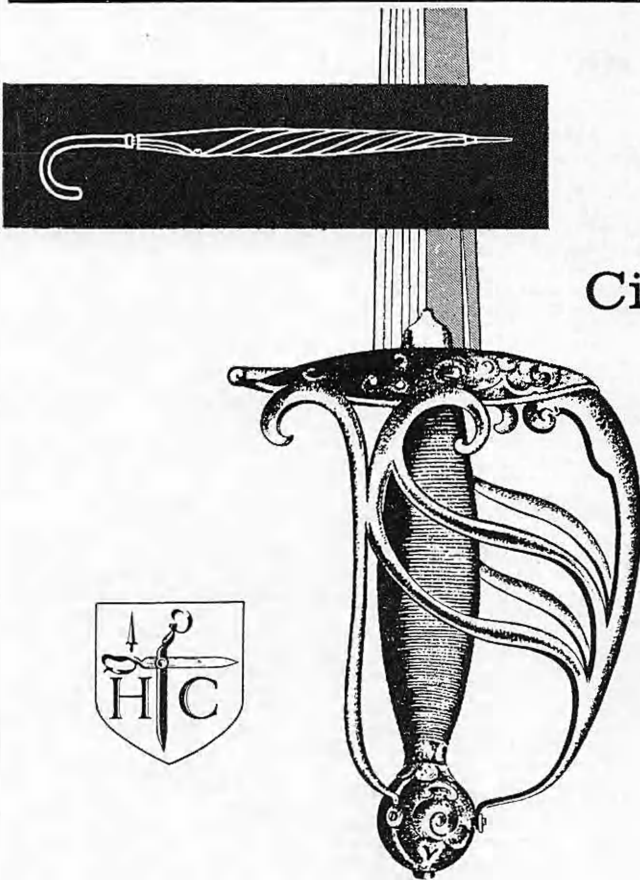
### DEATHS

HARROP.—Mr. Thomas Albert Harrop died on 4th December, 1964, at the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, Surrey, aged 64 years. Served as Private No. 6335914 in The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment from 1921 to 1940.  
 HUNT.—Mr. H. E. Hunt died at Whitstable on 6th December, 1964, aged 71 years. Served in 1/4 Buffs and 3/4 Buffs, Regimental No. 200935.

### FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE

Captain C. D. B. BUTLER and Miss J. E. SMITH  
 The engagement is announced between Captain Desmond Butler, The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, youngest son of the late Mr. C. J. Butler and of Mrs. Butler, of Smarden, Kent, and Jennifer, daughter of Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs. J. R. Smith, of Cheam, Surrey.





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## H.M.S. Kent Goes Foreign

ON 15th July H.M.S. Kent sailed from her home port of Chatham, with many pleasant memories of hospitality received in the county. A brief call was made at Devonport and then off to warmer climes.

The traditional first call abroad was made at Gibraltar, and the old hands were soon ashore to find out how the prices had changed since their last visit. The weather was pleasant, several good games of cricket were played on sand and matting wickets and it was nice to see the blue Mediterranean after so much grey-green in British waters. A sad blow to the ship, however, was the necessity to land our Executive Officer, Commander Burgoyne, who had been in increasing pain with a back injury. He has now fully recovered and taken up his new job at the Ministry of Defence.

A week in the Mediterranean gave the opportunity to swim over the side and play a lot of deck hockey on the sports field, or flight deck as the aviators insist on calling it. Exercises of all sorts were carried out and we had shoreside help from Malta in making these more realistic. Unfortunatley, time did not permit a stop there and our one sight of the island was of Grand Harbour when we landed a sick rating.

The end of July saw us passing through the Suez Canal at the head of the south bound convoy. The gullible men came on board at Port Said to entertain us and had obviously lost none of their skill, as they produced chickens, eggs and flags from surprised sailors and despatched money over the side with gay abandon, only to recover it miraculously a few moments later. Then the Red Sea, and after steaming its length with the usual following wind we reached Aden. Most people were already pleasantly surprised at the efficiency of the air-conditioning and life on board has continued to be comfortable however hot it has been outside.

At Aden we sent two bands of intrepid walkers to cross the range of hills into Crater some eight miles away. In temperatures which never fell below 90 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade, the going was hard, but at least one was walking on solid ground, unlike the next stage of the passage to Gan when we were given a very unpleasant few days in the South West monsoon. This blew consistently Force 6-7 with a steep swell on the beam and even the hardened sailors found the motion trying.

On 10th August at 6.30 p.m. heralds appeared over the side to warn us that we must pay homage to King Neptune on the morrow as we crossed the equator. The Crossing-the-Line Ceremony was duly conducted on the Flight Deck, where a canvas swimming pool was rigged, together with a stage and throne. The King arrived with a retinue including his formidable consort Queen Amphitrite, mermaids and men of the court, together with some fierce-looking bears and policemen. The latter were soon about their business after the ceremony of investing Captain Lewis with the Order of the Golden Kipper had been solemnly completed. Victims were brought in from all parts of the ship, charges read and suitable cleansing action taken. The charges were many and various but all very much to the point: one Petty Officer "did persist in attempting the impossible, namely to grow a set," while a portly figure was castigated because "he forgot to say 'when' on being poured into his uniform."

Arrival at the tiny tropical island of Gan in the Maldives, with its palm trees and coral reefs, and used by the R.A.F. as a staging post, reminded us that we should soon be "on station" East of Suez.

Our call there was limited to a few hours and on 17th August we steamed into the Naval Base at Singapore, to become the latest member of the Far East Fleet.

Serious business soon started as the Indonesian policy of confrontation to Malaysia flared up. A number of incidents, including landings in Malaya and internal strife in Singapore, kept the Navy and her sister services occupied; Kent played her part and completed several patrols in the waters around Malaya and Singapore.

Our first break came with a visit to Hong Kong in October. Although delayed by typhoon Dot which blew mightily, right in our path, we at last got there. The charm of the small colony is as great as it has always been: more prosperous than ever with skyscrapers going up all around, one can still enjoy a meal in a sampan or a stroll along brightly coloured streets with the constant rattle of mah jong counters providing a background to the animated chatter of the Chinese themselves.

In Hong Kong we were affiliated to the Garrison Headquarters, who arranged sport and social fixtures with great generosity. In one rugby match we had the support of two rather surprised American sailors, who were pressed into action; the international flavour of the Kent team was accepted with good grace by our opponents and by the end there were two more converts to the handling code. The Hong Kong interlude was over all too soon and back in Singapore we became flagship of the Flag Officer, Second-in-Command, Far East Fleet, Rear-Admiral P. J. Hill-Norton, C.B. In Singapore, too, we were reminded of the passage of time as the Christmas pudding was stirred, together with suitable libations of rum, in a brief ceremony in the main galley presided over by the chief cook.

Mid-November saw us embarking a detachment of Royal Marines, who were to be landed at first light by helicopter on an island off the coast of Malaya, in an operation to seek out Indonesian infiltrators. We sailed at midnight and our feelings were mixed as we watched this very efficient and determined force making last minute preparations on board. When dawn came they were flown ashore in several waves while we stayed some distance off to give any help that was needed. They quickly established themselves ashore and began the tedious job of combing the jungle. We learnt later that no infiltrators were found: we had no doubt about what their fate would have been.

Mr. David Dimpleby, of the B.B.C., was on board at this time with two cameramen seeking material for a programme about the Services at work in the Far East. We were able to satisfy this need, at least on behalf of the Navy, and he was last seen dangling in mid-air between Kent and a supply ship, while we transferred him during a routine replenishment at sea.

For the next week we were in Borneo waters, taking our Admiral to see part of his parish. The helicopter was busy and had to be put down in some odd places in the jungle, including one clearing where there was only room for the front wheels to be put on terra firma. We were pleased to see members of the Army and R.A.F. on board, and these included Major Derek Scull, of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, who had seen Kent at anchor and very properly visited us.

The New Year will soon be here and with it the half-way mark of the foreign leg of our commission. We cannot say, of course, what is planned for the next few months, but we shall certainly tell you about it.

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## The Canterbury Regiment Association Dinner

AS readers are aware, the Regiment has an alliance with a regiment of the New Zealand Military Forces which, until very recently, was known as The Canterbury Regiment but which, owing to reorganisation, has now

become the 2nd Battalion (Canterbury, Nelson-Marlborough and West Coast) The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

The Canterbury Regiment Association still flourishes,

however, and its Annual Dinner last year was held at Christchurch on 12th November. Thanks to the efforts of Ralph McCleary, who acts as the Regiment's unofficial "liaison officer" in New Zealand, a message from the Deputy Colonel was read out at the dinner. This message ran:—

"In my capacity as Deputy Colonel of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, I would like to take the opportunity offered by the reunion celebrations of the Regimental Association of The Canterbury Regiment on 12th November by sending, from all ranks of your allied British Regiment, a message of warmest good wishes to all those who are present at those celebrations.

"As you know, the alliance, which we in the Regiment value most highly and of which we are intensely proud, dates back to January, 1913. It was originally made between The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and the 1st (Canterbury) Regiment of New Zealand to commemorate the fact that the 50th Foot had served in New Zealand during the Maori War of 1863-66.

"In March, 1961, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment was amalgamated with The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) and the present County Regiment of Kent was formed. It was a source of great satisfaction to us all

when it was learned that the alliance between the Canterbury Regiment and ourselves was to be allowed to continue. You will be interested to know, I am sure, that your regimental march, 'A Hundred Pipers,' which was also the regimental march of The Queen's Own, has been incorporated, in part, in our own regimental march, and also that our Regimental Headquarters is now located in Canterbury.

"Now that your old Regiment has also had to undergo amalgamation, it is our very sincere hope that our alliance will not be allowed to lapse, so that the friendly feelings and the ties of comradeship which, for over 50 years and despite the vast distances between them, have bound our two Regiments together, shall not be severed. Indeed, I have been unofficially assured by the appropriate authorities that our alliance will continue.

"From across the world I send, on behalf of my whole Regiment, my very best wishes for a happy and successful reunion to all who are gathered together tonight."

The following are extracts from a letter which the Deputy Colonel has just received from Ralph McCleary:

"Your message was very cordially received . . . The stewards at the dinner were members of the Prisoner of War Association and one of them introduced himself to me as No. 6346363 ex-Cpl. J. G. M. Lardner, who was taken prisoner in France while serving with D Coy. 7 R.W.K. His address is 44 Huntsbury Avenue, Christchurch 2."

## CORRESPONDENCE

Headquarters,  
United Nations Force in Cyprus,  
B.F.P.O. 687.  
2nd December, 1964.

British High Commission,  
Alexander Pallis Street,  
Nicosia.  
3rd January, 1965.

The Editor, Invicta.

Dear Sir,

During my short, yet intensely interesting, tour with the United Nations Force in Cyprus it has been my good fortune and privilege to work amongst officers from countries in many parts of the world—politicians from India and Brazil, policemen from Austria and New Zealand and soldiers from Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Ireland. I have made many friends, and not least among them are two from Denmark who need no introduction to a great number of readers of Invicta, Lt.-Col. Herman Berg, who is Chief Operations Officer or G 1 at U.N. Headquarters, and Major Jimmy Yuul, who has just arrived to command the Danish Headquarter Company at Camp Elizabeth.

Both have asked me, through the medium of Invicta, to send greetings to their many friends in the Regiment. Col. Berg asks especially to be remembered to three good friends of his from Copenhagen days, Lt.-Col. Ernest Edelmann, Major Richard Ravenhill and Major Mike Archer.

It was at a party given by Ted Taylor in his palatial apartment between two old Queen's Own stamping grounds, the Key Club and the Nicosia Club, that I suddenly recognised Jimmy Yuul again. He immediately invited me to repair to his Mess where we talked until the night was old and the bottle empty about those cold but memorable days in March, 1963, when his Battalion, the First Falster Foot Regiment, and I Queen's Own Buffs, engaged each other unquenchingly both at the bar and on the battlefield. Camp Elizabeth is a far cry from Cranwich, but nevertheless he dearly wishes that he could once more call upon the services of "that hero Ronnie Baker" as his second in command. Jimmy also asked especially to be remembered to Lt.-Col. Bill MacDonald to whom he sends his warmest congratulations on his promotion and on getting Command.

To live in the company of such old Regimental friends not only enriches the experience of serving with the United Nations in Cyprus, but is a constant reminder of the strong and very real bond that exists between the Regiment and its Danish brothers.

Yours sincerely,

HAM WHITTY.

(Capt. Hamlyn Whitty, who needs no introduction.)

The Editor, Invicta.

Dear Sir,

Your readers may be interested to hear about the activities of a small gathering of members and ex-members of the Regiment here in Nicosia. So far as we know there are only four of us in Cyprus: Jimmy Yuul, Hamlyn Whitty, Lt.-Col. Ian Munro, of the Gordons, who was in The Buffs at the beginning of the war and is at present A.A. and Q.M.G. at U.N. Headquarters, and myself.

I first met Jimmy Yuul by sheer coincidence. I was in the Restaurant des Gourmets in Nicosia (Chris of the Gourmets will be remembered by all officers who served with The Queen's Own in Nicosia during the last troubles) and I was wearing uniform for the only time in the five months I have been here, having just attended a Russian reception. Suddenly a Danish major wearing an M.C. came rushing up to me and pulled back his service dress cuffs to reveal a pair of Buffs cuff-links. This was Jimmy who had arrived in Cyprus only three days previously to take up the appointment of camp commandant at Camp Elizabeth, the Danish administrative headquarters, a job which I need hardly say he finds rather dull, but he says quite untruthfully that he is now too pear-shaped to run around with a rifle company.

Two weeks ago we were all invited to a dinner night at Jimmy's mess. After the loyal toasts to the Heads of State of Denmark, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Eire, a character who will be remembered by Col. Grace from his Copenhagen days as "Nick the Guard Hussar" (he said no one will remember his real name), proposed the health of The Queen's Own Buffs. Lt.-Col. Munro, as the senior and at the same time the junior member of the Regiment present (acting unpaid lance-corporal in 1942) made an extremely witty reply. Also present at the dinner, which was a great success, was the Assistant Commissioner of Police, whose area in Copenhagen includes the Royal Palace. Had he not been in Cyprus he would have sat next to the King at the Copenhagen Tattoo.

When Jimmy returns from Cyprus this year he intends visiting all his old friends in England, so everyone who considers himself to be in that category is hereby warned!

Yours faithfully,

TED TAYLOR.

P.S. Since writing the above I have met Torquil Robson, ex-4th/5th Bn. The Queen's Own, who is the Fina petrol representative here in Cyprus.



Lt.-Gen. Sir William P. Oliver, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., O.B.E., D.L.  
British High Commission,  
Canberra.  
15th December, 1964.

Dear Raymond,

I have been meaning to write to you to tell you of an instant which may be of interest to the Regiment. When Her Royal Highness Princess Marina Duchess of Kent was given a Civic Welcome at the Sydney Town Hall on 30th September last, the New South Wales Police Military Band was on parade performing duty as the State Band for New South Wales.

After the welcoming address by the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Her Royal Highness inspected the Police Band. The Musical Director of this band is Mr. George E. Jackson, who was Bandmaster of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment from 1938-1950.

On speaking to him she discovered that the last time they had met had been when he had been on parade as Bandmaster when Her Royal Highness inspected the Battalion at Shorncliffe Camp.

Her Royal Highness was naturally very pleased to meet him again.

Yours ever,  
BILL OLIVER.

Major C. S. Clarke (Retd.),  
The Gymnasium,  
Sherborne School,  
Dorset.  
7th December, 1964.

The Editor, Invicta.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to notify you of my change in address. I now live at: Orchard House, Long Burton, Sherborne, Dorset.

Whereas I continue to put boys over the horse (wooden variety), in an endeavour to keep them (the boys) fit, my wife concerns herself with the fitness and welfare of the horse (flesh and blood variety), in an endeavour to supplement our income!

Having followed my uncle, Col. V. S. Clarke (Nobby) into The Queen's Own, I have now followed him into Dorset, where he lives, with his wife, at Beaminster, some 15 miles from here.

Col. and Mrs. Brounlie are even closer neighbours, being a mere three miles away.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTOPHER CLARKE.

30 Clock House Road,  
Beckenham, Kent.  
5th January, 1965.

The Editor, Invicta.

Dear Sir,

The "Big Regiment"—or any other form of re-organisation—may or may not be a good thing for the T.A. I do not want to air any views on that particular problem until there is something a little more concrete to discuss.

However, I do not think that any objective discussion will ever take place if the T.A. rush about "forming square" in defence of their traditions and "ancient associations with town and county," led by 4th Bn. The Buffs (T.A.)!

If there is a genuine conflict between efficiency and tradition, then surely efficiency must be the prime consideration. The purpose of fostering tradition, as I understand it, is to encourage pride of unit and, through this, morale. But morale can never be high in a unit which allows its past history to dominate its future. It was, after all, the New Model Army which won the Civil War.

I should add that I am not an iconoclast; I have served in The Buffs as well as in The Queen's Own and am proud of both. But if the T.A. is to become a form of county club, then I suspect we may not be doing the job we are supposed—and, incidentally, paid—to do.

Finally, might I respectfully suggest to the Invicta correspondent of 4 Buffs (T.A.) that he investigates just how much interest in local affairs there is in his unit by making a check on the number of subscriptions to the local newspapers! I believe the results would surprise him!

Yours faithfully,  
S R. FINNIS.

(Lt. S. R. Finnis—T.A. Officer, 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.))

P.O. Box 596,  
Bulawayo,  
Rhodesia.  
3rd December, 1964.

The Editor, Invicta.

Dear Sir,

I refer to the interesting exercise of market research on page 401 of October's Invicta and I am looking forward to the results; although I am not returning the questionnaire, I thought that I might as well get my word in.

My liking would be for a regular series of articles highlighting items of particular interest in the regimental museums, giving the background story and, where desirable, reproducing the odd print to illustrate how the regiment concerned was dressed and equipped at the time. In addition, I should think that a complete catalogue of the medals in the possession of the museums might prove of general interest, while it would certainly be fascinating to medal collectors like myself.

I am still a part-time soldier of 9th Bn. Royal Rhodesia Regt. and I have recently been transferred to the "T" Sec. This raises an interesting speculation because if we wicked, rebellious and treasonable white Rhodesians declare independence on a unilateral basis, Mr. Harold Wilson might send I Queen's Own Buffs to chastise us. What do I do then? I might eventually be the only man in history to possess the unique, though unenviable, distinction of having served with and against The Buffs!

Kind regards,  
Yours faithfully,  
K. D. JACKSON,  
(late 2 Buffs).

35 Kingston Avenue,  
Seacombe Gardens,  
South Australia.  
27th December, 1964.

The Editor, Invicta.

Dear Colonel Grace,

Firstly, I wish you the compliments of the season, and I trust you have a very happy and prosperous New Year. I have now received three of my copies of Invicta since I became a subscriber (Aug., Sept. and Oct.), and they are really good. I now look forward eagerly every month for its arrival. It is a fine magazine, well worth the money; and it is a real credit to you as Editor. I feel that the most interesting articles are your Announcements and Page; News of the 1st Bn.; and News of the T.A. Bns. I thought I would let you know from a collector's point of view, and from one interested in the Regiment, who has never had anything to do with the Regiment except that I was born in Kent.

I am keen to collect photographs of the Regiment and the British Army in general, and Cap Badges. If anyone could assist me in any way, I would be glad to hear from them.

I send you my very best wishes and hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,  
LAWRENCE J. PHILLIPS.

From Brigadier H. S. Brown  
Badrick Cottage,  
New Road,  
Esher, Surrey.  
10th December, 1964.

The Editor, Invicta.

Dear Sir,

Fifty years after the formation of the 8th Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (1914/1919) and 45 years after the first dinner, the following 12 Officers attended the Annual Dinner at the East India and Sports Club, St. James's Square, on Saturday, 5th December, 1964:—

Brig. H. S. Brown, M.C., T.D., in the chair, Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., O.B.E., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. A. G. Fuller, Lt.-Col. H. L. Lewis, Major S. G. Thompson, M.C., Capt. R. P. Baker, M.C., Capt. J. H. Seife, M.C., Messrs. F. M. Crowe, J. B. Cryer, M.C., H. Quallett Foord, D. G. Godden, H. R. James.

This year we particularly remembered Brig. Noel Whitty, one-time Commanding Officer of the Battalion.

Yours faithfully,  
H. S. BROWN.

3 Hillside Close,  
Thorpe St. Andrew,  
Norwich.  
24th December, 1964.

The Editor, Invicta.

Dear Sir,

I notice in the December issue of Invicta that the 2nd Bn. The Buffs is holding a reunion for members from World War II. Though I look for it regularly, I have never yet seen any announcement of a reunion of members of the 1st Battalion. I should be most grateful if you would let me know if such a reunion is ever held or is contemplated in the future; and if not, why not?

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES W. K. POTTS.

(Served in 1 Buffs, World War II, and is the author of "Soldier in the Sand"—Ed.)

17th December, 1964.

The Editor, Invicta.

Dear Colonel Grace,

I would like, through the medium of your magazine, to express my many thanks to all the Officers of the Regiment who have very generously given me such a handsome cigarette box on the occasion of my wedding. This is a present that we will much treasure and we hope that any Officer who comes to Munster in his travels will come and see us while we are there.

My many thanks and all good wishes to you for Christmas and the New Year. I hope that we will return to the fold again in Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,

CRISPIN CHAMPION.

(Capt. C. G. Champion—Regular Officer now serving at H.Q. 6 Inf. Bde., B.A.O.R.)

Tanyard,  
Frittenden, Kent.  
14th December, 1964.

Dear Raymond,

Which is Hurley? The answer is that they both are!

When I read the note in Invicta which gave Hurley's address I made a note of it, mentally thinking that we might get him to the Annual Dinner of the Weald Branch and assuming him to be the one-time cross-country runner whom I knew as a C.S.M. in the 2nd Bn. That is the same person who is mentioned by Major Duffy.

In the next month's issue Major Duffy's letter appeared saying it couldn't be Hurley. After that there was only one thing for it and that was to go to Bodiam and find out.

I duly found Hurley. Not "the" cross-country runner but merely "a" runner, namely C.S.M. A. Hurley (6285661), who was with the 1st Bn. at Alamein and who enlisted in 1933.

By now, no doubt, another correspondent may have given you the same information. Anyway, I thought that we had better put the record right.

Best wishes for Christmas,

Yours,

JOHN CLARKE.

(Lt.-Col. J. E. Clarke, M.B.E.—ex-Buffs, 2nd World War Officer—Chairman of the Weald Branch.)

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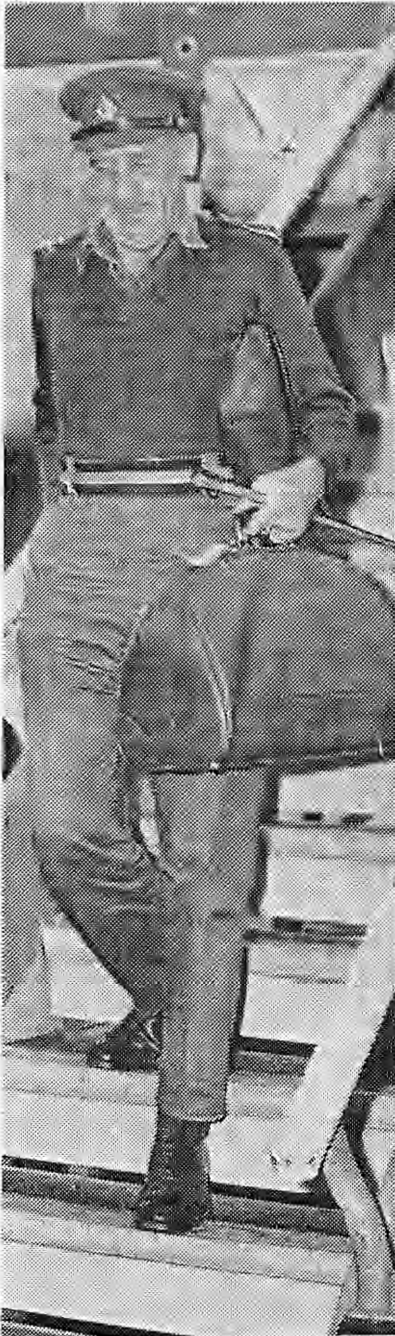
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## News From The 1st Battalion



**O**N the occasion of the return to the U.K. from British Guiana of the 1st Battalion, the following signals were sent:—

From the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment.

Welcome home to you and to All Ranks of 1st Battalion after a good job very well done in British Guiana. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a well earned leave. Best wishes for a Happy New Year.

DENNIS TALBOT,  
Deputy Colonel.

From the Brigade Colonel,  
Home Counties Brigade.

All here at Canterbury welcome you home from British Guiana. Your part in ensuring that the recent elections passed off quietly was fitting climax to an outstandingly successful tour. Enjoy your well earned leave and Christmas with your families and friends.

IAN BATTYE,  
Brigade Colonel.



The Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. Bill MacDonald, comes down the gangway . . . and . . . is immediately handed a telegram of welcome by Capt. Peter Cole.

Photos: "Kentish Express" and "Kentish Gazette."

### The Battalion Returns Home

**A**FTER making our farewells to British Guiana, the account of which by the Commanding Officer you may read below, the Battalion returned home for Christmas by what was surely one of the most erratic of airlifts. As plane after plane, bringing in 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, arrived behind schedule and later managed to stagger off, with seemingly leaden wings, from the Atkinson Field runway, it became daily harder to realise that we live in an age in which air moves are commonplace. Our own arrangements stood up to this performance extremely well, thanks to the hard work of Capt. Mike Clinch, Lt. John MacFarlane, R.A.E.C., and the Regimental Sergeant Major at the British Guiana end, and of Major Chris Griffin and his staff from Home Details at Colchester. But we hope that we may be better served on the air side in the future.

### Farewells to British Guiana

The Commanding Officer writes:—

"It is not our custom to be over-pleased with ourselves or our achievements but neither do we see why we should hide our light under a bushel! For this reason we feel that it is proper to record some of the compliments paid to the Battalion before our departure from British Guiana.

"The highest honour was paid to us by His Excellency The Governor, who invited all the Field Officers to a farewell dinner at Government House. In his after-dinner speech he made it clear that the occasion was by no means setting a precedent: he had not previously extended a similar invitation to any other Battalion and would not do so again until he considered that that battalion's conduct warranted it. He added that it was his intention to inform Her Majesty of the splendid record of this Battalion in British Guiana.

"The 1st Battalion Devon and Dorsets presented us

with a picture which commemorates a very happy liaison between the two units. No two battalions could have got on better together—except perhaps, when on the rugged field!—and this is particularly gratifying when we remember that both Regiments have the same Royal person as their Colonel.

"The British Guiana Police Force presented us with a silver salver, and the Directors of Bookers Sugar Estates gave us six beautiful silver tankards. The speeches made at these presentations, by both the Commissioner of Police and by Mr. Readwin, of Bookers, were almost embarrassingly fulsome; their gifts were unprecedented and deeply appreciated by us all.

"As a return gesture to the Police, with whom we had worked in such close and friendly co-operation for so long, a framed reproduction of that well-known Regimental picture, 'A Man of Kent,' was presented to the Commissioner.

"The British Guiana Volunteer Force gave us their Regimental Flag, which we shall now find occasion to fly once every year. Finally, and quite unexpectedly, one of the local newspapers wrote a 'leader' thanking us for our services. This was quite out of character, in view of the avidity with which the local Press usually took the opportunity to 'have at' the Security Forces throughout our tour. This was, perhaps, the gesture which most truly reflected the impression made by the Battalion upon the people of British Guiana.

"It is right that the junior Officers, the platoon Sergeants, the junior Non-Commissioned Officers and the soldiers should take pride in their achievements. By virtue of our wide dispersal throughout the Colony it was the 'junior' rather than the 'senior' who made and kept our reputation. Now it is the job of all of us to carry that reputation forward into new spheres of activity. While we must not live on or in the past, we must remember that past and try to carry the same standards into the future.



"Have you anything to declare?" Even the Colours have to pass the eagle scrutiny of H.M. Customs and Excise, it seems!  
Photo: "Kentish Express."





Three, of the five, new wives arriving at Gatwick.  
Photo: "Kentish Express."





Soldiers of the 1st Battalion leaving the plane at the end of their 5,000-mile journey

Photo: "Kentish Gazette."

### Congratulatory

On behalf of all members of the Battalion we would like to join in offering our warmest congratulations to Lt.-Col. "Blick" Waring on the award of the O.B.E. made to him in the New Year Honours List.

### Coming Events

The Battalion re-forms at Colchester on the 1st February, as part of 19 Infantry Brigade Group, and we are already looking forward to a fortnight's training in Denmark during the second half of March. In the meanwhile, we wish all readers a very happy New Year.



Photo: "Kentish Express."





Photos: "Kentish Gazette."



**Pte. Elks, who lives in Sturry, reckoned that a warm jacket would keep out the December cold—and who can blame him after nine months of British Guiana heat?**  
Photo: "Kentish Gazette."



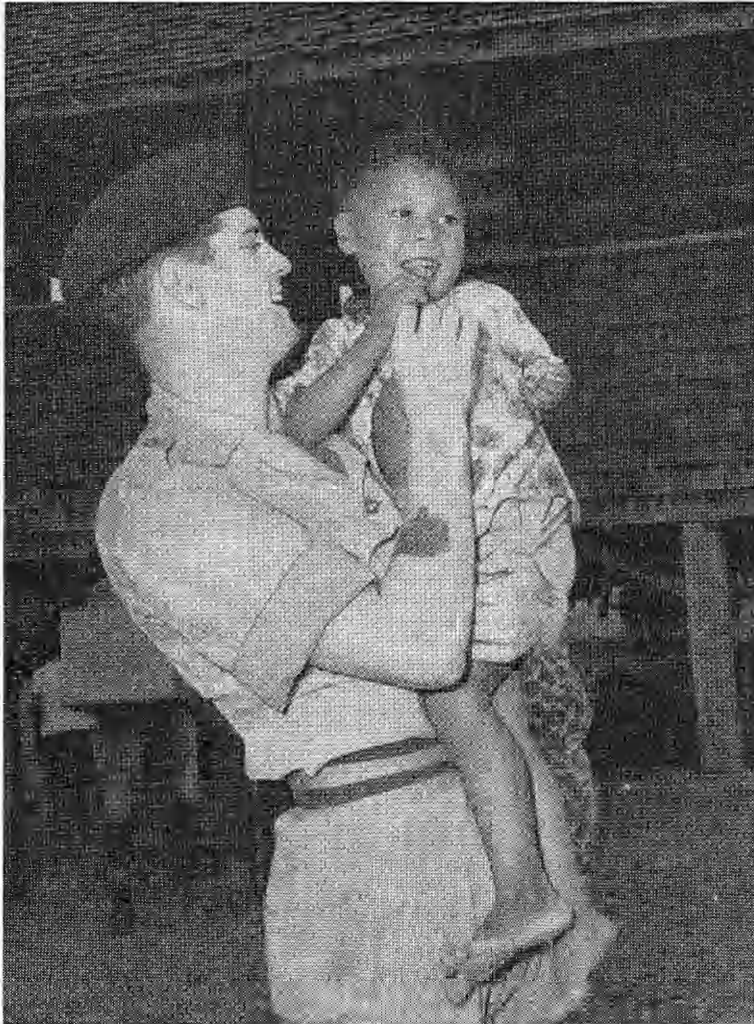


Photo: Public Relations, Strategic Reserve.

"Jungle Bells" was the name given to a very peaceful operation carried out by members of the Army and R.A.F. serving in British Guiana just before the 1st Battalion left for home.

Pictured here is Private Robert Davies (22), 1st Bn. The Queen's Own Buffs, who is a fully trained dog handler in the Regimental Police. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Davies, live at 20 Courtenay Road, Tovil, Maidstone, Kent.

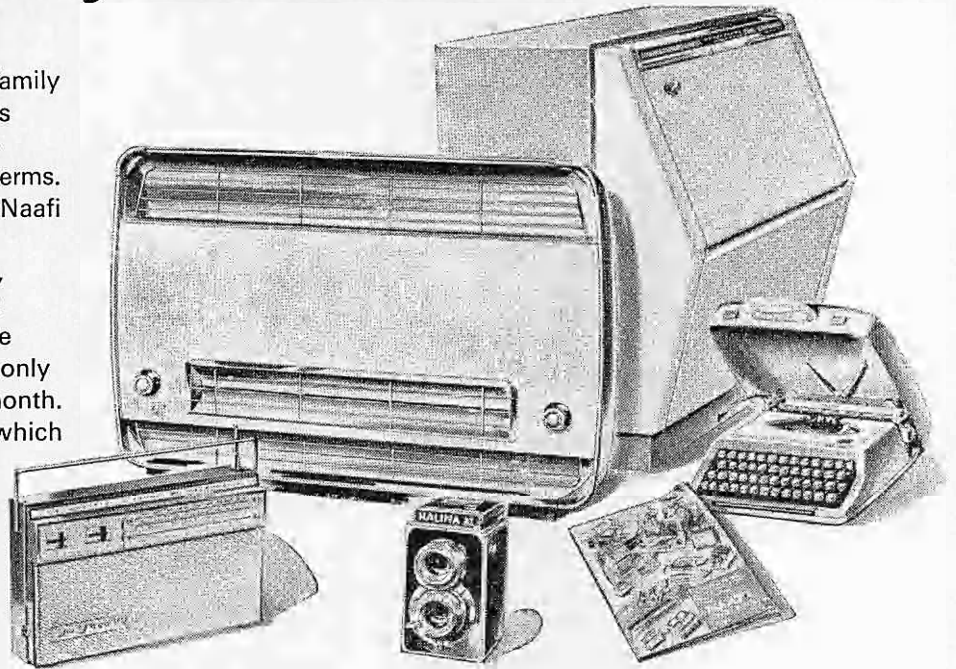
Private Davies was one of a number of Servicemen who contributed towards the buying of Christmas gifts for 300 Amerindian children living at St. Cuthbert's Mission village in the heart of the Demerara jungle.

With several of his comrades, he made a five-hour jungle trek to the village in order to be present when the gifts were distributed.

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## NEWS FROM THE DEPOT

**P**RIOR to Simon Boucher's letter in the November issue it had been agreed with the Editor that the Depot would submit quarterly notes. It is gratifying, therefore, to know in advance that at least one reader will welcome them!

The Regiment is well represented on the Permanent Staff, which, of course, is only right and proper since the Depot is deep in "Queen's Own Buffs Country." Major Derek Woolstencroft commands Training Company and Major Alan Peckham the Junior Soldiers Company; W.O.I Floyd is the Depot R.S.M., W.O.I Martin is Superintending Clerk and W.O.I Mannering is C.S.M. of Training Company; and Lieutenants Patrick Gwilliam and Chris Pearson, together with Lieutenant Philip Critchley, who has just arrived, are Platoon Commanders in Training Company. Both Messrs. Pearson and Gwilliam have recently managed to go into Millbank Hospital with ulcer trouble. We do not know whether this was caused by the food in the Officers' Mess, their previous experiences with the 1st Battalion, or certain attractions at Millbank! However, we feel safe in assuming it was not overwork!

Details concerning the remainder of the Permanent Staff will be given in the next notes.

Although some people leave the Regimental "family" in search of better things (?), they still have the habit of coming back. W.O.I Anderson, S.A.S.C., originally a Buff, is now W.T. Warrant Officer here and is using his not inconsiderable knowledge to good effect. We even get him to smile now and again!

### Training Company

During discussions with past and serving members of the Regiment it is apparent that many are not clear on the badging of recruits to Regiments. This results in the Company Commander being "got at" by well-meaning people who accuse him of posting a Man of Kent, or a

Kentish Man, to another Regiment in the Brigade. Let us try and clear this up.

All recruits are enlisted at Army Information Offices into the Home Counties Brigade and not to a specific Regiment. About four weeks later they are badged to Regiments in accordance with priorities laid down by the Ministry of Defence (Army). Therefore, it does not follow that all recruits from Kent join The Queen's Own Buffs, although those with family or T.A. claims are guaranteed their choice of Regiment. This policy naturally causes some disappointment and it is inevitable that it should do so; the policy, alas, is here to stay!

All recruits spend about 11 weeks with us before joining their Regiments. This is all too short a time in which to get them to a standard whereby they are fit to take their place as a rifleman in a platoon.

Each platoon has its own Passing Out Parade when prizes are awarded to the Best Section Leader, Best Recruit, Best Shot and Best at P.T. We were honoured in having the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment take a Passing Out Parade towards the end of September and this was reported on in the October issue.

### Junior Soldiers Company

The Queen's Own Buffs platoon has had a successful year and has worked hard; they provided most of the Company Basketball Team and particular mention must be made of J/Bdsm. Chadwick, who has always been a keen member of the team. He will be much missed because he has just left to join the 1st Battalion.

The platoon has a certain amount of artistic talent, as several of the boys have had various works and "creations" shown in local exhibitions, as well as in the National Hobbies Exhibition in London. Most of the successes came from J./Dmrs. Bernier and Westoby and J/Bdsm. Richardson, in the pottery class.

A certain amount of "grey matter" is also apparent! Out of the 19 candidates for the Senior Certificate examination over one third were Queen's Own Buffs.

## News From The Territorial Battalions

### 4th Bn. THE BUFFS (T.A.)

**T**HE month of December is always a quiet month for us militarily and a thoroughly rumbustious one in terms of festivities. Sub-units, in theory, withdraw into winter quarters but find, in the cases of three of our Drill Halls at any rate, that the General Post Office have got there first! Where under ordinary circumstances one can sit in comparative comfort and safety listening to lectures on nuclear warfare, peril now lurks in the form of heavy parcels constituting missiles of good cheer cleaving the atmosphere from one corner of the Drill Hall to another as a tactical bound in a greater journey. But the postmen have now departed, the last sacks, stands and pieces of string gone away, the debris of fractured packages which fell by the wayside cleared up and our Drill Halls returned to their proper occupants.

Very little was, in fact, achieved by way of training before Christmas, but there were a large number of seasonal parties within the Battalion, sparked off—no doubt perhaps very surprisingly—by payment of Bounties!

At Faversham, A Company staged major celebrations and made a full scale family occasion of it all with dance band and buffet. The Company Commander proudly reports that for this parade he can show a 95 per cent attendance on Company strength! The time to crow will be when he gets this on a night patrol exercise in February with the weather forecast promising snow!

There was also a B Company Bounty Party at Sittingbourne. This had rather more of a "stag" flavour than the revels at Faversham, the principal motif being the all-male choral efforts of the Band. "Sweet Singing in the Choir" is not really a proper description of the Band's

efforts in this respect, neither need the Red Army look to its choral laurels, but the lusty virility of our choristers commended itself very fully to the occasion and the audience. Christmas presentations were made to Mr. Bill Sinclair and to Mr. and Mrs. Tobin, and the Band gave a wedding gift to Bandsman (Pongo) Waring.

Due to the almost total occupation of the Drill Hall by the Post Office in the case of Shellon Street Drill Hall at Folkestone, D Company were not able to undertake very much in the way of festivities on Bounty-Night but a fair amount of ale was put away and a good, if quiet, evening enjoyed.

C Company's big effort this year was concentrated at Cranbrook, where the Support Platoon put on a really major party which was a resounding success. The evening started very appropriately—as all good things on a solid administrative base should be—with the payment of Bounties by Major Pat Browne to those present; as soon as this was complete "battle commenced."

Over 100 people turned up and, to the music of the Music-a-ires, from Sittingbourne, who brought their own M.C., "we danced, drank and played party games." After one game Major John Prestige, who was enticed from the bar to participate, was seen almost to collapse exhausted. L/Cpl. Payne, on the other hand, ended a game with two nurses on his lap—and won a prize, too, which really does seem rather unfair! Pte. Wall, 449, hopped around on crutches, having been released from hospital only that day after a three-month stay with a broken leg.

For victuals there was a curry and a cold buffet as well, which were greatly enjoyed, and very grateful thanks were accorded to Mrs. Simmons, Mrs. Packham and Mrs. Roberts, all of whom worked really hard to arrange it. The great success of the evening was due

to these ladies and to the members of the Platoon who pitched into a great deal of hard work, and it illustrated the spirit of this outpost.

The big event of Headquarter Company was the Christmas draw which took place at the Garrison Theatre, and some 250 people gathered together. There were 80 prizes to be won, varying from a transistor radio to boxes of chocolates. C.S.M. Shuman was i/c the draw and various dignitaries were called forward to make the lucky dip. Major Clive Ackland discharged this duty with a rare felicity in drawing out one of his own tickets and winning a bottle of sherry! (Did anyone say fiddle? Of course they did, but jealousy will get you nowhere!)

The Company presented Sgt. Arthur Ward with a wrist watch, suitably inscribed, as a small token of gratitude and appreciation for the very great efforts he has made for us during his tour of duty with the Company.

The Colonel and Major John Davison put in many miles and many happy hours in attending all these functions and greatly enjoyed themselves.

As we enter 1965 we are all looking forward to another good year. We shall, all being well, move into our new accommodation at Canterbury; we have our Brigade Camp at Stanford; and we have a number of irons in the fire where imaginative training is concerned which, if they come off, should be exciting and thoroughly worthwhile.

## 5th Bn. THE BUFFS (T.A.)

A FRENZY of activity at Battalion Headquarters (did someone say Kremlin?) during the closing stages of 1964 presaged the issue of the new Training Directive; this has now appeared dated, appropriately enough, 1st January, 1965. And that is a sufficient cue for wishing all readers of "Invicta" a very happy and prosperous New Year.

### Officers' Mess Dinner

As forecast in the last issue the Annual Dinner was held at the Castle Keep Hotel, when some sixty officers, their wives and guests spent a most enjoyable evening. In accordance with precedent, the Commanding Officer spoke after dinner and welcomed our guests, particularly Lt.-Col. and Mrs. F. D. C. Cobb and Major and Mrs. A. D. Peckham. A trio from the Battalion Band provided music for dancing afterwards. It was good to see Alan and Finola Peckham again; to have, as Gunner representative, John Hembury and his wife; and, from the Lancashire Fusiliers, Kevin Corcoran and his wife, too.

### Cannon to the Right—and Left

Thanks to the kindness of Lt.-Col. F. D. C. Cobb we are now the proud possessors of two pieces of very ancient ordnance which flank the main entrance to Battalion Headquarters. It must be said at once that their purpose is purely ornamental and not to repel the Brigade Major and his accompanying staff officers when they visit us shortly for the Annual Inspection! They have been mounted very ingeniously and Mr. Norton and the civilian staff are to be congratulated on a first-class job.

### Proficiency Board Stakes

These are now upon us and our first run-down on the new syllabus was at St. Lawrence College, Ramsgate, where some sixty cadets were presented for examination. A large Board coped successfully with this number of candidates with great *elan*, although the weather was indifferent to a degree. Famous last words for these occasions now include the following:

"Cadet, get those Valor stoves on the move, the Training Major is going to look at the Section Leading Stands!"

### Unconventional Soldiering Ends After 22 Years

W.O.II W. J. Matthews, D.C.M., The Queen's Own Buffs, the Permanent Staff Instructor at Westwood T.A. Centre, is retiring after 22 years of colourful service with the Army. C.S.M. Matthews, who lives with his wife and daughters in Westwood Road, Broadstairs, is shortly taking up employment as a Security Officer with an Assay firm.

He joined the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment in 1940 as a Young Soldier, and after service in the U.K. and No. 4 Commando, C.S.M. Matthews went to the Middle East with 10th Bn. Parachute Regiment, with whom he saw active service in Italy. Later he became a member of the Special Boat Squadron (then commanded by Lt.-Col. Jellicoe, of Special Air Service fame and one of Lt.-Col. David Stirling's original volunteers for the Special Air Service) and was engaged in rescuing Allied prisoners of war from islands off the Italian mainland and running arms to Tito's Partisans.

An unfortunate accident when dropping by parachute put C.S.M. Matthews out of action for the "D" Day landings, but he was soon in Europe with the Cameronians where, as Sniper Sergeant, he was awarded the D.C.M. for gallantry in the field. After VE Day he was transferred to the Royal Irish Fusiliers and found himself en route for the Far East. The end of the war with Japan resulted in the diversion of the Battalion to Egypt, where C.S.M. Matthews served as Medical Sergeant until he was commissioned in 1946.

As an officer, he served in Palestine until he was released from war service in 1948.

After a period in the Malayan Police, during which time he rose to the rank of Assistant Superintendent, C.S.M. Matthews re-enlisted in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment in 1950. He volunteered for, and was accepted for service, in the Malayan Scouts and completed his service with the Special Air Service Regiment.

C.S.M. Matthews was posted to 5th Bn. The Buffs (T.A.) as a member of the permanent staff in 1962, where his experience of unconventional soldiering proved most valuable to H.Q. Company and to the Battalion. A photograph of him appears below.



W.O.II W. J. Matthews, D.C.M.

Photo: "East Kent Times."

### Drill and Diesels

Normally these would not be expected to mix, but W.O.II D. Mirams, of "A" Company (Ramsgate), appears to combine both with ease. As those in the know forecast, his drill course result was directly linked with the number of web belts and suits of battle dress taken to Chelsea Barracks. Since he romped home with an outstanding report, one can only surmise that the Company Store was rather bare! Congratulations.

### Territorial Efficiency Medal

Congratulations to the following on the award of the Territorial Efficiency Medal:

22810817 Sgt. L. S. Smith.  
22517766 Cpl. J. R. Kingston.  
22566143 Cpl. A. J. Denny.

### Christmas Activities

There seemed to be an unusually large number of social gatherings this year, and indeed at times it was difficult to keep pace with all that was going on! The Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess held their Annual Draw at Westwood on 12th December and this proved as successful as the previous one. C.S.M. Lillicrap and his Committee certainly worked in transforming the T.A. Centre, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all.

The Officers' Mess held an informal party on 21st December, and all Companies had social gatherings on Bounty Night. "B" Company staged theirs at a local hotel, and, if noise was any criterion, they were certainly having the whale of a party!

It was against such a background that the Training Directive was being prepared—which probably accounts for many things!

### Unexpected Visitor

It was very nice indeed to see W.O.I (R.S.M.) Palmer during his quick return visit to Westwood the other day. We look forward to seeing him during our visit to Stanford Training Area in May.

### Anti-Tank Experts?

W.O.II Walters and Sgt. Atkins spent (if reports are to be believed!) an alarming week of training on the B.A.T., under the auspices of the School of Infantry touring team. One of them is alleged to have lost considerable weight on gun drill—but surely this is the result of missed meals and not his exertions at Canterbury?!

### G.O.C.'s Study Weekend

The Commanding Officer, Major Graham Turner, and the Adjutant attended this weekend at Shorncliffe. The highlight was the Cocktail Party at the Constable's Tower; for the Adjutant this proved to be somewhat of a nostalgic return to what used to be the haunts of Headquarters, East Kent Sub-District, towards the end of the war. The fact that his fan belt had broken and the fog had closed in produced little reaction at all!

## 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)

THE Permanent Staff have departed on block leave; the drill-halls are occupied by the caretakers doubling for all ranks, from C.O. to bandboy; and attendance at drill nights seems to take second place to parties; in short, Christmas is immobilizing the T.A. again! "C" Company have as usual lost their drill hall to the G.P.O. and lead a tenuous existence hidden away in the Company office.

### Parties I

Only "A" Company held the traditional children's party so far this year and, by all accounts, it was a shattering experience. "This is the only time of the year," they report, "when our noble C.S.M. loses his grip." Under a heavy barrage of cream buns, against a deafening background of crackers and whistles, surrounded and outnumbered by scores of little Fantasians, he surrenders and dons the P.O.W. garb of red robe and hood fringed with white. To think that only an hour before he was calling us all "idle, long-haired nits"!

### Parties II

On the 12th December, the Officers held their annual cocktail party at Tonbridge. As seems quite inevitable on this particular occasion, the weather was foul, but this never seems to deter our guests, and a good crowd assembled to demolish the P.M.C.'s brew and the magnificent buffet supper prepared by the Mess Staff. The Deputy Colonel was able to attend, and it was also good to see several other familiar faces, including Georgie Wood, Roy Waring and Tom Coath. All in all, a most successful evening.

### Parties III

Headquarter Company have, we fear, behaved badly towards the anti-tank Gunners of the Honourable Artillery Company! It appears that a "tramps ball" was held at Southborough on 5th January and a high old time was had by all concerned, ending in the wee small hours. The H.A.C., who had been invited to this occasion and well entertained, were then taken out the next morning to have holes blasted out for their guns by the Assault Pioneers. Hangover cures are all very well, but this sounds like undeclared war!

### Recruiting

The results recently have been rather impressive. "A" Company are now stronger by the addition of Ptes. Kerr, Willard, White, Gorman, Dean, Stopes and Stevens, whilst Headquarter Company have been joined by Ptes. Colstock, Flower, Godfrey, Hemmings, Williams and Wilson. Last but not least, Pte. Miller has joined "C" Company. "A" Company have also acquired the services of 2/Lt. Tony Foster and Officer/Cadet Robin Crosher who are attached to us, whilst working in the Maidstone area. To all these additions to our strength we extend a very warm welcome and wish them the best of luck in their future careers with us. Batons, field-marshals, knapsacks for carrying in, may be obtained from the Quartermaster. It is rather interesting to note that O.C. Headquarter Company, Major Mike Devonshire, is sure that his recruits have come in through personal contacts only, and that, unfortunately, no new recruiting gimmick has been discovered.

### Obituary

It is with great regret that we have to record the death of Pte. Steers, of Headquarter Company. We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Steers, and to her three children.

### A Retirement

A sad piece of news this month is that Major Don Pennells, of "C" Company, is to retire from the T.A. Don Pennells is one of that very small nucleus left to the battalion with war-time experience and with his departure the Old Guard gets that much smaller. He will be missed by all, and especially by his own Company, who have been harried up Snowdon, round the Peak District and through every tactically-sited patch of mud in South-East England. (And they can field a faster marching team than any other company in the battalion.)

The post of O.C. "C" Company will be filled by that wild Highland man from the Lowland Brigade, Major Bill Murray, who is transferring from the Cameronians to join us. We welcome Bill, who is already well-known to us, and wish him whatever dark Celtic wish is appropriate to these occasions.

### A New Game

"D" Company have found a pair of fencing bayonets and helmets in a corner of C/Sgt. Sayer's glory hole, and bayonet versus bayonet has now taken its place along with badminton and table tennis as a Company sport. It's interesting to note that, when one is actually lined up and fighting it out, the approved "On Guard—Point—Withdraw—On Guard" drill is the best way to get your opponent's bayonet clanking smartly on target—you! It is also a good deal more tiring than the pamphlets say, and a particularly amusing game is to "mistime" a two-minute round to four minutes, when the fighters will, with any luck, let fall their rifles and sink gracefully to the ground. (Memo for Major Ogilvie—must get the Officers fit for 1965).

### The Officers Bemused and Defeated

It is a well-known fact in the T.A. that the administration of a battalion is undertaken by the Quartermaster and his staff, and the intricacies of the operation are much too complicated to be mastered by Territorial Officers. It came as a rather nasty shock, therefore, at the Officers' Training Weekend of the 28th/29th November to discover that our Quartermaster, Captain John Grubb, does not share this view. It came as an even nastier shock to discover that our Company vehicles did not really belong to us at all, and might be withdrawn at the C.O.'s discretion for other purposes... even the Company Commanders' champs, gentlemen!

Having destroyed our basic and cherished beliefs, the C.O. then proceeded to sort us out tactically on an "advance



to contact" exercise, which appeared to culminate in complete victory for The Queen's Own until the Signal Platoon's carefully prepared tape recording of the enemy wireless net revealed that we were all within ten seconds of being annihilated in a well-prepared trap. As the ten seconds were spent in furious and inconclusive argument, we shall, unfortunately, be an advanced guard company short at camp.

The highlight of the weekend, however, was an admirable lecture by Dr. Ernest Newman, well-known to military audiences the world over who, in a period of an hour, which seemed no longer than ten minutes to his audience, gave a

remarkably lucid and fascinating tour of the World's trouble spots. Unfortunately, the C.O. ruled that Dr. Newman must be allowed to catch his last train—we could have listened to him for another two hours.

#### Tailpiece

"A" Company Commander admits to five circuits of the Mereworth Woods camp before realising he was lost. His P.S.I. said nothing, but removed the Company for a map reading exercise when his Company Commander was safely tied up on a Brigade weekend.

## NEWS FROM THE CADET BATTALIONS



Colonel F. K. Theobald, M.B.E., T.D., whose photograph appears opposite, was recently appointed Commandant of the Kent County Army Cadet Force in succession to Colonel Roy Waring. Although originally commissioned, in 1931, into 5 R.W.K. (T.A.), he commanded 2nd A.C.F. Bn. The Buffs from 1952-56 and hence the Dragon in his cap.

Photo: "Kent Messenger."

### The County Commandant's Column

**L**ET me start my first epistle in this newsletters by wishing you all a very happy and flourishing New Year with many new recruits in all detachments that are not already full!

I must first of all correct a mistake in the last newsletter. In it R.S.M. Painting was described as coming from the Grenadier Guards—he has somewhat forcibly pointed out, as befits a W.O.I., that he was in fact a member of the Coldstream! This awful clanger having been put right I hope that my predecessor and myself may, if invited, enter the Sergeants' Mess at Camp with head erect and conscience clear!

One very sad happening since our last letter was the untimely death of Capt. Clarke, of Dover Detachment. His promotion to Captain and appointment as Adjutant of the 2nd Buffs came through on the day of his death. Two other Officers have been in hospital with serious operations—Capt. Hutchison, of St. Mary Cray Detachment, and Col. A. A. E. Merlott-Chitty, who is Honorary Colonel of 2 Buffs, and will be remembered with affection by many of the older hands as our Commandant from 1952 to 1956. I hear they are both now on the way to recovery and we hope to see them again in action soon.

Since I took over just over two months ago I have been taking stock of our position and I shall shortly be writing to you all on various points on which I feel we may, in some places, be slipping a little. In this connection I have prepared, primarily for the benefit of Headquarter

Staff Officers, an "aide memoire" listing a number of points which I should like them to discuss with Detachment Commanders when they visit them, with a view to seeing where we can be of help. I am going to circulate this memory aid to all Commanding Officers and Detachment Commanders so that you can read it in advance, and yourselves take stock and make some New Year resolutions where necessary!

I am sorry I could not be at the boxing competitions. I had already contracted to go to a Commandants' weekend at Frimley on that day, but I hope this won't happen again. Congratulations to Lt.-Col. Higgins and his helpers on their efforts with the boxing. I wonder how many of you realise the enormous amount of work involved in this? Whilst on the subject of sport I hope to see a record entry in the cross-country in March. I also heard at Frimley that swimming will in future be a sport in which there will be competitions up to national level. Particulars will be circulated shortly.

Congratulations to the New Romney Detachment on their really excellent turnout at their annual inspection recently (I understand their Commanding Officer is presenting them with a cow to go with the "Bull"!); to the 1st A.C.F. Bn. The Queen's Own on the high standard shown in their competitions on their recent training day; to Ditton and Tonbridge Detachments who, under their new Detachment Commanders, have vastly increased their numbers; to Swanley Detachment who, again under a new Detachment Commander, have re-opened and at their first Cert. "A" examination scored a possible seven passes out of seven entrants, of whom four passed with credit; to Pilgrims School on their first school magazine; and to everybody else not mentioned above and for their excellent work which has not been brought to my notice.

**Shooting—National Cadet Meeting at Bisley, October, 1964**

Last year the Army Cadet Force Association accepted four teams from Kent A.C.F., the 1st Bn. The Buffs being the unlucky team not to be selected. The weather promised to be fine, but on the Sunday morning there was thick fog, and this only cleared sufficiently for some ties to be shot off at 100 yards, but the Frankfort Challenge Shield had to be cancelled.

The full results were as follows:—

Unit	Morning		Cadet hundred		Grand Camp		Total Score	Ch'ship Place
	200x	300x	200x	300x	Total	Total		
<b>2 ACF Bn. Buffs</b>								
Sgt. Shilling .	25	26	51	22	20	42	93	55 148 (7)
Sgt. Gershon .	30	28	58	29	29	58	116	64 180 (1)
Cpl. Boxall...	28	28	56	28	30	58	114	58 172 (2)
L/Cpl. Lewis	29	25	54	22	26	48	102	55 157 (5)
<b>1 ACF Bn. RWK</b>								
Sgt. King ....	29	28	57	31	28	59	116	53 169 (3)
L/Cpl. Loughrey	21	25	46	19	21	40	86	— — —
Sgt. Midson .	23	17	40	20	25	45	85	43 128 (10)
Cpl. Smith ...	24	27	51	23	23	46	97	— — —
<b>2 ACF Bn. RWK</b>								
Sgt. R. Croucher .	23	24	47	23	22	45	92	44 136 (9)
Sgt. J. Croucher .	25	25	50	24	23	47	97	45 142 (8)
Cpl. Bennett.	25	28	53	14	21	35	88	— — —
L/Cpl. Ridley	25	21	46	23	25	48	94	— — —

Cadet Hundred badges were won by Gershon and Boxall (2 Buffs) and King (1 R.W.K.). Sgt. King, 1 R.W.K., is to be congratulated on being placed first among those of the county who won their Cadet Hundred badges. In the grand total of the meeting both he and Sgt. Gershon scored 116 points out of a possible 140, indicative of some fine steady shooting.

**Shooting Course, St. Mary's Bay**

There will be two courses for cadets in the early spring, the dates for which are to be the weekend of 27th/28th February and the weekend of 6th/7th March. There will be vacancies for 20 cadets on each of these two courses.

**1st A.C.F. Bn. The Buffs**

**MARGATE**

Capt. A. G. Winch, D.F.C., has moved on from Herne Bay and his new abode is the Hawley Square Drill Hall at Margate.

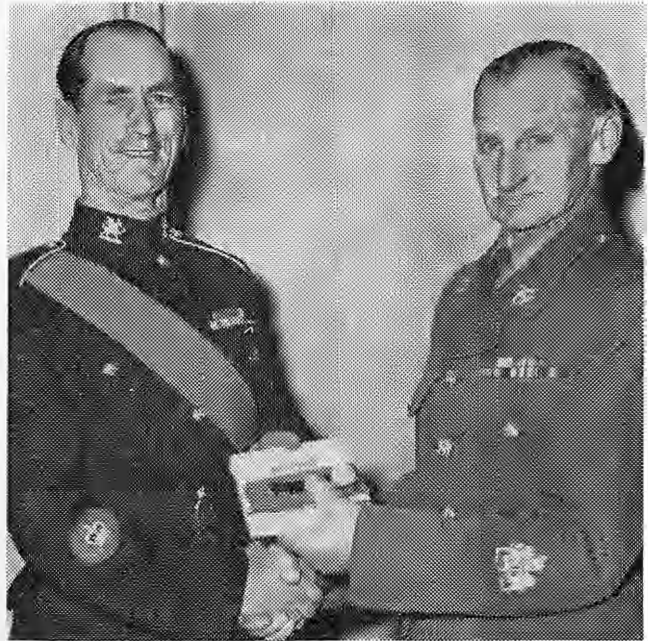
There has been much to do in order to provide more fodder for the coming Certificate "A" Boards. However, we have pressed on with the training and have even done a little recruiting on the way.

Training and adventure have gone very well in the last few months. A weekend camp at the Wouldham Bridging Camp, spent in practical handling of assault boats with an evening exercise thrown in for good measure, was time well spent. Boating in all its aspects is now accepted, and it is hoped that in the New Year a full programme will be operated which will entail raft building and operation. A few comical acts have been experienced during the initial instruction on "How not to" wear a life-jacket. However, we got by and it now takes but a few minutes for all crews to make ready for the boats.

In basic training we are looking forward confidently to the coming Certificate "A" Part II Examination.

**DEAL**

Since our last News Sheet we have been very active. Two weekend training days have proved very successful and we face the first Certificate "A" Examination since the re-organisation of the Detachment with every confidence. A well attended and very enjoyable social evening was held at Cadet H.Q.'s in November. Three cadets passed the Preliminary Certificate "A" Test at Canterbury.



R.S.M. J. E. Jackson congratulates R.S.M. Wesley Taber after his retirement presentation.

Photo: "Kentish Gazette."

Retiring as Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Army Cadet Force Battalion, The Buffs, Mr. Wesley Taber, of 84 Grand Drive, Herne Bay, was feted by his fellow sergeants and officers recently.

Mr. Taber, who is 70, was presented with a wristwatch to commemorate his 14 years with the cadets—11 of them as R.S.M. of The Buffs—at a party held in his honour at the Sergeants' Mess, Leros Barracks, Canterbury.

Mr. Taber, who retired on December 31, served in the Canadian Army in the First World War and in the Home Guard in the 1939-45 War. As R.S.M. of the Kent cadets, he was attached to the Whitstable Detachment. His successor will be Sergt.-Major Inst. J. E. Jackson, of the Canterbury Detachment.

The presentation was carried out by Mrs. K. A. Thomas, wife of the Commanding Officer, Major Thomas, who also presented a wall barometer to Lt. A. E. Leeds, retiring as Commanding Officer of the Faversham Detachment after seven years.



Mrs. K. A. Thomas, wife of the Commanding Officer, presented Lt. A. E. Leeds, retiring Commanding Officer of the Faversham Detachment, with a wall barometer.

Photo: "Kentish Gazette."



### WHITSTABLE

Quite a busy three months as usual, just a few activities are mentioned herewith in 1964:—

13th September: Attended Battalion Shoot at Conyer Range; 14th September: Representatives attended Whitstable Youth Council Meeting; 19th/20th September: Duke of Edinburgh camping weekend at Acrise Wood, Folkestone.

17th/18th October: Detachment provided Staff and Instructors for Battalion; N.C.O.'s Cadre at W.E.T.C., St. Mary's Bay.

4th November: Demonstration by Detachment at Whitstable Festival of Remembrance; 8th November: Detachment took part in Remembrance Parade; 22nd November: Two cadets attended Certificate "A" Part II at Canterbury and both passed; 27th November: Hand-over of Detachment by Capt. C. E. Taber to 2/Lt. M. B. Evans; 29th November: Duke of Edinburgh Physical Efficiency Tests.

6th December: Three cadets passed Certificate "A" Preliminary Test at Canterbury; 12th December: Unit

Jumble Sale; 14th December: Representatives attended Whitstable Youth Council Meeting.

The most memorable event was the handing over of the Detachment to 2/Lt. M. B. Evans by Capt. C. E. Taber, who had commanded the Unit for 11 years, in addition to the duties of Battalion Training Officer.

The guest of honour was Col. F. K. Theobald, M.B.E. T.D., the County Cadet Commandant. Amongst the other guests were Major S. E. C. Thomas, the Commanding Officer of 1 A.C.F. Bn. Buffs, and Councillors E. J. C. Greenhouse and Miss M. A. Powell, both ex-Chairmen of Whitstable Urban Council.

Col. Theobald, in speaking, said: "It has always been my opinion that this Unit is the best in Kent and I should say it is probably one of the best in the country." He then told the assembly that it was his intention to make Capt. Taber the Battalion Commander when Major Thomas retires in May.

Capt. Taber was presented by Cadet S./M. Bishop with a pewter tankard as a token of the boys' gratitude.

The promotion has just been notified of 2/Lt. Evans to Lieut., a most fitting start to his new appointment. Many congratulations.



The Regimental Secretary with the four cadets of the Canterbury Detachment of the First A.C.F. Battalion The Buffs after presenting them with their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze awards. The cadets are, left to right: Cdt. S./M. G. Kennett, Cdt. Cpl. A. Brown, Cdt. Cpl. R. Cheeseman and Cdt. C. Morley. On the extreme right is Lt. C. W. Cole (Detachment Commander).

Photo: "Kentish Gazette."

## 2nd A.C.F. Bn. The Buffs

In October several members of the Battalion, under the command of Capt. E. Newman, participated in a week-end exercise with members of the 4th Bn. The Buffs T.A. The theme was "patrolling." The 37 cadets taking part learnt a lot from this comprehensive exercise. We wish to thank Major Auld for this profitable and pleasant weekend.

Annual Inspections for 1964-65 commenced in November and we have already been informed that New Romney Detachment maintained the high standard which is expected from them.

We are happy to welcome to the Battalion Lt. Paisley, who transferred from Swanley Detachment. He has joined us as Adjutant.

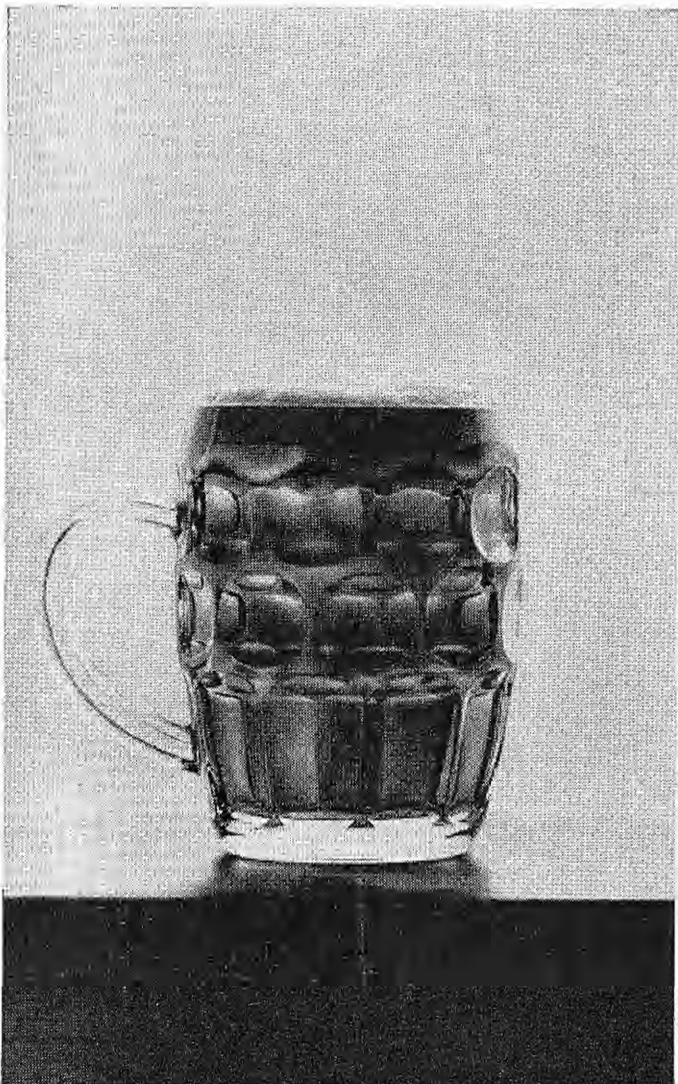
Hitherto, this column has been written by Lt. Bob

Clark, but I am sorry to report that after a very short illness he died suddenly. This sad loss was a great blow, not only to his wife and family but to all of us in the Battalion. Bob was a quiet, efficient type of officer, who got on well with everyone and was very popular with the cadets. He will be a great loss to the Unit. Our sympathies go to Mrs. Clark and her children.

## 1 A.C.F. Bn. R.W.K.

We are now in the throes of Annual Inspections and so far two Detachments at Beckenham and Penge have been inspected by Lt.-Col. P. N. Elgood, Commanding 4/5 Bn. Queen's Own; the result is not yet to hand but we are hoping for a favourable report.

On Sunday, 18th October, a Certificate "A," Part I Examination was held at Sidcup. Out of 22 candidates



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entered, 19 passed, 10 of these with credit. These results continue the high standard of passes which this Battalion maintains.

We would like to welcome 2/Lt. S. J. Goff, who left the peace and quiet of the Devon countryside to join this Battalion; his experience and knowledge of Okehampton Camp may prove to be very useful in the coming year. Also we would like to welcome Mr. A. McCartie (an ex-Pipe Major from the Regular Army), who at the moment is training some of the cadets of the Battalion Band on the bagpipes and is giving the Drummers greater experience in playing with them. The cadets' efforts on the bagpipes, at times, were little less than horrific; we are reliably informed that steady progress is being made, although the caretaker at Sidcup has expressed grave doubts about this.

Prior to using the local Press for publicity and recruiting measures later in the New Year, we are now submitting weekly reports on various Detachments' activities which appear in the Detachments' local papers. These reports each week orientate the local Press towards the Army Cadet Force, who now seem very willing to give assistance and attend with photographers at cadet functions.

## 2 A.C.F. Bn. R.W.K.

The members of this Army Cadet Force Battalion welcome the County Regiment and the ex-cadets now serving with it, on its return to the U.K. from British Guiana. A visit was made to the Battalion's Barracks by one of our A.C.F. Officers and although the Barracks have not changed much since he was stationed there 20 years ago, he now feels that the motor mileage allowance should be increased as he drove round the one way street system in Colchester four times before arriving at the guard room!

Since the last Newsletter, two Certificate "A" Part I Examinations have been held and over 50 cadets attended. This was the first examination in which cadets from the recently formed Swanley Detachment took part. Lt. R. C. Osman is to be congratulated on the results. Every one of his cadets passed and a high proportion received credit marks. A Certificate "A" Part II held at The Barracks, Maidstone, resulted in only one failure. These results indicate the hard work put in by Detachment Commanders and their Sergeant Major Instructors, not forgetting the assistance given by P.S.I.'s attached to T.A. Battalions.

Despite a cold and wet day the Battalion paraded at Milton open range on Sunday, 29th November, 1964, for the annual Inter-Detachment Shoot. Snodland Detachment were able to produce the winning team, but all Detachments are to be congratulated on the improving standard of shooting.

The Battalion welcomes Lt. M. E. Bennett, who has transferred to Kent from Surrey A.C.F. He has been posted to Pembury Detachment.

On 26th and 27th September the Tonbridge Detachment was invited by O.C. "C" Coy. 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.) to join them in an exercise in the Snowdonia area of North Wales. One Officer and seven cadets accepted the invitation. Transport by road was arranged by the T.A. Coy., leaving Sevenoaks at 0830 hours on Friday, 25th September, 1964. The headmaster of the school to which the cadets attended kindly allowed them to have Friday off. Thus it will be seen that transportation to the Snowdonia area presented no difficulties.

Arriving at the hotel in Pen-y-pass, which is at the foot of the Snowdonia Range at 1800 hours, camp was set up ready for an early start in the morning. After breakfast it was decided to climb in groups of four—this being an ideal number both for control and feeding—and the cadets were formed into two groups each commanded by an Officer. The climb started at 0915 hours and it was decided to take in Grib Cloch (3,023 feet) and Grib-y-Ddlys (3,493 feet) and thence to Snowdon (3,561 feet).

From previous experience it was known that this was a good safe route. Each cadet in the group took turns as leader. Each group was in possession of a map (1in. to 1 mile) and compass bearings were available from certain points along the route back to the hotel. These were only

used in the event of prolonged bad visibility or darkness. Articles carried were—pack, mess tin, waterbottle filled, groundsheet, a thick pullover and ingredients for making tea and a light snack.

The first three-quarter-mile was a gentle climb. Grib Cloch was tackled from an angle rather than straight up. The first half-mile was loose shale which made climbing difficult. After the shale a track was found going in a westerly direction. This was followed until we reached 2,816 feet. As this track did not go to the summit of Grib Cloch, it was decided to leave it and climb the 200 feet to the summit. However, at this point visibility was bad but after a short hail storm visibility cleared and the sun shone. At 1120 hours the summit was reached.

Everyone was in good form and after a short rest, we proceeded to Grib-y-Ddlys (3,493 feet). This entailed a descent to 2,856 feet and then a climb of 637 feet to the summit. At 2,560 feet, we found the track we had previously left and this took us to the summit which we reached at 1310 hours. From here it was another descent to 3,250 feet and then a stiff climb to the summit of Snowdon (3,561 feet). During the climb a certain amount of rock climbing was enjoyed; none of it was dangerous. At 3,512 feet we came on to the Snowdon railway track and then followed the track for the remaining few feet to the summit, which we reached at 1510 hours. It was found that some of the T.A. groups were still climbing.

Leaving the summit at 1600 hours, we descended via Llyn Llydaw, a lake, to 2,000 feet. We arrived at 1900 hours and camped for the night. In the morning we descended to the hotel where breakfast was prepared. At 1100 hours on Sunday we left by road for Sevenoaks, arriving at 2130 hours.

The weekend had been worthwhile and map reading had been carried out over very difficult country. Each cadet had a turn at leading the group. Camping and group preparation of meals had been taught. In addition, the physical exercise had benefited everyone.

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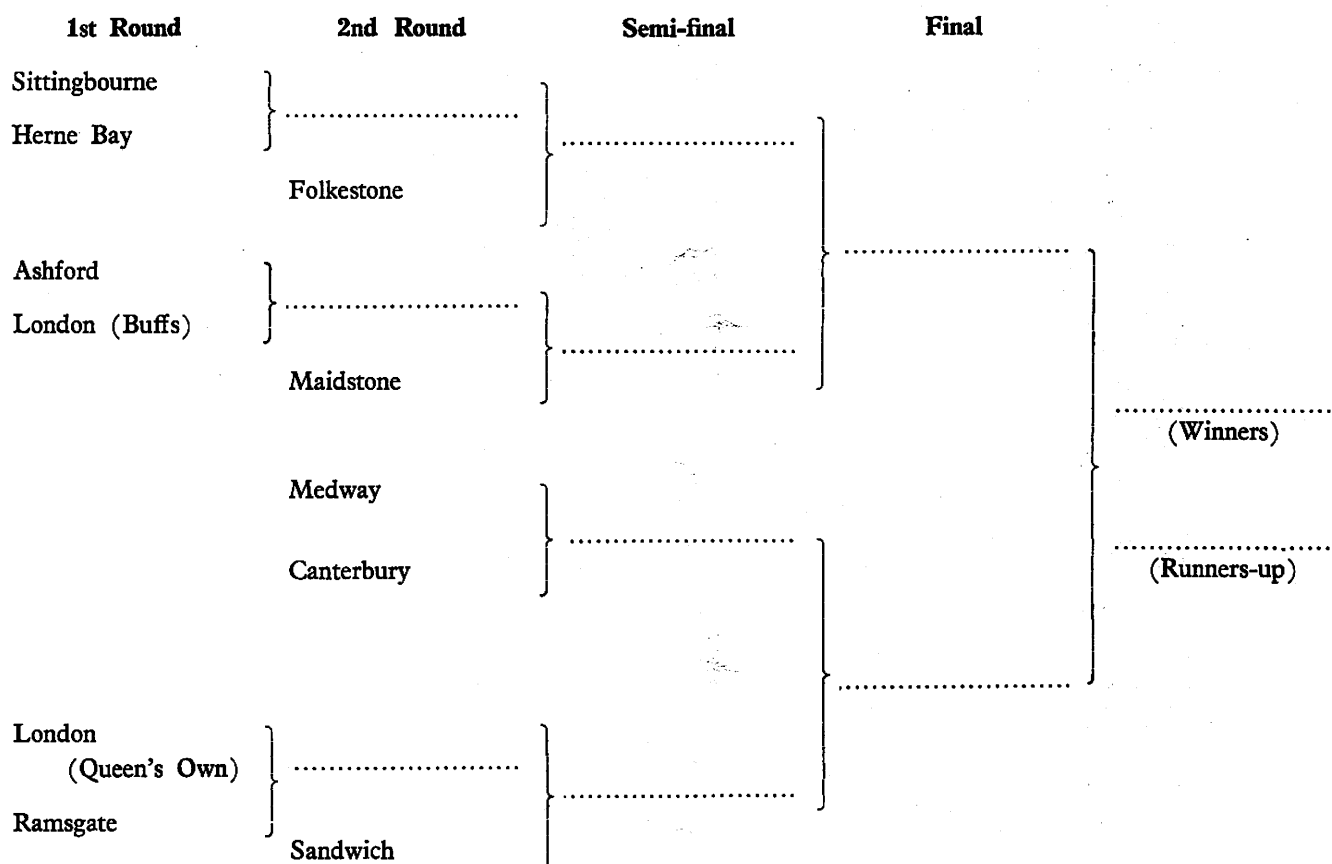


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2nd Round to be completed **BY NOT LATER THAN** 30th April.

Semi-finals to be completed **BY NOT LATER THAN** 31st May.

The Final will be played on a date and at a place and time to be announced later, largely dependent upon which two Branches reach the Final.

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## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

### ASHFORD

TO all fellow Branches and those serving, we of Ashford send all the very best wishes for 1965. Our monthly meeting was well attended, although a few regular faces were absent. We were pleased to have Major Cole with us and are pleased he has accepted the office of Branch President.

All members offered their sincerest wishes to Mr. Filmer, of Lenham, who celebrated his Golden Wedding Anniversary on 12th December, 1964. To him and his dear lady we wish many more happy years ahead. We are all pleased to hear of the progress of Mr. Jess Bridgeland, who is at present in St. Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, and awaiting another operation. To him we wish a speedy recovery to good health. His wife wrote to thank us all for the donation made to her.

On 12th December some of our members attended the Bounty Night celebrations of "C" Coy. The Buffs (T.A.) with their wives and thoroughly enjoyed the whole evening. To "C" Coy. we offer our greatest thanks, especially to those who worked "behind the scenes."

The usual raffle and box collection took place, which helps to keep our funds at a steady level, and Harold Coleman started off again by taking a raffle prize. (He must have a sweet tooth!) He and Mrs. Coleman spent a happy Christmas at Brighton with Mr. and Mrs. Kinsey, teaching him the finer arts of crib, no doubt! Best wishes to all.

A.C.M.

### CANTERBURY

THE start of a New Year, and may it be a happy and successful one for all—always presuming, of course, that by the time these notes are written (January 3) the Sassenachs have recovered (if that is the word) from their Christmas festivities, and the Scottish element from their Hogmanay-cum-haggis! This, risking the wrath of the Clan MacDonald!

We welcome the return of the 1st Battalion from British Guiana, where it was not all beer and skittles, although judging from reports, the troops had their moments and, it would seem, made a great impression on the native population.

As there was no meeting of the Canterbury Branch during December, there is nothing to report in that direction. However, it is hoped to—ah—resuscitate the darts team (an infusion of new blood would help), and also to endeavour to get together a team for shooting which would not be a disgrace at Bisley. (This is said somewhat hopefully).

Some members of the Branch whose health is far from the A.I. category were visited by the Secretary and Welfare Officer, Mr. Les Pain, who personally delivered coal and Christmas hampers, thereby letting the said members know that they had not been forgotten, although they had been unable to attend meetings recently. The recipients wish publicly to acknowledge their thanks to the Branch. In this matter, too, thanks are due to Les Pain, who "delivered the goods," thereby bringing a little Christmas cheer to those in need.

The Branch learned with great regret of the death of two of its members, i.e., Mr. George ("Pop") Thornby and Mr. Richard Croucher.

Mr. Thornby, who at the age of 89 years was the oldest member of our Branch, was also one of the keenest. His death occurred on 22nd December, 1964, and with his passing a link with past history is severed, as I understand that he joined the Army by advancing his age when a boy and participated in the Chitral Campaign (N.W. Frontier) some years before the turn of the century.

Before his interment in Canterbury Cemetery on Tuesday, 29th December, a service was held in St. Peter's Church, Canterbury, when the Branch was represented by Major P. Ransley, Mr. A. Albury, Mr. Housego, and the writer of these notes. Mrs. Halladay was present, representing the Ladies' Guild.

"Pop" Thornby was a likeable and tough old chap, but his advanced years and the illness which he had fought for some time, proved the hardest battle which

"Pop" ever fought, and this time the odds were too overwhelming.

Mr. Richard Croucher was also an old stager, whose death occurred suddenly on 30th November, 1964. He served with the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment.

To the relatives of our late members the Branch extends its sympathy and, may I add, especially to the daughter of Mr. George Thornby, who looked after him for a long time.

Well, readers, I must now write *finis* to these rather brief notes, except to wish one and all a happy and successful New Year.

A. H. BERRY.

### BROMLEY

(Notes for December, unfortunately received too late for inclusion in that issue—Ed.)

THE Chairman opened the November meeting by introducing and welcoming a new member, Mr. F. W. Judd, late of the 5th Bn. Queen's Own. Apologies were received for non-attendance from Mr. R. Mills, who had bronchitis, and Mr. Harry Woolnough, who was attending a wedding. The minutes of the October meeting were duly read and confirmed. There were no matters arising. Letters were read from the Regimental Secretary dealing with the recent A.G.M. at Canterbury and the Gallipoli Reunion in 1965.

Mr. A. C. Ashby reported on the proceedings at Canterbury by going through and explaining each item on the agenda. He informed members that *Invicta* would cost an extra 3d. per copy as from January, 1965. Mr. Ashby was thanked by the Chairman for representing the Branch at this meeting. It was decided (1) To cancel the December meeting owing to the last Saturday being Boxing Day; (2) that the annual "Get-together" would be on the last Saturday in March, 1965; and (3) that the A.G.M. would be held at the April meeting.

Remembrance Sunday here in Bromley followed the usual pattern with a service at St. Mary's Church followed by the laying of wreaths at the Town Memorial after the Mayor had taken the salute as the parade marched past. The British Legion chaplain, the Rev. Angus MacFarlane, preached at the service and the writer considers it is worth recording some of his remarks, as they referred to the Regiment. His sermon had a message for those who believe this act for the fallen should be discontinued.

He said: "These people really and truly existed. They are part of us and of our lives and we are not being honest to ourselves if we let these people be forgotten. It was the intention of Remembrance Sunday to recall them in this way and not bring back as some sort of self torture or the opening of an old wound."

He then quoted from a book he had read recently, i.e., "The Story of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment." He mentioned Pte. Moyses, of The Buffs, who when taken prisoner by the Tartars in the Chinese campaign of 1860 and told to reveal information under torture, said: "I would rather die than disgrace my country."

The Padre went on and said that L./Cpl. J. P. Harman, V.C., of the 4th Bn. Queen's Own, said as he was dying in a trench at Kohima in 1944: "It was worth it." "And these," the Padre declared, "were the type of men who some people wanted to forget."

Incidentally, the above history in case readers are not aware of it, is well worth reading. It is by Gregory Blaxland and deals with the history of both Regiments from 1572 until amalgamation in 1961. It is a paper covered book and sells at 5/- at most of Smith's bookstalls.

Poppy Day collections this year in Bromley exceeded £1,500, slightly down on last year. And now, on behalf of all members of the Bromley Branch, I send greetings to all members of the Regiment, Past and Present, and wish them good health and happiness in 1965.

B.B.



## LONDON (QUEEN'S OWN)

LET us begin by wishing all Branches the best of attendances in the New Year and success in all their undertakings. In the past year our Branch enjoyed a lot of success. The two meetings which were proof of solidarity were October and December. From President to our last joined member the Branch united to ensure success of these evenings, and the Chairman, through these columns, gives thanks to one and all.

Never has the Branch asked for things in vain; our members have turned up trumps and with a request to our own H.Q., we were able to ensure the enjoyment of the Christmas period for a few of our oldest members.

During the past year we lost several members. The passing of Bob Wilks was particularly sad. He, more than anyone I know in the Association, did much to cement good will, not only in his own Branch, of which he was Chairman, but between Branches. His ideas were all fixed on the one aim: good comradeship. When amalgamation came, Bob was the first to go to our friends, The Buffs, meetings, to be invited to their own "Tower" evening, and with Timber Marchant, accomplished much to ensure friendly relations with several Branches.

Our association with links abroad received another boost, in the shape of correspondence with Harry Brown, of Ontario, Canada. Now we begin this year by mailing Mr. Fred Cannon, another old soldier of The Queen's Own, who resides in Toronto. We are only too pleased to keep these two stalwarts in touch with news of their old Regiment, and as long as they want us, we certainly want them as members.

Their introduction came through Major Bob Brown, a veteran of the Regiment, who assists us in so many ways, was himself on the Committee of the Branch many years ago, and whom I hope to meet in the near future. Writing of our veterans reminds me that Bill Whiffen, too, although not able to attend, continues to support us in more ways than by mail.

I cannot write of past and present veterans without mentioning two octogenarians, one of whom attends regularly still and the other at least four times a year. I refer, of course, to Arthur Edwards and Tom Sweatman. Makes you think, doesn't it, readers? Over 80 and one still attending regularly! Our officers, who still attend very often, find it great fun to be with their old comrades, and General Riddell himself says that it is a privilege to be among so many of the lads with whom he served.

We have, of course, lost many of our Officer members due to their living in remote places, but those who live within reasonable distances come several times during the year, and several who live in the remote places write to me occasionally. Letters and donations come from Colonel Basil Clay and from Meaburn Fry, who both live far in the West Country. When he was in London, the former never missed a meeting. The latter was seldom in London, always travelling. We thank them for their generosity.

The average attendance for the past year was nearer 50 than 40, and only on days when the weather was frightful did we have less than 30 attending.

Now a word of praise for those who, during 1964, did so much official work. Our Secretary, who finds no trouble in representing us anywhere at any time, Major C. K. Kemp (Bodger); our Treasurer, Percy Hallett, who spends so much time counting the cash, writing it into accounts, then spending it and chasing after the receipts; Lt.-Col. Ronnie Mines, who looks after our Treasurer and affords us many good ideas for development; Mary Donaldson, to whom we presented a bouquet in December for her work in collecting and raffles; Busty Cannacott and his assistant at Maidstone on the News Letter; and to Gladys Harford for her marvellous interpretation of the writer's illegible scrawl and for typing our News Letter!

Please forgive me if I omitted anyone who thinks he or she should have at least received a mention, it is not intentional.

Finally, a "thank you" to all those who continue to support the Branch. It is with plenty of confidence that we move into 1965 and I feel sure we shall do as well as we did in 1964.

To those of you who are still backsliding the Secretary's address is always in Invicta and we shall be pleased to hear from you, just to let us know you are still well and in the land of the living.

THE SPIDER.

## MAIDSTONE

FIRST of all we would like to welcome home the 1st Battalion after their stay in British Guiana. Small items of news in the daily newspapers have given us quite a good idea of their work out there. Such items as "Three men of The Queen's Own Buffs disperse mob of three hundred," tells us all that the good name of the Regiment is well and truly being kept up. To hear that the Battalion left their duty station at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday, 12th December, and arrived in their homes on the 14th for a spot of well earned leave gives great credit to the Battalion administration. May they all enjoy their leave and good luck in the future.

Our December meeting was attended by 28 members. We were extremely pleased to welcome, as a new member, Vernon Simmons, who has recently left the 1st Bn. band after nine years with the colours. I am sure Charlie and Harry Dumbrell will be pleased to know that their nephew has joined the Branch. Thanks are due to R.H.Q. for notifying us. Another new member, ex-Sergeant John Howells, also joined us. He served with the Queen's Own for a good number of years, but transferred to R.E.M.E. to complete his 22 years. We were also visited by ex-Sergeant Daisy, who lives at Ramsgate. Many ex-2nd Bn. Queen's Own will remember him and I can say that he has not altered one bit. There is a story going about that, whilst shrimping in Pegwell Bay, he was overtaken by the tide. Instead of swimming to land he went the other way! Eventually, after being in the water for two hours, he was picked up by the local lifeboat. Apparently he still goes shrimping!

At the meeting apology for absence was received from our Chairman, Jim Sergison, who was in a London hospital recovering from an operation. The following message was received on the 9th December:—

"FROM Chairman.

TO Secretary.

INFO Members Maidstone Branch.

0930 hrs Pre Op Inspection. Short Back and Sides.

1300 hrs Dep for Op zone. 1315 hrs Action Stations.

1410 hrs Returned to Base. Coughed three times.

Mission successful."

All members wish him well and hope to see him fully recovered at our next meeting.

Our Christmas draw went off very well but the large number of members and relatives made it quite impossible to have the advertised social as well. It does look as though we shall have to look round for more room at our next "Do." When we first started at the Flower Pot, I am sure none of us thought the day would come when we would become overcrowded to that extent.

I have received a letter from "Hookey" Walker recently and he seems to be still going strong. He will be pleased to know that young Rodney Hayley, recently home with the 1st Battalion, won our first prize in the Christmas draw.

Our regards to those members who are not able to attend the meetings now: Mr. E. C. Dann, Mr. Paddy Mullen, Major Leigh and Mr. H. F. Russell. Also to all members of the Regimental Association.

JIM WELLS.

## RAMSGATE

THIS, I suppose is the time for reflection on the happenings of the past year, but before making (or breaking) resolutions for the new one we can, and do, send best wishes to all BUFFS for health and prosperity in 1965.

Our December meeting again brought us the usual Christmas draw, which was very successful, although I'm not sure our Secretary thought so, when he found he had quite a "milk round" to do, delivering the prizes. Once again the meeting was very well attended and we were pleased to see Charlie Fakley present, together with many of our "Old Stalwarts" who in spite of age and infirmity manage to attend most meetings; we send our wishes for better health to Bert Knott and Jim Blake who do not improve. For once we had Jim Hawkins almost speechless, owing to a bad throat which, I hear, got much worse before getting better; I'm informed he was in great shape for the January meeting.

On looking back over the year, I think we can be very well satisfied with the activities of the Branch for not only did we hold our own financially, in spite of some



extra expenses, but we reached the final of the Darts Competition. We also started up Bat and Trap in the Branch and, by so doing, strengthened our friendship with the R.N. Old Comrades' Association. Our venture in giving our older members and their ladies an outing was much more successful than we had hoped. Our Annual Dinner was voted one of the best we have had, and for once we came out of it "in the black" and not as usual "in the red."

I think, too, that the Branch can derive great satisfaction that with other Branches, they played a great part in making the Remembrance Sunday afternoon entertainment at Canterbury very successful indeed.

One cloud over 1964 was the loss of three of our members. Mr. C. Herbert, who did not attend Branch meetings much; Mr. Tom Miller, a great member over 80 and still kept coming except for the last few months when illness prevented; and "Wally" Groombridge, who passed on just before Christmas following a heart attack. He again was a regular member right up to the end; we are going to miss these two more than a little.

Now for 1965. We hope to get in some training at Bat and Trap and take on the R.N.O.C.A., or any other team close by, in a series of friendly matches. We hope, too, with the help of other Branches to make Remembrance Sunday entertainment an even greater success.

A word or two on some contacts outside the area who have in some way or other communicated just recently, and whom readers may like to hear about. Major Miles Cranfield, farming in Yorkshire; Jack Taggart (ex-1st Bn.) in Northumberland; Len Sayer (ex-1st Bn.), a "copper" (S.J.T.) in Berkshire; Len Daniels in Ramsgate, not able to attend Branch meetings; Bill ("Boot") Paramour (ex-1st and 2nd Bn.) on the G.P.O. Staff in Guildford; Arthur Knowles (ex-Ramsgate) now living in Wisbech; and L. (Tots) Ambrose, the Hospital, Chelsea, who wishes to contact "Punch" Allen, of the Canterbury Branch.

All the above seem to be in pretty good shape, except perhaps Arthur Knowles, who is not exceptionally well, and all wish to be remembered to all their friends.

BEN.

## 11th Bn. THE QUEEN'S OWN

WHILE my note last month about Jim Corfe evoked no response, I am pleased to say that he himself has contacted us and, as he is living in Sevenoaks, we shall no doubt see him at our next gathering.

Our fraternal congratulations go to Ted Willson at Ramsgate on the recent celebration of his Golden Wedding; may he and Mrs. Willson long continue this happy partnership.

Other news is not on such a pleasant plane, for we have to record the death, just after Christmas, following a stroke, of Nelson (W.N.) White at Bromley. We hope that his pal, Jim Collins, was able to get to the funeral service and that the Association's floral tribute reached there in time. Nelson White's postal order for his subscription was always the first to be received and was invariably on my breakfast table on New Year's Day.

Also, much to our regret, Capt. Don Morley has had a very rough time since late October, first with another thrombosis and then with pneumonia and congestion of the lungs. As we write the news is a little better and the nurses at Sevenoaks Hospital, where he has been for a month, are letting him sit out of bed for half-an-hour daily. All will join me, I am sure, in wishing him a sure and steady return to fitness.

No doubt the staff of the Editorial Office are hard at work sorting and collating the "What D'You Want" priorities, and may it all result in all readers being pleased and satisfied. One wonders, however, if it is worth all the work involved when obviously each type of reader will plump for what interests him most, as his first priority; in other words, the numbers of copies going out to each class of reader will give that information, anyway. Perhaps, if the second and third priorities are fed into the computer, something may be learnt.

However, it has served to titivate the interest of all subscribers in their Regimental Journal and so is all to the good. Mind you, these expressions are of a purely

personal nature and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association. In any case, all success to Invicta and those who read it in this New Year.

R.O.R.

## NEWS FROM THE LADIES' GUILDS

### MEDWAY

IT is sad to have to record that after 29 years the Medway Ladies' Guild has been obliged to close down. Dwindling numbers, advancing years and periods of ill-health have all been contributory reasons for the decision recently taken by the Guild.

It was a typically generous gesture with which the Guild brought their final proceedings to an end: the decision to send to the Regimental Secretary the balance standing to the credit of the Guild's funds with the request that it be used for the purchase of flowers for the Warriors' Chapel in the Cathedral. Mrs. Findlay, who, year by year, on Remembrance Sunday is responsible for the beautiful flower arrangements in the Nave and in the Warriors' Chapel will, thanks to this generous gesture, be able to draw on this sum for some years to come.

### RAMSGATE

ALTHOUGH the new year is a few days old, it is not too old for us to wish all Ladies' Guilds and all Branches of the Association all the best for 1965.

Having to go to press earlier in December, I'm afraid I was not able to give details of our Annual Bazaar and Social, which we held at the Drill Hall, Willson's Road, on Saturday, 5th December, to which we welcomed Sandwich and Canterbury Branches. It was a little late in starting, owing to the visitors' coach drivers deciding to give them a Cook's tour of the town before dropping in on us, but we were able to put on quite a bit of entertainment and the evening was once again very successful and enjoyable. We are very grateful to the staff of the 5th Battalion, who arranged the seating, tables, etc., to O.C. "A" Coy. for the use of the Drill Hall and to Mr. Cook and his helpers in the bar.

Our January meeting included a Sponge Cake Competition, and in spite of attendance being a little down, which restricted the entries, there were, I think, sufficient entries to make it worth the judge's while. Many thanks, Mr. Stone, for again being our judge. First prize and cup went to Mrs. Horn, with Mrs. Hann second and Mrs. Langley third, and we then finished off the meeting with a game of tombola.

E.E.H.

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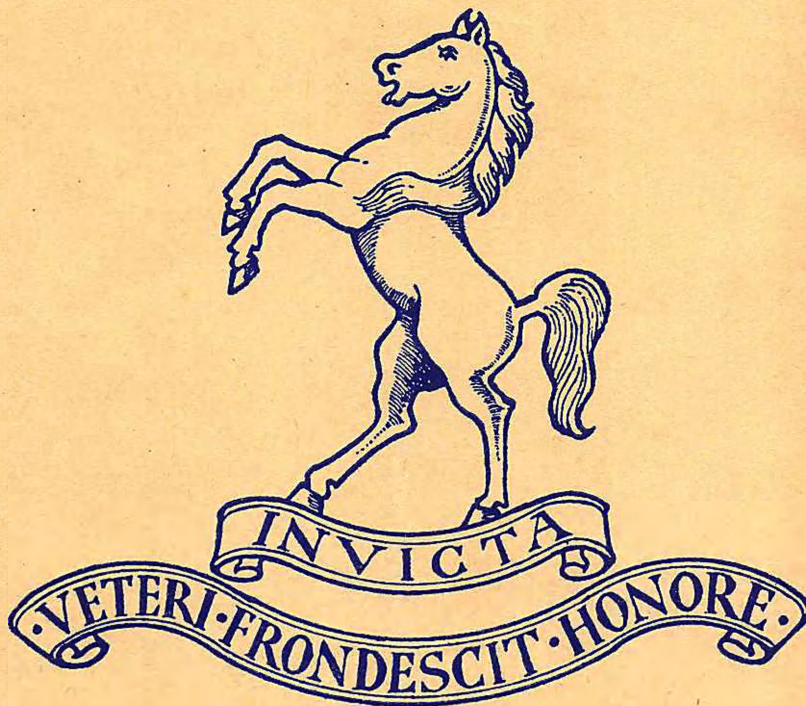
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# INVICTA

THE JOURNAL OF  
THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS, THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT



FEBRUARY, 1965



# INVICTA

## The Regimental Journal of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment

Volume V, No. 2



February, 1965

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### THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS, THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT (3rd, 50th & 97th)

The White Horse of Kent with motto "Invicta"

Blenheim	Peninsula	South Africa, 1900-02	Afghanistan, 1919
Ramillies	Punniar	Mons	North-West Europe, 1940
Oudenarde	Moodkee	Aisne, 1914	Alem Hamza
Malplaquet	Ferozeshah	Ypres, 1914, 15, 17, 18	El Alamein
Dettingen	Aliwal	Hill 60	Robaa Valley
Guadaloupe, 1759	Sobraon	Loos	Medjez Plain
Belleisle	Alma	Somme, 1916, 18	Centuripe
Vimiera	Inkerman	Arras, 1917, 18	Stelly, 1943
Corunna	Sevastopol	Vimy, 1917	Trigno
Douro	Lucknow	Amiens	Sangro
Talavera	Taku Forts	Hindenburg Line	Anzio
Albuhera	New Zealand	Italy, 1917, 18	Cassino
Almaraz	South Africa, 1879	Struma	Trasimene Line
Vittoria	Egypt, 1882	Gallipoli, 1915	Argenta Gap
Pyrenees	Nile, 1884-85	Gaza	Leros
Nivelle	Chitral	Jerusalem	Malta, 1940, 42
Nive	Relief of Kimberley	Defence of Kut al Amara	Defence of Kohima
Orthes	Paardeberg	Baghdad	Shweli
Toulouse		Sharqat	

Colonel-in-Chief: His Majesty King Frederik IX, K.G., King of Denmark

Colonel of the Regiment: H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.

Deputy Colonel of the Regiment: Major-General D. E. B. Talbot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L.

#### ALLIED REGIMENTS OF THE CANADIAN ARMY

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada—Colonel-in-Chief: H.R.H. Princess Alexandra, The Hon. Mrs. Angus Ogilvy, G.C.V.O.

The Royal New Brunswick Regiment (Carleton and York)—Colonel-in-Chief: H.M. The Queen

The Essex and Kent Scottish—Colonel-in-Chief: H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.

#### ALLIED REGIMENT OF THE NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES

2nd Battalion (Canterbury and Nelson-Marlborough and West Coast) The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment  
Colonel-in-Chief: H.M. The Queen

#### REGULAR AND TERRITORIAL BATTALIONS

1st Battalion—Meeanee Barracks, Colchester, Essex

4th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.)—Canterbury

5th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.)—Broadstairs

4th/5th Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (T.A.)—Tonbridge

#### UNITS OF THE CADET FORCE AFFILIATED

1st A.C.F. Battalion The Buffs—Canterbury

2nd A.C.F. Battalion The Buffs—Folkestone

1st A.C.F. Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment—Sidcup

2nd A.C.F. Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment—Tonbridge Wells

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS—OLD INFANTRY BARRACKS, CANTERBURY, KENT

Regimental Secretary: Colonel H. R. Grace, O.B.E., D.L., J.P.

Tele. No.: Canterbury 65281, Extension 61

## THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

SO much has already been said and written about the great man, whose passing almost the entire world has so recently been mourning, that to say more in this column would be presumptuous and unnecessary. Elsewhere, however, readers will find an account of how deeply our American friends felt Sir Winston's death and of the pride they took in him.

Many of us must have a memory of him which we shall always hold dear; and all of us must surely take pride in having lived during his great span of years and be thankful that we did so. In so far as the Regiment is concerned his widely flung interests, particularly in the young, extended to his being Honorary Colonel of the 6th (Cinque Ports) Cadet Battalion The Buffs for a few years. The heirs and successors to that unit, the 2nd A.C.F. Bn. The Buffs, can be assured that never will they have a more illustrious holder of that appointment. There can be no reader of this Journal who would not wish to be associated with a message of sincere and affectionate condolence to the family.

The results of the exercise in consumer research, under the heading of "What d'you Want?" are summarised in this issue and make interesting reading. If it has achieved nothing else the exercise has demonstrated clearly the great interest taken by all readers, of all ages and walks of life, in the comings and goings of the Regular battalion—which is, after all, just as it should be. Despite the lack of support from his own soldiers, therefore, the Commanding Officer's plea, which sparked off the entire manoeuvre, has been fully justified. Whatever alterations in the lay-out and content of future issues are considered to be necessary, as a result of the exercise, will be put into effect next month.

Browsing through one of the many bound editions of The Graphic which were presented to 4 R.W.K. (T.A.) by Col. Hardy Hancock (who commanded the battalion from 1931-36) Capt. Ron Baker, the present Regular Adjutant of 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.), came across the picture which is reproduced in the centre pages of this issue. It shows The Buffs and the Royal West Kent Regiment operating against the Bunervals in the Swati district of the North West Frontier of India, in January, 1898, and is a good example of co-operation between the two former regiments some 63 years before amalgamation.

Reproduction of the picture is by courtesy of The Editor of The Illustrated London News.

Finally, students of Regimental history may find something to interest them in the historical fragments which are pieced together elsewhere in this issue; members of the Regimental Golfing Society will find a useful list of dates and fixtures, of which they are particularly asked to take note; and those who like a gamble will be glad to see that once again they are being offered the chance of winning £100—and, by so doing, supporting the Regimental Benevolent Fund—by means of the sweepstake on this year's Derby.

## EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL members of the Regiment will be sorry to hear that Lt.-Col. Argles, Vice-Chairman of the Association and, for many years, Secretary of The Buffs Past and Present Association and Editor of The Dragon, is seriously ill in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. Mrs. Argles is much in our thoughts at this time.

THE Deputy Colonel has recently called on the Mayors of Folkestone and Ramsgate, on behalf of the Regiment, and hopes to do the same at Canterbury and Maidstone in the near future.

THE fourth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Regimental Association will take place at Regimental Headquarters at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 20th March, 1965. Lt.-Col. H. N. Edwards, M.B.E., D.L., will be in the chair. As in previous years each Battalion/Branch/affiliated Battalion/Ladies' Guild is invited to send one representative to the meeting. Bona fide travelling expenses will be refunded to him/her at the end of the meeting.

THERE are frequently jobs available at R.M.A. Sandhurst for Dormitory Attendants and Mess Orderlies, which are very suitable for soldiers who are retiring, as it gives them the opportunity of keeping contact with the Services. The post of Dormitory Attendant is very worthwhile, and those holding these posts will be one of the many helping to prepare the future young officers for their careers. Applications should be made to: Civilian Establishment and Pay Officer, Accountants Department, R.M.A. Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey.

CONGRATULATIONS to Major M. J. Clemence on being awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.

ANY retired Officer who would like to become Deputy Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Kent, involving part-time work and experience of organisation and administration, should get in touch with the Commissioner, Brigadier J. V. Davidson-Houston (rtd.), at his home at Magpie Shaw, Speldhurst, Kent.

WARMEST congratulations to Brigadier Paul Crook on being appointed an Honorary A.D.C. to Her Majesty The Queen. A great honour for the Regiment as well as for himself.

WE have been notified of the admission to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, of Sgt. George Edward Warner—No. 6278966 and 7981—aged 76 years. He served in The Buffs from 24th September, 1904, to 20th September, 1925.

THE Deputy Colonel and Mrs. Talbot, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. MacDonald and a number of Officers from the 1st Battalion and on the staff of the Brigade Depot, together with the entire Regimental Headquarters staff, were amongst the very large congregation which attended the Memorial Service to Sir Winston Churchill, which was held in Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday, 4th February. The Regimental Band was in attendance and played before, during part of and after the service.

THE following recently visited the Regimental Headquarters Offices in Canterbury:—

Capt. (Q.M.) J. E. Grubb, M.B.E., Major A. D. Peckham, M.B.E., Major A. A. West, Major A. G. Blake, R. D. J. Dent, Esq., S. J. Elliott, Esq., Lt. J. A. English (Q.O.R. of C.), Lt. C. J. Pearson, Major G. A. E. Chapman, D.S.O., Christopher J. Grace.

And the following did so in Maidstone:—  
Lt.-Col. R. Butler, M.B.E., M.C., Lt.-Col. A. A. Eason, Lt.-Col. C. S. Durnell, O.B.E., R. D. J. Dent, Esq., S. J. Elliott, Esq., Mr. C. Whitlock.



A VERY warm welcome to the following new subscribers:—

Lieut. M. I. C. Orr,  
Pendennis,  
Dering Road,  
Bridge, Canterbury.

M. W. B. Collyer, Esq.,  
Hillcrest,  
20 Singledge Avenue,  
Whitfield, Dover.

C. A. S. Bates, Esq.,  
6 Old Green Road,  
Cliftonville, Margate.

Mrs. E. M. Gates,  
15 Camp Way,  
Maidstone.

Mr. L. A. Meldrum,  
R.D.9 Te Puke,  
Bay of Plenty,  
New Zealand.

R. J. Woods, Esq.,  
148 Mongeham Road,  
Gt. Mongeham, Deal.

J. F. Sims, Esq.,  
21 Southwood Road,  
Ramsgate.

Mr. A. H. Bubb,  
Matson,  
263 Upper Ledbury Road,  
Hereford.

Mr. L. A. Hampton,  
152 Aldwick Road,  
Bognor Regis, Sussex.

W.O.I (R.S.M.) A. Parker  
M.B.E.,  
5 Buffs (T.A.),  
Westwood Drill Hall,  
Broadstairs Road,  
Broadstairs, Kent.

THE following changes of address have been notified:—

Capt. F. J. Jakob,  
Oddyns,  
Wingham Green,  
Wingham, Canterbury.

Major G. H. W. Howlett,  
M.C.,  
H.Q. 16th Parachute  
Brigade Group,  
Montgomery Lines,  
Aldershot.

Mrs. P. Beer,  
Rookland Farm Cottage,  
Newchurch,  
Romney Marsh, Kent.

Major C. E. E. Balding,  
T.D.,  
54 Stanley Road,  
Broadstairs, Kent.

M. E. T. Bond, Esq.,  
116 Bromley Road,  
Beckenham, Kent.

Major L. F. Parratt, T.D.,  
88 New Dover Road,  
Canterbury, Kent.

Capt. A. D. Bremner,  
147 Queen's Road,  
Richmond, Surrey.

S. A. A. Pritchard, Esq.,  
127 Hurlingham Road,  
London, S.W.6.

Col. A. J. M. Flint, M.B.E.,  
Avenel,  
Heatherley Road,  
Camberley, Surrey.

Major D. Monckton,  
M.C., T.D.,  
Laston House,  
Heslington, York.

Major B. G. J. French,  
8 Centurions Walk,  
Brompton Old Road,  
Carlisle.

Capt. I. D. Pybus,  
22 Matthews Road,  
Camberley, Surrey.

P. S. Blunt, Esq.,  
52 Noel Road,  
London, N.1.

Mr. E. C. Reed,  
Lucerne,  
72 Oakley Street,  
Shrewsbury, Salop.

Major I. A. Clarke,  
The Old Rectory,  
Inglestre, Stafford.

Brig. J. F. Whitacre Allen,  
M.C., D.L.,  
Flat 10, Edinburgh Place,  
Earls Avenue,  
Folkestone, Kent.

Mr. H. G. Parker,  
50 Marnham Crescent,  
Greenford, Middlesex.

Capt. H. H. K. Woodman  
(R.A.P.C.),

Oldmays,  
South Street,  
Faversham, Kent.

N. S. Wells, Esq.,  
27 Wye Road,  
Borough Green,  
Sevenoaks, Kent.

## Regimental Golfing Society

THE Hon. Secretary hopes that all members of the Society will make a special note in their diaries of the following dates:—

24th and 25th April: Spring Meeting at the Royal St. George's Golf Club, Sandwich.

24th April (8 p.m.): 5th Annual Dinner at the Bell Hotel, Sandwich.

1st-7th May: Army Golfing Society Spring Meeting at the Royal St. George's Golf Club, Sandwich.

6th May: First Round of the Argyll and Sutherland Bowl. It is proposed to enter a team for this event.

12th May: Match versus Kent County Constabulary at Littlestone Golf Club (Match Manager: Lt.-Col. Mike Grove).

15th and 16th May: Match versus Rye Golf Club at Rye (Match Manager: Brigadier Michael Dewar).

26th May: Home Counties Brigade Annual Meeting at Tandridge Golf Club.

12th June: Match versus Household Brigade Golfing Society at the New Zealand Golf Club (Match Manager: Major Richard Ravenhill).

18th July: Match versus Liphook Golf Club at Liphook (Match Manager: Lt.-Col. "Rabbit" Hoare).

24th July: Match versus Wrotham Heath Golf Club at Wrotham Heath (Match Manager: Lt.-Col. Mike Grove).

7th and 8th September: Army Golfing Society Autumn Meeting at Wentworth Golf Club.

25th and 26th September: Autumn Meeting at Littlestone Golf Club.

25th September (p.m.): 5th Annual General Meeting at Littlestone Golf Club.

6th October: Match versus Kent County Constabulary at Leeds Castle (Match Manager: Lt.-Col. Mike Grove).

The Hon. Secretary asks members to make a big effort to play in both the Spring and the Autumn Meeting and in as many matches as possible.

## PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

### Supplements to the London Gazette

#### Regular Army, Short Service Commission

Major H. C. Russell, M.C., D.C.M., relinquishes his commission on account of disability, 25th January, 1965, and is granted the hon. rank of Major.

#### Regular Army Reserve of Officers, Class III

Lt. M. P. F. Plutte from A.E. Reserve of Officers National Service List, to be Lieutenant, 16th January, 1965.

#### Territorial Army

The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the award of the Second Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration upon Col. D. J. McLelland, T.D.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the award of the Territorial Efficiency Decoration upon Major M. J. Clemence.

#### Territorial Army Reserve of Officers

Capt. (Hon. Major) H. F. Reed, T.D., having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers, 22nd January, 1965, retaining the hon. rank of Major.

#### Royal Armoured Corps, 3 D.G., Regular Army

Lt. Michael John Stanley from Short Service Commission, Queen's Own Buffs, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15th October, 1964, with seniority 24th September, 1961. To be Lieutenant, 15th October, 1964, with seniority 26th September, 1962.

## Regular Forces' Employment Association

During 1964 the Association registered 6,804 soldiers and placed 5,192. This gives a percentage of placings to registrations of 76 per cent. Of the number placed, 28 were from the Regiment.



## The Queen's Own Buffs West Country Luncheon

Castle Hotel, Taunton, Saturday, 1st May

IT may seem early to remind readers that a quite minor but memorable Regimental affair is booked for the 1st May this year instead of the customary last Saturday in April. The change in date was made to avoid clashing with the Regimental Golf meeting.

This occasion may be termed memorable because of its tenth anniversary without a break. The excuse for mentioning it in this issue is that many readers may not see it until the equinoctial gales are blowing and the buds of spring are burgeoning on the trees and in hedgerows that have escaped shaving by relentless mechanical shears.

Every year your anxious Hon. Secretary tries to suggest some particular reason why supporters should make a special effort to attend. This year, being the tenth, is surely good enough reason?

The finances of this happy gathering of the clans are suspended on a shoe-string and unless 20 attend it is liable to run into the red. Accordingly it will be very helpful if everybody will do his best to warn in as early as possible.

For the benefit of those who have not been before, one should say that this party is open to anyone of any rank (and two honorary members) who has ever served in The Buffs, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, or the Regiment.

The boundary of the West Country in this case is limitless. In the past we have welcomed and enjoyed the company of veterans from as far away as Ceylon and Ascension Island, while some faithful adherents have come regularly from Canterbury and London, not to mention the stalwart contingent of the old 2nd Buffs from Weymouth to spice memories of the long distant Portland days soon after the First World War. New young blood is particularly welcome. It is a long journey from Colchester, but for those who have twice crossed the Atlantic within the space of a year the distance must seem trivial. The sight of vigorous and virile young men still serving would warm the hearts of crabbed veterans and perhaps make them feel more "with it."

Please warn in to Major R. J. Tuke, Little Beredens, Kenton, Exeter (telephone Starcross 316) . . . NOW!

Those who hover and delay might think of Kipling's ringing verse:

"We've committed a fault and a very grave fault,  
And now we must turn it to use;  
We have ten thousand reasons for failure  
But never a single excuse!"

Your Hon. Secretary quoted those lines to an astonished defaulter many years ago and he was never "on the peg" again.

R.T.

## The Army Benevolent Fund

THE following little true story is worthy of readers' attention:

Ex-Private R., who served in 1st Bn. The Buffs in Kenya and B.A.O.R. between 1953 and 1956, was deserted by his wife not so long ago. She left him not only with three children on his hands but also with a load of debt, mostly incurred by herself (total £108). This case was investigated by the Forces' Help Society and Mr. R. was in the event helped to clear his debt by contributions of £15 from The Buffs' Benevolent Fund, £15 from the Forces' Help Society, and a further £75 from The Buffs' Benevolent Fund, the latter being a special grant from the Army Benevolent Fund.

This is yet another example of how, in cases where a regiment's Benevolent Fund is unable to meet the whole of such a heavy commitment, the A.B.F. steps in with a major rehabilitation grant. Small wonder, therefore, that all members of the Regiment are being asked to subscribe to the Army Benevolent Fund/Queen's Own Buffs Joint Appeal to Kent.

Have you subscribed yet?

## CHURCHILL AND THE UNITED STATES

BY JOHN DENT

YESTERDAY, the day of Sir Winston's funeral, my wife and I watched our television set from seven in the morning until three in the afternoon, which entire time was devoted to the solemn and sad rites in London. That those eight continuous hours of viewing time (and eight hours without a "commercial") should be devoted to the funeral was in itself remarkable, for only once before had we seen any subject treated in such a solemn fashion—and that was President Kennedy's funeral. The recent Inaugural Parade of President Johnson's was, by comparison, a mere sideline to television broadcasting. And the treatment of the Inaugural ceremonies was harassed by "commercials" which destroyed what little pomp and ceremony there was.

And so the first impression of the importance that this country attached to the death of this great Englishman was that the Columbia Broadcasting System—one of the major, if not the major network in the country—devoted practically the whole of Saturday to the occasion and we saw the solemn and moving ceremony a matter of hours after its actual happening in London. Once, when the Telstar satellite came into position, the television cameras beamed their pictures to us across the Atlantic at the moment the events were taking place, and we saw Sir Winston's coffin being put aboard the train at Waterloo Station and the train pulling away. It was an uncanny feeling watching events happening four thousand miles away. For the rest of the ceremonies video-tapes were flown by jet aircraft across the Atlantic and with the difference in our clocks here we were just a matter of an hour or two behind you.

The whole treatment of the funeral was marked by a sincere and obvious sorrow in our—England's—loss and by a sharing of our pride in the gallant old warrior. The facts that Sir Winston's mother was American, that he had the Civil War Battle Hymn, "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord," included in the memorial service and that he was a great and close friend of Franklin Delano Roosevelt were all stressed many times during the eight hours broadcast. We saw facets of Sir Winston's war-time visits to this country which had not always made the Press in England but facets and anecdotes which had been treasured and preserved by the American people.

Many Americans have expressed their sorrow to me at the passing of the old lion and a friend of mine, who wrote me a note, ended by saying: "To me, personally, he was No. 10 Downing Street, Big Ben, the valor of all the Tommies and of the guidons flying at Omdurman."

And then at midday on Saturday, 30th January, a U.S. Officer delivered to my quarters a letter from the Commanding General of Fort Benning, which read:

"Dear Colonel Dent,

On this day of interment of the mortal remains of your renowned countryman, Sir Winston Churchill, I express to you my deep sorrow and that of all personnel of the United States Army Infantry Center at the loss to the world of this great man. I believe that the people of the United States have felt as great pride in him as have the people of Great Britain. I know that we share equally your sorrow at his passing. Memories of this great leader will always remain strong in the hearts of all free men, and his life will be an inspiration to future generations of the world.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. HEINTGES,  
Major General, U.S.A.,  
Commanding."

This was a most moving tribute from Fort Benning, which has been my home for over two years and which serves to illustrate—if illustration is needed—the affection and pride which this great country holds for the memory of that great man, Sir Winston Churchill.

# BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

## BIRTHS

**THOMAS**—On 9th December, 1964, at 227 London Road, Stanway, Colchester, to L/Cpl. and Mrs. I. Thomas, a son, Gareth Edward.

**COURCHA**—On 12th November, 1964, at Braxted, Grove Avenue, West Mersea, Essex, to Cpl. and Mrs. W. Courcha, a son, William Alexander.

## FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr. T. A. SPARKES and Miss R. G. MacDONALD

The engagement is announced, and the wedding will shortly take place, between Thomas Alan, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Sparkes, of Allenton, Derby, and Rosemary Gillian, elder daughter of Lt-Col. E. W. MacDonald, Queen's Own Buffs, and Mrs. MacDonald, of 24 Leas Road, Colchester.

## MARRIAGES

**SPEIGHT—EASEY**. On 28th November, 1964, at the Register Office, Bridge, Kent, Pte. K. Speight to Diane Rosemary Easey.

**FEARNE—SMITH**. On 19th December, 1964, at the Parish Church, Chalk, Kent, Pte. E. Fearn to Jean Doris Smith.

**WILLIAMS—LOVELL**. On 19th December, 1964, at the Register Office, Wandsworth, Pte. D. Williams to Shirley Rosaline Lovell.

**FARR—WATERHOUSE**. On 26th December, 1964, at the Parish Church of St. Augustine, Gillingham, Kent, Pte. A. Farr to Barbara Anne Waterhouse.

**SMALLWOOD—PALMER**. On 26th December, 1964, at the Parish Church of St. James, Westgate, Kent, Pte. A. Smallwood to Linda Rosalind Palmer.

**CHAMBERS—ELLIS**. On 2nd January, 1965, at the Parish Church of St. Alban, Dartford, Kent, L/Cpl. R. Chambers to June Ellis.

## DEATHS

**MONCKTON OF BRENCHLEY**—On 9th January, 1965. The Viscount Monckton of Brenchley, P.C., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., M.C., Q.C., aged 73.

**PALENGAT**—On 8th January, 1965, Lt-Col. Frederick Rowland Palengat.

**CALE**—On 3rd January, 1965, suddenly, Reginald Harry Cale, M.C., of The Turret, Massetts Road, Horley, Surrey.

**HOGGEN**—On 19th January, 1965, Mr. Albert John Hogben, at 20 Downs Way, Charing, a member of the Ashford Branch of the Regimental Association.

**MORLEY**—Captain Arthur Victor Donald Morley, M.C., peacefully at his home, 7 Bullfinch Lane, Riverhead, late of The Eleventh (Lewisham) Battalion, The Queen's Own, and subsequently of the Seventh Battalion.

**MURPHY**—Captain R. K. Murphy, on 28th January, 1965. Late of the 6th Battalion, R.W.K.

# OBITUARIES

## CAPT. A. V. D. MORLEY, M.C.

Donald Morley was typical of the soldier/officer that the Great War produced from civilian material—keen, efficient, conscientious and jealous of the welfare of those under his command, yet at the same time reserved and never seeking the limelight or credit for his efforts.

One of the early batch of officers to report for duty with the newly-forming Eleventh Battalion of The Queen's Own, he served throughout its existence, except when away with wounds and, when the Battalion Association came to be formed, he was in it right from the start and remained closely associated with it ever since. His service

with the Battalion overseas will be best remembered for the wonderful job he did in the attack on Tower Hamlets, when he took over C Company after they had lost all their officers and for which he was awarded his M.C. On our disbandment, he went to the Seventh, so all his active service was with the Regiment.

It was very appropriate that, on the Presentation of the King's Colour in 1920, it was Don Morley who received it on our behalf.

Although ill-health had, in the last two years, kept him from our meetings and functions, the Association was always near to his heart and he will be greatly missed by his colleagues.

At our meetings he said little, but when he did speak, his words were worth notice for they were the result of deep, if somewhat slow, deliberation, and no-one was more loyal to his friends and the Regiment.

To those of us who were his close friends for nearly 50 years, there comes the feeling of admiration and esteem and a sense of gratitude for having been close to him and shared in his joys and sorrows. One deeply regrets that another fine and generous Englishman has left the scene.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife and good companion, Ettie, in what must be a terrible blow to her.  
R.O.R.

## CAPT. R. K. (PAT) MURPHY

One of his brother Officers writes:—

"To a greater degree than is given to most men, Pat Murphy possessed qualities of character which aroused not only the respect and admiration of others, but also their devotion. He was a man of simplicity and directness, eager to reach the heart of any problem and able to expound his views briefly and compellingly. In war, there was no better instructor and his company and every individual in it acquired a new status and a new confidence from him; in peace, his efforts were exclusively and untiringly devoted to helping others.

"But above all else, it was his courage which singled him out from the rest of us. Bravery in action is not uncommon and in such conditions Pat was calm and unselfish, a natural leader, never rash, but a constant source of inspiration to those around him. The exceptional quality of his courage was revealed later on after he had been so savagely wounded in November, 1942. He never recovered from those injuries and throughout the years suffered greatly, but he rarely spoke of this; indeed he often seemed ashamed of his own disablement and much more concerned with the lesser ills of others. He fought doggedly to master pain and to the world maintained his cool, self-critical and sincere exterior until the end.

"Born in Wexford 54 years ago in the very heart of the Irish Nationalist movement, he was no doubt involved at a tender age with some of the rebels and perhaps became attracted to a military career. The early 1930's found him in the Royal West Kent Regiment, and he loved the life. Service with the 1st Battalion followed, including a long spell in Palestine as a Platoon Sergeant. Soon after the outbreak of war he was in France and for a time patrolling with a Scottish unit in the Maginot Line. Because of an illness he returned to the wrong side of the Channel before Dunkerque and, volunteering to assist in the evacuation, paid three visits to Dunkerque in a small boat.

"After the evacuation he went to O.C.T.U. and during his subsequent service with the 6th Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment from 1940 until 1942 he developed his marked powers of leadership. Almost immediately he was given command of a company and soon brought his men to a rare peak of efficiency. The training intensified, the techniques of fighting became more sophisticated and specialised, and all of this advanced thinking only reflected the ideas which Pat had been developing on his own account.

"The 1st Army landing in North Africa was the opportunity for which he had been waiting. For three short weeks he led his men with distinction, but his career was shattered by the tragedy of the night attack on Bald Hill when the 6th Battalion suffered so many casualties, and nobody expected to see Pat alive again.

"It was 18 months before he could resume a normal life and after being invalided out of the Army he worked



for some time with the Ministry of Pensions, until in December, 1952, he was invited by Col. Nash to join the Cray Valley Paper Mills Organisation.

"There he worked in various clerical capacities and, as Secretary of the Social and Athletic Club, became the centre of the firm's social life. In 1961 he became Personnel and Welfare Officer, and in this capacity gained the trust, admiration and affection of everyone who had the good fortune to come in contact with him. He is deeply mourned by all who knew him."

Amongst the large congregation which attended Pat Murphy's funeral at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Chislehurst, on 3rd February were the following from 6th Bn. R.W.K. Regiment:—Col. and Mrs. Peter Nash, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. G. K. Debrates, Lt.-Col. Paul Bryan, Major and Mrs. W. H. Miskin, Major and Mrs. Dick Clarke, Major Frank Taylor, Major D. J. Wakefield, Captain Jack Nixon, Captain Bryan Valentine, Rev. Jimmy Rees (the Padre), R.S.M. and Mrs. Paddy Byrne, Messrs. Lee, "Slim" Davies, Jarvis, Underwood and Ashby, Captain Leslie Pyrke and Mrs. Joan Latham.

Mr. Kent, the Standard Bearer from the Bromley Branch of the British Legion, was also present, and the floral tributes numbered over 80.

Pat Murphy leaves a widow and four children.

## Derby Sweepstake in aid of the Regimental Benevolent Fund

**A** SWEEPSTAKE will again be organised this year, on the same lines as during the previous two years.

Tickets, in books of ten (price 1/- per ticket), will be sent to all Branches and Ladies' Guilds, to all Regular T.A. and Cadet Battalions and to certain retired members of the Regiment. Any member or ex-member of the Regiment unable to obtain tickets from these sources should apply for them to Lt.-Col. Grove at Regimental Headquarters. No tickets may be sold to any person under 16 years of age. It is vital that the name and address of the purchaser of any ticket is clearly written in BLOCK LETTERS on the counterfoil of the ticket.

The prizes in this year's sweepstake will be the same as last year, that is to say:—

1st Prize - £100	3rd Prize - £20
2nd Prize - £50	A runner - £1

The Benevolent Fund has so far received nearly £600 from the profits on the two previous sweepstakes. Please support the fund again so that the £1,000 mark can be reached this year.

The Draw will take place at Regimental Headquarters on 11th May. Individuals will be notified immediately and a full list will be published in the May issue. The race will be on 2nd June.

PLEASE SUPPORT  
OUR  
ADVERTISERS

## SOME BUFFS HISTORICAL FRAGMENTS

**I**N July last year the Natal Provincial Administration held a ceremony at Isandhlwana, when a memorial was unveiled to the memory of those who were killed in the disaster which overtook the camp there on 22nd January, 1879 (see "Historical Records of The Buffs, 1814-1914," Chapter 26). Although the bulk of the casualties were those sustained by officers and soldiers of the South Wales Borderers (24th Foot), two soldiers of 2nd Bn. The Buffs were amongst those killed, and the Commander, British Defence Liaison Staff, Pretoria, wrote to Regimental Headquarters last April to ask whether the Regiment wished to be represented at the unveiling ceremony.

At the request of the Deputy Colonel, Mr. R. O. S. Kettle, who lives in Durban, willingly volunteered to represent the Regiment, and this he did on 5th July. Mr. Kettle enlisted in The Buffs in June, 1916, and was posted to the 5th Bn. and, subsequently, the 4th Bn. He was commissioned in July, 1918, and served in France in the 10th Bn. for the last few months of the War and during the early days of the Army of Occupation in Germany. His Company Commander was Captain N. G. Wale, and Colonel Ponsonby was the Battalion Commander.

After being demobilised in November, 1919, he returned to South Africa, the land of his birth. During the 1939-45 War he served with the National Volunteer Brigade in South Africa, and later commanded Support Company 8th Bn. South African Coast Defence Corps in Cape Town, with the rank of Captain. Last year Mr. Kettle met Colonel Ponsonby again, in Durban, after a lapse of 45 years. Mr. Kettle was always a good Rugby footballer, and became a well-known name in South African Rugby Football.

On his way to Isandhlwana, Mr. Kettle visited Rorke's Drift, where he found the name of Sgt. Milne, 3rd Foot, who was apparently killed while attached to the "commisariat" party of the Rorke's Drift garrison—that gallant little band of 24th Foot which, outnumbered by forty to one, drove off repeated enemy assaults and inflicted heavy casualties, and which has recently come into public prominence as a result of the film "Zulu."

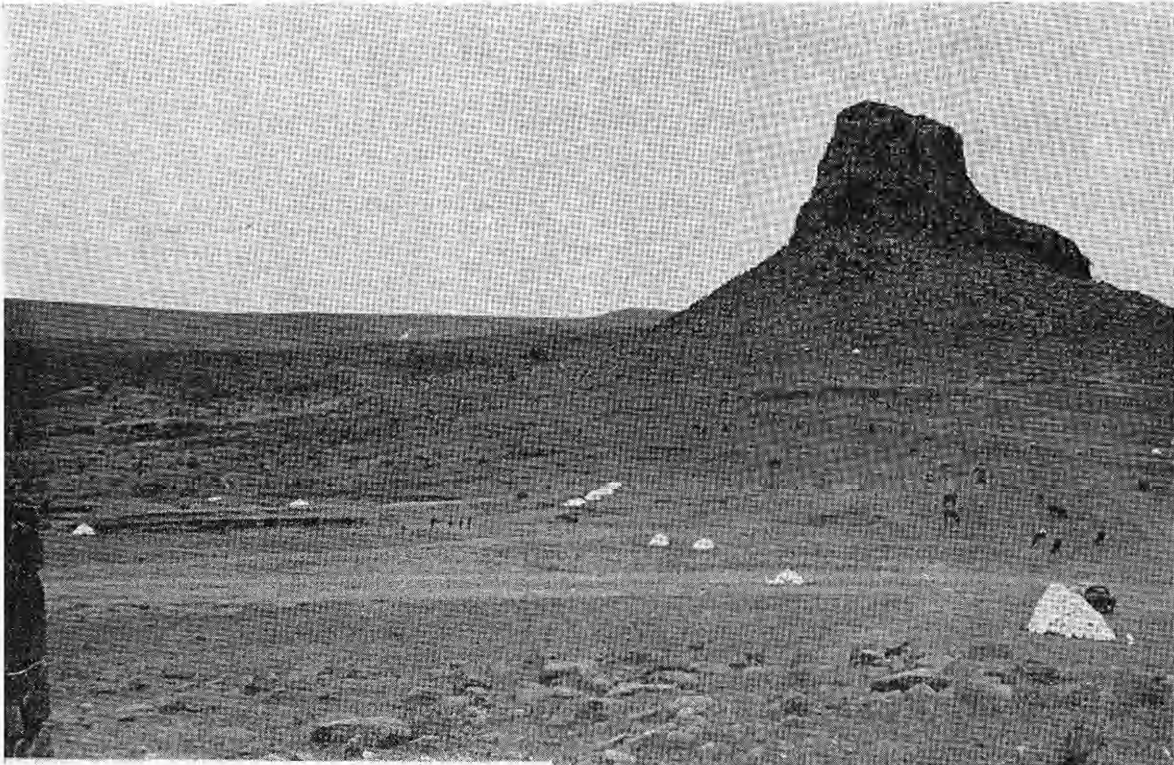
At Isandhlwana, Mr. Kettle was informed that the Natal Provincial Administration was also planning to unveil a monument at Stanger, some 46 miles from Durban, in December, and wrote to ask whether he should again represent the Regiment. This was at once agreed to, and in his latest letter Mr. Kettle has written to say that he attended the ceremony and that he also laid a wreath.

It will be of additional interest to students of Regimental history to learn the following about the Colonel C. K. Pearson, whose name appears so frequently between pages 513 and 546 of the volume of The Buffs Historical Records referred to earlier. First, that he was the founder of a Rugby Football Club in East London, South Africa, called The Buffalo R.F.C., the third oldest established Rugby Football Club in the Union. A letter which the Regimental Secretary received last June from Mr. Ted Allen, the President of the Club, was written on the Club's notepaper, which not only had the club crest, a gold dragon, at the top of the page, but also that well-known phrase, "Once a Buff, always a Buff!" at the foot of it.

Secondly, that Col. C. K. Pearson was the father of Col. R. F. Pearson, the present "Father of the Regiment"—who incidentally, on 30th May this year, will reach his 97th birthday!—whose most recent gift to The Buffs Museum has been a tea-caddy, made from the wood of a Russian gun-carriage taken from the Redan at Sebastopol. Col. C. K. Pearson had it made for his aunt, Miss Fanny Pearson, and this is recorded on the silver plate on the lid of the tea-caddy.

And thirdly, to make this story complete and up to date, a certain Surgeon-General Crocker brought "the Father of the Regiment" into the world, when Col. C. K. Pearson was commanding the 2nd Bn. The Buffs. The granddaughter of that Surgeon-General is Mrs. Knocker, wife of Lt.-Col. Ned Knocker, one of the two Assistant Regimental Secretaries! It's a small world!

Photographs appear opposite.



The two photographs reproduced on this page show (above) the Isandhlwana Mountain towering above the Natal countryside where, just over 86 years ago, the British Army suffered defeat at the hands of Cetewayo's impis; and (right) the monument at Stanger, which includes the name of Lieut. C. E. Mason, who, at the age of 24, died of fever in the hospital at Herwin on 7th April of the same year. Mr. Kettle is also shown, on the right of the photograph, having just laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment.



# What D'you Want?

Some Comments on the Outcome of the Research Exercise

by the Editor

**R**EADERS will remember that the "What d'you want?" pro-forma appeared in the last three issues of 1964. Forty-one replies were received as a result, and these can be analysed in a variety of ways.

First, by age groups. Only two replies were received in the "Under 25" group and both were from Officers; one was a serving Regular and the other a serving T.A. Officer. This tends to make the last sentence of the penultimate paragraph of Lt.-Col. Bill MacDonald's letter, published on page 400 of last October's issue—the letter which sparked off this entire exercise!—look pretty silly! Where is that willing response from "some 500 chaps sitting in British Guiana"—including, presumably, that almost legendary figure "Pte. Newt"? Where, indeed?

In the "between 25 and 40" group 13 replies were received. Of these, six were from serving Regular Officers; three from serving T.A. Officers; three from retired Regular Officers; and one from a senior N.C.O. in the 1st Battalion. Once again, "Where have all the young men gone?"

Fourteen replies came in from the "between 40 and 65" age-bracket. Nine came from retired Officers and/or soldiers and the remainder from four serving Officers and one serving senior N.C.O. From the "over 65's" there were 12 replies, seven of them from retired Officers.

The reader must form his own conclusions from this first analysis before passing on to the next, which must, of course, be that of the preferences which those 41 replies represented. Here, once again, at the risk of boring the reader but in order to refresh his memory, are the 10 main headings under which any one issue of this Journal is usually published:—

1. The Editor's Page.
2. Editor's Announcements.
3. Readers' Articles.
4. Announcements of, and reports on, Regimental functions.
5. Correspondence.
6. The Regimental Golfing Society (at intervals).
7. News from the 1st Battalion.
8. News from the Territorial Battalions.
9. News from the Cadet Battalions (quarterly).
10. The Regimental Association—News from the Branches and Ladies' Guilds.

Not unnaturally, because of the battalion in which each is at present serving, the two "under 25" replies put, respectively, No. 7 and No. 8 as their first priority, but it was of interest that the T.A. Officer—like many others in the three other age groups—had No. 7 (News from the 1st Battalion) as his second preference.

In only one of the 13 "between 25 and 40" replies was No. 7 not included in the first three priorities; indeed, in one, from a serving T.A. Officer, it took pride of place over No. 8. Editor's Announcements (No. 2) figured quite prominently in this group.

Exactly half the 14 "between 40 and 65" replies had No. 5 (Correspondence) somewhere in their first three priorities, but the 1st Battalion's activities still led the field, nine of the replies showing No. 7 placed in the first three preferences. Much to this writer's surprise No. 1 had very nearly as much support, having barely had a mention until then.

In the final group, the "over 65's," the figure of No. 10 was, surprisingly, only mentioned five times in the first three priorities of the 12 replies received. Readers' Articles (No. 3) had a measure of support and No. 1 came into its own with seven mentions, one behind the ubiquitous No. 7!

This writer would like to put on record how much he has appreciated, and is grateful for, the efforts of all those who sent him their pro-forma; for the useful suggestions which many of them also contained; and for the kindly remarks made about the character and standard of the Journal as a whole. One reply to the question "What d'you want?" gave the simple answer: "No alteration!" Although there will obviously have to be a few changes made, this writer has to admit to purring with pleasure at receiving such a reply!

Before concluding this summary, a glance backwards at the number of actual pages of print and/or pictures occupied during 1964, under the 10 headings which usually make up each issue, reveals the following:—

1. Editor's Page/Column .....	7½	pages
2. Editor's Announcements .....	15½	"
3. Readers' Articles .....	30	"
4. Regimental Functions .....	17	"
5. Correspondence .....	20½	"
6. Regimental Golfing Society .....	5½	"
7. News from the 1st Battalion .....	56	"
8. News from the T.A. Battalions (4 Buffs (T.A.) 26; 5 Buffs (T.A.) 17½; 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.) 20½) .....	63½	"
9. News from the Cadet Battalions .....	12	"
10. Regimental Association (News from the Branches 59½; Ladies' Guilds 6½) .....	65½	"

Those readers to whom "News from the Branches" is of more importance than any other section of each issue may be further interested to know that the number of Branches which last year contributed their news each month averaged just under 12. The Branches concerned, therefore, each contributed the best part of five pages of news during the year—something to be proud of, surely?

## CORRESPONDENCE

39 Pulborough Road,  
Storrington, Sussex.  
Tel. Storrington 2195.  
27th January, 1965.

The Editor, Invicta.

Dear Sir,

I joined the 1st Bn. Queen's Own Royal West Kents from the Middlesex Regiment in May, 1918, and served as L.G. with B Coy. until wounded in Africa Trench on 27th September. I would be pleased to hear from any of B Coy. who knew me during that time. In fact, anyone of the Battalion must know me as I was about the only one who wore spectacles, and was in trouble every time we came out of the line. I was always thankful for the way the Officers treated me. It was a great help to me during the last war, as a Commissioned Officer for 5½ years. I could manage all the so-called bad boys.

All the best.

Yours sincerely, H. S. FIELD.

2 Suffolk Road,  
Maidstone, Kent.  
21st January, 1965.

The Editor, Invicta.

Dear Sir,

I have had news from Guernsey of Mr. E. Godfrey, who served with the 2nd Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment in Palestine and Malta. He has had a bad accident on his motor-cycle on his way to work and smashed his thigh, he is out of hospital now, but will be on crutches for some time yet.

Yours sincerely,

H. W. MAXLOW.



H.Q. Jamaica Defence Force,  
UP Park Camp,  
Kingston, Jamaica.  
21st January, 1965.

To: Major-General D. E. B. Talbot,  
C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L.  
My dear General,

I was recently looking around Kingston Parish Church which is a church in the old part of Kingston which I do not normally visit. On the wall I was very interested to see a large well-preserved plaque erected in memory of Col. Charles Hill, of the 50th Regiment of Foot. The text of the plaque is appended below.

I think you will agree with me that this is very interesting and illustrates another link between the Regiment and Jamaica, in addition to those of the 97th at Newcastle. The graves in the cemetery there are now being well cared for.

With very best wishes for the coming year.

Yours ever,

P. E. CROOK.

(Brigadier P. E. Crook, C.B.E., D.S.O., B.A.)

In the Cemetery of this Parish lie interred the Mortal remains of COLONEL CHARLES HILL, LIEUT. COLONEL of the 50th Regiment of FOOT and a Companion of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath.

As a Major and afterwards as Lieut Colonel Commanding this brave and distinguished Regiment, he was himself eminently conspicuous in the numerous actions of the War in which it was engaged and assisted in placing in its Colours the glorious distinction of VIMIERA, VITTORIA, PYRENEES and PENINSULA. Covered with wounds and with Honor, He might at the Peace have retired to the enjoyment of his Country's blessings and applause, but anxious to see his old Regiment restored to its wonted force and discipline and then unwilling to quit it when again ordered on distant duty and an unfavourable change of Climate, He ultimately fell a Victim to his ever anxious solicitude for those with whom his Blood had been so often shed and together with a numerous band of his Gallant Officers and Soldiers perished by a desolating fever on the 31st of August, 1819, in the 57th year of his Age, and the 41st of his Military Service.

This Stone is erected to his Memory  
by his Affectionate Wife ANNIE HILL.

Nutkins,  
79 The Rise,  
Sevenoaks, Kent.  
1st February, 1965.

The Editor, Invicta.  
Dear Sir,

In the December issue the 4th Bn. The Buffs correspondent suggested that we Territorials should stand "four square" against the proposed Big Regiment, and he also stressed the importance of the local ties of the Territorial Army. Perhaps you would permit me to take issue with him on these two points in your correspondence columns.

In common with most Territorials, I would be reluctant to see us become part of the big Regiment, but I do not think we should arbitrarily dismiss the idea by burying our heads in the sand of tradition, without seriously considering certain factors.

First, if Territorial regiments "opt out" of the big Regiment concept we must face the inevitable fact that the gap between Regulars and Territorials, regimentally, will grow even bigger than it is already. This, I feel, will be bad for both parties, particularly as militarily we are entering a period of even closer co-operation.

Secondly, if the Territorial Regiments of the Home Counties join their Regular brethren to form a big Regiment it would make a regiment of 11 Regular and Territorial battalions, giving it great strength, stability and influence since they would have the same name, badges and an esprit de corps built on the traditions of the past.

Thirdly, on mobilisation Territorials will reinforce the Home Counties big regiment regular battalions in B.A.O.R., and will arrive wearing different badges and find units

who will look upon them almost as strangers. Since we may be fighting shoulder to shoulder would it not be better that both Regular and Territorials come from the same stable to start with, as we have done since 1881?

Provided the big Regiment has an attractive title and badge, and the Battalions carry on the traditions and customs of the old regiments from which they are formed, perhaps Territorials could take a pride in belonging to this new Regiment.

I would further regretfully suggest that local ties mean even less for the Territorial Army in this modern age. Naturally a percentage of soldiers join a regiment because of friends or family connections, but the vast majority join for the simple and unromantic reason that the Drill Hall is the nearest Infantry one to their home. It is only after they have served for a time that they begin to take pride in their regiment, provided they find it is an interesting unit with high standards. These same men would quite happily join at the Drill Hall of the 328th Battalion the Royal Corps of Infantry (T.A.) and would be just as proud of it if they found it to be an efficient formation.

It is the same sad story with local dignitaries, the local Press and employers, who as a general rule have little or no interest in their local units. There are, of course, refreshing exceptions to this rule, but this is often because there has been a past connection with the regiment or the Army in general.

The most important problem we "Infanteers of Kent and Kentish Infanteers" have got to face is that we are the only county in the country with three battalions, all of which are very much under strength.

Despite an extraordinarily high morale and a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and hard work by all concerned, the battalions are not militarily viable units as they are so thin on the ground. This lack of numbers inhibits efficiency and handicaps realistic military training, and it is efficiency and realism that attracts the potential young officer and soldier rather than the past glories, local ties or strange sounding names.

There is always a constant threat of economy cuts and reorganisation, and it is almost certain that in the very near future the present three battalions may be forced into a "shotgun marriage," leaving only two battalions in the county, or at worst only one.

Would it not be better to arrange our own "marriage of convenience" under the happy association of The Queen's Own Buffs, and form the present three battalions into two? This would give two units, each about 500 strong, which could carry out realistic training and be considered for a more active role than at present, on mobilisation. If mobilisation occurred now the present three battalions would virtually disappear, once their T.A.E.R. and B.A.O.R. reinforcements had been despatched and the over-age and unfit discharged. In modern war there would not be time to train replacements who eventually will be civilians with no military experience whatever.

If the Regular battalion goes into the big Regiment these two new Territorial battalions could be called the 1st and 2nd Bns. The Queen's Own Buffs, or perhaps more popularly, The 1st Bn. The Buffs and the 1st Bn. Queen's Own, as other Territorial battalions have become known when their 1st battalions have been amalgamated.

I appreciate that what I have said may be Territorial dynamite but before I am thrown to the lions, I would like to present my defence.

I am not a "Mod" or a "Rocker" of the Regimental boat but being an active member of the Army Historical Society, I can perhaps claim to be a military "Trad" who wishes to see realistic battalions where the traditions and customs of our two great regiments can flourish and perhaps even be enhanced, rather than fade away like the old soldiers who passed them on to us for safe keeping.

Yours faithfully,

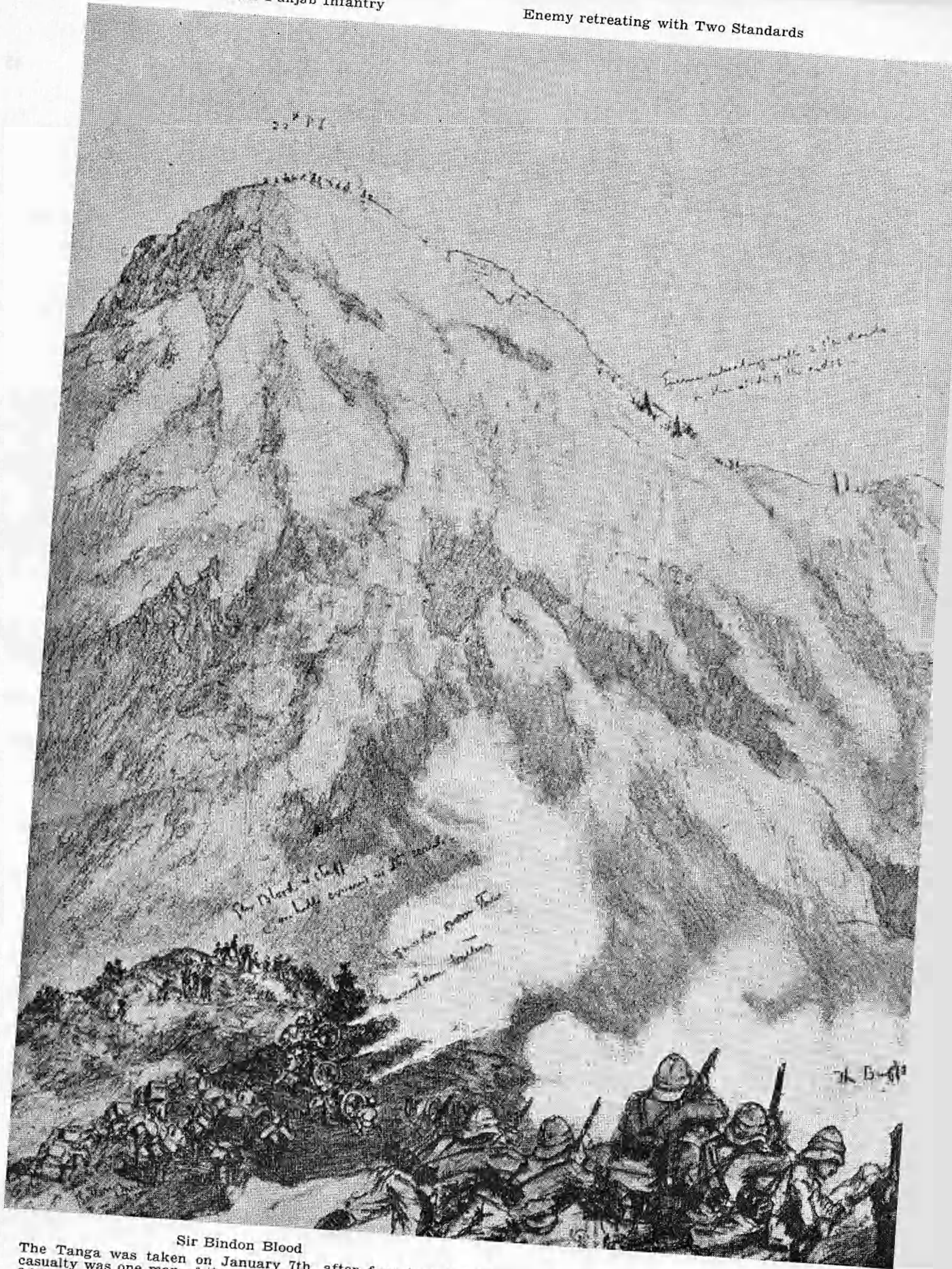
JIM OGILVIE, Major,  
4/5 Queen's Own (T.A.).

P.O. Box 3462,  
Nairobi, Kenya.  
6th January, 1965.

The Editor, Invicta.  
Dear Sir,

Invicta's valuable space permitting, you may consider it worthwhile inserting a paragraph to the effect that the writer, Hugh Mitchell and Jack Crozier—all three of whom went to India with 2nd Buffs in 1919 and served





Sir Bindon Blood

The Tanga was taken on January 7th, after four hours' fighting. Our only casualty was one man of the Highland Light Infantry killed. The enemy were 2,000 strong, and they lost heavily. The 20th Punjab Infantry executed a flank- ing movement in brilliant style, and captured two standards. The Field and

The Buffs

Mountain Batteries made splendi shells around the enemy's sang was mainly due to the excell supplemented by The Buffs, wh

THE EXPEDITION AGAINST THE BUNERWALS : THE TAK  
FACSIMILE SKETCH BY OU





t Infantry
21st Punjab Infantry
West Kent
The Buffs

repeatedly bursting their shrapnel  
 at that our loss was so small  
 artillery fire, which was ably  
 ed on a lofty ridge, 1,300 yards

distant from the enemy's position. That infantry fire at this long range should  
 prove so effective is not the least remarkable feature of this well-conducted  
 engagement.

**THE TANGA PASS : GENERAL VIEW OF THE OPERATIONS**

ARTIST, W. T. MAUD, 1898



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## Recruiting



Photo: "Chatnam, Rochester and Gillingham News."

When the Home Counties Brigade recruiting drive was launched in the middle of January all available members of the Regiment serving on the staff of the Brigade Depot were present at one or other of the "launching parties" held at the various Army Information Offices in Kent. The photograph (left) was taken at the Chatham A.I.O. and shows, from left to right, Major Alan Peckham, L/Cpl. Cadman, Lt.-Col. L. G. Wilkes (A.R.O., Chatham), Pte. Light and Major Michael Dracopoli. The Regimental Headquarters staff were also in action that day, Colonel Grace being present at the Canterbury A.I.O., Lt.-Col. Knocker being at Chatham and Lt.-Col. Grove going to Blackheath.

## NEWS FROM THE DEPOT

### Personnel at Film Premiere



R.S.M. P. Flovd, Queen's Own Buffs, Miss Iris Pinwill, daughter of Cpl. J. Pinwill, A.C.C., Junior Sergeant J. Grimes, (Mx.), Mrs. Floyd and film star Mr. Richard Attenborough at the Café Royal on the occasion of the première of the film, "Guns at Batasi."

Copyright photograph taken at premiere of 20th Century-Fox's "Guns at Batasi."



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# News From The Territorial Battalions

## 4th Bn. THE BUFFS (T.A.)

### Training

**I**N Caesar's days we should all have remained in "winter quarters" since the last edition of these notes was published, consuming large quantities of wines, dallying with the local maidens and preparing ourselves from recumbent attitudes for the campaigns of the spring. The Battalion has very commendably resisted any temptation to hibernate or to indulge itself excessively in the fleshpots of East Kent and has continued to carry out some varied and ambitious training, some of which has actually taken place in the fresh air!

Lured from office desks by a wholly misleading weather forecast, an I Section reinforced by the Orderly Room Sergeant (Sgt. Hills), the Command Post Operator (Pte. W. Gawler) and one of the Battalion Pay Corporals (Cpl. George) set out on a compass and map reading exercise in the area of Stelling Minnis. The first 200 yards or so were covered in pallid winter sunshine and the rest under a steady fall of enthusiastic winter rain, but in spite of this the exercise went quite well and an extremely accurate course was kept by compass bearing alone through a dense wood and all parties making accurate landfalls at the destination.

"C" Company has in addition to its support weapon training commitment started research and training in the mysteries of I.S. Phase 1, the accumulation of stores, is well advanced and considerable interest is building up in batons and shields. Some of the tougher members of the Company are beginning to delight in parading with banners telling everyone "to go home peacefully."

A BAT team has been formed for training and the Drill Hall once again rings with the shouting of anti-tank fire orders and the crash of gun drill—shades of the past with the 6-pdr. and 17-pdr.!

At Cranbrook the Sin. Mortar Group are still stoking their tubes but unfortunately most of it is still being done in the Drill Hall. Their undoubted efficiency, however, was recently on show with a demonstration for the Battalion Officers' Course which was both impressive and appreciated.

In "A" Company the cycle of recruit training has commenced again and on Sunday, 10th January, the basic lessons of the S.L.R. were taught and these were followed by lectures on fieldcraft and battlecraft by Capt. Stevens.

The Recce Platoon spent a busy and profitable week-end on Saturday/Sunday, 23/24 January. Saturday afternoon was spent on a navigation exercise through the country between Canterbury and Paddlesworth, along the basic axis of Stone Street, and on completion of this phase the platoon proceeded to the Drill Hall at Shellons Street where the night was passed. The first parade on Sunday was at 0700 hrs. and was followed by basic weapon training for the platoon recruits and after breakfast the whole platoon moved down to the ranges at Hythe and carried out general shooting practice with the S.L.R., L.M.G. and Sten.

"B" Company have also been aiming quite high with a Signals Exercise carried on under a local basis by Sgt. Cowles. Radio procedure improved slowly as the day wore on. Apart from this the Company has been concentrating on classification. (The sub-editor would like to make it clear to subscribers that the Battalion is a 5 Company Battalion and the reason that little is ever heard in these columns of "D" Company is due to the fact that we are not the recipients of much in the way of tidings from that quarter—in other words, "Nothing heard"—as they always say on signals exercises.)

### General

The Battalion's notes about the "Big Regiment" have met with a sharp rebuke from West Kent! The point of the paragraph was that efficiency in the T.A. is dependent on local connections, at any rate in peacetime, and that irrespective of what may be the position in the Regular Army, in the T.A. organisation and tradition go hand in hand. The writer of the letter, with commendable detachment, expresses no views on this but takes a tilt at a windmill or two on the fringes of the subject—and very well, too.

The reference to the success of Cromwell's Ironsides was in particularly a "palpable hit." It is worth mentioning that the New Model Army under Col. Sir Richard Sandys burned and damaged Canterbury Cathedral on 30th August, 1642. We would, however, go so far as to say that although "Forming Square" may perhaps not be the best attitude to adopt, it is at least more positive than burying our heads in the sand like ostriches!

If we wait until there is "something more concrete to discuss" we might wake up one morning to find that a decision has been taken and all that is left is to "baa" our obsequious acquiescence.

### Hails and Farewells

Sgt. Arthur Ward has left Headquarter Company to go back to the 1st Battalion as I Sergeant and to say that he will be missed by many friends is to say that he will be missed by the whole Company. He has given us his very good best during his stay with us, not only on the technical side but in the general activities of the Company and the success of the basketball team attests his skill and enthusiasm in this direction. He was given a great public send off at a Company social when a Battalion plaque was presented to him and a bouquet to Mrs. Ward.

Sgt. Ward's replacement is Sgt. Tom Woollard from the 1st Battalion, to whom we give a very warm welcome.

At Cranbrook a presentation was made to C./Sgt. Bert Simmons who is also leaving to return to the 1st Battalion. Both he and Mrs. Simmons will also be very much missed, Both have worked very hard and it is only recently that we thanked Mrs. Simmons for her great effort at the Christmas Social. C./Sgt. Shields comes to Cranbrook in place of C./Sgt. Simmons and to him we extend our welcome and hope he will be very happy with us at our far-flung outpost.

### Social

The Band had their Dinner and Dance at Ricemans, Canterbury, on the 9th January and an exceptionally well organised evening it was. Mr. Clark, the Bandmaster, C./Sgt. "Bilko" Ship, and Sgt. Croxford were the organisers and to them all credit is given. The guests included Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Willows, the Training Officer and the Quartermaster with their ladies, Major and Mrs. Johnson and many other friends of the Band.

The Officers' Mess began 1965 with a complete innovation in the form of a "Tramps' Supper," which was held at the Mess on 16th January. This was primarily a domestic occasion presided over by Col. and Mrs. Dean cast in their sensational new roles of Raggle Taggle King and Lady.

We were very pleased to welcome Col. and Mrs. John Tilleard and Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Frank Neville.

The Mess decor was in "super scruff" and most of the ladies had clearly lavished more care on their informal attire than they would have done for a hunt ball! The word "tramp" lent itself, in the case of the girls, to a certain amount of misunderstanding and one was heard to say rather severely at a late stage of the evening that she was not that kind of a tramp!

S./Sgt. Cole won the prize for the most convincing attire and considering his normal resplendence this must have taken some doing. This was a very good evening and very much enjoyed.

## 5th Bn. THE BUFFS (T.A.)

**T**HE New Year has got off to a flying start and there are very few blank spaces on the now famous chart at Battalion Headquarters—a fact which is inclined to make the Permanent Staff look slightly pensive when considering the leave stakes! An innovation this year has been the commencement of two new files. The one started by the Commanding Officer and entitled "VIEWS" looks like being a formidable affair compared with the slim volume of "THOUGHTS" produced by the Training Major. Both files it seems have their merits. Similarly an outbreak of "chartitis" appears rampant, but fortunately a lack of wall space seems to be bringing this under control.

### New P.S.I. at Westwood

Welcome to W.O.II G. Brown, B.E.M., who has joined us from the 1st Battalion. C.S.M. Brown is taking over from C.S.M. Matthews, at Westwood T.A. Centre, and is already finding his feet in his new appointment. Meanwhile, C.S.M. Matthews, having completed his resettlement course, is about to proceed on terminal leave. We shall be very sorry indeed to lose Noddy!

### Padre's Week

The Rev. Peter Lloyd attended the Eastern Command Chaplains convention at Bagshot early in January.

### Recruits' Cadre

The recruits, under Captain Gerald Dineley, attended a cadre at St. Martin's Plain as part of their training. Other training days are being held at Westwood, and follow-up sessions at individual T.A. Centres should have the effect of bringing all recruits along at the same pace. Recruiting is continuing and January provided another 13 enlistments. A new feature is the increasing number of applicants with former service, and this certainly is a great help.

### "I.S." Training at Deal

Some 80 Officers, Warrant Officers, Sergeants and Junior N.C.O.'s attended the I.S. training day at Deal on 31st January. Exercise "Whisky Galore" occupied all ranks for the greater part of the morning and I.S. problems were hammered out on the cloth model. There followed a very convincing demonstration of a road block, and the afternoon included demonstrations and practise of box drill. We are very grateful to R.S.M. Parker and W.O.II Walters for the parts they played in this training; to D and C Companies for the demonstration squads; and to C Company for all the administrative details of what was a very successful training day. The Brigade Commander and Brigade Major visited us whilst training was in progress; it was very nice to see them both.

### Reshuffle

Congratulations to 2/Lt. Tony Darby on his appointment to a Commission. He joins D Company at Dover, and is a most useful addition to the Officer strength there. With this latest Selection Board success it has been possible for the Commanding Officer to put a re-deal into effect and the following moves have now been promulgated:—

Capt. G. Dineley to B. Company as Second-in-Command.

Lt. D. Baldock to D Company.

Lt. A. Bingham to H.Q. Company as Recce Platoon Commander.

2/Lt. M. W. B. Collyer to C Company.

We wish all these officers every success in their new jobs.

### Ranges

It has been possible to negotiate with the Depot, Royal Marines, Deal, for the use of Kingsdown Range on various Sundays throughout the year. We are very grateful for this welcome addition to our facilities, particularly as the range is so near our T.A. Centre. An upward trend in shooting results must now surely follow.

### Welcome Visitor

A recent call by Col. Roy Waring proved a pleasant surprise indeed. "Late T.A." is a most unusual entry in the Visitors' Book and one of which we are rather proud!

### TV Liaison

The Commanding Officer was a guest at the recent dinner given by the Managing Director of Southern Independent Television at Birchington. Whilst it is too early to forecast results from such a liaison, we are quite hopeful for future coverage of Battalion events.

### Soldier No More

Cpl. S. Rowland, of B Company, has taken his discharge on reaching the age limit. A founder member of the Battalion, Cpl. Rowland's departure is a loss to the Margate Company and to the Battalion. A loyal supporter and a conscientious T.A. volunteer thus makes way for younger blood.

### Annual Ball

This will take place at the Winter Gardens on Friday, 26th March, as already notified in the "Coming Events" column. We look forward to seeing all our friends, both old and new, at what we feel sure will be the most successful event we have staged.

### Luck of the Sheep Dip?

The flight manifest of a certain aircraft bound for the Continent from Manston a short time ago would make interesting reading. In addition to a flock of sheep, it could easily have been carrying (in woolly disguise?) the Commanding Officer. It certainly whisked Mrs. Neville off to Belgium; that the Commanding Officer had eventually to go by sea was something to do with the Weights and Measures Department, as the sheep were found to weigh too much! So much for the air portability of O.C. 5 Buffs!

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## 4/5th Bn. THE QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGT. (T.A.)

**J**ANUARY never seems to be the best of months for the T.A.—it may be general anti-climax, it may be those bills, it may be just a general feeling that one is not as tough and alert as those posters say; the fact remains that we tend to emerge (with a frightening incongruity) together with the dear little snowdrops, in February. So the emphasis this month is pretty heavily on the social side.

### All For The Children

Following A Company's Children's Party, reported in the last issue, H.Q. Company entertained some 90 children at Tonbridge this month. It was apparently the usual desperate holding operation by a dedicated band of volunteers against superior odds. Sgt. Manser spearheaded friendly forces as Father Christmas, distributing presents from the tree, and Cpl. Locke was the main organiser.

### H.Q. Company Dinner

On 16th January, H.Q. Company had sufficiently recovered to hold their Annual Dinner and Dance. Eighty members of the Company, with ladies, dined at Tonbridge and then danced to the Regimental Band.

"Amongst the guests," writes H.Q. Company Commander, "was Mr. Coulstock, whom former members of the Company will remember as C.S.M. before the war. His brother was Drum-Major and last month we welcomed his grandson, who is now in the Recce Platoon. A family tradition going back to before 1914 has been maintained."

### Better Late Than Never

B Company, reporting a little late, held their Christmas Social in December where C/Sgt. Rickwood ran a sweep. It is said that the tickets sold were a record number, and as C/Sgt. Rickwood's selling prowess is well-known in the Battalion, one assumes that B Company are now skint to a man.

### . . . . and Family

D Company, for reasons best known to themselves, decided to celebrate the New Year on 9th January! It is possible that they find figuring a little hard. The party, at any rate, was built on the simple and highly effective formula of collecting a very large beer-kitty and spending it. By the end of the evening nobody present cared whether it was New Year or August Bank Holiday, so the party may be reckoned a great success. Particular thanks to Pte. Readwin and L/Cpl. Nash as organisers.

### Recruiting

We welcome to the Battalion and the Regiment Ptes. Cooper, Chandler and Ridden, of A Company, Ptes. Leigh, Lee and Jenkins, of B Company, and Ptes. Jackson and Whalley, of C Company. Ptes. Foley and Morgan joined D Company in December, and it is a gross oversight on the part of this correspondent that their arrival went unnoticed at the time. Finally, Ptes. Richards and Peek take their places in the Anti-Tank Platoon.

### Engagements

Whilst the average young man's fancy does not traditionally lightly turn to thoughts of love until the spring, an insidious side-effect of N.C.O.'s cadres has been that no less than three Corporals have become engaged in January. Congratulations, therefore, to Cpl. Shaw-Cotterill, of B Company, and to Cpl. Prentice and L/Cpl. Carman, of H.Q. Company. The two last at any rate, have started the tricky process of introducing their future spouses to the T.A. by bringing the ladies to their Company Dinner, where Cpl. Prentice further distinguished himself by being awarded the George Wood Efficiency Cup.

### Promotions

Congratulations to L/Cpls. Lambe and Hart, of B Company, on being promoted to that rank.

### Serious Stuff

Training, apart from the usual Drill Hall side, did not get under way until 24th January, when C Company entertained the Battalion and A.C.F. contingents at Mereworth Woods in a section training session. This correspondent was unable to be present and the record of the day had to be gleaned from several sources.

The first informant was a certain subaltern who said that the only occurrence of note was his own faultless handling of a wireless set. O.C. H.Q. Company, Major Mike Devonshire, wrote that the Assault Pioneers' wiring demonstration was, in fact, the sole *raison d'être* of the day's training.

Finally, the search for truth led to a group of recruits who gave a full, if hardly objective, account of their experiences.

The clearest thing in the group's memory was the wetness of the woods. On its being suggested that soldiers should be prepared to operate in the rain, it was pointed out, with some fairness, that the T.A. is well prepared for the heaviest monsoon, but would be completely lost if it ever arrived anywhere dry.

The day started with basic camouflage and concealment, and an uncouth Corporal proceeded to daub faces with an unidentifiable unguent. Submission to this military rite was, naturally enough, felt to be beyond the call of duty and at least one recruit fled the line, to be recaptured and forcibly camouflaged by his section commander.

After this, the important business of section attacks began, when the following two lessons were learnt:—

1. A section attack is always left-flanking.
2. If you take the precaution of getting a steel helmet that does not entirely cover your eyes, you are far less likely to fall flat on your face.

The next operation was to hold the ground won, in the first place by digging trenches. This is a nasty business as one gets all muddy, and as the cadets in the party had no digging tools a charmingly generous gesture, so typical of the Territorial Volunteer, was made and the cadets were allowed to do the actual digging. This was, at any rate, until an N.C.O., lacking in charm and generosity, altered the arrangements.

Finally, the Assault Pioneers demonstrated the intricacies of defensive wiring and all the trenches were wired. At this point the main informant, clutching a bottle of beer and a bread-pudding, retired to dead ground underneath a truck and the narrative ends.

At any rate, everybody seems to have learnt something, and C Company's programme was obviously appreciated by all who attended.

### M.T. Training

The 9th January saw the start of a series of M.T. weekends. The Q.M. and M.T.O. were joint instructors to some 25 trained or potential drivers.

The only serious casualty of the day was Sgt. Chewter, who succeeded in pouring six gallons of boiling water over his foot which, at the time of writing, has kept him off work for three weeks. It is rumoured he is being put up for a Purple Heart, and we hope that, by the time this appears in print, recovery will be complete.

### Tailpiece

It has been published in orders that the G.P.M.G. can be fired when the change-lever is at safe, and without pressing the trigger. Special training precautions have been issued. Oh well, bear it in mind when you're cleaning up those 20-year-old .303 Brens.

### Erratum

It was reported last month that: "'A' Company Commander had lost himself on the Mereworth Woods camp circuit." Not you, Major Watson, Sir. In reality, the reference should have been to that indefinite article "a Company Commander."

## REGIMENTAL

THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS



## ASSOCIATION

THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT

## SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Those members of the Regiment who knew him and, in particular, all members of 5 Buffs (T.A.) and of the Ramsgate Branch of the Regimental Association, will have learned with the greatest regret of the death on 8th February at his home in Ghent, of Monsieur Amand Vinck, in his 68th year. M. Vinck served in the British Army during the First World War and one of his daughters married Lt.-Col. Frank Neville, who commands 5 Buffs (T.A.). Whenever M. Vinck visited his son-in-law and daughter he attended the Ramsgate Branch meetings, and the Branch recently paid him the honour of electing him an Honorary Vice-President. To the family and, in particular, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Neville, go the sympathy of all who knew him.

## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

## ASHFORD

OUR February meeting was well attended and all our regulars were in attendance. It is sad to report the death of Mrs. Masters, which occurred on Sunday, 3rd January. To "Ossie" Masters we offer our sympathy. A letter was received from Major Bompas with a donation to the Branch funds; to him we send our thanks.

The main discussion was in the form of the arrangements for the first round of the Association Darts Competition, when we are at home to the London Branch (Buffs). The date having been fixed for 13th March, it was agreed that our March meeting should commence at 6.30 on 13th March and not on the first Saturday, the 6th March. Members offered their services to assist during and after the darts match. We are all looking forward to an enjoyable evening with our London members. Unfortunately, our chairman, George Skinner, will be absent, as on this day he leads his daughter to the altar; so he will be kept out of mischief!

Our members quickly dispersed after the meeting as there was no bar available, for some unknown reason; our secretary was asked to look into this matter.

On the sick list is Bill Charlton; we hope he is soon up and about again.

A.C.M.

## BROMLEY

BEFORE the Chairman (Mr. S. C. Lewis) opened the January meeting he asked the members present to stand in silence as a mark of respect for the late Sir Winston Churchill, whose State Funeral had taken place that day (30th January). Afterwards all agreed that the three Services had put up a wonderful ceremonial show with precision drill. The attendance was rather small, due, no doubt, to the very cold east wind that was blowing that evening.

Letters were read from R.H.Q. The one with reference to the association meeting at Canterbury on 20th March was forwarded to Mr. A. C. Ashby (Branch representative), as he was unable to be present. The Chairman was congratulated on the kindly Christmas letter that he had sent to all members.

The arrangements for the Branch social on 27th March were discussed and it was agreed that the same form of entertainment as last year should be provided. The guest list was approved and was to include the Regimental Pensioners from Chelsea.

The meeting closed by the Vice-President (Lt.-Col. "Pug" Durnell) showing members a medallion, which had belonged to his great-grandfather, commemorating the funeral of the Duke of Wellington. This was viewed with much interest and the Colonel mentioned that a similar one had already been struck in memory of Sir Winston Churchill.

B.B.

## CANTERBURY

THE January meeting of the Branch was held on Friday, 22nd, at Leroy T.A. Centre, by courtesy of the Sergeants' Mess, when 16 members were present, Mr. C. Garratt being in the chair. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Rennels, Mr. Rye and R.S.M. Newman. The minutes of the meeting held in November were read and adopted.

A letter was received from the Regimental Secretary thanking the Branch for what they had been able to do in reference to the late Mr. George Thornby. A letter of thanks and appreciation was received from Mr. Jim Philpott, having reference to the Christmas gift sent him by the Branch. Correspondence also included an invitation from the Royal Naval Association to join them in a social evening at their headquarters, The Duke's Head, Wincheap, on 30th January. One wonders, games apart, who best survived the "splicing of the mainbrace."



A letter was also read from Mr. Joe Dawkins, in which he wondered whether Cecil Farrow was the same "rookie" with whom he joined the Regiment in 1905, and expressing regret that Mr. Farrow had been "under the weather." Well, Mr. Dawkins, I understand this is the same gentleman, and I regret to say that Mr. Farrow is still in hospital at the time of writing these notes (February 4).

It was announced by the Chairman that a cheque for £8 had been received from the Carnival Committee, and thanks were expressed for same. It was decided that the Darts team would take part in the competition this year—indeed, hopes were expressed of getting through the first round!

An interim report was presented by the Branch Treasurer, showing the financial position of the Branch. This showed an excess of expenditure over income for the period of £25/5/11, and the Treasurer's idea—and ideal—was to reverse this position. However, the Balance Sheet (to a layman such as myself), still showed the finances to be in a quite healthy state, bearing in mind the fact that some quite considerable items of expenditure were not likely to recur in the immediate future. Not to worry too much, Mr. Treasurer.

Lt.-Col. D. A. Willows, Commanding Officer, 4th Bn., The Buffs (T.A.), gave the Branch some interesting information with reference to the opening of the new Battalion Headquarters on April 24th. Col. Willows also gave news of the opening of a new Drill Hall for the 4th Bn., at a date undeterminable at present. This new hall, with parquet flooring, would, he said, be made available to the Branch for any social functions they might arrange, and would prove a great boon, as accommodation at present for any large numbers is non-existent. The thanks of the Branch are due to Col. Willows for showing the interest he does in its affairs.

Notice was given of the deaths of two members, one of whom, Mr. Richard Croucher, was formerly Secretary of the Faversham Branch, when extant. He attended our meeting in November and a function the following evening, but regrettably, died suddenly the day following. In his younger days with the Regiment, Mr. Croucher was a keen sportsman and, I understand, held the light-weight championship for boxing.

I offer my apologies to Lt.-Col. E. V. Argles, who was unable to attend at the funeral service of the late Mr. George Thornby. In the last issue of *Invicta* I omitted to mention that his personal representative was Mr. Arthur Albury.

Finally, I also apologise for any errors or omissions in these notes. I am feeling the effects of "the father and mother" of a cold—though I have a suspicion that I am not alone in this respect.

With best wishes to all Branches and all Buffs.

A. H. BERRY.

## CHATHAM

(January)

THERE is very little news to report this month, as our January meeting was of a small attendance, due no doubt to the close proximity of the festive season and sickness of some members. Our President was unable to be present owing to a business call. I thought it my duty to let readers know that the flag is still flying (though somewhat feebly) in the Medway Towns. After business was transacted the following adjourned for a game of darts: Two experts, one good player and one who did not know where the numbers were and who had a set of darts that failed to stay on the board! However, after several games and score all square, I feel the chalk must also have been at fault!

Although our meetings are poorly attended we do enjoy the company; a chance remark and we re-live some happy (or otherwise) period of our service in the Regiment.

One member brought to our notice a cutting from a Gravesend newspaper, which told how the Gravesend Branch was suffering from small attendances at its monthly meetings. We send our best wishes to them on their efforts to keep going, well knowing the frustrations that can arise by such small attendances, when literally hundreds could attend and make our Association a real live force.

We received a gift from Mr. Pilkington (a member living in Canada), which will be raffled to aid our funds. We send best wishes to all Branches and serving members and also to the staff of the Journal.

(February)

OUR February meeting showed a slight increase of members present, which was very gratifying in view of the weather and the fact that it is generally a dull month for social affairs. There was very little business to transact. The Secretary read letters of thanks for gifts made at Christmas to our elder members, etc.

We were pleased to have our President with us; seeing that he travels down from Orpington in all weathers and a poor rail service, it is a very encouraging lead to us. Our late Chairman, Mr. S. Thompson, was also able to get along despite the fact that his wife is still unwell and he has difficulty in leaving his business.

Among others present was Mr. Jack Harrington, who still keeps smiling, although he has not been too well of late and is now 79 years of age. Incidentally, while we were speaking of Sir Winston Churchill's funeral, Jack mentioned that he was one of the party who drew the selfsame gun carriage at King Edward VII's funeral. This may seem strange, as the towing party were men of the Royal Navy but, in fact, Jack joined the Navy as a boy in 1903 and on leaving the Senior Service after 18 years, enlisted in the T.A. (D Coy. 5th R.W.K.) and served until 1937 when he added the Territorial Efficiency Medal to his collection. He will be remembered by members of the Sergeants' Mess of 5th Bn. R.W.K. just before the war.

We are still hoping that our little contribution may catch the eye of some ex-Queen's Own who may decide to pay us a visit at the Hare and Hounds Hotel, High Street, Rochester, on the first Monday in the month.

Best wishes to Major Smith in New Zealand and Mr. Pilkington in Canada and we always welcome a letter.

G.E.L.

## FOLKESTONE

OWING to unforeseen circumstances, the report of the December meeting was too late for publication in the last issue, for which sincere apologies to all readers. A most successful Christmas social was held on 11th December, 1964, attended by approximately 90 members and friends. We were very pleased to be able to welcome Major-General and Mrs. Tarver, Brig. and Mrs. Parry, and a strong contingent of the Ladies' Guild under the leadership of Mrs. Coote, but were sorry not to see Col. J. V. R. Jackson.

We would like to take this opportunity of expressing many thanks to all those who, working behind the scenes, helped to make the evening such a success, mentioning among others Cpl. Rapley and his good lady in connection with the very good fare, Mr. and Mrs. Wickens, Mrs. Button and Mrs. Thorpe at the bar, and the Social Committee for their hard work in running the raffles, prize-giving, etc. Our thanks are also due to all who kindly helped with the decorations and, last but not least, to C.S.M. McGinley.

The first meeting of the year was held on 8th January and the Branch convey their belated best wishes for the New Year to all members. Brig. Parry took the Chair with a mustering of 23 members. In order to enable members to enjoy more fully the social side of the evening, it was decided that in future the committee should meet at 7.15 for the purpose of dealing with the business matters of meetings.

Following our earlier report, Mr. Little has supplied the Secretary with the names and addresses of approximately 24 old Buffs whom it was decided to contact with a view to their taking a more active part in the Branch. In the darts competition we have drawn Sittingbourne, and the Secretary was asked to make the necessary arrangements regarding the date of the match.

After the usual routine matters had been discussed, the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m., and was followed by Brig. Parry, Scottie and A. N. Other entertaining all present with a most enjoyable skit.

E.V.L.

## MAIDSTONE

AS was forecast in my last month's contribution, the Branch have now grown out of the "Flower Pot" and will from our February meeting be "transplanted" to more roomy accommodation at the Sun Inn, High Street. We grew from more or less a "seed," when first we started

at the Flower Pot, and in two years have become strong and healthy. We now have a large private room, plus bar and darts board, where our Social Committee can really go to town. We do hope that with these new facilities we shall continue to flourish. Tim Hayley and Maxie Maxlow are already on a refresher course to brush up their shouting abilities for the first session of "Housey."

The Branch are not alone in leaving the Flower Pot. Our host and treasurer, Bill Chiswell, is retiring early in February from the trade. Bill spent just over 10 years at this house, so, no doubt, his leaving is more of a wrench than for members of the Branch. At the end of our January meeting our chairman thanked Mr. and Mrs. Chiswell for their kindness and generosity during the past two years. He stated that they had both contributed greatly to the revival of the Branch. On behalf of all members he wished them both a very happy and long retirement. Mrs. Chiswell was then presented with a bouquet of lilies and daffodils and Bill with a "Queen's Own" wall plaque.

A deputation from the Branch has been invited to attend the A.G.M. of the Maidstone Joint Council of Ex-Services, on the subject of the Town Remembrance Day Parade. We have very strong views on this and hope to bring our points home to the Council.

The draw for the Inter-Branch Darts Competition was a little disappointing to most members as we have to wait for the results of the first round before we get a match. However, be it London (Buffs) or Ashford, they can be assured that we shall give them a good game. Members of the team are very enthusiastic and are really going all out to win the trophy this year. It does appear that all our matches will be played away.

Our Chairman was back in office again at the January meeting and seems to have recovered very well after his operation; no further bulletins will be issued. We were sorry to hear that Wally Sedge has had another attack of his old complaint, and ordered by his doctor not to go out in the evenings. We sincerely hope that he will soon recover.

Have just heard that Charlie Hendrick who, besides being a staunch member of the Branch, is also the able official at the Regimental Headquarters Offices in Maidstone, is shortly to be married. The date, I understand, is the 30th January. We wish him every success and heartiest congratulations.

Our regards to all,

JIM WELLS.

### LONDON (BUFFS)

WE must go back to December to record our Branch happenings till the end of 1964. On Saturday, 12th December, we held our annual Christmas draw, which was very well supported this year. It enabled us to give some useful presents to those of our more needy members, and also to produce 22 prizes for the subscribers. Most of the prizes fell within the Branch this year. Thirty members and Ladies turned up to witness and help with the draw, the tickets being drawn out by Chirby and Edith Watts.

We had quite a nice social evening afterwards, but the best was to come on Saturday, 19th, when we had the distribution of prizes and Christmas party. There were 12 prizes to be handed out by our chairman, the remainder having been sent by post. After prize distribution we had a sing-song, with music from Bill Copp at the piano, and solos by his lady friend.

It was a pleasure to see some old faces, in particular the party of boxing fame, Joe O'Keefe, L. Maslin and Billy Hudd: Albert Sharpe, looking well but not yet 100 per cent. fit, with his usual party: Terry Deverson, who could not stay very long, also Bob Billings and daughter, Joan, who had to make a hurried departure.

The Hudson family collected some prizes, for tickets sold, and Mrs. Cousins was again to the fore with the third prize. It was nice to see Tots Ambrose for the second time; I am sure he will now attend regularly with "Ding Dong." A jolly nice party came to an end at 11 p.m., with the usual year end festivities and mistletoe.

News of sick members: Major Bill Clover is now in Churchill Ward of Charing Cross Hospital, where he is recovering and making good progress after an abdominal operation. Sammy Martin and Joe Goss are, I hear, having a bit of trouble with their respective legs, but Albert Sharpe is now making progress and is feeling satisfied with himself. I hear that Ernie Hart is shortly to be admitted to hospital for an operation.

We are drawn to play Ashford in the Darts Competition, and the date of play will be published later.

This must be all for this month. With best wishes to all Queen's Own Buffs and the 1st Battalion in particular after their spell in British Guiana.

DAN.

### LONDON (QUEEN'S OWN)

OUR meeting of 29th January, despite the really bad weather of that day, was very well attended, there being 30 members present to rise and stand for a minute's silence in respect to Sir Winston Churchill. We had one new member, another of the famous Hookey Walker clan, who was a bandsman in our 2nd Bn. between the wars and knew many of the members present. He was given the usual hearty welcome and it is hoped he will come along and see us often, although, like many of us, he lives quite a distance away—Northampton to be precise. He knows Harry Wiggins very well, who also lives in that town.

Arthur Edwards had managed the trip despite his bad leg and it was very pleasing to see him in his usual seat. George Stow, now nearing retiring age, has informed us he will not be along for a few months, until he does retire. He and Ann Stow will be missed during this period.

There was a fair amount of correspondence from R.H.Q. and one from Harry Brown, our Canadian member, for whom we are trying to procure badges cap, collar, or any items of use that he can add to his Legion Shields. He tells me this has now reached quite a large collection and I am hopeful that within the next two or three months I shall be able to assist him materially. Timber Marchant has sent along two pairs of badges collar, one pair of The Queen's Own and one pair of The Queen's Own Buffs, a very nice start, anyway.

We debated the Christmas "do" and all agreed it was a very fine effort on everyone's part. There is never any argument about that meeting. We re-read Ronnie Mines' and "Bodger" Kemp's suggestion, re a plaque in Maidstone. This was due to the fact that I believe only a few people knew of the idea, as it was the only item on the agenda for the Christmas meeting!

The darts match against Ramsgate cropped up, as Ramsgate had requested us to meet them half way, and play at Medway. A decision could not be taken at the meeting as there were only two of the darts team present. We cannot give an answer until early March anyway, so the matter must be left pending.

I have had much correspondence from our elderly members recently and this I always welcome. If Bob Brown, Bill Whiffen, Harry Brown and Fred Cannon, the last two Canadians, are reading me, I'm most grateful for your mail and assistance.

We have started the New Year well, and if we keep up the attendance we shall have little need to worry. It was nice to see two or three of the ladies present despite the bad weather, and we are glad that Mary Donaldson's arm seems to have yielded to treatment. That was my impression, anyway, as she did her usual stint with the Benevolent Box!

None of our usual officers were on parade and I sincerely hope Col. "Charles" Chaplin is keeping fit. It would interest me greatly to know how all those who used to attend a few years ago are now faring. I refer to Brig. Paul Crook, Col. Bobby Flint, Geoffrey Elliott, Peter Buckle, John Haycraft, Doug St. Croix, among others. Please keep in mind to meet this year at the reunion. I do hope Col. "Tim" Kerr, "Mick-Mack" Macklin, "Willie" Spurr, "Tancy" Lee, and B. E. Hazleton, B. J. Stonham and "Tony" Martin can manage an hour after church parade? It does buck up the old lads, you know.

Distances mean very little if one wants to meet old comrades and friends, and I hope this year we shall see an abundance of them at the reunion. More next month.

THE SPIDER.

### RAMSGATE

FEBRUARY, the month when we can sit back and know that the Branch has once more passed through the Annual General Meeting. With the annual thought, "What can we do this year to make the Branch successful and maintain the members' interest," we face another year. The A.G.M. was held on Friday, 15th January, when the chairman welcomed about 32 members, more than the usual



numbers for the A.G.M. (I think they are afraid that they will be forced into office). The Treasurer gave his report on the financial position of the Branch which, considering the demands upon the funds, was very healthy. The Chairman, Mr. E. Castle, then thanked all officers for the work they had put in during the year, and all members for their support. For once, the election of officers presented no problems, for all officers were available for re-election and, naturally, all re-elected, so we go into 1965 with the same team.

The Secretary dropped the bombshell that we were drawn away to London Branch (Queen's Own) in the first round of the darts. He was instructed to write to ask if they were prepared to meet us halfway but, as yet, I gather has had no reply. Charlie Fakley was also able to come along, although he is not too well, but Jim Blake, Bert Knott, Ted Edwards and Jack Johnson were not able to be present owing to illness. We have news that Jim Blake has moved into his new flat, where he is able to wheel himself on to the balcony and spend considerable time watching the shipping pass up and down, out beyond the Goodwins. We are very sorry to hear that George Coaster was taken ill suddenly, a few days before the January meeting, but hear that it is not quite as serious as was at first thought.

In my last month's notes I included some names of Buffs that had corresponded recently, and on receiving *Invicta* I find I missed one out, namely H. (George) Bowen, who is serving with the Interpretation Branch of S.H.A.P.E. in Paris—my apologies, George—that's one you have to come!

This is about all for this time, so till March—best wishes to ALL BUFFS—EVERYWHERE.

BEN.

## SANDWICH

OUR Annual General Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Tuesday, 5th January, 1965, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. A. Ledner presided and 19 members were present. The meeting opened with the usual moment's silence in memory of passed comrades. The minutes of the last A.G.M. were read and adopted. Apologies were received from Mr. F. Stockley. Correspondence included the season's greeting cards received from R.H.Q. and Branches of the Association. R.H.Q. gave the name and address of a recently discharged soldier from the Regiment with a view to his becoming a member of the Branch. Notice was also given with regret that the Gallipoli Reunion, 1965, had been cancelled through lack of support.

Details were received for the Inter-Branch Small Bore Shooting Competition and discussed. In a letter from Lt.-Col. E. V. Argles, thanks were expressed for the help given in the sale of raffle tickets, etc., for S.S.A.F.A. and enclosed a list of prizewinners. The Hon. Secretary, in his annual report, stated that the visit to the Ramsgate Ladies' Guild social evening on 5th December, 1964, was very successful and much enjoyed.

Branch outings had been fewer in 1964 owing to lack of support. Our numbers on parades were getting smaller, owing to members passing on, old age and disability and our younger members attending parades with their units. But it was very pleasing to note the increase in the number attending the meetings and it is hoped that the 7.30 p.m. start will achieve its object in allowing more social time after the business. The sale of *Invicta* had been maintained at 24 copies a month. Two new Life Members had been enrolled and six annual members. Two Life Members were deceased, Mr. H. Phillips and Mr. W. Sear. The number of members on the Branch roll was 78 Life Members and 21 annual members; total 99.

Thanks were expressed to the Chairman, committee and members for their co-operation and support during the year. Our Hon. Auditor, Major C. W. Gower, presented the statement of accounts, which he considered very satisfactory. The statement having been adopted, a vote of thanks was accorded to Major Gower for auditing the Branch accounts. A vote of thanks was also accorded to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer for his services to the Branch.

In the election of Chairman, Mr. A. Ledner, who was retiring, vacated the Chair to Mr. A. E. Beecham, who put the proposal of Capt. F. J. Jakob before the meeting and it was carried unanimously. Capt. Jakob, in taking the Chair, thanked Mr. Ledner for his services to the Branch for the past few years. This was appreciated by the members who wished him a happy retirement. There were two nominations for Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. E. Beecham

and Mr. E. Spicer; on being put to the vote, Mr. Spicer was elected.

In the election of Hon. Secretary, there were no volunteers and the Hon. Secretary offered to carry on for 1965. After about 35 years in office he thought that they would make more and better progress with a younger man. The committee was elected as follows: R. Bullock, F. Stockley, E. Hart, R. Field, C. Field, A. Warman, A. Ledner, A. E. Beecham. Standard bearer, Mr. R. Bullock, and escorts, Mr. R. Field and Mr. E. Hart. Mr. A. Ledner was elected sick visitor.

It is with regret that we record the passing of another of our members, Mr. T. J. Adams, D.C.M. "Johnny," as he was known to us all, had been ill for some time and unfortunately had to go to St. Augustine's Hospital, where he died on 27th January, 1965. Mr. Adams won his D.C.M. with the 1st Bn. Buffs when a corporal and his name is the first on the list of awards for this order in the history of the Regiment, 1914-19. He joined the Branch in 1928 and became a Life Member in 1953.

The funeral service took place at St. Clement's Church, Sandwich, on Tuesday, 2nd February, and the Branch was represented by our Chairman, Capt. F. J. Jakob, the Hon. Secretary and five members. The interment was at Sandwich Cemetery. To his widow and family we offer our sympathy in their sad loss.

The general monthly meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Tuesday, 2nd February, 1965, at 7.30 p.m. Capt. F. J. Jakob presided and 20 members were present. The meeting opened with the usual moment's silence and special thoughts were asked for our late member, J. T. Adams, D.C.M., and our great warrior, Sir Winston Churchill.

Correspondence was read and discussed and included circular letters from R.H.Q. re the darts competition and the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee, to be held on Saturday, 20th March. British Rail gave notice of the opening of the automatic half-barriers at Ash Road and Richborough crossings to commence on 10th February, 1965. Following reports, the meeting closed and the remainder of the evening was spent in a get-together, darts, etc.

## SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

TO SUIT . . .

ALL RANKS PAST AND PRESENT



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## SEVENOAKS

OUR contribution goes in this month almost before we have recovered from the chief item of news and must, therefore, be brief. On Saturday, 6th February, members of the Branch assembled with "C" Company, 4/5th Bn., The Queen's Own, to say farewell to Major H. D. A. Pennells, who is handing over command of the Company. No doubt a full report on the very successful social evening will be given in the T.A. Battalion news column next month. Mr. T. S. Bowyer, our chairman, Mr. R. Leavens, Mr. and Mrs. S. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Baker and Mr. and Mrs. Jones were amongst members present on this occasion. Major Pennells was, for some years, chairman of the old Past and Present Association Branch and put considerable effort into its running. We look forward to continuing the close link that exists between the T.A. Company and the Branch. It is essential that it should, as we both need each other and are both out for new members.

## SITTINGBOURNE

(December)

THE December meeting was held in the Drill Hall, Crown Quay Lane. The Chair was taken by Col. Dean, V.C., and supported by a good number of members. First item was to thank the T.A. for their firework display on 5th November. We put off our meeting at Col. Dean's wish as he said it was a grand thing to do. Some of our members attended and enjoyed themselves, ending with a drink at the bar afterwards.

Next was a letter received by Col. Dean from Mr. Grant informing us of the wreaths laid for us in London. Mr. Sinclair, our sick officer, had been visiting Mr. Russell, Mr. Croucher and a few others, I believe. We wish them well and a speedy recovery. Apologies were received from Col. J. E. Wills, Mr. Dunk, Major Jarman, Major Johnson and Mr. Louch. We are again nearing the end of another year and how quickly it has gone by. But we look forward to 1965 with great hopes and more members joining.

Col. Dean welcomed the new P.S.I. to Sittingbourne for the 4th Battalion Buffs and as Sgt. Gardner was present he had the duty of speaking to all members. We were very pleased to have him with us and hope to see more of him in the future.

Next Cpl. Shaw went round with the raffle tickets—a job he likes doing—and after discussing the rise of price of Invicta we all agreed that it is worth it. Then the booby, given by Mr. Dunk, was drawn by Col. Dean and the lucky winner was T.A. member nicknamed Sailor. This being all the business, Col. Dean then wished us all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, which we naturally all wished Col. Dean and one another.

(January)

THE first monthly meeting of 1965 took place at the Drill Hall, Crown Quay Lane, with Col. Dean, V.C., in the Chair. Apologies were received from Col. J. E. Wills, Major Jarman, Major Johnson, Mr. Dunk, Mr. Martin, Mr. Nairn and a few others on shift work. We were very sorry to hear of Bob Russell being laid up and going into hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Col. Dean wished everyone present a happy 1965 and he then arranged the Christmas cards sent from various Branches. We thank all those Branches and they were answered by a card in return by the Secretary. We are especially pleased to receive a card from Denmark again, keeping the Branches in touch with one another.

Next item was darts. We were able to form our team straight away and all members present put Sgt. Bassett as darts captain, this being seconded by Sgt. Cowles and Sgt. Black. We are having our A.G.M. in February as January is a bit soon after Christmas and putting it back a month gives members more time to think concerning those who take office for the coming year.

Cpl. Shaw went round with the raffle tickets. He has a way of getting rid of them and that's good for funds. This being all the business, we then had the draw for the booby. It was given by Mr. Louch, drawn by Col. Dean and won by Sgt. Black. The sum raised was £1/5/-.

## TONBRIDGE AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS

A VERY enjoyable social evening was held by the Branch at the T.A. Hall, Avebury Avenue, on Saturday, 19th December. It was very well attended by members

and their wives and families. During the evening the usual Christmas draw was carried out. It has again been very successful.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 21st January. There was a very good attendance in spite of very unfavourable weather. After our President and Chairman had welcomed the members, the reports followed. Both the Secretary and the Treasurer reported a very satisfactory year. Finance is in a healthy state and there were a number of social events and outings.

The Branch had acquired a new Standard, of which they are very proud, and this had already been fully reported on in these columns. Both the old and new Standards are now permanently on display in the Sergeants' Mess, through the kindness of R.S.M. Rodgers, of 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.).

The election of officers took place after the reports. Our President, Col. G. E. L. Pardington, M.B.E., T.D., was once again re-elected as also was our Chairman, Major N. S. C. Elmslie. Jack Bredon is still Treasurer and Fred Jezzard again Secretary. The election of the committee concluded the business part of the meeting. There will, we hope, be various social events arranged during the coming year.

H.A.

## 11th Bn. THE QUEEN'S OWN

THE usual January Committee Meeting saw one of the smallest attendances so far, but there was a valid excuse in the inclemency of the weather and in the prevalence of colds, etc. Bernard Bergl took the chair, and Len Dawson read apologies from Arthur Buddell, E. C. Reed and Dod Grant—the latter having the Minutes Book in his keeping!—whilst others unable to attend were Donald Dean, Dick Pinder, Bill Toomer, Jim Collins, Sid Lewis and Leary. John Bull came up from Worthing, and it was nice to see Les Eves able to sit up and take nourishment, not to mention the Mayor of Pug Street, Danny Kemp, Walter Riggall and Reg Maltby.

Various reports were submitted, the Dinner, for instance. In this case a vote of thanks was passed to Len Dawson for the fact that for the first time for nearly 40 years there was not a single complaint. The Accounts were passed without comment, subject to audit, but with a request that economies be made where possible.

The Secretary's draft Annual Report was approved, with minor additions, and a word of thanks to Reg Maltby for stepping into the breach when Bill Toomer was ill and getting the Standard and wreath to the Remembrance Service on time. The dates and venues of the A.G.M. and 1965 Dinner were agreed; see "Forthcoming Events." A further vote of thanks to Reg Maltby was passed when it was discovered that in addition to providing the plants in the Garden of Remembrance last year he had, in fact, planted them and had also purchased and put in a number of roses, to lessen the work in future.

The Secretary regretted having to report the deaths of Nelson White in December and of Capt. C. B. Smith and Jack Wood in January. Although we did not then know it, Donald Morley had died that very day, so within the last month we had lost four members, three of them "originals" at Catford.

Jack Wood, who lost an arm with us, was one of the Kent Cyclists draft and he had asked that, in lieu of flowers for his funeral, donations be made to our Benevolent Fund. This has resulted in our so far receiving over £12 and we feel that it is an idea that might well be copied.

Brabant Smith had been very ill for a long time and, apart from his long service with the Battalion, had always been ready to help the Association in his own particular sphere, although his duties prevented his attending many of our gatherings.

Necessity entails the writing of these notes before Donald Morley's funeral at Chevening in the family plot, but we are assured of a good Association representation there. In his quiet self-effacing way Don has been a stalwart over these many years and it is a sad thought that at 67 he must have been among the youngest of us.

A date to note is that of the A.G.M.: 25th March.

R.O.R.



## NEWS FROM THE LADIES' GUILDS

### CANTERBURY

THE meeting on 7th January was a New Year's party for members and their friends. The guest of honour was Mrs. Talbot, wife of Major-General Talbot, the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, who was welcomed by the Vice-Chairman (Mrs. Tilleard). It is good to have Mrs. Worts with us again, while she waits to join her husband, Major J. B. Worts, in Bahrein. During the afternoon a film of his visit to the Holy Land was shown by Mr. S. H. Winter. These pictures, most expertly shown, with commentary and music, made a deep impression. The Officers' Mess was made available by Lt.-Col. Willows, to whom members are most grateful; also to Mr. and Mrs. Clark for preparing the room. There were a number of raffle prizes given by members, who also made all the cakes for tea. Mrs. Lane cut the large iced cake, which she so kindly made.

### LONDON

A MEETING was held at the White Swan, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.1, on 6th February, with Mrs. Foster Hall in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read. Regrets: From Mrs. and Miss Cudlip, Mrs. Caley, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Temple Hirst, Mrs. Billings, Mrs. Waters. Correspondence: Mrs. Waters, Mrs. Cobb, Mr. Hewson. We were very pleased to have Miss Barbara Cousens with us.

Our sincere congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Dixey on their 33rd wedding anniversary. Also very best wishes to Mr. Smith, who is ill; we all wish him a speedy recovery. To all kind members who brought along raffles our sincere thanks; these realised £2/16/7.

On 5th December a party enjoyed a trip to the London Palladium, which was organised by Mrs. Foster Hall; our sincere thanks to her. Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Hawkins and Mrs. Watts were prevented by illness from joining us.

M.J.D.

### RAMSGATE

I am afraid these notes are going to be a little on the short side for, apart from our February meeting, there is little to report. In spite of there being no bus service, owing to the one-day strike, members came along, some travelling by train, and we finished up with 18 present.

The meeting proved very entertaining, and after wading through the business, we ran two competitions, one guessing mystery pictures and one naming abbreviations, and, as the members were still not satisfied, we then ran a couple of games of tombola, so a very pleasant evening came to an end.

Later in the month, on the Men's Branch meeting night, we are hoping to get in some practice at Bat and Trap, and, who knows, later on perhaps challenge the Men's Branch to a match.

All for now. Best wishes to all Ladies' Guilds.

E.E.H.

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# INVICTA

THE JOURNAL OF  
THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS, THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT



MARCH, 1965



# INVICTA

## The Regimental Journal of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment

Volume V, No. 3



March, 1965

### THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS, THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT (3rd, 50th & 97th)

The White Horse of Kent with motto "Invicta"

Blenheim  
Ramillies  
Oudenarde  
Malplaquet  
Dettingen  
Guadaloupe, 1759  
Belleisle  
Vimiera  
Corunna  
Douro  
Talavera  
Albuhera  
Almaraz  
Vittoria  
Pyrenees  
Nivelle  
Nive  
Orthes  
Toulouse

Peninsula  
Punniar  
Moodkee  
Ferozeshah  
Aliwal  
Sobraon  
Alma  
Inkerman  
Sevastopol  
Lucknow  
Taku Forts  
New Zealand  
South Africa, 1879  
Egypt, 1882  
Nile, 1884-85  
Chitral  
Relief of Kimberley  
Paardeberg

South Africa, 1900-02  
Mons  
Alsne, 1914  
Ypres, 1914, 15, 17, 18  
Hill 60  
Loos  
Somme, 1916, 18  
Arras, 1917, 18  
Vimy, 1917  
Amiens  
Hindenburg Line  
Italy, 1917, 18  
Struma  
Gallipoli, 1915  
Gaza  
Jerusalem  
Defence of Kut al Amara  
Baghdad  
Sharqat

Afghanistan, 1919  
North-West Europe, 1940  
Alem Hamza  
El Alamein  
Robaa Valley  
Medjez Plain  
Centuripe  
Sicily, 1943  
Trigno  
Sangro  
Anzio  
Cassino  
Trasimene Line  
Argenta Gap  
Leros  
Malta, 1940, 42  
Defence of Kohima  
Shwell

Colonel-in-Chief: His Majesty King Frederik IX, K.G., King of Denmark

Colonel of the Regiment: H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.

Deputy Colonel of the Regiment: Major-General D. E. B. Talbot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L.

#### ALLIED REGIMENTS OF THE CANADIAN ARMY

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada—Colonel-in-Chief: H.R.H. Princess Alexandra, The Hon. Mrs. Angus Ogilvy, G.C.V.O.

The Royal New Brunswick Regiment (Carleton and York)—Colonel-in-Chief: H.M. The Queen

The Essex and Kent Scottish—Colonel-in-Chief: H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.

#### ALLIED REGIMENT OF THE NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES

2nd Battalion (Canterbury and Nelson-Marlborough and West Coast) The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment  
Colonel-in-Chief: H.M. The Queen

#### REGULAR AND TERRITORIAL BATTALIONS

1st Battalion—Meeanee Barracks, Colchester, Essex

4th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.)—Canterbury

5th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.)—Broadstairs

4th/5th Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (T.A.)—Tonbridge

#### UNITS OF THE CADET FORCE AFFILIATED

1st A.C.F. Battalion The Buffs—Canterbury

2nd A.C.F. Battalion The Buffs—Folkestone

1st A.C.F. Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment—Sidcup

2nd A.C.F. Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment—Tonbridge Wells

#### REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS—OLD INFANTRY BARRACKS, CANTERBURY, KENT

Regimental Secretary: Colonel H. R. Grace, O.B.E., D.L., J.P.

Tele. No.: Canterbury 65281, Extension 61

## WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS REGULAR

### WARRANT OFFICERS—CLASS I

Parker, A., M.B.E. ....	5 Buffs (T.A.)	Martin, A. (S.C.) .....	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)
Webb, C. (S.C.) .....	Records, Exeter	Floyd, P. ....	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)
Palmer, R. ....	1st Bn.	Newman, P. ....	4 Buffs (T.A.)

### BANDMASTER

Lynes, W. .... Band Queens Own Buffs.

### WARRANT OFFICERS—CLASS II

Ellis, D. (R.Q.M.S.) .....	Special, Trg. Centre, Silberhutte	Mills, D. ....	1st Bn.
Mannering, D. ....	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)	Johns, P. ....	1st Bn.
Denny, F. (R.Q.M.S.) .....	1st Bn.	Gooch, F. ....	1st Bn.
Lyons, B. (R.Q.M.S.) .....	School of Infantry, Warminster	Histed, W. ....	1st Bn.
Jessup, L. (R.Q.M.S.) .....	1 Queens Surreys	Parker, E. ....	1st Bn.
Spalding, L. ....	1st Bn.	Levett, G. ....	4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)
Colyer, A. ....	4/5 R. Sussex (T.A.)	Cribben, R. ....	4 Buffs (T.A.)
		Garraty, P. ....	1 Mx.
		Brown, G., B.E.M. ....	5 Buffs (T.A.)

### STAFF SERGEANTS

Johnston, S. ....	1st Bn.	Wagstaff, A. ....	5 Buffs (T.A.)
Vaughan, F. ....	5 Buffs (T.A.)	Billett, S. (A/W.O.II) .....	1st Bn.
Ross-Gower, T. ....	School of Infantry, Warminster	Pooley, L. ....	1st Bn.
Stokes, D. ....	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)	Porter, J. ....	1st Bn.
Kay, M. ....	4 Buffs (T.A.)	Shields, A. ....	4 Buffs (T.A.)
Tillman, R. ....	H.Q., 39 Inf. Bde. Gp.	Wood, R. ....	1st Bn.

### SERGEANTS

Page, A. ....	40 A.Y.T.	Lowe, F. ....	22 S.A.S.R.
Atkins, L. ....	5 Buffs (T.A.)	Sharp, D. ....	4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)
Mead, R. ....	4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)	Spillett, K. ....	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)
Williams, C. ....	1st Bn.	Laming, T. ....	R.M.A., Sandhurst
Langford, E. ....	5 Mx. (T.A.)	Bishop, P. ....	1st Bn.
Shoebridge, H. ....	H.C.B.D. (H.S.)	Jordan, M. ....	1st Bn.
Maume, J. ....	1 Queens Surreys	Leiper, J. ....	1st Bn.
Hansen, T. ....	B.M.M., Libya	White, P., M.M. ....	1st Bn.
Hegarty, E. ....	A.A.S., Chepstow	Smith, R. ....	1st Bn.
Taylor, B. ....	4 Buffs (T.A.)	Ongley, A. ....	H.C.B.D. (H.S.)
Gordon, G., D.C.M. (A/S.Sgt.) .....	1st Bn.	Russell, R. ....	Inf. Jnr. Ldrs. Bn.
Lane, B. ....	1 Queens Surreys	Silverside, T. ....	1 Queens Surreys
Rodmell, F. (A/S/Sgt.) .....	1st Bn.	Leader, P. ....	Inf. Jnr. Ldrs. Bn.
Mace, A. (A/S/Sgt.) .....	1st Bn.	Willis, A. (A/S/Sgt.) .....	1 Mx.
Taylor, F. ....	1st Bn.	Worthy, R. ....	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)
Lockwood, A. ....	A.H.D.C.	Aylmore, A. ....	1st Bn.
Hope, B. ....	1 Queens Surreys	Woollard, T. ....	4 Buffs (T.A.)
Rection, T. ....	Federal Regular Army, Aden	Elkington, C. ....	1st Bn.
Tidy, D. (A/S.Sgt.) .....	20 Trials Unit	Athawes, H. ....	1st Bn.
Bryan, J. ....	1st Bn.	Bona, M. ....	1st Bn.
Rickwood, A. (A/S.Sgt.) .....	1st Bn.	Wildish, G. ....	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)
Simmons, H. ....	1st Bn.	Parsons, A. ....	A.A.J.L.R.
Batchelor, R. (A/S.Sgt.) .....	4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)	Richardson, K. ....	22 S.A.S. Regt.
Addy, A. ....	1st Bn.	Marshall, W. ....	1st Bn.
Vale, H. ....	1st Bn.	Chinnery, J. (A/Sgt.) .....	H.Q. 2 Div.
Adams, S. ....	H.Q., 133 Inf. Bde. Gp. (T.A.)	Davey, D. (A/Sgt.) .....	School of Inf., Warminster
James, A. ....	R.M.A., Sandhurst	Townesley, J. (A/Sgt.) .....	H.Q. 2 Div.
Roberts, C. ....	1st Bn.	Williams, H. (A/Sgt.) .....	4/5 R. Sussex (T.A.)
Jephcott, J. ....	1st Bn.	Streeter, E. (A/Sgt.) .....	Fed. Regular Army, Aden
Naylor, D. ....	1st Bn.	Guillaume, P. ....	1st Bn.
Coleman, H. ....	H.C.B.D. (H.S.)	Standfield, B. (A/Sgt.) .....	1st Bn.
Prudence, A. ....	1st Bn.	Vale, M. (A/Sgt.) .....	4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)
Ward, A. ....	1st Bn.	Smith, A. (A/Sgt.) .....	1st Bn.
Marks, J. (O.R.C.) .....	1st Bn.	Stevens, R. (A/Sgt.) .....	1st Bn.
Barrell, J. (A/S/Sgt.) .....	1st Bn.	Haley, A. (A/Sgt.) .....	22 S.A.S.
		Hobday, J. (A/Sgt.) .....	A.A.C.

### ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

Mans, W. (O.R.Q.M.S.) .....	I.J.L. Regt., Oswestry	March, P. (O.R.S/Sgt.) .....	1 Royal Sussex
Wilson, D. (O.R.Q.M.S.) .....	1st Bn.		

### BAND SERGEANTS

Larkin, F. (S/Sgt.) .....	Band Queens Own Buffs	Matlock, B. (S/Sgt.) .....	Band Queens Surreys
Munns, R. (S/Sgt.) .....	Y/2 List	McGowan, C. (Sgt.) .....	Band Mx.

### BAND N.C.O.'s

Woolcott, R. (Sgt.) .....	R.M.S.M., Kneller Hall	Gleow, P. (A/Sgt.) .....	Band Queens Own Buffs
Keenan, T. (Sgt.) .....	Band Queens Own Buffs		

### DRUM MAJOR

Clark, W. (W.O.II) ..... 1st Bn.

### SERVING WITH 1st BN.

Ticehurst, A. (Sgt.) .....	Royal Sussex	Potts, F. (Sgt.) .....	Mx.
Pearson, M. (Sgt.) .....	Queens Surreys	Mogford, J. (Sgt.) .....	Royal Sussex
Woolgar, N. (Sgt.) .....	Royal Sussex		



**TERRITORIAL****4th BATTALION BUFFS (T.A.)****PERMANENT STAFF**

W.O.I (R.S.M.) Newman, P.  
W.O.II (C.S.M.) Cribben, R.  
W.O.II (C.S.M.) Morris, J.  
S/Sgt. Kay, M.  
Sgt. Taylor, D.  
S/Sgt. Shields, A.  
Sgt. Woollard, T.

**TERRITORIAL ARMY**

W.O.II (C.S.M.) Antrichan, G.  
W.O.II (C.S.M.) McGinley, R.  
W.O.II (Asst. Pln.) Noyes, H.  
W.O.II (C.S.M.) Percival, F.

**PERMANENT STAFF**

W.O.I (R.S.M.) Parker, A.,  
M.B.E.  
W.O.II Brown, G., B.E.M.  
W.O.II Walters, D. (Mx.)  
S/Sgt. Vaughan, F.  
S/Sgt. Wagstaff  
Sgt. Atkins, L.  
Sgt. Frankland, R. (Mx.)

**TERRITORIAL ARMY**

W.O.II Bond, E. (R.Q.M.S.)  
W.O.II Lillcrap, S.  
W.O.II Ballard, G.  
W.O.II Dunstall, J.  
W.O.II Erridge, D.  
W.O.II Mirams, D.

**PERMANENT STAFF**

W.O.I (R.S.M.) Rodgers, J.  
(Queens Surreys)  
W.O.II (C.S.M.) Levett, G.  
W.O.II (C.S.M.) Birmingham, F.  
(Queens Surreys)  
Sgt. Mead, R.  
S/Sgt. Batchelor, R.  
Sgt. Sharp, D.

**TERRITORIAL ARMY**

W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) Breaden,  
J. C., M.B.E.  
W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Buck, C.

W.O.II (C.S.M.) White, R.  
W.O.II (C.S.M.) Shuman, J.  
W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Williams, E.  
S/Sgt. Cole, L.  
S/Sgt. (C.Q.M.S.) Ellis, A.  
S/Sgt. (C.Q.M.S.) Gardner, A.  
S/Sgt. (C.Q.M.S.) Randall, G.  
S/Sgt. (Sigs.) Matthews, A.  
S/Sgt. (C.Q.M.S.) Miller, C.  
S/Sgt. (C.Q.M.S.) Sperry, O.  
Sgt. Babbage, W.  
Sgt. Thundow, W.  
Sgt. Cowles, D.  
Sgt. Packham J.  
Sgt. (Drum Maj.) Pattenden, R.

**5th BATTALION BUFFS (T.A.)**

W.O.II Morsman, W.  
(O.R.Q.M.S.)  
S/Sgt. Kennett, A.  
S/Sgt. Todd, H.  
S/Sgt. Stockdale, J.  
S/Sgt. Winter, F.  
S/Sgt. Overton, H.  
S/Sgt. Pottle, A.  
Sgt. Philpott, T.  
Sgt. Bradford, R.  
Sgt. Dennis, R.  
Sgt. Turner, E.  
Sgt. Smith, S.  
Sgt. Joiner, N.  
Sgt. Burton, A.  
Sgt. Johnson, E.  
Sgt. Whittall, S.

**4th/5th BATTALION R.W.K. (T.A.)**

W.O.II (C.S.M.) Mew, S.  
W.O.II (C.S.M.) Lowes, A.  
W.O.II (C.S.M.) Cavanagh, J.  
W.O.II (Pnr.) Shapland, T.  
W.O.II (C.S.M.) Hawkes, A.  
S/Sgt. Palmer, J.  
S/Sgt. Sayer, T.  
S/Sgt. Jenner, W.  
S/Sgt. Amber, C. F.  
S/Sgt. Mansfield, E.  
S/Sgt. Bateman, D.  
Sgt. Locke, W. A.  
Sgt. Green, H.

Sgt. Bassett, C.  
Sgt. Roberts, E.  
Sgt. (O.R.S.) Hills, W.  
Sgt. Clarke, R.  
Sgt. Drury, F.  
Sgt. George, A.  
Sgt. Turner, E.  
Sgt. Amson, W.  
Sgt. Baston, D.  
Sgt. Back, J.  
Sgt. Wilson, E.  
Sgt. Burvill, T.  
Sgt. Alton, A.  
Sgt. Brunger, A.  
Sgt. Shorter, L.

Sgt. Joy, H.  
Sgt. Laird, G.  
Sgt. Saffery, D.  
Sgt. Cole, C.  
Sgt. Carty, H.  
Sgt. Pilcher, R.  
Sgt. Francis, C. (D. Maj.)  
Sgt. Cranney, K.  
Sgt. Foole, M.  
Sgt. March, A.  
Sgt. Bushell, A.  
Sgt. Bond, J.  
Sgt. Savage, C.  
Sgt. Matthews, S.  
Sgt. Cook, H.  
Sgt. Goldfinch, J.

Sgt. Cheseman, T.  
Sgt. Williams, A.  
Sgt. Watson, F.  
Sgt. Howell, L.  
Sgt. Webster, V.  
Sgt. Sales, G.  
Sgt. Wake, A.  
Sgt. Manser, J.  
Sgt. Heskett, E.  
Sgt. Everest, J.  
Sgt. Wilson, A.  
Sgt. Tennant, P.  
Sgt. Tennant, D.

Sgt. Knott, P.  
Sgt. Wade, G.

**BAND**

W.O.I (Bandmaster) Clark,  
E. T. F.  
Sgt. Ship, R.  
Sgt. Croxford, G.  
Sgt. Mayall, S.

**ATTACHED**

S/Sgt. Stanford, E. (R.A.P.C.)  
Sgt. Saunders, H. (R.E.M.E.)  
W.O.II (Q.M.S.) Milner, T.  
(A.C.C.)  
Sgt. Shrubsall, W. (A.C.C.)

Sgt. Maudlin, M.  
Sgt. Carty, J.  
Sgt. Archer, T.  
Sgt. Smith, L.  
Sgt. Rowland, S.

**BAND**

W.O.I (Bandmaster) Driscoll,  
R. W.

Sgt. Wallace, J.  
Sgt. Fisher, E.  
Sgt. Ovenden, W.

**ATTACHED**

Sgt. Turner, R. (A.C.C.)  
Sgt. Hurst, R. (R.A.P.C.)  
Sgt. Mylchreest, C. (A.C.C.)

Sgt. Everett, P. D.  
Sgt. Atkinson, E.

**BAND**

W.O.I (Bandmaster) Wollaston,  
H. W., M.B.E.

Sgt. Johnson, M.  
Sgt. Hill, B. J.

**ATTACHED**

W.O.I Strong, F. (A.P.T.C.)  
Sgt. Bowes-Cavanagh, P.  
(R.A.P.C.)  
Sgt. Phipps, W. (A.C.C.)  
Sgt. Sweetland, P. (R.E.M.E.)

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# INVICTA

## The Editor's Column

**T**HE interest in the comings and goings of the regular battalion—an interest demonstrated with such clarity in the results of the research exercise which were summarised in last month's issue—is the main reason for the change in the Journal's batting order which comes into effect this month. Those readers who, thinking that the publication of their change of address, their promotion, their letter to the Editor or the arrival of their son and heir had been deliberately omitted and who, automatically reaching for their 'six-shooter,' were about to set out for Regimental Headquarters for the best of three falls with the Editor can unload, take off their running shoes and relax; their glad tidings are to be found on other pages.

Although mention of their Danish visit at the end of the month is made in the regular battalion's news, and will doubtless be reported on at length in the April issue, all readers will note with immense satisfaction that the Colonel-in-Chief has promised to spend the best part of a morning with the battalion during the closing stages of the N.A.T.O. exercise, 'Magic Carpet,' which is the reason for their presence in Denmark. It is surely not too much to hope that all those, of no matter what rank, who come in contact with His Majesty during his tour of the battalion will appreciate how exceptionally fortunate they are.

Included in the regular battalion's notes this month is a photograph of the Corps of Drums and the Regimental Band, taken in Colchester recently. It will be of interest to many to note, where the former is concerned, that no tenor drums are on parade; that there appears to be no "leading tipper"; and that two marching Glockenspiels are included in the Corps of Drums' present-day equipment. These are alterations from "what used to be" which will make many an ex-Drummer, of both former regiments, gasp with astonishment and, perhaps, dismay! Where the Regimental Band is concerned—and the temptation to refer to those 36 stalwart musicians as the '1st Battalion' Band is one which many readers must resist, at all costs!—it is good to see that their size and composition are in direct proportion to the excellence of their playing. One is bound to ask oneself, however, where was Bandmaster Lynes when the photograph was taken?!

To those readers who are speechless at the almost unbelievable dullness of this month's column the writer would merely say that when it was written he was giving a very fair imitation of being what the schoolboy who, when invited to translate the French sentence: "*L'Anglais avec son sangfroid habituel,*" piped up with: "*The Englishman with his usual bloody cold!*"

## EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**O**N the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty The Queen to Canterbury on 15th April, when she will distribute the Maundy Money, her arrival at Westgate Towers, at 11 o'clock, will be signalled by a Fanfare blown by the Fanfare Trumpeters of the Regimental Band. After the Service the Mayor of Canterbury is entertaining Her Majesty at Luncheon in the Shirley Hall, King's School, and the Regimental Band will be playing before and during Luncheon. One of the recipients of the Maundy Money will be Major W. T. Jarman, Chairman of the Margate Branch of the Regimental Association.

**T**HE official opening of the expanded and improved Leros T.A. Centre, home and headquarters of the 4th Bn. The Buffs (T.A.), will take place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, 24th April. The Lord Lieutenant will perform the ceremony. There will be a battalion parade, with Colours, and the Battalion Band, supported by the Corps of Drums from the 1st Battalion will Beat Retreat immediately after the parade. Cocktail parties in both the Officers' and the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes will follow.

It is most unfortunate that this event clashes with the spring meeting and Annual Dinner of the Regimental Golfing Society.

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to Capt. C. M. C. Dewar on passing the practical part of the Staff/Promotion Examination to the rank of Major.

**T**HE Headmaster of Hildersham House Preparatory School, Broadstairs, offers bursaries to the children of Service personnel. The bursaries are worth £55 per term. The normal fees are £115 per term. The school is officially recognised by the Department of Education. The school's prospectus may be obtained on application to The Headmaster, Hildersham House, St. Peter's, Broadstairs, Kent.

**A**NY retired officer who would like to become Deputy Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Kent, involving part-time work and experience of organisation and administration, should get in touch with the Commissioner, Brigadier J. V. Davidson-Houston (rtd.), at his home at Magpie Shaw, Speldhurst, Kent.

**T**HE huge collection of military mementoes which that well-known ex-Queen's Own character, Harry Brown, has been making in North Bay, Ontario, received recognition in the local Canadian Press recently. A photograph showed a collection of 1939-45 Canadian service awards most effectively displayed in a plywood frame on a blue background. Harry Brown's hobby has taken him many months of hard work and the results are now on view in the North Bay Royal Canadian Legion Hall.

**T**HE 4th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.) Summer Ball is a brand new venture and will be held for the first time this year. It will take place in the new Leros T.A. Centre on Friday, 9th July, and Captain Trevor Sharpe and the Dance Band of the Coldstream Guards will be providing the music.



**THE** Annual Reunion of 4th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (T.A.) will be held on Saturday, 24th April, 1965, at the T.A. Centre, Avebury Avenue, Tonbridge. Tickets, 10/6 each, may be obtained from Mr. J. C. Breden at the T.A. Centre, Avebury Avenue.

**THE** Annual Dinner of 7th Bn. The Queen's Own will be held on Saturday, 10th April, 1965, at The Chandos, King William IV Street, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1. Reception 6.30 p.m. in the Spanish Bar, dinner 7 p.m. Tickets, £1/1/- each, obtainable from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. Shepherd, 492 Downham Way, Bromley, Kent, or from any committee member.

**THE** Annual Ladies' Night of the 7th Bn. The Queen's Own will be held on Saturday, 9th October, 1965, at the Mount Royal Hotel, London, W.1. Tickets £2/2/- each. Details to be announced later.

**R**EADERS will be glad to hear that Lt.-Col. Ted Argles is making a slow but steady recovery. Early in March he was moved to Brook Hospital, Woolwich, for special treatment, and reports from there indicate an unmistakable improvement in his condition.

(The latest news is that he will be returning to his home in Littlebourne at the end of the month. Great news, indeed—Ed.)

**T**HANKS to the great kindness of Brigadier Harold Brown, the Regimental Secretary was amongst those present at a Dinner given by the Worshipful Company of Armourers and Brasiers, held in Armourers' Hall on 4th March. The occasion was an historic one in that Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer was made an Honorary Freeman of the Company that evening, only the third soldier to be so honoured in the long history of the Company.

**M**ESSRS. J. H. and J. Brooke Ltd., the well-known wine merchants, have just opened a new branch at 19 Burgate, Canterbury. The new office is modern in its conception but at the same time retains the traditional atmosphere of the old-established wine merchants. The history of the firm goes back into the late 18th Century, and in 1851 the firm established its head office in Folkestone, which it maintains today, together with branches in Hythe and the city of London. J. H. and J. Brooke have held Royal Warrants to three Monarchs, including the present Queen. The Directors of the firm include Vere Collins and Geoffrey Gibbon, the latter being in charge of the new branch. Both he and Vere Collins live in Kent, both served with The Buffs and both are members of the Worshipful Company of Vintners.

## Derby Sweepstake in aid of the Regimental Benevolent Fund

**A** SWEEPSTAKE will again be organised this year, on the same lines as during the previous two years.

Tickets, in books of ten (price 1/- per ticket), will be sent to all Branches and Ladies' Guilds, to all Regular T.A. and Cadet Battalions and to certain retired members of the Regiment. Any member or ex-member of the Regiment unable to obtain tickets from these sources should apply for them to Lt.-Col. Grove at Regimental Headquarters. No tickets may be sold to any person under 16 years of age. It is vital that the name and address of the purchaser of any ticket is clearly written in BLOCK LETTERS on the counterfoil of the ticket.

The prizes in this year's sweepstake will be the same as last year, that is to say:—

1st Prize - £100	3rd Prize - £20
2nd Prize - £50	A runner - £1

Anyone who draws a horse, irrespective of whether the animal actually runs or not, will win 2/6d.

The Benevolent Fund has so far received nearly £600 from the profits on the two previous sweepstakes. Please support the fund again so that the £1,000 mark can be reached this year.

The Draw will take place at Regimental Headquarters on 11th May. Individuals will be notified immediately and a full list will be published in the May issue. The race will be on 2nd June.

## Bertrand Stewart Essay Competition, 1965

Prize: £80

Closing date: 22nd June, 1965

Subject:

"The resources of our defence forces have become increasingly stretched over the past two years. The Army has been particularly affected, and has had to provide lightly equipped forces for I.S. and counter-insurgency operations world wide while still maintaining more heavily equipped forces in B.A.O.R.

"The other two Services suffer to a lesser degree, and are not faced with the same difficulties of having to train, equip and allocate manpower for two such different commitments.

"How can these difficulties best be met? Discuss any measures (including financial measures) which you consider might help the Army to meet its varying commitments more easily and without any loss of effectiveness."

General conditions for this essay competition will be the same as for the 1964 competition. The new address of the Army Quarterly and Defence Journal is: 43 Cardington Street, London, N.W.1.

## Queen's Own Buffs West Country Luncheon

To be held at the Castle Hotel, Taunton, on Saturday,  
1st May, 1965.

Entries are coming in well. Most members know the drill now, but here is a summary:

Price—£1 each. This includes everything except drinks.

Assembly area: Small bar near main entrance.

Pre-lunch: At 12.40 please move to dining room where short drinks will be served. This is the time to order wine required at lunch and will ensure prompt service. Lunch starts at one o'clock.

Ties: In honour of the Regiment, please wear your Regimental tie. This also assists in identification.

Cars: Park in forecourt in front of hotel where a porter will be alert to help.

Closing date: Please warn in not later than Monday, 26th April, to enable full list of members to be typed. This is our tenth anniversary, so make it a bumper one.

Hon. Secretary: Major R. J. Tuke, Little Beredens, Kenton, Exeter (telephone Starcross 316).

**A** VERY warm welcome to the following new subscribers:

A. A. G. Darby, Esq.,  
12 Willow Way,  
Eythorne, Dover.

Lt.-Col. V. C. de St. Croix,  
8 Grasmere Close,  
Merrow,  
Guildford, Surrey.

F. M. Leeson, Esq.,  
Tanglewood,  
Green View Avenue,  
Leigh, Tonbridge.

# News From The 1st Battalion

## Apology

**A**FTER the protracted, at times quite heated, correspondence of the past few months to do with the priorities of content of this journal we must, this month, blushinglly crave indulgence for a very slim contribution from the Regular Battalion. We shall strive for a better performance in April; but in recent weeks everyone has been so busy that Invicta notes have suffered in consequence. Company contributions have been as hard to find as natural cover on Salisbury Plain and so this note will cover only the major events. Of course, the whole thing is the Commanding Officer's fault! Even before we re-formed a month ago he was exhorting us—the hapless Company commanders in particular—to “crack off” at a sharp pace and as a result the barracks during the past few weeks have resembled nothing so much as an overturned ants' nest!

## Fireman's Paradise

The need to operate effectively at Battalion Group level in Denmark later this month has involved us in the all-too-well-known pastime, familiar to habitués of 19 Infantry Brigade, of learning to run before we can walk. Individual training must wait until April while the companies get their limited war eyes in, so to speak. The crowded training programme resulting from this was punctuated, at regular intervals, by visits from the great—all of whom were most welcome—as you can see:—

1st February: Colonel Ian Battye.

9th February: Brigadier D. W. Fraser, O.B.E., Comd. 19 Inf. Bde. Gp.

10th February: Brigadier H. L. B. Salmon, Deputy Comd. 54 (East Anglian) Div./Dist.

11th February: The Deputy Colonel of the Regiment accompanied by the Regimental Secretary.

23rd February: Brigadier R. C. Gibbs, D.S.O., M.C., Comd. 16 Para Bde. Gp.

24th February: Major-General C. H. Blacker, O.B.E., M.C., G.O.C. 3 Div.

A Regimental guest night was held in honour of the Deputy Colonel on 11th February at which, in addition to General Talbot and Colonel Grace, we were very glad to see Officer Cadets Fraser, Hodges, Palmer and Yorke from the Royal Military Academy.

## Movements

Among moves that have taken place—or are taking place—since the last edition:—

Major Geoffery Winstanley is taking over C Company from Major Rex Shearburn, who leaves later this month for a staff job in B.A.O.R.

Major Richard Neve—to whom go congratulations on his recent elevation—is to take over D (Training) Company.

Lt. John Strang has returned to the fold having gained a B on his Support Platoon Commanders Course.

Lt. Ham Whitty and 2/Lt. Ian Baillie both paid us brief and welcome visits.

C/Sgt. Rickwood, returned from 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.), has taken over as C.Q.M.S. B Coy. from C./Sgt. Wagstaff, who has left us for duty with 5 Buffs (T.A.).

Sgt. Simmonds has returned to the Bn. from 5 Buffs (T.A.).

To those departing we wish the best of luck and to those arriving, welcome.

## Air Training

While one hand was, as you might say, groping for the tactical pepper pot the other had to busy itself with preparing for an air move to Denmark (not without value

in the light of the coming move to Hong Kong). Captains Richard Lea and Mike Clinch, also Sgts. Bryan, Mogford and Prudence, have completed Air Portability Courses. Sgt. Naylor, Cpls. Giles and Osborne and others have completed Helicopter Handler Courses; and we were able to squeeze in a two-day visit by the Strategic Reserve Movement Control Team which was most valuable in bringing us up to date with the latest 'gen' on air moves. After this our loading and lashing teams spent three chilly, but useful, days at Old Sarum. We may, therefore, well expect our next major move to be carried out by rail, road or sea!

## Support Weapons

Lt. Richard Talbot's autumn cruise home from B.G., doubtless both comfortable and slothful, caught up with him in February when he found himself, with Sgt. Stevens, running a cadre to instruct our anti-tank men in the intricacies of the newly-arrived Wombat Guns, running a mortar shoot at Stanford and, finally, supervising the first live firing of the Wombats on the ranges near Netheravon. The latter took place on two bitterly cold days where the only sign of warmth came from the face of Lt. Mike Butler (which bore one of those glorious Technicolor, "I've been skiing in Switzerland" hues).

## Preview

From 8th to 12th February Major Tony Franklin and Captain George Simpson slipped quietly away from the hurly-burly of Colchester to carry out a recce in Denmark. Neither has said too much about it since, but it has been noted that their subsequent nostalgia was almost entirely confined to the delights of Copenhagen!

However, contacts were renewed with the Royal Danish Lifeguards and we were glad to know that the Colonel-in-Chief would definitely be honouring the Battalion with a visit on 25th March and that the Band and Drums would be performing in Copenhagen on 28th March, the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Ingrid.

## The Band

With Bandmaster and Mrs. Lynes as host and hostess, the Band held their annual Dinner and Dance at the George Hotel, Colchester, on 19th February. It was a most successful evening.

The Corps of Drums have acquired Glockenspiels and are knocking seven bells out of them—endlessly.

## Orderly Room Jottings

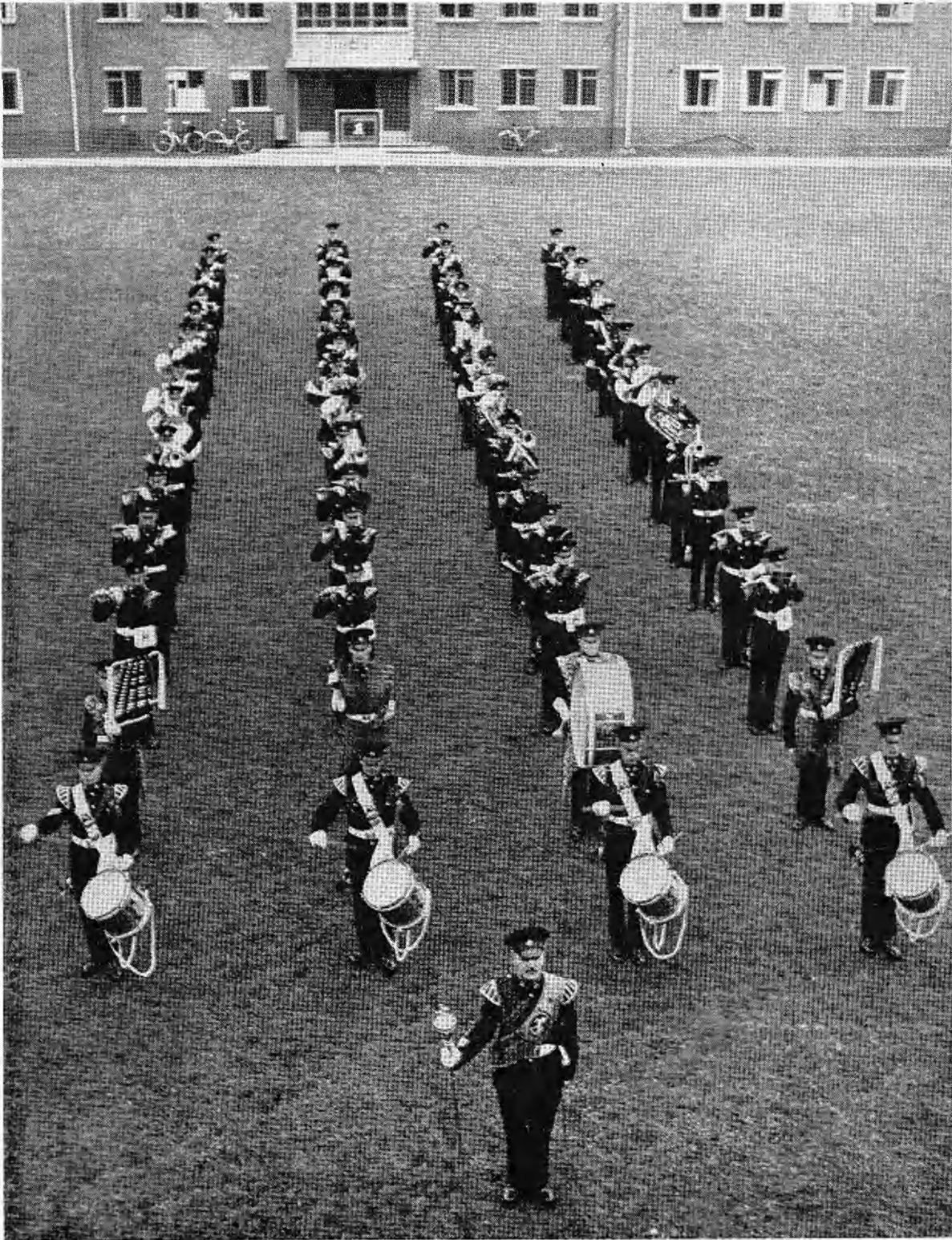
The Battalion Orderly Room formed up with typewriters at the high port and all set for another session of hard work, keeping the Battalion running. Now that Cpl. Cocking has left us we have Pte. Spice and Cpl. Manning taking over the Part II/III Orders and L./Cpl. Young taxing his brain on documentation. Pte. Hodges is now the typist of the clan and Pte. Isenberg the filing clerk. Of course, the whole organisation is still most ably backed up with O.R.Q.M.S. Wilson and Sgt. Marks.

It has often been stated that the Orderly Room staff do no work at all, but merely sit around with various sheets of paper covering their desks and trying to look busy. This is a blatant misconception as anyone can see by the haggard looks on the faces of both O.R.Q.M.S. Wilson and Sgt. Marks, and also by the stacks of books and publications—remnants of our trip home from British Guiana—drying out on the radiators!

It seems that the cream of the Battalion (namely the above mentioned!) are to show the rest of the Battalion how it is all done on an exercise. Cpl. Manning and Pte. Isenberg started the trend by having a day in the field during a Battalion H.Q. Exercise. O.R.Q.M.S. Wilson is also “having a bash,” by leading a further section of his gallant band into action on Salisbury Plain.

It also seems that Cupid has been busy whilst we were on leave, for both L./Cpl. Young and Pte. Isenberg are to be married in the very near future; Pte. Spice has had a peculiar look in his eye lately, so perhaps he too is thinking of joining the happy band.





**The Corps of Drums and the Regimental Band, with Drum Major Clark in the foreground, formed up at Meeanee Barracks, February, 1965.**

Photo: "Colchester Express."

### Collectors' Piece (Q)

Once again it is time to put pen to paper and relate the month's goings on in the Quartermaster's department. Sympathy is requested as a new scribe is behind the typewriter.

We returned from our leave on the first of the month, quite happy but complaining about the cold, and the R.Q.M.S. could be heard from some way off telling Cpl. Sam Sharp to close the . . . door. It wasn't very long before we were once more up to our eyebrows, sorting out sea kit and preparing for exercises on Salisbury Plain and in Denmark in early March. Of course, the office had its moments, and from behind steel cabinets and with his nose buried in AB 404's, our G1098 N.C.O., Cpl. Don Knight, can be heard uttering large oaths to person or persons unknown. C./Sgts., please note!

L./Cpl. Dave Dearden and his band of Pioneers, namely Ptes. McLeod, Spud Murphy and MacSweeney, found that there was plenty to do in the way of minor repairs and notice board repainting. Cpls. Derek Johnson and Sam Sharp have had their fair share of work on the quarters and accommodation side respectively though. How is it, Sam, that you always manage to arrive back at the office in time for coffee?

Finally, we have said goodbye to C./Sgts. Vaughan and Shields who have left us for the T.A.—we wish them both all the very best of luck; also L./Cpl. Ernie (Empire Pools) Sillence who is now with the Messing Department. We extend a hearty welcome to Cpl. Child, our new clerk, and Ptes. MacSweeney and Hart, Pioneer and Q.M.'s batman respectively.

### Footnote

Members of 1 Buffs in Kenya, 1953-54, and Wuppertal will undoubtedly remember the Paymaster, Major Bunny Green, who was the first R.A.P.C. Officer to serve with the Battalion.

Whilst on Salisbury Plain a party of eight Officers under the Commanding Officer, and mainly consisting of old friends, braved the snow drifts in three Land-Rovers to visit the public house, "The Bell," at Potterne, which is kept by his wife, Joyce Green.

It was sad to learn that Bunny has been in hospital for the last three years, but the welcome given by his wife was magnificent. Unfortunately, whilst time passed and many pints were consumed, the snow drifted deeper, and it took 2½ hours on the return journey to motor and dig the way through about eight miles of road. It had a sobering effect on all!

But old and new members of the Regiment should note in their diaries this public house, where they can always be assured of a wonderful welcome.

### Hockey

Returning from disembarkation leave on 1st February, we were faced with our first fixture two days later. We travelled to R.A.F. Wattisham in Arctic conditions and perhaps in an effort to keep warm our forwards were in their most aggressive mood. We won 6-2, our goals being scored by Pte. Preston (3), 2/Lt. Jackson, S./Sgt. Lumbard and L./Cpl. Thomas.

The following week some of our regulars decided it was too easy and declined to play on the pretext that they were overwhelmed with work, with the result that we were beaten by Ipswich Nomads 8-2. Our goals, which were scarcely sufficient consolation, were scored by 2/Lt. Jackson and S./Sgt. Lumbard. In fairness we had a new and inexperienced goalkeeper, but were still made to look rather foolish.

The same sorry tale was repeated the following week when a scratch team was beaten by the M.C.E., Colchester, 3-1. S./Sgt. Lumbard scored our lone goal.

In the Army Cup, however, aided by our erstwhile Hockey Officer, Capt. Butler, who was kind enough to travel all the way from Camberley on two occasions, we played our best hockey to date. We beat the Sherwood Foresters 2-0 (L./Cpl. Thomas and Pte. Baillie) and went on to play Depot Regt. R.E. in the semi-final at Chatham. This was a ding-dong battle. We scored first through S./Sgt. Lumbard, only to have our opponents equalise just before full time. Ten minutes each way produced no further score, and we went on to lose 2-1 in the third period of extra time. It was an exciting and enjoyable game on a first-class pitch, and perhaps it was as well that we lost as we would have been unable to get away from Salisbury Plain for the final on 2nd March. Incidentally, we have been beaten by Depot Regt. R.E. after extra time on both the previous two occasions. Fourth time lucky?

Sport presents problems for units of the Strategic Reserve because they tend always to be on the move, either for training or operations. Our difficulties are magnified by the fact that there are very few players of battalion standard. Nonetheless, we have had a great deal of enjoyment and the Hockey Officer's thanks are due to those who have turned out regularly for the battalion:—

Cpl. Geeves, L./Cpl. Thomas, Pte. Baillie, Pte. Preston, Major Ransley, Capt. Shephard, Capt. Lea, Capt. Butler, 2/Lt. Jackson, 2/Lt. Elliott, R.Q.M.S. Denny and S./Sgt. Lumbard.

## News From The Territorial Battalions

### 4th Bn. THE BUFFS (T.A.)

**T**HE Big Regiment controversy has been taken a stage further in February's issue with a long and interesting letter from Major Jim Ogilvie, of The Queen's Own, who holds, very delightfully, that he is a "Military Trad." The arguments are now developing so far that it would take practically the whole space of one month's notes to reply and we do not propose to go over the whole matter again. There are two interesting points in his letter, however, on which we would like to comment.

In the first place both the correspondents from The Queen's Own on this subject have commented on the decline of local pride and interest. This is not so noticeable in East Kent as it seems to be in the West. To say this is not to be an arrogant Man of Kent but it does seem

to be possible that the encroachment of Greater London into West Kent and the "suburbanisation" of large tracts of this county has involved a slow decay in the local spirit which used always to be so marked. On this particular part of the problem therefore it may well be at the moment that the Man of Kent has a basically different outlook from that of the Kentish Man who, in all probability and much against his will, is becoming a Greater Londoner. However, time will no doubt remove this distinction and when the last orchard has been felled for a housing estate and the last sheep removed to make room for a holiday camp or caravan site we shall no doubt all feel alike on the matter!

Secondly, as regards the suggestion of a "marriage of convenience," a "Mod" is no doubt just as coy at this sort of wooing as at a love match. There is something to be said, however, for a little dalliance and to be serious, a great deal of training benefit would be derived if there



were greater liaison between the Battalions over training during the year. For example, would it be possible, by combining resources, to hold fairly regular exercises at Company level at full strength, including Support Weapon components? It would be possible to do Command and Signals Exercises with fully manned radio nets and it would be possible to undertake a great range of projects, at present quite out of reach, which would not only be of the greatest value in themselves but help to stimulate interest at all levels.

In terms of efficiency this would probably lead to better results than a formal amalgamation into two or even one T.A. Battalion in the county. If there were amalgamations this would almost certainly involve the closing down of a number of Drill Halls and this in turn would mean loss of personnel, including the loss of the really reliable regular members who form the nucleus of every Company or Platoon strength.

#### Recruiting.

One constant and ever present factor in a large scale recruiting drive is disappointment at the results.

February 20th at Sittingbourne was given over by B Company to the holding of an Open Day. A great deal of thought, hard work and sustained effort was put into this by a large number of people. Everything was done to show off the T.A. at its best, at its most modern and at its most enterprising. In addition to a display of up-to-date Rifle Company weapons other material was imported for the occasion including Assault Pioneer kit and Signals equipment. Advertising was lavish, the Band played lustily, the Recce Platoon with the P.A. system blaring forth toured the highways and byways—but hardly anyone came and those who did were either too old or too young to be eligible or "recruitable."

This was an extremely disappointing day and no reward for the enthusiasm and trouble which had gone into the preparation of it. This sort of experience is probably common to practically every Company or Battery in the Territorial Army, but it is no less exasperating on that account when it happens. B Company at least were not downhearted. The prevailing thought then is that if Mahomet will not come to the mountain then the mountain must be mechanised and get out and about! There is even talk of the pressgang!

In spite of this, quite considerable progress has been made in recruiting throughout the Battalion, but success seems to be always with personal contact and introduction rather than any form of showmanship, and it is vitally important that every T.A. soldier should appreciate that he, as an individual, should "get out there pitching."

#### Training

A very well organised Brigade Intelligence Course was held at Shorncliffe on 6th/7th February, which was attended by the Intelligence Officer and his Section, together with Sgt. Alton from the Recce Platoon. This course was not only extremely interesting and instructive in itself but left those attending with their eyes opened wide to many new aspects of I work; if it did not succeed in teaching them very much in the short time available it at least taught them how very much there was to learn. There was only one criticism heard and this relates to a map display for a Command Post which was

felt to be on too elaborate a scale for the sort of Command Post equipment actually held or ever likely to be held.

Following on this weekend there was a Battalion Command Post exercise held on Sunday, 14th February, at Old Park. This was based on an I.S. problem and involved the tactical deployment of the Command Post supported for the purpose of the exercise by a number of non-tactical radio stations in FFR Rovers. After some initial fumbling the Command Post personnel settled down and worked smoothly as a team and some valuable practical experience was gained by all those taking part. One of the most pleasing features of this day's work was the quickness to learn and enthusiasm of two recruit signallers whose voice procedure improved during the day.

From D Company comes news that Ptes. A. Shrewsbury, R. Shrewsbury and Russell have all passed for their Skill-at-Arms Badges on their Anti-Tank training. This is a very good effort and we congratulate them. It is hoped that the Mortar Detachment will be equally successful when they come up for their tests very shortly.

C Company seem to be devoting themselves with commendable dedication to I.S. training. Apart from Drill Night training an exercise was staged at Cranbrook on Sunday, 28th February. Members of the ACF and CCF volunteered to act as rioters and they performed their duties with considerable zest and abandon. The troops learned that it is not always easy in this sort of work to pick out the innocent from the guilty. The exercise was a great success and much enjoyed. Apart from the I.S. Training C Company has also been getting down to some drill in preparation for the Guard of Honour at the formal opening of the new T.A. Centre at Canterbury and the Drill Competition at Camp under C.S.M. White. C Company has been very busy recruiting and welcomes five new members to its ranks—Ptes. Crouch, Healy, Kinghorne, Foord and Boy Davis.

#### General Post

W.O.II Dick Cribben has taken over Headquarter Company from Sgt. Tom Woollard, who has had the good fortune to be posted to A Company—good fortune as he will have Mr. "Chalky" White to aid and abet him. Dick Cribben will have a hard field to plough at Headquarter Company but with his sense of humour we are sure the furrows will be straight! He has already had 12 recruits without the pressgang—or at least not so as you would notice!

#### Social

This has been a quiet month for the most part from the point of view of functions. This is not altogether surprising, what with the weather and everyone "skint" after Christmas and the New Year.

The Sergeants' Mess, however, staged its second very enjoyable "At Home" on Saturday, 27th February, which was certainly well attended not only by the members of the Mess but by their ladies and their friends and very much enjoyed by all present.

C Company held a dance on 13th February which was also much enjoyed. D Company have big plans for their Company dinner and dance to be held on Friday, 12th March, and with a "little bit of luck" we may hear from them next month how it went.

## 5th Bn. THE BUFFS (T.A.)

**F**EBRUARY'S target was unquestionably the Annual Inspection and every T.A. Centre has been a hive of activity whilst last minute checks were taking place. The Inspection proper is being held on 6th and 7th March and things have got beyond the 'being played by ear' stage—all is very serious indeed but the confident approach seems the order of the day. We hope to pass muster and if the preliminary visits of the Staff Pay-

master and the A.D.M.S.'s representative are any guide then things should go well.

We were all very distressed to hear the news of the illness of Colonel Ted Argles and hope he is soon on the road to recovery; Mrs. Argles is much in our thoughts during this difficult time.

As was reported briefly in last month's *Invicta*, M. Armand Vinck, the Commanding Officer's father-in-law,



passed away at his home in Ghent on 8th February. M. Vinck was well-known to us in the Battalion and to the Ramsgate Branch of the Regimental Association. His signature in the Officers' Mess Visitors' Book records the fact that his service with the British Army in World War I was as a Trooper with the Rough Riders—a fact of which he had cause to be proud. With his death the Battalion has lost a good friend, and Mme. Vinck and Mrs. Neville have our profound sympathy. The sad news has also come of the death of Mr. Garnsey, Graham Garnsey's father, after a serious illness. Mrs. Garnsey has our heartfelt sympathy at this time.

#### Back To The Fold

A great welcome to C/Sgt. Wagstaff on posting to this unit from the 1st Battalion. His arrival coincided with near-blizzard conditions—but this was pure coincidence apparently! He will be taking over at C Company (Deal) and will have surfaced just in time for the Annual Inspection. He is shortly to go on a Support Weapons course and will thus be a pretty busy man.

#### Congratulations

To W.O.I (Bandmaster) R. Driscoll on the award of the Meritorious Service Medal. It is hoped to present the medal formally at the Battalion Parade in April.

#### Officers' Study Day

A further Officers' training day was held on 21st February, at Deal, during the course of which Capt. John Hembry put us through the target grid hoop, followed by a session on the puff range. These were followed by a mobilisation presentation performed by Major Hugh Tennent and Capt. Reggie Morgan. The afternoon was taken up by a radio exercise, which was bedevilled by peculiar operating conditions—and the fact that the control set was sited in a valley! We were very pleased to see Col. John Tilleard, Deputy Commander, 133 Infantry Brigade, during the training, as well as Capt. Lee, from Headquarters 44 (Home Counties) Division. As usual, C Company looked after the assembled company very well indeed.

#### Recruits' Cadre

2/Lt. Tony Darby ran the latest edition of the Recruits' Cadre series at Battalion H.Q. and had a most successful day.

#### Warrant Officers' And Sergeants' Drill

On the same day as the Recruits' Cadre the Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.'s gathered at Westwood for drill,

under W.O.I (R.S.M.) A. G. Parker, M.B.E. They emerged later somewhat stiff and quite hoarse!

#### Battalion Wives' Club

A recent innovation has been evening meetings on a Thursday at Westwood. In this way it is hoped to encourage those who cannot come in the afternoon to attend the evening sessions. Members recently visited the Margate Laundry and, after seeing all the various processes, were entertained to tea, kindly laid on by Capt. Dineley.

#### Battalion Band

The Band played at a Guest Night at the Home Counties Brigade Officers' Mess and acquitted themselves well. A last minute change in guests could easily have proved their undoing, but the day was saved with a spirited selection of French airs and the Marseillaise!

#### Resistance Testers

C Company took part in a tough and realistic exercise with the Depot Royal Marines, Deal. Although basically a simple lamp-snatching exercise, prisoners taken by the Royal Marines were subjected to the full treatment! Some managed to escape, however, and eventually all returned unscathed (?) to the T.A. Centre, as our photograph shows.

#### That 1898 Indent

The mystery of the many small boxes being received by the R.Q.M.S. has been solved. It turned out to be a heliograph—no less than 36 parts—all in lieu of labels, line, plastic!

#### Intelligentsia

Capt. Graham Garnsey, Lt. Tony Bingham and members of the Intelligence Section attended the Brigade Signals weekend at Tunbridge Wells, and saw at first-hand the intelligence office set-up. Amendments to the Battalion Command Post set-up have already been sent in!

#### Annual Inspection Weather

Met. reports were being scanned with care at Battalion Headquarters in view of the possible clash of snow and the inspection. The fact that the Commanding Officer's car had to be extricated from a drift in the Westwood Road entrance did the Training Major's morale no good at all!

#### Run Out

We shortly lose the services of Cpl. Stockdale, W. P., on medical grounds. A former member of the Deal Battery and a founder-member of the Battalion, he will be hard to replace. We hope he has an enjoyable "retirement" and look forward to seeing him at the T.A. Centre whenever he is able to look in.



C Coy. on return from their night exercise with Royal Marines.

Photo: "East Kent Mercury."



## 4/5 Bn. THE QUEEN'S OWN R.W.K. REGT. (T.A.)

**MAJOR DON PENNELLS**, whose imminent retirement was mentioned in the January issue, has now handed over his Company to Major Bill Murray.

A highly successful social evening was held in February to mark the occasion, with many past and present members of C Company in attendance. During the course of the evening a presentation was made by C./Sgt. Palmer, who made a short speech recalling Major Pennells' 20 years' service, 16 of which have been with his battalion. C./Sgt. Batchelor, C Company P.S.I., presented a bouquet of spring flowers to Mrs. Pennells.

### Postings

The Battalion has also lost C/Sgt. Rickwood who has gone back to the 1st Battalion. B Company have now been joined by C/Sgt. Vaughan as P.S.I. Our best wishes to C/Sgt. Rickwood—we hope his tour with us will have no lasting ill-effects—and a welcome to C/Sgt. Vaughan. The expression on his face during his first exercise with us was one of very polite astonishment; long may it continue!

### Recruits

Ptes. Bridges and Harris have joined A Company, Ptes. Reed and Varley are now with D Company, whilst two new young soldiers, Ptes. Etteridge and West, are with B Company. To all of them, welcome, and the best of luck in their future careers with the battalion.

### Marriages

Ptes. McNally and Tierney, of D Company, have finally lost their amateur status and become married men. Our congratulations to both of them.

### Company Dinner

A Company held their Annual Dinner at the Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone. The evening was summed up tersely as "excellent food, ample hooch," and C.S.M. Cavanagh delivered his traditional up-lifting after-dinner speech. Copies of the text are available, under plain cover, on application to A Company, to those over 21.

The Company welcomed all the battalion brass they could lay their hands on—the Colonel, Second-in-Command, Adjutant, R.S.M. and Quartermaster. Perish the thought that any idea of winning friends and influencing people could enter anybody's mind: but one wonders if A Company have anything to hide!

### Training

We are all pretty well drilled in I.S. Duties now, and any

mob can be guaranteed to be disposed of with considerable panache and minimum force, provided it has also been correctly trained in its I.S. role. (What do you do if they just don't take any notice of you?)

For some few weeks past various small boys around West Kent have been bemoaning the loss of their armed forces, and a most impressive collection of plastic soldiers and vehicles has been on tour around the Drill Halls demonstrating the Advance to Contact under the supervision of the officers of A and B Companies—doubtless selected as being keener on playing with toys than any others.

### Exercise "Penge Packet"

This innocuous-sounding name was most ill-chosen for a platoon exercise in a steady fall of snow, in deepest Buff country, at Canterbury. The plot was very simple—platoon attacks by night and by day; and platoon attacks were indeed carried out. Highlights of the weekend, that will not be found in "The Infantry Platoon in Battle," included a platoon that doggedly followed their compass bearing for a night assault, passing the enemy position with a splendid and lordly refusal to be sidetracked by those extraneous figures making bangs in the bushes by their side; also two platoons that assaulted with tremendous élan straight up the line of fire of their own fire sections. "C'est magnifique, mais . . ."

One might also mention the day the Demon Cook emerged from the smoke with hot-dogs, which he apparently cooked for some five hours non-stop; and Major Bill Murray, so recently made a Kentish Man as still to be most disgracefully mixed in his dress ("I was coming as a Jock till first post this morning").

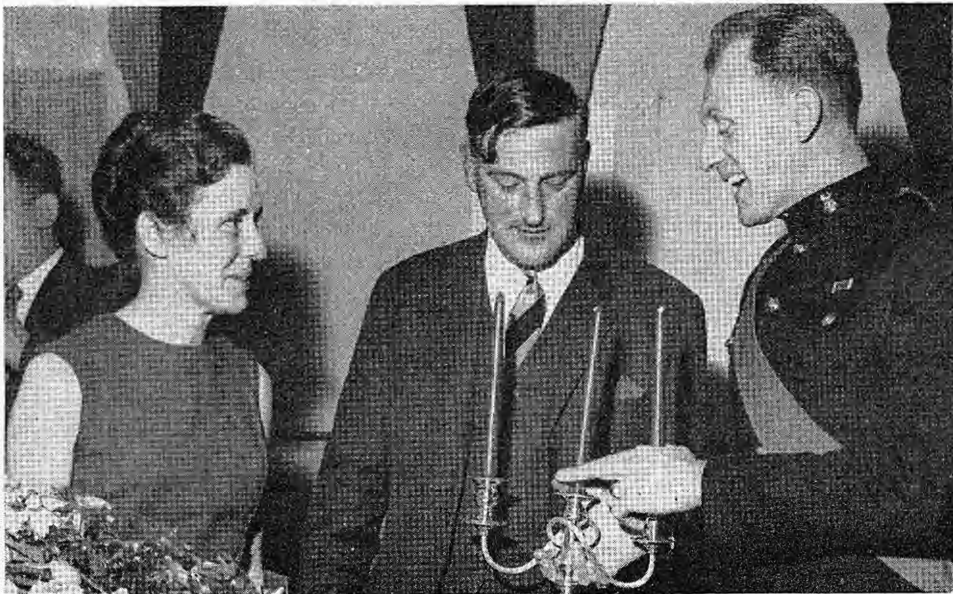
Our thanks are due to the Brigade Depot for feeding us and, although there was a certain muttering for all-in stew, the food was much appreciated and of very high standard.

Final mentions must be made of the Section Commander who, on being checked for not having his men five yards apart, completely baffled an umpire by pointing out that he was well aware of this but that his spacing was "for exercise purposes"; and also of the highly effective wiring of the enemy positions by the Assault Pioneers which temporarily completely baffled all attackers.

### Tailpiece

Major Jim Ogilvy's bursting into print on the Corps of Infantry calls to mind the historian of 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), who wrote how the members of that unit would have preferred a name "like 4th Battalion, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment."

This quote would seem to indicate that the name is important, but basically the point is that it doesn't matter what you call a unit. If it is a good one, it will make its own name. 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) is, of course, better known as "Merrill's Marauders."



Major H. D. A. Pennells, T.D., accompanied by Mrs. Pennells, receiving a candelabra from C./Sgt. J. R. Palmer on the occasion of his retirement from active T.A. service.

Photo: "Sevenoaks Chronicle."

## ONE DAY'S PAY APPEAL FOR ARMY CHARITIES

### A Special Effort to Raise an Extra £350,000 a Year

EVERY soldier in the British Army is being asked to contribute voluntarily up to one day's basic pay to his corps or regimental benevolent fund.

The appeal comes from General Sir James Cassels, the new Chief of the General Staff, who was until recently Adjutant-General. In a letter to the soldiers he points out that the day's pay represents about sixpence a week for a corporal or private and a shilling a week for a warrant officer or sergeant. There is no compulsion about this scheme. Those who agree to participate can pay by banker's order or sign a form authorising the deduction in quarterly instalments from their accounts on the Royal Army Pay Corps computer at Worthy Down.

Millions of pounds have been paid already to former soldiers and their dependants. But because the combined resources of army, corps and regimental benevolent funds still cannot adequately cover all deserving cases, the Army Board has decided it must make a special effort to raise an extra £350,000 a year.

The Army Benevolent Fund, which alone has paid out £5 million since World War Two, is responsible, through national campaigns, for the collection of an extra £150,000 from the general public. It is to obtain the remaining £200,000 that the scheme of one day's pay is being introduced.

Many—but not all—officers and soldiers have, of course, been regular subscribers to these funds, and this extra £200,000 could be obtained if their example is followed by others.

Although the Army contributions will go to corps and regimental benevolent funds, the Army Board hopes that the better-off organisations will be able to channel some of it to the Army Benevolent Fund for onward transmission to national Service charities. Among the corps reliant on the Army Benevolent Fund are those that expand greatly in war-time and contract in peace-time—such as the Royal Pioneer Corps and the Women's Royal Army Corps (with its former ATS commitment). There are also regiments that fielded 40 or more battalions in the First World War, and formations like the Machine Gun Corps that no longer exist.

## Army Benevolent Fund To Benefit From Royal Variety Concert

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA is to attend the variety concert "Fall In The Stars," the first to be organised by the Variety Club of Great Britain for the Army Benevolent Fund, which will be given at the Victoria Palace, London, on 25th April. Among stars who have accepted invitations to appear are: June Brownhill, Roy Castle, Judith Chalmers, Charlie Chester, Ian Carmichael, Ivor Emmanuel, Bruce Forsyth, Freddie Frinton, Frankie Howerd, Frank Ifield, Hattie Jacques, Bill Kerr, Kathy Kirby, Elizabeth Larner, Leonard Sachs, Richard Todd and the Tiller Girls.

The Variety Club has recognised the work of the Army Benevolent Fund in the field of child welfare and the immediate need for finance to maintain and extend this activity. Many of the 36,000 cases of need and distress amongst soldiers, ex-soldiers and their dependants dealt with last year by Corps and Regimental Associations with Army Benevolent Fund support, are directly connected with children. Since World War II the fund has spent over £400,000 in their cause, supporting 13 homes and schools. The average number of soldiers' children helped in this way is around 1,200 in any one year.

**Have YOU subscribed yet to  
the Army Benevolent Fund  
and Regimental Joint Appeal  
to Kent?**



**Why  
your  
help  
is needed . . .**

You may think it is unbelievable that there are still many cases of great hardship among ex-soldiers and their dependants that cannot be helped by official schemes of relief, but it is a true fact.

The Army Benevolent Fund is the parent body of all regimental charities and provides financial aid to those charities which give personal attention to individual cases in need and cases of real hardship where it is impossible to raise life above a bare restricted existence.

Your help is badly needed because the calls on this Fund are increasing considerably.

Please give all you can afford as a token of gratitude to the men who gave so much for you.

## SUPPORT THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

*Patron: Her Majesty The Queen*

- Donations may be sent to The President, The Army Benevolent Fund, 20 Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1, or paid into any Bank in Great Britain or Northern Ireland.

Registered under the War Charities Act, 1940.

This space donated by:—

W. NASH LTD., ST. PAUL'S CRAY, KENT



## THE BATTALION WITH THE MOSTEST?

WHICH Regular, Territorial or Service Battalion of either of the Regiment's two famous forebears can better the last war record of the 6th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment? Their record is set out in the historic letter published below; it must surely take some beating?

The letter, originally sent to Lt.-Col. Gordon Debrates, the Battalion Commander, by Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard McCreery, the Army Commander at the time of the disbandment of the battalion, was handed over to the Deputy Colonel at the battalion's annual dinner held in Bromley in October of last year. It is now in safe custody, together with other Queen's Own Records, in the Maidstone Museum.

This is what the Army Commander had to say:—

Headquarters,  
British Troops in Austria.  
3rd April, 1946.

Lt.-Col. G. K. Debrates, D.S.O., M.C.,  
6th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt.

Now that the time has come to disband the 6th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt., I would like to express to all ranks my warmest appreciation and thanks for their splendid service since the Battalion was formed.

Since November, 1941, until the final victory last year, your Battalion served continuously under 78 Division and took part with great distinction in the fighting in Tunisia and Italy; all ranks have shown splendid devotion to duty and qualities of cheerfulness, endurance and team spirit which were decisive factors of the Victory of the Eighth Army.

Decorations which you have won include 3 D.S.O.s, 25 M.C.s, 52 M.M.s, 8 D.C.M.s, 2 M.B.E.s, 2 B.E.M.s, 62 Mentions in Despatches, 3 American Silver Stars and 1 American D.S.C. This is a splendid record and a great tribute to the part played by the whole Battalion in battle. The task is now completed and you can be proud of your share in the final victory.

My best congratulations to all ranks on your War Service and best wishes to the future.

(sgd.) R. L. McCREERY,  
Lieutenant-General.  
Commander in Chief.

## COMING EVENTS

- 1965  
April  
10 7th Bn. R.W.K. Annual Dinner.  
24-25 Golfing Society Spring Meeting, Royal St. George's Golf Club, Sandwich.  
24 Golfing Society Annual Dinner, The Bell Hotel, Sandwich.  
24 4th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (T.A.) Annual Reunion.  
24 Official opening of 4 Buffs (T.A.) new Drill Hall, Leros T.A. Centre, Canterbury.

### May

- 1 West Country Lunch.  
12 Golfing Society Match v. Kent County Constabulary at Littlestone.  
15-16 Golfing Society Match v. Rye Golf Club.  
15-29 T.A. Bns. Annual Camp.  
16 Albuhera Day.  
26 Home Counties Brigade Golf Meeting, Tandridge G.C., Surrey.

### June

- 9-11 Cricket—Kent v. Somerset at Canterbury.  
12 Golfing Society Match v. Household Brigade at New Zealand Golf Club.  
15 Regimental Dinner and Tea Party.  
19 Cricket Match v. Band of Brothers at Canterbury.  
26 Maidstone Cricket Week:—  
June 26 - 29: Kent v. New Zealand.  
June 30 - July 2: Kent v. Essex.  
27 Maidstone Remembrance Service and Reunion.

### July

- 18 Golfing Society Match v. Liphook Golf Club.  
24 Golfing Society Match v. Wrotham Heath Golf Club.  
28 Canterbury Cricket Week:—  
July 28 - 30: Kent v. South Africa.  
July 31 - August 3: Kent v. Hampshire.  
August 4 - 6: Kent v. Middlesex.

### August

- 8 Annual Reunion and Service of Remembrance at Canterbury.

### September

- 8 Sevastopol Day.  
25-26 Golfing Society Autumn Meeting, Littlestone Golf Club.  
25 Golfing Society A.G.M.

### October

- 2 4 Buffs (1939-45) Dinner, County Hotel, Canterbury, further details to be issued later.  
2 6 R.W.K. Annual Dinner.  
2 11th Bn. R.W.K. Annual Dinner at Victoria Hotel, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.  
6 Golfing Society Match v. Kent County Constabulary at Leeds Castle.  
9 6(S) Buffs Annual Dinner.  
9 7th Bn. R.W.K. Annual Ladies Night.  
21 Trafalgar Day.  
30 1/4 Buffs Annual Dinner.

### December

- 4 8 R.W.K. Annual Dinner.  
8 Naval Victory, Falkland Islands, 1914—H.M.S. Kent in action.  
13 Birthday of Her Royal Highness Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, Colonel of the Regiment.

THE following changes of address are notified:

M. P. E. Plutte, Esq.,  
Hannerupgaard,  
Hannerup,  
pr. Hobro, Denmark.

Colonel B. Jacobs,  
O.B.E., M.C.  
Flat 1,  
1a Little Tichfield Street,  
London, W.1.

Major C. F. Willis,  
M.B.E., T.D.,  
Little Etherton,  
Stockland Green,  
Speldhurst,  
Tunbridge Wells.

Major G. L. Walker,  
37 Lowndes Square,  
London, S.W.1.

Mrs. J. Etkins,  
134 North Road,  
Combe Down,  
Bath, Somerset.

Major J. A. Rymer-Jones,  
Australian Staff College,  
Fort Queenscliff,  
Queenscliff,  
Victoria, Australia.

Col. N. F. Gordon-Wilson,  
M.B.E.,  
H.Q. Federal Regular Army,  
B.F.P.O. 69.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

### MARRIAGES

- SIMPSON—FITZGERALD. On 9th January, 1965, at Sheppey Register Office, Pte. D. Simpson to Elizabeth Violet Fitzgerald.
- SIMPSON—LITTLE. On 26th December, 1964, at the Parish Church of Sheppey, Pte. G. Simpson to Caron Ann Little.
- SLAUGHTER—WHYTE. On 6th February, 1965, at Roman Catholic Church of Christ The King, Colchester, Pte. W. Slaughter to Wilhelmina Maxine Whyte.
- BRADSHAW—MACPHERSON. On 9th January, 1965, at the Parish Church of St. Mary Cray, Pte. C. Bradshaw to Doreen Macpherson.
- DAVIES—GORSE. On 23rd January, 1965, at the Methodist Chapel, Headcorn, Pte. R. Davies to Claire Ann Gorse.
- BUDDLE—ROBERTS. On 2nd January, 1965, at the Parish Church, Ramsgate, Pte. A. Buddle to Margaret Ann Roberts.
- FEATHERBE—McCOWAN. On 2nd December, 1964, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Georgetown, Pte. C. Featherbe to Norma Rosalin McCowan.
- SAUNDERS—FENN. On 23rd January, 1965, at the Register Office, Hereford, Pte. M. Saunders to Patricia Jane Fenn.
- MORLEY—HEMPSTEAD. On 16th January, 1965, at All Saints' Church, Brightlingsea, Pte. D. Morley to Barbara Stella Hempstead.
- MATTHEWS—BIRD. On 9th January, 1965, at the Register Office, Dover, Pte. C. Matthews to Patricia May Bird.
- OLIVER—BARHAM. On 16th January, 1965, at the Parish Church, Maidstone, Pte. J. Oliver to Shirley Barham.
- ELLIS—NEHAUL. On 16th January, 1965, at St. Judis Church, Balham, Pte. J. Ellis to Nehaul.
- BALMER—BURRWOOD. On 23rd January, 1965, at Sevenoaks Congregational Church, Pte. P. Balmer to Susane Edith Burrwood.
- GEEVES—IDDENDEN. On 16th January, 1965, at St. John's Church, Herne Bay, Cpl. K. Geeves to Jean Iddenden.
- TOTTERDELL—BENNETT. On 23rd January, 1965, at St. Theresa's, Manchester, Pte. W. Totterdell to Anne Bennett.

### DEATHS

- ADAMS—Mr. J. T. Adams, D.C.M., died on 27th January, 1965, at St. Augustine's Hospital, aged 81 years. Ex-Sgt. Reg. No. 135 1st Bn. The Buffs and Sandwich Branch.
- PEAKE—Major Walter Peake, M.C., The Buffs, died in hospital on February 14th, 1965. Formerly of Southend-on-Sea, latterly of 4 The Drive, Horley, Surrey. Aged 81 years.

### ENGAGEMENTS

The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Major D. A. Chuter, T.D., and Mrs. Chuter, of Albaro, Woodlands Road, Bickley, and Jane, elder daughter of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. J. Pollard, of Kingsway, Penwortham, Preston, Lancs.

## OBITUARY

### R. H. Cale

Major R. Brown writes:—

It was with deep regret that I read in your last issue of the death of Reggie Cale.

We served together in the 1st Bn. The Queen's Own from the time he joined us as a young 2/Lt. in October, 1915. He was an expert with the Lewis Gun and when the Battalion were issued with this weapon he became the Lewis Gun officer, a position he filled with great

success. In this position during the Somme Battles his organising of controlled fire was excellent, and it was during the attack at High Wood that he was awarded the Military Cross for trying to rescue a badly wounded brother officer under very heavy machine gun barrage. In fact, he carried him single handed for a long distance on his shoulders.

He subsequently became Transport Officer and during the attack on Vimy Ridge, organised the supply of rations by utilising all the officers' chargers and other animals in order that the Battalion should be supplied. The weather was so bad and the ground so cut up by the weather that in many cases they had to make bridges over the broken trenches in order to proceed. It took nine hours to get to Battalion Headquarters and another two hours to the front line on the top of the Ridge.

When the Battalion returned to Franch in March, 1918, he was seconded to Brigade Headquarters in a position in which he gave great help to the Regiment.

When I retired in September, 1919, I visited him when he was at the Constitutional Club, and he recommended me for a job which I gladly accepted.

When he became Secretary of the Club he always arranged a luncheon party for Colonel Dunlop and other officers who served with him, when the Colonel was home on leave from India.

He made many friends, always had a smile for everybody, whether in war or peace, and was one of the best friends I had both in the Regiment and in civil life.

## PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

### Supplements to the London Gazette

#### Regular Army

Brig. Paul Edwin Crook, C.B.E., D.S.O., late R.W.K., is appointed Aide-de-Camp to The Queen, 29th December, 1964.

Lt.-Col. H. B. H. Waring, O.B.E., to be Supernumary to Establishment, 2nd February, 1965.

2nd Lt. I. G. Baillie to be Lt., 2nd February, 1965.

Capt. R. W. Neve, M.C., to be Major, 8th February, 1965, with precedence in the Home Counties Bde. above M. E. Girling, Queens Surreys.

O/Cdt. Richard David John Dent, from The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, to be 2nd Lt. 18th December, 1964.

Short Serv. Commn.

O/Cdt. Simon James Elliott from Mons Officer Cadet School to be 2nd Lt., 16th January, 1965.

#### Regular Army Reserve of Officers

Capt. D. G. Walker, having attained the age limit, relinquishes his commn., 3rd February, 1965, and is granted the hon. rank of Major.

Lt.-Col. (Hon. Col.) H. J. S. Brooke, O.B.E. (Emp. List 1), having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the Res. of Offrs., 20th February, 1965.

Major R. F. Crichton, M.C., having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the Res. of Offrs., 18th February, 1965.

Lt. C. G. Court, from A.E. Res. of Offrs., Nat. Serv. List, to be Lt., 3rd March, 1965.

#### Territorial Army

Pte. Antony Andrew George Darby to be 2nd Lt. (on probation), 16th December, 1964.

Lt. F. M. Leeson to have seniority, 16th September, 1961.

2nd Lt. C. K. L. Davidson (on probation) is confirmed in his appt. as 2nd Lt., 24th February, 1963. To be Lt., 24th February, 1965.

Major W. Murray, T.D., from Unatt'd List, Cameronians, to be Major, 1st February, 1965, with seniority 14th July, 1956.

#### Territorial Army Reserve of Officers

Major H. D. A. Pennells, T.D., from Active List, to be Major, 31st January, 1965.



## CORRESPONDENCE

18 Adam Street, London, W.C.2,  
and  
4 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.  
10th February, 1965.

The Editor, Invicta.

Dear Sir,

We should like to ask what criteria are used when employing the dreadful habit of using Christian names or (even worse) nicknames in Invicta. It would appear that the practice is only applied to serving officers between the ranks of "Twink" and "Rusty" inclusive, but we wonder whether we may possibly see the following in future editions:—

The G.O.C.-in("Dick")-C., Western Command.

The Deputy ("Dennis") Colonel.

The Regimental ("Ray Boy") Secretary.

or perhaps it will be extended even higher to the Colonel (.....) of the Regiment and the Colonel-in-(.....) Chief but, no, we suppose that that would be *lèse-majesté*.

Yours faithfully,

"ART" AND "MART"

(Majors A. E. Majendie and M. A. O'B. French Blake).

Flat 1,  
46 Ennismore Gardens,  
London, S.W.1.  
3rd March, 1965.

The Editor.

Dear Sir,

The picture reproduced in the February issue of the operation against the Bunervals in the Swati district, North West Frontier of India in January, 1898, in which The Buffs and the Royal West Kent Regiment took part, is of particular interest to me as my husband, then Captain O'Dowda, was Signalling Officer with the West Kents.

I have a drawing on part of a page of the Indian paper, the "Civil and Military Gazette," showing him standing by as the sender is heliographing General Meiklejohn's message to Sir Bindon Blood—"The pass was taken at 2 o'clock."

An added interest is that the late Sir Winston Churchill was at the time attached to the paper as War Correspondent. He climbed the ridge to watch the message being sent, and wrote: "I attached myself to the West Kents, and with them gained a superb view of the proceedings."

Years later, during the First World War, the Mentions in Despatches awarded to my husband after Gallipoli and Mesopotamia were all signed by Sir Winston, who was then Secretary of State for War. It is unlikely that he connected the name—if indeed he read it—with the junior officer in the West Kents whom he met at the taking of the Tanga Pass on the North West Frontier of India in 1898.

GAY O'DOWDA  
(Lady O'Dowda).

Home Counties Brigade Depot,  
Howe Barracks,  
Canterbury.  
11th February, 1965.

Dear Colonel Grace,

On behalf of the Officers at the Depot I would like to take this opportunity of thanking All Ranks The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment for their gift of the framed picture of the Presentation of the First Colours to the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, by their Colonel-in-Chief. This is now hanging in the Mess.

Yours sincerely,

NORMAN CLAYDEN

(Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden, Mx., Officer Commanding Home Counties Brigade Depot.)



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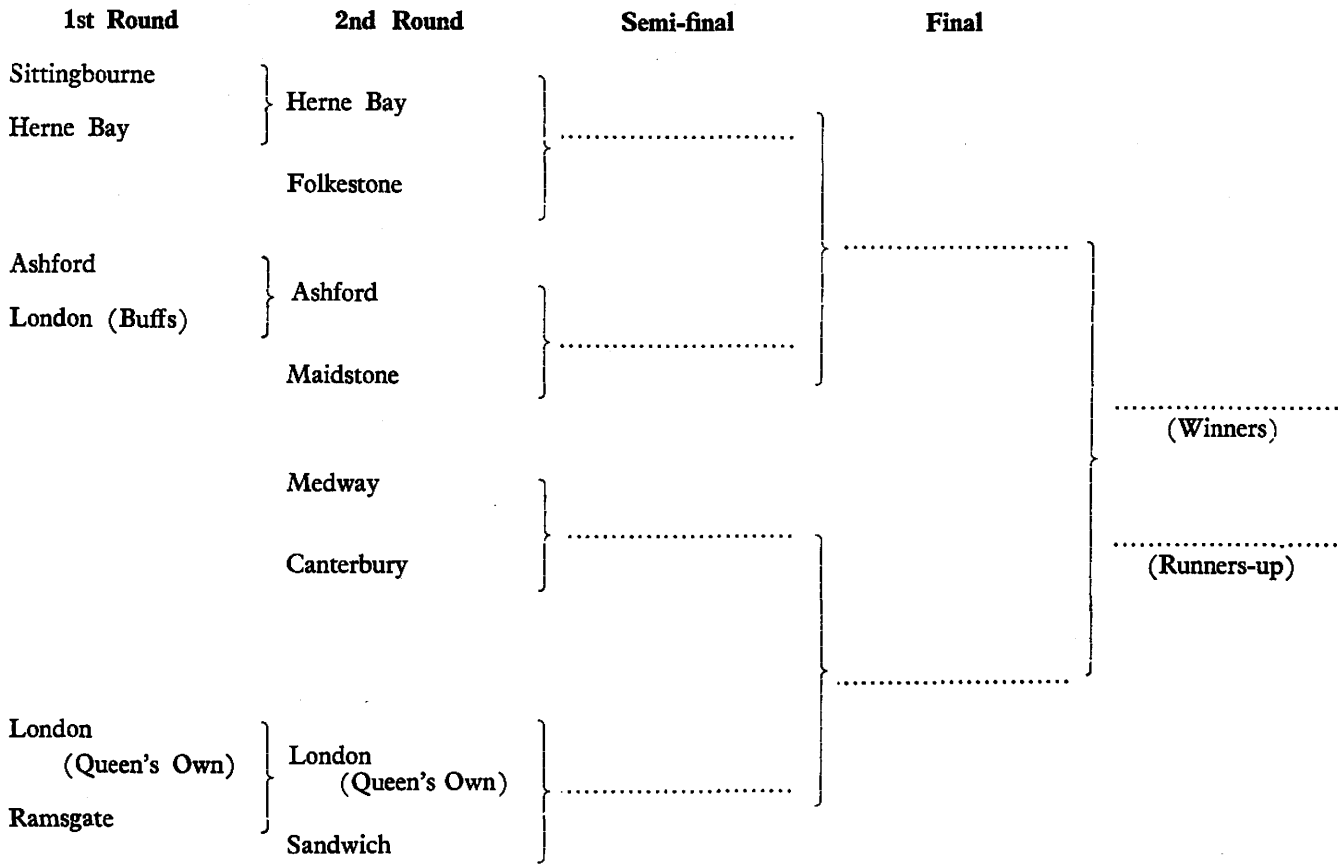
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**THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS**



**ASSOCIATION**  
**THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT**

**INTER-BRANCH DARTS COMPETITION**

**The Latest Position**



2nd Round to be completed **BY NOT LATER THAN 30th April.**

Semi-finals to be completed **BY NOT LATER THAN 31st May.**

The Final will be played on a date and at a place and time to be announced later, largely dependent upon which two Branches reach the Final.

**LONDON (QUEEN'S OWN)** are the present Holders.

## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

### BRIGHTON

**D**ESPITE many anxious moments due to the sudden change in the weather conditions our annual Dinner and Dance was successfully held as planned on 6th March with, we feel, the usual gratifying results. This, of course, was due to the tremendous support of the guests who came from far and near and included Colonel and Mrs. Grace, Mr. and Mrs. Coleman from Ashford and old friends from London too numerous to name individually but who have been so often in our midst that it was hinted we might soon be labelled London/Brighton. Major and Mrs. Cox, still thought of as members of the Brighton Branch, were also present, with the longest journey behind them, and how very pleased we were to see them both looking so well.

Our President, Brigadier Parry, and Mrs. Parry, were, unfortunately for us but not for them, absent in distant lands enjoying no doubt the summer suns, and other forced absentees were due to illnesses which robbed us and many of the guests of the pleasure of their company. Of these we were so pleased to hear from Colonel Grace of the encouraging progress to Colonel Argles through his illness and to receive from Mrs. Argles her message of good wishes. This, coupled with a cable from Brigadier Parry, made up a little for their enforced absence.

The support to our raffle was stupendous and we thank all for their very generous support which gave us a record total.

In all a wonderful evening with good music from a very hard worked band, and possibly a much harder worked John Brown as M.C., really making things go as they should for a successful and enjoyable occasion.

All too soon the good things came to an end and now we will be looking forward to next year for a repetition of the pleasure we derived from the company of all who joined us.

R.J.R.

### BROMLEY

**A**LTHOUGH I have little news to give readers after our February meeting, it has frequently been stressed that a report should be sent to the Editor every month, even if it is only a few lines, so here goes.

Apologies for absence were received from Alf Ellis, who has been through a bad time with eye trouble these last few months.

The main item on the agenda was the Social on the 27th of this month at Branch H.Q., the United Services Club, 33 London Road, Bromley, at 7.30 p.m., to which any member of the Association who cares to come, with his lady, will be very welcome.

It was learnt with regret that, owing to a previous engagement, Colonel and Mrs. Norman Edwards, for the first time for many years, would be unable to be present.

The Chairman called for volunteers for a "fatigue party" to prepare the hall in the afternoon and mentioned in finalising the arrangements, that a reminder letter was being sent to all Branch members.

The Maidstone Reunion was discussed at some length and the Branch representative to the Regimental Association Committee Meeting on the 20th was briefed accordingly.

The writer will never cease to wonder at the faithfulness of those members, no longer in the first flush of youth, who come from quite considerable distances to attend the monthly meetings, in all sorts of weather, and more especially as bus and train fares are now quite expensive. It is a wonderful spirit, this love of Regiment, which has lasted in most cases 50 years or more. Long may it continue.

B.B.

### CANTERBURY

**A**S it was impossible for me to attend the monthly meeting of the Branch, held at Leros T.A. Centre on Friday, 26th February, I am unable to report on that meeting—the first I have missed for over two years. Twenty members were present.

A fellow-member informs me that the Branch welcomed Mr. Richards (late 5th Bn. The Buffs) from Faversham.

The opening of the new Headquarters of the 4th Battalion will take place on 24th April.

A darts match, versus Rochester, will be held on 10th April, at 7.00 p.m.

The thoughts of the Branch are with Mrs. Argles, wife of Lt.-Colonel E. V. Argles, Vice-Chairman of the Regimental Association, who is seriously ill in hospital. Lt.-Col. Argles, who has held various posts within the Branch, was also very active in other spheres, not least among them the welfare of the ex-Serviceman. It is the hope of all members that the Colonel will be completely restored to health, and that the Branch may again have the advantage of his sage, but unobtrusive advice.

I regret to record the death on Wednesday, 24th February, of Cecil Farrow, a life-member of the Branch and one of the "Old Brigade." He served with the 1st Bn. The Buffs in 1905 and subsequently with the 2nd Bn. from 1906-1919 in India and France. He had been fighting ill-health for a considerable time. I feel his passing more keenly, perhaps, than some, for the reasons that, besides knowing him since I was a boy, he worked for the same firm as myself for a number of years after leaving the Army, before going first to Wormwood Scrubs as a Prison Officer, then finishing his working career as a Commissioner with I.C.I. The members of the Branch sent a floral tribute when the last rites were performed at Barham Crematorium on Wednesday, 3rd March. I regret that I could not be present on the departure of one who was intensely patriotic and whose joy it was to listen to the singing in the Cathedral. The sympathy of the members of the Branch are extended to his widow.

Members of the Branch who customarily see a certain fellow-member cruising around in a luxurious "E.K." coach, would have been amazed to see, recently, the said member pushing along a loaded hand-barrow! Had he then got the sack? Well, he had, and he had not! Mr. Miles, a driver employed by the "East Kent," was doing his good deed for the day, and the sack contained coal which he was delivering to an invalid fellow-member, Mr. Jim Philpott. It is refreshing to see that the younger generation—he will query this!—helping the older ex-soldier. Thank you, Mr. Miles.

Well, readers, here I make my exit, for these are the last notes that will appear above my name, and my hope is that you have not been bored during the past two years. No doubt someone will be found to write the notes, and in a more interesting manner.

Best wishes to all Branches and all readers, wherever they may be.

A. H. BERRY.

### CHATHAM

**A**T our March meeting our numbers were not up to previous meetings and in the absence of our Chairman (who was detained at work right at the last moment), Mr. Wilkins, our secretary, took the chair.

Thus "Wilkie" was Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Mine Host at one and the same time, which just shows what he does for our Branch.

We were pleased to hear from Major Smith, now living in New Zealand, and also to receive his gift towards our funds. Also noted was that the gift from Mr. Pilkington (in Canada) had been raffled and added still further to our finances.

Major Brothers once again braved the elements to be with us and we marvel at his continued interest in travelling down from Orpington each month to have his little chat with us. Those of us who served under him in the T.A. pre-war do appreciate these occasions.

As one who has been connected with the Major for the past 44 years, I would be delighted to see a few more of our old Company come along to our meetings. I am sure Mr. Thompson (who also has similar connections) feels the same. We both do a little recruiting whenever we come across a likely candidate, but so far have had little success.

Well, this is all for this month; very little news but I felt I must say something in case our own particular readers or Mr. Editor thought I had forgotten to report.



## FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE

**T**HE last meeting was held on 12th February at the Drill Hall, Shellons Street, Folkestone, commencing at 8 p.m. and was attended by 30 members.

In opening the meeting, the Chairman—Brigadier Parry—welcomed two new members to the Branch, viz., Brigadier Whitacre Allen, who has come from Biddenden to reside in Folkestone, and Mr. Jim Hatcher, late 5th Battalion.

It was decided that the Annual General Meeting be held on Friday, 9th April, at 8 p.m., when it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

Although several representatives were present at the Memorial Service for Sir Winston Churchill at the Parish Church, it was regretted that owing to the Association not having been informed of this service, it was not possible for more members to attend.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Wickens on his new appointment to Digate Camp, Shorncliffe; we wish him every success in this new activity which we know he will enjoy.

In my previous notes I stated that we were to play Sittingbourne at darts; my apologies to Herne Bay for having misconstrued the Secretary's report, as their match with Sittingbourne had not then taken place!

In one of my previous notes I referred to a new member—Mr. H. E. Smith; his attendance at the time gave us much pleasure, as he took the trouble to come all the way from New Romney. It was, therefore, with very sincere regret that we heard at the last meeting of his passing away, and the meeting stood in silence to his memory. The following extract from the local paper will, no doubt, be of interest to members.

"Mr. Smith was born at Pluckley in 1882. At the age of 17 he enlisted in the Army for the period of the South African War and was wounded at Bloemfontein.

"He was awarded the B.E.F. medal, Queen's South African medal with clasps Cape Colony and Orange Free State, and the King's South African medal with clasps 1901/2.

"Mr. Smith was recalled to the Army from the Metropolitan Police Force, which he joined in 1909, in August, 1914. He was wounded at Armentières and was discharged in 1916, due to war wounds. He was awarded the 1914 Star and clasp.

"He returned to the Metropolitan Police Force and retired with the rank of sub-divisional Inspector in 1934. "A funeral service was held at New Romney Parish Church, followed by cremation at Charing.

"Present at the Church Service were Lt.-General Sir W. Wyndham Green, Lt.-Col. Merlott-Chitty, and representatives of various Masonic Lodges and of the British Legion."

In closing the meeting at about 9 p.m. the Chairman thanked all members for their attendance. This was followed by the usual raffle and games.

E.V.L.

## LONDON (BUFFS)

### FEBRUARY

**T**HE Branch monthly meeting was held on 16th January. Mr. H. J. Scott was in the chair with 17 members present. The minutes of the October meeting were read (no meeting having been held in November and December).

A discussion was held re the inter-Branch Darts Competition and it has now been confirmed that the match with Ashford will be played on Saturday, 13th March, at Ashford.

The Chairman thanked all members for their generous response to the Christmas Appeal and Draw, and the Treasurer gave details of the disbursement and prizes.

Arrangements are in hand for those members wishing to attend the Brighton Branch Dinner which is being held on 6th March.

Readers will be pleased to know that Major W. Clover has now been discharged from hospital after a serious operation which he had just before Christmas.

Our best wishes go to Mr. E. Smith for a speedy recovery from pneumonia.

We apologise for the brevity of our notes this month as there was no Branch business during January.

DAN.

## MARCH

**A**LTHOUGH February is usually a quiet month with not much business, this February was more than usually busy.

Our Monthly Meeting was held on the third Saturday at The White Swan. There were 23 members present with some of their ladies.

After the usual formalities of reading the minutes, etc., we settled down to arranging the March programme.

On 6th March we travel to Brighton to attend that Branch Dinner. So far about 30 have booked in for this function which should please Bill and Mollie Kinsey.

On Saturday, 13th, we go to Ashford for the first match in the Inter-Branch Darts Competition. We know that Ashford are a formidable team but we are hoping for a good result.

Saturday, 20th, of course, is our own meeting night, so that takes up all three Saturdays in March leaving members one to play with.

We, of the London Branch, were all very sorry to hear of the illness of Colonel Argles, but we have since had news of improvement for which we are all grateful.

Our own Ernie Hart goes into Westminster Hospital for an operation on 6th March. He seems very cheerful about the whole thing.

Ernie Smith has just about recovered from his bout of pneumonia and will be going to one of the Railway Convalescent Homes soon.

Major Bill Clover is not yet fit, but hopes to be up at our next meeting. Albert Sharpe is now in great form after his temporary setback.

George Warner has now been admitted to the Royal Hospital and we hear that Sammy Martin will soon be admitted. We shall soon have either a football or cross-country team there, but at least five good supporters at our meetings.

Our party this year at Streatham is now fixed for Saturday, 6th November, and NOT the 20th, as I have already stated.

Vic Hewson and wife Ethel came to London from Bury St. Edmunds on Saturday, 20th February, for the International Folk Dance Festival at the Albert Hall. I had the very great pleasure of meeting up with them and talking over old times; though the time was limited, it was most enjoyable.

This must be all for this month, so best wishes to all Queen's Own Buffs.

DAN.

## MAIDSTONE

**A**FTER getting notices out to members for the meeting on the 23rd February and making last-minute arrangements with the proprietor of the Sun Inn I sat back with apprehension for the day, knowing that a good attendance at our first meeting at our new home would "make or break." At 8.0 p.m. on the 23rd our Chairman and I relaxed. We had made it! Thirty members and about 10 ladies arrived. This attendance was extremely gratifying, especially when at least another half-dozen members would have come along but for shift working, etc. All members agreed that we now have ample opportunities for all kinds of social activities and I am sure this will be put into effect after our Annual General Meeting on the 16th March, when we hope that a first-class Social Committee will be formed.

At the completion of the meeting, where a lot of business was completed in well under the hour—due chiefly to the excellent chairmanship of Jim Sergison and the good teamwork of all members—we invited the ladies to join us. After a slight pause for refreshments (liquid variety) we settled down to "Tombola." Maxie, having done much better on his "refresher" course than Tim Hayley, did the numbers whilst Bill Chiswell, ably assisted by Wally Sedge and Bill Ladell, did the financial side. This went down very well and altogether four houses were run. This was followed by a general get-together and chin-wag all round, with radiogram music for a background. Altogether a very pleasant first evening. In particular, Mr. and Mrs. Chiswell seemed to be in fine fettle after the number of years they had spent on the other side of the bar.

Our Chairman and I attended the A.G.M. of the Maidstone Ex-Services at the beginning of February, regarding the Maidstone Town Remembrance Day Parade. We were both frustrated, in that no hard and fast decisions were made, and we asked that a special meeting be called after delegates present had obtained their Branch views on the subject. However, a very detailed outline, including

diagrams, was presented to our members from the chair. After discussion, including a few amendments, our views were approved and are now ready to be taken forward again to the Joint Council of Ex-Services.

The Chairman's appeal for suitable items from members to be included in future raffles brought very quick response. Messrs. Kingsmill, Spice and Sedge have already contributed three very useful prizes. We hope in this way to swell our funds especially bearing in mind that we have at least one coach journey to make in connection with the Inter-Branch Darts Competition.

On the departure of the 1st Battalion on the 18th March to Denmark, we wish them God-speed and sincerely hope that their stay will be enjoyed by all ranks.

Our regards to all readers of Invicta.

JIM WELLS.

### RAMSGATE

THESE notes, I very much regret, must start off on a sad note, as almost immediately after rendering February's notes, we heard of the death of Monsieur Amand Vinck, who always attended the Branch meetings whenever he visited his daughter, Mrs. Neville, and Colonel Frank Neville. His visits were always very welcome in the Branch. Such was his character that he quickly became a great friend, and the Branch unanimously decided to offer to M. Vinck an Honorary Vice-Presidency; only a few days before his death did he write an acceptance to the Secretary. The whole Branch offer their deepest sympathy to Madame Vinck and to Colonel and Mrs. Neville on their irreplaceable loss.

Our February meeting opened with the Chairman welcoming all members, remarking how nice it was to see so many of the Old Brigade present. The usual chores attached to the Monthly Meeting were soon dispensed with, and the meeting adjourned to have an hour or so's practise at Bat-and-Trap at which our Ladies' Guild joined us. With the progress made there is little doubt that we will soon be able to produce both a men's and a ladies' team; I'm told that such was the energy of one lady that she over-balanced and finished up sliding, seated, on the Drill Hall floor!

One or two items were referred to Committee from the meeting, and the first Committee meeting was held on 22nd February, 1965. Ben vacated the chair (Committee) in favour of Doug Fuller, but otherwise no change. It was decided to hold an outing this year; details at the March meeting.

Owing to Easter holidays and the Drill Hall closing for 5th Battalion's Camp the April and May meetings will have to be reorganised. The April meeting will now be held on FRIDAY, 9th, followed by a Social, with Sandwich Branch as our guests.

By the time these notes appear we shall know whether or not we are still in the Darts Competition, as we meet our last year's final opponents London (Queen's Own) on Saturday, 20th March. London have kindly agreed to meet us half-way and both teams travel to Maidstone for the battle. We expect to have a coach party of about 35 to cheer on our team.

We are all very sorry to hear of Colonel Argles' illness and send our best wishes for a complete recovery.

That's about all for this month, "signing off" with best wishes to all Buffs—everywhere.

BEN.

### SANDWICH

THE monthly General Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Tuesday, 2nd March, at 7.30 p.m. Captain F. J. Jakob presided and 17 members were present. The meeting opened with the usual moment's silence, followed by the reading and adoption of the minutes of the last meeting. Apologies were received from Major C. W. Gower and Mr. A. Warman.

Included in the correspondence was a letter from the Ramsgate Branch, stating that they would be delighted to have us visit their H.Q. for a Social evening on Friday, 9th April, which would include Bat and Trap and Darts with teams of both sexes. The transfer of Mr. G. Knowler to their Branch was also confirmed. Our Chairman, Capt. F. J. Jakob, was elected to represent the Branch at the 4th Executive Committee Meeting to be held at R.H.Q. on Saturday, 20th March.

Details were given of a rough programme of events drawn up by the Committee for 1965 which included

Outings, Discussions, Darts Matches, a Branch Sweepstake for the Ascot Gold Cup and a combined Branch and T.A. Dinner to be held on 27th November.

It was agreed to send an invitation to the Regimental Secretary or his Deputy to attend our Monthly Meeting on 6th April.

Notice was given that the T.A. were running a Dance at the Drill Hall on Friday, 19th March, and would be pleased to welcome members and ladies of the Branch.

It was with regret that we heard of the illness of Lt.-Colonel E. V. Argles and the Hon. Secretary was requested to convey our sympathy and wish him a speedy recovery to full health.

5113.

### TONBRIDGE AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS

THE Branch monthly meeting was held at the T.A. Centre, Avebury Avenue, on Thursday, 18th February.

We regret to report the death of the wife of Mr. Frank Childs, who was a Bandsman in the 4th Battalion for very many years.

The Committee is once again arranging a programme of trips and outings throughout the year. The first definite event will be the coach trip to the Royal Tournament in July. This has always proved to be one of the most popular events in the programme and applications for tickets should be sent to the Secretary as soon as possible.

Other events are being considered and members will be notified in due course.

H.A.

### 2nd Bn. The Buffs (World War II) Reunion

THE fourth reunion was held at the County Hotel, Canterbury, on Saturday, 6th March, 1965, when 66 Officers, members and ladies sat down to dinner at 7.30 p.m.

After dinner, Brigadier R. F. Parry gave a very interesting talk on the activities of the 2nd Battalion, from the declaration of war until the Battalion's arrival in Singapore after hostilities had ceased. This talk was punctuated by interruptions from the "lower deck," just to keep the record correct.

Before dispersing to the serious business of holding up the bar, Ben asked for views on the next reunion, and the majority vote was for another Dinner and Reunion at the County Hotel on the last Saturday in March.

As a change of entertainment for those not "called to the bar," a series of colour slides of the Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion, and some of a visit to the Gardens of Sandling Court were projected on to the dining room wall, and proved successful except for the last slide which somehow was fed into the projector the wrong way up!

The Derby Draw benefited by about £18 in tickets which members were "persuaded" to purchase. Our thanks to "Ginger" Daniels for taking on the dinner arrangements and to all present for their great support.

Present at the dinner were: Brig. and Mrs. Nicholson, Brig. and Mrs. Parry, Brig. and Mrs. Atkinson, Col. Bruce, Major Ransley, Capt. Letts, "Woo" Martin, "Bert" Mileham and Mrs. Mileham, "Doughy" Baker and Mrs. Baker, "Bangers" Day and Mrs. Day, "Tich" and Mrs. Crew, "Blondie" and Mrs. Payton, "Ernie" Herbert and Miss Harris, Harry and Mrs. Harris, John and Mrs. Kilkenny, "Chota" and Mrs. Powell, Vic and Mrs. Gardner, Cyril and Mrs. Thompson (R.E.M.E.), Ernie and Mrs. Setterfield.

Arthur and Mrs. Lumbard, Len and Mrs. Dixon, Les and Mrs. Rowan, Mr. and Mrs. L. Ransom, Ginger Skinner and Son, Reg Pullen, "Mo" Best, Alf Saunders, Harry Bowen, "Rocker" Benson, Sam Jones, Ginger Bodycomb, F. Best, Pedlar Palmer, George Browning, Jim Pemble, Les Stewart, Mr. Addis, Jim Tidmarsh, L. Saunders, Les Restorick, "Charlie," G. Browning, Ben and Mrs. Hogben, Ginger and Mrs. Daniels.

Apologies were received from Col. B. E. Hammond Davies, Col. H. R. Grace, Major M. Cranfield, Major D. Cobbold, Capt. G. Greenfield, Capt. "Doc" Fletcher, H. Waghorn, H. Beard, G. Bowen, J. Hussey, D. Dalton.

BEN.



## 11th Bn. THE QUEEN'S OWN

**T**HIS is your Special Correspondent reporting from the "Sunny South" from a background of nine inches of snow on the flat and drifts of two feet or more against the garage, shed and greenhouse doors, not to mention hedges nearly flat on the ground and a dozen or more shrubs likewise!

However, that is the saddest news that we have to report this month, in contrast to the depressing tone of our last two monthly notes.

Arising therefrom it is satisfactory that Donald Dean, Reg Maltby, Danny Kemp and your scribe and his wife were among the large congregation at Chevening Church to pay our last respects to our beloved Don Morley. What a typical piece of charming Kent country-side he rests in.

An old and respected friend was wont to remark from time to time "Out of sadness cometh joy." Although the simile may not be exactly parallel, the death of Jack Wood has had virtually this effect for, instead of floral tributes at his funeral, Mrs. Wood requested that donations be made to our Benevolent Fund. As a result, no less than £43/3/- has been received and it is not difficult to imagine how much pleasure and relief this is going to give to Jack's colleagues who are not too good physically or financially. Thank you, Mrs. Wood.

In addition, an old friend of your scribe, who was generous to "the boys of the old Brigade," as she calls us, during the war, has just come up with another "fiver." God bless you, Jean; if only more would think and act so altruistically. And how grateful we are to have such good friends.

More good news. Jim Corfe is back in England, for a time at least, and hopes to be with us at the A.G.M. on the 25th, as well as Bill Toomer, now a bit fitter than of late. Our oldest active member, too, E. C. Read, should by then have got back to the London area from Shrewsbury, and if one knows him, he will be there, too.

A thought worthy of note to those Old Eleventh chaps who still survive, actively or inactive, is that it is 47 years this month since Gen. Towsey galloped off the parade ground in tears, at Halloy, on our disbandment. Little did he know that "The Spare Parts" (as a wit of the 11th East Surreys dubbed us at the time) would still be a close-knit and virile little crowd all this long time later. So, to those who feel it a big effort to come along to our various get-togethers, especially the dinner, may I say, "make it" as you always did when we were "over there." It's worth it.

R.O.R.



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## NEWS FROM THE LADIES' GUILDS

### LONDON

A MEETING was held at the White Swan, Vauxhall Bridge Road, on 6th March. Mrs. Foster Hall was in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

Regrets from Mrs. Temple Hirst, Mrs. Coley, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Haslett, Miss Stevens, Mrs. Billings, Mrs. and Miss Cudlip and Mrs. Waters. We were all very sorry to hear of the illness of Colonel Argles; our very best wishes to him.

Mrs. Foster Hall announced that she had got seats for "The Sound of Music" in October. Owing to the bad weather the attendance was small but we hope to see members next month.

It was decided not to send a representative to Canterbury on 20th March. Our thanks to the members who brought along raffles; these realised £1.10.0.

M.J.D.

### RAMSGATE

IN spite of the recent Arctic conditions the March meeting brought about a dozen members along. A very interesting talk was given by Mrs. Adams, of the St. Lawrence Laundry, on the Laundry and Dry Cleaning trade, and it is hoped to pay a visit to the Laundry in the near future.

On Friday, 19th February, some six members visited the Men's Branch to practise Bat and Trap, and we think we made some progress.

We have been requested by the Men's Branch to take care of the refreshments during the visit of the Sandwich Branch on Friday, 9th April, and I've no doubt some of us will be joining the men in their Darts Match visit to Maidstone.

We were very sorry to hear of the illness of Colonel Argles and hope he soon gets better.

Best wishes to all Ladies' Guilds.

E.E.H.

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# INVICTA

THE JOURNAL OF  
THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS, THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT



APRIL, 1965



# INVICTA

## The Regimental Journal of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment

Volume V, No. 4



April, 1965

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### THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS, THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT (3rd, 50th & 97th)

The White Horse of Kent with motto "Invicta"

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Corunna  
Douro  
Talavera  
Albuhera  
Almaraz  
Vittoria  
Pyrenees  
Nivelle  
Nive  
Orthes  
Toulouse

Peninsula  
Punniar  
Moodkee  
Ferozeshah  
Aliwal  
Sobraon  
Alma  
Inkerman  
Sevastopol  
Lucknow  
Taku Forts  
New Zealand  
South Africa, 1879  
Egypt, 1882  
Nile, 1884-85  
Chitral  
Relief of Kimberley  
Paardeberg

South Africa, 1900-02  
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Aisne, 1914  
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Loos  
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Struma  
Gallipoli, 1915  
Gaza  
Jerusalem  
Defence of Kut al Amara  
Baghdad  
Sharqat

Afghanistan, 1919  
North-West Europe, 1940  
Alem Hamza  
El Alamein  
Robaa Valley  
Medjez Plain  
Centuripe  
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Trigno  
Sangro  
Anzio  
Cassino  
Trasimene Line  
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Leros  
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Defence of Kohima  
Shweli

Colonel-in-Chief: His Majesty King Frederik IX, K.G., King of Denmark

Colonel of the Regiment: H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.

Deputy Colonel of the Regiment: Major-General D. E. B. Talbot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L.

#### ALLIED REGIMENTS OF THE CANADIAN ARMY

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada—Colonel-in-Chief: H.R.H. Princess Alexandra, The Hon. Mrs. Angus Ogilvy, G.C.V.O.

The Royal New Brunswick Regiment (Carleton and York)—Colonel-in-Chief: H.M. The Queen

The Essex and Kent Scottish—Colonel-in-Chief: H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.

#### ALLIED REGIMENT OF THE NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES

2nd Battalion (Canterbury and Nelson-Marlborough and West Coast) The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment  
Colonel-in-Chief: H.M. The Queen

#### REGULAR AND TERRITORIAL BATTALIONS

1st Battalion—Meeanee Barracks, Colchester, Essex

4th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.)—Canterbury

5th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.)—Broadstairs

4th/5th Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (T.A.)—Tonbridge

#### UNITS OF THE CADET FORCE AFFILIATED

1st A.C.F. Battalion The Buffs—Canterbury

2nd A.C.F. Battalion The Buffs—Folkestone

1st A.C.F. Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment—Sidcup

2nd A.C.F. Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment—Tonbridge Wells

#### REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS—OLD INFANTRY BARRACKS, CANTERBURY, KENT

Regimental Secretary: Colonel H. R. Grace, O.B.E., D.L., J.P.

Tele. No.: Canterbury 65281, Extension 61

# INVICTA

## The Editor's Column

**R**EADERS will probably have seen the recent announcement in the Press that H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent proposes to visit the Regiment on Thursday, 20th May.

It is a comparatively rare occurrence for the three T.A. battalions of the Regiment to be carrying out their annual fortnight's camp in the same place as one another, and even more unusual for the Regular battalion not only to be serving in England at the time but also to be stationed within a military stone's throw of that camp. It was because the 1st Battalion was serving in Colchester and the 4th and 5th Battalions The Buffs (T.A.) and the 4/5th Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (T.A.) were due to be encamped together on that well-known home-from-home, the Stanford Practical Training Area in the southern half of Norfolk, that Her Royal Highness readily agreed with the Deputy Colonel's suggestion that she should pay her first-ever visit to all four battalions of the Regiment, and that those visits should be made on one and the same day.

That that day will be a long and tiring one for the Princess is as true as, unfortunately, it will be unavoidable. When, at a quarter-to-twelve on that May morning, she steps from the helicopter of the Queen's Flight on to the barrack square in Meeanee Barracks, there to be greeted with a Royal Salute from a Guard of Honour, Her Royal Highness will already have been on the road and in the air for an hour-and-a-half; and when, at half-past-five in the evening, she steps back again into the same "chopper" for her return, via R.A.F. Wattersham and London Airport, to Kensington Palace, one-and-threequarter hours of travelling will still lie ahead. A long and tiring day for her indeed, but one which, with her habitual charm and enthusiasm, she will doubtless take in her stride.

Between her arrival and her departure the Colonel of the Regiment will have seen—or will have been seen by—almost the entire serving, all rank strength of her Regiment. In the morning the inspection of the Guard of Honour and the subsequent marching and playing display by the

Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion and the Regimental Band will have been witnessed by all soldiers in station and by all the families; and a visit to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, followed by luncheon in the Officers' Mess, will have allowed for many presentations, of members of both Messes and of their wives, to be made to Her Royal Highness.

In the afternoon a series of helicopter "hops," first to the Stanford Training Area, where she will be met by Brigadier Gwilliam, and then to each of the three T.A. battalions in turn, will give the Princess the opportunity of seeing and being seen by a further large number of all ranks of the Regiment, including those members of the Regular battalion acting as "enemy" to their Territorial counterparts.

Provided that Her Royal Highness can arrange to bring with her the fine weather with which her visits to the Queen's Own in former years and to the Regiment on 23rd June, 1962, have come to be associated, Thursday, 20th May, for all those privileged enough to speak with or even just to see her, will be a day to remember. One can only hope that the day's programme will not prove to be too taxing for the Regiment's Royal and gracious visitor.

The day will be described, photographically as well as in the written word, in the June issue.

Elsewhere there is plenty to interest those large numbers of readers whose enthusiasm about the doings of the Regular battalion is so unbounded. The Press coverage of the battalion's fortnight in Denmark left nothing to be desired, and this writer would like to express his appreciation of all the hard work which was put in to ensure that the whole county was made so fully aware of what their Regiment had been getting up to.

Finally, all readers will wish to congratulate Lt.-Col. MacDonald and Drum Major Clark on their respective Dannebrog awards. These were presented to them by the Colonel-in-Chief during his visit to the 1st Battalion in Jutland on 25th March.

## EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**T**HE following message was despatched to Copenhagen on 11th March :—

"With humble duty the Deputy Colonel and all ranks The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, send loyal greetings and best wishes to their Colonel-in-Chief on the occasion of his birthday."

A similar message was sent by the 1st Battalion.

The following reply was received from His Majesty's Principal Aide-de-Camp:—

"I have been commanded by His Majesty the King to convey to you and all ranks of your Regiment His Majesty's warmest thanks for your kind greetings on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday."

The 1st Battalion also received a similar reply.



**ELSEWHERE** in this issue will be found news and photographs connected with the 1st Battalion's visit to Denmark during the second half of March and of the visit which the Colonel-in-Chief paid to the battalion on 25th March during the closing stages of Exercise "Magic Carpet." During that visit the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. MacDonald, conveyed to His Majesty the following message from the Deputy Colonel:—

"Your Majesty—

With humble duty I beg to send you, on the occasion of your visit to the First Battalion of your Regiment and through the Officer commanding that battalion, loyal and sincere greetings from all ranks of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment.

It is a source of much pride and great pleasure to us all to know that as Colonel-in-Chief you are honouring your Regiment by the paying of this visit today, and I know that those serving in the First Battalion will always remember the occasion with especial pleasure and satisfaction."

On the day following the delivery of this message, the Deputy Colonel received the following telegram from Copenhagen:—

"I thank you for your kind message which I received on my arrival to the 1st Battalion of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment. It gave me great pleasure to visit members of my dear Regiment on Danish soil. Frederik R."

**READERS** will be delighted to know that Lt.-Col. Ted Argles, after his long spell in hospital, is now back at his house in Littlebourne convalescing. His recovery has been nothing short of miraculous. A letter from him appears in the correspondence columns.

**PROGRESS** in the Regimental Sweepstake is fair and many people are to be thanked for their excellent efforts, salesmanship and generosity. There is, however, a long way still to go if we are to reach our £1,000 target. There are plenty of tickets available at R.H.Q. Please apply for more if you find the market in your district is good.

**READERS** are reminded that there is a Regimental Group of the British United Provident Association. Anyone joining this Group pays 10 per cent. less than the normal subscription. Full details are available from Lt.-Col. M. R. L. Grove at R.H.Q.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Captains R. W. Neve, M.C., and M. R. M. Newall on becoming entitled to the symbol "p.s.c." against their names in military records on successfully completing the 35th Staff Course; and to Lieut. R. D. B. Talbot on passing the Practical Promotion Examination (Lieutenant to Captain).

**WARMEST** congratulations and all good wishes to Brigadier R. F. Parry, M.C., on his recent success in the Kent County Council elections. He will represent East Ashford and doubtless has already invested in a special diary to help him remember when meetings are!

**THE** following changes of address have been notified:—

A. J. Cathery, Esq., The Borneo Co. Ltd., SIBU, Sarawak, Malaysia.	The Rev. P. G. Whiting, C.F., 1st Bn. The Parachute Regiment, B.F.P.O. 63.
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major P. R. Goddin, M.B.E.,  
P.O. Box 4657,  
Johannesburg,  
Transvaal, S. Africa.

## The Regimental Dinner

1. The fifth Annual Regimental Dinner will be held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1 ("The Senior"), on Tuesday, 15th June, 1965, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m.
2. **Eligibility**  
All serving Officers of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, and all Officers who have held any type of Commission in The Buffs or The Queen's Own, or have been attached to a Battalion or Depot of these regiments, provided they are members of the Dinner Club.
3. **Dress**  
Evening Dress with decorations and miniatures or Dinner Jacket with miniatures.
4. **Charges**  
The cost of the dinner will be 60/-, which will include a glass of sherry, red or white wine, two glasses of port and a cigar or cigarettes, but NOT pre-dinner drinks, which will be on a cash basis, and must be paid for by members at the time. Payment for dinner should be made by cheque or postal order payable to The Queen's Own Buffs General Account, and should be sent to Regimental Headquarters.
5. **Warning In**  
"The Senior" can accommodate up to 200. Those intending to dine are requested to send in their names to R.H.Q. as soon as possible. If, having accepted, you are unable to attend, please inform the Regimental Secretary not later than 24 hours before the dinner. Officers who notify a cancellation less than 24 hours before may be liable for payment of full charges.
6. **Honorary Membership**  
The United Service Club very kindly offers Honorary Membership to those Officers attending the dinner, who are not already members of the club, from noon on the day of the dinner to 3 p.m. the following day. Bedrooms, if available, may be booked 14 days in advance.

## The Regimental Tea Party

The Regimental Tea Party will be held in the Savoy Hotel (River Room) on the same day at 3.45 p.m. for 4 p.m. Members should use the River Entrance from the Embankment.

Charges: 12/- per head. Payment: As for Regimental Dinner.




**IT** may be of interest to readers to know that the following Officers are expected to do the following things on or about the following dates:

Capt. S. M. Boucher to Mons OCS on 17th August, 1965.  
Capt. (Q.M.) G. V. Simpson to 4/5 R. Sussex (T.A.) in August, 1965.  
Capt. C. M. C. Dewar to 1 Queen's Own Buffs in December, 1965.  
Capt. G. B. Bateman to H.Q. FARELF in June, 1965.  
Capt. R. T. P. Williams to 1 Queen's Surreys in October, 1965.  
Capt. E. A. Taylor to 1 Queen's Own Buffs in June, 1965.  
Major (Q.M.) J. R. Rose to 48 Gurkha Brigade in October, 1965.  
Major J. M. S. W. Trumper to H.Q. Western Command in September, 1965.

**A** VERY warm welcome to the following new subscribers:—

Mr. C. Miller,  
8 Isis Street,  
Oxford.

Sgt. C. Elkington,  
Army Outward Bound School,  
Towyn,  
Merioneth, N. Wales.

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<p align="center"><b>The Regimental and Brigade Badges</b></p> <p align="center"><b>GARRARD &amp; CO. LTD.</b> <i>The Crown Jewellers</i></p> <p align="center">112 Regent Street • London • W.1 • Telephone: REGENT 7020 (11 lines)</p>	

*Sharps*  
the word  
for TOFFEE

# News From The 1st Battalion

## Ex-Magic Carpet And All That

IF these notes bear the "lurmark," it is because our fortnight's stay in Denmark is very much uppermost in all our minds, and will remain so for many a day. Although the travel arrangements were rather more ponderous than the name suggests, Exercise Magic Carpet was a tremendous experience. Among a host of happy memories, two stand out. First, the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief to the battalion in the field, at the conclusion of Exercise Feld 17; and secondly, the Band and Drums, at the King's express wish, playing at Amalienborg in honour of Her Majesty Queen Ingrid's birthday. Both these honours were a source of great pride and satisfaction to all of us, and they emphasized the real and personal interest taken by the Colonel-in-Chief in the Regiment.

With us for the duration of the Exercise were a number of Officers and men from the minor units of 19 Inf. Bde. Gp., six Youth Leaders from Boys' Clubs in Kent, and, best of all, members of the 4th and 5th Bns. The Buffs (T.A.). These latter included Lt.-Col. Derek Willows, Major Ron Jarman, L/Cpls. Clark and Jago and Ptes. Jacobs and Stockley, of 4 Buffs (T.A.); and Lt. Bingham, Sgt. Cranney, Cpl. Winter and Pte. Stratford, of 5 Buffs (T.A.). Their experience was a great help to us, in forming extra rifle platoons, and Major Jarman ended up by commanding a Troop of Danish tanks!

## The Move to Denmark

The startled denizens of Colchester might have been forgiven for thinking that general mobilization had been ordered when on Thursday, 18th March, the Battalion marched in full battle order to St. Botolph's Station to entrain for (of all places) Devizes, that town so beloved of limerick writers but otherwise unremarkable. There we spent an extraordinary night at what is now known as a Movement Control Check Point, but which would immediately have been recognised by all old soldiers as a transit camp. This, for the uninitiated, is a link inserted into the movement chain for the purpose of making everyone unpack their carefully packed kit, and also for making the transition from peacetime soldiering to the slit trench less abrupt.

After a slightly Bacchanalian night in a real wartime N.A.A.F.I., we were roused at about 3 a.m., breakfasted (nothing quite like a fried egg at that time of the day is there?) and herded on to coaches for a two-hour drive back the way we had come to Abingdon Airfield. There after waiting the prescribed time (another two hours) we emplaned and flew to Karup, a Danish airbase about 15 miles from Viborg where we were to be quartered. The last lap was completed in Danish Army lorries, when we were able to reflect on the flexibility afforded by modern air trooping and take stock of our new surroundings.

## Viborg Kaserne

Viborg Barracks is the home of the Prinsens Livregiment (Prince's Life Regiment), the 1st or Regular Battalion of which had flown to England in the aircraft in which we had arrived. It is the nearest equivalent to our Brigade Depot, being the place where recruits for the Regiment carry out their training, and the home of the four or so reserve Battalions of the Regiment. The buildings are nicely situated round a grass square lined

with trees, and the barrack rooms are small but quite modern and centrally heated.

Strangely enough there was an absence of hot water for washing in, but various ingenious devices were used to produce shaving water, and hot showers were available at the gymnasium. Thanks to sterling work (and a thorough recce) by the 2IC, Major Tony Franklin, and his advance party, the settling-in process was quick and painless, and the Companies were soon out on the local training area while their Commanders had a look at the ground over which Exercise FELD 17 was to take place.

On Friday, 19th March, the Battalion paraded for an address of welcome by Colonel Lyng, Commander of the Prinsens Livregiment, and during the evening there was a welcome party in the Officers' Mess, followed for the C.O. and Company Commanders by dinner with Colonel and Mrs. Lyng. Both these very enjoyable functions were a foretaste of the wonderful hospitality which we were to experience throughout our stay. This was also our first introduction to the praiseworthy Danish custom of drinking a toast to any unsuspecting guest during the meal. One or two Company Commanders were caught out, but the idea soon caught on and thereafter it was with great difficulty that Major Ken Dodson was dissuaded from starting a toasting school on his own account!

On Saturday, 20th March, the Band and Drums marched through Viborg, having first Beat Retreat in the Kaserne in a gale force wind which took a few No. 1 Dress hats on a tour of barracks!

On the following day there was a Battalion Church Parade in Viborg Cathedral, at which Padre Bill Crawte preached the sermon. The Cathedral is an impressive building with some very striking murals on the walls, but the acoustics were a little difficult. A number of British and American Officers from Karup attended the service with their wives, and among them we were glad to see Major and Mrs. Ian Macmillan.



### Exercise FELD 17

Lest the reader should have any ideas to the contrary, this was the reason for our being in Denmark! The exercise started on Monday, 21st March, when the Battalion deployed on a river line ready to receive an advancing Danish Battalion Group (The King's Regiment). It ended four eventful days later, during which time we backpedalled some 25 miles, fighting a series of delaying actions en route. Initially the country was ideal for infantry work and we more than held our own, but during the latter half of the exercise it became open and rolling, and the enemy tanks and APC's gave us a few nasty moments. We don't know what "FELD 17" means but we have an idea that the King's Regiment had done it 16 times before! Company anecdotes tell their own story:

A Company, like the other two, formed a third platoon for the exercise. It comprised the Anti-Tank section, out-of-work mortar drivers, a youth leader, a REME sergeant and was commanded by Lt. Tony Bingham, of 5 Buffs.

This striking force distinguished itself on day 2 when they were ordered to hold a cross-roads at all costs. Realising the severe tank threat, they unearthed an 18th Century wooden cannon in a ditch. This was mounted in the middle of the road and successfully took on all comers!

No. 2 Platoon's forte was food scrounging. Capt. Hiscock discovered Cpl. Gittins returning from a reconnaissance patrol, which must have been successful as they were all smoking cigars and carrying polythene bags of biscuits!

No. 3 Platoon became known as "the snatchers." Their best haul was by Cpl. Last who screamed into Company H.Q. driving an enemy jeep containing their Mortar Officer and his crew, all well equipped with maps, codes and frequencies.

### Fishmongers Company?

A Company H.Q. had as usual ensconced itself deep in a "tulgy wood" when a runner from 1 Platoon reported that they were near a trout farm. The owner was most co-operative, and soon rainbow and brown trout in the 2-4lb, bracket were sizzling. The smell was so appetising that next morning the place was attacked by an enemy company. Company H.Q. still believes that it was "bubbled" by a rifle platoon.

### Schnapp?

Other than the cannon, Anti-Tank defence was provided by a section of Danish 106mm RCL's. They started the exercise as book soldiers but by the end were fighting rearguard actions like real cowboys. A Company's influence? Or the bottle of schnapps in each vehicle?

B Company had a lively time, twice being temporarily cut off by the enemy. On the first day 7 Platoon distinguished themselves in prisoner snatching, at one time falling upon an enemy company sleeping peacefully by the roadside in the middle of the night. The noise, heard from Company H.Q. far away in the base area, was impressive.

6 Platoon, too, distinguished themselves in the matter of prisoners. Just to keep things even, however, they were on the receiving end. Dramatic scene at Company H.Q.: All is darkness and heavily camouflaged; figures creep to and fro. Enter Pte. Glass disarmed and breathing heavily. Incoherently he pours out his tale of woe—Cpl. Geeves and the whole of his patrol overpowered by two enemy companies which advanced en masse down the axis road. Worse—they are locked in a cellar awaiting fearful torture. The Company Commander, a soft-hearted and sympathetic man, beseeches the umpire to do what he can to ease their wretched lot. Exit umpire to reappear an hour later. "I haf seen zese prisoners. They are not locked in, and appear to be sleeping peacefully and remarkably well." Exit mortified Company Commander.

Scene two. Company H.Q., still heavily camouflaged, is the scene of great events. Contact has just been made with the enemy and a frenzied radio conversation ensues. Enter a bright scarlet Volvo P1800 sports, escorted by two Danish jeeps. A dazzling blonde and equally dazzling redhead alight and, escorted by the occupants of the jeeps, advance on the luckless Company Commander. It appears they are from a TV Company and wish to film something for the night's show. In no time Sgt. White and his Repertory mortar section are running through one of their slick no-bomb routines—all the "OK" cries are trotted out

and Messrs. Dracott and Carrington and their crews leap and cavort as only mortarmen can when really "with it." This, however, is not enough and the two delightful newshounds turn on the Company Commander (C.S.M. Johns having deserted his post in a time of crisis). A synthetic radio conversation is enacted, to the amazement of 7 Platoon at the other end, while Pte. Collins stands guard in an aggressive but rather unusual pose.

Other pictures spring to mind—Pte. Robson falling over during a Platoon attack, and then being seen carrying his LMG barrel in one hand and the rest of the gun round his neck, the while shouting "firing now." Pte. Foster on being told to prepare for tank action, reporting to his Platoon Commander that he had lost half of his 3.5 rocket launcher. And so on.

C Company operated mainly on the Battalion's southern flank, having of course receded the northern flank in some detail until it was found that the exercise boundaries had changed and they were almost outside the area! Their rifle platoon was formed, like those of the other companies, from the anti-tank section, the Territorial Army, and other attachments, in this case under the command of Lt. Mike Butler and Sgt. Jephcott. Cpl. Winter, of 5 Buffs, and Pte. Jacobs, of 4 Buffs, were welcome members, whose experience helped the ad hoc platoon to play a major part in the C Company affairs. Suffice it to say that the Company had an interesting war of movement including a night move to a new position, and frequent and unexpected brushes with the enemy. In one of these, Cpl. Sheridan, of 10 Platoon, with his section was escorting a demolition party from the Assault Pioneers when they were overrun. The section escaped, however, and rejoined the Company 24 hours later despite (or because of) the fact that they had no food and the Company was 15 miles away by then.

On another occasion the Company found its friends from B Company in desperate straits at the village of Smoedebeck, where they had been cut off by an enemy company and squadron of tanks. Thanks to this timely meeting the two companies were allowed to rejoin the rest of the Battalion with, if not the honours of war, at least a safe conduct.

H.Q. Company had its share of vicissitudes. Cpl. Cook probably started things off by incapacitating himself just prior to the exercise by collapsing a bed on to his fingers. It may well have been caused by the thought of having to leave barracks for the comforts of A Echelon in the field! The expression "comforts of A Echelon" is from all accounts based on fact. While Battalion H.Q. was suffering—a word not lightly used—A Echelon was quartered in the basement of a warm school. Of course, there was the odd occasion when they ventured out, just to keep the rest of H.Q. Company in the field. The C.Q.M.S., C./Sgt. Gordon, assured everyone that it was a hazardous business, and that he ran a grave risk of being captured. Indeed, on one occasion he was driving along as part of an enemy column. He left hurriedly before they discovered his presence.

In the week before the arrival of the main body, the Signal Platoon advance party carried out a series of range tests in various parts of the country. There were those who thought they were on a skive, but as proof they produced this pictorial evidence.



The different Danish food did not go down too well in some quarters, and after three days of "cold eggs and speckled cheese" Pte. (John Henry) Stokes was muttering about writing to OXFAM. When it was explained to him that this would probably result in the arrival of a bundle of tropical clothing or a missionary, he suggested that the missionary might make a welcome change to the "raw" bacon, and started sharpening his knife!

Soon after the arrival of the main body came the main exercise, and the standard of communications maintained throughout says much for the hard work put in by all the platoon, particularly L./Cpl. Copper and his Control Operators who kept the Command Post in touch with all stations the whole time.

The Drums, with their usual adaptability, transformed themselves into a rifle platoon, and spent the first day of the exercise guarding A Company's right flank. Unfortunately for them the enemy chose to make this the scene of a full scale attack in the early hours of the morning. The Drums were eventually adjudged the losers, but not before a number of Danes had learned what it was like to fall foul of a Welshman so early in the day! Top marks to Drummer Thomas, the signaller, whose thrilling commentary on the attack held many an ear.

The Reconnaissance Platoon had an exciting time of it, and like Drummer Thomas, provided a lot of interesting and unusual traffic on the air. Rumour has it that of all the officers, Lt. John Gerelli was the best known to the enemy.



In a Jutland wood. L/Cpl. Lea (Regimental Police), Pte. Whittaker (Reconnaissance Platoon), Pte. Wright (Reconnaissance Platoon), Lieutenant Gerelli (Reconnaissance Platoon Commander), Pte. Marsden (Signals Platoon), L/Cpl. Moyce (Commanding Officer's Driver) and L/Cpl. Slight (Commanding Officer's Batman) prepare for action.

Photo: Public Relations.





The Colonel-in-Chief visits Battalion Headquarters in the Field. Left to right: Major Griffin, Capt. Shephard, Capt. Tarver, Capt. Simpson, Capt. Bateman, Lieut. Pearson, 2nd/Lieut. Knowles, Major Austen, Capt. Clarke, Padre Crawte, Major Jarman, Regimental Sergeant Major Palmer, Drum Major Clark. Lieut-Col. MacDonald and Major Macmillan accompany the Colonel-in-Chief. Photo: Public Relations.

#### The King's Visit

On the 25th, having arrived at a final defensive position of which the vital ground was a rubbish dump, we were subjected to a final assault which was watched by His Majesty King Frederik and which marked the end of the exercise. Our Colonel-in-Chief then visited Battalion Headquarters in the Field, and took coffee with Lt.-Col. MacDonald and the officers, after which he drove back to Karup airfield. The Rifle Companies lined part of the route, and having inspected them, the Colonel-in-Chief was given three hearty cheers to wish him God-speed. Altogether an informal but delightful occasion, and a fitting conclusion to an excellent exercise in which honours were about even.



### Après la guerre, le déluge

No sooner had the exercise ended than all officers were invited to a "wash up" at the Headquarters of the Jutland Brigade which had organised the manoeuvres. This turned out to be a wash down—of sausages with beer. After an exchange of plaques with Headquarters Jutland Brigade we return to Viborg to be launched at 4 p.m. into a party which we gave for the enemy commanders and our umpires. During this the Commanding Officer presented the Prinsens Livregiment with a handsome silver claret jug as a token of our appreciation of all their kindness. In reply, the enemy Commanding Officer, Colonel Hörtel, returned Major Tony Franklin's marked mapboard which was captured with its owner at a rather crucial phase of the battle. Photographs appear below and opposite.



The return of Major Franklin's marked map. On the left Lieut.-Col. Hörtel, Commanding Officer of the King's Regiment and a few hours earlier our mortal enemy.

Photo: Public Relations.

It was at this excellent party that most of us learned that the C.O. had been made a Commander of the Order of the Dannebrog and we offer our warmest congratulations to him on this award.



The presentation of a Silver Claret Jug by Lieut.-Col. E. W. MacDonald to Col. J. Lyng of the Prinsens Livregiment.

Photo: Public Relations.



The Colonel-in-Chief with Drum Major Clark.

Photo: "Kentish Gazette."

### Copenhagen

The following day, the 26th March, A Company plus a social hard core from Battalion Headquarters including, if not led by, Major Chris Griffin, left for Copenhagen, the former for 24 hours on the town, the latter to engage in a series of social operations. Each rifle company followed in turn, but life in the capital was very expensive.

On the night of the 26th the Battalion gave an official cocktail party in the Officers' Mess of the Royal Danish Lifeguards which had been very kindly lent for the occasion. The purpose of the party was to say a formal thank you for all the kindness and assistance we had received and which made "Magic Carpet" possible. The guests included:—

His Excellency The Honourable Sir John Henniker—Major KCMG, GVO, MC,—Her Majesty's Ambassador in Denmark; General Major A. Jansen, K of D, pp., General Officer Commanding, Copenhagen; Col. Ulf Jessen, R., HTH Chr.X.m.m., Personal Staff to the Colonel-in-Chief; Major E. A. Nielsen, R. ASF, Personal Staff to the Colonel-in-Chief; Col. C. G. U. Grüner, Commanding Officer The Royal Danish Lifeguards; Capt. N. C. Eigtved, Adjutant, The Royal Danish Lifeguards; Wing-Comdr. T. H. Hutchinson, British Military and Air Attaché; Major Ian Macmillan, The Regimental Representative in Denmark; Major Bent Morbech, Chairman, Denmark Branch of the Old Comrades' Association.



The Band and Drums march through Copenhagen.

Photo: "Kentish Gazette."

On the 27th the Band and Drums Beat Retreat at the Citadel, in the presence of the His Excellency The British Ambassador and the G.O.C., Copenhagen, General Jansen, who took the salute. There was a large and appreciative crowd which pressed in on the Band and Drums from every side, but fortunately Drum Major Clark did not have to clear a path with his mace. That evening, the G.O.C. Copenhagen gave a cocktail party which was attended by the Commanding Officer, the Second in Command, the Adjutant and other Battalion Headquarters Officers together with the Officers of B Company, whose night on the town it was!

On the 28th came the climax of the Copenhagen visit. The Band and Drums marched through the city to the Raadhussplads, or City Hall Square, where they gave a concert. At the Colonel-in-Chief's express wish they also played at Amalienborg to mark the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Ingrid. Drum Major Clark wore the "Medaille Royale de Recompense" awarded during the Colonel-in-Chief's visit to Exercise FELD 17, and it was notable that the mace seemed to be thrown a little higher than usual! Well done, Drummie! The population were magnificent, and followed the Band and Drums through many a narrow street which called for some pretty nimble changes from sixes to fours and back again.





**Amalienborg—Princess Margarethe, Princess Benedicte, Her Majesty Queen Ingrid and the Colonel-in-Chief watch the Band and Drums march past.**

Photo: "Kent Messenger."

As soon as possible afterwards the following signal from the Commanding Officer and All Ranks was sent to Her Majesty Queen Ingrid:—

"Please accept our humble duty and best wishes on the occasion of your birthday, from the Commanding Officer and all ranks, 1st Bn. The Queen's Own Buffs."

In reply, the following charming message was received:—

"My warmest thanks for your kind congratulations and for the joy you have given me by letting the splendid Band of the Queen's Own Buffs march past Amalienborg on my birthday—Ingrid."





The Band concert in the Raadhustplads.

Photo: "Kent Messenger."

Those bones of contention, the dreaded glockenspiels, were borne on this parade by Glock Taylor and Glock Boswell, who are now adept at playing what is after all only a vertical xylophone. The Corps of Drums are indulging in some "user research" to see if Regimental feeling is Glockwise or anti-Glockwise!

After this there was a highly successful Old Comrades' Association party at the Citadel which was attended, amongst others, by the Denmark Branch and their wives, the C Company Officers and Sergeants and representatives from the other rifle companies.

Finally, when we all returned to Viborg on 29th March, the Officers of the Prinsens Livregiment gave a Gala Dinner and Dance in their Mess. This really was a splendid end to our visit and during it they presented the Battalion with a carved oak shield of their Regimental Badge. By this time the Commanding Officer had rendered most Officers and some Warrant Officers collar-dogless and it was with some relief that we reverted to combat dress for the move home. This went fairly smoothly and was certainly less arduous than the outward move.

The following message was sent to the Colonel-in-Chief on the return of the battalion to Colchester:—

"Commanding Officer and all ranks, 1st Bn. The Queen's Own Buffs present their humble duty to Your Majesty. It is not often, Sir, that the 1st Bn. of your Regiment has the honour of visiting Denmark. That we also had the opportunity to pay our respects to Her Majesty Queen Ingrid on her birthday made our visit something that we will never forget. We offer you our thanks, Sir, for your visit to us in your beautiful Jutland. To meet our Colonel-in-Chief made us more proud than ever to be in your Regiment.—MacDonald."

From Amalienborg came the following reply:—

To: 1st Bn., The Queen's Own Buffs, Colchester, Essex.

"Please accept my warmest thanks for your kind greetings. It was a great pleasure for me to visit my dear Regiment on Danish soil last week.—Frederik, R, CIC."

#### Welcome Home

As a tailpiece, A Company were en route for Colchester by coach when as they reached Fleet Street a terrible shout arose from the rear of the vehicle and Pte. Wragg rushed for the door. Drunk on duty—free booze? No—he'd just seen his parents in the crowd and was able to be welcomed home in style!

Pte. Wallace, of H.Q. Company, was busy being welcomed by his wife when he swallowed one of her teeth, believe it or not! X-rays confirm it, so truth is stranger than fiction!

Major Chris Griffin, who commands H.Q. Company, was able to meet the son with whom his wife presented him during the exercise. The news came through while he was in the field, and we believe that almost every Dane taking part in the exercise wet the baby's head!

Exercise "Magic Carpet" will remain a happy memory for many years to come, and our sincere thanks are due to our Danish hosts for their wonderful kindness and hospitality. If these notes are mainly concerned with official functions, this is necessarily so, but many soldiers were invited into Danish homes and most made friendships that it is hoped to renew in the not too distant future.

# “On Tour” With The Queen’s Own Buffs

By MALCOLM MITCHELL, “Kentish Gazette”

Undaunted by two previous “overseas tours” by myself and Mike Field of the Kent Messenger, the 1st Battalion threw caution to the winds in allowing us to make a third trip with them—this time to Denmark.

Disaster struck early. We sat in the departure lounge of London Airport, sipping our coffee in stately splendour while our Trident jet took off, baggage aboard, bound for Copenhagen!

Fortunately, a couple of bodies managed to miss the next fully-booked plane, which gave us the chance to catch up with our baggage. Five and a half hours later, completing the travel hat-trick by land, sea and air, we arrived at Viborg in time to see the closing stages of the exercise.

Even though the 1st Bn. had not played “the war game” for some length of time it was quite apparent that the exercise against the Danish Jutland Brigade had gone smoothly.

There was an attempt to muzzle the Press after somebody had “leaked” to us the facts of Major Tony Franklin’s capture by the enemy—complete with an operations map showing his positions.

But generally the Danes were impressed not only with the fighting and tactical quality of the Queen’s Own Buffs, but also with the innate respect and discipline evident within the battalion.

The Danish soldier, I was told, was apt to argue before digging a slit trench, or doing something that he didn’t like. There was the time, a major said, when a whole battalion went on strike as a refusal to “bull their boots”.

Throughout the whole of the three-day exercise the inherent Danish hospitality was shown to the British troops. No matter how mean the household in whose kitchen garden the troops were positioned, they were always asked in and given coffee and something to eat.

One farm fed a whole platoon breakfast one morning!

One of the highlights of the fortnight was, of course, the visit to the 1st Bn. by the Colonel-in-Chief, King Frederik. As in the past it was marked by a distinct lack of any real formality.

The 1st Bn., warned that he liked his coffee piping hot, or else he would be displeased, specially imported a coffee-making man from Copenhagen.

A little behind schedule the King arrived at the Bn’s Command Post and took his coffee. When asked whether it was to his taste, the King replied that it was very nice, thank-you, but a little too hot!

It was at this point that he presented Lt. Col. MacDonald with the cross of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Dannebrog. As recognition of the terrific performances put up by the Regimental Band and the Corps of Drums, he presented Drum Major Windsor Clark with the Royal Medal of Merit, with Crown.

With the exercise behind them the Battalion began to enjoy itself socially. The men were taken to Copenhagen, to Allborg and to Aarhus.

Wherever they went they enjoyed themselves but, it seemed to me, were very disappointed with the high prices of drink and food. This curtailed much of their pleasure, particularly in Copenhagen.

It was while trying to catch up with one of the companies at Avedure Barracks, just outside Copenhagen, that seven of the British Press party managed to get themselves arrested.

A sentry let us into the Barracks and then went off with one of the party to see if any of the soldiers could be found.

Richard Holland of the Folkestone Herald and I sat in the car. The next thing that happened was that a machine pistol was pointed through the window and we were told to get out as we were under arrest.

I didn’t believe it, and said so in as many words. The sentry, a new one, did not laugh. He just pulled back the bolt, showed us the live round “up the spout” and a magazine full in reserve.

We dutifully surrendered ourselves to him and marched over to the Officers’ Mess. While our captor went off, leaving us to our own devices, we showed our “sang froid” by playing the Mess fruit machine, without any success.

Finally Lt. Chris Pearson came to our rescue. The muddle was untangled and after 20 minutes we were allowed to go free.

The outcome was that we never did find any soldiers that day and, what was worse, we were late for the cocktail party given by the G.O.C. Copenhagen, Gen. Jantzen.

The Danes, we soon discovered, were sticklers for punctuality at these parties and the General gruffly demanded to know why we were late. We told him—and of course—he laughed. He was delighted to know that the security was that good!

The cocktail parties were a feature of the tour and it was at these that some interesting reunions took place. At the party given for the Past and Present Association in Copenhagen, at which the battalion were hosts, the drill sergeant, W.O.II Dennis Mills discovered that he used to go to school in Canterbury, with the Canterbury-born wife of one of the Danes who served in the 1st Bn. The Buffs, from 1945 to 47.

At the same party R.S.M. Reg Palmer found an old pal in a Copenhagen taxi-firm proprietor, Mr. Ove Maltesen. Mr. Maltesen was Provost Sergeant of the 1st Bn. in Palestine, when the R.S.M. was his corporal. And at the same time Major Geoff Winstanley was but Lt. Winstanley.

But without doubt the highlight of the tour was the march through the streets of Copenhagen by the band. It was easy to understand the emotions that Col. MacDonald felt when he said, “I don’t mind admitting that I cried when I saw my band marching past the King and Queen.”

The palace square at Amalienborg was packed as Drum Major Clark, as proud as any peacock, stepped out in front of the impeccable band, playing the personal marches of the King and Queen.

For this was a Royal Command performance. The King had sent word that he wanted the band to alter its route so that it would pass through the palace square.

It was a proud moment for all connected with the regiment in any way. Those of us whose connections are but the most tenuous felt the emotion and were gathered up in the feeling of pride as the band marched, not just past the palace, but through the flag-bedecked streets, beneath a canopy of Dannebrog.

The crowds cheered, they waved and they marched. They marched in front of, beside, behind and, at times, amongst the band.

For some of them it was a return to a half-forgotten experience. These were the ones proudly wearing The Buffs tie.

The welcome was typical of Denmark and far exceeded that accorded the chart-topping Rolling Stones who were appearing at Copenhagen’s famous Tivoli Gardens the same day.

It was one of those unforgettable days, both for Denmark and for the Queen’s Own Buffs.

The whole fortnight was unforgettable as summed up by Col. MacDonald.

“There are three things I shall remember. My band and drums marching through the city, past the King and Queen. I will never forget how beautiful the country is, with the sun shining on the land and water. And I shall never forget the wonderful hospitality of the Danish people.

“The whole trip has made reality of our Danish connections. It has made everything we have been proud of in name only in the past, come to life”.

## 700 Fighting Ambassadors on Manoeuvres in Denmark

BY MAJOR BENT MORBECH  
Chairman, Denmark Branch



In Copenhagen, Lieut.-Col. MacDonald and Major Bent Morbech, Chairman of the Denmark Branch.

**T**HIS could be the headline of an advertisement if the Battalion of The Queen's Own Buffs under command of Lt.-Col. E. W. MacDonald were to be sold, but fortunately it is not for sale for any price at all.

It simply has to be told in the beginning of this article just to make the readers understand the impression the Battalion has made on the Danes. Let it be said at once: A finer selection of men could not possibly be sent out to represent a British Regiment!

Denmark Branch has for a long time been rather backward in sending reports to Invicta, but here is an occasion where we can't keep away from paper and pen.

Of course, we are always interested in a Regimental visit, but when we heard that the Band and Drums were with the Battalion we got excited. Major Franklin informed us that the Band and Drums were to perform the ceremony of Beating Retreat in the old fortress of Copenhagen, the Citadel, the most dignified place you can ever think of for such a performance. Right here in "Kastellet," where Danish soldiers have lived for centuries—occupied by the Germans during the last war—and liberated by the British Forces in 1945. Indeed it was an honour to the Regiment and Branch, as well as to "Kastellet."

The performance was open to the public, and a good deal of people showed up, even if it was on a busy Saturday morning. When the drummers juggled with their sticks in the air in very fast rhythms, the public nearly stopped breathing, and one heard such adjectives as "marvellous" and "fantastic" being used. This is a situation where you feel proud of your Regiment. As Commanding Officer of Copenhagen, the Danish General Jansen received the salute from the Band and Drums. The British Ambassador was present, and was attended by the Military Attaché, Wing-Commander Hutchinson, who is always so extremely kind and helpful to Denmark Branch in all ways. We also met other friends of Denmark Branch, Major and Mrs. Ian Macmillan with their son Michael, who is here on leave from his school in England.

Unfortunately the founder of Denmark Branch, Major W. Mich Iversen, could not attend any of the occasions connected with the Regimental visit as he was ill.

On Sunday, 28th March, the Band and Drums marched through Copenhagen to the Town Hall Square where the Band gave a concert. As the 28th March is the birthday of Queen Ingrid, the route was extended to include the Royal Palace in order to salute the Queen. The performance was perfectly carried out, and when His Majesty

and the Queen, together with Princess Margrethe and Princess Benedicte, waved from the balcony to a saluting Drum Major Clark and the Band and Drums, we can tell for sure that every ex-Buff on Amalienborg Square said to himself with pride: "It is my Royal Family, and it is also my old Regiment."

Later on in front of the Town Hall, when Bandmaster Lynes opened the concert with the Manhattan Tower Overture, you could not help—as a born Copenhager—getting the same feeling. Many people were soon gathered because Copenhagers are very inquisitive people, and they enjoyed the good music from the British Band.

Again in the afternoon, when the Battalion gave a cocktail party for all members of the Denmark Branch, the Citadel was the ancient setting. About 50 members and wives met a similar number of all ranks from the Battalion. And what a party! In no time at all there was a humming of voices and laughter, and we all felt like meeting old and very good friends known for years, after the cordial welcome Lt.-Col. MacDonald gave to every single person as soon as they crossed the doorstep.

It was one of those rare parties with absolutely no isolated groups or persons in the corners. And, of course, many of the participants found familiar faces, faces they have not seen for nearly 20 years, and everyone will understand that a lot of memories were exchanged.

The C.O. of Kastellet, Lt.-Col. H. Krabbe, and Mrs. Krabbe were the only non-regimental guests, and during the party Lt.-Col. MacDonald thanked Col. Krabbe for his hospitality and presented him with a Regimental shield. A shield was also presented to the Denmark Branch. Lt.-Col. MacDonald said the badge would perhaps be new to the Branch, but he could assure members that the spirit in The Queen's Own Buffs was unchanged from when many Danes served in the British Army. Now, as then, the Regiment appreciated the Danish connection, and to prove his words, he asked every ex-Buff going to England to visit the Regiment and make sure for himself.

The Chairman, Mr. Bent Morbech, thanked Col. MacDonald, and told him how glad the Danish ex-Buffs were to see the Regiment in their own country, the Regiment which in a dark period of Danish history was a second home to many Danes, and a home we will never forget. The Chairman asked Col. MacDonald to bring all the very best greetings from Denmark Branch back to the Regiment.

Having the 1st Battalion in Denmark has been an experience. The Battalion was just the way all members like to think of it. Do come back, soon!



## NEWS FROM THE DEPOT

**S**PRING always comes every year and so do Annual Administrative Inspections. In the case of the Depot both arrived at the same time! The former we were glad to see arrive and the latter glad to see over. However, if we have to be inspected, what better person to carry it out than Brigadier Gwilliam? Training programmes were so arranged that father and son did not meet and seldom has a platoon returned so late from shooting on Hythe ranges! Be that as it may, one does wonder if the British Army has got these Inspections quite right. The amount of time taken by pre-inspection administration is enormous and basically non-productive.

More names. In our last notes we gave the names of Officers, Warrant Officers and Colour Sergeants currently serving at the Depot. Now for Sergeants and below. They are: Sgts. Spillett, Worthy, Gaffney, Gill, Healey and Wildish; Cpls. Screene, Moss, Hough, Evans, Lawless, Blackman, Worsfold, Smith, Supple and Close; L./Cpls. Aldous, Pyman and Wilton; Ptes. Palmer and Wilkinson.

### Training Company

Recruiting is going extremely well and at the time of writing there are well over 200 recruits in the Company. It is sad that only a small number will be going to the Regiment, due to the requirements of the other Regiments in the Brigade. It must, however, be pointed out that the high number of recruits is due to the efforts of the Recruiting Organisation who deserve everyone's thanks. We only train them, not recruit them.

Annual BE tests were completed last month and everyone passed. Special mention must be made of Cpl. Screene, who proved to be about the fittest person taking the test, and Pte. Palmer, who spends most of his time in the cab of his truck but managed to pass at the second attempt.

The following recruits have won prizes on Final Parades since 1st January: Best Section Leader, Pts.

Daniels and Bussue; Best Recruit, Pte. Daniels; Best Shot, Pte. Jarman; Best at PT, Pte. Bussue.

Finally, congratulations to Sgt. Gill on his recent promotion. Well done.

### Junior Soldiers' Company

This Company has many Regimental personnel on the Permanent Staff; indeed, some people might go so far as to say that it is held together by them!

Recently the Permanent Staff N.C.O.'s have been playing a good deal of squash. It is reported that the floor of the court shook when Sgt. Wildish was chasing the ball! Sgt. Healey's efforts with the hockey team have been well worth while; it has reached the semi-final of the Army Junior Soldiers Competition. J./L./Cpl. Dicks and J./Dmrs. Stokes and Westover are all playing well in the team. In fact, few of the platoon have not been playing one game or another. J./Cpl. Sandfield captained the cross-country team at Aldershot with J./Dmrs. Owen, Wood and Stokes all competing; J./Dmrs. Piper and Pepper have been playing basketball for the Company; and J./L./Cpl. Townley has been doing valuable work for 40 Army Youth Team and with Recruiting Teams in London, by giving judo demonstrations.

At the end of this term we lost J./Cpls. Sandfield and Dicks and J./Dmr. Stokes, all of whom joined the 1st Battalion. There are, however, many potential Junior Soldiers waiting to replace them, which is a healthy sign.

### Sport

There is far less time at the Depot than in the Battalion (!) but nevertheless the Depot runs teams in most games. The following members of the Regiment have played for the Depot: Football, Cpls. Moss and Screene; hockey, Sgt. Healey and Cpl. Burr; basketball, C.S.M. Mannerling, Sgt. Spillett, Cpls. Evans and Blackman; cross-country, Pte. Bussue.

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## News From The Territorial Battalions

### 4th Bn. THE BUFFS (T.A.)

**"A**LL good things come from above" and Brigade Headquarters seem determined not to disappoint as a fountain head of inspiration. The last month's programme has been dominated by Brigade wants, notably an Officers' Study Day at Shorncliffe on Saturday with a Sunday at the Small Arms School at Hythe, followed soon afterwards by our Battalion Administrative Inspection centred round an Internal Security Exercise at Manston; the future is dominated by Exercise Quick Passage III, which has been brought forward from the summer to add to the general fun before Annual Camp.

### Brigade Events

The Officers' Study Day at Shorncliffe, held in the Study Centre there, suffered initially from having to compete with a glorious spring afternoon which after a long dour winter was not seen at its best through glass. The Sunday at the Small Arms School which was spent partly at Hythe and partly at the ranges at Lydd was by contrast most stimulating and thoroughly enjoyed, notwithstanding an overcast sky and an occasional drizzle.

After a welcoming address by the Commandant we went down to Lydd and fired the GPMG in both roles, the now relatively familiar SLR and the Karl Gustav. When this was completed the convoy returned to Hythe where after lunch there were further demonstrations of other new weapons which opened the eyes of those of us who are still emerging from a more elementary weapon era.

The IS Exercise carried out as part of the Brigade Administrative Inspection at Manston Aerodrome was a most enterprising experiment to which all credit must go to Capt. Davison whose conception it was. Although it was part of the Inspection it succeeds in being an Exercise and not merely a pageant. It was not necessary for private soldiers to strike attitudes reminiscent of stills from war films nor for officers to don headphones and assume expressions of alert interest in response to sculptured gibberish for the benefit of high personages. There were real problems to solve and real situations to deal with and if they were not always solved and dealt with wholly successfully, nevertheless everybody tried very hard.

The form of the exercise was a deployment from Canterbury to Manston where a security cordon was established at the aerodrome and various interlopers arrested and interrogated. At one point there was a major disturbance which required to be dispersed by the application of box drills.

The "enemy" was composed of officers from the Home Counties Brigade Depot, some members of 5 Buffs, the R.S.M. and some of our P.S.I.'s and last but by no means least, Mrs. John Davison (*pace* "Art" and "Mart") and some very high spirited young ladies from the W.R.A.C. at Chatham, all of whom played up really splendidly. The R.S.M.'s performance as a virulent agitator mouthing invective at all and sundry in the Command post was

worthy of an Oscar and the girls exercised their considerable wiles with great enthusiasm. As it was only a one day exercise, however, all ranks contrived to withstand them! One lady was particularly brave and performed a leap that would have done credit to Tarzan's mate in seeking to escape from an approaching search party!

Other features of this exercise included casualty evacuation by helicopter, excellent patrolling by the Recce

Platoon and a "Keystone Cop" chase by L./Cpl. Rolfe in a Land Rover in hot pursuit of Sgt. Taylor and company in a civilian car when they attempted to escape a road block.

The Royal Air Force, Manston, not only entered into the spirit of the occasion with zest but were most hospitable in providing lunch for all taking part and we are most grateful to them for having put up with us so kindly.



Facing an "unruly mob."

#### Visit to Denmark

A major event this month was a visit to Denmark with the 1st Battalion by the Commanding Officer, Major Jarman, L./Cpls. Clarke and Jago and Ptes. Jacobs and Stockley.

The journey started off badly with some initial setbacks with aircraft and weather but once the party landed at Karup air base and most of their hats had been blown off by the gale force winds, everything livened up. On arrival at the Prinsens Livregiment Barracks at Viborg the party settled down to live on Danish food which is rather different from the home-grown version! When you have been brought up on bacon and egg for breakfast a glass of milk and a piece of pastry takes getting used to!

The week started off right, with a battle south of Viborg with activity taking place on the front lawns of private houses, farmyards, in shops and even on a trout farm, with the combatants being refreshed from time to time by friendly Danes bearing coffee and other appropriate drinks. This made a pleasing change from the "Yours faithfully, OUTRAGED (Tunbridge Wells)," attitude of many of our own countrymen who live in and about training areas in Southern England.

Thursday, 25th, was a great day when all troops taking part were inspected by H.M. King Frederik IX in a great pine forest south of Viborg.

Our party was also present at the march through Copenhagen on Sunday, 28th, by the Band and Drums, in honour of Her Majesty Queen Ingrid's birthday. The parade started at the Citadel, marched to the Palace where it entered the Palace forecourt, and then proceeded for approximately a mile and a half to the centre of the town where the Band gave a concert for an hour and a half.

Thousands of people followed the parade, which was a truly wonderful occasion. The Battalion party was also entertained magnificently by the Denmark Branch of the Regimental Association and we hope very much that it may be possible to repay over here some of the great hospitality received.

#### General

At home there have been a number of shuffles at managerial level. Major Browne, who graduated from a Lieutenant in, to Company Commander of, C Company has now gone to take over A Company, and Major Pilcher has returned to Ashford. Major Jarman has joined Battalion Headquarters as Battalion Press, Liaison and Welfare Officer.

The second squash match between Officers of the Home Counties Brigade Depot and the Battalion Officers

ended in a draw, the matches being as follows: Major F. Johnson beat Lt. Gwilliam; Major C. Ackland lost to Lt. Harris; Capt. Davison beat Lt. Critchley; Capt. Griffiths lost to Lts. Bartlett and Tweedie; Lt. Davidson beat Lt. Murphy.

The Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. D. A. Willows, having had a strenuous day in the city, decided to remain as non-playing captain! As will be noticed, Capt. F. Griffiths stepped into the breach and played two opponents! Will he be the non-playing captain at the next match?! After the match both teams retired to the Mess at Leros T.A. Centre. Energies were now directed to dining and wining. Lt. Critchley was the only casualty of the evening, one broken rib. No one will say how this happened.

#### Wedding Bells

L./Cpl. Wright, of C Company, has at last plunged into matrimony and is now honeymooning in some lonely

spot with few thoughts of the T.A. Two members of Headquarter Company, Ptes. V. Manuel and A. G. Scott, have also succumbed to the wiles of the female sex and have been lured to the altar on the 27th March. To them all we send our very best wishes for their future happiness.

#### Obituary

It was with very great regret that we heard of the sudden death of Cpl. R. W. Baker on the 20th March 1965, at his home, aged 43 years. He was a member of the Battalion Band for a great number of years. He originally joined The Buffs in 1937, with the number 6286589, served throughout World War II and rejoined the T.A. in November, 1954. He possessed a grand sense of humour and, come what may, never got despondent. The Territorial Army was his great interest; he was always there and could be relied on. To his mother and father we offer our deepest sympathy.

## 5th Bn. THE BUFFS (T.A.)

THE Annual Inspection has come and gone and another date has been marked off on the calendar. What comes next? Well, there is the Ball at Margate, an extraordinary number of Army Cadet Force inspections, various courses and, looming larger on the horizon, the Parade Day and Annual Camp. No wonder there never seems to be a dull moment! The problem, as always, is just how to fit all this activity into the limited time available; somehow this is done, but at what cost to individual arrangements is never really known.

#### Annual Inspection

Brigadier D. H. Gwilliam, M.B.E., Commander 133 Infantry Brigade (T.A.), carried out the Annual Inspection of the Battalion on 6th and 7th March. The inspection took a novel form this year in that the administrative part of the inspection took place on the Saturday, whilst training was scrutinised on the Sunday by means of a Battalion exercise visited by the Brigade Commander.

The preparatory work at T.A. Centres was well carried out, skeletons being firmly consigned to the depths of the most inaccessible cupboards, with the result that the administrative part of the inspection produced no serious howlers, and we are indebted to Major John Cornell and Capt. Keith Bisgood for the understanding way in which they dealt with us. Luncheon was taken in the Officers' Mess, when it was possible to speculate on the weather forecast for the following day: the outlook was far from promising and snow was still about. However, having survived the initial onslaught by Brigade Headquarters, there was still hope that all would be well on the day.

#### "Round Up"

This was the nickname for the Battalion exercise for the Annual Inspection and, as was rather expected, it was held under rugged conditions in the Lydden Spout area, where the snow was still covering the exposed slopes. The exercise was designed to test the Battalion in an Internal Security role (such as it might have been required to play in Cyprus or British Guiana for example), and called for the cordoning and searching of derelict buildings which (for exercise purposes!) were harbouring subversive elements, in particular, "Long-haired Jim"—or better known as "Chrome Dome," "Black George" and a particularly infamous agitator called Dodger Brunski. These parts were well played by W.O.II Walters and W.O.II Brown, both members of the Permanent Staff who, with W.O.II Laird and members of D Company (Dover), formed the gang to be broken up. In addition, members of the W.R.A.C., from 44 (Home Counties) Signal Regiment (T.A.), were cast as girl associates of the wanted men, thus adding to the problems confronting the Officer Commanding, 5th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.), when he was asked to intervene by the Superintendent of Police for the Lydden Spout area, "Gripper" Turner (played by Major Graham Turner, of the Dover Company).



Run down! "Chrome Dome" (alias W.O.II Walters) is finally rounded up.

Photo: "Dover Express"





Cordon party being briefed at Dover T.A. Centre.

Photo: "Dover Express."

After concentrating at the Dover T.A. Centre, two companies of the battalion encircled the derelict buildings after a strenuous climb across snow-covered country from the Folkestone and Lydden Spout roads respectively. After cordoning the area search parties went in and finally ran to earth the wanted men who were escorted under guard to the battalion "cage" where they were searched, questioned and screened. A number of "incidents" were staged to test the soldiers taking part. Dodger Brunski tried to make a break, and the exercise ended with Supt. Turner supervising the removal of all prisoners in a Black Maria.

The exercise was visited by Brigadier D. H. Gwilliam accompanied by Col. J. Tilleard, Deputy Commander, and Major J. Cornell, the Brigade Major, as part of the Annual Inspection of the battalion.

The exercise went off very well indeed, and, except for those who were unlucky enough to be detailed as the cordon party, produced action for everyone in the battalion, as our photographs show. We had a very good "Press" as a result of this exercise, and were thus very much in the public eye.

As a result of both visits we are fairly confident of having a good report—but this remains to be seen of course.

(Right) A "prisoner" is brought in for interrogation.

Photo: "Dover Express."





(Above)

Melée near the cage. A "prisoner" being brought in for interrogation clashes with his guards.

Photo: "Dover Express."



(Left)

Major Talty, R.A.M.C., treats an "injured prisoner"— Dodger Brunski (in real life W.O.II Brown).

Photo: "Dover Express."



### Eastern Command Study Period

The recent Study Period at Hounslow claimed the Commanding Officer in mid-week. There is some reticence on his part in saying exactly what transpired there—a matter which is extremely gratifying to the Unit Security Officer!

### Army Proficiency Boards

These took place at Dover College and St. Lawrence College respectively. An unusually large number of candidates were dealt with satisfactorily, in spite of somewhat inclement weather conditions.

### School Of Infantry Experts

Members of the Permanent Staff as well as T.A. N.C.O.'s attended courses in small arms and 3in. mortar, arranged by the School of Infantry touring teams, and are now imparting their newly-gained knowledge to their respective Companies.

### No Comment

Capt. Reggie Morgan attended a two-day Public Relations Course at H.Q. Eastern Command and is now more in the picture on P.R. than before. He is also the envy of his small daughter as he has actually seen the cast of "Z Cars," other than on the screen!

### Annual Ball

A record attendance of 350 made this year's Ball the most successful ever, and Major Charles Balding is to be congratulated on a first-class and most enjoyable evening. The guests included Major-General and Mrs. D. E. J. Talbot, Brigadier and Mrs. D. H. Gwilliam, Col. and Mrs. J. Tilleard, Col. and Mrs. H. R. Grace and Wing-Comdr. and Mrs. Hoy. It was most unfortunate that owing to indisposition Lord and Lady Cornwallis could not attend. There were a large number of parties from near and far, and all contributed to a most successful Ball.

It was also an occasion for a Quatermasters' Convention and it was splendid to see Lt.-Col. Bill Kille, Major Eric Ransley and Capt. George Faulkner together again.

### A.C.F. Inspections

Now that the close season for Army Cadet Force Inspections has passed the Commanding Officer and Second-in-Command have been busy visiting local detachments and completing voluminous reports on their return to Battalion Headquarters. This is an exercise which is almost the despair of the Chief Clerk, who finds it difficult to keep the backs of envelopes in the right order!

### Promotion Comes At Last!

Congratulations to Major Sean Talty on his promotion to that rank. This was a rather belated affair (could there have been problems with that period of service on the wrong side of the border?), but at last it is sorted out and, on the strength of a certain amount of pay to come, has been duly celebrated! It was quite by chance that this should coincide with the Commanding Officer's visit for the purpose of immunisation!



En route for Denmark: Lt. Tony Bingham, Sgt. Cranney and Pte. Stratford at Ramsgate Station.

Photo: "East Kent Times."

### By Magic Carpet To Denmark

Four members of the Battalion spent an eventful two weeks as guests of the 1st Battalion in Denmark. They were Lt. Tony Bingham, Sgt. Cranney and Pte. Stratford, from Thanet, and Cpl. Winter, from Dover. It was worth scrounging the combat clothing and 58 pattern equipment to get them off—not to mention the panics over immunisation and identity photographs! We are indebted to Lt.-Col. Macdonald and the 1st Battalion for allowing the visit to take place.

### Battalion Parade Day

This takes place at Old Park Barracks, Dover, on 4th April, when Col. The Rt. Hon. The Lord Cornwallis, K.B.E., M.C., L.L., J.P., Honorary Colonel of the Battalion, will take the salute A report, with photographs, will appear in next month's Invicta.

## 4/5 Bn. THE QUEEN'S OWN R.W.K. REGT. (T.A.)

THE discussion on Big Regiments and local ties is clearly going to go on for some time. 4 Buffs correspondent's point last month about the relative urbanisation of East and West Kent was well taken, and it is perhaps significant that both the Queen's Own Officers who have expressed views are with D Company, operating from the Drill Hall in Penge, which has for many years borne the postal address S.E.20. In fact, with the arrival of the Greater London Council the Company Commander is the only Kentish man in the place. So, inevitably, there must be a built-in dissimilarity of view.

The idea of joint exercises has a great deal to commend it; whether we eventually get amalgamated, or whether we are allowed to maintain our separate identities, it would be good if we were to stop regarding each other as foreigners—so let us hope the idea is translated into action. To reassure The Buffs, even D Company hardly ever wear woad nowadays!

### Recruiting

C Company are claiming a record for a swift snatch. It appears that Mr. Mills was sighted entering the Labour Exchange by the P.S.I., deemed to be a likely lad, grabbed by the Press Gang, shanghied into the Company Office, signed, sealed, attested and approved as Pte. Mills, and in Battalion Orders in three days flat!

From A Company comes news that may presage a record of a different kind. Two of Major Watson's sons have joined the Regiment and, as he has a family of nine, his Company wonder whether this may not be the beginning of the great Watson takeover. We are still getting recruits without resorting to pressure, as witness Pte. Foley, of B Company, Pte. Hope, of C Company, and Pte. Kentish, of H.Q. Company. Two young soldiers, Ptes. Western and Knight, have also joined B Company. To all our new arrivals, welcome, and the best of luck for your service with the battalion.

### Promotions

Congratulations to 2/Lt. Crosher, on being appointed to a commission; to C.S.M. Palmer, on his promotion from C/Sergeant; and, finally, to L/Cpl. Ayres, of D Company, on making the first rung of the ladder.

### Two Down And One To Go

Ptes. Peter Kemp and Clive Bennett, of D and H.Q. Companies respectively, are now married men. Pte. Bennett, indeed, brought his wife to the Drill Hall on the Tuesday after the wedding, thus clearly demonstrating his intention to carry on being as active a soldier as ever.

With more caution, Lt. Gordon Evans, our Mortar Officer, has confined himself to getting engaged. Our congratulations to all of them.



## Social

Both Messes have held very successful dinners during the month. The Sergeants kicked off with a dinner-dance at Erith. The hard work of organising the evening was undertaken by the P.M.C., C.S.M. Hawkes, and the party was kept going by Sgt. Green, as M.C., until C/Sgt. Sayer produced breakfast for the remnants of the hard-core. It is reported, and, therefore, faithfully recorded, that Sgt. Green was NOT allowed to organise his favourite party game, although it is not reported, and research has failed to disclose, just what this is. The imagination fairly boggles!

The new Brigade Mess Kit was very much in evidence and it is hoped that the remainder of the Mess will, in time, follow the example of those who have already acquired it. We hear that W.O.I Woollaston, our Bandmaster, has already been detailed by his good lady to get himself kitted out.

The Officers assembled at Tonbridge later in March to dine-out Major Pennells and Lt. Norris; and to "half-dine-out" Lt. Corke, who is detaching himself, under protest, for a year to catch up on his business commitments. Major Murray was dined-in and we also welcomed two ex-Commanding Officers, Cols. Waring and Coath, and Major Innes, all three on the grounds that they had not been dined-out properly in the past, which we cannot accept but will do if it brings them to see us more often.

## That Inspection

The highlight of the Annual Administrative Inspection this year was a small piece of administration by Brigadier Gwilliam: The presentation to us of the Brigade Inter-Battalion Cup and the Brigade Shooting Cup. Whilst, as the Brigadier told us, he has some reservations on the value of indiscriminate competitions, these two trophies, based on the work of the Battalion as a whole over a Training Year, are worth the winning. Being careful to utter no word that could be produced for eating later on, we shall confine ourselves to saying that we hope these cups will be with us for some time to come; but there will, no doubt, be views on this from East of the Medway, to say nothing of Sussex.

The Inspection itself took the now usual form of the Brigadier and his team sorting out the Drill Halls on the Saturday, as the Battalion started an exercise at Pippingford Park, where the Brigadier arrived on the Sunday to watch the final annihilation of a well-drilled band of Fantasians. The exercise itself was the third in a series we have tried this year, working up from Section, to Platoon, and now Company tactics; and although there were the usual and inevitable incidents to be glossed over, the results bode well for training in Norfolk.

Battle was opened in an unexpected fashion on the Saturday night as the Reconnaissance Platoon Commander drove over the start line taking most of the marking tapes with him, dangling from the rear of his Land Rover, and popping off a pleasing number of trip flares some three minutes before H-Hour! This threw the D.S. Staff into a state of considerable excitement, and we never looked back from then on!

The Assault Pioneers had a beautiful and satisfying weekend and, although it was not always easy to deduce the tactical significance of all the bangs and smoke, it did us all good to see Sergeant-Major Shapland and his gang so happy. Thank goodness they have been diverted from all that barbed wire they have been producing.

A particular word is due for Cpl. Prentiss and his B.A.T. detachment; the tracks on the Training Area had been turned into foot-deep furrows of porridge-like mud by an exceptionally heavy fall of rain, and F Echelon were very hard put to it to carry out their move forward to help secure objectives. In fact, the Anti-Tank Gunners never did make it for the night attack phase, in spite of the saying that "the gun can be easily man-handled by its crew of four," even with an additional Rifle Section on the drag ropes.

The next morning, however, after the objective in the next phase had been taken, tea and buns consumed, and as everybody started to move away for a fresh operation, an incredibly muddy one-ton truck, towing a small pile of mud, which after careful inspection turned out to be a B.A.T., appeared over the horizon, halted, unlimbered and took post! A determined effort and one deserving of praise

The sun came out as the Brigadier arrived, thus proving that there is really a little department in the Ministry of Defence that fixes that sort of thing, and apart from a last minute demonstration by the Senior Subaltern of the truth of the Duke's maxim that "there is nothing half so dangerous as a gallant British officer" (when the umpires summarily killed off half his platoon for a particularly blatant attempt to assault without cover, leaving his Platoon Sergeant to do it the right way), the exercise finished very well.

## Signallers

For some weeks now, the R.S.O., Lt. Rucker, has been drumming the finer points of voice procedure into a new cadre of Company signallers, with most successful results. But why, oh, why, in this year of grace, 1965, do infantry soldiers in the Territorial Army have to toil round the countryside with 31 sets strapped to their backs?

## Driving Instruction

Everybody, report C Company, looks at Cpl. Sharp with envious eyes as every Thursday evening he disappears in a Champ with a nice looking W.R.A.C. by his side! Rumour has it that he is teaching her to drive; we only hope she passes the test, otherwise there will be questions asked. One chap who hopes she fails is Pte. Roger Whalley, as he hopes to become the instructor for the second attempt!

## Tailpiece

"This joining instruction," read the letter, "is to make quite clear to you where you should report. You should report to the Drill Hall, Penge. A railway warrant is enclosed." The railway warrant? For Sevenoaks, actually! Ah, well!

EAST KENT

NEWS & PICTURES

in the

**KENTISH  
GAZETTE**

EVERY  
FRIDAY

# What Say YOU?

By The Editor

**I**n his speech in the House of Commons on 8th March, during the debate on the Army Estimates, the Hon. Clive Bossom, M.P. (Conservative Member for Leominster, who served in The Buffs as a Supplementary Reserve Officer for two years prior to the last war; held a Regular Commission in that Regiment from 1939 to 1948, and then retired, as a Major; and whose father, now Lord Bossom, served in The Queen's Own during the 1914-18 War and was M.P. for Maidstone for many years), had a number of provocative, interesting and constructive things to say.

The following extracts from the official Hansard Record may possibly evoke discussion amongst readers and, it is much to be hoped, a "come-back" or two in these columns. Here is what Clive Bossom had to say about recruit wastage:—

"I am sure wastage is too high among recruits in their basic training stage. Last year I think that as many as 25 per cent. were discharged, the discharges being mostly by purchase. I understand that the current recruit wastage is running at about 18 per cent. . . .

"It is too easy to get out of the Army by paying £20 to purchase your discharge, and it can be done after serving only eight weeks in a training unit. I should like to see the purchase price raised to a more realistic figure. It may be that £50 is too much, but I think a higher figure is needed, and also a longer time after entry before discharge can be purchased. Everyone will agree that the initial training and square bashing is always the most soul-destroying part of training when first one goes into the Army. In some cases initial training is still not organised with enough imagination. Therefore, I do think that there is needed a longer time than two months in which men can size up what Army life is like and make up their minds whether or not they want to get out."

Next he turned to the need for more infantrymen:—

"One has only to visit Aden, Borneo or British Guiana to see that it is the infantry who carry the brunt of every single operation. It is obvious that the Army needs infantry and still more infantry. We never seem able to recruit enough infantry. One of the reasons is that a young man realises that, after a six-year or nine-year engagement, he leaves the Army literally untrained for 'civvy street.' Therefore, I think that in future the Army has to put much more emphasis on teaching men a trade before their discharge.

"We have talked about this for several years, but we still do not do enough about it. The Army needs to produce

a 'resettlement of infantrymen' scheme. We really have to hammer this home, because it affects recruiting."

Then came the following, on the subject of cadets:—

"Another way in which we could improve recruiting is by making much more use of the A.C.F. If it is going to be of any use, surely its main task is to attract young men into the Regular Army. It gives them a taste of Army life. They can go and see what Army life is going to be like . . .

"I think the time has come to take the A.C.F. away from the aegis of the Territorial Army and to treat it solely as a source to get recruits for the Regular Army.

"There are several ways it could be improved and helped. The Army, quite rightly, brought down the joining age to 17. I think the A.C.F. should now bring down its joining age from 14 to 13. At that age a boy is capable of going away to camp, and if the A.C.F. does not get boys by the age of 13 some other organisation certainly will . . .

"Adult instructors are the key to any successful unit. I think that units would be greatly assisted if we appointed county commandants from among Regular serving officers . . .

"If the 'powers that be' consider the A.C.F. to be worthwhile, they should consider giving these adult instructors more status. If the Cadet Medal, which is awarded to adult instructors after they have served for a certain period in the A.C.F., were made a decoration which appeared after the holder's name, like the T.D., which is awarded for service in the T.A., it would be a small incentive to these adult instructors."

And finally he turned to the subject of the Territorial Army:—

"If we are not careful, the Territorial Army could become an archaic organisation through no fault of its own. Today it needs to be given a sense of purpose, and a really good boost. I sometimes feel that a great deal is asked of the Territorial Army and that it is not really in a position to do it all. Their man-days should be greatly increased. I welcome the statement that detachments of volunteers totalling 7,000 will do their training in Germany this year. This is excellent, and the more we can do this the better it will be, because the closer the T.A. is affiliated to Regular units the better it will be for its morale and training . . .

"We must be careful not to turn the T.A. wholly into a 'Civil Defence Corps,' because if that happens many of the men will pack up and resign. At the same time, however, there is no doubt that the T.A. must integrate far more into Civil Defence than it does at present. I do not know how we are going to work this out, but it might sweeten the pill if a new name were used for its civil defence rôle. Perhaps it could be called 'Internal Security' and we could make the T.A. the corps d'élite of Home Security."

And so—

# What Say YOU?

**T**HE following recently visited the Regimental Headquarters Offices in Canterbury:—

Major A. W. Franklin, Capt. G. B. Bateman, Capt. J. N. Shephard, Capt. S. M. Boucher, Capt. R. H. Whitty, Lt.-Col. P. N. Elgood, Major E. H. F. Watts, Major R. G. Winstanley, Col. J. V. R. Jackson, Lt.-Col. C. A. Collard, Lt.-Col. T. N. Penlington, Lt.-Col. J. R. Willows, Major K. Dodson, Lt. C. J. Pearson, 2/Lt. A. W. Knowles, Major C. M. Hamilton, Mr. E. G. Smith, Major S. R. O'R.

Shearburn, T. M. Board, Esq., Mr. A. C. Ashby, Mr. F. Jezard, W.O.II J. C. Breaden, Mr. J. R. Hogben, Mr. L. A. Pain, Major C. K. Kemp, Mr. F. Jackson, W.O.I P. Newman, Mr. H. J. Nicholls, Capt. F. J. Jakob, Mr. A. E. Grant, Major E. J. Ransley, Mr. T. S. Bowyer, Mr. F. J. Wickens, Mr. H. W. Maxlow, Lt.-Col. H. N. Edwards, Capt. N. G. Wale, Major A. A. West, Lt.-Col. B. McGrath, 2/Lt. M. J. C. Tweedie, Lt.-Col. W. E. Kille, Lt.-Col. C. H. Keenlyside, Capt. R. J. S. Morgan, Bandmaster W. Lynes, W.O.I P. Floyd, Major J. S. Fletcher.

## HORNBILLS AND HEADHUNTERS—Part 1

By Simon Boucher

IT was with mixed feelings that we learned in Hong Kong that we were to return to Borneo. For most of us there was unfinished business to attend to; on our last tour in Sarawak in July-September, 1963, Hugh Wallace, of my Battalion, one of the most charming and gifted young officers in the Brigade of Gurkhas, had been killed by a band of 60 Indonesians. Not one of this band had got back to Indonesia as far as is known. My battalion, 2/6 G.R., had got ten or so, 1/6 G.R. had relieved us and accounted for another twenty or thirty. Disease, wounds and starvation had taken the final toll of the remainder. However, despite the sadness of this loss, the fascination of Borneo had enthralled most of us, and after a year of peacetime soldiering in Hong Kong we could not wait to be back.

Col. Tony Harvey, my C.O., had as his area the whole of the 4th division of Sarawak. This is a sizeable piece of real-estate, being some 10,000 sq. miles in area, but it is the emptiest of the five divisions into which Sarawak is divided. It has a border with Indonesia of some 100 miles and this was to be the battalion's front! As we also had to keep an eye on the oil wells of Seria and the Belait district of Brunei, our task was (and still is!) a Staff College nightmare. But then so is the whole emergency in Borneo. Our disposition as it turned out was a simple one. Our T.A.C. H.Q. moved up to the border area where it could control the three forward companies, while our main H.Q., the fourth company and all our families settled in to Seria amongst all the comforts that British Shell Petroleum lavish on their employees. These include the magnificent Panaga Club, cinemas and their own grocery store.

For our Officers' Mess the Sultan of Brunei lent one of his smaller palaces, the Istana Manglele. Our recre party wandered round this little oasis of peace, with its rolling lawn running down to the sea, and marvelled at our luck.

Contrast still seems bewildering when one is back for a day or two in Seria—from jungle basha to Sultan's palace in exactly 55 minutes by courtesy of the R.A.F.!

The Twin Pioneer lurched over the final ridge and there below us was Bario. Lying beneath the towering Gunong Murud, the plain of Bah stretches away green and fertile towards the black and sinister border ridge. The Twin Pioneer swooped down towards the airstrip, circled once and touched down. We, the advance party for T.A.C. H.Q., scrambled out eagerly to see this place about which we had heard so much. Up till the last war Bario had only been visited by a handful of intrepid Europeans who had braved a fortnight's journey by boat and foot to get there. Situated above the headwaters of the Trusan and Baram, the rivers that bisect the 5th and 4th divisions, Bario is 3,000 feet above sea level. The local race, commonly, but wrongly, called Kelabits, only number some 2,000 in Sarawak. Many more live in the areas adjacent in Indonesian Borneo and this fact has obviously been of tremendous assistance in Intelligence work to both sides!

The Kelabits are a fascinating people, resourceful, clever, fine farmers and great characters, and, until very recently, headhunters. It was in Bario that the first organised resistance movement was started in early 1945. Tom Harrison, now the Curator of the Sarawak Museum in Kuching, was dropped in to the Bario valley. He contacted the Kelabits, who formed the firm base for the Resistance forces that spread all over Sarawak. Harrison's main ally in this work was (and still is) the paramount chief of the Kelabits, Penghulu Lawai Bisarai, B.E.M., about whom a few words must be said.

As a young man he killed a visiting Indonesian in the 1930's and was taken down to Marudi for imprisonment by the village elders, who were scandalised by this lack of traditional hospitality. Lawai cut his life sentence very short by escaping and making his way back to Bario, a trip of many days. Now he is a Penghulu, decorated by the British Government with the B.E.M. for his work during the war, and still very much a man to be reckoned with. Confrontation he sees as a most excellent source of "goodies" for his people, who utilise every scrap of clothing, metal, webbing, etc., that we throw away. On military occasions of note, Lawai arrays himself in his medals, beads and grey suit, and takes the salute. He is never seen without a large straw hat on which he wears the cap badges of all the units who have served in Bario.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders gave us a very speedy and cheery handover and departed. For them the richly deserved fleshpots of Singapore; for us the rapid process of getting to know a people and a situation before being able to grapple with it. We found no problem about getting to know the Kelabits, who wander in and out of our camp continually, delighted at finding so many Gurkhas who could speak Malay. Our Border Scouts quickly came to know us and we them. Commanded by the small, lithe and dapper Inspector Bala Palaba, they have accompanied our patrols, hunted for us, interpreted for us and proved fine friends.

Another excellent but unexpected contact was Manson Toynbee, a Colombo Plan Schoolmaster, who runs the Bario school. Tall, shy and bespectacled, Manson is a fund of knowledge not only on Kelabits but also the peoples to the south, Saabuns and Punans. After seven years in Sarawak, Manson has drifted into the position of unofficial D.O. for the Kelabit Highlands. All problems, large and small, are brought to him and he adjudicates impartially and without any official powers. He will do anything to help the Kelabits and is often to be seen striding over to the C.O.'s office, his set of ceremonial beads swinging from side to side and with a large Kelabit straw hat clamped on to his head.

Shortly after our arrival, the mythical Tom Harrison winged in in an R.A.F. Whirlwind. Our General, Major-General Walker, had not been slow to use his services in the Brunei revolt in December, 1962, and still from time to time asks him to undertake special missions personally for him. Being the man he is, these missions are always combined with his other work as Curator of the Sarawak Museum. Thus a helicopter pilot, charged with the task of taking him to a remote longhouse, will often be asked to divert for miles so that Tom Harrison can have a look at some caves or some carvings on rocks, etc.

The first thing that struck us all about him was the force of his personality. He is a man of many parts who has known Sarawak for over 30 years, first as joint leader of a University expedition, then as a guerilla leader and now in his present position as the Government's expert on Sarawak. He is the Government anthropologist, and the peoples, flora and fauna of Sarawak provide him with a wide arena for his many talents. His book "The World Within" describes his wartime exploits and the history of the Kelabits in his own unique style. To read his book is to hear him talk again. He has made television films on Sarawak and has often lectured to the Royal Society and the Royal Geographic Society.

The Kelabits had heard that he was coming and flocked to meet him. At the end of the war, his old friend, Penghulu Lawai, built for him his own room in the Bario longhouse, complete with its own facilities! It was there, of course, that he stayed. During his stay, the local drums beat late into the night and the number of jars of barak (rice wine) consumed broke all records! He stayed a week in Bario and we were all the richer for his visit.

[To be concluded.]

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS



## CORRESPONDENCE

Barbreck House,  
By Loch Gilphead,  
Argyll.  
19th March, 1965.

3 Meverall Avenue,  
Cliffsend,  
Ramsgate, Kent.  
26th March, 1965.

The Editor, *Invicta*.

Dear Sir,

May I, as a regular who served with a T.A. Battalion, and as a Man of Kent born and bred on her soil for 20 years, give support to the views of Major Jim Ogilvie in your February issue.

Whilst respecting the spirit underlying the views of your 4th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.) correspondent in the December, 1964, issue, I would suggest that too much old wine poured into new bottles may not satisfy the palate of the youth of the county.

Surely, T.A. Infantry Battalions should be so organised that, on partial or general mobilisation, they should be capable immediately of reinforcing the Regular Army as fully operational, up-to-strength formations and units? For what other purpose do they exist? Moreover, from the recruiting aspect, surely a young man will be attracted to join a fully operational County Battalion (T.A.) with all the opportunity this will afford him in taking part in realistic training, backed by a full establishment of weapons and equipment of all types?

If the county cannot support three T.A. Battalions, why not accept the situation, and form one County Battalion (T.A.) which can make an immediate and effective contribution to the infantry reserve? There need not be any question of sacrificing county tradition. All it would mean is that the T.A. soldier might have to train at a place farther from, or nearer to, his home than formerly. But surely this disadvantage would appeal to youth as a worthwhile price to pay for belonging to a fully operational County T.A. Battalion?

If the Territorial Army wishes to retain its separate infantry element it must also accept the tide of change. There is nothing treacherous about accepting a changing world, which is a law of nature. Not to accept it is to be so parochial as to be unwittingly unpatriotic. True Men of Kent and Kentish Men like to travel widely, meeting fresh people outside their own profession and environment, so that when they eventually return to their native county they are able to make a modern contribution in ideas.

Far from T.A. Men of Kent and Kentish Men looking over their shoulders to see what other counties are doing, let the T.A. men of other counties take their lead from Kent.

I challenge any person, especially those who, like me, were born and lived in the Dover-Eastry-Sandwich area between 1917 and 1937, to give modern reasons why, in the interests of having at least one fully operational County T.A. Battalion, T.A. Men of Kent and Kentish Men should not join hands across the Medway.

Yours faithfully,

MIKE ARCHER.

(Major M. G. M. Archer, ex-Queen's Own retired Regular Officer.)

From: Lt.-Col. E. G. Argles.

Willow Lodge,  
Littlebourne,  
Nr. Canterbury.  
2nd April, 1965.

The Editor, *Invicta*.

My dear Raymond,

Would you kindly allow me space in your columns to thank all our many friends for their overwhelming kindness in sending enquiries and messages to me and my wife during my illness.

My wife and family particularly appreciated and drew comfort from them during this most anxious period.

I am now home again and only need time to regain my strength and to be about as usual.

Yours ever,

TED ARGLES.

The Editor, *Invicta*.

Dear Sir,

I was interested to see in the February *Invicta* the photograph of the N.W. Frontier Affair, January, 1898. My brother (Sgt. Dawkins, 4663) was there at the time. He was once Musketry Instructor in the 3rd Bn. at Dover. His wife is flying home from Canada on the 12th May to spend a month's holiday here. I shall certainly take her to see The Buffs Museum in Canterbury. I had three daughters in the W.R.A.F.

I was sorry to hear that Colonel Argles was in Canterbury Hospital; our thoughts to Mrs. Argles and the Colonel.

The February *Invicta* was very interesting, like every month's. "Some Buffs Historical Fragments" was interesting. I must have passed that way in 1907, as I remember the mountain. "What D'you Want?" I think, was great research. How marvellous about Colonel C. K. Pearson, and fancy Colonel R. F. Pearson being 97 on 30th May. Good health to the gentleman. I have read *Invicta* right through, and I think I saw Colonel Ned Knocker at Regimental Headquarters when I saw you last. It is a small world. I enclose 5/- postal order for ex-Private R. (page 36 of February issue).\*

All good wishes to Mrs. Grace and yourself.

Yours sincerely,

J. DAWKINS.

(Ex-Other Rank, The Buffs.)

(\*How about that, for generosity?—Ed.)

"Oddynes,"

Wingham Green,  
Wingham,  
Canterbury, Kent.  
7th April, 1965.

The Secretary,  
The Regimental Association,  
The Queen's Own Buffs.

Dear Colonel Grace,

The sketch of the Taking of the Tanga Pass in the February issue of *Invicta* was of special interest to the Sandwich Branch of the Regimental Association as our oldest member, Mr. W. F. Spicer, was actually present at that encounter.

His regimental number was 4080 and he enlisted at The Buffs' Depot at Canterbury on 6th December, 1892. He served in Ireland with the 2nd Bn. in 1893 and at

Ghantry in February, 1894. He was also at the Relief of Chitral.

Mr. Spicer is a Life Member of the Association and is now in his 93rd year and is most certainly in good health.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN JAKOB.

(Capt. F. J. Jakob, 4 Buffs (T.A.) and Chairman, Sandwich Branch.)

From: Capt. Simon Boucher.

2nd Battalion,  
6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.  
3rd April, 1965.

Dear Colonel Grace,

Life here, after a very quiet two months, has started to warm up again. Our C Company killed two and wounded one in an excellent little ambush yesterday. There are signs that at last maybe they are going to come and "mix it." This is what we have always hoped for, but so far had to go through the grinding monotony of empty ambushes and fruitless patrols. Our previous contacts were all too fleeting! Please give my regards to all at R.H.Q.

Yours sincerely,

SIMON BOUCHER.

The Editor, *Invicta*.  
Dear Sir,

I would be most grateful if any of your readers could tell me why the vast quantity of tinned beef that I consumed during my service was always called "Bully"—or less frequently "Corned"—beef.

Yours faithfully,

M. R. L. GROVE.

80 St. James Avenue,  
Ramsgate, Kent.  
31st March, 1965

To: Lt.-Col. MacDonald.  
Dear Colonel,

**OPERATION MAGIC CARPET**

We are most indebted to you, your Officers, and particularly the Sergeants and W.O.'s of your Battalion for a most enjoyable and unforgettable time spent with you in Denmark.

It is impossible for us adequately to express our gratitude to you all, for you spared nothing to make us welcome, and the facilities which you laid on on our behalf were beyond our wildest dreams.

The memory of our stay with you will remain with us many a year, and with the knowledge we have gained in these few days of the prestige of the Regiment serves to give some explanation of the enthusiasm with which Lt. Donavan carries on his work with the Canterbury Army Youth Team.

Yours very sincerely,

J. M. SULLEY  
(for self and the 5 Youth Leaders).



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## PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Supplements to the London Gazette

### Regular Army Reserve of Officers

Major (Hon. Lt.-Col.) R. C. W. Thomas, O.B.E., having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the Res. of Offrs., 20th March, 1965.

### Territorial Army Reserve of Officers

Lt. M. S. Taylor from Active List, to be Lt., 8th February, 1965.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

### BIRTHS

- GRIFFIN—On 21st March, 1965, to Elizabeth (née Jack), wife of Major C. J. Griffin, The Queen's Own Buffs—a son.
- CATHERY—On 21st March, 1965, at Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, to Wendy and Alan Cathery, a daughter, Chandra Jane.
- OSBORNE—On 5th March, 1965, at Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone, to Pte. and Mrs. M. Osborne, a daughter, Jennifer Kathrine.
- KITSON—On 27th January, 1965, at Pembury Hospital, to Cpl. and Mrs. R. Kitson, a daughter, Sandra Anne.

### MARRIAGES

- ISENBERG—KINGSLEY. On 6th March, 1965, at Paddington Register Office, Pte. M. Isenberg to Edith May Kingsley.
- BRIGHT—SKINNER. On 20th February, 1965, at the Parish Church, St. Pancras, Pte. G. Bright to Janet Skinner.
- MOYNIHAN—GOODWIN. On 6th February, 1965, at Paddington Register Office, Pte. J. Moynihan to Sheila Ann Goodwin.
- ELKS—ETHERINGTON. On 6th February, 1965, at the Church of the Holy God, Woodingdean, Pte. L. Elks to Jacqueline Ann Etherington.
- CLINCH—BAIRD. On 30th January, 1965, at Christ Church of St. Peter, Southborough, Pte. P. Clinch to Zena Mary Baird.
- PITT—BARR. On 6th February, 1965, at Dover Register Office, Pte. W. Pitt to Margaret Barr.
- YOUNG—DAVIES. On 20th March, 1965, at St. Bartholomew's Church, East Ham, L./Cpl. G. Young to Pauline Edith Mary Davies.

### DEATHS

- DANIELL—On 8th March, 1965, at Hythe, in her 93rd year, May Frances Drummond, widow of Lt.-Col. O. J. Daniell, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.
- JACKSON—At the Infirmary, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on 30th March, 1965, Mr. W. J. Jackson, aged 87 years. Served in The Buffs from 1896 to 1917.

### GOLDEN WEDDING

- CHAMPION—BEECHEY. On 27th March, 1915, at St. John's Church, Chatham, by Canon W. A. Carroll, Vicar of Bickley, Frederick Henry Champion, 2/Lt. Royal West Kent Regiment, to Margaret Beechey. Present address: 26 Birchwood Road, Petts Wood, Kent.

### ENGAGEMENTS

- GORDON WHITELAW and ANNE GILLIAN  
The engagement is announced between Gordon Whitelaw, elder son of Mr. A. P. Evans, O.B.E., and Mrs. Evans, of Bromley, Kent, and Anne Gillian, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Greig Forbes, of Oakdale, Cape Province, South Africa (lately of Gilgil, Kenya, East Africa).

## DEATH OF A COUNTY

The County of Middlesex died at midnight on the last day of March. In doing so, it suffered a more drastic dismembering and amalgamation than did any military unit in recent Army reorganisations, and it is now divided up between Surrey, Hertfordshire and a number of London Boroughs.

The name of Middlesex, however, still lives on in the Middlesex County Cricket Club and the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), and it was the regiment that gave a fitting send-off to the old county at a reception on 30th March, held in the magnificent Great Hall of Hampton Court Palace, by kind permission of Her Majesty The Queen. The Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B.E., and Mrs. Willoughby received the guests, amongst whom were the Lord Bishops of London and of Kensington; the Chaplain-General to the Army, the Ven. Archdeacon I. D. Neill; Black Rod, Lt.-General Sir Brian Horrocks; and Major-Generals F. J. C. Piggott (Colonel of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment) and D. E. B. Talbot (the Deputy Colonel), who was accompanied by Mrs. Talbot.

On the following day, Major-General Willoughby handed over the Colonelcy of the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) to Major-General Christopher Man, O.B.E. M.C.

Quite a considerable part of the County of Kent has also been swallowed up by the creation of Greater London. This will not, however, affect either 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.) or the 1st A.C.F. Bn. R.W.K.

## COMING EVENTS

1965

May

- 1 West Country Lunch.
- 12 Golfing Society Match v. Kent County Constabulary at Littlestone.
- 15-16 Golfing Society Match v. Rye Golf Club.
- 15-29 T.A. Bns. Annual Camp.
- 16 Albuhera Day.
- 26 Home Counties Brigade Golf Meeting, Tandridge G.C., Surrey.

June

- 9-11 Cricket—Kent v. Somerset at Canterbury.
- 12 Golfing Society Match v. Household Brigade at New Zealand Golf Club.
- 15 Regimental Dinner and Tea Party.
- 19 Cricket Match v. Band of Brothers at Canterbury.
- 26 Maidstone Cricket Week:—  
June 26-29: Kent v. New Zealand.  
June 30-July 2: Kent v. Essex.
- 27 Maidstone Remembrance Service and Reunion.

July

- 18 Golfing Society Match v. Liphook Golf Club.
- 24 Golfing Society Match v. Wrotham Heath Golf Club.
- 28 Canterbury Cricket Week:—  
July 28-30: Kent v. South Africa.  
July 31-August 3: Kent v. Hampshire.  
August 4-6: Kent v. Middlesex.

August

- 8 Annual Reunion and Service of Remembrance at Canterbury.

September

- 8 Sevastopol Day.
- 25-26 Golfing Society Autumn Meeting, Littlestone Golf Club.
- 25 Golfing Society A.G.M.

October

- 2 4 Buffs (1939-45) Dinner, County Hotel, Canterbury, further details to be issued later.
- 2 6 R.W.K. Annual Dinner.
- 2 11th Bn. R.W.K. Annual Dinner at Victoria Hotel, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.
- 6 Golfing Society Match v. Kent County Constabulary at Leeds Castle.
- 9 6(S) Buffs Annual Dinner.
- 9 7th Bn. R.W.K. Annual Ladies Night.
- 21 Trafalgar Day.
- 30 1/4 Buffs Annual Dinner.



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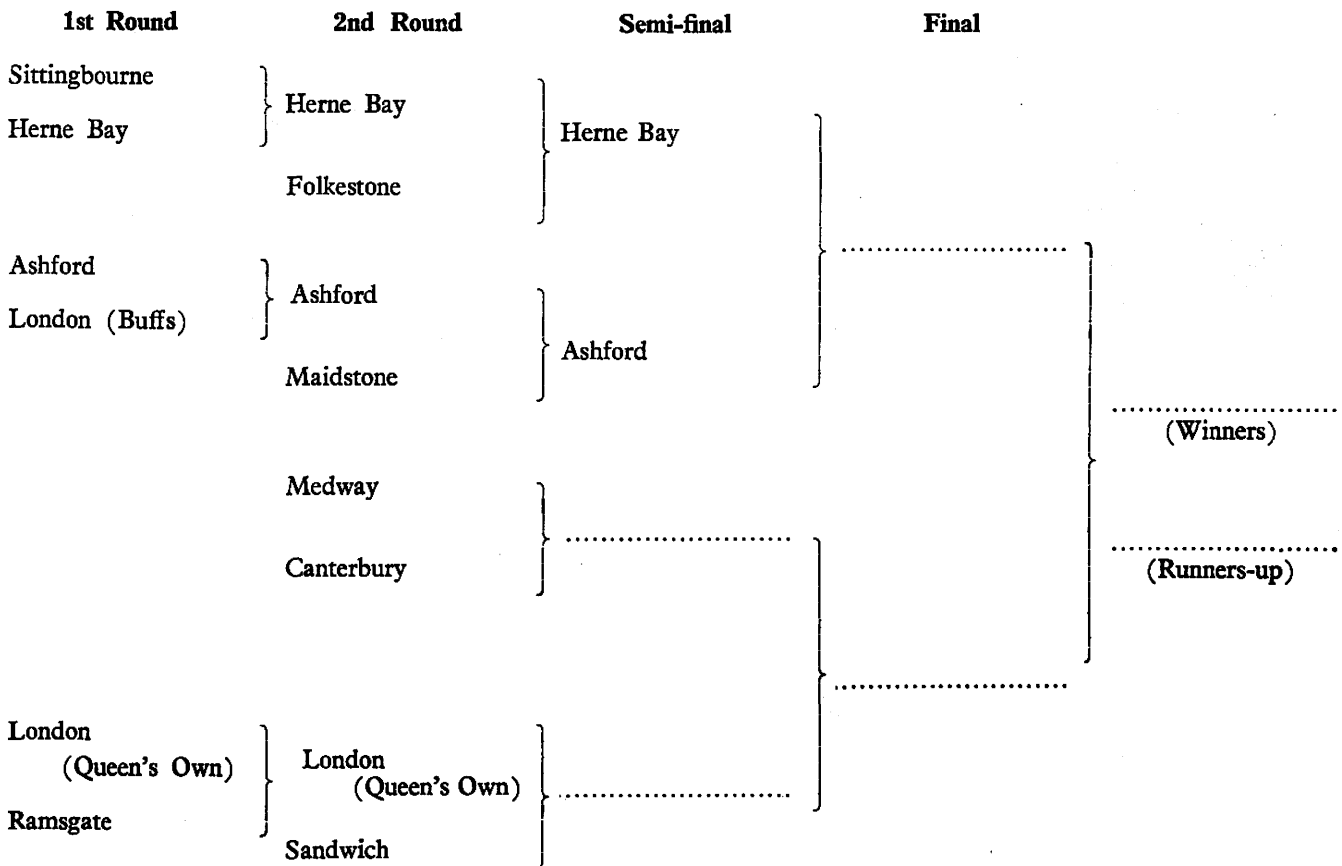


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**The Latest Position**



Semi-finals to be completed **BY NOT LATER THAN 31st May.**

The Final will be played on a date and at a place and time to be announced later, largely dependent upon which two Branches reach the Final.

**LONDON (QUEEN'S OWN)** are the present Holders.

# THE MAIDSTONE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AND REUNION

THE BARRACKS, MAIDSTONE

27th JUNE, 1965

**T**HE arrangements for this year's Maidstone Remembrance Service and Reunion will be as outlined below. There will be no sideshows this year. There will, however, be a raffle and a band concert, the day ending up with the Beating of Retreat. Lunch will be less formal than in previous years and members need not wait for the Deputy Colonel and Guests to arrive before starting their meal.

#### 10.35 a.m.—Standard Bearers' Competition

The Standard Bearers' Competition will take place on the Square. Points will be allotted for the cleanliness of equipment and Standard Bearer Drill. Branches of the Regimental Association will receive separate notification of the details of this competition.

#### 10.57 a.m.—Parade

All ranks will form up in line, facing south in close column of battalions.

Officers will parade with their respective units. The senior officer will take command.

Members may parade with any battalion with which they have served.

The Officer Commanding 4/5 Bn. R.W.K. (T.A.) will command the parade.

The parade will be inspected by the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General D. E. B. Talbot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L.

#### 11.15 a.m.—March Off

The parade, headed by the Band, will move in column of route, via Sandling Road, Week Street, High Street and Mill Street to All Saints' Church.

#### 11.30 a.m.—Church Service

Ladies wishing to attend the service at All Saints' Church should proceed independently.

On arrival at the church, members will be shown to their seats by the sidesmen.

A collection will be taken during the service in aid of the Regimental Benevolent Fund.

His Worship the Mayor of Maidstone and members of the Corporation will be attending the service.

Standard bearers will form up on each side inside the North door, leaving room for the Mayor's procession, and will move up to the Altar, where the Vicar will receive the Standards and place them near the Altar during the first hymn.

Standards will be returned to bearers in reverse order during the last hymn. Standard bearers will then form up in front of the chancel steps. After the Blessing they will lead the procession out of the church, through the North door and proceed at once to the forming-up place on the road, ready for the march to Brenchley Gardens.

#### Parade Outside Church In Mill Street

After the service, members are requested to leave the church, beginning from the front pew, and form up by battalions in column of threes in Mill Street.

#### Ceremony In Brenchley Gardens

The parade will march to Brenchley Gardens where, on arrival, it will be led by guides to form close column, facing the Regimental Cenotaph. Units will halt and turn inwards in threes and stand at ease.

His Worship the Mayor of Maidstone and members of the Corporation will be in attendance.

The parade commander will call the parade to attention; the Padre will give the Exhortation; the Last Post will be sounded and a two-minute silence observed, followed by Reveille; the Padre will say a prayer. Wreaths will then be laid on the Cenotaph.

At the conclusion of the service, battalions will march off, led by a guide, to Station Road, where the Band will be formed up, ready to return to Barracks via Sandling Road.

#### March Past

On arrival in Barracks, the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment will take the salute at the approach to the Barrack Square, at the near corner of the Officers' Mess.

Standard bearers, less their escorts, will form up on both sides of the Saluting Base.

The officer commanding each battalion will give the command, "Eyes Right," and he alone will salute or remove his headdress.

#### Meals

Luncheon will be provided in the New Gymnasium at a cost of eight shillings and sixpence a head.

Members are requested to notify their requirements to their local Branch representatives.

Tickets may be obtained direct from Regimental Headquarters, The Barracks, Maidstone. Cash must accompany the order.

No luncheon tickets will be available for sale after 13th June, 1965.

Tea: A buffet tea will be available from 3.30 p.m.

#### Branch Standards

All Standard bearers are requested to report to Lt.-Col. Grove at the entrance to the New Gymnasium immediately after the Parade is dismissed. A special "stand" is being constructed so that the massed Standards may be displayed during luncheon. Standards may be removed after luncheon.

#### Amusements

During the afternoon an inter-Branch small-bore shooting competition will be held and there will also be a Band concert. At 4.30 p.m. there will be a Beating of Retreat, with possibly all four Regimental Bands taking part.

## SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT

**B**RANCHES are reminded that during the afternoon of this year's reunion at Maidstone, on Sunday, 27th June, an inter-Branch Shooting Competition will be held. All that is required of Branches intending to enter is the provision of one team of four "paid-up" members, including a team captain. The provision of rifles, ammunition and targets and all the necessary range organisation will be in the capable hands of O.C. 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.).

The rules of the Competition were sent to all Branch Secretaries by Lt.-Col. Mike Grove last December and he will shortly be sending out an entry form.

A silver challenge cup awaits the winning team and 20 cigarettes the highest individual scorer.

Branches are urged to "Have a Go!"

## OBITUARY



Photo: "Kentish Gazette."

### MR. "ALF" ARGRAVE

Major Harry Watts writes:—

"The death of Mr. A. Argrave at the age of 74 marks the passing of one of the Regiment's most devoted servants.

"Alf" Argrave was first employed at the Depot The Buffs, in 1909, when he worked as an Assistant in the Tailor's Shop. In 1915 he took over the running of the shop and remained as Master Tailor until he retired in 1960.

"During his 51 years of continuous association with the Regiment he provided tailoring services for the thousands

of officers and soldiers who passed through the Depot. It was estimated that during the 1939-45 war alone, when the Depot expanded to become an ITC, the figure was 50,000. As well as his work for The Buffs Depot, he was Master Tailor to the Canterbury Garrison, 4 Buffs (T.A.), the Home Guard and the Army Cadet Force.

"Despite the handicap of having lost a leg early in life, he was rarely absent from his workshop in the Old Infantry Barracks. His long and devoted service was recognised by Her Majesty the Queen in 1959 when he was awarded the British Empire Medal. He was blessed with a devoted wife and daughter. The deepest sympathy of his many friends in the Regiment will go out to them."

## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

### ASHFORD

**O**UR March meeting was held on the 13th and afterwards we were host to the London Branch (Buffs) for the first round of the Association darts match, which we were a trifle lucky to win by two games to nil. It proved to be a good evening and everyone enjoyed themselves. We were honoured by the presence of five Chelsea pensioners with "Scotty's" merry band. It is hoped to arrange a return visit to London at a later date.

The second round was played off on the 3rd April when we were host to the Maidstone Branch. We thank Mr. Wells and his members for the suggestion of playing off this match on this date, and for their co-operation in arranging this. Once again we won by two games to nil, so now enter the semi-finals.

The Chairman expressed the Branch's thanks to the wives of members who supplied the refreshments on these

two evenings; also thanks to members for supplying the raffle prizes. A special thank you to Mrs. Coleman for running the raffle on these two occasions, which was a great credit to the Branch funds.

Ossie Masters won the "Star Prize" last night. His instructions were for this to be auctioned off, which raised 25/-. Thanks, Ossie.

Mr. Hogwood reported he had visited Mr. Bridgeland at Mersham, and stated he was as well as could be expected after his recent long stay in a London hospital. We send him our best wishes.

Our Secretary and his wife have recently taken over the duties of running the bar at the Drill Hall for C Company The Buffs T.A. drill nights and Branch nights. Anyone in the area on Tuesday and Thursday evenings after 21.00 hours is welcomed to drop in for a "glass."

We now meet Herne Bay in the semi-finals and are looking forward to a trip there. Best wishes to all.

A.C.M.



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## BROMLEY

**M**Y news this month is of the Annual Social which was held on the 27th March and took the place of the monthly meeting.

Old soldiers never die and, if proof were needed, it was in evidence in the attendance of several Chelsea Pensioners, standing erect as ever, who shared the entertainment and hospitality provided.

Major Leslie Pyrke, president, welcomed Alderman Mrs. L. M. Prince, Mayor of Bromley, and Mrs. D. Marriott, Mayoress, and expressed appreciation of the attendance of Major-General Dennis Talbot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L., Deputy Colonel of the Regiment. Others welcomed included Captain Sir Gerald and Lady Hodgson, Capt. B. J. Finnie and Mrs. Finnie, Alderman Ralph N. Allen, Col. K. J. Pearce and Mrs. Pearce, Major Arthur Coomber, M.B.E., and Mrs. Coomber, Mrs. Leslie Pyrke, Lt.-Col. C. S. Durnell, O.B.E. (vice-president), and Mrs. Durnell and Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Lewis.

Alderman Mrs. Prince said that territorially and sentimentally they would still be people of Kent, and there should be no mistake about that.

Major-General Talbot said they were specially proud of their association with the Royal House of Denmark, the King of Denmark being their Colonel-in-Chief.

The guests also included members from the London (Buffs), London (Queen's Own), Catford and Gravesend Branches.

Entertainment was given by Sandy Sandford (comedian), Mary Weston (the Popular Poppet) and Paul Raymond at the piano. The raffle for the 50-odd prizes, all given by members and friends, created much amusement. Mrs. George Lefey and her lady helpers were responsible for the catering and Harry Woolnough was the M.C. Judging from the letters of appreciation received it seems that the evening was a very happy get together.

I am pleased to hear that Mr. R. W. Billings has recovered from his accident sustained on the morning of the social. He and Mrs. Billings would have been with us otherwise. The A.G.M. will be held on 24th April.

B.B.

## CATFORD

**O**N Saturday, 13th March, the Branch held its Fifteenth Annual Dinner at the Greyhound Hotel, Sydenham. There were 43 members present, an increase of four on the previous year's number. Mr. B. J. Leary acted as Master of Ceremonies for the evening and a very satisfactory dinner commenced after the usual one minute's silence.

Dinner was followed by a speech from our President, Major Coombe, who also proposed the Loyal Toast and the Regimental Toast. Mr. B. J. Leary then spoke on behalf of our Chairman, Mr. R. Pinder, and proposed the customary toast to the Branch. Mr. B. Lilley welcomed and proposed the toast of The Guests, which was responded to by Capt. King, thus drawing the dinner proceedings to a close.

Afterwards the party adjourned to an upstairs room and danced to the rhythm of Mr. Peter York's band until the late hours of the evening, during which time a raffle was held, with numerous prizes donated by various members. Our thanks go once again to Mrs. S. Miller for organising the latter so successfully. All unanimously agreed that an enjoyable evening had been spent and our heartiest thanks and congratulations go to our Secretary, Mr. S. Young, for his work in arranging a splendid event.

THE KITTEN.

## CHATHAM

**A**T our April meeting our attendance was very small. We received apologies for absence from Mr. S. Thompson and Jack Harrington, owing to sickness. Mr. Williams gave a report of the meeting of the Regimental Association. Arising out of this, Major Brothers commented on the loss on the lunch account of the reunion at Maidstone and expressed the opinion that the time had now arrived when it was only logical to hold one combined reunion

at Canterbury. He added that we were now one Regiment and despite the strong esprit de corps of The Buffs and The Queen's Own we could think ourselves lucky that two such splendid Regiments were contained in one grand county. Perhaps the powers that be may consider these points when making arrangements for future reunions. We welcomed to our meeting Mr. T. Barrows, ex-member 5th Battalion, and hope he will make a point of coming along to our meetings regularly and bring a friend.

## FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE

**T**HE last meeting, held on 10th March at the Drill Hall in Shellons Street, was opened at 8 p.m. by Mr. Wickens, who took the Chair in the absence of Brigadier Parry, and was attended by 22 members. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and unanimously adopted. Mr. Scott then read the Treasurer's report.

The Chairman read a letter from Lt.-Col. M. R. L. Grove, M.C., in connection with the history of The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, asking that the fact of this book now being on sale and available from R.H.Q. offices at Canterbury and Maidstone be publicised. The cost would be 15/- plus 2/6 postage.

Mr. Wickens then referred to a letter confirming the darts competition, and an enquiry from the Herne Bay Branch regarding a date to be fixed. The meeting decided on 2nd April. It was agreed that a notice of the A.G.M. be inserted in the local Press, and that letters should be sent to any members not present. The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m. Hoping to have more news to report next time!

E.V.L.

## MAIDSTONE

**O**UR Annual General Meeting was held on the 16th March with 27 members attending. The Secretary's report gave a full account of the Branch during the previous year—the general theme being that the Branch was still doing very well and still showed an upgrade of attendances.

The Chairman, in his address, thanked the Secretary for his comprehensive report and for the many hours he had devoted to the work of the Branch and that much credit was due to him for the progress of the Branch during the last two years. He also stated that, with other ex-Service Associations, we have not been able to attract the younger element and that, therefore, it did seem that our numbers will inevitably decrease. Even so, apart from a major disaster and provided we retain our present support of members, there were many more years left for this Branch.

Special words of thanks were extended to Mr. John Watson, the Branch Standard Bearer, who attended many functions during the year, his work culminating with the winning of the Branch Standard Bearer Competition last July; to Mr. Maxlow for taking on the job of representing the Branch at the Regimental Meetings at Canterbury; to Mr. Fred Farrington for his help and guidance on Branch policy; and, finally, to Mr. Bill Ladell, who has helped the committee considerably on all social occasions.

Before vacating the Chair for nominations of Officers, the Chairman told members that he thought that the previous policy of one member nominating the whole of the office holders en bloc and this being passed by the meeting was a bad one. He warned members that a long committee meeting could get very apathetic in its outlook and this in turn would lead to a rapid deterioration in membership.

With these words ringing in the ears of the meeting Tim Hayley, the then Vice-Chairman, called for nominations for the vacant Chair. The fact that Jim Sergison lived up to his word and refused the first nomination caused quite a buzz. Two nominations were at last accepted, with voting in favour of Tim Hayley to remain and take over the Chairmanship for the ensuing year, allowing Jim Sergison a well earned rest. The Secretary and Treasurer remained in office, also our Standard Bearer and Hon. Auditor. The new committee elected were: Messrs. Sedge, Ladell, Featherington, Hendrick and Pratt. Mr. Maxlow and Mr. Sergison were elected as Vice-Presidents.

The culmination of the nomination of officers was the proposal that Mr. Fred Farrington be asked to act as President of the Branch. This he accepted. It was then proposed, seconded and passed unanimously. Fred is the first President since the death of Harold Carmen many years ago.

At the end of the meeting Mr. Maxlow proposed that a vote of thanks be recorded to Mr. Jim Sergison for his excellent work as Chairman for the past two years in bringing the Branch to the very healthy state that it was in now from the very low ebb it was in in 1962. This was seconded by Wally Sedge and received with acclamation.

We were very pleased to have been able to assist London (Queen's Own) to meet the Ramsgate Branch halfway at Maidstone. Our new Headquarters proved to be just the thing for the evening of Saturday, 20th March. Members of the Maidstone Branch who attended the darts match thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the same obviously went for London and Ramsgate.

Our first and last match in the Inter-Branch Darts Competition was played at Ashford on the evening of the 3rd April when we lost to our friends of the Ashford Branch to the tune of two games to none. Our team of Bill Chiswell, Bert Fearn, Vernon Simmons, Sam Gurr, Bill Ladell and Maxie did their best. Both games could have gone either way but it appears that Ashford had the greater stamina, especially for "double one!" Our sympathy to Wally Sedge, our Captain, and Alf Heatherington for not being able to play owing to illness. We must congratulate the winners and also thank them very sincerely for such an entertaining evening, and the ladies of the Branch for such a wonderful spread of eats. It really was a very entertaining evening. I would like to know why my prize in the raffle should have been a bar of soap and a face flannel?! Our regards to all.

JIM WELLS.

## LONDON (BUFFS)

**M**ARCH has been a particularly busy month for the Branch. On Saturday, 6th, a party of 29 journeyed to Brighton for that Branch dinner. They had a most enjoyable time. Saturday, 13th, and off they went again, this time to Ashford to compete in the Inter-Branch Darts Tournament. I'm sorry to say that we lost to Ashford BUT our boys did save their faces by playing our opponents for a gallon of beer which they won.

Saturday, 20th, was our Branch monthly meeting and the same old stalwarts turned out again for the third Saturday running. We certainly have some good reliable members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed and correspondence dealt with. A proposal came forward which had been discussed in committee that Mr. William Douglas be accepted as an Associate Member of the Association. This was approved subject to acceptance by the Regimental Executive Committee.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, 17th April, which is our A.G.M. and we hope for a good number on this important occasion. Mr. Joe Davey has promised to show a film in May (in colour) of our last parade at Canterbury and this, together with other films he has, should make a good evening's entertainment.

It is now confirmed that our Annual Branch Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday, 25th July, at the Tower of London. Other Branches who may wish to attend will be very welcome. 10.30 a.m., Tower of London, Sunday, 25th July.

I am pleased to say that our present four sick members are making progress. Bill Clover and Albert Sharpe are a bit slow but getting there, and Ernie Hart and Ernie Smith will soon be back to work and to the Branch meetings. Again the clock ticks round to post time and as usual we sign off with best wishes to all Queen's Own Buffs.

DAN.

P.S. It was a pleasure to see the Regiment on parade with the Colonel-in-Chief in Denmark and they looked very smart marching through Copenhagen. I wonder how many have time to watch the Town and Around programme on B.B.C. 1.

## LONDON (QUEEN'S OWN)

**O**UR meeting held on 26th March was very well attended and included our President, General A. Riddell, as well as Lt.-Col. "Charles" Chaplin of our usual members. It was a most pleasant surprise to have one of our old members, now domiciled in Folkestone, Col. R. O. Pulverman, back with us for the evening, and Busty Cannacott came up from Maidstone.

The main topic was the defeat of Ramsgate in the darts match and the arrangements to be made for the next round. The Chairman thanked both "Bodger" Kemp and John Newton for the terrific amount of trouble they had taken to ensure that Ramsgate had a good time at Maidstone, a venue arranged with the co-operation of the Maidstone Branch. The match turned out to be a miniature get together and was a great success. There were approximately 80 present.

Our next game is now proving a little more difficult to arrange, but with such willing members this will doubtless be overcome. The Branch congratulates the team on its win and Tiny Colton in particular, who cast the winning throws.

We have not, I regret, seen Arthur Edwards for two meetings now and I have begun enquiries as to whether he is too ill to attend. His contemporary, Tom Sweetman, was with us and he informed us that Arthur is not so well. It was sad to hear of the passing of two of our old members, Tom Harrop, who was in the Star and Garter home, and Jerry Page, whom many will remember as H.Q. Wing's soccer goalie, battalion wicket-keeper for a spell and a great tug-of-war coach. He had been ill for some considerable time. All the old machine gun platoon will remember Jerry Page. We stood in silence in their honour.

We had mail from Lt.-Col. Geoffrey Elliott, who is well and happy, teaching in the wilds of Sussex. Anyone of his day passing through Alfriston, in that county, is welcome to call on our old member, who is hoping very



# FREMLINS "ELEPHANT" BEERS

The KENTISH BEER

For the COUNTY REGIMENT



much to get to the reunion this year. We also had mail from Major Bob Brown, who is one person who gets really enthusiastic about the Branch newsletters and acknowledges receipt by return. I hope I shall meet this member at the next reunion. I have no christenings to attend this year—at least, as far as I know!

Mail, too, from Bob Milton who is still unable to venture very far from home without an escort. This Bromley and London member of the Association could do with more visits. Any friends of either Branch or any Branch are welcome. Our secretary has Bob's address. London members visiting Folkestone, too, are asked not to miss visiting Col. R. O. Pulverman if they are near and if there is any assistance required that could affect W.V.S., Mrs. R. O. Pulverman would be only too pleased to help. This organisation, as most of us know, covers a very wide field of activities.

Having mentioned one or two of our officers in a paragraph a month or so ago reminds me that the reunion will soon be upon us, and I sincerely hope the troops will turn out in large numbers this year to see their old platoon and company commanders.

I understand Col. E. S. "Tim" Kerr recently underwent on operation and we hope he is now fully recovered; this Branch sends good wishes. The writer spent many happy years serving with the latter, and I doubt whether there are many in the Regiment who can give us any tips on hockey at least. No more space—more anon.

THE SPIDER.

## RAMSGATE

ONCE more we bow to London (Queen's Own) who again defeated us in the Branch Darts Competition, but although beaten we were not disgraced and with both teams wanting a finishing double in the third leg it could have been ours, but it was not to be. It was a grand game, a grand evening laid on by London Branch and details carried out by Maidstone Branch. I'm sure this evening fostered the spirit that should exist between Branches. Thank you, London, for agreeing to meet us halfway and thank you, Maidstone, for the grand evening.

At our meeting the night previous to the darts match, the Chairman welcomed some 30-odd members, among them some of our not-so-well's: Charlie Fakley, George Coaster, Jim Budgen and Ted Stead, who has recently survived an accident when he was knocked off his cycle. He is able to hobble around and just made it to the meeting.

Doug Fuller gave us the news of sick members who were not able to attend: Bert Knott and Jim Blake are still about the same. We are all very pleased to hear of Col. Argles' recovery and wish him all the best for a return to good health.

Weddings on our meeting and darts weekend seemed to take away many of our members—even Harry Cook, our barman, who left home with his family on Friday, as did his brother-in-law, Les Miles, and family, to attend a wedding. Bert Langley and his good lady went off on a similar errand, while Doug Fuller had the honour of giving away his daughter, Penny, on Saturday, 20th March. It must be nearly time for the income tax returns!

The Branch have decided to organise another outing this year on the same lines as last year, and voted that we visit Sissinghurst Court on Sunday, 23rd May, inviting our elderly members and their ladies or escorts to join us. On Saturday, 9th April, we hope to entertain the Sandwich Branch to a social and initiate them into bat and trap rules.

We are very sorry to hear of Charlie Pidduck's accident, and hope by now he is on the way to recovery. We extend our sympathy to Arthur Knowles and his daughter on the loss of Mrs. Knowles. This is, I think, about all for this month, so I'm signing off with best wishes to all Buffs—EVERYWHERE.

BEN.

## SITTINGBOURNE

### March

The monthly meeting was held at the Drill Hall, Crown Quay Lane, on 4th March, 1965. Owing to the snow and ice the strength of our numbers was down. Col. Dean rang up to say he could not make it and sent his apologies. The

chair was taken by Cllr. W. H. Mount, who thanked the members who had turned up. The Chairman then read a letter from Mrs. Russell thanking us for the very kind wishes received from members concerning Mr. Russell, and thanking those members who had been able to take Mrs. Russell to the hospital to see her husband, as he has been very poorly indeed. However, thanks to the skill and care of the doctors and nurses he is now on the mend. We are all very pleased to hear that good news. Apologies: From Col. Wills, Major Johnson and others.

Next item was the Darts Match with Herne Bay. Sorry to say we lost, but it was a good game enjoyed by everyone. We would like to thank our team, led by Sgt. Bassett, and hope to meet for a friendly game later on in the year. A letter was then read concerning the Churchill Memorial Appeal and all members agreed to send a donation of £2. The secretary will see Col. Dean. We must thank the caretaker and his wife for the refreshments they served for us at the Darts Match. The Secretary is attending the meeting at Canterbury on 20th March for the Branch.

The booby was given by Pte. M. Forsey, but it was decided to hold the draw for it at the next meeting. We are extremely sorry to hear of Col. Argles being in hospital. Our thoughts go to Mrs. Argles at this time and we wish the Colonel a return to good health.

## April

The monthly meeting was held at the Drill Hall, Crown Quay Lane, on 1st April, with Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., in the chair, and a good attendance of members. Apologies were received from Col. J. E. Wills, Major Johnson, Mr. Dunk, Mr. Russell and Mr. Martin. We are all very pleased to learn that Mr. Russell is now at home and looking quite good after his long stay in hospital. We send our sincere wishes to him and hope to see him at the meetings soon. Col. Dean was sorry to hear that we had lost our Darts Match to Herne Bay. However it was an enjoyable game.

Secretary's report from Canterbury: All members agreed to it. Referring to the Twinning Ceremony taking place between Sittingbourne and Ypres in April. We hope to have a good attendance on parade of both old and new members. Cpl. Shaw went round with the draw tickets and, when all was ready, Col. Dean drew the lucky number. The gift given by Pte. Fossey was won by our steward, Mr. Tobin. This being all the business the meeting then ended with a vote of thanks from Col. Dean to all members.

The following were elected at the 1965 A.G.M. of the Branch:—

Chairman, Col. D. J. Dean, V.C.; Vice-Chairmen, Col. J. E. Wills and W. H. Mount; Secretary, F. Jackson; Assistant Secretary, Mr. Sinclair; Treasurer, Col. Dean, V.C.; Standard Bearer, Charlie Nairne; Escort, F. Jackson; Sick Visitor, Mr. Sinclair.

## 11th Bn. THE QUEEN'S OWN

THE A.G.M. duly took place at The Skinner's Arms on the 25th March. The four days of spring had had a tremendous effect on our members for not only did they turn up in goodly numbers but they brought with them an enthusiasm which it was a joy to behold and to experience. Most heartening to the hard core of the Association's officers who endeavour to keep the Old Eleventh flag flying with, it seems, more than a little success.

Never, one suspects, was a fairly long agenda worked through with such speed, at any rate so far as the routine items were concerned; in fact "efficiency" has not yet dropped out of the Association's vocabulary. Those matters, however, which were of some importance, were fully and frankly discussed under the guidance of Bernard Bergl, in the Chair. One of these—what best to do at the dinner to get a really good crowd there to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our formation in an appropriate manner—took some time and evoked many suggestions, but the only decision taken was that it should be our own show and not thrown open to Tom, Dick and Harry, represented in this case by our colleagues in the other Battalions of the 122nd Brigade.

This followed Len Dawson's report that he had recently attended the dinner of our old "Opposite Numbers," the 11th Queen's (with whom the 10th Queen's

had linked up), when it was announced that that would be their last dinner. This news produced protestations and an assurance from us all present that ours would continue until we were down to only two. There is little doubt that each and everyone will do his damndest to be one of those two!; and they should have quite an evening, if the Reserve Fund is still intact, which it looks like being! Len Dawson, too, took the opportunity to re-iterate that he had no intention of going back on his promise to the Colonel, then virtually on his death-bed, to keep the Old Eleventh going.

All the officials of the Association were re-elected in their same capacities, plus the election of the Colonel's younger son, Major J. M. B. Corfe, Jim to us all, as a Vice-President (the B, by the way, stands for Beadle). This would have delighted Col. Corfe, as much as Jim felt honoured, and he expressed himself to the meeting in much the same terms as his old Dad would have done. It was a great delight to have him with us and to note that he was one of the last to leave.

The Hon. Treasurer was instructed to write to Jack Wood's widow and pass to her the vote of thanks recorded for her great gesture in having donations sent to our Benevolent Fund instead of flowers to Jack's funeral.

In addition to the Chairman, the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, there were present Donald Dean (President); Reg Maltby and Harold Hayward, the Hon Auditors (nearly exhausted by their efforts prior to the meeting); Tim Riggall (to do the minutes—he does a lot of envelope addressing, too); Jim Collins (who steps in and carries the Standard when Bill Toomer can't); George Branson (minus chain of office as Mayor of Plugstreet); Arthur Buddell (still feeling his position as Signals Sergeant); John Bull, up from Worthing (expecting a tick-off any minute from Arthur); Les Even (the smile there as ever); Danny Kemp (always ready to help and looking younger than ever); Horace Meacock (up from Frinton, the epitome of good signalling); Dick Pinder (batman par excellence); Walter Porter (up from Reigate as usual in spite of his game leg); and, of course, Jim Corfe. If there was anyone else there, sorry if, in the rush, we failed to jot it down.

We were sorry for various reasons a number could not make it. Blackburn from Gravesend, Dod Grant (wife ill), Cyril Jenkins (he reminded us what fellow-batman once did in his boots), Frank Holland, Sid Lewis, Eddie Reed, Peter Taylor and Bill Toomer. Bill had had a rough time with his chest and an awful cough, but he's been able to take a walk around in the recent fine spell. We hope that with the warmer weather to come he will be more active and mobile.

News reached us the day of the meeting that Jimmy Dunmall, of whom we had heard only last year, had died in hospital, his wife having pre-deceased him only the week before. We are grateful to Major Brown for letting us know and for arranging for a floral tribute from us. We only hope that Cyril Jenkins was able to get there to represent us.

As a tail-piece, we refer to the item in the March Invicta entitled "The Battalion with the Mostest." We can envisage several Battalions we know of taking up the cudgels and it will be interesting to see what comes up in future issues. We are not entering the lists at the moment, but when the time comes, we can perhaps dig up one or two records. And, if you have any suggestions for the dinner, please drop us a line.

R.O.R.

## NEWS FROM THE LADIES' GUILDS

### CANTERBURY

#### March and April

At the March meeting, Lt.-Col. R. C. W. Thomas was to have given a talk on his travels abroad but was marooned by severe weather and it was postponed. This was just as well as only 14 intrepid members made their way to the meeting.

There was a full attendance on 1st April for the monthly and annual general meeting.

The Chairman, Mrs. Argles, thanked members for

lovely flowers and kind enquiries sent during her husband's recent serious illness. She also thanked Mrs. Tilleard, the Vice-Chairman, and Mrs. Alexander, who had carried on the Guild during her absence; also the work of the Secretary, Mrs. Daniels, who had been ill. She also welcomed a new member, Mrs. Ackland, wife of Major Ackland, Second-in-Command of the 4th Bn. The Buffs (T.A.). It was agreed to send the usual annual contributions to the League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals, the Cancer Research Campaign and S.S.A.F.A., Canterbury.

At the general meeting the Secretary, Mrs. Daniels, gave her report of the year's activities. There are now 42 members. Mrs. Daniels felt that she must resign as she had not been well. The Chairman thanked her for her enthusiastic work during the past year and regretted that she could not continue.

The following officers were elected:—

Chairman, Mrs. E. V. Argles; Secretary, Mrs. J. Tilleard; Treasurer, Mrs. Garratt; and Mrs. Elliott and Mrs. Clark to vacancies on the Committee.

Arrangements for the outing to "Little Me," at the Cambridge Theatre, were completed. The coach will leave the East Kent Bus Station at 11.45 a.m. on Thursday, 13th May.

## LONDON

A MEETING was held on 3rd April at the White Swan, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.1, Mrs. Foster Hall in the Chair, regrets from Mrs. Coley, Mrs. Waters and Mrs. Cudlip.

Correspondence from Mrs. Waters and Mrs. Argles. We were very pleased to have Mrs. Cudlip and Mrs. Smith with us again and also Mrs. Temple Hirst. We are all very pleased to hear that Col. Argles is making good progress. Our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Dixey and Mrs. Jarvis in their recent bereavements. We were very pleased to welcome a new member, Mrs. Eileen Henderson.

Our sincere thanks to all who brought raffles; these realised £3/10/-. This being all the meeting closed.

M.J.D.

**Cadbury's**

**BAR SIX**

**New**

**CADBURY'S MILK CHOCOLATE**

**WITH A DOUBLE CRISPY CENTRE**

**CADBURY'S SIX-PIECE BAR**