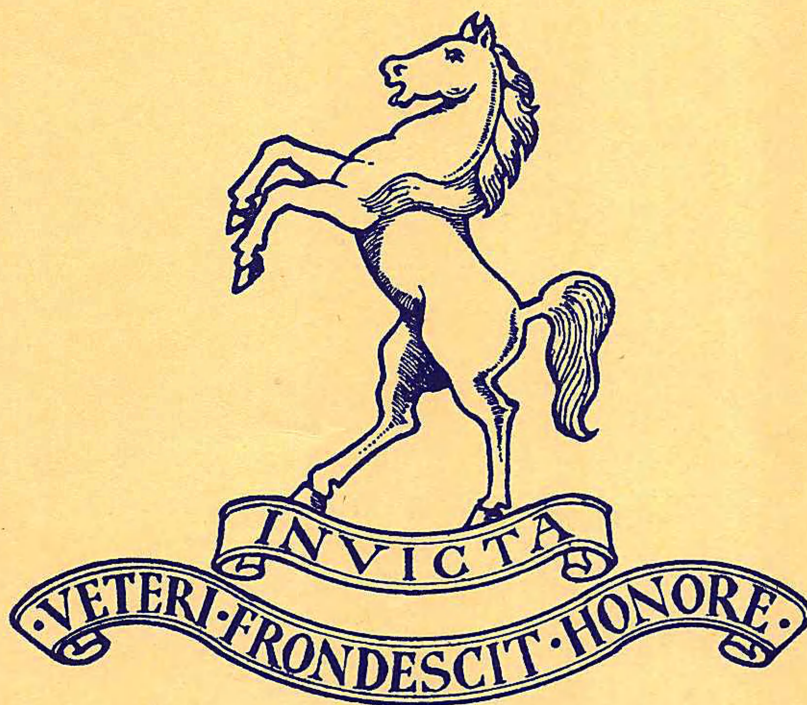


INVICTA

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



·QUO·FAS·ET·GLORIA·DUCUNT·



JULY, 1966

INVICTA

The Regimental Journal of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment (3rd, 50th & 97th)

The White Horse of Kent with motto "Invicta"

Volume VI, No. 7



July, 1966

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

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: Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Craddock, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.,

REGULAR AND TERRITORIAL BATTALIONS

1st Battalion—British Forces Post Office 628.

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

Hon. Colonel: Colonel D. J. Dean, V.C., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.

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

Hon. Colonel: Colonel The Lord Cornwallis, K.B.E., M.C., H.M.L.

4th/5th Battalion The Queen's Own Royal

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

West Kent Regiment (T.A.)—Tonbridge.

UNITS OF THE CADET FORCE AFFILIATED

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

Hon. Colonel: Lt.-Col. U. H. B. Alexander, M.B.E., D.L.

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

1st A.C.F. Battalion The Queen's Own Royal

Hon. Colonel: Major-General H. A. Hounsell, O.B., C.B.E.

West Kent Regiment—Sidcup.

2nd A.C.F. Battalion The Queen's Own Royal

Hon. Colonel: Lt.-Col. T. C. Coath, T.D.

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.

Assistant Secretaries: Lt.-Col. H. S. Knocker and Major G. U. Weymouth, M.B.E.

Tel. No.: Canterbury 65281, Extensions 61 and 60

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.

Colonel of the Regiment: Colonel J. C. K. Strathy, O.B.E., E.D.

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.

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment: Colonel F. A. Tilston, V.C.

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

Colonel of the Regiment: Brigadier T. B. Morten, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.

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. Leave pending retirement
 Brig. P. E. Crook, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., B.A., p.s.c., f.s.c. (U.S.), High Commissioner's Office, Aden
 Col. A. J. M. Flint, M.B.E., p.s.c., f.s.c. (U.S.), R.C.B., Westbury
 Col. P. R. H. Turner, p.s.c., f.s.c. (U.S.), Military Attaché, Pretoria
 Lt.-Col. M. R. Read, M.C., p.s.c., H.Q., Yorkshire District
 Lt.-Col. B. McGrath, M.C., p.s.c., H.Q. Malta and Libya
 Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) H. B. H. Waring, O.B.E., p.s.c., Area Comd. Federal Regular Army, South Arabia
 Lt.-Col. D. N. Court, p.s.c., H.Q. A.F.S.E.
 Lt.-Col. I. H. Roper, M.C., J.S.N.C.G.D. Winterbourne Gunner
 Lt.-Col. Elgood, P. N., p.s.c., H.Q. Berkshire Sub-District

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

MacDonald, E. W., O.B.E., p.s.c. 1st Bn.

MAJORS

Bailey, J. D. B.	Ministry of Defence	Hamilton, C. M.	H.Q. Middle East Command
Rickcord, M. B.	A.A.S. Carlisle	Gatehouse, H. R., M.B.E.	B.L.O. to SOXMIS
Eason, J. A., T.D.	M.C.T.C. Colchester	Osborne, E. C. S.	H.Q. 3 Div.
Crumplin, W. C. D., p.s.c.	(T/Lt.-Col.) Ministry of Defence	Shearburn, S. R. O'R.	H.Q. Rhine Area
Worts, J. B., M.C.	H.Q. Bahrain Garr.	Griffin, C. J.	1st Bn.
Willis, C. F., M.B.E., T.D., p.s.c.	H.Q. 2 Div.	Stratford-Tuke, R. A. F.	Inf. Jnr. Ldrs. Bn., Oswestry
Scull, D. S.	H.Q. Singapore Inf. Bde.	Dodson, K., p.s.c.	1st Bn.
Nash, J. P., E.R.D., p.s.c.	A.O.R.E.	Lees, H. D.	H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps
Macmillan, I. A., p.s.c.	(T/Lt.-Col.) H.Q. Land Forces, Hong Kong	Fletcher, J. S., M.B.E., p.s.c.	J.S.S.C.
Dent, J. E.	School of Infantry, Netheravon	Norton, J. D., s.g.	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)
Ambrose, W. G. R., p.t.s.c.	(T/Lt.-Col.) Ministry of Defence	West, C. T. F., p.s.c.	4 Buffs (T.A.)
Peckham, A. D., M.B.E.	(T/Lt.-Col.) 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)	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.	1st Bn.
Thornycroft, F. E.	Ministry of Defence	Ward, M. W., p.s.c., p.t.s.c.	R.A.R.D.E., Fort Halstead
Blum, D. E., p.s.c.	Ministry of Defence	Drapacoli, M. P. St. F., p.s.c.	H.Q. Home Counties Bde.
Franklin, A. W., p.s.c.	Attd. Ministry of Defence	Tennent, H. C. L.	Brit. Joint Services Trg. Team, Ghana
Abplanalp, V. C.	H.Q. B.A.O.R.	Neve, R. W., M.C., p.s.c.	1st Bn.
Winstanley, R. G., f.s.c. (B.E.) .	Denmark	Baker, R. W. M.	4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)
		Tarver, C. L., p.s.c.	1 R. Sussex
		Newall, M. R. M., p.s.c.	H.Q. 3 Commando Bde. Royal Marines

CAPTAINS

Davison, J. H.	1st Bn.	Taylor, E. A.	1st Bn.
Pybus, I. D., p.s.c.	H.Q. Cyrenaica Area	White, J. J.	H.Q. Western Command
Durnell, R. J.	2nd Zambia Regt.	Champion, C. G.	H.Q. 6 Inf. Bde.
Lea, R. (T/Major)	1st Bn.	Boucher, S. M.	Mons O.C.S.
Williams, R. T. P.	1 Queens Surreys	Shephard, J. N.	H.Q. Cyprus District
Butler, C. D. B.	R.M.A., Sandhurst	Pearce, N. C.	1st Bn.
Langhorne, J.	Leave U.K.	Tarver, H. N., B.Sc. (Gen.), x.	1st Bn.
Hiscock, F.	Guyana Defence Force	Holman, J. C.	1st Bn.
Reid, J. D. W. (T/Major)	1st Bn.	Whitty, R. H.	Canada
Cleaver, G. F.	H.Q. Rhine Area	Bateman, G. B.	H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F.
Dewar, C. M. C.	5 Buffs (T.A.)	Gerelli, J. E.	1st Bn.
		Clinch, M. J.	1st Bn.

LIEUTENANTS

Pearson, C. J.	Infantry Junior Leaders Bn.	Talbot, R. D. B.	1st Bn.
Strang, J. P. R., B.A. (T/Capt.)	H.Q. 51 Gurkha Bde.	Board, T. M., B.A.	1st Bn.
Donovan, B. K.	40 A.Y.T.	Butler, M. R.	1st Bn.
Grove, C. M. M.	1st Bn.	Baillie, I. G.	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)
Gwilliam, P. A.	1st Bn.	Jackson, T.	1st Bn.
Critchley, P. P.	1st Bn.	St. John Perry, C. H.	1st Bn.
Cockram, J. M., B.Sc. (Econ.) ...	1st Bn.	Shephard, D. H. A.	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)
		Tweedie, M. J. C.	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Dent, R. D. J.	1 Queens Surreys	Hodges, J. A.	1st Bn.
Hunter, N. S.	1st Bn.	Palmer, J. R. C.	1st Bn.
Fraser, S. B. L.	1st Bn.		
Yorke, H. A. P.	1st Bn.		

QUARTERMASTERS

Kille, W. E., M.B.E., p.s.c., Lt. Col.	H.Q. 48 Div. (T.A.), West Midland Dist.	Grubb, J. E., M.B.E. Capt.	4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)
Stephens, S. V., Maj.	H.Q. 1 Div.	Faulkner, G. T., Major	5 Buffs (T.A.)
Ransley, E. J., M.C., Maj.	1st Bn.	Simpson, G. V. I., Capt., M.B.E.	4/5 R. Sussex (T.A.)
		Lynes, W. C., Capt.	1st Bn.

SERVING WITH 1st BATTALION

Rev. W. R. Crawte, C.F.	R.A.Ch.D.	Captain M. A. A. Clark	R.A.M.C.
		Major A. F. A. Austen, M.C.	R.A.P.C.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS**MAJOR**

Trumper, J. M. S. W., E.R.D. ...P.P.C.M., H.Q. Western Command

LIEUTENANTS

Palmer, R. J.	1st Bn.
Webb, C. R.	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Elliott, S. J.	1st Bn.	Owen, N. C.	1st Bn.
Duffield, G. J.	1st Bn.	Horley, C. M.	1st Bn.
Dinwiddy, G. J.	1st Bn.		

QUARTERMASTER

Rose, J. R., Maj. 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.)
Major K. W. Cooney	T.A. Increment 44 (H.C.) Div./Dist. (T.A.)
Capt. P. N. P. Plunkett, T.D.	T.A. Increment 44 (H.C.) Div./Dist. (T.A.)
Lieut. F. M. Leeson	H.Q. 133 (Kent and Sussex) Inf. Bde. (T.A.)

4th BATTALION BUFFS (T.A.)**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL**

Willows, D. A.

MAJORS

West, C. T. F. (Trg. Major)
Johnson, R. F.
Auld, C. W., T.D.
Browne, P. S.
Pilcher, R. A.
Gracie, I. A.
Taylor, F. E.

CAPTAINS

Medlicott, J. P.
Sayer, C. H.
Wallace, W. R. D.
Clements, J. E.

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Pye, W. O. S.
Jarman, J.
Woodman, R. K.

MEDICAL OFFICER

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

PAYMASTER

2 Lt. Auger, M., R.A.P.C. (T.A.)

CHAPLAIN

Rev. O'Connor, N. G., R.A.Ch.D.
(T.A.)

LIEUTENANTS

Helbling, A. A.
West, K.

QUARTERMASTERS

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

5th BATTALION BUFFS (T.A.)**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL**

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

MAJORS

Balding, C. E. E., T.D.
Baddeley, W. D., T.D.
Gower, C. M.
Hollies, R. J., T.D.
Wright, R. P.

CAPTAINS

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

CAPTAINS

Proctor, A. D. M.
Garnsey, G.
Jones, C. D. G.
Jakob, F. J.

LIEUTENANTS

Corcoran, K. (A/Capt.)
Dineley, G. (A/Capt.)
Iles, J. C.
Daniel, M. R. M.
Bingham, A. J.
Baldock, D.
Bond, M. E. T.
Fell, A. L.
Carte, B. A.

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Collyer, M. W. B.
Bates, C. A. S.
Sims, J. F.
Woods, R. J.
Darby, A. A. G.
Whitford, R. H.

QUARTERMASTERS

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

MEDICAL OFFICER

Major 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.)**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL**

Peckham, A. D., M.B.E.

MAJORS

Baker, R. W. M. (Trg. Offr.)
Murray, W., T.D.
Large, J. L., T.D.
Ogilvie, J. B., T.D.
Clemence, M. J., T.D.
Devonshire, M. N.
Watson, K. E., T.D.

CAPTAINS

Stacey, O., T.D.
Fraser, C. G.
Gregory, M. K.
Burrell, G. K.
Finnis, S. R.

LIEUTENANTS

Sutton, J. D.
Gibbs, W. J.

LIEUTENANTS

Andrews, A. J.
Smith, M. J.
Rucker, P. A. S.
Evans, G. W.
Metzgen, H. G.

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Kelly, M. P.
Dixon, R. C. B.
Crosher, R. H.
Metcalf, R. A.

QUARTERMASTERS

Capt. J. E. Grubb, M.B.E.

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.)

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

As readers will have seen in the Press, the Home Counties Brigade is to become The Queen's Regiment. The following information will probably fill in some of the gaps in the Press announcements and is included in this issue for the record.

H.M. The Queen has agreed to a proposal made by the Ministry of Defence (Army), acting upon the recommendation of the Council of Colonels of The Home Counties Brigade, that the Brigade shall become a Large Regiment. The new Regiment will be called "The Queen's Regiment" and the vesting date will be 31st December, 1966.

The basic reasons behind this decision were two-fold. First, that the Large Regiment concept is the next logical step forward from the post-war reforms (which reduced to one the number of regular battalions in Regiments of the Line, created the Brigade system and amalgamated a number of Regiments); and that it is the best means of ensuring that the future organisation is viable while combining and carrying forward the best traditions of our existing Regiments. Secondly, that many subjects are already on a Brigade basis (*e.g.*, posting of Officers and Other Ranks, recruiting, dress) and the Council believes that now is the appropriate time to form a Large Regiment. The planned reorganisation of the Reserve Army in 1967 gives added weight to this decision.

TITLES

The title and its derivations will be:—

For the new Regiment:—

- (1) Full title—The Queen's Regiment.
- (2) Short title—QUEENS.

For Regular Battalions:—

- (1) Full titles:—

1st Bn. The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys).

2nd Bn. The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Own Buffs).

3rd Bn. The Queen's Regiment (Royal Sussex).

4th Bn. The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex).

- (2) Short titles—1, 2, 3 and 4 QUEENS.

For the T and AVR II Battalion:—

- (1) Proposed full title—5th Volunteer Bn. The Queen's Regiment.
- (2) Proposed short title—5 QUEENS.

For T and AVR II units:—To be decided later.

COLONELCY-IN-CHIEF AND COLONELCIES

H.M. The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint **H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.**, as **Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment**.

At the same time **H.M. The Queen** has been graciously pleased to ask **H.M. The King of Denmark** and **H.M. The Queen of the Netherlands** to accept appointments in the Regiment. It is known that both have been graciously pleased to accept, and their titles will probably be:—

“H.M. The King of Denmark, Allied Colonel-in-Chief The Queen’s Regiment (Queen’s Own Buffs)”, and

“H.M. The Queen of the Netherlands, Allied Colonel-in-Chief The Queen’s Regiment (Royal Sussex)”.

The **Colonel of the Regiment (designate)** is to be the **Deputy Colonel, Lt. Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.** Each Battalion will have a **Deputy Colonel** and **Major General C. H. Tarver, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.**, will be **Deputy Colonel of the 2nd Battalion**.

INSIGNIA

New insignia will be adopted for the Regiment. The details of the design will be announced when they have received **H.M. The Queen’s** consent.

OUTLINE ORGANISATION

The new Regiment will consist of:—

Regimental H.Q. (formerly Brigade H.Q.)—Howe Barracks, Canterbury.

The **Regimental H.Q.s** of existing Regiments will become county offices of the new **Regimental H.Q.** They will remain at **Kingston-upon-Thames, Canterbury, Chichester and Edgware.**

Regimental Depot (formerly Brigade Depot)—Howe Barracks, Canterbury.

Four Regular Battalions:—

- (1) **1st Bn. (Now 1 QUEENS SURREYS in Germany).**
- (2) **2nd Bn. (Now 1 QUEENS OWN BUFFS in Borneo).**
- (3) **3rd Bn. (Now 1 ROYAL SUSSEX in Germany).**
- (4) **4th Bn. (Now 1 MIDDLESEX in Guyana).**

One Battalion of the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve Category II (5th Volunteer Bn. The Queen’s Regiment)—Canterbury. There will be one company based in each of the four Home Counties at **Guildford, Broadstairs, Hastings and Hornsey.**

Units of the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve Category III—Details later.

REGIMENTAL ROLL—COMMISSIONING AND ENLISTMENT

As from 31st December, 1966 all officers will be commissioned into The Queen's Regiment and all enlistments will be into the Regiment.

As from 31st December, 1966 all serving officers, W.O.s, N.C.O.s and privates will be placed on the strength of The Queen's Regiment, taking seniority on the regimental roll as applicable.

DRESS

Apart from the change of insignia there will be no major changes in dress. In general, current regulations will continue to apply.

COLOURS

Existing Colours will be retained for some years to come since all sets are comparatively new.

COMMITTEES

The following committees and sub-committees have been established to help in implementing the Large Regiment decision:—

- A Steering Committee.
- A Finance Sub-Committee.
- A Journal Sub-Committee.
- A Regimental Association Sub-Committee.
- A Regimental Clubs and Functions Sub-Committee.
- A Battle Honours, Alliances, Affiliations and Civic Distinctions Sub-Committee.

FINANCE

It must be realised that the new Regiment will be a new and quite separate legal entity. Funds will have to be provided for it and the complex legal repercussions must be dealt with professionally. The Trustees in conjunction with the Charity Commissioners will be doing this.

It is intended that funds held in trust for the benefit of past and present personnel of existing Regiments should remain undisturbed and continue to be administered as heretofore so long as potential beneficiaries under these rules are alive. When, eventually, the trustees find that demands on these funds have decreased to such an extent that income is accumulating unduly they might well apply to the appropriate court for a variation of the trust purposes so as to include as beneficiaries past or present members of the new Regiment.

JOURNALS

There will be a journal for the new Regiment. It will be produced by the new R.H.Q. on a monthly basis and

the first issue is planned for January, 1967. Each issue will continue to publish "News from the Branches" as previously published in "Invicta".

Publication of "Invicta" will cease after the formation of the new Regiment and the date of its last issue will be announced next month.

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS' CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

There will be a Regimental Officers' Club and a Regimental Association for the new Regiment. They will be administered by the new R.H.Q., with assistance from county offices where applicable, and will be for the benefit of all serving officers and soldiers and those retired officers and soldiers of the existing Regiments who care to join.

Existing Regimental Officers' Clubs and Regimental Associations are, in general terms, to remain undisturbed, but it may be suggested that a few should be expanded.

INVICTA

EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAPT. ELWELL, the Joint Secretary of B.U.P.A., who held a Short Service Commission in the Queen's Own early in the 1950's, has most generously donated three subscriptions to the Journal for the next 12 months, to be allotted at the Editor's discretion to any ex-member of either of the two former regiments. A most kind gesture, which is greatly appreciated.

THE wedding took place at Saltwood on 11th June of Miss Ann Jennifer ("Jenny") Lovell, younger daughter of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. I. R. Lovell, and Mr. Peter Furneaux. The bridegroom served in The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment as an Officer 1956-58. The bride was given away by her father. Amongst those present at the church and the reception were Lt.-Col. and Mrs. A. A. Eason; Mrs. R. F. Parry; Capt. and Mrs. M. J. Smith and the Masters Smith and Major-General and Mrs. D. E. B. Talbot and Miss Victoria Talbot.

DURING 1965 the Forces' Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops gave assistance to 233 ex-members of the two former Regiments. Of this number, 14 were helped with employment, 116 with money or clothing, six were sent to convalescent homes, and the remainder were otherwise dealt with by obtaining pensions, reference to other agencies, visits in hospitals, homes, etc. The Society, to which the Regiment subscribes annually, gave assistance to over 24,000 cases during the year.

THERE will shortly be a vacancy for a School Staff Instructor in the King's School, Rochester, CCF Contingent. In addition to the normal duties of an SSI, he would be required to exercise the boys in Physical Training, so that a qualification (from, for example, The Army School of Physical Training) would be necessary. The post carries a salary of £750 per annum, but no accommodation is available at the School. Application should be made direct to the Officer Commanding, CCF Contingent, The King's School, Rochester, Kent, who will be pleased to give any further details which may be required.

A VERY warm welcome to 2/Lieut. Christopher Horley on first commissioning into the Regiment on a Short Service Commission. He is the son of an ex-Buffs Officer, Major B. M. Horley (better known as 'Mole'), and he will shortly be joining the 1st Battalion in Borneo.

DURING 1965 the National Association for Employment of Regular Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen placed in employment 21 ex-members of the Regiment. It is of interest that 10 of these were found employment in the London area, two each at Chatham, Chelmsford and Reading, and one each at Belfast, Birmingham, Croydon, Leeds and Northampton. This Association advertises regularly in this Journal, and its total of 6,822 ex-members of the Army placed in employment in one year is a wonderful achievement.

THROUGH the medium of these pages, Mrs. Grace, wife of the Regimental Secretary, would like to thank most sincerely all those individuals and Branches for their donations in cash or kind, which they made towards her Bottle Stall in aid of SSAFA, which was held on the afternoon of Sunday, 3rd July, at the Home Counties Brigade Depot "Open Day." The continued support of this annual stall by so many friends and well-wishers has again been much appreciated, and all concerned will be interested to know that this year the sum raised was £42, an increase of £10 on last year's figure.

LT.-COL. NED KNOCKER continues to make a most satisfactory recovery after his operation and is now back at his home in Wingham. He will doubtless be "on view" in the Regimental Tent during Canterbury Cricket Week, in a spectator's—rather than an organiser's—capacity.

VERY many congratulations to Lt.-Col. Derek Willows on his appointment to command the Territorial and A.V.R. II Battalion in the Home Counties Brigade when the Unit is formed next April. This is a rare honour for Lt.-Col. Willows, in that of the 13 T. and A.V.R. Battalions which are being set up to replace present Territorial Army Infantry Battalions, 12 of them will be commanded by Regular Officers. He will thus be the only Territorial Army C.O. in the new Reserve Army.

The Deputy Colonel Retires From Active Soldiering

ON Wednesday, 13th July, Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., left H.Q. Western Command for the last time, having handed over his appointment of Commander-in-Chief to Major-Gen. J. A. J. Read, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. After a spell of leave the Deputy Colonel will retire from active soldiering on 9th August, 1966, and thus bring to an end a long, successful and distinguished career in the service of the Sovereign, the Army and the Regiment.

First commissioned into The Buffs in August, 1930, he was appointed Adjutant of the 2nd Bn. of that Regiment in January, 1937, and held that appointment until after the outbreak of the last war. He was wounded twice during 1944, the first time when in command of the 2nd Bn. South Wales Borderers and on the second occasion when commanding the 1st Bn., Suffolk Regiment.

After the war he filled numerous staff appointments, among them Director of Plans, M.G.A. in Rhine Army and Director of Military Operations, War Office. He was Knighted during his spell of a year in Hong Kong when he was C-in-C. Land Forces there and this was followed by his final serving appointment as C-in-C. Western Command.

He, Lady Craddock, their but recently widowed daughter, Mrs. Sparrow, and her son have returned to their house at Send, near Guildford, but some time in the autumn they will be moving to a house which the General has recently bought at Chilbolton, near Andover, Hants.

As yet there is no indication of what the General will do with himself—apart, of course, from racing at Newbury and elsewhere!—but it is unthinkable that an active person such as he will sit and twiddle his thumbs for very long. Whatever the future holds for him in other spheres, however, he will still be very actively engaged as Deputy Colonel and all members of the Regiment will surely wish to join with the Editor in wishing him and his family many years of contented and happy life in "civvy street."

Charity Commission

CHARITY for the benefit of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment. Scheme enabling charities to expend a sum towards cost of publication of Regimental History of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). Ref. RF 145,607.

The Charity Commissioners propose to establish a Scheme for this and other purposes. Objections and suggestions may be sent to the Commissioners within one month from today.

Copies of the proposed Scheme will be supplied on written request to the Charity Commission, 14 Ryder Street, London S.W.1 (quoting the reference above) and may also be seen at that address or at:

Regimental Headquarters,
The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment,
Old Infantry Barracks,
Canterbury, Kent.

Why does the Army Benevolent Fund still need help?



For most of us nowadays the memories we have of the two World Wars have become dimmed by time. But for those who were left disabled — and for the many bereaved families—the tragic aftermath of war is ever present. Many are suffering great hardships. The Army has also been in action in many parts of the world since the end of World War II. Thus even in peace-time the problem continues.

The sole object of the Army Benevolent Fund is to try to lessen this suffering. It does this by making contributions to the Corps and Regimental Associations and National Service charitable organisations which have been set up for this purpose. All the money, which is used in this really good cause is given voluntarily, by means of donations and bequests. You can help by giving as much as you possibly can yourself — and by recommending others to do the same.

Donations and Legacies should be sent to:

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A New Affiliation

THE REGIMENT LINKED WITH THE DEVONSHIRE AND DORSET REGIMENT

IN very much the same way as the Regiment is linked, unofficially but closely, with the Royal Fusiliers and with the King's Own Scottish Borderers, so now has an affiliation been entered into with the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

Since the last war and before amalgamation the 1st Bn. of the Queen's Own served on three occasions—in Malaya in 1951-52, in B.A.O.R. in 1955 and in Cyprus in 1958-59—alongside the Devonshire Regt.; the 1st Bn. The Buffs did likewise in Kenya in 1953-54. In 1964 the 1st Battalions of both present regiments served together, in what was then known as British Guiana, during their first operational tours after their respective amalgamations.

Furthermore, and of equal interest and importance, H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, is closely connected with both regiments.

After consideration by the Regimental Council it was thought appropriate that an approach should be made by the Deputy Colonel to the Colonel of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Major-General Hugh Borradaile, and on 1st May this year the following letter was therefore despatched to Wyvern Barracks, Exeter:—

"The regular battalions of our two Regiments, or their forebears, have served together on many occasions, and since the Second World War have done so in Malaya, Kenya, B.A.O.R., Cyprus and, most recently, in British Guiana.

It is our wish that the spirit of comradeship which has existed for so long between the two Regiments should be recognised as some permanent, if unofficial, form. We feel that this would be all the more appropriate in view of the very close association which Her Royal Highness Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, has with both Regiments.

On behalf, therefore, of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, I am asking you to do us the honour of accepting, on behalf of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, the enclosed invitation.

May I also take the opportunity of sending the warmest greetings and good wishes of all of us in The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, to all of you in the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

R. W. CRADDOCK, (Lt.-Gen.),
Deputy Colonel,

The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment."

The invitation card which accompanied this letter and which had been beautifully executed by Mr. Woodcock had the regimental crest at the top and read as follows:—

"The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment
have the honour to request that
the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment
will consider themselves for all time

Honorary Members of all Messes of the Regiment.

1st May, 1966.

Canterbury."

On 17th May the following reply was received from General Borradaile:—

"On behalf of all members of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, I have the greatest possible pleasure in accepting the invitation of your Regiment to consider ourselves for all time as honorary members of all your Messes.

As you say, our Regiments have served together many times in the past and I am particularly conscious of the very great feeling of liaison and comradeship which existed between the two Battalions in British Guiana.

I hope therefore that, in your turn, you will do us the honour of accepting the enclosed invitation.

May we serve together again many times in the future."

This letter was accompanied by an equally finely executed invitation card, which ran:—

"The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment
in recognition of the spirit of comradeship which exists
between our two regiments
have the honour to request that

The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment
will consider themselves for all time Honorary Members
of all Messes of the Regiment.

17th May, 1966.

Exeter."

To this the Deputy Colonel replied:—

"On behalf of The Queen's Own Buffs, I accept with the greatest possible pleasure your Regiment's invitation to consider ourselves for all time as honorary members of all your Messes. I am so delighted to have received this invitation, which will have a very special place in our Regimental records."

This then adds the name of another distinguished Regiment to the list of those with whom the Regiment is affiliated. To all our friends in the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment we express our great pleasure at the welding of this link with them and send, through these pages, our very best wishes to them all.

Cricket at Canterbury

THE Regiment had its usual viewing Tent at the St. Lawrence Ground during the Kent versus West Indians match on the 9th, 11th and 12th July. The weather on the whole was good, though there were the occasional stoppages of play thanks to rain or bad light. The crowds throughout were enormous.

The match was high-lighted by some fine stroke-play, much accurate bowling, a third consecutive hundred by Luckhurst and some magnificent fielding.

After the close of play on the second day, both teams were entertained in the Tent, and it was a delightful experience and privilege—at all events for some—to meet a few of the great personalities of this exceptionally fine West Indian team and, in particular, Mr. Garfield Sobers, the "ultimate" amongst cricketers.

The running of the bar during the match was in the capable hands of Mr. Kennard and Mr. Knight, the former resplendent in a white apron and the latter looking rather like an umpire! They, with some outside assistance, will be giving a repeat performance during the whole of Canterbury Week and during the match against Notts at the end of August.

Amongst those present in the Tent who signed the

Visitors' Book in a more legible fashion than others were the following:—

Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Penlington, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. King, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Argles, Maj. and Mrs. Weymouth and Mr. James Weymouth, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Knocker, Col. and Mrs. Grace and Mr. Christopher Grace, Brig. and Mrs. Whitacre Allen, Mr. Daniel, Maj. Bellamy, Mr. Excell, Mr. and Mrs. John Friend, Maj. Prestige, Mr. and Mrs. Price, Col. and Mrs. Tilleard, Maj. and Mrs. French-Blake, Miss Ryder, Mr. and Mrs. Grugeon, Col. and Mrs. Pulverman, Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. Tarver, Capt. Dewar, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Reid, Mr. Baillie, Maj. and Mrs. Elliott, Capt. Dineley, Mr. and Mrs. Redfern, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Carmichael, Maj. D. P. H. Norris, Brig. Buckland, Mr. Burney, Lt.-Col. Cremer, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Alexander, Capt. (Q.M.) Grubb, Maj. Pond, Mr. Tweedie, Maj. and Mrs. West, Lt.-Col. D. A. Willows, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. J. R. Willows, Mr. Edgley, Col. Battye, Maj. and Mrs. Dracopoli, Maj. Mrs. and Miss Blaxland, Lt.-Gen. Sir William Oliver, Mr. Deakin, Mr. Tatty, Brig. and Mr. Roberts.

It was particularly good to have Lt.-Col. Ned Knocker amongst us again, looking remarkably well after his operation; and Mrs. Knocker's flower arrangements were, as usual, all that could be desired.

News From The 1st Battalion

THE start of the month saw the departure of the 2nd Recce Party, consisting of the 2 i/c, Ops Officer, Rifle Coy Comds, QM and Adjutant for the Battalion's next home in Sarawak. Their rather jaded appearance on their return was probably due more to some hilarious nights in Jesselton and Kuching en route than to the actual tempo of the recce. One anxious moment occurred when within a day of arriving in the new area, Major Richard Lea was reported as having departed with a Gurkha patrol in the direction of the Indonesian border. However, he returned safely, smacking his lips, saying what splendid jungle it was.

CEREMONY

In spite of the intense training, the Corps of Drums have found time to perform at various local functions. They provided the music for the parade in Kota Belud in honour of the King of Malaysia's Birthday, they have played for various local schools, a letter of thanks for which appears elsewhere in this issue, and they also played at the local race meeting. Their aptitude in the quick change act, turning from a dirty smelly rifle platoon in the jungle, into the usual immaculate Corps of Drums that we know so well, is sometimes taken too much for granted.

HEARTS AND MINDS

One of our subsidiary tasks in Borneo comes under the heading of winning the Hearts and Minds of the people, and at all times on training, or operations, consideration is given as to how one can give assistance to this comparatively poor and backward community, whether it be by building a bridge or running school sports. In this task the Assault Pioneer Pl, the Medical Staff, and the PT Staff have been in the forefront. The Pioneers have built and repaired bridges, created water supplies, cleared tracks, and blown up rocks in many neighbouring kampongs. The Medical Section have sent medical orderlies to many isolated areas where they have practised their magic. When one considers that in the extensive Kota Belud District there is normally a visit only once a week by a doctor, the appearance of a medically trained N.C.O. in the more remote parts is quite an event. Our doctor, Mike Clark, has also had the opportunity to practise many branches of medicine not normally provided for him by the soldiers. S.I. Tiltman, our muscle man, has done sterling work with the local schools, and during the recent school sports it was quite a spectacle to see him sitting on a judges' chair, with a comely teenager holding an umbrella over his head.

EXERCISES

Most members of the Rifle Coys have spent about two-thirds of the month in the jungle and, by now, can almost be said to be used to it. There have been three set-piece exercises, covering different phases of Borneo operations. The first, Ex 'Comfort Stops,' involving a two-day ambush, was carried out in more or less perpetual rain. Those members of the Battalion who smoke like chimneys their duty-free cigarettes, suffered inordinately.

R AND R

Rest and Retraining, Rest and Rehabilitation, Roistering and Rutting, describe it as you will, R and R has crept into the training programme on a couple of occasions. Different people have had different ways of spending it. To some it is the occasion to tackle Mt. Kinabalu, to some a chance to go swimming, and to some, just the time to do nothing. But the majority of the Battalion have at some time had a night down in Jesselton, either camping on what must be one of the most perfect beaches in the world, or staying in one of the surprisingly many hotels. The night life there is not extensive, particularly to those recently satiated with such things in Hong Kong, but the change of scenery, the chance to listen to an Oriental beat group, some different food, and perhaps some female company, seems very attractive from Kota Belud, and all have undoubtedly enjoyed themselves.

LIGHTNING

One of the hazards of life in this tropical area is the frequent intense electrical storms. Stories of being struck or near misses are reminiscent of Londoners' bomb stories during the war. That our corrugated iron huts seem to attract lightning is true, and to date a considerable

number of people have felt its effects, including the C.O., 2 i/c., Ops Offr., Trg. Offr. and Paymaster. As for the telephone exchange operators, they are more or less injured to picking themselves up off the floor, and replacing the lightning protectors in the exchanges. Life, as we have said before, is varied.

VISITORS

Lt.-General Sir A. Jolly, the Army Commander, paid a fleeting visit to us during the month, accompanied by the Director of Operations. Gen. Jolly is shortly relinquishing his command out here and this will be his last visit to us. Maj.-General Lea, the Director of Ops, who was due to make a lengthy visit early in July, stated that he was pleased with the training and would not bother us again at Kota Belud.

Other visitors included three senior Ministry of Public Buildings and Works officials, who came, dressed immaculately as ever in their white shirts, shorts and stockings, to discover exactly what this camp was like that they were responsible for.

Two British M.P.s. Mr. Tom Driberg (Labour), Barking, Essex, and Mr. Anthony Royle (Con.), Richmond, Surrey, on a Parliamentary 'swan' out here, appeared from the sky, piloted ably by the Sabah Minister of Finance. Their visit was brief but of interest.

QUOTES

1. M.P.B.W. White Mouse to 2 i/c.: "Actually our conditions of service are very similar to yours."
2. M.P. to C.O., viewing the expense of Borneo: "Welfare Services looking after you all right?"

DEATHS

It was with deep regret that we heard this month of the death of Brigadier 'Twink' Gwilliam. This loss to the Regiment was brought even closer to us as his son, Patrick, is serving with us.

Also must regretfully be recorded the tragic death of young Tony Keenan, son of Sgt. Keenan, of the Band, who was drowned in the Hong Kong floods, and also the death of the new-born baby of Cpl. and Mrs. Dawney in Hong Kong. Our sincere thoughts and condolences go out to all their families.

"A" COMPANY

Water

The last few weeks has seen the Company out on some very interesting training in the Sabah Jungle. On one occasion when Capt. Davison awoke to find that a stream was running through his basha, he made the suggestion that we nail up a sign "Basha to let, running water and all mod cons," but then decided that perhaps he would not have many applicants. We would like to congratulate the Company Clerk on being the first chairbound man to wear out a pair of jungle boots.

Changes

We all offer our condolences to Major Dodson on the loss of his most trusted orderly; the O.C. decided that he just could not afford to use his services any longer. However, the C.S.M. was only too ready to grab Eban Evans to work in the Sgts. Mess. (Lock the Mess Silver away, Sgt.-Major!).

Arrivals

We welcome Ptes. White and Malpass, two old members who have joined us from Hong Kong. Pte. White has obviously had a very good time while we have been away, and does not like the idea of the jungle running out of roads. We also welcome four newcomers to the Company. Ptes. Arnold, Akehurst, Bobrow and Radford.

Promotions

We congratulate Cpl. Watson on being promoted to Sgt. and also Ptes. Jones 114 and Wiles on being appointed L/Cpls.

Départures

We say goodbye to Pte. Jordan, who has left us for "C" Company so that he might educate them. Also to L/Cpl. Whitehorn, who has gone to England to get professional aid with his ailment. We look forward to his early return.

Watermanship

Pte. Eban Evans can now boast flotation capabilities. The remainder of the Company did, however, manage to keep their heads above the water.

Training

The Company has been hard at it for the past five weeks, generally spending some four out of seven days of the week in the jungle. The result is a fit and ready outfit with a fund of amusing incidents which would need a

special supplement for *Invicta* to cover. We have had two days' Rest and Recuperation in Jesselton on the coast which was very welcome and the sea water quickly cleared up our jungle scratches.

Move

The Company moves by sea from Jesselton to Kuching in the third week of July. We are looking forward to it but are not quite sure where in Sarawak we are going.

Climbing

A large proportion of the Company propose to climb Kinabalu, the highest mountain in South Asia (13,500 ft.); Cpl. Powell as quickly as possible and Capt. Davison, Mr. Butler, the Mortars and Company H.Q., a little more slowly!

"B" COMPANY

Jungle bashing

After six weeks of jungle training the Company has mastered most aspects of jungle warfare. Although we have had a few cases of ringworm, sweat rash, cuts and bruises, the Company is in fine form with most men as fit as a fiddle. In fact, all men feel like Samson except for the unfortunate lack of Deilahs.

The Rats

The morale of 5 Platoon is high and we are all looking forward to our new home at the sharp end in Sarawak. Our chiefs have both had injuries; Lt. Jackson has water on the knee and Sgt. Close jumped on a wooden spike that penetrated his jungle boots and went into his foot. Both are well on their way to recovery. We congratulate Pte. Collins on becoming the proud father of a baby girl. We wish Pte. Orchard, who has departed from our midst to join the Assault Pioneers, the very best of luck.

The Rollicking Farmers

The "Pig and Chicken" is regrettably not the name of a pub, but are the two latest additions to 6 Platoon. They are both being fattened up for the Platoon barbecue to be held in the near future. Jimmy, our monkey, unfortunately escaped from the Arms Store and hasn't been seen since. Cpl. Knight, who was in and out of the M.R.S. here like a yoyo, was finally evacuated to a hospital in Brunei. We all wish him a speedy recovery. We congratulate L/Cpl. Foulger and Pte. Adams on the birth of a daughter and son respectively.

The Buffalo Hunters

The whole of 7 Platoon were chased by a herd of water buffaloes on the sixth day of Exercise "Red Rover." Luckily we can all climb trees. A soldier's comment on Exercise "Comfort Stop" (a wet, two-day ambush exercise), was "the longest and coldest bath he had ever had." We congratulate L/Cpl. Sturgeon and Pte. Venmore on the birth of a son and daughter respectively.

The Hard Core

We welcome the arrival of Lt. Cockram, L/Cpl. Beer and Pte. Burr to Company H.Q. Our Company Clerk, L/Cpl. Laine, is actually going out on his second exercise. On the last exercise he learnt to distinguish a coconut tree from a banana tree. Let us hope he learns a bit more this time. We congratulate Pte. Burr on becoming the proud father of a baby boy, and L/Cpl. Staples on his promotion. The Mortar Section are in good form, although they placed a bomb a bit near the C.O. for comfort. They were doing some field firing when something went wrong with the "Bedding In."

"C" COMPANY

Back at last

Lieutenant Clive St. John Perry arrived back on June 17th. He has been away on courses and leave in England.

The Borneo War

Doubtless all the U.K. and Hong Kong readers will have read about the Malik and Tun Rascak peace talks. There is no doubt that President "Bung" Sukarno is crashing BUT don't get ideas that everything is finished out here. Far from it. There are all kinds of "open activity" out here and we will be kept busy till the end of the year.

Busy?

Yes, the Company has been very busy, jungle training and other training; highlights of this have been:

Ex Red Rover

A six-day tramp of the whole Company, complete with ammo, food, special equipment, etc., over 3,000 feet in height, was marched over through woods, much creeping and crawling and a final punch at a target with real ammo. A first-class exercise which brought a climax to our main training period. We reckon we are all fit now, with our oldest soldier, Sgt.-Major Histed, as fit as anyone. He has removed his "T.A. girth" as he calls it. Twelve stone 8 lbs.



(Top) Battalion H.Q.; (middle) Cpl. Last and L/Cpl. Haverson; (lower) R.Q.M.S. Todd, Sgt. Marshall, S.Q.M.S. Heath, Sgt. Potts ("and family!").

he weighs as against 14 stone 7 lbs. when last a P.S.I. with 4 Buffs!! So, all you overweight people in U.K., join the Queen's Own Buffs and come to Borneo if you have weight problems.

River crossings

A big bash at this. Many soldiers have come to grief in Borneo rivers (some of these are nearly a mile wide at their mouths). Many flow at a murderous rate. We reckon we can just about float our kit across the water, swim out ropes and finally wade through Mangrove Swamp. The latter is a *** to say the least. 11 Platoon know what it is like to be dropped off a further 300 yards away from the target.

Welcome from Hong Kong

Our follow-up party of Sgt. Ongley, Cpl. Moore, Pte. Stratford and Pte. Thomas have joined us. All very welcome and much needed reinforcements.

New arrivals from U.K.

A hearty welcome to Ptes. McGregor, Goldup, Parnell and Murray. The latter served for four years with 4 Buffs (T.A.). He is already turning out a first-class soldier and all of them have been well trained at the Depot.

Mt. Kinabalu

This is the mountain that dominates all our training area and the camp. It is a most impressive feature and reminds the writer of how Mt. Kenya looked from Nanuyki. "C" Company sent an expedition of five men (and taking a further two men from the Recce Platoon) to climb it on June 13th. The mountain is 13,500 feet high. One drives to a point about 6,000 feet up the mountain where the National Park stands. One is bound to take a guide and you pay a small sum of money for the privilege to climb the mountain and use any of the mountain rest huts: our party climbed to about 11,000 feet on the first day and reached the summit at 0600 hrs. on the second day; we think we are the first party ever to climb it with an A41 radio set. We beamed through the news to Battalion H.Q. (in gasps) that we were at the top. In all, the jaunt takes two days; half the time is spent in driving from Camp to the foot of the mountain and back again. On the return, 35 miles of twisting, muddy road took six hours.

Sport

We have played two inter-Company games this month. Our soccer side beat "A" Company 7-0; the best result for a year. The hockey side lost to the Battalion hockey side 5-2 on the local village Padang. The game was played in conditions similar to that of the Eton Wall game! 9 Platoon beat 10 Platoon at soccer for the first time in four years by four goals to one. A big party followed! Lastly, we drew 1-1 at soccer with the local Kota Belud soccer side. A good result as they possess, amongst others, the all-Malaysian goalkeeper. Finally, rugby. No match yet, but in a week's time the Company play the rest of the Battalion. The Battalion have a very good side and we will be pleased to win. After the match a team will be selected to play the Christopher Holmes-Smith XV in the Sabah Capitol. Buff readers will remember that Chris was a National Service Officer in Wupertal who had a very distinguished B.A.O.R. rugby record.

Finale

Next month will find us in the operational area. It will be interesting to see what happens. Let us hope we have not wasted one year of training. Remember we started jungle training in Germany last July on "Ex Grand Cross."

H.Q. COMPANY

During June most of us in H.Q. Company have spent a night in the jungle, so that we now know what it is like. We are not quite as much in the dark as we were when the rifle companies talk about swing-bridges, leeches and bashas. Whether anyone in the party really knew where they basha'ed up on the map, is quite a different matter.

We have witnessed two big events in Kota Belud during June; first the races in which Pte. Bailie, of the Quartermaster's Department, rode a pony aptly named Buff and Blue. The Corps of Drums performed between races and, in the words of the Sabah Times, "played magnificent tattoos." We are not sure whether this referred to the music or to Drummer Taylor's tattoos! The Drums also played at the King's Birthday Parade where the salute was taken by the Dato Nuar. The second big event was the Tanu Besar. This is the annual agricultural fair where produce is judged and local handicrafts are sold.

Most of the company have now been on R and R (Rest and Recuperation) in Jesselton. The stories brought back from an establishment known as The Shamrock Hotel are unprintable. Anyone requiring further information should consult the cooks (single ones only—the married ones are not admitting anything). The manager had previously written assuring us that all customers would be satisfied. Certain members of the company were fortunate enough to be stranded in Jesselton for an extra night when the river was too high for a vehicle to go down and collect them (rumour has it that they bribed the driver to say this).

A description of the ascent of Mount Kinabalu appears elsewhere.

By the time we write our next notes we shall have moved to another station in East Malaysia. If you want to know where it is and when we are moving, ask the company charwallah. Some members of the company do not know where they are now, let alone where they are going next!

Orderly Room Jottings

Unfortunately, owing to pressure of work, the Orderly Room has little to offer this month in the way of choice titbits and gossip, etc. Contrary to Battalion thinking we have been very busy, as can be seen from the ends of the fingers of our two redoubtable typists, Ptes. Fitzgerald and Spice; unlike some departments of Headquarter Company where Scrabble-playing Sergeant-Majors can be seen flogging the dictionary at all hours of the day.

Our mountaineering contingent arrived back safely from the distant heights of Mt. Kinabalu, but unfortunately only Cpl. George Young made it to the top. Pte. Les Spice was stricken with an attack of galloping mountain height fever at about nine thousand feet; not a bad effort for a beginner. Pte. Terry Fitzgerald has also been stricken with the climbing fever and an account of his daring exploits will be made known to readers next month. The only two members of the staff who remain relatively sane are the O.R.Q.M.S., W.O.II "Tug" Wilson, and yours truly, L/Cpl. Hank Isenberg, who both get air sick whilst climbing from the road to the office.

Most of the staff have, during the past fortnight, enjoyed a short period of rest and recuperation down amidst the fleshpots of Jesselton. Cpl. Mick Manning went down for the racing and hasn't been the same since. Ptes. Randall (who has now left us to serve the Adjutant's dinner in the Officers' Mess) and Rust came back with a vivid account of the Shamrock Hotel and a broad smile. Cpl. George Young and Pte. Spice spent a quieter day than most by going fishing in one of the nearby streams and came back with the usual fisherman's tale of the one that got away. Unfortunately, our lord and leader, Captain Mike Clinch, always turns a blind eye and refuses to listen whenever the O.R.Q.M.S. begs to be allowed to visit Jesselton on "business."

Intelligence Section

Heigh ho, heigh ho, he's got to go.

Trail blazers ? ? ?

During a recent map reading exercise, two members of the section, Dopey and Happy, had the notable achievement of misleading one of the Battalion tracker teams for two hours. After being run to earth and explanations given our two were very popular with the tracker team.

Battle of Wits (Ops versus Int)

Several Battalion exercises took place during the month, one of which involved Tac H.Q. moving out. From the section Snow White and Doc were personally involved. This particular exercise was notable on two counts. First, Snow White located a lot of his missing kit which had been taken into safe keeping by Sleepy. Secondly, during the "mucking about" phases, a battle of coded messages developed between Snow White and Grumpy. Being gallant I will declare honours even.

Treks to Unexplored Places

Snow White led an expedition including Doc, Sleepy, Happy, Bashful, Poison Apple and Wicked Witch to Jesselton. Security forbids further reporting on the expedition. Sneezy with the aid of Dopey held the fort during this period.

Comments

The section seems to be involved in gathering all available news items on Africa; conclusion, possibly J---y is the reason for this.

Sneezy/Sterpovision has now permanent 3D vision. No longer does the normal pin-up satisfy him, but show him an aerial photograph and watch out.

Wanted

1. English interpreter required to assist Malay interpreter.

2. Dictionary urgently required by Snow White to show to section. Heigh ho, heigh ho, we'll soon be off to ? ? ? ?

Quartermaster's Staff—Hellos and Goodbyes

Since our last time of writing there has been an increase in our numbers on the staff as a result of the New Single Accounting System, and we take this opportunity of welcoming with their nicknames W.O.II (Slim Jim) Porter, the Acn. Chief, and his Block Holders, Cpls. (Jack) Pitchers, Vic (Dumpty) Kemp, George (as yet unnamed) Cook and Ray (Bingo) Glyde; also our new armourer, Staff Sgt. (Emer's) Kingdom, Cpl. Bill (Odds On) Courcha, the ammo storeman, and finally Pte. Pete (Mailman) Marriott, the new G1098 storeman. We hope that their stay will be a long and pleasant one.

We once again have some goodbyes: this month two, and they are S/Sgt. (Tiffany) Lumbard, R.E.M.E., from the Armourer's Shop, who is leaving us for civvy street, and also L/Cpl. (Pop) Wraight, from the G1098 store who, like

Tiffany Lumbard, is civvy street bound; only this time he is heading for a life of farming in Australia. We wish them both the very best of luck in the future.

News and Views together with Nonsense

The start of our tour in Borneo seems to be going well, with various members of the staff showing us their "better" sides and we think these paragraphs will show a little of what we mean. Perhaps the best place to start with is the Armourer's Shop with the sign up "Under New Management," and much praise must go to S/Sgt. (Emer's) Kingdom for doing a grand job of taming those terrible unrelated twins, namely L/Cpl. (Andy) Poynter and (Tubby) Keith St. John. Perhaps they do still have some of their charm left, however, as they managed to get away on a couple of days R and R leave at Jesselton. The full story of their visit to the city is not known, but we are told that the town will never be the same. The only evidence that we have is that Andy was on guard the night of his return and some of his remarks were ghastly; we feel sure that H.Q. Company C.S.M.'s ears must still be burning. Andy was found the next morning to be prone on his bed and just about alive.

Art of Painting

The members of the Pioneer shop have from somewhere obtained a craze for what they call "Art." At the moment we are not sure who they are trying to copy; it could be either Picasso or Van Dyke. The instigators are Cpl. Dave Dearden, Ptes. Spud Murphy and that short, little Red Man, Ginger Tobin. The only thing that the rest of the staff have to say for it is "Help!"

Q.M.'s Jockeys

We have two jockeys within the staff, Pte. Bob Bailie, the official one, and Brian (Bronco) Horrex, unofficial. Dealing with the official one first, Bob Bailie put us on the map by managing to get three rides in the local Horse Racing Meeting. Unfortunately, he did not get very good horses and was unable to get in the first three, but he did very well indeed—even though the R.Q.M.S. lost a couple of dollars on him. Our unofficial jockey, Bronco Brian Horrex, came in from one of his nights up at the N.A.A.F.I. watching the film, etc., etc., and in the middle of the night wanted to ride one of the local cattle. From the noise that went on we don't think that he succeeded though rumour still has it that he intends to do so before he leaves. Our advice—"Brian, don't do it," you will only find yourself put down for the tracker team.

Mis and Dis

There has not in the past been a lot said about our dear old mate, Pte. Albert Bassett, our man in charge of the Rat, Mice and Mosquito catching squad. He is, we are glad to say, still around during non-working hours though he always manages to be—shall we say—missing, whenever the R.Q.M.S. requires him. This could, no doubt, be due to the hermit life he lives (we think) with the Char-wallahs. Albert's excuse is that there are too many mosquitos in Paradise Camp, Kota Belud. Q.M.'s remarks—"No Comment."

Father Bill

Our new D.A.D., of course, is Bill (Odds On) Courcha. From his nickname you will see that he is rather fond of a flutter on the GG's. But nevertheless he manages to keep us all in check and on odd occasions manages to beat Tony McLeod at badminton.

Sport

Our Clerk, Cpl. Ray Child, shook the whole staff, including the Q.M., by refusing to referee a football match down in Kota Belud—this was due, we think, to the fact that it was raining cats and dogs (as usual) and the pitch was covered in three inches of water. Before we leave him, it is rumoured that he is the scribe for this department and although we cannot confirm this we reckon after these notes his life may well be in danger.

Badminton

The staff now has a thriving badminton following, and the Q.M. and R.Q.M.S. can quite often be seen heading towards the court to do battle. There have been a couple of singles matches between Cpl. Teddy Bear Vale, our champion, and the Q.M.; the results of the matches are still on the Secret list.

Hockey-wise the Q.M. was to be heard the other day muttering oaths about the weather. This is as a result of the last hockey match in which he played at K.B. when he arrived wearing Omo white shorts and within a matter of minutes he was carrying around half the pitch on them. All offers by the Pioneers to paint them black for the next time were given the cold shoulder. We can now say with all sincerity that there is no truth in the rumour that the Q.M. was offering \$1.00 per ball for all his golf ball's lost on the airfield!



THE JUNE RACES AT KOTA BELUD

(Top): Mr. Tom Jackson and Mr. Michael Butler chatting with Mr. Tom McInnes (World Health Organisation) and Mr. Will Sykes (Voluntary Service Overseas).

(Middle): Pte. Bob Bailie taking advice from his trainer before the sixth race. His mount was aptly named "Buff and Blue."

(Lower): C/Sgt. Mace discussing points with "Pop," who had two horses running that day. "Pop" also owns the local restaurant.

W.O.s and Sgts. Mess

It is, perhaps, incomprehensible to readers that these notes should start with a report that after eight months we can boast that the Sgts. Mess is now complete under one roof. This, however, is not quite true if we consider those members left behind in the fleshpots of Kowloon. All Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the Rifle Companies and of H.Q. are accommodated in the Sgts. Mess lines, notwithstanding a certain amount of overcrowding which is perhaps after all designed to add a certain amount of spice to our communal way of life.

The mess consists of two buildings which, like all other permanent buildings in Paradise Camp, are of the basic corrugated iron construction. One such building serves as a Bar/Ante Room and the other as a Dining Room and Bar store. Suffice to say that the furnishings are adequate to meet our simple needs and requirements.

Kota Belud serves as a jungle training area and, therefore, many periods are spent away from camp and away from the basic comforts provided. The Corps of Drums, Recce Platoon and Assault Pioneers join the Rifle Companies for the majority of training and the strength is often reduced to a mere handful.

Crib, Chess and Scrabble are popular pastimes and films from time to time serve to break the monotony and boredom during off duty hours of those few engaged upon less hazardous and strenuous training. In fairness, it should be mentioned that those to which the foregoing refers, keep themselves fit playing volley ball in the form of 60-minutes' sessions every afternoon.

R.Q.M.S. Fred Gooch, of the 2nd Malaysian Rangers, resplendent in his terylene O.G., paid us a short visit at the week-end June 10/12th. He was looking very fit and reports finding his new appointment sometimes hectic but educational and interesting. 2nd Malaysian Rangers are moving shortly to KKB, undoubtedly familiar with some of our readers, and he expects his wife to join him there.

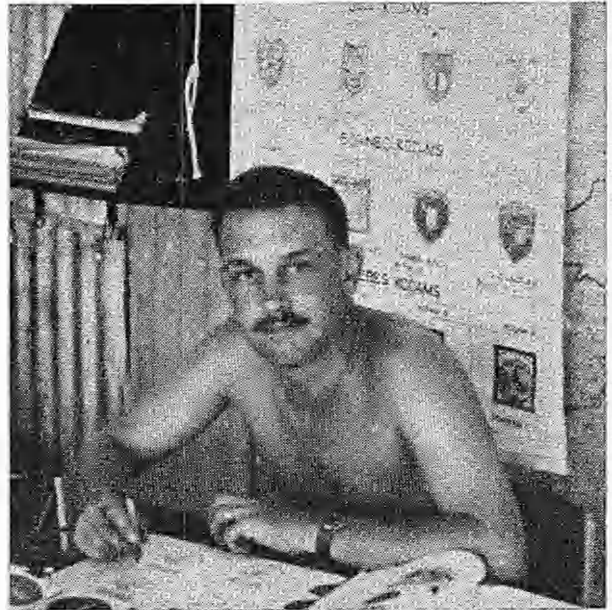
During the month we learned of the sudden death, whilst working at his desk in Kuala Lumpur, of Brigadier Gwilliam and of the tragic death by drowning, during the recent rainstorms in Hong Kong, of Tony Keenan, the youngest son of Sgt. and Mrs. Keenan. News of these tragedies remind us that in the midst of life there is death and the world is a sadder place for their passing. We extend our sympathies to both families.

R and R leave is defined as recreation and rehabilitation leave. Those members who have ventured away from Kota Belud on the doubtful pretext of pursuing such, appear still to be in need of the rehabilitation on their return. Maybe a day and a night are not long enough.

By the time we submit our next contribution for inclusion in the journal we will have packed our stores and kits, etc., once again and have moved to our new station. The Regiment's history since 1961 is packed with reports of such preparation and moving to the point where it has become commonplace and unusual not to be doing so. It adds variety and keeps us on our toes.

Mess members serving with the Battalion in Borneo fit into the Battalion Orbat as shown below:

R.S.M.:	W.O. I Mills		
R.Q.M.S.:	W.O.II Todd		
O.R.Q.M.S.:	W.O.II Wilson		
D/Major:	W.O.II Clarke, M.B.E.		
M.T. W.O.:	W.O.II Williams		
M/Cook:	S.Q.M.S. Heath, A.C.C.		
Armourer:	S/Sgt. Kingdom, R.E.M.E.		
P.T.I.:	S.I. Tiltman, A.P.T.C.		
Fitter Sgt.:	Sgt. Arnold, R.E.M.E.		
Pay Sgt.:	Sgt. Marshall, R.A.P.C.		
Sigs. Sgt.:	Sgt. Horton, R. Sigs.		
Cook Sgt.:	Sgt. Prudom, A.C.C.		
"A" Company	"B" Company	"C" Company	
W.O.II: Parker	W.O.II: Rickwood	W.O.II: Histed	
C/Sgt.: Batchelor	Sgts.: White, C/Sgt.: Simmonds	Sgts.: Prudence	
Sgts.: Jephcott	M.M. Sgts.: Prudence	Ongley	
Watchous	Leiper	Gill	
Guillame	Close	Riddlestone-	
Watson	Burr	Holmes	
Giles			
	H.Q. Company		
W.O.II: Spalding	W.O.II: Billett		
C/Sgt.: Barrell (Sigs.)	C/Sgt.: Mace (Mess Steward)		
Pooley (M.T.)	Sgts.: Athawes (Sigs.)		
Sgts.: Mogford	Ward (Int. Sec.)		
(Asslt. Pnrs.)	Major (Int. Sec.)		
Marshall (Recce. Pl.)	Russell		
Samson (Drums)	(Mess Caterer)		
Potts (Messing)	Naylor (Training)		
Worthy (Pro. Sgt.)			



Sgt. Ward, of the Intelligence Section, in action.

Tail Piece

English School,
Taginambur
Kota Belud.
17.6.1966.

The Drum Major,
Dear Sir,

On behalf of all the pupils and teachers of the above school we, the pupils of Primary Six, wish to say "Thank you" to you and your band for the delightful music and marching which we have heard and seen this morning.

We hope you will come to Taginambur some other time.

Yours sincerely,

Timbun	Utam	Seupin	E. Meilih
Danan	Laimin	Surep	C. Lebia
Ladsin	R. Luni	R. Setia	M. Michael
Deukin	Y. N. Laim	J. Gibah	Dumil
Sanih	Sicychol	J. Kumin	Misik
Iging	Yauggau	Meilin	

THE ASCENT OF MOUNT KINABALU—H.Q. COMPANY

From Paradise Camp, Kota Belud, one has a breathtaking view over the plains and foot-hills to Mount Kinabalu, the haunted mountain worshipped by the Dusun or Kadazan people of Sabah and at 13,455 feet the highest mountain in Malaysia. Ever since our arrival at Kota Belud various people had talked of climbing it, but it was left to a party from Headquarters Company to pioneer the ascent.

Early on a Sunday morning the party of eight set out in a long wheel based Landrover from Paradise Camp. After an hour's journey along the tarmac road towards Jesselton, the capital of Sabah, we turned off along the Ranau Road, the "main" road between Jesselton and the market garden district of Ranau. The 30-mile journey took three hours which included a short stop at a kampong where we were able to buy bananas at six for 10 cents. (2½d.) and pineapples for 40 cents. (1/- each). Our medical orderly, L/Cpl. Hu Siu Lang, kept up his spirits for the rest of the journey by thinking of the mass of bananas he was going to buy on the way back.

At mid-morning we arrived at Kinabalu Park Headquarters; the mountain is in a large National Park. The Headquarters, at 4,700 feet, consists of huts for the park ranges and a small youth hostel, where our driver was to spend the night.

After a quick lunch and having hired sleeping bags and employed a guide (which is compulsory) and two porters, we set out in the Landrover for the road-head at



The H.Q. Company party at Sayat-Sayat hut (12,500ft.) on Mt. Kinabalu.

6,000 feet. The porters, though not essential, are useful for carrying odd items such as cameras and for staying with anyone who has to fall out and stay at a hut en route. Our plan was to climb to 11,000 feet on the first day, stay the night in a hut, complete the ascent in the early morning of the second day and climb down to the road-head by mid-day. It was essential to reach the summit shortly after dawn because it is usually obscured by cloud by nine o'clock for the rest of the day. In addition we had to start the return journey by road by two o'clock because the road is closed to traffic at both ends at that time, so that all vehicles are off the road by nightfall.

The first part of the climb is up an almost vertical staircase made of narrow logs, many of which are rotten and give way when one steps on them. The path is marked off in chains and this staircase continues for 30 chains, when it gives way to steps cut in the hill and supported by logs. The stairs and steps seem never-ending and are extremely tiring. On either side of the route is thick "moss forest," the true jungle having stopped at 6,000 feet. After about two hours we reached the first hut, Layang-Layang, at 8,700 feet. At this point one of the party unfortunately had to give up and stay at the hut as his ankle, which he had sprained some time previously, was troubling him. After a short pause we continued up the track. There were no more steps and the route was now up a steep hillside with occasional short level or downhill stretches. Half an hour after leaving the hut, a second member of the party had to turn back as he was too exhausted to continue. The remaining six of us pressed on and reached Panar Laban Hut (11,000 feet) at about 5.30 in the evening, four and a quarter hours after leaving the road-head. There are two small aluminium huts, which had been carried up the hill. Each has wooden bunks for twelve people and a small kitchen with a kerosene stove. Crockery and cooking utensils are supplied; all one has to bring is food and kerosene. Having eaten the supper meal from our 24-hour packs we were in bed by 7.30. It was at this stage that some members of the party were discussing how much they would need to bribe the guide to give them a certificate to say that they had reached the summit!

Reveille on the second day was at 4.30 and, having tried unsuccessfully to boil a cup of tea, we set out at five o'clock for the final stage of the ascent. From 11,000 feet onwards there is little vegetation. The route starts up a steep gully and then comes out on to the steep, bare rock-face. We started by torchlight, but after the first half-hour the sun had risen and we could see where we

were going. As we climbed higher we had to make more frequent halts owing to the thin air. After an hour we passed the top hut, Sayat-Sayat (12,500 feet), a small hut which accommodates only four people. The porter had refused to continue above Panar Laban, so we had to carry our own cameras, but we had left our packs at the hut.

Soon after this we came out on a wide open granite slope from which four peaks, all of which are over 13,000 feet high, rise up, and at last we came in sight of Low's Peak—the highest. The last 200 feet was a scramble over large granite boulders. We reached the summit at about 7.15, and inscribed our names in the book which is kept in a tin cemented into the highest point. It was slightly hazy and to the south, in the direction of Indonesia, one could only see the tops of the hills poking out above the clouds, but to the north-west we could clearly see Brunei and Labuan Island. Unfortunately, Victoria Peak barred our view of Kota Belud, so we were unable to see people waving to us.

When we recovered our breath we started down the mountain and after one and a half hours we were back at Panar Laban hut where we had breakfast and collected our kit. At 10 o'clock we were off again and were down at Layang-Layang in one and a half hours. By this time a torrential rainstorm had descended on us which made the track slippery and somewhat hazardous. Whilst we were waiting for the weather to improve a party arrived looking just like a scene from a 19th Century travelogue. First to arrive was a guide, followed by a man in mountaineering kit who turned out to be a Dutch botanist. He was followed by two porters, then came an Oriental gentleman, presumably a companion to the Dutchman, followed by a further two porters. All the porters carried vast baskets on their backs and immediately on arrival at the hut started unpacking dry kit for the party and arranging their belongings. They intended taking three days over the ascent, moving from one hut to the next each day. They clearly thought we were quite mad going up and down in twenty-four hours with packs on our backs and in soaking wet clothes.

Shortly before one o'clock we were back at the road-head. Having collected our precious certificates we were off in the Landrover on the return journey.

No knowledge of rock climbing is needed to reach the summit of Mount Kinabalu, but it is a hard walk and scramble—harder than we had expected. We felt a sense of achievement at having reached the top, but all of us agreed that we would not do it a second time.

News From The Territorial Battalions



"As I was saying to the Mayor only the other day . . . !" Col. Tilleard in conversation with Lt.-Col. Neville, while (with his back to camera) Major Johnson, Brigadier Buckland and Lt.-Col. Willows wait for the rest of the story!

Photo: "Kentish Gazette."

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

AS this year's Annual Camp was the last one for us as 4th Bn. The Buffs (T.A.), and indeed probably the last Camp of any kind for some of us individually, we all had a quiet hope that it would be a really good one to mark in a happy way the end of a long and worthwhile era, and a good one indeed it was. Most important of the things outside our control, first the weather, was not only kind but indeed bountiful with no rain and really hot sunshine for most of the daylight hours, and second, we went to Camp at Stanford PTA in Norfolk, which is almost certainly the most universally popular camping location of all to which we have been. The Colonel set the tone of the Camp when he said at the outset that he wanted everyone to work hard and play hard and it is only right to say that the great majority achieved this.

The only cloud to mar and blacken our camp was the news of the death of our erstwhile Brigade Commander, Brigadier Twink Gwilliam. He was not only liked and respected by all ranks, he had become a friend to many of us and his loss will be felt in villages and towns throughout Kent. We send our most sincere sympathy to his family.

Training

On the training side the Training Major, Cecil West, had been to great pains to prepare a programme which was testing and effective and yet which never got so ambitious as to be disassociated from basic practical values and thanks to this the training went smoothly and profitably throughout.

The Battalion assembled at Stanford during the afternoon of 28th May and it is indeed a sign of the times that everyone travelled to camp by car either as driver or passenger and that hardly a man required a railway warrant. The Saturday evening was given over to shaking down but first thing Sunday morning a Battalion parade was held when the Training Major gave a most lucid exposition of the future of the Territorial Army and the

Government's proposal for the Reserve Forces, at the end of which every member of the Battalion was asked to indicate by means of a Form of Declaration of Intent, whether he intended to soldier on and if so, on what basis. The results so far as T. and A.V.R.II was concerned were encouraging, 80 applying to join "Volunteer" units. The response to T. and A.V.R. III—i.e., the new Territorials—was, however, frankly disappointing and there seems no doubt that the reason for the apparent apathy towards this can be attributed to the fact that at the moment the Territorials are so patently an impoverished relation of the Volunteers. If it is to get off the ground T. and A.V.R. III needs a stiff shot in the arm consisting of assurances of better equipment and a far less confined role, plus a re-appraisal of the pay side which at the moment is parsimonious in the extreme.

First week training was taken up initially with cadre courses for N.C.O.'s and various specialists and quite excellent training was given in all fields. This was all very skilfully geared to the reorganisation. In particular, great strides were made in the field of signals instruction for both signallers and driver/operators with quite good results which proved their value over and over again in the 24 hour exercise at the end of the first week and the 48 hours exercise during the second. The one cadre which did not go according to plan was that on the anti-tank gun because British Railways never got down to delivering the gun so our detachment had the frustrating experience of sharing a Mobat with other detachments. On the N.C.O.'s cadre we had some 5 Buffs (T.A.) junior N.C.O.'s and we hope they enjoyed and benefited from their time with us.

Friday of the first week was spent on a 24 hour patrolling exercise which was extremely successful because everyone on it had something definite to do and no one was overloaded with too much. Good numbers on the ground were achieved by denuding the camp of rear details. The R.A.P.C. element, led by the intrepid Paymaster, volunteered for sharp end duties and a particularly satisfying moment in the exercise occurred when Pte. Scott, R.A.P.C., on returning to his patrol base area from a successful ambush, thrust his rifle barrel out at a Buffs comrade who had chaffed him at an earlier stage with references to the mightiness of the pen in relation to the sword, and said "There, get the feel of that — red hot!"

Battalion Headquarters was deployed on a skeleton basis to act as a centre for the umpire net and all present there were greatly entertained throughout the exercise by Pte. "Mahout" Henderson and the antics of his "elephant" — a creature on the lines of the fictitious rabbit "Harvey."

The exercise had been most carefully prepared by the 2IC, Major R. F. Johnson, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all taking part. The Adjutant on this occasion acted as umpire to H.Q. Company (H.Q. Company in this battalion also train to march and patrol) and during a lull in activity he set out to build himself a leafy bower. Fortunately the work was taken out of his inept hands by W.O.II Noyes who constructed an arboreal ideal home where the Adjutant was able to recline at ease like a babe in the wood. This mellowed him and he even remarked that the "compo" tasted better. Perhaps Sgt. Arthur, who was acting as C.Q.M.S., managed to disguise the flavour!

The Padre (Rev. N. G. O'Connor) took an active part in this exercise in organising the troops' cigarettes. He also took a keen tactical interest in everything going on in the exercise and pointed out to the R.E.M.E. Recovery vehicle crew that their camouflage left a lot to be desired and that their wagon looked like a three ton vehicle with a camouflage net on it! Words failed Cpl. Bartlett at the time but appropriately enough in a Whitsuntide camp the gift of tongues descended upon him shortly afterwards. The Padre's double negative nearly upset the Command Post but the log settled the case and all ended well and he also learnt under the teaching of L/Cpl. R. Gawler how to send a Grid Reference over the radio.

On Sunday the two Battalions joined for morning Service conducted by the Padre. A large number attended this voluntary Service at which the Address was on a theme suitable to the occasion. Colonel D. J. Dean read the Lesson.

The second week continued in the same enjoyable manner. The school of infantry sent an A.P.C. and the 3 ton Command Post vehicle of the future for all the battalion to see and inspect, and the new weapons were produced for the men to fire, Carl Gustav, G.P.M.G. and Sterlings which were drawn from the Brigade pool.



"When shall we three meet again?" S/Sgt. Randall and Sgts. Turner and Siddaway appear to be re-enacting Shakespear's famous line.

Photo: "Kentish Gazette."

On Tuesday night, most of the battalion were out field-firing but came back to camp at midnight ready to move out early Wednesday morning on the second exercise which lasted 48 hours. In this the two battalions amalgamated and command changed regularly between officers of both battalions with agreeable smoothness. During the two days the R.A.F. carried out many air strikes and photo recon sorties. The resulting photographs were most enlightening and showed up the concealment mistakes. The speed that the aircraft travelled and the excellent air photos produced showed that the pilots were masters at their trade. The exercise finished at 0400 hours on Friday and the battalion returned to camp for cleaning arms and equipment and packing up for the return.

The R.A.M.C. personnel joined the R.S.M.'s parade one morning much to their surprise when they made the mistake of watching the battalion marching past with the band from the MI room. The stentorian voice of R.S.M. Newman ordered them to stop watching the parade and fall in behind. They did and remarked afterwards that they had enjoyed the march. Needless to say, they did not watch the parade again or at least if they did they did not let themselves be seen doing so!

Saturday, 11th June, was the last day and after an early reveille, all stores were handed in and a thorough clean-up of the camp undertaken so as to leave everything spick and span for our successors, 8/9 Royal Scots. This was completed by 0845 hours and the battalion paraded for dismissal by the Commanding Officer. With so many cars at camp, the exodus was more like a "Le Mans" start, but Pte. Drake excelled himself by getting one mile out of camp and running out of petrol. Thank goodness there were some Good Samaritans to come to his aid.

Drake was not the only one to be becalmed. Major Frank Johnson in his mini-car, with Captain Wallace as his passenger, was stranded when his engine over-heated. Any suggestion that the cause was overload is strongly refuted by Captain Wallace. The Good Samaritan in the case was the driver of a car delivery lorry returning empty from Norwich to London, who not only stopped to give advice but also lowered his ramps to give car, Major Johnson and Captain Wallace a lift to the nearest garage. The story put out by Major Johnson that Captain Wallace had to be tactically loaded on to the ramp to counter-balance the car is also refuted by the aforesaid Captain Wallace.

We were delighted to receive a visit from the Deputy Colonel, Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, G.O.C.-in-C Western Command, on Thursday, 2nd June. He visited the Battalion on training and also spoke to many when he visited the dining hall. In the evening before dining with the Officers he visited the W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess and spoke to all members. Other visitors were: Lt.-Gen. Sir David Peel Yates, G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, Maj.-Gen. Wyldbore-Smith, G.O.C. 44 (H.Q.) Div/Dist., and Brig. Norman, Chairman Kent Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association. Our Honorary Colonel, Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., O.B.E., T.D., J.P., came back on active strength of the battalion once again and stayed for four days with us using a hotel in Thetford as his operational H.Q. It gives a feeling of pride to see Col. Dean in our Battalion area wherever it is.

Social

On the social side too, both the Officers' and W.O.'s and Sergeants' Messes had full programmes.

The first event was a lunch party given by the W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess to the Officers on the first Sunday in Camp. This was a first class occasion with the most lavish hospitality in the form of every drink known and an excellent curry lunch which was greatly appreciated by all the guests. This hospitality was reciprocated when the W.O.s and Sergeants visited the Officers' Mess on the second Saturday for drinks, after which the members of both Messes sat down to a cold lunch together. It was felt right that the last full gathering of both Messes at Camp before the break-up of the Battalion should be made in this special way and everyone enjoyed it.

In the W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess.

On 1st June, Sgt. George, the Mess Caterer, celebrated his birthday. He was accorded honours by the Mess members, led by the musical skill of Sgts. Croxford, Mayall and Thorogood. The R.S.M.'s description of our beloved caterer had to be heard to be believed. Sgt. George cut his birthday cake and shared it with all present. May he enjoy many more 1sts of June.

The highlight was our Regimental Guest Night on Monday, 6th June. The guests included Lt.-Col. D. A. Willows, Major C. T. F. West, Major F. L. Griffiths, Major F. P. Cassidi (R.M.O.), Capt. J. P. Medicott, Major Dickenson, Brigade Major, 133 Inf. Bde., R.S.M. Mannerling, Royal Sussex, and C.S.M.'s Laird and Mirams, of 5 Buffs. Mr. Newman, of the "Kent Messenger," who had been a most delightful and companionable guest in the Mess during his visit to us, delayed his departure to stay for the dinner.

Officers' Mess

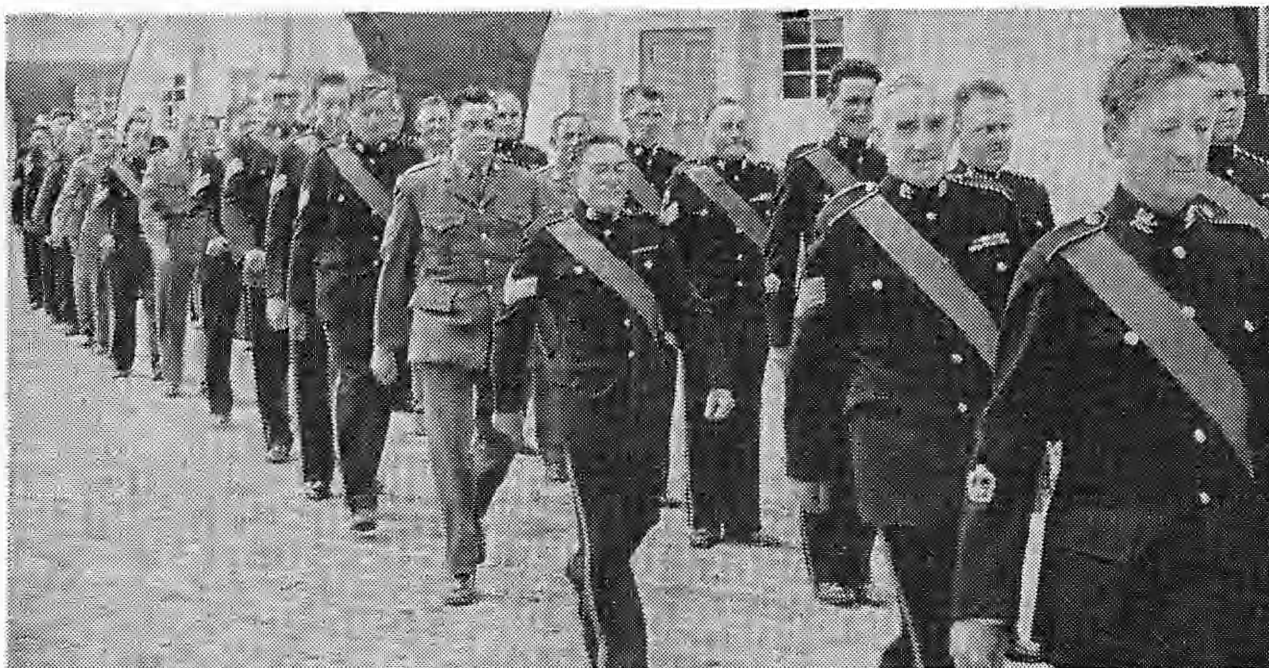
The Guest Night in the Officers' Mess was held on Thursday, 2nd June, when the principal military guest was the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, and we were also delighted to have with us, to



Sgt. Marshall offers a "pinta" to his brother-in-law, Cpl. Anderson.
Photo: "Kentish Gazette."



L/Cpl. Clarke (Sittingbourne) seen returning from a patrol on which he lost his beret (and, as a result, his name to the R.S.M.).
Acknowledgement: "Kent Messenger."



Marching to the beat of a drummer, Warrant Officers and Sergeants of 4th Bn. The Buffs make their way in traditional manner to the Officers' Mess for Sunday lunch.

Acknowledgement: "Kent Messenger."

mark our very happy associations and friendships in Norfolk, Lord Fisher, Major Archdale and Mr. Paul Hill. Col. Tilleard, Lt.-Col. Neville, Lt.-Col. Walker, Major Dickenson, the Brigade Major and Major Peter Leigh also honoured us by dining with us and we were only sorry that Lt.-Col. Peckham of the Queen's Own, so well known to so many of us, was not able to be present.

We were fortunate to have the services of Mr. Buxton, the H.C.B. Depot chef, for this function, who provided a perfect meal, and C/Sgt. Cole in his invariably faultless way supervised the laying out of the tables and the service of the meal.

The middle Sunday of camp was given over to a joint party by 4 and 5 Buffs in our Mess consisting of a champagne reception and lunch. The principal object of this was to welcome former members of both Regular and Territorial battalions and a great number made the hot and thirsty pilgrimage to Thetford. We were very delighted to see especially Col. Rodney Hews, Lt.-Col. Sandy Alexander, Major Geoffrey Cox, Lt.-Col. Peter Lewis and their ladies and many others at this gathering. We were also able to welcome our Norfolk friends as well to this occasion and we hope we were able in a small way to show how very much we have always appreciated the kind and warm welcome we have had from them all when in camp in Norfolk.

The organisation ran smoothly. 5 Buffs provided a magnificent cold table at the buffet lunch and we provided a curry, and judging by the monumental inroads into this the fare was greatly appreciated. It was very satisfying to put on a "good do" with our sister battalion and thanks are due to Major Balding of 5 Buffs for the way the integration was achieved.

On the final evening of camp some dozen members attended the Regimental dinner of which an account appeared in last month's *Invicta*. The journey to and fro

was made in a bus which we shared with 5 Buffs Officers. If one says that the journey to London through rush-hour traffic was achieved in the excellent time of three hours whereas the return journey (after a somewhat delayed start due to the difficulty of persuading various members of our sister Battalion that sufficient liquid refreshment was prestocked on the bus), over deserted roads, took four hours which included a refreshment halt where our friends displayed remarkable interest in, of all things, food, one leaves a lot unsaid, but perhaps this is for the best.

And, after a sentence of that length, I'm not surprised!
—Ed.

Band

The band excelled themselves at camp and were hard worked for they took part in the daily Battalion Parade, Officers' Mess and Sergeants' Mess functions, Brigade Headquarters Guest Night, for the troops' evening meal and played the Battalion back to camp after exercises. Even the Training Major appeared satisfied that they were doing their stint. On Sunday, 5th June, they gave a band concert in the Paine Memorial Gardens at Thetford which was greatly appreciated by residents and visitors alike. Apparently no other concert has been so well attended or appreciated.

Synopsis

In conclusion the following letter which the Colonel received since the return to Canterbury is an apt postscript to the last camp this battalion will attend.

From Lt.-Col. C. H. K. Corsar, T.D.,
Commanding 8/9 Royal Scots (T.A.)

"I write to thank you not only for the co-operation which you and your unit extended to my advance party, but also for leaving East Wretham camp in such an exemplary way that our marching in was made very easy. I should be most pleased if you will convey to all those responsible my warmest thanks."



A group from Folkestone.

Acknowledgement: "Kent Messenger."



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



The Deputy Colonel presents W.O.II D. Mirams with his Territorial Efficiency Medal.

Acknowledgement: "Isle of Thanet Gazette."

THE Battalion was at East Wretham 'B' Camp once again, for what can only be described as the unit's swan song in its present form. As was forecast in the May issue there is to be a Company Group of the Volunteers at Westwood, with a Territorial Company at Deal and Westwood, with Deal as the Territorial Battalion Headquarters. This heartening news has helped considerably in the first task of Camp, namely to take declarations of intent from all Territorial Army personnel attending it. This proved to be a major task, involving lots of paper and even more time, but the results are most encouraging and it seems fairly certain that we can meet our TAVR II requirements and possibly our TAVR III overheads as well. Briefing and interviews are necessarily a slow process and it is something of a relief to think that the job is well under way. The next problem, of course, is how to cope with those members of the Battalion who were not in camp. Clearly the PSO's motor mileage claim is going to be much inflated in the ensuing months!

Annual Camp, 1966, has gone well. The weather was kind and the training intensive and interesting, a fitting climax for the closing year of this Battalion. Visitors have been many and it has been nice to see a number of old faces.

Training in Malta

Lt. Brian Carte recently had the unique privilege of being attached to the Honourable Artillery Company for their camp at Ghajn Tuffieha, Malta, G.C.

The benefit of the first week's tough training programme at this marine commando camp was somewhat lost we gather by the social life! Hospitality was led by the Governor General and extended to all the H.A.C. by all the inhabitants of Malta! Major Robin Wright played a predominant part. During the second week visits were made to the R.A.F. at Lugna and the Naval Diving Centre where even James Bond might have met his match.

Each Company also went to Gozo for a 36-hour exercise. The hard ground excused the "digging in" part of the defensive exercise, but the rocky country was hard going especially at night. A 7½-mile route march back to the ferry for Malta made even the Commander of No. 4 platoon, H.A.C., long for some Malta-type beer at 4/- a pint! Morale was fantastically high in 2 Company and

after a few gins at 6d. a tot all the hard work was soon forgotten as they fell asleep on the sands 100 yards from camp!

Swing That Lamp

H.Q. Company has now handed in its Rangefinder and clinos, relics of the former Machine Gun Platoon at Westwood. From its early beginnings at Ramsgate, with such characters as Thompsett, the James brothers and Sgts. Isaacs and Evans, followed by the move to Sandwich and thence to Westwood, where its ultimate translation to the Recce Platoon was the natural course of events, the Machine Gun Platoon made its mark—and its successors are still doing so!

Handicap Down

Our golfing correspondent reports a satisfactory reduction in Captain Maurice Dewar's handicap. We congratulate him also on being selected to play tennis for the Army.

Imminent Departures

It is with great regret that we shall shortly lose both Captain John Jakob and Lt. Derrick Baldock, the former on "posting" to Northern Ireland (W.O.II Walters beware!) and the latter because of increased business commitments. Their help has been invaluable and they have our best wishes for the future.

Camp Notes

Detailed notes will be included in Company contributions later, but it must be recorded here how pleased we were that the Deputy Colonel, Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard W. Craddock, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., was able to visit the Battalion on 3rd June, 1966, during the opening stages of the Battalion exercise "Fancy Free." During his visit he was able to make the following presentations of awards:

Territorial Efficiency Medal: W.O.II Mirams; W.O.II Laird; Sgt. Smith, L. S.; Cpl. Kingston.

Meritorious Service Certificates: Sgt. Sharp, S.; Cpl. Sharpe, E.; L/Cpl. Billingham; L/Cpl. Redman.

T.A.E.R. Service Certificates: L/Cpl. Edwards; Pte. Graham; L/Cpl. McIntosh; Pte. Sullivan; L/Cpl. Warman; L/Cpl. Whitehall; L/Cpl. Willey.

Other visitors were Brigadier H. R. Norman, D.S.O., D.L., J.P., Chairman of the Kent Territorial Association, who came on 6th June with Brigadier H. King-Lewis, C.B.E., D.L., the Association Secretary, and Lt.-Gen. Sir David Peel Yates, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., O.B.E., the Army Commander, on the following day. The Army Commander spoke to all officers and men of the Training Company on the Field Firing Range at Great Carr, and afterwards lunched in the Officers' Mess at East Wretham. Finally, the Divisional Commander visited on 8th June in the field during the opening stages of the Battalion Exercise in the second week.

We were delighted to have Lt.-Col. David Cobb to stay with us for a few days and to see so many friends at the combined 4th and 5th Battalion cocktail party on the middle Sunday. We are most grateful to Mr. Christopher Faulkner for his culinary expertise on this occasion and for looking after us so well throughout the period of camp.

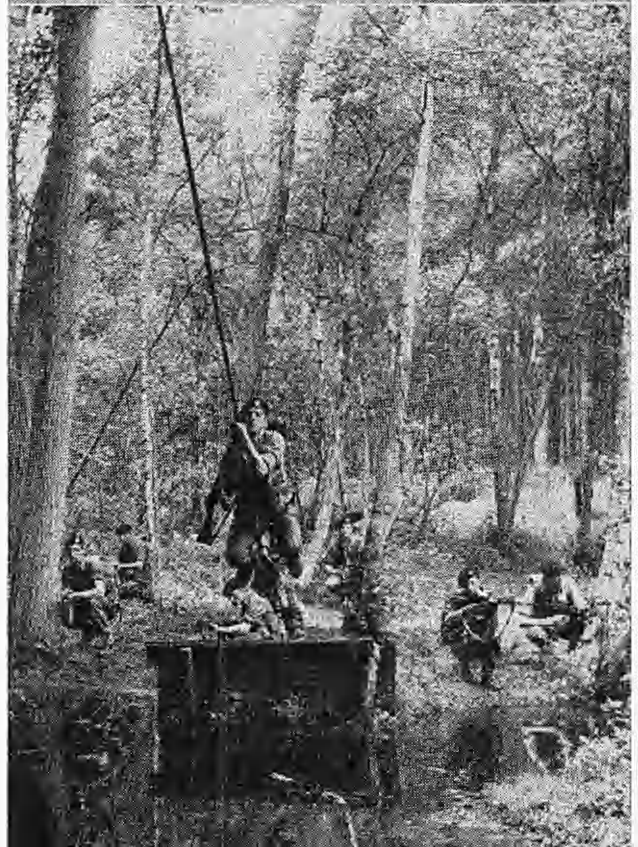
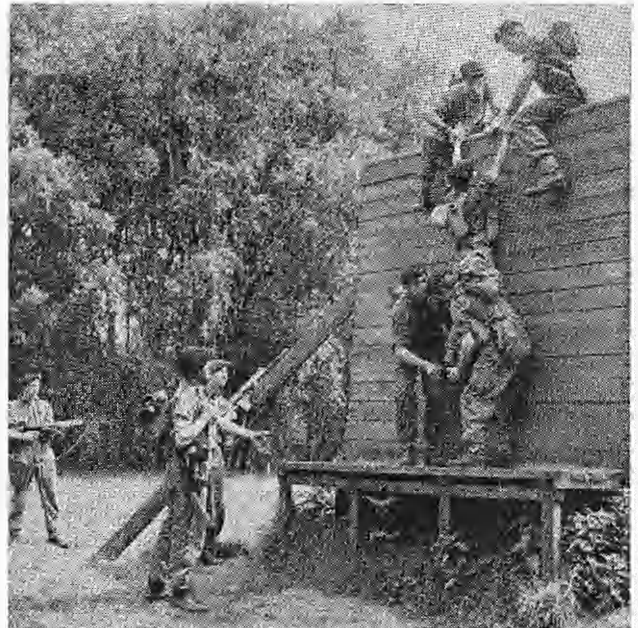
Other highlights were the emergence of Baddely's Private Army—also known by other names!—who provided the ever elusive enemy for both exercises. The Recce Platoon's fad of wearing hats ridiculous (as they are known in the trade) decorated with feathers brought a wry comment from one P.S.I., "What Recce Platoon? ... they look more like partridges camouflaged to look like soldiers." And last, but not least, the slick bath chair drill of certain very senior officers when put through their paces by the Padre. Other memorable moments were the Band's playing of Waltzing Matilda as Lt. Bruce Maughan led his contingent out of the camp en route for the final exercise, and the mystery of the hero of Frog Hill whose portrait was so expertly rendered by W.O.II Todd.

It was a great pleasure to have the Press visit us in camp and we are most grateful to Mr. Sivier and Mr. Hansford, of the "Isle of Thanet Gazette," for their splendid coverage, as always.

To end on a sad note, the tragic news of the untimely death of Brigadier "Twink" Gwilliam came as a great shock. To have received the news at annual camp, when only last year he was with us at Stanford P.T.A. made the moment all the more poignant. Our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Gwilliam and her family.

Rival for Pte. Newt?

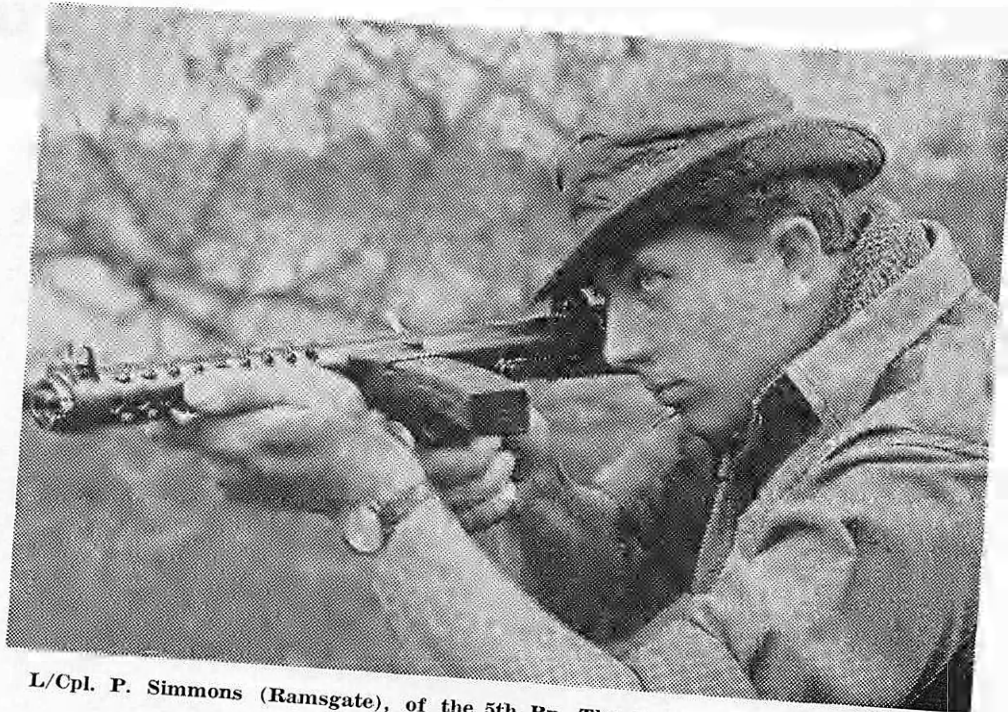
The emergence of Pte. Ed Quarter of this Battalion must surely constitute a serious threat to Pte. Newt, who has been singularly quiet of late. The activities of Pte.



Members of Training Company negotiating obstacles on the assault course.

Acknowledgement: "Isle of Thanet Gazette."

Ed Quarter are to be found in that interesting publication, "Ed's Gazette," which is circulating among H.Q. Company at Westwood. It is hoped to include some original contributions from Pte. Ed Quarter and possibly from that ace H.Q. Company reporter—otherwise fearless Fred Fleagle—if the Editor will allow.



L/Cpl. P. Simmons (Ramsgate), of the 5th Bn. The Buffs, waits for a target to appear during his walk through Sten Alley.
Acknowledgement: "Kent Messenger."



Training in river crossing becomes more interesting when the element of competition is introduced. This particular crossing was won by D Company, 5th Bn. The Buffs.
Acknowledgement: "Kent Messenger."

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



Field training with live ammunition for members of 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.).

Acknowledgement: "Kent Messenger."

AN immediate apology is due from us to our readers for the absence of any notes from this Battalion in the last issue. The writer's conscience is a little eased to find that he was in the good company of 5 Buffs (T.A.), who also found camp had rather overwhelmed them.

Camp has once again come and past, somewhat sadly this time since it is undoubtedly the last occasion when many of us will have the chance of serving together. It will be seen later on that we spent a happy and successful time together at Stamford. It was particularly pleasing to see the way everybody continued working hard and most have remarked on the complete lack of "the last camp" feeling. This augurs well for the new Reserves. It is perhaps unfortunate that the information about these new bodies available for us at camp was still scanty, and we hope that the Command structure will soon be available so that we can get ahead with the task of reorganisation.

Everybody in this Battalion was shocked and saddened to learn at camp of the death of Brigadier "Twink" Gwilliam. Some of us had had the pleasure of serving under his command in the 1st Battalion and all of us had come to know that bluff and happy figure whilst he commanded 133 Brigade. "Twink" was more than just a Brigade Commander to this Battalion; he was a man larger than life who had worked his way into our hearts. To Mrs. Gwilliam and her family we offer our sincere sympathy.

C.P. and Vehicle Recovery

One may perhaps be forgiven for wondering what mispent ingenuity went into the planning of the Brigade Signals Exercise at Pipingford Park. So far as this Battalion was concerned we were tested not merely in the deployment and setting up of Battalion Headquarters, and in our signals procedure, but also in our ability to drive through mud and along crumbling paths. On the way in, the last vehicle was dragged out of boggy ground by Brigade L.A.D. at 1.30 on Sunday morning. Unfortunately,

this was the Brigade Signals Squadron Rear Link vehicle, so from the Signals point of view the exercise never really got off the ground! The L.A.D., under W.O.I. Chiesman, did sterling work; on our return they had to recover from the mud every single one of the Battalion vehicles!

Support Weapons at Lydd

The same weekend that Bn. H.Q. sported themselves in the mud at Pipingford Park, the Battalion Support Weapons platoons were on the range at Lydd where, by all accounts, they had a successful weekend.

Changes in Headquarter Company

Sgt. Hesketh has now taken over as acting C.S.M., and Sgt. Howell has moved from the Assault Pioneer Platoon into the stores as acting C.Q.M.S.

Camp Kaleidoscope

Someone once said that "you do not have to be mad to be in the T.A., but it helps!" Throughout any camp that statement seems to have a lot of truth in it. When one returns home this is all forgotten; this year we have, in particular, pleasant memories of two weeks of playing hard and working hard. In retrospect memories come to mind and stand out. These do not always give a fair picture of a camp, but that, it is hoped, will be forgiven by readers of these notes. Visitors to camp at Bodney started on the first day with a journalist from the "Kent and Sussex Courier" and throughout our 14 days in Norfolk we seemed to have one or other of the gentlemen of the Press staying with us. They tried to understand our problems and our views and for once they managed to get their facts right!

Declarations of Intent

Our first task on the Sunday was the completion of those formidable forms whereby each volunteer staked his claim to a place in the new Reserves. After an hour's instruction from Jack Breadon, the chief clerk, most Company Commanders thought they understood how they were to be completed and started on the task of explaining the new reorganisation to each individual member of their Company. It now looks as though some 70 per cent. of the Battalion will be going to one or other of the new forms of reserve and one can only feel that this is very satisfactory, particularly as so many will have to travel as far afield as Hastings or Canterbury.

The first week of camp was devoted to improvement in our range techniques and to a number of exercises on a Company level. O.C. H.Q. Company dug out of his wardrobe the R.S.O.'s hat and with the aid of Sgt. Meacham ran a Signals Cadre for three days. This was devoted to producing sufficient 62 set operators to man the Battalion link during the second week. He distinguished himself by losing his voice completely by the end of the week—a fact which caused no end of delight to his Company.

Visitors

We were delighted to see a large number of visitors to us at camp. In particular we welcomed Sir Henry D'Avigdor-Goldsmid, our Honorary Colonel, who paid his first visit to the Battalion in Camp. He was suitably dined-in at a guest night in the Officers' Mess on Thursday. Earlier that day the Deputy Colonel, Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, visited us. He met the Sergeants in their Mess for a drink and then came up to the Officers' Mess for lunch.

Sergeants' Mess Regimental Dinner

For the first and last time the Sergeants' Mess held a Regimental Dinner at camp and entertained the C.O., the Company Commanders, the Adjutant and the Quarter Master. Later the rest of the Officers joined them for the usual high-jinks. Few—and certainly not Major Ken Watson—will forget this evening, nor the sight of O.C. A Company marching unsteadily to his bed with a dustbin lid for headgear! He just made his Company Lines for a Company photograph the following morning—and appeared to be smiling!

Middle Weekend

As we came to camp over Whitsun, the middle weekend was completely free; all and sundry dispersed to the more attractive fleshpots of Norfolk.

The Officers' Mess held a curry lunch on Saturday and entertained a number of old friends and departed en bloc to sail on the Norfolk Broads on Sunday. They ended up at Norwich, playing ten pin bowls!

A.P.T.C. to the Rescue

W.O.I. Strong, the Battalion's P.T. Instructor, assisted by Sgt. Everett, excelled themselves during the second week by cooking for the Sergeants' Mess—until they served gravy instead of custard! Thereafter the Sergeants dined out!

A special tribute must be paid to the Battalion cooks. At one stage the ravages of Bodney Throat and over-sharp cooking knives reduced their numbers to one—the redoubtable Sgt. Hinckley, who cooked for two days in the cookhouse on his own—with no complaints.

Exercise Whisky Galore

The ingenuity of Brigade Headquarters in thinking up names for exercises remains unabated. However, this exercise, which lasted three days, did not in any way live up to its title as it was a two-sided exercise against 4/5 Royal Sussex (T.A.). However, the weather was glorious and the only casualties were caused by insect bites; C/Sgt. Amber, of B Company, took the prize for the largest bump.

The exercise was run from a Joint Control Headquarters composed of elements of both battalions and commanded by Major Mike Devonshire, O.C. H.Q. Company. He produced, to improve good relations, a large and splendid Continental-type tent, appropriately enough in the Royal Sussex Regimental Colours of blue and orange, which was suitably used for the Officers' Mess. It was surprising how easily a joint organisation, which first arrived together in the exercise location and got to know each other there, sprang to life. With an O.C. and C.Q.M.S. from this Battalion and an I.O., R.S.O. and C.S.M. from the Royal Sussex, there could have been great difficulties. However, a completely integrated staff worked remarkably well and the only regret was that someone was not sticking a full strength Battalion in front of the Headquarters. This only proves that on reorganisation there should be little difficulty in getting the new reserves properly integrated.

Major Bill Murray "borrowed" the C.O.'s box and acted as Battalion Commander, his rich Scottish tones pursuing us round the training area!

Someone said that the Battalion had been at Stamford so often that you did not need a map to find your way around. O.C. A Company, Major Ken Watson, would hardly agree with this as he must be the only person who could mistake Redan Covert for Cardigan Plantation!

Pte. Mahoney, of D Company, the sole representative of the "I" Staff—the remainder being in Germany—managed to bring to a fine pitch the art of playing off Exercise Commanders against Force Commanders, with the result that the Fantasians were kept at bay and he had a peaceful exercise with more sleep than anybody else.

The Recce Platoon combined with that of the 4/5th Royal Sussex as a third force during this exercise. The Q.M. was worried about this as he feared he would never see his vehicles back intact. How right he was! Just to keep the two platoon commanders under control the R.S.M.'s of both Battalions were attached to them as umpires! One wonders now who became the bigger cowboys, the Recce Platoon Commanders or the two R.S.M.'s?

During one phase of the exercise, Control Headquarters were enlivened by the sudden arrival of three khaki clad gentlemen one of whom announced he was "Bosun from B.A.S.O." After some considerable consultation of "Staff Duties In The Field," it was realised that he was in fact from the R.A.F. and was controlling the air strikes which continuously kept us awake during the Exercise.

The Battalion has not been idle after its return from Camp. On the 14th June the Band and a party from "A" Company were at the Regimental Reunion at Maidstone.

On the 25th June, the Battalion Rifle Meeting was held at Milton and, to everyone's surprise the Inter Company Competition was won by H.Q. Company!

The results were: Bn. Champion Shot, 2/Lt. R. Crosher; Champion W.O./Sgt., C/Sgt. C. Amber ("B" Company); Champion Cpl., Cpl. Harris ("A" Company); Champion Private, Pte. Lee ("C" Company); Champion Young Soldier, Pte. Blake; L.M.G., C/Sgt. Sales and Sgt. Meacham (H.Q. Company); Falling Plate, "A" Company; Officers v. Sgts. Falling Plate, Officers (by what foul means is not known); Champion Company, H.Q. Company.

Tailpiece—Heard at Milton.

"Sir, can I leave early as I am off to Mecca in two hours." Speaker, Captain Jim Gibbs, who now flies for Caledonian Airways. It is strongly claimed that he was in Hong Kong when the 1st Battalion flew to Borneo. They had better look out, as he is off there in July!

News from the Cadet Battalions

IN the Eastern Command Athletic Championships, held at Colchester on 3rd July, Kent Cadets distinguished themselves by coming first in the county placings by ten points. Individual winners were as follows:—

Class C 120 yds. Hurdles: L/Cpl. P. Flisher (2 Buffs).

Class A High Jump: Cdt. J. Anslow (2 Buffs). (New championship record.)

Class A 100 yds.: Cdt. M. Salamon (2 Buffs). (Equalled the championship record.)

The county was represented by 26 Cadets and the individual winners have been invited to attend the National Championships at Leeds on 23rd July.

The Junior Soldier

The N.C.O.'s, Tradesmen, Drummers, Bandsmen and Riflemen of tomorrow

THE present strengths, where the Brigade is concerned, of the four Junior Soldiers' units are as follows:—

	Queen's				
	Queen's Own	Royal	Sussex.	Mx.	T
	Surreys	Bufs			
Junior Leader Bn. (Oswestry) ...	13	17	11	4	45
Junior Leader Regt. (Tonfanau) 1	2	—	—	—	3
Junior Tradesman Regt. (Rhyl) .	9	13	6	3	31
Junior Soldiers Coy. (Canterbury) 29	33	26	35	123	
Totals	52	65	43	42	202

The present policy in the Junior Soldiers' Coy. at Canterbury, which can take up to 140, is to split this number into Junior Bandsmen, Junior Drummers and Junior Riflemen.

The Junior Riflemen stream has become increasingly popular at the expense of the Drummers and Bandsmen. To off-set this, all new recruits are given musical tuition in their first term with a view to finding out whether any recruit has unsuspected musical talent. If a recruit is found to have a musical aptitude and is suitable, he is transferred, after consultation with his parents, to the Junior Drummers and Bandsmen Platoon. In addition a number of boys who have proved to be suitable Junior Tradesmen material are transferred each term to Rhyl. Numbers vary between two-six per term.

The future policy is that from about the middle of next year Junior Riflemen will be trained at the Junior Infantrymen's Bn. at Shorncliffe, Junior Drummers and Bandsmen will continue to be trained at the Depot.

THE following changes of address have been notified:—

Major J. A. Rymer-Jones,
'A' Branch,
H.Q. FARELF,
c/o G.P.O. Singapore.

Lt.-Col. K. G. Thrift, OBE,
Froyle,
21 Anglesey Road,
Alverstoke,
Gosport, Hants.

Major E. Goodman,
44 Stone Park Avenue,
Beckenham, Kent.

Mr. S. Lucy,
64 Giffin Street,
Deptford,
London, S.E.8.

I. P. B. Taylor, Esq.,
Barclays Bank Ltd.,
St. James's Square,
Newport,
Isle of Wight.

Mr. C. H. Rainey,
2 St. Leonard's Road,
Thames Ditton, Surrey.

Brigade Cricket

THE Brigade Cricket Week was held from 18th to 26th June in erratic weather. The match against the Band of Brothers on 18th June resulted in a win for BB by 58 runs. There are two other matches still to be played, one on 17th August against the Ba-Bes and the other against the Arabs on 29th August. The match manager for both these contests is Major Cecil West, Training Major of 4 Buffs (T.A.), to whom anyone wishing to play in either or both matches should write direct.

The Island of Labuan

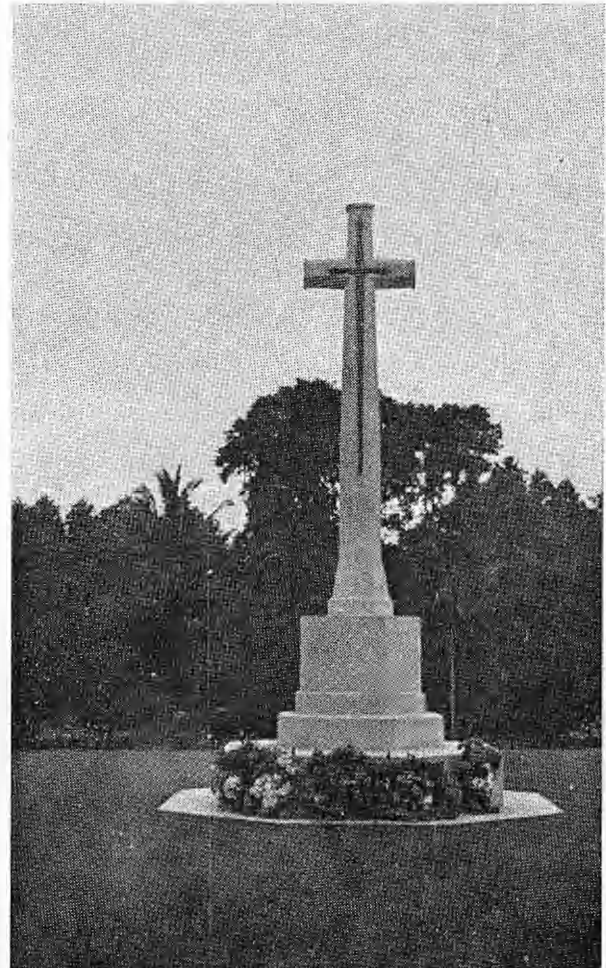
THE following article and accompanying photograph were submitted by Sgt. Standfield, to whom the Editor is much indebted.

They Did Not Forget

It was on the Island of Labuan, 21 years ago last month, that the Japanese surrendered to the 2/413 Australian Imperial Force. History is repeating itself. This little island in the South China Sea is once again the scene of yet another mark in history. It is the centre of the Borneo Operations, where the combined efforts of the three Armed Forces in conjunction with the Malaysians have brought the ending of Confrontation nearer.

The island was given to Queen Victoria, over 100 years ago, by the Sultan of Brunei. It is only 35 miles square, 12 miles long and eight miles at its widest point. The temperature varies from 70°F.-100°F., with a rainfall of 130 inches a year. It has one small town which is called Victoria.

On the outskirts of Victoria there is the Commonwealth War Cemetery where, on the evening of 8th June, 1966, a gathering of Servicemen, including some of the Australians who were at the surrender, held a small Service of Commemoration of the battle that took place 21 years ago when 3,000 Australians were killed in the fierce fighting before the Japanese would surrender. The Last Post and Reveille were blown on the same bugle that was used at the burial service of the Australians who now lie in this graveyard of green lawns and colourful, flowering shrubs, immaculately kept by an Australian Army Pensioner, who has tended it with loving care for these last 10 years.



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**C. E. L. Whitlock, 20 Windyridge,
Gillingham, Kent.**

Ex. Q.O. R.W.K. Regt.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Major C. J. Griffin,
1st Battalion
The Queen's Own Buffs,
British Forces Post Office 670,
5th July, 1966.

The Editor, *Invicta*.
Dear Sir,

I feel that I cannot allow my friend Mike Dracopoli's letter of protest in the June issue to go unanswered. That he should take offence where none was meant distresses all of us out here. The offending letter was included in our notes, as was stated at the time, as an example of the loyalty which the present-day soldier feels towards his Regiment and Battalion. That this soldier, downgraded as he was, felt that his rightful place was not in the luxurious surroundings of Howe Barracks but in the considerable discomfort and squalor with his friends in Borneo, speaks for itself.

At the time of writing the May issue's notes the case of this soldier had not been officially passed to the Depot, as there were complications our end which had to be resolved before we could make application. That this application was sympathetically and promptly acted upon by our Depot should surely need no comment. As in all such cases, both our and the individual soldier's interest received the Depot's careful attention. For which we are always grateful.

I feel that if Mike Dracopoli would exercise that sense of humour for which he was so well noted he would realise that Pte. H . . . (like "Pte. Newt") is not the most gifted of letter writers, and if his phraseology does not appear complimentary it is not vindictive. To him all units are "mobs," and "bread and cheese" merely signifies something that lacks the spice of life that particularly appeals to him. But, if an apology is required, both Pte. H . . . and I make ours without reservation.

Yours sincerely,
C. J. GRIFFIN.

Mary Haig Cottage,
Vanguard,
Sutton Valence,
Maidstone.
8th June, 1966.

The Editor, *Invicta*.
Dear Sir,

Please put away your blue pencil! I would like to have a go at the "armchair Generals"!!

First, Lt.-Col. Chaplin's article (March issue, p.73) contains a slander against the Comrades of KUT—namely that we were "exhausted when we reached KUT" on the 3rd December, 1915. We had only marched three miles to reach

KUT; moreover, we could see anyone off at the marching game, and at scrapping. So please, Colonel, make sure you have your facts right! If old Col. Dan Pedley could have seen that statement, he would have had you shot at dawn!

Second, in answer to the question put by Major R. Tuke (May issue, p.140). I have a book in print called *The Silver Badge*, and hope to see it on sale in July. You will find the answer in my book, but, in a nutshell, this is it. Being such a small fighting force, the General had a chance of saving the country we had fought for, and kept, and give the relieving force more time to get up country. At that time we had no planes or jeeps—just Shank's ponies. Before we retired we were told that a large force would be awaiting us at KUT—they told us anything in those days! If we had got down to Kurna, how could we have held on to the two rivers? Sir, you just mustn't ask a damn silly question like that!

Yours sincerely,
ARTHUR G. KINGSMILL
(Comrade of KUT).

(I much regret that, in spite of the request in the opening sentence, the blue pencil simply had to be used! Libel actions can be expensive!—Ed.)

Major G. U. Weymouth, M.B.E.
Regimental Headquarters,
Canterbury.

97 Gipsy Lane,
Wokingham,
Berks.
25th June, 1966.

Dear Guy,

At our monthly meeting on Friday last I was requested by the members of the London Branch, The Queen's Own, to convey to you our sincere thanks for all your hard work in ensuring yet another successful Annual Reunion Day.

We all appreciate the many difficulties of arranging such a day, especially realising the fact of not being on our "own ground," yet again we had splendid Bands, an excellent lunch (I don't know how it can be produced for so little as 8/6) and a memorable and enjoyable day meeting old friends.

Everyone considered that the Reunion equalled previous successful ones, and the members present clearly demonstrated the need for such Regimental functions.

Would you please pass on to your many helpers, not forgetting Charlie Hendrick, our sincere appreciation of all their efforts, and we hope to see them again next Reunion day.

Many, many thanks from us all of the London Branch.
Yours sincerely,

CYRIL K. KEMP (Major)
(Secretary London (Queen's Own) Branch).

The Buffs Museum

THE Trustees gratefully acknowledge the following gifts, made to the museum during recent months:—

A Teapoy made from Russian Gun Carriages, which originally belonged to General Sir Charles Pearson and which was presented by Col. Pearson, the "Father of the Regiment."

An East Kent Militia Tunic belonging to Col. Sawbridge, of Olantigh, Wye, and dated about 1830-1833.

A set of five medals of the late Capt. L. K. Wood (7th Bn. The Buffs) including the M.B.E. and M.C.

The 1939-45 Africa (8th Army) and Burma Stars, Defence and G.S. Medals of the late Cpl. R. W. Baker (2 Buffs).

The Indian G.S. Medal and King's and Queen's South Africa Medals of the late Pte. W. J. Fox (3033).

A signed and framed photograph of Lord Kitchener, the property of the late Capt. W. Stone (The Buffs).

The Indian G.S. Medal 1897-98 and Queen's South Africa Medal of the late Sgt. E. Cook.

The King's and Queen's South Africa Medals of the late Pte. H. Benoy (5968).

The decorations and medals of the late Major H. J. Martin, M.B.E. and a presentation silver cigarette box given to him on retirement.

The Folkestone-Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society and the Army Benevolent Fund

THE above Society have most generously offered the takings at a special performance to the Kent County Appeal for the Army Benevolent Fund. This performance will be on Monday, 1st August, at 7.30 p.m., at their new theatre in Sandgate, where they are producing the play "Breath of Spring" by Peter Coke.

Tickets, 7/6 and 5/-. are obtainable from "Kent Messenger" Office, 95 High Street, Sandgate, Tel. Folkestone 38877, or, out of working hours, from Hythe 66494; and early booking is advisable after 23rd July. Please help to make this a full house.

Last year the Army Benevolent Fund and Corps and Regimental Charitable Funds expended over £400,000 on helping serving or ex-Service soldiers (Regular, Territorial or War Service) and their wives, children and dependants. The county target figure is £12,000, of which £4,800 has so far been donated or promised.

The Regimental Golfing Society

MATCH v. WROTHAM HEATH GOLF CLUB

Littlestone Golf Club

Sunday, 12th June

IT was somewhat of an embarrassment for Guy Weymouth, the Match Secretary, when the Society was able to field only four members to meet our friends from Wrotham Heath at this, the first occasion on which we were the hosts.

However, the Society is most grateful to Charles Tarver (the Captain), Eric Sampson, Ian Pearson and Guy for their support, and to our very charming opponents who made light of our predicament. We must try to pick a weekend next time which does not clash with children's sports, prize-givings and half-terms!

In fact, a most enjoyable day's golf was the outcome, and thanks to the kindness of the Captain of Littlestone, who volunteered to make up a foursome in the morning with three Wrotham Heath members, everyone had a game.

Conditions throughout the day were well-nigh perfect. Sunny skies, a cooling breeze, greens as true as could be and the rough considerably less so than on our previous visit in May. Wrotham Heath won by three matches to one, though from all accounts each contest was closely fought and was accompanied by that light-hearted "bon-hommie" which one is accustomed to enjoy with our friends from Wrotham.

Tom Page, who normally plays in this annual match, was otherwise engaged, but it was typical of him to stand (by proxy) a round of port after lunch! By means of this kind gesture we managed to sabotage Commander Rupert Taylor's weather eye!

We were very sorry not to see on this occasion the familiar face of Colonel "Soupy" Wingfield-Stratford. Let us hope he can give us his moral and skilful support next year with, perhaps, one round of foursomes.

For the record, the results were:—

Morning

The Society	Wrotham Heath G.C.
The Captain and Ian Pearson	Rupert Taylor and John Bewg (1 hole)
0	1
Eric Sampson and Guy Weymouth	Norman Machin and Derek Benbow (4 and 3)
0	1

Afternoon

The Captain and Guy Weymouth (3 and 2)	Rupert Taylor and Howard Small
1	0
Eric Sampson and Ian Pearson	John Craddock and "Pip" Hannah (2 and 1)
0	1

MATCH v. NORTH HANTS GOLF CLUB

Thanks to the energy and enterprise of Bobby Flint a new match, against North Hants Golf Club, was added to the Society's fixture list this year and the contest duly took place at Fleet on Friday, 1st July. Although defeated the Society was by no means disgraced and it is hoped that the match has come to stay. The results were:—

Morning

The Society	North Hants G.C.
Charles Tarver and Bobby Flint	Maj.-Gen. Lord and Brig. Aveline
1	0
Eric Scott and Harold Cotton	Lt.-Col. Worton and C. E. White
0	1
Jack Pike and Maurice Dewar	H. J. Murray-Cooke and Lt.-Col. Harte
0	1
Owen Knox and Mike Archer	Brig. Hogshaw and Col. Kenrick
0	1

Afternoon

Charles Tarver and Harold Cotton	Murray-Cooke and Worton
1	0
Eric Scott and Bobby Flint	Hogshaw and Harte
0	1
Mike Archer and Maurice Dewar	Lord and White
1	0
Owen Knox and Jack Pike	Brig. Bourke and Kenrick
½	½

Result: North Hants G.C. four matches, the Society three matches, with one halved.

Golfing Society v. Household Brigade G.S.

Saturday, 11th June, 1966

Morning

The Society	Household Brigade G.S.
C. M. C. Dewar and A. J. Waters	E. Fairbanks Smith and R. Hawkins
1	0
C. M. G. Cox and G. A. Potter	L. Aubrey Fletcher and Gen. Sir John Marriott
1	0
J. R. B. Worton and R. A. C. Ravenhill	R. Bullough and R. Butler
½	½
N. E. Hoare and K. C. Meyrick	Major Bibby and D. G. Bibby
0	1
2½	1½

Afternoon

Dewar and Potter	Aubrey Fletcher and D. Bibby
0	1
Montgomery and Worton	Sir J. Marriott and Fairbanks Smith
0	1
Cox and Ravenhill	Murray and Bullough
0	1
Waters and Meyrick	Hawkins and Butler
0	1
0	4

COMING EVENTS

August

30 July-5 Aug. Cricket—Canterbury Week.

30 July-2 Aug. Kent v. Leicestershire.

3-5 Kent v. Warwickshire.

7 Annual Reunion and Service of Remembrance, Canterbury.

28-30 Cricket at Canterbury—Kent v. Nottinghamshire.

September

8 Sevastopol Day.

October

1 11th (Lewisham) Bn. R.W.K. Annual Dinner at the Victoria Hotel, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

1-2 Golfing Society Autumn Meeting—Littlestone Golf Club.

4 Golfing Society Match v. Kent County Constabulary (Leeds Castle).

8 6 R.W.K. Annual Dinner.

8 6 (S) Bn. Buffs Annual Dinner at the Tower of London Restaurant.

26 Regimental Buffet Luncheon in London.

29 1/4 Buffs Annual Dinner.

December

3 8 R.W.K. Officers Dinner.

8 H.M.S. Kent Engaged, Falkland Islands, 1914.

13 Birthday of H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, Colonel of the Regiment.

17 London (Buffs) Branch Buffet-Dance and Christmas Party.

1967

March

31 5 Buffs (T.A.) Annual Ball.

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PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Supplements to the London Gazette

Regular Army

Lt. (QM) William Charles Lynes from Short Serv. Commn., to be Capt. (Q.M.) 1st April, 1966, and with precedence in Infantry next above J. Ellison, Staffords.

Regular Army Reserve of Officers

Major (Hon. Lt.-Col.) L. F. Steele is re-apptd. to the Res. of Offrs., 25th May, 1966, retaining the hon. rank of Lt.-Col.

Territorial Army

Cpl. Roger Knott Woodman to be 2nd/Lt. (on probation), 6th May, 1966.

2nd/Lt. H. G. Metzgen (on probation) is confirmed in his appt. as 2nd/Lt., 12th June, 1964. To be Lt., 12th June, 1966.

Territorial Army Reserve of Officers

Major K. C. Meyrick, T.D., having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the T.A. Res. of Offrs., 26th May, 1966, retaining the rank of Major.

Lt. C. K. L. Davidson resigns his commn., 28th April, 1966.

Army Cadet Force

Lt. (A/Capt.) R. H. Kitson is awarded the Cadet Forces' Medal.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

MATTHEWS—On 24th May, 1966, at British Military Hospital, Mount Kellett, to L/Cpl. and Mrs. C. Matthews, a daughter, Angela May.

WILKES—On 2nd June, 1966, at British Military Hospital, Mount Kellett, to Pte. and Mrs. T. Wilkes, a daughter, Michelle Ann.

FARR—On 16th June, 1966, at British Military Hospital, Mount Kellett, to Pte. and Mrs. A. Farr, a son, Paul Anthony.

BURR—On 31st May, 1966, at British Military Hospital, Mount Kellett, to Pte. and Mrs. J. Burr, a son, James Mathew Leslie.

MARRIAGES

FURNEAUX—LOVELL. On 11th June, 1966, at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Saltwood, Peter Furneaux to Ann Jennifer ("Jenny") Lovell, younger daughter of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. I. R. Lovell.

DEATHS

CUCKOW—On 24th June, 1966, Edward William Cuckow, late The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, aged 81 years.

HIBBERT—On 4th July, 1966, at his home, Haverthwaite, Ulverston, Lancs., Brigadier Oswald Yates Hibbert, D.S.O., M.C., late The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

LOVELL—On 15th July, 1966, at Hythe, Lt.-Col. I. R. Lovell, late The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

OBITUARY

Brigadier D. H. Gwilliam, M.B.E.

Lt.-Colonel Pat Elgood writes:—

"It was with a sense of great personal loss that I heard of the sudden death of Twink Gwilliam in his office in Kuala Lumpur on 6th June, 1966. It has so happened that since 1947 we have served together, either with the Regiment or away from it, on no less than five different occasions and we were seldom out of touch in the few short intervals. As a result, I got to know and appreciate him probably better than most, and his friendship was a privilege I valued greatly. The more so, as although he was always good company and easy to talk to, a certain shyness often seemed to inhibit any great intimacy.

First and foremost, he was a dedicated professional soldier. The Army and the Regiment were his whole life and he had very little interest outside his profession, the only obvious exception being his great affection for his very happy family.

As a Regimental soldier, he was firm but always extremely fair. Normally he preferred the well-tryed orthodox answer to a military problem but was always ready to try out anything new if it seemed to offer anything of value. On occasions when it was necessary he could be totally implacable and even ruthless but such was his charm and ability to talk to and make contact with both officers and soldiers that it would be difficult to find a more popular officer. He had a firmly held belief that the Sergeants' Mess was the back-bone of a Battalion and was always at great pains to keep his Warrant Officers and Sergeants fully informed and was always ready to hear their views. In return, I believe that he was held in greater respect by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment than was any other officer.

A well-known military publication lays down the particular qualities required by a Staff Officer. They are: Loyalty, Quick-thinking, Accuracy, Commonsense, a Pleasant Disposition, Imagination and the Ability to Decentralise. I believe that Twink was as close to achieving all these as anyone could be. In addition, he brought to his staff work a lucid prose style which many a professional author might have envied.

Desmond Howitt Gwilliam was born at Rochester on 23rd December, 1917, where his father was Deputy Governor of the Borstal Institution. He was educated at Clifton and passed into Sandhurst, largely on Latin and Greek, in 1936. He made a considerable success of Sandhurst, emerging as a Junior Under-Officer and passing out Fifth, gaining himself a scholarship of £50 per year during his first five years' service.

He was commissioned into the Queen's Own in January, 1938, where his abilities were soon recognised and, on the expansion of the Territorial Army in 1939, he was appointed Adjutant to the newly formed 7th Battalion of the Queen's Own after less than 18 months' service, at the early age—particularly so for pre-war days—of 21. The fact that this newly raised Battalion performed so well on the retreat to Dunkirk a year later must to a great extent be considered a tribute to the excellent work of its Adjutant. Unfortunately, owing to illness, Twink missed this campaign, and in May, 1940, was transferred, again as Adjutant, to the newly formed 10th Battalion which was later converted to a Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment in which he had the unusual experience for an Infantry Officer of becoming a Battery Commander.

In 1943, by this time a temporary Major, with the threat of invasion virtually over, he felt the time had come to play a more active part in the war and he voluntarily reverted to Captain to obtain a posting to the 5th Battalion The Queen's Own, then serving in Italy. He served with the 5th Battalion until May, 1944, when he was posted to the 1st Battalion, also in Italy, as Second-in-Command. While in this appointment he had his first experiences as a Battalion Commander, owing to the illness of the Commanding Officer, during the successful action at Monte Scalari and again when the Commanding Officer was wounded at the crossing of the Cesena river. He stayed with the Battalion on service in Italy and Greece until shortly after the end of the war in Europe when he left to attend the Staff College at Haifa.

After leaving the Staff College he returned to Greece as a Brigade Major. Then followed the normal peace-time

alternations of Staff appointments, including a year at the R.A.F. Staff College, and Regimental duty, all the latter with the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own. In 1954, as a result of his work as a G.S.O.2 Air during the Malayan Campaign, he was appointed M.B.E. and in 1958, when a G.S.O.2 at the War Office, he was promoted to Brevet Lt.-Colonel.

He was appointed as the last Commanding Officer of the 1st Queen's Own in July, 1959, while the Battalion was serving in Cyprus. He was faced with the difficult tasks of bringing the Battalion home, training it up to the particular requirements needed in the Strategic Reserve and at the same time maintaining a high standard of morale and efficiency when it was about to lose for ever its separate existence by amalgamation. The fact that he was so successful in all these is a remarkable tribute to his leadership. One further responsibility came his way—the series of valedictory parades and ceremonies prior to amalgamation, of which the largest was the extremely successful final Colour Trooping Parade held before Princess Marina, the Colonel-in-Chief, at Shorncliffe on 10th June, 1960. It was said by many that this final large parade was one of the best ever put on by the Battalion.

After amalgamation, he spent a year on the staff of the Nigerian Army, followed by a short period of four months at the War Office as the Secretary to the Committee set up to consider the structure of the Army in the future, an appointment for which, with his experience and flexibility of outlook, he was ideally suited.

In February, 1963, he was promoted Brigadier and appointed to command 133 Infantry Brigade T.A., with under his command all three of the Regiment's T.A. Battalions, plus the T.A. Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment. Speaking as one of his Commanding Officers, I do not think that anyone will contradict me when I say that he was the most successful and most popular Brigade Commander any member of the Brigade can remember. The qualities which had made him such a successful Commander of Regular Soldiers and National Servicemen proved every bit as successful with the T.A. To the usual qualities of leadership he brought, in particular, restraint. He must often have wanted to step in and take over something that appeared to be going wrong, but he appreciated that if civilian soldiers were to learn they must work things out for themselves and so gain experience. This is not to say that he would pass over sloppy work or incorrect tactics. He instinctively knew what to criticise and what to praise and we all benefited from his guidance.

He had time to do no more than take over his last job as Defence Adviser to the High Commissioner in Malaya and it is part of the tragedy that he was unable to enjoy this posting to which he had been so greatly looking forward.

Twink was a fine soldier and a great and well-loved Regimental personage. There are few in the Regiment today who were as well-known to so many of all ranks and his death has left a large gap in our hearts and our lives."

Major-General Dennis Talbot writes:—

"I should like to add my own personal tribute to the many that the Editor of *Invicta* must have received concerning the late Brigadier Gwilliam.

I was temporarily Commanding a Company of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment which had recently returned to this country after 19 years in India and was then stationed at Napier Barracks, Shorncliffe, when 'Twink' Gwilliam joined in early 1938 as a newly commissioned 2nd Lieutenant from the R.M.C. Sandhurst. I saw a lot of him during that year, as we were both living in the Mess. His friendly and cheerful personality and military potential were obvious, even in those days.

'Twink's' military qualities soon made themselves evident, when in 1939, as a very young and junior officer, he was selected to be adjutant of, first, the newly-formed 7th Battalion and later of the 10th Battalion. Later still he served in Italy with the 5th Battalion and then with the 1st Battalion—with the latter he was second-in-command under Lt.-Colonel H. P. Braithwaite, D.S.O. and in fact several times commanded the Battalion in action in the Commanding Officer's absence. 'Twink' was, I know, highly respected by, and very popular with, all ranks of the various Battalions with which he served during the war. He was mentioned in despatches for his services in Italy and many felt that he had fully deserved a higher award.

I only met 'Twink' very occasionally over the years and although he prospered militarily, as his M.B.E. and

promotion to Brevet Lt.-Colonel show, his charm and friendly and approachable personality never altered.

I really got to know him well when he was commanding 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, again stationed at Shorncliffe, in 1959, when I became Colonel of that Regiment. We had frequent and close contacts over Regimental affairs and he was a member of the Regimental Council, where his sage, sensible and down-to-earth advice, particularly in connection with the amalgamation, was of the greatest value and help. He was an outstandingly good Regimental officer and a very successful Commanding Officer whose loyalty to and support for the Regiment were unstinted.

Later, from 1961 onwards, 'Twink' continued to give his unwavering and loyal support to the Queen's Own Buffs, the Royal Kent Regiment, with the same enthusiasm as he had shown for his old Regiment. After his appointment to command the local Territorial Brigade our close association on the Regimental Council was resumed and once again I had every reason to appreciate his advice and co-operation. I shall also always be grateful, too, for the kind hospitality that he and his charming wife and family gave to me on many occasions.

I suppose I must have been one of the last Officers of the Regiment to see him alive. A fortnight before his tragic death in Kuala Lumpur, we both attended the Aluhera Day get-together organised by Giles Bateman and Derek Scull in Singapore and reported in last month's issue. 'Twink' and Una Gwilliam were both in their usual tremendously good form and they were looking forward immensely to his important appointment as Defence Adviser to the High Commissioner in Malaysia and to their stay in those parts. 'Twink,' and his jolly laugh, will be greatly missed by his innumerable friends in and out of the Regiment."

Major J. R. Cornell, The Royal Green Jackets, writes:—

"The sudden death of Brigadier Twink came as a very great shock and a very personal loss. My two years as his B.M. at 133 Brigade H.Q. was a happy tour, very largely due to his unfailing good humour which permeated to all of us who worked for him. We were, I know, conscious of this at the time, but it was not until after I had left that I fully appreciated all his splendid qualities: I shall always remember him, first and foremost, as a truly professional soldier. He loved the Army, he loved his job, but above all he loved his Regiment. His enthusiasm was infectious. I admired his clear and logical mind; his capacity for work was a constant source of embarrassment.

The Battalions in the Brigade genuinely looked forward to his visits and felt better for them. Officers and men alike throughout the Brigade area recognised him as their friend.

Brigadier Twink's influence was widely felt in Kent and Sussex, not least amongst the C.C.F. and A.C.F., in whom he took a particular interest. He enjoyed a day out of the office and was never happier than when he was driving in Kent, the county which he knew and loved so well. All those who have served at 133 Brigade will remember his willingness to pitch or strike a tent; few will forget his laugh echoing around the mess or drill hall.

It would not be possible to write about Brigadier Twink without mentioning his wife and family. No family have made me so welcome so often; their generosity is something I cannot forget. Our thoughts go out to them now and for many years to come; time alone will help to heal a deep wound."

Lt.-Colonel H. P. Braithwaite writes:—

"News of the sudden tragic death of Brigadier 'Twink' Gwilliam was, of course, a terrible shock to all of us who knew him and you will doubtless have received numerous letters about him.

However, as one who had the privilege of serving with him in action during 1944/45 in Italy and Greece, may I be permitted to pay my small tribute to a very fine officer and a very good friend.

I first met Twink—as he was, of course, so affectionately known by everyone—when he joined the 1st Battalion in Italy as second-in-command, and I have always been most grateful for the exceptionally able and loyal support I received from him throughout. He was quick to make his mark as second-in-command and his courage and ability had much to do with the Battalion's efficiency and success in action.

Most of us who served with him are now civilians, but typically he made every effort to keep in touch with us

and we have very happy memories of a number of reunions with him. We all followed his rapid progress in the Regiment with great interest and pride.

All of us who served with 'Twink' in the 1st Battalion during the war feel a deep personal sense of loss and in extending our deepest sympathy to his wife and family we are also very much aware of the tragic loss suffered by the Regiment."

Major Derek Scull writes from Singapore:—

"Kip Keenlyside and I flew up to Kuala Lumpur on 8th June to attend Twink's funeral. The simple service was held in the English Church of the Malaysian Ministry of Defence, formerly the Malaya Command.

It was a simple, moving ceremony. The Commander in Chief Far East Command and the General Officer Commanding Far East Land Forces were both represented. The High Commissioner and Lady Walker attended, as well as the Commanders of the Royal Malaysian Navy and Royal Malaysian Air Force. In fact, the small chapel was filled with a variety of people including Military Attachés.

Patrick Gwilliam had been flown over from 1st Queen's Own Buffs in Kota Belud. It was a great comfort for Una to have him by her side.

I still cannot believe that Twink has really gone. We had been closely associated over a number of years. In Italy and Greece he was second-in-command 1st R.W.K. when I was Adjutant. We also served together in 1st R.W.K. in Germany in 1955-56 and again at Shorncliffe in 1960-61.

I had always regarded him as a personal friend and a tower of strength. He gave everything to his Regiment and the Service, and I believe had much still to contribute.

I am certain that there will be many written tributes to Twink in *Invicta*, and I feel honoured that I was able to be present in person to pay my last respects to him."

Lt.-Colonel A. D. Peckham, M.B.E., writes:—

"I have today received a letter from Brigadier H. King-Lewis concerning the sudden and tragic death of Brigadier Twink.

He particularly asked me to pass to the Regiment the deep sympathy of the Kent Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association. The last paragraph of his letter is as follows:—

"We mourn this terribly sudden death of a great friend, a first-class member of this Association and a wonderful Infantry Brigade Commander."

IN addition to members of the family the following were present at Shorncliffe Garrison Church, and afterwards at the Military Cemetery, when a short service took place, followed by the interment of the ashes of the late Brigadier Twink Gwilliam, on Saturday morning, 2nd July:—

Major M. G. M. Archer; Mr. D. E. M. Archer; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. E. V. Argles; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. R. H. Austin; Major and Mrs. R. W. M. Baker; Col. Ian Battye; Major and Mrs. A. G. Blake; Major D. E. Blum; Col. H. J. S. Brooke; Major P. S. Browne; Mr. C. T. Buckle; Capt. G. K. Burrell; W.O.I. Clark; Lt.-Col. T. C. Coath; Major and Mrs. Peter Cooke; Mr. Alec Dallison, also rep. Mrs. J. P. Dallison, and Mrs. A. Dallison; Major M. P. St. F. Dracopoli; Major and Mrs. G. W. Duffield; Lt.-Col. P. N. Elgood, also rep. Mrs. Joan Latham, and Mrs. Elgood; Major and Mrs. E. G. Elliott; Major A. W. Franklin; Major-General A. R. Fyler, also rep. London (Queen's Own) Branch, and Mrs. Fyler; Major and Mrs. S. L. Gibbs; Major F. H. Glynn, also rep. Lt.-Col. Percy Braithwaite and '62 Club'; Col. H. R. Grace, also rep. the Deputy Colonel; Capt. Graham; Lt.-Col. M. R. L. Grove; Major F. C. Gunner; Alderman Harris; Brigadier King-Lewis, also rep. KT and AFA, and Mrs. King-Lewis; Major J. Large; Major P. S. Leigh; C.S.M. Levitt; C.S.M. McKinley; Col. and Mrs. D. J. McLelland; Sgt. and Mrs. Mead; W.O.I. Newman; Major J. D. Norton; Major J. B. Ogilvie; W.O.I. Parker; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. A. D. Peckham; Col. and Mrs. R. O. Pulverman; Major C. R. Robinson; Mr. J. H. Rose, also rep. '62 Club'; Group-Captain C. J. South; Major General and Mrs. D. E. B. Talbot; Major-General and Mrs. C. H. Tarver; Major and Mrs. C. L. Tarver; Col. F. K. Theobald, also rep. the A.C.F. Bns., and Mrs. Theobald; Col. J. Tilleard, also rep. Brigadier Buckland, and Mrs. Tilleard; Mr. Charles Tweedie; Major K. Watson; Major A. E. Watts; Major C. T. F. West; Major G. U. Weymouth, also rep. Lt.-Gen. Sir William Oliver, and Mrs. Weymouth; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. D. A. Willows; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. J. B. Wilson; Major G. Wood; and Mrs. D. H. Woolstencroft.

15 Campden Hill Mansions,
Kensington Church Street,
London, W.8.
3rd July, 1966.

My dear Raymond,

Thank you so much for all the help you and Guy gave me yesterday.

My family and I are deeply touched by the friendship of all those who knew and served with Twink, and who have given such affection and understanding since he died.

It was wonderful to have so many of his friends with us at Shorncliffe Military Cemetery on 2nd July and I am only sorry that I was not able to speak to everyone.

I wonder if you would be good enough to let them know how grateful I am.

Yours,
UNA.
(Mrs. D. H. Gwilliam).

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Secretary's Announcement

BEFORE the Deputy Colonel walks round the Parade on Remembrance Sunday, the President of the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men, Mr. Dudley G. Le May, will present a framed Coat of Arms of the Association to the Deputy Colonel, who will receive it on behalf of the Regiment, Mr. and Mrs. Le May and the Chairman of the Association, Mr. Leppard, will be guests of the Regiment on that day.

The Regimental Derby Sweepstake

TWO slight errors crept into the list of horses and ticket numbers published in the June issue (p. 173). To put the record straight the following amendments should be made:—

For "Dream Man 13565" read "Drerno 13325"; and for "Dream Man 13656" read "Dream Man 13565."

The Annual Reunion and Service of Remembrance
Canterbury, 7th August, 1966

General

1. The arrangements for this day will, in the main, follow those of last year. The location for the Parade, lunch after the Service and the afternoon's programme is HOWE BARRACKS.

2. The outline plan will be:—

- (a) Parade on Howe Barracks parade ground at 11.35 ("Fall In" sounded 11.25).
- (b) A quick walk round the parade by the Deputy Colonel.
- (c) March off at 11.50. The parade will be commanded by Lt.-Col. D. A. Willows. Transport will be provided for non-marchers, as before.
- (d) The order of march of Branches for the marches to and from the Cathedral has been drawn for and will be as follows:—
London (Buffs); Folkestone, Hythe and District; Herne Bay; Medway; Margate; Ramsgate; Sandwich; Sittingbourne; Ashford (who led in 1961); Brighton (who led in 1962); Canterbury (who led in 1963); Dover (who led in 1964); Weald (who led in 1965); representatives from Queen's Own Branches.
- (e) Procedures on arrival at the Cathedral and after the Service will be as usual. The Service itself will be similar to last year's.
- (f) On the return march the parade will halt at the Longport car park where Branch members may "fall out" and complete the remainder of the journey to Howe Barracks by coach. Serving personnel will close up and continue the march in accordance with orders given by the parade commander.
- (g) A tea and refreshment bar will be open in the Howe Barracks N.A.A.F.I. from 10 to 11 a.m. and will be open again from 2 to 5 p.m.
- (h) Carton lunches (at 4/6 per head) will be available in marquees, erected in Howe Barracks by O.C. Depot, from 1.30 p.m. onwards and there will also be a bar. It will be possible to have this meal sitting down and under cover if required.
- (j) Buffet lunches will be available for Officers and their families (at 14/6 per head) in the Howe Barracks gymnasium, where there will be a bar.
- (k) Sideshows and races, organised by Ramsgate and certain other Branches, will be held on Howe Barracks sports field during the afternoon, and there will be a Band Concert by the Band of 5th Bn. The Buffs (T.A.).

(m) It is hoped that the day will conclude, at 5.0 p.m.,

with the Beating of Retreat. This will be immediately followed by the draw for the raffle.

Parade States

3. Figures to R.H.Q. forthwith.

Admission to the Cathedral

4. (a) Applications for tickets for near relatives of members of the Regimental Association must reach R.H.Q. forthwith.
- (b) NO tickets are required for those on parade.
- (c) **ROWS A to M IN THE NAVE WILL BE RESERVED FOR OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES BUT THERE WILL BE NO SEATS MARKED WITH INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS' NAMES. OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES SHOULD ENTER BY THE WARRIORS' CHAPEL DOOR, AS BEFORE.**
Tickets are required and can be obtained on application to R.H.Q.

Lunch Tickets

5. (a) Applications for carton lunches (see para. 2(h) above), together with the necessary remittance, must reach R.H.Q. forthwith. A ticket for the number of carton lunches applied for will then be sent to the Branch Secretary who will be responsible for drawing that number from the "ration points" in the marquees.
- (b) Applications for buffet lunches (see para. 2(j) above), together with the necessary remittance, should reach R.H.Q. forthwith. Tickets will then be sent to those applying.

Dress

6. (a) **Serving Officers:** No. 2 Dress, with sword, medals and decorations; or Battle Dress with medals.
- (b) **Retired Officers and members of the Regiment other than those serving:** Lounge suit with medals.
- (c) **T.A. Officers who are NOT on parade:** Lounge suit with medals.

Service of Remembrance and Reunion at Maidstone, Sunday, 19th June, 1966



During his inspection the Deputy Colonel came face to face with Major-General Charles Tarver (who was obviously not trusting the weather!) and with his own predecessor, Major-General Dennis Talbot (who apparently was!).
Acknowledgement: "Kent Messenger."

THE assembly of the Old Comrades at Maidstone this year was a little down on numbers; nevertheless, a very pleasant day was spent at the former "Home" of the Queen's Own by those members and their families who, despite an unfavourable weather forecast, rallied to the call.

It was particularly nice to have with us no less than six of our older Comrades now at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. These gentlemen always add tone and colour to the proceedings.

The Standard Bearers' Competition, which preceded the usual parade, was well supported by nine Branches, and our congratulations go to Mr. F. Tickner, of London (Queen's Own), this year's winner.

The Deputy Colonel inspected the parade, commanded by Lt.-Col. A. D. Peckham, M.B.E., O.C. 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.), which then marched to All Saints' Church headed by the Band of 4/5th Bn. R.W.K. (T.A.).

En route, the Salute was taken at the steps of the Town Hall by His Worship the Mayor—Ald. Percy Barden.

We were very sorry that Canon Nye was unable, through illness, to conduct the service, but we were fortunate in having Capt. Peter Lloyd, Padre of 5 Buffs (T.A.), ready and willing to step neatly into his shoes.

A Prayer:

"When Thy Kingdom comes, O God,
We trust that Thy Musicians
can dispense with their music
sheets, But until then . . .!"

"Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded by Cpl. Supple, of the Home Counties Brigade Depot, both at the church and later at Brenchley Gardens. For the excellence of his performance we are most grateful.

A few showers were unkind enough to occur during the Brenchley Gardens ceremony, but the sky soon brightened and there followed an afternoon of glorious sunshine.

Our official guests in the luncheon tent included The Mayor and Mayoress and Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Holden (36 Engineer Regiment R.E.).

Informality is the order on these occasions; nevertheless Lt.-Col. Edwards, our Chairman, proposed, and toasts were drunk, to Her Majesty; the Colonel-in-Chief and the Colonel, all of whom graciously sent us their own separate messages of goodwill.

During the afternoon the Bands of 4 Buffs (T.A.) and 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.) gave us all much pleasure with their concert, and their musical airs provided a fitting background to the convivial "chin-wagging" of old friends over a glass or two of good cheer.



The parade gives an "eyes left" to the Mayor of Maidstone, en route for the Service in All Saints' Parish Church.
Acknowledgement: "Kent Messenger."

Back on the Barrack Square, Mrs. Talbot kindly gave away the prizes. The Challenge Cup for the Inter-Branch Shooting Competition was awarded to Sandwich, the Standard Bearer's Belt was handed to Mr. Tickner, of London (Queen's Own), and some 30 prizes went to lucky winners of the raffle (we are most grateful to the Branches who subscribed towards the purchase of these, thus enabling us to offer such a large number of worthwhile prizes this year).

Cries of Rhubarb! Rhubarb! were inevitable when the Regimental Secretary, Col. Grace, cleverly drew his own winning ticket for a pot of flowers!

The day ended with a magnificent performance of Beating Retreat by the Band and Drums of the Junior Soldiers' Company, Home Counties Brigade. These young-

sters (mostly 16 years of age) gave a truly wonderful showing and provided a fitting finale to a memorable day.

In conclusion, we would like to record our very sincere thanks to the Commanding Officer of 36 Engineer Regiment for, once more, allowing us facilities at the Barracks and all the wonderful assistance given by his Sappers.

Our thanks, too, to the C.O.'s of Home Counties Brigade Depot, 4 Buffs (T.A.) and 4/5 Queen's Own (T.A.) for allowing their Bands to provide us with such delightful musical entertainment.

Finally, to Mr. Rodgers, R.S.M. 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.), and his P.S.I.'s who ran the bar, we are particularly grateful. This tent is the focal point of any Reunion and they did us really proud on this occasion.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

ASHFORD

WITH the holiday season upon us only eleven members attended this meeting.

The main item was the Remembrance Day and Reunion on 7th August. It was agreed that after the conclusion of the activities of the day we would have a coach tour to Dover. It was agreed that our Branch again runs the treasure plot during the afternoon, so, as always, hope for a sunny day and a happy reunion for everyone. Unfortunately, the "beer tent" will be a drinker short as Bertie Vant will be away on holiday.

A letter was received from the local Royal Naval Association inviting the Branch to become shareholders in their new headquarters at Romney Road, Willesborough. After some discussion it was agreed to purchase a share. Glad to report all members fit and well as can be expected.

The Branch had been approached about the C Coy., 4th Bn, The Buffs joining our ranks to and from the Cathedral on 7th August. Our members think this would be ideal. Mr. N. Coleman now knows what it is to ride in a Land Rover at speed.

Best wishes to all.

A.C.M.

BROMLEY

HOLIDAYS and inclement weather were the probable cause for the meagre attendance at our June meeting, and the adjournment of the Annual General Meeting until the 30th July.

On the brighter side, however, was the enrolment of three new members and the probability of more to come. Arrangements for our trip to the Royal Tournament were finalised and a good evening's entertainment is anticipated.

Our Hon. Treasurer gave a preliminary statement of the financial position of the Branch, which it was agreed was very satisfactory. Future social activities include an outing to the sea later in the year for members and their wives.

B.B.

CANTERBURY

THE June meeting of the Branch was held on Friday, 24th, at 8 p.m., at Leros (T.A.) Training Centre, and by courtesy of the Sergeants' Mess. The Chairman, Mr. F. Kidder, being O.C. proceedings, together with the Secretary, Mr. Les Pain, and 20 members were present.

The minutes of the last meeting (April 22nd) were read and accepted.

Letters had been received from Herne Bay, Sittingbourne and Medway Branches regretting their inability to visit Canterbury for the proposed darts match on any Friday evening. It was decided to hold a Social evening in the near future and to invite a Branch to participate.

A communication was also received from Mr. Henry Lee, of Whitstable, regretting that he was unable to attend for the very sad reason that after 28 years he had failed to pass his driving test. We commiserate with him, but express the hope that he will try again. "Steady, The Buffs!"

Heartly thanks were given to Lt.-Colonel D. Willows, C.O. of the 4th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.), and his Officers,

for the generous hospitality extended to members of the Branch on the occasion of the shooting contest. It was decided to invite the Colonel and his Officers to be the guests of the Branch when a return "shoot" could be arranged.

The Branch was informed that Mr. Lewry, a member of the Branch, was ill in Nunnery Fields Hospital, and Bert Rennells, our Welfare Officer, was to visit him and see if anything could be done to ameliorate his enforced stay in hospital.

After some discussion it was decided, in view of the circumstances, to withdraw the representative of the Branch from the Canterbury Carnival Committee next year.

Members were consulted having regard to the number of tickets they would require for the Service of Remembrance and Reunion to be held at Canterbury Cathedral and Howe Barracks respectively on Sunday, August 7th. The future of the Regiment seems somewhat uncertain, and it may be that this annual event will be the last to be held as such.

The business of the meeting concluded, there followed two films in colour, shown by Sergt. Spencer, R.A., and Sergt. Phillips, of the Army Information Centre, Roper Road, Canterbury. The first film entitled "Ambush," depicted British troops in action in the jungles of Borneo. The wonderful scenery, the almost impenetrable jungle, the fact that behind the next tree would lurk an implacable enemy, brought home to us the fact that British troops were in action in almost impossible conditions, and also that to the majority of their countrymen they were, in fact, a forgotten Army, as was the case with the so-called "Chindits."

The second film, "Royal Engineers on Christmas Island," gave us a wonderful insight as to what the R.E.'s, mainly, but with the co-operation of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, had done on that lonely atoll, with leagues and leagues of ocean separating them from their fellow-men. Starting from scratch, it was amazing what they had accomplished—the making of an air-strip, roads and buildings, and the installation of equipment of all kinds—in fact everything that had converted an isolated atoll into a self-contained base and that in an equatorial climate.

The thanks of the Branch are extended to Sergt. Spencer, R.A., and Sergt. Phillips, for showing us that our counterparts today are carrying on against what would seem impossible odds—as we thought once.

So, homeward bound at around 10 p.m. Some on the 'bus—good old 'bus!—on scooters, in cars, or what have you, after a most enjoyable evening.

Stop Press: Any member requiring a small loan should apply to Mr. C. Daniels, who drew Radbrook in the Regimental Derby Sweepstake. He netted something of a fortune—to be precise £1, which was just £1 more than I received. Ah, well, "to them that hath shall be given." . . .

Best wishes to all Buffs and Branches, wherever they may be, from the same bloke—

A. H. BERRY.

CHATHAM

AT our monthly meeting, held on the 4th July, we heard with profound regret, of the death of Brigadier D. H. Gwilliam, M.B.E. Many members of our branch served

with him in various spheres during the war and the writer was very closely connected with the Brigadier, both on and off duty when the 7th was formed at Gravesend immediately before general mobilisation. It was only at our previous meeting we were talking of his last appointment and congratulating him among ourselves. The meeting stood in silence in respect of such a fine officer, and we extend our deepest sympathy to all his relatives.

Our meeting was of short duration, as we had been informed by our Secretary that representatives of the Medway Branch, The Queen's Own Buffs Association, were desirous of meeting us to discuss the possibility of an amalgamation of their branch and ours. The case was very ably put by the Secretary, Mr. Brand, and after many matters were sorted out it was decided that we would sound our respective members at the next meetings and report each other's findings.

Once again we were without our President's company and we send him our best wishes for improved health to enable him to again attend our meetings. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Annual Reunion at Maidstone, owing to being away on holiday, but I understand that it was well enjoyed by members from this branch who spoke well of the catering arrangements.

G. E. LYONS.

LONDON (BUFFS)

TIME passes very quickly. Here we are with the July notes almost before we have had time to digest the writings of all the Branches for June.

Even though we are in the midst of the holiday season (by date) we had once again a very good gathering at our June meeting, with the usual comradeship and friendliness exuding from all those who were present. But since that meeting our membership has very sadly been depleted by the passing over of no less than three more of our members—Sgt.-Major J. P. Smith, H. Spain and Bill Kain. We can ill afford to lose such stalwarts and these wonderful members are irreplaceable. Regarding Sgt.-Major Smith, who served in the 1st and 2nd Battalions, if any of the Association members who served with him from 1929 onwards would care to write me, I will be pleased to forward their letters to his wife, who is anxious to hear from any of his old comrades.

So glad to learn that the Maidstone Remembrance Service was watched over by "King Sol," and was once again very well attended, to add another memorable day to the calendar.

I see that we, the London Branch, Buffs, have been chosen to lead the Column to the Cathedral on Canterbury Sunday. We feel very proud to have had this honour conferred upon us and trust we shall uphold the dignity of all Past and Present Buffs.

Now we are looking forward to meeting many old friends and comrades at our own Memorial Service to the many members of our Branch who have passed on, in the Royal Chapel of the Tower of London on Sunday, 24th July.

Sincere wishes to all Queen's Own Buffs.

A. E. SHARP.

LONDON (QUEEN'S OWN)

OUR last meeting was the Annual General Meeting, held on Friday, 24th June, following the Annual Reunion.

The important thing about the A.G.M. is that I am not sure as to whether I'm to continue in the office of Chairman, as I was absent in the West Country on holiday. The most important thing at the Reunion was the Branch winning the Standard Bearers' Competition once again, due to the most capable turn out and drill of our old friend Ted Tickner, who was tickled to death about his success. The branch offers him wholesale congratulations.

Due possibly to the vagaries of the weather, there was not the response we had hoped in turn-out. As it happened, there were a couple of heavy showers but nothing to daunt, or should have daunted, any old soldier. The number of our officers on parade was small and this was quite a point of conversation. Many of the lads who turn out, do so hope to see not only old mates, but their old platoon and company commanders. When I looked along the ranks of the 1st Bn. there were several I missed immediately, and hope they all have good reasons for being absent.

Due to circumstances a little beyond my control, I was late on parade and just missed General Craddock's inspection, contriving to sneak in as he passed on to our 2nd Bn., but at least I was on parade. It still obtains that many of the Branch will not parade, rather watch in preference, despite all pleading. We could do with their numbers, but I regret they are not convertible.

The rain of course showed up the arrangements for cover, as the refreshment tent on the back field was completely full, this having the effect of keeping visitors either in their own transport or causing them to drive off to places where they could get a pre-lunch drink in comfort. This does not assist to keep the paraders together, following the usual dismissal, and we do hope that next year due allowance will be made for inclement weather. This of course in no way reflects on arrangements made by our organisers; it is possible that the marvellous weather preceding the actual day led to over optimism for the 19th June.

Branch members will be pleased to know that Busty Cannacott and self managed to call on three very well-known members of the Regiment in Col. Basil Clay, Col. Frank Russell, and Mayor V. S. (Nobby) Clarke. We were greeted as very old friends and I am pleased to report that all were extremely busy in their gardens and thoroughly enjoying the quiet life in the distant part of the West Country. It was our intention to seek out six on this trip but owing to the late hour and the necessity of getting food and bedded down for the night, we were forced to proceed westward. All these sent good wishes to the branch members, Col. Clay regretting that he would not be seeing the branch later this year, but promised he would attend as soon as he was able in certain circumstances. He gave me excellent news of my one-time Platoon Commander, Col. Hugh Wilkin, to whom I hope to write in the near future. The latter of course lives in America, but on his visits to this country does attend Regimental functions and perhaps it may be possible for us to persuade him to visit the branch. I understand he would enjoy this. Certainly he would meet one or two of his old B Company: that I would guarantee.

The tragic death of "Twink" Gwilliam did not go unnoticed and the Secretary was quick to send me the notices which appeared in the daily papers. Although a member of the branch, we seldom saw the Brigadier, due to his continual absence on duty, but those of us who knew him were shocked at the news. The branch sends its heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Gwilliam and trust that time will assist her to overcome the shock of "Twink's" sudden demise. The name will be carried on by his two sons, whom the branch hopes will have as great a career as their father.

My last News Letter brought replies as usual from those who cannot attend branch meetings, and I am grateful to, among others, Col. Meaburn Fry, Major "Bob" Brown, Bob Milton and George Stour for news.

Finally, to the immense delight of many of us who knew one of the most gentlemanly of football players who ever played soccer for the Q.O.R.W. Kent, "Peggy" Bettinson, ex-Bandsman of the 1st Battalion in the late "teens" and early "twenties" of this century, turned up at the Reunion. This was the first occasion that "Peggy" (as he was known to everyone in the Battalion in those days) had attended either a Reunion or a branch "do" of any description. As an outstanding musician he was as well-known to our Officers for his solo performances at "Guest

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Nights" as he was for his soccer abilities on the football field. He was given a most hearty welcome and, thanks to Jack Jones, who had made all the arrangements, had, in his own words, "a most wonderful day among old friends." I trust this will not be the last we shall hear or see of "Peggy." No doubt Jack Jones will be hopeful of dragging him along to our Christmas meeting when he will be certain of meeting many more intimate friends.

THE SPIDER.

MAIDSTONE

WE had an average attendance at our June meeting and were very pleased to welcome back to the Branch Bill Collingwood. Bill, an ex-Boy of the Queen's Own, has just returned to civil life after serving for 29 years in the Regular Army. During his last eight to 10 years of service Bill was a C.S.M.I. at the School of Infantry. Our main topic at the meeting was of course the Annual Reunion at Maidstone. Volunteers were earmarked to help Maxie Maxlow as sidemen at All Saints' Church and the shooting team, under the captaincy of Tim Hayley, were chosen. John Howells volunteered to act as Branch Standard Bearer and to represent the Branch in the Standard Bearers' competition. This sort of job is not everyone's "cup of tea" and John must be congratulated in filling the breach.

The Branch was very well represented at the Annual Reunion and it was good to see once again the familiar old faces—not so much of the old? The weather was not so kind as of last year but other than a small shower at the service at Brenchley Gardens we couldn't really grumble. The T.A. Bands must be congratulated on their performances, especially their playing on the back field during the afternoon. Our thanks to the Royal Engineers and to those at K.H.Q. for making it possible for us to meet yet once again.

Our hearty congratulations to London (Queen's Own) for winning the Standard Bearers' competition and to the Sandwich Branch for winning once again the shooting competition. It seems as though we of Maidstone have "shot our bolt"! The Retreat was very colourful and very smartly done by the Band and Drums of the Junior Soldiers Company H.C.B.D. Whether it was the refreshments served in the beer tent at the back field or sheer Regimental pride, but several voices were heard to be calling for "A Hundred Pipers." At the request from our Chairman, Tim Hayley, I am not recording the individual scores of the Branch shooting team this year!

It was with regret that members heard that "Dicky" Bird, one of our oldest members, who has seldom missed our meetings, will be sailing to Australia on 8th July, where he will live with his son. Dicky, who is now going on 73 years of age, joined the Queen's Own in July, 1912, and served his Regiment for 29 years. During the First World War he served in Mesopotamia and with the Indian Expeditionary Force "D"—commonly known by the troops in 1915 as "The Cooks Tour." During the Second World War he served at the I.T.C. Maidstone. After the war, Dicky was employed as groundsman at the Depot, where in 1946 he was awarded first prize for the best kept gardens in S.E. Command.

On 28th June we held a "get-together" at our headquarters so that members could all join in wishing "Dicky" bon voyage. Altogether 40 members and wives attended. After a session of "housey," the Chairman officially introduced our guest for the evening by requesting "Dicky" to sit in the "Throne Chair." He then called upon the President, Mr. Fred Farrington, to present a suitably inscribed Queen's Own plaque. Fred, who had served with "Dicky" for many years in India, recalled that "Dicky" was a typical soldier of the old school—with the exception that he never heard him moan, but just "carried on." He was always very helpful to the young soldier. He reminded members that "Dicky," whose first appointment to Lance-Corporal was in 1916, finished as Company Sergeant-Major. Then, on behalf of all members of the Branch, he said that he had great pleasure in presenting the plaque to "Dicky" and hoped that it would be an everlasting reminder of all his friends of the Maidstone Branch. He wished him bon voyage and hoped that he would settle down to his new life in Australia and have no lasting regrets on leaving Blighty and would continue to enjoy good health for many years to come. "Dicky" suitably replied and presented to the Branch a pewter pot which he hoped the Chairman would use on all future meetings—drinking purposes only!

After the presentations were over we commenced the

raffle. Tim's mother (widow of R.S.M. J. D. Hayley, M.C., D.C.M., M.S.M.), looking very young and spritely for her 82 years, consented to present the prizes. Altogether the evening went down very well and it could be seen that all members thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially "Dicky" who jiggled "down the aisle" on his way out to the tune of "He's a jolly good fellow."

Anode

No doubt you have all heard of many a tale from Dicky Bird,

He is leaving these shores—no more to roam,
Leaving West Farleigh to find a new home.
With battles behind him both lost and won,
He's now going to Australia to join his son.
Never mind, Dicky, you've earned a rest,
So from the Branch, we wish you the best.

A. NON.

After reading in the paper—30th June—about the new amalgamation we shall be waiting anxiously what will now happen to the Regimental Association.

Our regards to all members.

JIM WELLS.

TONBRIDGE AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS

THE monthly meeting of the Branch was held at T.A. H.Q., Avebury Avenue, on Thursday, 16th June.

The Branch has received another budget from Mr. Adams, of Cape Town, South Africa, with Press cuttings and stamps. It appears that he is still keeping very fit but has doubts whether he will be able to venture on a trip to England again.

The Branch were well represented at the Reunion and Service at Maidstone on Sunday, 19th June, although several regular attendants were unavoidably detained at Tonbridge for various reasons.

For some time now there had been doubts about our projected trip to France. Up to Friday mid-day, 24th June, the trip was off. At 1800 hours we received a "go ahead" message. It was then "panic stations" getting the party of 18 organised in time for the coach. However, we left Dover in the Enterprise I at 1030 hours Sunday morning. The weather could have been better but it did not stop members from enjoying themselves. After a 45-mile trip round to various historical places, i.e., gun sites from which Dover was shelled, the site from which V2 rockets were fired, Cap Griz Nez and villages along the coast we returned to Calais where we spent two hours before embarking in the Enterprise II, the sister ship to Enterprise I, for the homeward trip. This was a little rough, but nobody seemed the worse for it. All in all, it was a good day and worth all the work and trouble of laying it on.

The next item of importance will be the Royal Tournament to which we hope to take a coach load.

H.A.

11th Bn. THE QUEEN'S OWN

WELL, Maidstone is over once again; and Canterbury just round the corner. Our muster, a round dozen of our nucleus of stalwarts, was not too bad for the Old Brigade. Absent, for various reasons, were five of them—Bernard Bergl, George Branson, Les Eves, Walter Porter and "yours truly." We do trust that all is well with Porter for he never misses. Les Eves, we know, is not too fit and is sitting back for more X-rays in September, after having had all known types without it being discovered what is wrong with his chest.

Ted Willson, we are sorry to say, is seriously ill and his condition gives cause for grave anxiety. Mrs. Willson may be assured that they are both in our thoughts at this very trying time.

Fifty-one years since our formation and 35 since we became an Association, we have just enrolled a new member! And one who was at Catford and went across

with the Battalion as a Platoon Sergeant in A Company. I refer to E. E. Symonds, who was wounded on the Somme in 1916 and later invalided out. He lives in Portsmouth and seems a "cert" for the Dinner on the 1st October.

Our readers will be pleased to hear that, in his capacity of Hon. Secretary to the "Friends of St. George's, Ypres," Len Dawson had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty The Queen and the other Royal visitors when they were in Ypres recently and looked round the church.
R.O.R.

NEWS FROM THE LADIES' GUILDS

LONDON

A MEETING was held at the White Swan, Vauxhall Bridge Road, on 2nd June. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

Correspondence: Mrs. Waters, Mrs. Foster Hall and Mrs. Cousins.

Regrets: Mrs. Cousins, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Foster Hall, Mrs. Temple Hirst and Mrs. Everett.

We were sorry our Chairman was unable to be with us, but we thank her for her donation and look forward to seeing her in September.

Greetings were received from Mrs. Temple Hirst and Mrs. Cousins.

Our sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Smith for bringing along the bottle of sherry to celebrate the birth of their first grandchild.

Raffles realised £1/15/-. Our next meeting will be in September.
M.J.D.

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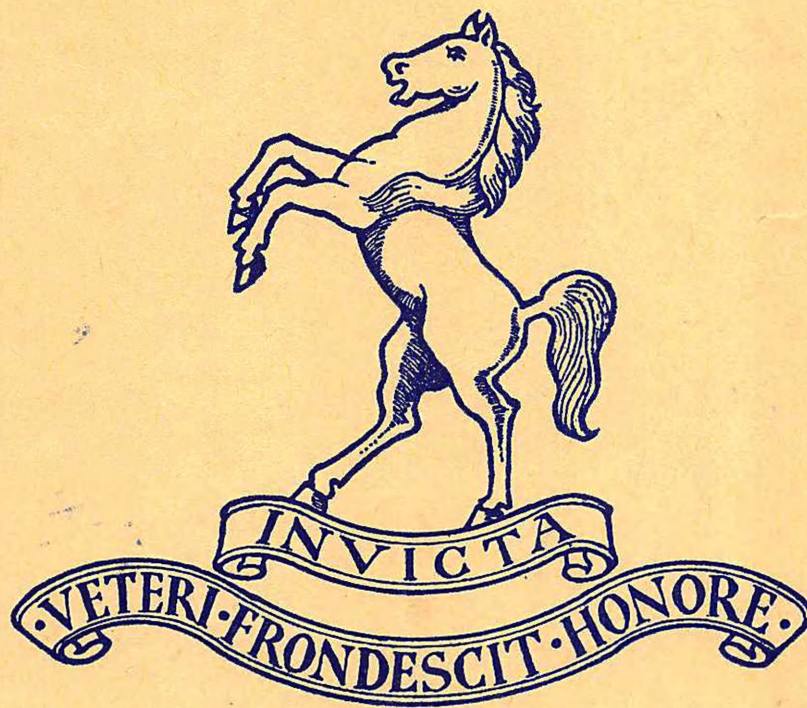
Crispbread - Rolls - Terms
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Ashford 1180

INVICTA

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



AUGUST, 1966

INVICTA

The Regimental Journal of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment (3rd, 50th & 97th)

The White Horse of Kent with motto "Invicta"

Volume VI, No 8



August, 1966

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

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: Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Craddock, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.,

REGULAR AND TERRITORIAL BATTALIONS

1st Battalion—British Forces Post Office 628.

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

Hon. Colonel: Colonel D. J. Dean, V.C., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.

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

Hon. Colonel: Colonel The Lord Cornwallis, K.B.E., M.C., H.M.L.

4th/5th Battalion The Queen's Own Royal

Hon. Colonel: Colonel Sir Henry d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, Bt., D.S.O.,

West Kent Regiment (T.A.)—Tonbridge.

M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., M.P.

UNITS OF THE CADET FORCE AFFILIATED

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

Hon. Colonel: Lt.-Col. U. H. B. Alexander, M.B.E., D.L.

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

1st A.C.F. Battalion The Queen's Own Royal

Hon. Colonel: Major-General H. A. Hounsell, C.B., C.B.E.

West Kent Regiment—Sidcup.

2nd A.C.F. Battalion The Queen's Own Royal

Hon. Colonel: Lt.-Col. T. C. Coath, T.D.

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.

Assistant Secretaries: Lt.-Col. H. S. Knocker and Major G. U. Weymouth, M.B.E.

Tel. No.: Canterbury 65281, Extensions 61 and 60

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 Oglivy, G.C.V.O.

Colonel of the Regiment: Colonel J. C. K. Strathy, O.B.E., E.D.

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.

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment: Colonel F. A. Tilston, V.C.

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

Colonel of the Regiment: Brigadier T. B. Morten, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.

INVICTA

The Editor's Column

A FEW days before the official announcement concerning the formation, at the end of this year, of The Queen's Regiment, the Deputy Colonel wrote personally to His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury; the Lord Lieutenant of Kent; the Lord Mayor of London; His Excellency the Danish Ambassador; Lieutenant-General Sir William Oliver; Major-General Talbot; the Dean of Canterbury; the Chief Constable of Kent; the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kent at Canterbury; the British Military/Air Attaché in Copenhagen; the Chairman of the Kent County Council; the Chairman of the K.T. & A.F.A.; Their Worships the Mayors of Canterbury, Maidstone, Ramsgate and Folkestone (the Freedom of which city/towns has been conferred on the Regiment); and the Chairmen of Ashford and Tonbridge Urban District Councils (the two towns which have 'Adopted' the Regiment).

All have replied personally, wishing The Queen's Regiment every success and pledging their support in the future.

Many members of the Regiment have, very understandably, expressed concern over the future of the Regimental Association, of the Regimental Tents during Canterbury Cricket Week, of the Maidstone Reunion, of Remembrance Sunday at Canterbury, of the Regimental Golfing Society and of other well-established Regimental functions and events. The short answer to all such uncertainties is that there will be few, if any, changes; whatever changes there may be will only be made after discussions with all interested parties have taken place.

Where this Journal is concerned, the last issue will be in December of this year; thereafter, "The Journal of The Queen's Regiment" will be published, also on a monthly basis. Although Major Guy Weymouth, the Editor-designate, has not finally made up his mind as to exactly how each issue will be presented, readers of this Journal can be assured that news of the Regular Battalion, of the "Volunteer" and the "Territorial" Battalions and of the Branches of the Association will continue to be published as before.

The Regimental Headquarters offices in Maidstone will have to close down at the end of the year and all Queen's Own affairs will, from then on, be handled by the survivors in the Regimental Headquarters offices in Canterbury, namely the present Regimental Secretary and Lt.-Col. Ned Knocker. Their own offices are at last scheduled for demolition and a move is pending, probably into two converted Married Quarters within the Leroc T.A. Centre compound. The title of the offices will also have to change and from 31st December they will be known as "R.H.Q., The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Own Buffs Office)."

EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

VERY belatedly, but nonetheless very sincerely, many congratulations to the Deputy Colonel on his appointment as Colonel-designate of The Queen's Regiment; and to Major-General Charles Tarver on his appointment as Deputy Colonel-designate of the 2nd Bn. The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Own Buffs), the name by which our Regular Battalion will be known with effect from 31st December this year, the date on which both appointments are assumed.

MR. E. V. Howell, of The Shack, Timsway, Staines, is asked to produce a cut-out figure for a calendar for 1967. This year's figure is that of a Bugler of either The Buffs or The Queen's Own (according to taste) of 1848. The design and colouring are unusually attractive and the figures cost 18/6 each, inclusive of postage and packing. Any reader who wishes to purchase one of these should write direct to Mr. Howell; cash must accompany each order.

ALL members of The Queen's Own Buffs B.U.P.A. Group are asked to note that they will continue to be administered by the existing R.H.Q. after the formation of The Queen's Regiment on 1st January, 1967. Should R.H.Q. The Queen's Regiment later decide to start a new Group all Queen's Own Buffs Group members will be notified of this and, at the same time, be invited to transfer.

THE 4th Bn. The Buffs (T.A.) Officers' Mess will be open on the last Saturday in each month from 1145-1400 hrs. All Past or Present Officers of the Regiment are cordially invited. Drinks may be ordered against cash or bar chit. Any Officer requiring sandwiches or other form of solid sustenance is asked to give at least 24 hours' notice.

CONGRATULATIONS to Major J. D. Norton on being awarded the Symbol "s.q." (entry to the first grade staff pool).

CONGRATULATIONS to Pte. M. Baldock on being best at P.T. in the Salerno Platoon which passed out at the Depot on 22nd July.

LT.-COL. Ned Knocker is now fully recovered from his operation—and from the effects of pouring some scalding tea all over his foot!—and is back at work in the Regimental Headquarters offices.

A VACANCY exists for a general handyman, including bar work, at The Laws Hotel, Turvey, Nr. Bedford, Beds. Applicants should be married, as the wife would be required to cook. There is a self-contained flat, and heating, lighting and food are provided free. A working week of 5½ days and a fortnight's holiday go with the job, the salary for which is approximately £20 per week. Applicants should write direct to G. Harris, Esq., The Laws Hotel, Turvey, Nr. Bedford, Beds.

WARMEST congratulations to Lt. Christopher Grove, son of Lt.-Col. Mike Grove, erstwhile Assistant Regimental Secretary at Regimental Headquarters, on achieving the distinction of a Second Class Honours Degree at the end of his three-year course at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham. Lt. Grove has just gone off to join the 1st Bn. in Borneo.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ptes. R. Gorse, P. O'Neill and A. Durling, who passed out as, respectively, the Best Platoon, which passed out at the Depot on 12th August. Section Leader, Best Recruit and Best Shot in Korea

A Sundial for the General

AS a mark of their appreciation for all that Major General Dennis Talbot, the first Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, did during his 4½ years in that office, all those who had served on the Regimental Council from 1st March, 1961, to 15th October, 1965, willingly subscribed to a valedictory presentation to him.

This took the form of a sundial, made by a local stonemason, and a photograph of it and its recipient appears on this page.

The sundial was erected in the garden of his home at Barham while the General was attending his son Antony's Speech Day at King's School, Canterbury. On his return home he found not only the sundial in position, but also a letter from the Deputy Colonel telling him what it was all about. The presentation came as a complete surprise to the General, and that, of course, had been the object of the exercise.

In his letter of thanks to the Deputy Colonel, General Talbot wrote as follows:—

Oast Court,
Barham,
Canterbury.
26th July, 1966.

My dear Dick,

On my return from Antony's Speech Day yesterday evening I was astonished to see that a piece of masonry had sprung up in the garden during my absence.

On closer inspection it turned into the truly delightful sundial which you and the other members of the Regimental Council have so kindly presented to me.

It came as a complete and utter surprise to me, as I had no hint that anything was brewing, nor, for that matter, was I expecting any recognition for my meagre efforts on behalf of the Regiment. What I did was little enough, and many in my position would have done much more.

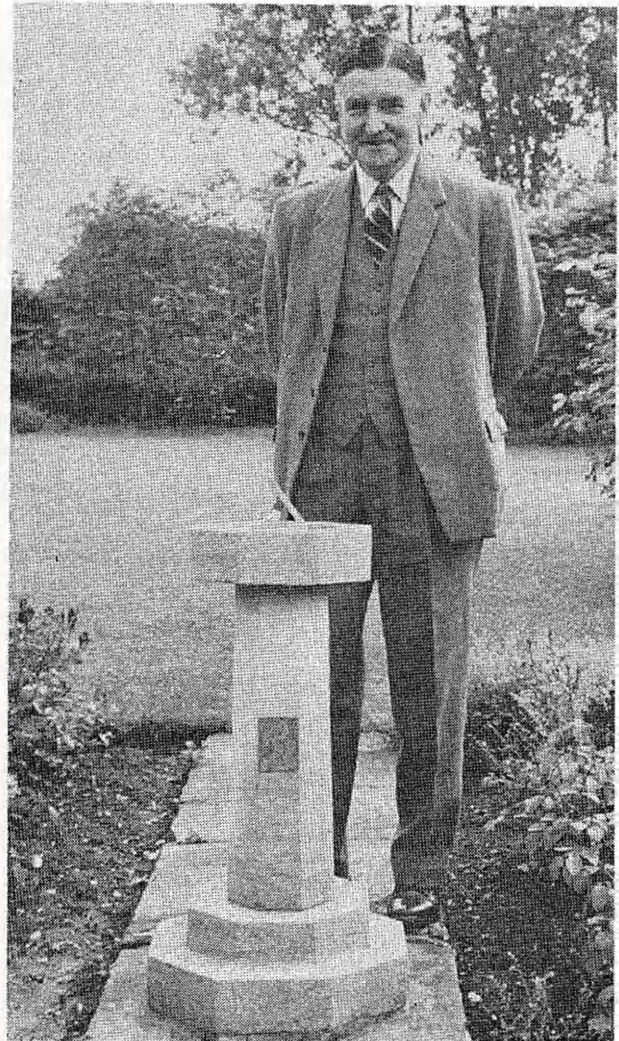
The sundial is a most attractive piece of work which I will admire and value for the rest of my life. Barbara and I are both delighted with it.

I shall be most grateful if you would be so good as to pass on my sincere thanks to those members of the Regimental Council who so kindly subscribed to its cost. I shall always feel tremendously grateful to them and, of course, to you for such a magnificent gift.

Thank you all so much.

Yours ever.

DENNIS.



The Regimental Buffet Luncheon

THE Regimental Buffet Luncheon will be held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.2, on Wednesday, 26th October, 1966, at 12.30 p.m. for 1 p.m.

The Colonel of the Regiment, Her Royal Highness Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, has graciously consented to honour the Regiment with her presence on this occasion. Members are earnestly requested therefore to arrive by **NOT LATER THAN 12.15 p.m.**

Eligibility

The following are eligible to attend:—

All Serving or Retired 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 that they are members of the Regimental Dinner Club.**

The wives and/or daughters of all such Officers.
One lady guest brought by a bachelor Officer.

Guests

All Officers' Widows are being invited to attend as Regimental guests.

Dress (Officers)

Lounge suit. No decorations.

Charge

The cost of the Luncheon will be £2/2/- per head, to include white wine. Pre-luncheon drinks will be paid for in cash. Payment for the Luncheon should be made by cheque or postal order, payable to "The Queen's Own Buffs General Account," and should be sent to Regimental Headquarters.

Warning In

Those intending to be present are requested to notify Regimental Headquarters as early as possible, and in any case by **NOT LATER THAN 10th OCTOBER, 1966.**

If, having accepted, you are unable to attend, please inform the Regimental Secretary not later than 24 hours before the Luncheon. Officers who notify a cancellation less than 24 hours before will be liable for payment of the full charge.

News From The 1st Battalion



A convoy on the move from Kota Belud.

New Places, New Faces

AT the end of May it was written that once again these notes were coming from a new location. It is hoped that we will not be accused of repetition if now, at the end of July, we open with the same statement.

The Move

The move from Kota Belud, Sabah, to Serian, Sarawak, was well planned. The advance party, 75 all ranks and the Assault Pioneers left on time. The original idea of this operational take over was for B Company, plus 60-odd "chiefs" from H.Q. Company, to fly on three successive days, and the balance of the Battalion to arrive on the new Landing Ship (Logistics) a day later. In each case an equal number of 1/10 Gurkhas was to move out. Like the best laid plans so often do, however, this one went wrong.

The R.A.F., who were supplying the aircraft, optimistically only provided one. This broke down for 48 hours at the start of the move, the ship for some more obscure reason was a day early, and the net result was that everybody arrived in the wrong order. This, of course, is the second time in three months that a move based on one aircraft has come unstuck through breakdowns. Perhaps the critics are right when they say we do not get value for our money. Surely with a Defence vote the size it is a spare aeroplane should be available.

Deployment

Has confrontation ended or not? That is the question that none of us knows the answer to. The politicians have talked, and made extravagant statements, yet in the last month there has been an armed incursion. But whatever

happens the Battalion is deployed to meet the threat, be it from across the border or from Communist activity in the rear. The most "forward" Company is C Company, situated on the frontier in an outpost called Tebedu. When the road is working it is an hour and a half's drive by Land Rover. When the road is impassable, as it often is, then the Company is supplied by airdrop.

B Company are next in line, at Tebakang about a third of the distance away, and they too rely on the air for their rations.

A Company, deprived of an entirely roadless forward base, are back in Serian with Battalion H.Q. But they are seldom in, as two platoons have been out with B and C Companies continually since we arrived.

Tactics

The platoons at the moment are mainly engaged in patrolling and ambushing, getting to know and dominating our particular bit of real estate. It is hard work, and in time may become monotonous, but at the moment enthusiasm is high and there is no doubt the Battalion is fitter than it has been for many years.

The Little Men

These notes would not be complete without some mention of the 1/10 Gurkha Rifles. The advance party found them to be hospitable in the extreme, endlessly patient in the trouble they took to give us a good handover. They, having just completed their fourth Borneo tour, had a lot of knowledge to pass on, and all members of the advance party learnt something to their advantage from this very friendly regiment.

The Large Regiment

In the midst of our move the news was officially broken, and probably because there was so much to do, and so little time to do it in, discussion and comment has been minimal. Perhaps this is not surprising, the pros and cons having been endlessly chewed over in the past two years; the battle has been fought and lost, and we now look forward with determination that ours will in the future be the best battalion in the best regiment in the British Army. Veteri Frondescit Honore.

Headhunters

Every schoolboy knows that Borneo is the home of headhunters, and it is only in recent years that this fascinating form of entertainment has gone out of fashion. However, old traditions die hard and there is probably enough truth to justify the rumours in the kampongs that head-hunting parties are on the way. However, Sgt. Mogford and his assault pioneers felt more than a little insulted when, out on patrol, the entire male population of a kampong "stood to" with parrangs raised and accused him of practising this outdated sport.

A COMPANY

From First to Last

Cries of pain and anger, gnashing of teeth, tearing of hair, beating of breasts and other signs of distress signalled the news that Pango Amo was no longer to be the "A" Company base. Instead the Company finds itself at Serian acting as reserve company, while others have the more glamorous bases. Since our arrival the Company has been kept busy getting to know the battalion area and hoping that the next incursion comes soon.

Organisation

The Mortars have momentarily lost their tubes and have been as busy patrolling as the other platoons. What they lack in numbers they make up for in spirit and experience.

Farewell

Sgt. Watson has left the Coy. and our best wishes go with him. We shall always be pleased to see his cheerful face if ever he re-joins "A" Coy.

First Appointments

We congratulate L/Cpls. Wharram and Walker on their appointments as Local L/Cpls.

Kinabalu

The highest mountain in South East Asia (13,455 ft.) was climbed by three parties from the Company, the first led by Mr. Fraser with 2 platoon and a Coy. H.Q. Signaller, the second by Capt. Davison and Mr. Butler with his Mortar Section and the last party by Mr. Hodges with 4 Platoon; everybody enjoyed it, but there was no doubt that it was a flog!

B COMPANY

From Paradise Camp to Earthly Reality

The advance party had great difficulty in reaching Tebakang, our new home, as the road from Serian was under repair. We finished up by having to walk some distance ankle-deep in mud. Major Reid gallantly led the column with Lt. Jackson bringing up the rear, and Pte. Clark struggling with his kit.

Marching Prontoes

It was a sight to see the faces of two signallers, Cpl. Regan and Pte. Lisney, when they were told by Major Reid they were going out with 1/10 Gurkha Rifles on a patrol for two days. Temperatures and pulses were taken with the hope that they had contracted some disease, but no such luck and away they went on what proved to be an unforgettable experience.

Bon Voyage to 1/10 Gurkha Rifles

Many a good party was had, and much beer sunk, with the 1/10 Gurkhas, with whom we made numerous friends. We cannot thank them enough for all their hospitality.

Muddled Move

Once again the Company had the doubtful privilege of travelling by air. As a result we are all the more confirmed than ever in our belief that "with time to spare travel by air!" With the unfailing irregularity of air travel the Britannia broke down for 24 hours in Singapore, and another 24 hours in Hong Kong. We eventually left Jesselton airport 48 hours behind schedule.

Tebakang

This is a delightful, if somewhat small, Company position situated on a hill overlooking an interesting stretch of river. The river is the life blood of the 600 inhabitants of the kampongs; apart from being the main water supply, it is one of the main lines of communication, the only bath in the area, and probably the only sewer! Even so, our



(Top) Cock fighting still goes on in Kota Belud; (lower) Cpl. Last and L/Cpl. Harverson with some of the younger generation.

laundry is remarkably clean when it is returned to us after being washed in this river. A constant stream of long boats propelled by high-powered outboard motors fly up and down the river loaded with natives or local produce. We are all now very busy getting to know our area.

New Faces

We welcome to the Company Lt. Cockram, Sgt. Watson and Cpl. Thomas, R.A.M.C. We are also pleased to accept to the fold L/Cpl. Foulger and Pte. Venmore.

Finale

If the Battalion cannot do it:
TEBAKAN!

C COMPANY

Away Again

Yes, that famous Course Man, Lt. Clive St. John Perry, escaped to Singapore on another week's course. Will it ever end?!

Mt. Kinabalu

Eventually 21 all ranks went up this 13,455ft. mountain in four different parties. All had their usual hair-raising stories. Pte. Henry went up, on this day-and-a-half venture, with five days' rations! This did not amuse 2/Lt. Hunter, who was leading the group, for a variety of reasons.

Welcome

To Lt. Board from "A" Coy. via the Jungle Warfare School. He has broken a much-prized record. For one year this Coy. has NOT had a married officer! (To C.S.M. Histed's annoyance). Still Trevor Board's wife does live in Central France! A long way from Hong Kong or Borneo.

Advance Party

On 8th July the advance party, under the O.C., left for Sarawak. They spent 14 unforgettable days with the

1/10 Gurkhas. We took over from "D" Coy. under Major Christopher Pike. In the O.C.'s and C.S.M. Histed's opinion it was the best handover ever received from another unit, both operationally and administratively. Many thanks to the 1/10th.

Sarawak

We live at a place called Tebedu. This is a large Company base right next to the border. Indonesia overlooks us. As we are the nearest Company to the border, we have got the "Sharp End" feeling. A sub-unit of Gurkhas from 2/10th are stationed next door to us and already a good Gurkha/British liaison has started. We have noted that they drink rum in large quantities. Regrettably, we are rationed to NO Spirits at the moment (unofficially).

This is a first-class Coy. camp. Brand new platoon accommodation has been built. Plenty of showers (including two hot ones) and good canteen facilities. Mac, our Charwallah, has come with us from Sabah.

Sea Journey

The main party of the Coy. travelled from Jesselton to Kuching on the new 10,000 ton Tank Landing Ship "Sir Lancelot." This has been newly-built and is all air-conditioned! A two-day journey. For all this the Company was pleased to reach dry land. As usual, when trooping by sea, fatigues take a high priority.

R and R

This is short for Rest and Recuperation. For old soldiers (members of 1939-45 vintage and before) this never happened. But it does in the Modern Army. R. and R. is an Americanism. We had it rammed down our throats by Americans on R. and R. from Vietnam in Hong Kong. Now we're off. The marrieds return to Hong Kong for a fortnight and the singles will go to Singapore for a week. THIS IS THE ARMY TO BE IN NOWADAYS. Everyone certainly gets around at Harold Wilson's expense! This may explain our economic difficulties.

NOTE: We are smoking cigarettes at 1/- for 20. A bottle of gin is 8/-. Ha, Ha! You civvies in U.K.!

H.Q. COMPANY

Sarawak

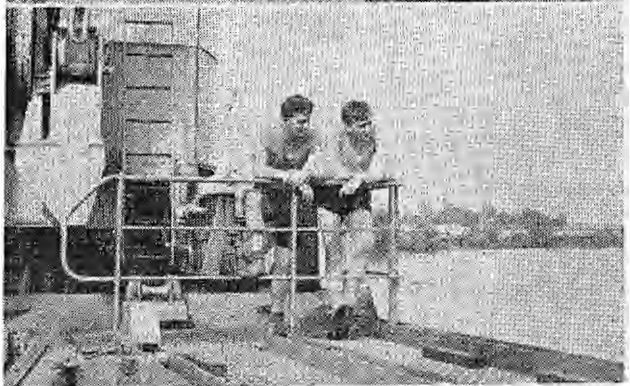
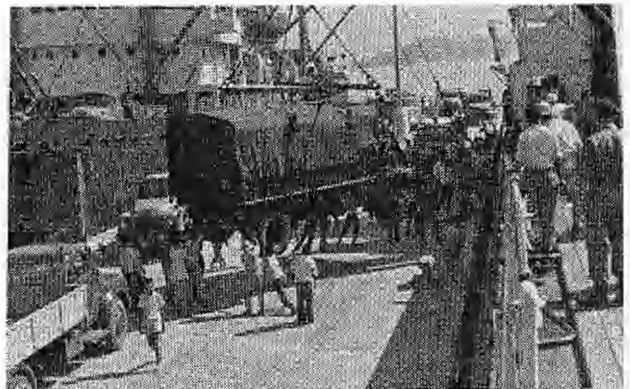
After a week's postponement, the Advance Party for Serian, our new location in Sarawak, finally left Kota Belud on 8th July, and had quite a pleasant trip with the R.A.F. I think that it might honestly be said that not one of that party were unhappy at the thought of leaving. We were made very welcome by 1/10 G.R., who didn't waste any time in rushing us from Kuching to Serian. After the sedate (?) fashion that our own drivers move about in, that first ride was quite harassing—it is said that the speed never dropped below 50 m.p.h.—exaggerated, of course, but since all eyes were closed, who can dispute it! The Camp, Mandalay Camp, is astride the main Kuching Road and combined with the Serian Police Station. It is quite compact, especially after the vast stretches of Paradise Camp. It appears that the only fault with the camp is that whereas in Kota Belud there was too much water, here at Serian there is a slight shortage.

Perhaps because we are farther south it appears to be a lot hotter, although drier, than Kota Belud. Before the main body of the Battalion arrived a few games of volley ball and basketball were played against the Gurkhas with disastrous results for us. Soccer was quickly arranged against local teams and in spite of the heat we just about held our own.

The Move

The main body was due to arrive on 19th July, but on that morning it was delayed for 24 hours. The following day there was another delay for 24 hours; what Movements were called doesn't bear repeating! However, they finally started to arrive on Thursday, exactly 48 hours later than had been planned. The Sea Party, which should have arrived a day after the last air party, was put forward 24 hours and started to pull into camp with the third Flight and a day before the last air party.

With 1/10 GR still in occupation the chaos may be imagined. Everyone was finally sorted out, though, and we have now settled in. Probably the only individual who was really put out by these changes of time was our redoubtable ACC WO "Q" Heath, who was getting rather nervous about going to Kuching to cancel or increase ration indents. The biggest strain of the move all round was thrown on to H.Q. Company, since two rifle companies were sent straight from airport or dock to their permanent location. However, with some assistance from 'A' Coy. things went pretty smoothly.



(Top) Loading one of the Battalion's vehicles at Jesselton; (lower) Dmr. Clinch and Dmr. Stupples on board the good ship "Sir Lancelot."

Personalia

Capt. Taylor, who has been both company commander and PRI since our arrival in Hong Kong, is now in the process of handing over prior to his move to C Coy. He has somehow managed, under the pretence of taking some exam, to go off on a trip to Singapore. Perhaps he feels, after about a year of strain, he should have a break—he does appear to be a little older, not naturally either! Our wishes for his good fortune go with him. Major Neve, fresh from the appointment of Battalion Training Officer, has already taken over as OC Coy. but, it should be noted, not yet as PRI. Since he is the company commander also of our own rifle company maybe he shouldn't. Yes! We have a combat company among our numbers nowadays and formed as it is from the Assault Pioneers, Recce Platoon and Drums it is the best company in the battalion, and will quite probably make the rifle companies look to their laurels. Other new appointments have also been filled since our arrival. The RSM has taken over as heliport manager and appeals manager. For the former job he would like to know if any reader is in possession of a spare baseball cap and two painted table-tennis bats—they would be most welcome, for he really must look the part!

R and R

Our long awaited R & R has almost started and by the time that our next notes are put to press should be well under way. Married soldiers whose wives are in Hong Kong are going home for a fortnight and single soldiers are having a week, either locally or in Singapore! Maybe by next month we shall be more in the picture as to the true reason why quite a few of the soldiers do not wish to go to Singapore; but the rumours that are circulating about Kuching must certainly have something to do with it. We will try to keep you informed of developments.

Orderly Room Jottings

For the third time in less than a year these notes are being written in a new station, and this time it is Serian Camp in the heart of Sarawak. The move from Kota Belud went off very smoothly. Apart from the discomfiture

of our ORQMS, "Tug" Wilson, and his trusty squire, L/Cpl, "Hank" Isenberg, who were marooned for a day amidst the obvious pleasures of Jesselton with the rest of the first flight, all the staff arrived here safely.

New Surroundings

The camp is very pleasant and our new office is somewhat larger than the last. The only complaint we have at the moment is the fact that the helicopter pad is just outside our back window, and the frequent noise of "choppers," landing and taking off, seriously disturbs the daytime sleepers inside. Our RSM, W.O.I Mills, is now in his second childhood. He has been appointed manager of the helicopter pad and whenever a "chopper" is seen approaching over the hills, he dons his flying helmet and roars out to the pad, ready to direct a landing.

Activities—Near and Far

At the moment we are "one short," as Pte. Terry Fitzgerald is away in Singapore attempting his B III Clerks Course, for which we wish him luck. Pte. Les Spice is also due to go to Singapore shortly for his B II. Your patient scribe sits here wondering what the fatal fascination of this place really is. At the moment Cpl. George Young is sitting on the floor surrounded by bits of our trusty duplicating machine, which seems finally to have given up the ghost. We don't know which has more ink on it, the machine or George. Cpl. Mick Manning is off for his weekly "skive" down to Kuching with our redoubtable Post NCO, L/Cpl. Pete Spice, who is usually missed but not forgotten from these notes. Our Filing Clerk, Pte. Bob Rust, recently shanghaied from B Company, is rushing around trying to borrow a radio so that he can listen to the World Cup Final.

Funk Hole

Although things seem quiet now we sometimes glance with apprehension towards a large hole in the ground outside the office which happens to be our defensive position in the camp. Although it is already four and a half feet deep, the ORQMS can be seen out there nightly, making his little spot about six feet deeper than anybody else's. Better to be safe than sorry he says. So until next month, "salamat tinggal" (farewell).

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

HEIGH HO! HEIGH HO!
THE SECTION STARTS TO GROW.

First in Again

The dwarfs were all in the Advance Party in the Battalion's Operational Theatre. Grumpy initially was H.Q. Coy. rep, and later said: "Snow White and Sneezy did very well in his absence." The dwarfs have been very busy taking over all the many different tasks from their Gurkha counterparts.

Offices Hot and Cold

Snow White is known to lock himself away in the Joint Ops Room, which is air conditioned, and we all think he makes too much use of the sign which reads, "No Admittance, Briefing in Progress."

Sneezy has the rest of the section working in the Int. Sect. Room, whilst Grumpy has the honour of sharing an office with the dreaded "Dr. Who."

Whittled Down, Excess to Estab

The Section has lost/given up/put on the transfer list, Ptes. Hassan, Coates and Hillson, respectively Wicked Witch, Poison Apple and Dopey. This leaves the Section with Snow White and six dwarfs. Perhaps "The Magnificent Seven" would now be more suitable.

Battle of Abbreviations

Snow White loves all the abbreviations used for the many and various groups from the other side. Sneezy thinks that on occasions this is carried a bit too far and swears that he makes some of them up on the spur of the moment. Still the dwarfs caught their leader out the other day. During a conversation Snow White was asked for info concerning L.C.C.; he didn't know what L.C.C. meant, but it's possible to excuse him as he comes from Kent!

Inky Fingers

Doc is IC civil labour and the Pundits at Scotland Yard would be full of admiration at the way he takes finger prints. The one snag is keeping him supplied with ink!

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Est. 1771

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NO HEADACHES FOR THE FIGHTING LORD

The customers of Hawkes' successors were browned off by the Abyssinian campaign. Hawkes produced, out of a hat, a corking idea, which worked like magic against sun. Lord Napier, Commander in Abyssinia, suffered no headaches in his Hawkes' helmet and captured Magdala in 1867.

IN THE WARS AGAIN

The British have regularly gone into battle with glory and Hawkes' uniforms. Enough have survived to keep the firm going . . . and on victory parades and ceremonial occasions their splendid Hawkes' uniforms have always lent colour to the occasion.

A PEACEFUL ENDING

As well as uniforms, Hawkes now cut city suits and country-wear for more peaceful pursuits . . . and match jet-age speed with immediate-wear service. But there still remains the same military precision of cutting, the same traditional pride in a first-class job, and the same air of style. As history has proved, Hawkes can always rise to the occasion in suitable style.

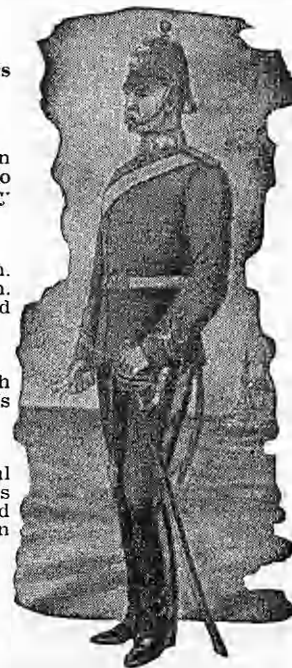
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RECCE PLATOON

New Look

Ex-members of the platoon will no longer recognise it as the well-wheeled platoon it was. Believe it or not we do not have one Land Rover! This is unheard of, but no doubt pleases the MTO. We are now a multi-racial force, consisting of one West Indian (Gittens), a Chinaman (L/Cpl. Hui Sui Lang), four Iban trackers (Messrs. Banyoi, Vincent, Iken and Johnny), a Welshman (Ellis), a Scotsman (Donlin) and three Irishmen (Sgt. Marshall, Pte. Moynihan and L/Cpl. Barnes). The first two deny that the third is Irish as apparently he comes from the wrong side of the border. The remainder of the platoon actually come from Kent!

Dogs Too

The platoon is now split into two Combat Tracker Teams, one under Sgt. Marshall and the other under Cpl. Relf. We went to Malaya in March for training and a course at the Jungle Warfare School and since then have been completing the training of the two teams at Kota Belud. Mention has been made of the many nationalities in the platoon, but we also have four dogs, two Alsatisans, Pasa (L/Cpl. Clarke) and Bambi (Pte. Miller) and two Labradors, Duke (Pte. Tamkin) and Dagger (Pte. Donlin). The Labradors are part of the two teams and follow human scent; the two Alsatisans are used to spot enemy ambushes and, believe it or not, they can too!

Final Exercise

All the training finally ended with a Battalion Incur-sion Exercise when half the platoon under Capt. "Hurricane" Holman, aided and abetted by 2/Lt. Dinwiddy, who joined us three weeks ago, and Cpl. Relf, tried to get through the battalion lines to blow up a bridge. Sgt. Marshall was on the battalion's side with his team and during the first day showed what we were capable of by following 2/Lt. Dinwiddy three hours after he had set off and being within 20 minutes of his group when he was caught. During the exercise the incursionists managed to blow up a helicopter; the remainder were "shot," except for Pte. Bill Monday, the signaller, who escaped from our ambush and managed with neither map nor compass to get through the whole battalion and blow up a vital bridge. Cpl. Relf and Cpl. White were caught when only 30 yards from their bridge. As you can see Land Rovers don't come into it but we are very much looking forward to getting them back when this trip is over. This will be to the MTO's disgust and the relief of our aching feet.

Training Wing

If you have seen 2/Lt. Dinwiddy rushing around looking harassed during the last few days it's because he is trying to organise a three week cadre. Training in an operational area has its own problems; fire a blank without warning everyone beforehand and the battalion is out hunting you. We say goodbye to Sgt. Naylor, who is grinning from ear to ear with the thought of R & R. He



British troops in Malaysia on guard against Indonesian infiltrators, have had the experience of working alongside Iban tribesmen, former headhunters of Sarawak, who are employed by British and Commonwealth units as trackers. Pte. John D. Shiel, whose parents live at 36 Milner Crescent, Aylesham, a tracker cover man, is seen here with an Iban while on a search for terrorists in the Sabah jungle. Pte. Shiel, who is with the 1st Battalion, has also served in Kenya, Cyprus, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong and the former British Guiana. His wife, Kathy, and children, John, aged six, and Tina (two), live at 10 Vale View Aylesham.

takes over the Assault Pioneers for two weeks on his return. However, the Training Office is now in the capable hands of Cpls. Knight and Apps, and L/Cpl. Owen still gives his support. We have 15 to train and also three Malay interpreters. Anyone else like to join?

Sport

Owing to the training programme battalion sport has had to take a back seat, but at the end of the training period we managed to play Squash, Rugger and Hockey versus Jesselton. The Squash was arranged with the Jesselton Sports Club at very short notice and we only managed four players on either side. It was a very good evening, Capts. John Davison and Neil Pearce saving the day and ensuring a replay in the near future.

The Rugby was arranged in about four days, again in Jesselton against the Sports Club. We had a trial match mid-week when Capt. John Holman's Invitation XV beat C Coy. under Major Richard Lea. After the match the battalion XV was picked and it was a joy to see so many Rugby players, the majority being soldiers as well. Much credit to Major Richard Lea in teaching so many soldiers

Rugby. The match itself was a very hard fought game. We scored first through Bell and continued to fight hard but in the second half Jesselton scored making it 3-3. The scores remained level to the end despite repeated attacks by the forwards and hard running from Gittens, Rust and Coxan and the other backs. After the match the team was liberally entertained by the opposition, for which we thank them very much. Playing for Jesselton was Chris Holmes-Smith, who was a National Service Officer in The Buffs in Germany and who is now working in Jesselton.

The Hockey, normally the most successful of battalion sides, met with defeat the day after the Rugger. Conditions were frightful but it was a good game and once again we were well entertained and looked after. The score in the match was 2-1, Lt. Jackson scoring our goal.

News From The Territorial Battalions

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



During his visit to the Territorial Battalions in Camp at the Stanford P.T.A. during June the Deputy Colonel, accompanied by Lt.-Col. D. A. Willows, O.C. 4 Buffs (T.A.), spoke to two of the battalion's R.E.M.E. personnel (left) L/Cpl. Read and (right) Cpl. Bartlett.

Photo: "Kent Messenger."

HIS month has been a relatively quiet one as is usual with the month after camp, but a number of steps have been taken towards reorganisation. Drill evenings have been cut down to one evening a week and training has been directed with special regard to future roles in the new organisation.

We are particularly proud that our present C.O., Lt.-Col. D. A. Willows, has been selected to command the Home Counties Brigade Volunteer Battalion (to be designated 5 Queen's) from its inception on the 1st April next, and the new Battalion could not possibly get off to a better start than this.

Brigade At Home at Canterbury

The Home Counties Brigade Depot "At Home" was held at Howe Barracks on Sunday, 3rd July, and the Battalion's contribution was to provide a Battalion Headquarters set-up as a display. This was set up tactically with full camouflage and Staff and created considerable interest amongst a large number of visitors. The R.S.M. taped an explanatory commentary on everything that was going on and this was played at intervals throughout the day.

The "At Home" was a great success and very much enjoyed by the large crowd which attended. The sun even shone continuously which made the day memorable enough in this wretched summer.

Range Weekend

Our third range classification weekend was held on the weekend 9th/10th July. In future it is obvious that key sporting events must be avoided when planning range weekends or other training. This particular weekend

clashed with the West Indies playing at Canterbury. However, true to form, the weather was glorious on both days, and an acceptable number qualified for their Bounty.

Signal Exercise

2/Lt. Woodman, taking a leaf from the Training Major's book, pressed to be allowed to run an exercise on the weekend 23rd/24th July, ignoring the fact that this was the semi-final of the World Cup. Attendances improved after full-time! In fact the exercise went well and some useful radio work was practised. Some ten radio stations were out (thanks to the loan of four 62 sets from 4/5 R.W.K.), and, using 32ft. masts, were worked over reasonable distances.

Other Training

The Assault Pioneers refuse to accept that their role will not continue in the new organisation and have been rafting and boating with their usual contempt for the convention of an occasional weekend or drill night off.

Other detachments have got training under way for the Brigade Skills competition. The emphasis of all training is on this for the next two months.

Training in B.A.O.R.

Major Taylor, who combined an attachment to 1st Queen's Surreys with a continental holiday, sent in this account:—"Monday, 20th June, saw the departure of a party of 12 members of this Battalion for a short attachment to 1st Queen's Surreys, an A.P.C. Battalion, at Munster. The journey was made in company with similar parties of 'Terriers' from Surrey and Sussex. We arrived, following a pleasant journey via Gatwick and Dusseldorf, at 2300 hours, some 30 minutes or so before we were expected. Obviously Movements were making a special effort on our behalf!

"We were greeted with a good meal, and the news that on the Wednesday we would leave with the Battalion for dismantled training at Vogelsang in Belgium, but we

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were able to spend most of Tuesday learning how the A.P.C. works and enjoying (?) an all too brief ride across rough country.

"Two things stick in one's mind as far as Vogelsang is concerned: violent and energetic exercise and perpetual rain! For the first couple of days we were involved in individual and Section training; Cpls. Easter and Brown did extremely well and were congratulated on their Section handling. But we were not to get away so easily for long, for on the Saturday morning we were put through our Battle Efficiency tests. However, we acquitted ourselves well and all who took part passed.

"On Sunday we helped B Company, to whom we were attached throughout, into second place in the Battalion Swimming Gala, Cpl. Brown and L/Cpl. Clark collecting medals in the process. Monday, 27th June, saw the commencement of the double-barrelled exercise 'Guildford Gander/Richmond Row,' and almost continuous rain. We pursued the enemy, the notorious 'Ward Gang,' the length and breadth of the training area both by day and by night. The ability of their casualties to recover and return to battle was remarkable indeed! The exercise concluded with a cordon and search, following a river crossing, with vehicles as well as men being passed across in appalling conditions—heavy rain, high winds and total darkness. At least we did get all the enemy this time!

"Vogelsang was rough, the weather was lousy, the going was, to say the least, arduous; but, thanks to our hosts, we enjoyed every moment of it. Thank you, 1st Queen's Surreys; may we please come again?"

Band

The Band has been kept busy, as the following list of engagements goes to prove:—

Saturday, 2nd July: Practice for Home Counties Brigade "At Home."

Sunday, 3rd July: Participation with Band and Drums 1st Royal Sussex and the Depot Junior Soldiers and the Band 5th Mx. (T.A.) in a massed Bands Display at the Home Counties Brigade "At Home." Afterwards with 5th Mx. (T.A.) providing concert music throughout the afternoon.

Wednesday, 6th July: Sittingbourne Carnival.

Sunday, 10th July: Band Concert at Gillingham.

Sunday, 17th July: Band Concert at Penshurst Place.

Wednesday, 20th July: In conjunction with bandmen from 5th Buffs (T.A.) and the Depot Junior Soldiers, the Band was on parade on the occasion of the installation of Sir Robert Menzies as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports at Dover.

Saturday, 23rd July: Band Concert at Maidstone on the Kent County Constabulary "Open Day."

During the Band Concert at Penshurst Place given at the invitation of Lord De L'Isle, Sgt. Croxford noticed among the family portraits that of Lt.-Col. Robert Sidney who was appointed the first Colonel of the Holland Regiment in 1665. This was made known to Lord De L'Isle who wrote, "Yes, Robert Sidney was the first Colonel, a fact of which I am immensely proud."

It is now known that a Band will be based at Canterbury as the Band of the 5th Volunteer Battalion The Queen's Regiment on the reorganisation of the Reserve Army. The composition and terms of service are still not known but we trust that a goodly number of our present Band will find their way into the new one.

Command Post Party

The Battalion's "top people" gathered together again for their now annual Command Post Dinner which this year as last was held at the George and Dragon at Fordwich. Unfortunately the weather was not so good this year but constituted no damper. The occasion happily coincided with Cpl. Anderson's 21st birthday party and a special cake was produced as a background to the post-prandial conversation. The evening was splendidly arranged by S/Sgt. Matthews and Sgt. Clarke; Sgt. Hills, whom we were all particularly glad to see, made the journey from Chesham to be with us. The R.S.M., too, joined us this year and was particularly welcome. This was a most excellent evening and very much enjoyed by everyone.

22 Shooting Competition

On Thursday, 14th July, Mr. H. W. F. Hooker, representing the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men, visited the Herne Bay Drill Hall to present the shield awarded by the Association to the winners of the 22 Shooting Competition for all T.A. sub-units in Kent. For the second time in three years H.Q. Coy. have won the shield, and last year were runners-up to B Coy. at Sittingbourne, who were forced into second place this year by the margin of one point.



Mr. H. W. F. Hooker presents the shield to Sgt. Thundow. Others shown are, from left to right: L/Cpl. Heckley, L/Cpl. Silk, Sgt. Marshall, the C.O., L/Cpl. Cornelius, Cpl. Holness and L/Cpl. Stallwood.
By courtesy "Herne Bay Press."

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

IT is not often found necessary to take up the cudgels with the Editor, but his own column in the June issue of *Invicta* (page 154) does less than justice to our efforts in connection with T. and A.V.R. III—so much so that we feel bound to draw attention to the requirement that we are to sponsor an East Kent T. and A.V.R. III unit, with its Headquarters at Deal and Companies at Westwood, Deal and Folkestone in addition to the one quoted. Planning is already under way and we thus have dual responsibilities to discharge throughout what can only prove a fairly difficult time for both Volunteers and Territorials.

Declarations of Intent are being shuffled, sorted, sent here, there and everywhere in readiness for Command Boards which commence their scrutiny this month and next. First choices and second choices—a gigantic game of snakes and ladders—with every chance of winning the jackpot! All of this is super-imposed on the news of the formation of the "Large" Regiment. The wind of change is certainly blowing to good effect. It is heartening to think that the Queen's Own Buffs Company of the 5th Volunteer Bn. The Queen's Regiment will be here at Westwood and we shall do all in our power to see it safely launched.

Congratulations to Lt.-Col. Derek Willows on being selected as the first Commanding Officer of the new Volunteer Battalion. It is an open secret that Lt.-Col. Frank Neville has been nominated as C.O. (designate) of the T. and A.V.R. III Bn. at Deal. May both have successful tours of duty in their respective commands.

Reorganisation has claimed its first casualty and former members of the 4th Battalion at Sandwich will be sorry to hear that the Detachment at The Quay has now withdrawn to Deal, handing the Drill Hall over to the 1st A.C.F. Bn. The Buffs who are continuing under the eagle eye of Charlie Fields. This is the first phase of a planned withdrawal from T.A. Centres which will not be required once reorganisation has taken place.

Old and Bold Approve

The Corps of Drums Beat Retreat at the British Legion Fête at Maurice House, Birchington, on 16th July. They put on a splendid performance which was well received by all present and earned full marks from the organisers of what proved the most successful fête yet.

Genuine Mistake

A number of 'A' Company men inadvertently saluted their Company Sergeant Major—a typical Ed Quarter trick this!—having mistaken him for a Major General. Congratulations, Sergeant Major, on your turn-out!

Gone to the Dogs

Sgt. Cook?

Mystery Deepens

Exactly what the PSI said to the Quartermaster over the telephone cannot readily be revealed and certainly not in print. However, the cause of all the trouble is now safely in London and everyone can breathe a sigh of relief.

Lord Warden's Installation

Members of the Battalion Band helped augment the Band of the 4th Battalion for this unique ceremony in Dover on 20th July. The Band played in the Market Square and acquitted themselves well; the morning was fine and they had a grandstand view of all the pageantry and pomp. This, too, was Lt. Bruce Maughan's swan song; what a pity we did not succeed in having him on parade somewhere! On the following evening Mrs. Neville and the Commanding Officer were on board H.M.S. Aurora for the Lord Warden's Reception and, having weathered the naval approaches, appear to have had an excellent evening.

Dover Tattoo

2/Lt. Tony Darby and members of C and D Companies combined to produce a tableau for this year's Dover Tattoo on the Crabble ground. The theme selected was a re-enactment of Pte. Moyses and the Chinese Mandarin, with Cpl. McIntosh and W.O.II Erridge in the leading rôles. The commentator, historical researcher and general manager was 2/Lt. Tony Darby, and all concerned are to be congratulated on the way they played their parts. Indeed, Pte. Jock McAulay, the executioner, had to exercise the greatest restraint in order to preserve Pte. Moyses intact for the next performance!

Clean Sweep of Officers

With Lt. Bruce Maughan en route for Australia, it was bad enough. But now Lt. Derrick Baldock has left us for the T.A. Reserve of Officers and 2/Lt. Tony Darby will be emigrating to Canada in August thus reducing D Coy. to Major Graham Turner so far as Officers are concerned. The usual round of farewells are taking place and all have our thanks for all their help in the past—as well as sincere good wishes for the future.

Happy Event

Congratulations to Sgt. and Mrs. Coe on the birth of their baby son. Both mother and baby are doing well.

Study Period at Westwood

A useful Officers', Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' study period was held at Westwood, during the course of which there was detailed examination and discussion of the respective rôles and training of the new Reserves. Colonel Ian Battye, the Brigade Colonel, very kindly came along and spoke to all present about the formation of The Queen's Regiment and dealt admirably with the place of the Volunteer and Territorial Battalions in the new concept. There was also the opportunity of a Training conference to prepare the way for the Divisional Shooting competition and the Brigade Skills competition.

Back to Stanford

Capt. Maurice Dewar was spirited away at very short notice to act as Chief Training Officer for a CCF Camp at Stanford PTA, where dripping trees and muddy tracks seem to have been the order of the day.

Others returning to Stanford include Major Dick Hollies and a party of NCO's and men who will be assisting at the Kent ACF Camp in August. It is surprising how popular some Camping areas can be!

Shiny 'C'

After the maximum effort and training from the Company at Thetford, life in the month seemed dull in comparison, that of course was field training-wise. It seems that the Army always like to inspect all items of equipment and stores in this particular holiday month. So all the lads of "Shiny 'C'" were at it with various implements ranging from a pull-through to a paint brush immersed in a popular de-oiling solvent.

The first Sunday in July saw all members of the Coy., less the Mortar Detachment, all huddled around the entrance to the Armoury and cleaning and inspecting weapons with gusto so that when the inspectors arrived there were no spiders or beetles squatting in the barrels. The following two Sundays were taken up by the inevitable MT cleaning. With so many experts on hand it was obvious that everything was going to be sparkling and indeed so it was, but not without the usual last-minute painting problems. It was remarked that the CSM was seen apparently sleeping underneath a Land Rover.

With all the inspection work behind us the Company is now very busy preparing for the Brigade Skills competition. The Anti-tank Detachment and the Mortar Detachment will be virtually unchanged from the successful teams trained during Annual Camp, whilst the Assault Pioneers will have to recruit some of (and we quote) "ordinary soldiers" to assist them in the bridge building and raft making tasks. The whole Coy. are looking forward to this particular competition.

Goodbye to the Quay

The lads from Sandwich are at last parading at Deal after the handover of the Drill Hall on the Quay. The Regiment has been connected with this particular Drill Hall for many years and it was a sad thought that it will no longer be used as a 5 Buffs Detachment. There have been many good days training and very good social events

enjoyed there in the past. Let us all hope the Sandwich spirit is joined to the existing happy family at Deal.

Last Straw

The County Council Licensing Authorities have really made their mark. The following appears on a motor licence recently issued to a member of this Battalion . . . 5th DV The Buggs!

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Tickets, at two guineas each (exclusive of wines), may be obtained from The Ball Secretary, 4th/5th Bn. The Queen's Own T.A. Centre, Avebury Avenue, Tonbridge.

IT is a sobering thought that now camp is behind us we have come to the beginning of the end of the Territorial Army and in particular the Queen's Own in their present form. Despite this depressing outlook everyone in the Battalion is determined that this final year will be another vintage one for the Queen's Own.

We have now started training for the Brigade Skills competition and if we should not win it again this year it will not be because of a lack of enthusiasm or hard work. Preparation for the competition started with a series of presentations laid on at various drill halls by the Commanding Officer, Training Officer and R.S.M. These presentations gave us the outline of the competition as a whole and a considerable amount of information on the intricacies of laying an ambush.

The last weekend in July the Battalion continued its preparation for the competition by having a limbering up exercise at Lydden Spout, near Folkestone. This exercise took the form of compass marches, night firing and ambush drill. It certainly did us good as it got rid of a great many cobwebs, although it has replaced these with sore feet. Another weekend's training will take place at Hythe on 10/11th September.

The Future

The future reorganisation is now looming over the horizon and most of us are asking who will do what and where? Bearing in mind how little money is going to be spent on the A.V.R. III Battalions, one might follow our Red Indian friends and also ask "How?" We have at last been given some information in regard to who and where, as some future appointments are now known. It is always unwise to forecast military appointments until the incumbent has his feet firmly under the desk. However, bearing this in mind it would appear that the A.V.R. III Battalion we are sponsoring will be commanded by the Laird of C Company, Major W. Murray, T.D. Since his Second-in-Command will be Major J. Ogilvie, T.D., of the Penge and Beckenham Guerrillas, the new Battalion has a distinctly Scottish flavour. However, Sassenach interests

will be looked after by Major M. N. Devonshire who will command the company at Tonbridge.

Acorn in Ecuador

When these notes are published we will be saying farewell to Capt. Steve Finnis, the Battalion I.O., who is going to Ecuador with his family for two years. His experience and enthusiasm will be sadly missed in the Battalion. He originally joined D Company from National Service and on finding that there were no Officer vacancies, gave up his commission and started as a private soldier again. We now know why he has been entering the Drill Hall muttering useful phrases like "Where is the Spanish Onion of my aunt?" Everyone in the Battalion wish him and his family all possible success and happiness in the future. If Steve will excuse our Spanish, all at D Company say "Gracias Amigo, hasta La Vista."

Glutton for Punishment

Pte. Tredway of A Company is returning to Thetford for a second camp to assist the A.C.F. It is refreshing to find someone who actually likes the place enough to go twice in one year!

R.E.M.E. Get Grey Hairs

Sgt. Sweetland looks nervous every time he approaches his Drill Hall and sees a vehicle with L Plates. He will never be the same again until Messrs. Kerr and Tredway pass their driving tests.

Travelling Circus

The travelling circus which has been touring companies to instruct on Ambush Drills visited A Company on the same night as the Brigade Commander, who was inspecting the Cadets. He was impressed with the lecture but doubly impressed by an even slicker demonstration of sandwich eating put on by the Cadets. It is not possible to confirm the rumour that sandwich eating is going to become another Brigade Drill.

Farewell

The Battalion, and in particular C Company, regretfully bid farewell to Mr. and Mrs. David Baker who are taking up a new appointment. They have both done a great deal for C Company and Battalion H.Q., and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their efforts.

Cadet News

NATIONAL ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

LEEDS, 23rd JULY, 1966

THE Championship was won by Northern Command, with Eastern Command runners-up. Kent provided four representatives for Eastern Command.

These were:

Cdt. Salomon, 2 A.C.F. Bn. The Buffs, who won the Class A 100 yards.

Cdt. Anslow, 2 A.C.F. Bn. The Buffs, who was second in the Class A High Jump.

Cdt. Thompson, Kent A.C.F. Regt., Royal Engineers, third in the Class B One Mile.

Cdt. Flisher, 2 A.C.F. Bn. The Buffs, who won the Class C 120 yards Hurdles.

Eastern Command administration at Leeds, and team management was undertaken by Lt. J. R. Bird, of 2nd A.C.F. Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, who also was responsible for the Kent representatives.

THE following changes of address have been notified:—

Lt.-Col. L. W. F. Jackson,
Jardin des Curés,
Grouville,
Jersey, Channel Isles.

Mrs. E. D. Brooks,
The Limes,
3 Stanley Road,
St. Peter Port,
Guernsey, Channel Isles.

A VERY warm welcome to the following new subscriber:—

Mr. A. E. Petley,
15 Derby Street,
Huyton Quarry,
Nr. Liverpool.

COMING EVENTS

September

8 Sevastopol Day.

October

1 11th (Lewisham) Bn. R.W.K. Annual Dinner at the Victoria Hotel, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

1-2 Golfing Society Autumn Meeting—Littlestone Golf Club.

4 Golfing Society Match v. Kent County Constabulary (Leeds Castle).

8 R.W.K. Annual Dinner.

8 6 (S) Bn. Buffs Annual Dinner at the Tower of London Restaurant.

26 Regimental Buffet Luncheon in London.

29 1/4 Buffs Annual Dinner at the County Hotel, Canterbury, 6 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. Tickets, 12/6, should be obtained from your Local Secretary, or from Lt.-Col. H. L. Cremer, Hampton Gay, 40 New Dover Road, Canterbury.

29 1630 hours, A.G.M. Regimental Association.

29 1915 hours, Darts Competition, Drill Hall, Sittingbourne.

December

3 R.W.K. Officers Dinner.

8 H.M.S. Kent Engaged, Falkland Islands, 1914.

13 Birthday of H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, Colonel of the Regiment.

17 London (Buffs) Branch Buffet-Dance and Christmas Party.

1967

March

31 5 Buffs (T.A.) Annual Ball.

Pte. John Connors, V.C.

By The Editor

IN the penultimate paragraph of the article under this heading, which appeared in the June issue (on page 167), it was stated that there was no trace of Pte. Connor's Victoria Cross and a guess was made as to what might have happened to it.

Both the statement and the guess have since been proved wrong, thanks to Lt.-Col. J. R. Willows, a retired officer of The Buffs living at Bishopsbourne and one of the more avid readers of this Journal. He has kindly brought to this writer's attention some paragraphs on the subject of Pte. Connor's V.C. which appeared in "The Dragon" on page 33 of the February, 1958 issue.

Major-General Martin, at that time the Military Correspondent of "The Daily Telegraph," had apparently been invited to undertake some research into what had happened in this matter, and had discovered that Pte. Connors left his V.C. to his brother-in-law, Sgt. John Pearman, a veteran of the Indian Mutiny. Sgt. Pearman died in 1908, aged very nearly 90 years. He was buried at Windsor in his uniform, with all his Campaign Medals on and with John Connor's Victoria Cross clasped in his hand.

"Sic transit . . ."

EAST KENT

NEWS & PICTURES

in the

**KENTISH
GAZETTE**

EVERY
FRIDAY

The National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen

(Regular Forces Employment Association)

exists for the sole purpose of finding employment for retired Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

The Association provides all services free.

It has over 40 Branches covering the whole of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

There is a Branch operating in the locality of your home which is only awaiting a personal or telephone call or a postcard from you to help you with your civil employment problem.

You can always obtain the address of the Branch nearest your home from your Regimental Association or from the local Post Office.

Regimental Golfing Society

Match v. Liphook G.C., Sunday, 17th July

Morning

Liphook G.C.		Regimental Society	
A. I. Thomas and Dr. R. Gethen (1 up)	1	A. J. Waters and R. H. Dendy	0
Maj. A. R. Bicknell and R. B. Wyatt-Smith (3 and 1)	1	C. M. G. Cox and H. E. Colton	0
R. Child and A. Mc-Llwraith (2 and 1) ...	1	R. A. C. Ravenhill and G. A. Potter	0
G. I. McGuire and J. E. P. Hilliard (4 and 3) ..	1	R. C. Thomas and N. E. Hoare	0
	4		0

Afternoon

Thomas and Gethen (4 and 2)	1	Waters and Dendy	0
Bicknell and Wyatt-Smith (3 and 1)	1	Cox and Colton	0
Col. Evans and Mc-Llwraith	0	Ravenhill and Potter	1
Capt. A. Orpen (R.N.) and Hillard (6 and 4) ..	1	Thomas and Hoare	0
	3		1

Liphook G.C. won by seven matches to one.

CORRESPONDENCE

189 St. Luke's Avenue,
Ramsgate,
Kent.
7th August, 1966.

The Editor, Invicta.
Dear Sir,

May I, through the columns of Invicta, thank all the people concerned in helping to make Sunday afternoon's entertainment a great success in spite of the weather. I cannot mention everyone by name much as I would like to do so, but I must single out Lady Craddock for presenting the raffle prizes; the Officer Commanding, Home Counties Brigade Depot, for the use of the sports field and provision of marquees, tables and chairs; and the N.C.O.'s and men who were continually looking in to do anything we might desire. My thanks, too, to all the Branches who subscribed to the raffle prizes, and to those who helped run the different items of entertainment, which I'm sorry to say we had to curtail because of the weather.

I was amazed that at the end of the day the returns showed a balance of £29/3/1 to be handed to you for Association funds. This was mainly due to the hard work of Mr. A. Clayton who, almost on his own, collected £22/10/- on the raffle, and the President of the Ramsgate

Branch who collected £5/7/6 on his box of keys.

To all members of my own Branch who gave up their time and worked hard to make the afternoon a success; to our Ladies' Guild, many of whom sat all afternoon folding up raffle tickets; to Mrs. Foad who conducted the Bean Jar Competition; and to my wife who again dressed the competition doll and conducted the competition, my most grateful thanks. A great "Thank You," too, to all those present who paid their money to take part in these items, for without them we could not have had this success.

I am indeed very grateful to them all.

Yours sincerely,

BEN.

(Mr. J. R. Hogben, who needs no introduction!)

P.S. Cheque for £29/3/1 enclosed, as well as a "statement of account."

Statement of Account Remembrance Sunday, 1966

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Sale of Raffle			Raffle Prizes	2	0 0
Tickets	22	10 0	Raffle Tickets		10 0
Key Box	5	7 6	Prizes—		
Golf		5 6	Golf		10 0
Treasure Plot	1	10 0	Treasure Plot	1	0 0
Bean Jar	1	9 4	Bean Jar		10 0
Doll Competition	2	10 9			
			Balance to Assn. Funds	29	3 1
Total	£33	13 1	Total	£33	13 1

Panda Language Service Branch,
Interpretation Section,
SHAPE, B.F.P.O.6.
August 1st, 1966.

The Editor, Invicta.

Dear Sir,

It would be hard to say what causes loyalty of the "disinterested" type, such as loyalty towards a given Regiment. In the light of the latest decisions where the future of what was once The Buffs is concerned, I can only assume it must be out of sheer stupidity or simple-mindedness.

Poor Buffs! Thanks to successive acts in a play which, in French, would qualify for the title of "Une Politique d'Abandon" they, the oldest Regiment in the British Army (if Regimental history as taught was correct):

First accept being the 4th, later the 3rd of Foot, instead of the 1st;

Next, with rather more excuse, miss becoming a Guards Regiment;

And, in the last reshuffle, lose the Dragon badge; no ordinary Dragon, but the one from the Coat-of-Arms of Queen Elizabeth I. But, at least, the name "Buffs" still figured somewhere in the Regimental designation.

Since it is obvious, even from the various inter-unit transfer performances during the last world war, that the former organisation had become obsolete, surely, instead of another makeshift in the form of "Large Regiments," the time has come to jump the gun and form a "Corps of Infantry," within which Battalions at least could retain the numberings (and traditions) of what were formerly proud Regiments?

But The Queen's Regiment ...!

Yours faithfully,

F. P. BOWEN.

17 Boat Lane,
Northenden,
Manchester, 22.

Dear Colonel Raymond,

It would appear that the only time I find excuse to write is when I change addresses! I would be glad if you would note the change from my old address so that Invicta continues to reach me.

It is a source of regret that I so rarely have the chance to contact old regimental friends. Please remember me to them.

I trust that you and your family are well.

Yours sincerely,

P. J. MITCHELL.

(Ex-Buffs Regular Officer.)

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

GATEHOUSE—On 15th June, at B.M.H. Rinteln, to Pamela and Major Harold Gatehouse, a daughter (Caroline).

DEATHS

ASHBY—Olive Joan, the beloved wife of Ronald Gordon Ashby (Ex-Sergeant The Buffs), very suddenly on 2nd August, whilst holidaying at Canterbury.

OBITUARY

LT.-COL. I. R. LOVELL

LT.-COL. "Willie" Eason writes:—

"Lt.-Col. 'Chuckles' Lovell, who died at his home in Hythe on 15th July, had been ill for some considerable time. Happily, he was well enough to give away his second daughter, Jenny, at her wedding only a few weeks before.

"He was commissioned from the R.M.C. into The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment in 1916, and joined the 1st Bn. in France the following year. He was wounded, and was later sent out to India for a short time, where he held the appointments of R.T.O. and Staff Captain. He returned home and was posted to the 2nd Bn. on the Rhine in 1921. Three years later he was seconded for service with the Colonial Office as Adjutant to the Penang Volunteers; in 1928 he joined the 1st Bn. in India and returned home with them on the completion of their foreign tour in 1938.

"During the last war he served with the 1st Bn. in France, and was evacuated via Dunkirk. He was given command of the 1st Bn. East Surrey Regiment and later became Commandant of a Prisoner of War Camp. After his retirement in 1947 he was Welfare Officer with Home Counties District, and later Assistant Secretary and Organiser to the Kent Council of Social Service.

"I know he will be greatly missed by his many friends, not only for his loyal service to the Regiment but also for his kindness and consideration to all.

"We all extend our deepest sympathy to Margaret and their three daughters."

AMONGST those who attended the Memorial Service for the late Lt.-Col. I. R. Lovell, held at Saltwood Church on 21st July, were Mr. P. Furneaux (son-in-law); Major General and Mrs. Talbot; Brigadier and Mrs. R. F. Parry; Mrs. Pulverman; Lt.-Col. Macklin; Major Weymouth; Mr. Buckle; and Mr. Elvey.

Cricket at Maidstone and Canterbury

AS an alternative to entertaining the teams (and numerous hangers-on!) to drinks after the close of play on one evening in each of the two Weeks, the Regiment this year undertook to entertain the teams to luncheon in the pavilion on one day during each Week.

Where Maidstone was concerned, the day selected was Thursday, 21st July, the second day of the match against Worcestershire—a day on which the rain fell upon the beautiful Mote Ground without ceasing from dawn to dusk! Nevertheless, Major-General Charles Tarver, Lt.-Col. Ted Argles and the Regimental Secretary duly acted as hosts at Luncheon, and talked cricket with some well-known characters on both sides for an hour or so.

Where Canterbury was concerned, the date selected was the opening day of the Week, Saturday, 30th July, the first day of the match against Leicestershire. As on every other day during the entire Week rain fell in considerable quantities, but Lt.-Cols. Ted Argles and Derek Willows and Majors Cecil West and Guy Weymouth acted as hosts at luncheon to the two teams.

The rain on that particular day was of sufficient severity to allow a large number of spectators to return to their television sets to watch the final of the World Cup, the Regimental Secretary (having hauled down the tent club flag and "shut the shop") amongst them!

Despite the foul weather, the county notched a commendable win against Leicestershire in the final minutes of the extra half-hour on Tuesday evening. The other contest, against Warwickshire, resulted in the type of draw all too familiar nowadays to cricket watchers up and down the country. A thunderstorm on the second day, Ladies' Day, burst over the ground in the middle of the afternoon and play was abandoned within a matter of minutes. By this time the area at the back of the tents resembled a car park at a Point-to-Point meeting in March, and numerous cars and individuals found that the mud was too much for them!

As usual, Mrs. Knocker's beautiful flower arrangements in the tents were greatly admired, and were the only bright bits of colour to relieve the gloom. Many of the Regiment's guests were not unnaturally deterred from coming to the tent and attendances, even on Ladies' Day, were depressingly small. The Visitors' Book became a casualty fairly late in the proceedings, but not before the following had had a chance to enter their names in it:—

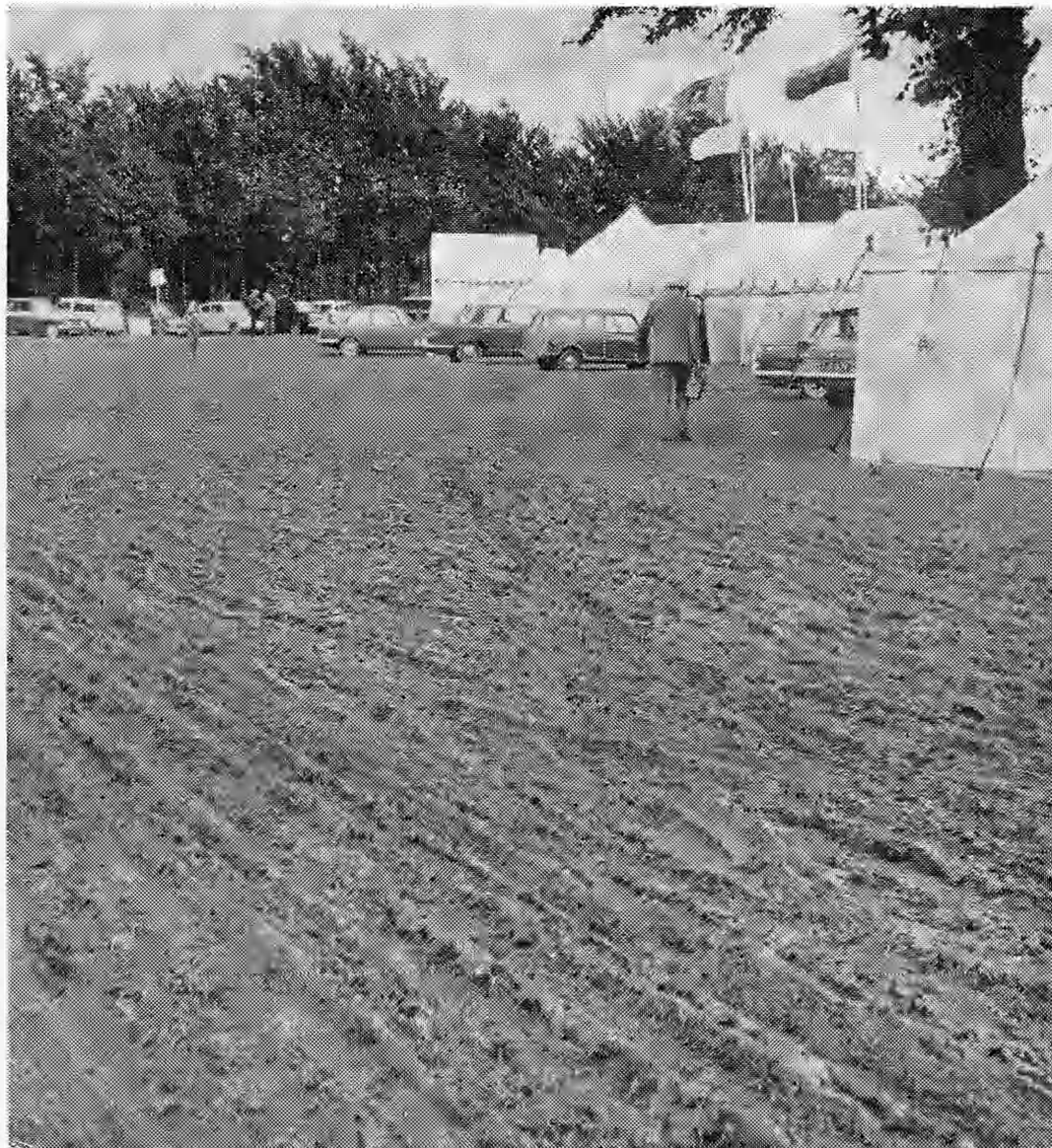
Lt.-Col. and Mrs. J. E. King; Master R. D. Ransley; Major P. W. Ransley; Major and Mrs. E. G. Elliott; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. E. V. Argles; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. T. N. Penlington; Lt.-Col. D. A. Willows; Capt. M. J. Smith; Col. J. Tilleard; Lt.-Col. T. R. Reid; Lt.-Col. H. L. and Miss Cremer; Mr. and Mrs. John Friend; Mr. and Miss Tyrrell; Col. and Mrs. I. H. Battye; Major and Mrs. M. P. St. F. Dracopoli; Brigadier and Mrs. R. F. Parry; Miss and Master Parry; I. G. Baillie, Esq.

D. H. A. Shepherd, Esq.; Brigadier and Mrs. J. F. Whitacre Allen; Major H. D. Lees; Miss Helen Roberts; Master David Porter; Mrs. D. H. Gwilliam and Miss Jane Gwilliam; Master P. M. Gwilliam; Major J. Blanford; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. T. R. Reid; Major P. S. Browne; Major and Mrs. A. J. Smithers; Major A. J. H. Taylor; Major and Mrs. R. E. Moss and Master J. Moss; Major and Mrs. R. Cole; Mrs. D. Heath; Mr. Frank Clayton; Lord and Lady Harris; Lt.-Cmdr. and Mrs. Hynes; Major F. Reynolds; Sir George and Lady Jessel.

Prof. B. Keith-Lucas; Lady Moore; Mrs. J. H. Young; Major and Mrs. C. T. F. West; Mr. and Mrs. Barnett; Capt. F. C. F. Davis; Major-General and Mrs. D. E. B. Talbot; Brigadier and Mrs. I. H. Lyall Grant; Brigadier and Mrs. J. G. Atkinson; Mrs. Rose; R. J. Ross, Esq.; Col. and Mrs. F. K. Theobald; Surgeon-Comdr. and Mrs. A. E. Cadman; Major-General and Mrs. C. H. Tarver; The Dean of Canterbury and Mrs. White-Thomson; Major and Mrs. H. Jackson; Capt. Lloyd; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. U. H. B. Alexander; Mrs. I. Mauduit; Major J. T. R. Prestige; Master J. T. R. R. Prestige; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. A. O'B. French Blake.

Lady Boucher, Mrs. G. Mount and Miss Mount; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Brown; Mrs. Geoffrey Mount and Miss

CANTERBURY WEEK, 1966



In the background, the Regimental Tent; in the foreground—guess what!
Photo: "Kent Herald."

Jennifer Mount; Capt. N. G. Wale; Brigadier and Mrs. M. P. D. Dewar; Brig. and Mrs. H. C. T. Stronge; Mr. and Mrs. M. Moore; Brigadier and Mrs. J. G. Nicholson, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. J. R. Willows; R. C. M. Jenkins, Esq.; Mrs. Travers; Dr. T. R. Travers; Miss Clare Russell; Miss Sarah Prestige; Capt. A. C. W. Sandbach.

Major and Mrs. R. W. M. Webster; Mrs. C. Reeves; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. A. W. Goddard; Mrs. L. Howard Smith; Capt. C. M. C. Dewar; Col. J. V. R. Jackson; Mrs. J. Latham; Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard and Lady Craddock; Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Medlicott; Brigadier and Mrs. F. W. Rice; Mr. and Mrs. T. Cobb; Major-Gen. F. J. C. Piggott; Major and Mrs. E. G. Cox; Mrs. N. S. Hart; Mr. and Mrs. Hefford; Cmdr. and Mrs. Lloyd.

Mrs. Merlott-Chitty; Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Canney; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. J. M. Haycraft; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. P. N. Elgood; Col. and Mrs. C. R. Tuff; Major and Mrs. Russell; Sir George and Lady Wyndham Green; Capt. G. Dineley; Major L. A. Mount; Mrs. and Misses J. and N. L. Mount;

Lt.-Col. and Mrs. G. H. Mount and Brigadier and Mrs. H. King-Lewis.

As always it was a great pleasure to see them all, but there is little doubt that Canterbury Week, 1966, will stick in the memory, not for the quality of the cricket but because of the unspeakable weather.

It will also be remembered, however, for the cheerful, courteous and efficient service given behind the bar by Mr. Kennard and Mr. Knight, aided on occasion by Mr. Randall and Mr. Cole. The two stalwarts from Regimental Headquarters were very much "on the ball," worked many long hours and were invariably in good form. The Regiment and its guests are greatly indebted to them.

REGIMENTAL

THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS



ASSOCIATION

THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT

WHERE DID IT HAPPEN?



The above photograph was taken on 13th September, 1905, on the occasion of a rifle match between the West Kent Imperial Yeomanry and the Sussex Yeomanry held on a range at Lillesden, near Hawkhurst. The photograph is the property of Miss R. M. Loyd, who lives at Frithlea, Talbot Road, Hawkhurst, and she is anxious to discover the actual name by which the range was known and the exact site which it occupied. Any reader who can throw any light on this matter is requested to communicate with Miss Loyd, whose father, Mr. L. F. Loyd, actually built the range in 1901/2.

SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT

THE Inter-Branch Darts Competition, 1966, will be held in the Drill Hall, Sittingbourne (by kind permission of Lt.-Col. D. A. Willows, O.C. 4 Buffs (T.A.)), on Saturday, 29th October, beginning at approximately 7.15 p.m. The evening's entertainments will include a Band Concert, a Cabaret, a Buffet and a Raffle, and it is hoped that many members of the Association, with their ladies, will support this Regimental get-together.

Earlier on the same afternoon, at 4.30, and in the same Drill Hall at Sittingbourne, will be held the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Regimental Association, at which Lt.-Col. Norman Edwards will take the chair.

The programme for the evening entertainment and the Agenda for the A.G.M. will be issued shortly to all concerned.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

ALTHOUGH there was a threat of rain early on, the whole of the programme arranged for Sunday, 7th August, was carried out according to plan. The numbers on parade in Howe Barracks were slightly lower than in previous years, but it was very good to see, yet again, a representative party from the Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Branch headed by Major Norman Elmslie and including Major-General Dennis Talbot.



Lt-General Sir Richard Craddock presents the Territorial Efficiency Medal to W.O.2 P. Cowles. On the left is Cpl. Roper, who received the Meritorious Service Certificate.

Photo: "Kentish Gazette."

Before the Deputy Colonel walked quickly round the Parade, he presented the Territorial Efficiency Medal to W.O.2 B. Cowles and the Meritorious Service Certificate to Corpl. J. Roper, both of 4 Buffs (T.A.). He was then himself presented, by Mr. Dudley Le May, President of the Men of Kent and Kentish Men, with a framed reproduction of the Armorial Bearings recently conferred upon that Association. In a short speech, Mr. Le May emphasised the importance which the Association attached to the connection between themselves and the County Regiment. This presentation is very greatly appreciated, and the Regiment is most grateful to the Council of the Association for their kind thought in making it. A photograph of the Armorial Bearings appears on the next page.

The Service of Remembrance was the usual dignified ceremony, and the congregation in the Cathedral, as usual, topped the 1,400 mark—a great tribute to the meaning and popularity of this great annual Day. The Chaplain General gave an excellent address, but surely it is a pity that the acoustics in that great Nave make hearing so difficult.

The Deputy Colonel took the Salute at the March Past in the Precincts after the Service. With him on the saluting base were the Mayor of Canterbury, the Chaplain General and Mr. Le May.

In the afternoon, Ben Hogben and his band of helpers extracted large sums of money from the willing pockets of a fair-sized number of customers, as a result of which the sum of £29/3/1 was handed over to the Regimental

Benevolent Fund. To him and all those concerned with the afternoon sideshows, the Regiment, as always, is most grateful.

The Day came to its end with the draw for the raffle prizes, which Lady Craddock presented to the lucky win-

ners. This followed immediately after a very fine performance of the ceremony of Beating Retreat, carried out by the Junior Soldiers' Company, whose marching, playing and stick work were all of an extremely high order.

Altogether, a most successful Day, though, for some, a very exhausting one.

The Association of Men of Kent
and Kentish Men
(The Kent County Society)

ARMORIAL BEARINGS



CREST An Arm holding a Sword uprising from Green Boughs symbolising the "Invicta" legend. This device constituted the flag of the Kentish Bowmen at the Battle of Agincourt, 1415.

ARMS The traditional White Horse of Kent differenced by a bend wavy representing the River Medway dividing the Men of Kent from the Kentish Men. The Bordure (or Border) of waves and ships represents the Cinque Ports and the long coastline of Kent.



Mr. Dudley Le May, President of the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men, with the Deputy Colonel, on the occasion of the presentation, referred to on the previous page, of a reproduction of the Association's Armorial Bearings shown in the preceding column.

Photo: "Kentish Gazette."

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

BROMLEY

THE postponed A.G.M. was held at the July meeting and was very well attended. The minutes having been read, the President was asked to review the past year's activities. He mentioned with regret the passing of two founder members, i.e., Alfred Ellis and Charles Bayman. He went on to say that during the year there had only been two applications for financial assistance and was pleased to note that several new members had joined, one having served with the 1st Bn. Queen's Own since the last war.

On the social side he said that the Hastings outing last September had been a great success, that the Branch "get-together" was again much appreciated by all who attended and that the Royal Tournament visit was enjoyed, more especially by those who had not previously been to a Tournament; and it was a great delight to see that the Services maintain this high standard of entertainment. He thanked the officers for their good work during the year and all members for their continued support.

The Treasurer presented the Balance Sheet which showed a very healthy state of affairs. The election of officers then proceeded and resulted as follows: Life President, Major L. Pyrke; Vice-Presidents, Lt.-Col. C. S. Durtnell, O.B.E., and Capt. Sir G. Hodgson; Chairman, Mr. S. G. Lewis; Vice-Chairman, Mr. R. Pinder; Secretary,

Mr. H. Woolnough; Treasurer, Mr. A. C. Ashley; Auditor, Lt.-Col. C. S. Durtnell; Standard Bearer, Mr. H. Woolnough; Assistant Standard Bearer, Mr. B. Bartlett; Branch Representative, Mr. A. C. Ashley; Committee, Messrs. B. Bartlett and R. Stiggins.

Normal Branch matters were then discussed. After the correspondence had been read it was agreed that the Treasurer should send donations to the two worthy causes that had been asked for. It was decided to run a Hastings outing again on Saturday, 10th September. Members desirous of attending should contact the Chairman, Mr. S. G. Lewis, 89 College Road, Bromley, as soon as possible.

One member said it seemed a great pity that the 6th Bn. Queen's Own had again arranged their cricket match versus Colonel Nash's XI on the same Sunday as the Maidstone Reunion and asked whether the organisers could be asked to avoid these dates clashing in future. Mr. Ashby promised to mention this at the next Association meeting.

The "Large" Regiment was discussed and several members asked how it would affect the Branches and Invicta. The Chairman said that no doubt we should hear more in due course.

The meeting closed with a warm welcome to a visiting Catford Branch member introduced by Mr. R. Pinder, and happy returns to Sid Lucy, who had reached the ripe old age of 80 that day.

B.B.

CANTERBURY BRANCH—REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Lt.-General Sir Richard Craddock takes the salute as the Canterbury branch of the Regimental Association marches past in the Precincts. Photo: "Kentish Gazette."

CANTERBURY

THE July meeting of the Branch was held on Friday, the 22nd, at Leros Training Centre's Sergeants' Mess, when, together with Mr. Fred Kidder in the Chair and our Hon. Secretary, Mr. Les Pain, the attendance numbered 22. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

Details with reference to the Annual Service of Remembrance and Reunion were discussed. Members were informed that the Chaplain-General would be the preacher at the service, which will have become history by the time these notes are read. Some members were appointed for various duties in the Cathedral on that day and *en passant* may I mention that this depletes the numbers on parade from Howe Barracks—a fact which is not generally recognised.

Lt.-Col. E. V. Argles gave an explanatory and lucid talk with regard to the new Regiment to be, i.e., The Queen's Regiment, and dispelled any misunderstanding which members may have had respecting the merging of the four new existing Regiments—The Queen's Surrey Regt., The Queen's Own Buffs, the Royal Sussex Regt. and the Middlesex Regt. As full details of this amalgamation have already appeared in the July issue, as also in the public Press, no useful purpose would be served by reiteration in these notes—which, may I mention, will not appear in *Invicta* for, upon the merging of the Regiments in question after 31st December of this year of Col. Grace, 1966, a new magazine covering the activities of The Queen's Regiment will supercede *Invicta*—regrettable or not.

However, it is understood that Branch notes will be allowed to appear as before, though it is with some trepidation that I view the prospect of a new journal. Must I be circumspect, prim and proper, or shall I be allowed a little licence in the matter of leg-pulling, etc.? Ah, well! We will cross that bridge when we come to it.

Lt.-Col. E. V. Argles was thanked for his thorough and clear knowledge of the situation as it will exist upon the merging of the four Regiments, and, as he asked me not to quote on a specific point—herewith no quote!

Members were informed that Mr. Leury was out of hospital, but still rather "under the weather," and Mr. Bert Rennells intimated that he would visit him.

Mr. Rennells was congratulated by the members upon the occasion of his impending golden wedding, which will occur on 6th August. As usual, the gentleman in question had a few droll remarks to make on the subject. H-m! Haven't we all?

We were glad to have with us and see again the cheery smile of Major D. Lees, who in 1964 left for a spell of duty in Aden—that hot-spot in more ways than one!

I hear that a son and heir has been born to carry on the line of the clan MacMillan. R.S.M. T. MacMillan, who was formerly with the 4th Bn. T.A. at Leros Barracks, was an extremely popular and efficient head of the Sergeants' Mess, as well as "in the field," and the Branch remembers him with respect for his bearing as a soldier no less than for his hard work for the Branch. I understand that "Tom" MacMillan has been confirmed in his appointment as Captain and members will wish him and his wife and family good health and good luck. I hasten to mention that our one-time comrade did not rely on luck in anything he did—just solid hard work. By the way, I wonder whether he has worn out that silver tankard yet?

In conclusion—last, but not least—I would wish personally to express my appreciation, and I have no doubt that of the three other mere males who were allowed to accompany the members of the Ladies' Guild on their trip to Chartwell on 14th July. Thank you, ladies, and in particular Mrs. Miles and Mrs. Tilleard, who organised the trip.

Oh, dear! I wonder whether I have committed a *faux pas* in nominating Lt.-Col. E. V. Argles and Major Elliot as "mere males"? But, there, among those ladies that's all we are!

With best wishes to all Branches and all Buffs—until we say greetings to The Queen's Regiment, albeit with some feelings of nostalgia, will now sign off.

A. H. BERRY.

CHATHAM

THE attendance at our monthly meeting was very disappointing in numbers, as several notices had been

sent out to those who have not been attending lately. The object of the summons was to ensure a fairly representative gathering in order to discuss the question of a merger with Medway Branch. This subject was thoroughly gone into and it was agreed to inform Medway that we were prepared to join forces with them.

In view of the amalgamation of the Home Counties Regiments, I foresee further mergers of past members of the other Regiments if we are to survive many more years, as the old soldiers are beginning to fade away. We welcomed an old member, Mr. Bolton, of the 8th Bn. (1914-18), and trust he will endeavour to attend our meetings in future and maybe bring along some others we have not yet met.

Our President was not with us and as there was no correspondence from him, we are in doubt as to whether he is no better in health or gone on holiday. We now await developments as to our new meetings and designation, if our Medway friends agree to the merger.

G. E. LYONS.

LONDON (BUFFS)

WHAT an enthusiastic lot of members we have. Even though a number of them are on holiday, at our July meeting 25 gathered at our headquarters with their ladies, which nearly doubled the numbers. But, of course, the ladies only came to see that the males behaved themselves, and it was surprising how the Branch business was dispensed with. A very quiet meeting indeed.

But even that number was small compared with the muster at our Memorial Service at the Tower of London on 24th July last. No fewer than 57 paraded for that occasion. They came from all parts of England. One even came from America, and we were gathered to pay homage to the members of our Branch who had passed on. We were joined by our wives and families as well as the widows of those whose names are inscribed in our Book of Life. A beautiful service was held in the Royal Chapel, and that, together with the wonderful singing of the choir, brought home to us the real reason for this parade.

After the service the parade was inspected by Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, Brig. Foster-Hall and the Resident Governor of the Tower, Col. Sir Thomas Butler. Our thanks are due to General Craddock and Colonel Argles for joining us on this special day.

Regret to report the passing on 17th July of R.S.M. J. Redman. He was well loved by all who knew him and was one of the earliest members of our Branch. He will be sorely missed by all our members.

The next big day is, of course, 7th August at Canterbury. I trust we shall be able to look back on this day as another memorable day to add to those we already know, and hope the weather will be very kind to us. Our sincere wishes to all Branches of the Past and Present Association and serving members of the Queen's Own Buffs.

A.E.S.

LONDON (QUEEN'S OWN)

WELL, at last we know. After months of waiting we have been informed we are to be part of The Queen's Regiment. This is the most logical title as there is, in addition to "The Queen's" very formerly the old "West Surreys," The Queen's Own Buffs, the Queen's Own, of course, part of the old Blind Half Hundred. The "Diehards," very old friends, and the Royal Sussex make up the four units to become the new large regiment.

To us old 'uns this will mean little change. The people affected are the serving officers and soldiers who will now be eligible for duties, posting, and other items according to the exigencies of the Service. We shall continue our allegiance to "The Queen's" in exactly the same way as we are doing to The Queen's Own, nothing will change in our day. It has been decreed that finances will remain untouched until such times as beneficiaries die out and only then with full agreement. We can rest assured that everything has been done to ensure that the ways and life of those still in touch with their old regiments by association will in no way be changed.

We have always taken—and until there are so few of us remaining that we cannot raise a quorum—always will take, great interest in what the Regimental Headquarters is seeking to do on our behalf. We have had no

cause to grouse. Our every wish has been granted. Canterbury and Maidstone have gone all the way in seeing that the Past are as important to the unit as the present and that the spirit of comradeship which each and every member of The Buffs and The Royal West Kent Regiment felt for his own special regiment continued to be fostered. Anything that we can do as a Branch to ensure that we meet friends of the new companies, battalions, or whatever they are, will most certainly be done.

We have already received news that we shall be welcome at any time in the barracks at Edgware, Middlesex, and I have little doubt that this will spread once we know the full text of the amalgamation.

We congratulate General Sir Richard Craddock on his appointment and welcome General Tarver as our new Deputy Colonel. The latter has two sons serving. Some of us knew their grandfather in India. At the reunion it was a very pleasant sight to see General D. E. B. Talbot in one rank and General C. H. Tarver in another, marching with the 1st Battalion.

Fred Cannon in Toronto fears the total eclipse of the name of the regiment in which he served. Have no fear, while there are members of the regiment left to honour its name, it will not be forgotten. The traditions will be kept up as much as possible by the new regiment, but many of the items will of necessity become lost in amalgamation. This is to be expected. It can be readily understood that all the marches of each separate unit must be merged, that at dinners every unit's special toasts cannot be drunk. Many things must go. Only in books of our own separate units, written in the past, shall we see what did go on whilst we were serving.

Only to the aged do the old numbers mean anything. The 50th and 97th were our special pride. The Third was the unit to which we were amalgamated. Those in the units to which we shall soon become amalgamated will probably ask themselves, "Where do these blokes stand in the Regimental line of Regiments?" Students of this will know exactly. Personally, I know not, but doubtless we shall know in the full circle of time.

There will be days to come when we shall keep up the memory of our own units, and these, I feel sure, will be made possible by all those interested in the welfare and upkeep of the traditional events of not only ours, but of all the units. One sees everyday news of this or that unit's returning from or about to go abroad. Invariably the report contains some historical news of that unit, and there will always be the Battle Honours to remind those interested that "here fought the unit in which we served."

So let us welcome the new move. It's no use grouching, anyway, that's going to change nothing. We hope to make new friends and London is one place where so many do manage to visit and doubtless there are London Branches of all the other units. We shall be given the full score shortly and we can then make plans. We have made friends in The Buffs, not only in London but in the country too, and we hope we shall make new ones among the "Diehards," "The Queen's" and the good old "Sussex by the sea" boys. There is still plenty to talk about in respect of the old days. We've met "The Queen's" in "Khalana up the hills" in 1920 in India, and indeed in war time at Maidstone had almost an amalgamation then when R.S.M. Tasker, one of the best of R.S.M.'s, was the smallest "Big noise" at that Depot.

The Diehards are old friends abroad. Ahmednagar, Madras, Poona will revive memories and names like Palmer, Dak, Capel and Hewitt will certainly not be unknown to the Middlesex soldiers of 1923-27. Even a goalkeeper like Lincoln, and a cricketer called Stephenson come to mind, I exclude initials, memory is not that good but I was on Christian name terms with the soccer players.

Strangely, we do not seem to have met the Sussex, although next door neighbours, but this is a pleasure to come, I feel sure. So leave us older ones to ponder on the past, to meet and chat over our own happy days. Amalgamate by all means, but let us have our own identity. There will be a time when the new unit will have its day, but whilst we can—and I feel sure I speak for every ex-soldier who cares the slightest bit about the regiment in which he spent most of his service—let us have our own Branches, use our own titles, have our own reunions. We can still be proud to say we now belong to "The Queen's" when the New Year comes along.

At our last meeting I discovered I had been voted in as Chairman and this despite volunteering to stand down for anybody who would care to take over. I thank all members for the confidence shown and look forward to a

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happy year with the exciting prospect of meeting new friends, "Peg" Bettinson, as I mentioned in last month's news, has been along and was soon among old friends. The Band contingent still is my right hand.

To old friends like Major Bob Brown and Bill Whiffen who did so much to ensure the continuance of the Branch, I send good wishes. The former I always like to give news of the collection box which our oldest attending member took round on this occasion. The amount realised £3/7/-, was quite a sum for only 30 members. Bill Whiffen wrote a while ago telling me he hoped to come along one day and I sincerely hope he will do so, but not to imperil any domestic event. There's plenty of time.

Together with Busty Cannacott and our wives we called on Col. Basil Clay, Majors Nobby Clarke, of "450 Miles to Freedom" fame, and Frank Russell. It was very pleasant seeing and chatting to them, and we hope that next year we can manage to see one or two others on the same sort of trip.

Finally, I must thank our Secretary, Major "Bodger" Kemp, for standing in for me at the A.G.M. and for his most able correspondence in respect of the reunion. Without "Bodger" and Percy Hallett, our Treasurer, the London Branch would struggle. May they go on for many more years; we owe them great thanks.

THE SPIDER.

RAMSGATE

ONCE again I have to apologise to my readers for the absence of notes in the July issue. This was not intentional; the 7th arrived and I just had not written anything! The June meeting was well attended and after the Chairman had opened it in his usual cheerful manner, Mr. Castle congratulated him on behalf of the Branch on joining the ranks of the grandfathers; we also learned that our President, Mr. Bingham, had joined the same ranks about the same time—Congratulations!

Mr. Tye informed the Branch that the holiday arranged for one of our sick members—Jim Blake—had been settled for 10th September, for two weeks. Details were presented by the Secretary for the outing to visit the Caledonian Nurseries on Sunday, 26th June. Two coach parties set off for a drive via the M.2 to Rainham, to visit the Nurseries, and although we enjoyed the visit and saw some lovely flowers, it was a little disappointing, as everyone expected something much larger and more spectacular. However, it was voted a success, and we picked a grand day for the drive. The July meeting was again well attended, and we were pleased to see Jim Hawkins and Bill Matthews back from their holiday.

The Chairman thanked the Secretary for the outing arrangements, and the members who assisted in conducting raffles on the journey. Details of coach timings were given for Remembrance Sunday and members were informed of their jobs towards the entertainment.

The Chairman spoke of the loss to the Association by the sudden death of Brigadier Gwilliam, and the Branch stood in silent homage.

Mr. Ingram, of the Margate Branch, welcomed by the Chairman, informed the Branch that it appeared that the Margate Branch was closing down. He asked whether those who were still interested in the Association could join the Ramsgate Branch. The Chairman, Mr. D. Fuller, welcomed the suggestion but remarked how sorry we were to hear of the closing down of Margate.

The question of the future of the Association in consequence of the reorganisation of regular units arose, and the Secretary was instructed to write to R.H.Q. for information. From information gleaned through the Press, Invicta and R.H.Q. it is hoped that we have no fear of the Association ceasing to exist.

Dick Atkins informed the Branch of the death of Major Wayland, who had visited the Branch on occasions, and the Chairman expressed the Branch's sympathy to his relatives.

Now to put the final touches to Remembrance Sunday entertainments! So, 'till next month, "Best wishes to all Buffs everywhere."

BEN.

11th Bn. THE QUEEN'S OWN

WE wonder what some of our old Queen's Own colleagues would have said had they known that in a few short years the Regiment would become first The Queen's Own Buffs and then The Queen's. But then we live in a fast-moving and ever-changing world these days, so we are beginning just to take things as they come. So long as the best of the old is preserved—and, it seems, care has been taken that it shall be—all will be well. But to us "ancients" there must be a feeling of nostalgic sadness. Much will no doubt be written on the subject by more competent pens than mine. What I feel is certain, is that all the old buffers of the individual Regiments will continue their loyalty to THE REGIMENT, whatever it is called.

One of my colleagues recently complained that our notes are nowadays much shorter than of yore and that they do not include the interesting articles and anecdotes that they did in the days of the old Q.O.G. Of course not. There isn't the space available since the amalgamation; and, more than likely, there will be less after the forthcoming larger coalescence.

Last month we referred to the seriousness of Ted Willson's condition. We regret to report that he had to give up the fight and we extend to Mrs. Willson and her family our sincere sympathies. For many years Ted had been one of our staunchest supporters and attended our functions and other activities with regularity.

He was one of the Kent Cyclists' draft who joined us at Beninghelst during our long spell at Spoil Bank in the winter of 1916-17 and was with us thenceforward until our disbandment, most of the time in "D" Coy. Stores. It was very appropriate, therefore, that his old "boss," Len Dawson, was able to visit him many times during his illness and to represent us all at the funeral service at Holy Trinity, Ramsgate, and at the Crematorium on 25th July. As was the case with his great friend, Jack Wood, who died last year, his widow asked that, instead of flowers, donations be made to our Benevolent Fund, a gesture that we in the Association deeply appreciate. The amount so far is just under £30, with which we can do a lot of good.

During the past week a rare visitor to the county, in the person of that "D" Company character, Harold Butchers, who came "oop frum Zumerzet" and looked up our worthy Secretary; obviously, retirement suits him and we look forward to seeing him at the dinner.

Meanwhile, may the sun shine at Canterbury on the 7th!

R.O.R.

NEWS FROM THE LADIES' GUILDS

CANTERBURY

THE July meeting was held at Littlebourne by invitation of the Chairman and Lt.-Col. Argles. Owing to rain it was not possible to have tea in the garden, but members enjoyed a strawberry and cream tea and cakes provided by Mrs. Argles, Mrs. Tilleard and members of the Committee. Colonel Argles hoped to be able to explain the set-up of the new Regiment, The Queen's, but as the official announcement was delayed, this had to be postponed until the next meeting. Fortunately, the weather was kind for the outing to Chartwell. It was not possible in the time available to join the enormous queue for the house, although the glimpses we had determined many to try again. The house is most imposing and stands on a ridge with a terrace with a wonderful view across the Weald. In spite of disappointment about the house, the gardens alone are worth a visit. The yellow roses, given by the family as a Golden Wedding gift, were still blooming, and seats are left as they were when Sir Winston used to paint or feed the goldfish.

The next meeting will be on October 6th.

M.M.A.

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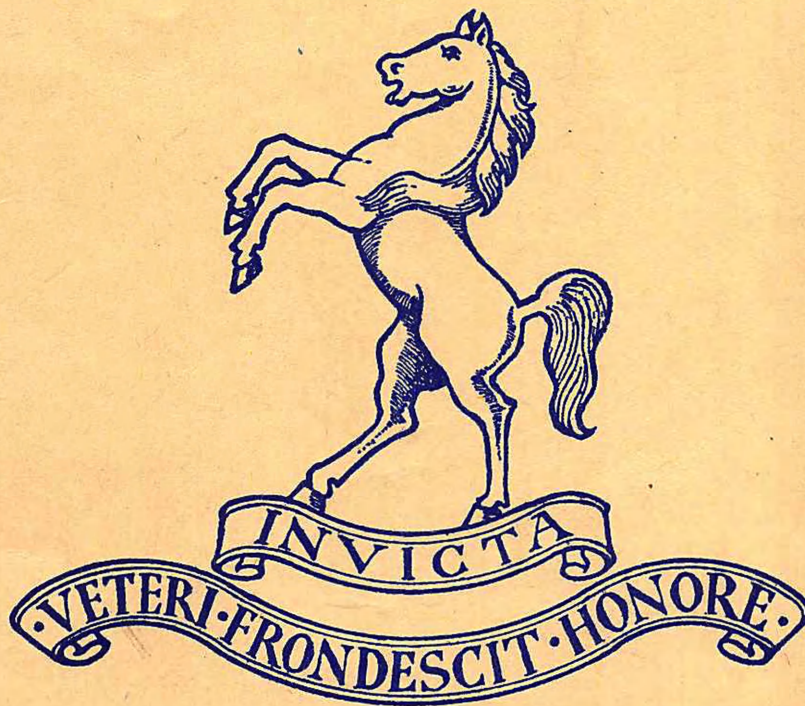
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INVICTA

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



SEPTEMBER, 1966

INVICTA

The Regimental Journal of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment (3rd, 50th & 97th)

The White Horse of Kent with motto "Invicta"



Volume VI, No. 9

September, 1966

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

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Hiscock, P.	Guyana Defence Force	Whitty, R. H.	Canada
Reid, J. D. W. (T/Major)	1st Bn.	Bateman, G. B.	H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F.
Cleaver, G. F.	H.Q. Rhine Area	Gerelli, J. E.	1st Bn.
Dewar, C. M. C.	5 Buffs (T.A.)	Clinch, M. J.	1st Bn.
Taylor, E. A.	1st Bn.	Pearson, C. J.	Infantry Junior Leaders Bn.
White, J. J.	H.Q. Western Command	Strang, J. P. R., B.A.	H.Q. 51 Gurkha Bde.

LIEUTENANTS

Donovan, B. K.	40 A.Y.T.	Board, T. M., B.A.	1st Bn.
Grove, C. M. M.	1st Bn.	Butler, M. R.	1st Bn.
Gwilliam, P. A.	1st Bn.	Baillie, I. G.	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)
Critchley, P. P.	1st Bn.	Jackson, T.	1st Bn.
Cockram, J. M., B.Sc. (Econ.) ...	1st Bn.	St. John Perry, C. H.	1st Bn.
Talbot, R. D. B.	1st Bn.	Shephard, D. H. A.	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)
		Tweedie, M. J. C.	H.C.B.D. (P.S.)

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Dent, R. D. J.	1 Queens Surreys	Yorke, H. A. P.	1st Bn.
Hunter, N. S.	1st Bn.	Hodges, J. A.	1st Bn.
Fraser, S. B. L.	1st Bn.	Palmer, J. R. C.	1st Bn.

QUARTERMASTERS

Kille, W. E., M.B.E., p.s.c., H.Q. 48 Div. (T.A.), West
 Lt. Col. Midland Dist. Grubb, J. E., M.B.E. Capt. 4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)
 Stephens, S. V., Maj. H.Q. 1 Div. Faulkner, G. T., Major 5 Buffs (T.A.)
 Ransley, E. J., M.C., Maj. 1st Bn. Simpson, G. V. I., Capt., M.B.E. 4/5 R. Sussex (T.A.)
 Lynes, W. C., Capt. 1st Bn.

SERVING WITH 1st BATTALION

Rev. W. R. Crawte, C.F. R.A.Ch.D. Captain M. A. A. Clark R.A.M.C.
 Major A. F. A. Austen, M.C. R.A.P.C.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS**MAJOR**

Trumper, J. M. S. W., E.R.D. ...P.P.C.M., H.Q. Western Command

LIEUTENANTS

Palmer, R. J. 1st Bn.
 Webb, C. R. H.C.B.D. (P.S.)

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Elliott, S. J. 1st Bn. Owen, N. C. 1st Bn.
 Duffield, G. J. 1st Bn. Horley, C. M. 1st Bn.
 Dinwiddy, G. J. 1st Bn.

QUARTERMASTER

Rose, J. R., Maj. 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.)
 Major K. W. Cooney T.A. Increment 44 (H.C.) Div./Dist. (T.A.)
 Capt. P. N. P. Plunkett, T.D. T.A. Increment 44 (H.C.) Div./Dist. (T.A.)
 Lieut. F. M. Leeson H.Q. 133 (Kent and Sussex) Inf. Bde. (T.A.)

4th BATTALION BUFFS (T.A.)**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL**

Willows, D. A.

MAJORS

West, C. T. F. (Trg. Major)
 Johnson, R. F.
 Auld, C. W., T.D.
 Browne, P. S.
 Pilcher, R. A.
 Gracie, I. A.
 Taylor, F. E.

CAPTAINS

Medlicott, J. P.
 Sayer, C. H.
 Wallace, W. R. D.
 Clements, J. E.

LIEUTENANTS

Helbling, A. A.
 West, K.

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Pye, W. O. S.
 Jarman, J.
 Woodman, R. K.

QUARTERMASTERS

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

MEDICAL OFFICER

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

PAYMASTER

2 Lt. Auger, M., R.A.P.C. (T.A.)

CHAPLAIN

Rev. O'Connor, N. G., R.A.Ch.D.
 (T.A.)

5th BATTALION BUFFS (T.A.)**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL**

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

MAJORS

Balding, C. E. E., T.D.
 Baddeley, W. D., T.D.
 Gower, C. M.
 Hollies, R. J., T.D.
 Wright, R. P.

CAPTAINS

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

CAPTAINS

Proctor, A. D. M.
 Garnsey, G.
 Jones, C. D. G.

LIEUTENANTS

Corcoran, K. (A/Capt.)
 Dineley, G. (A/Capt.)
 Hes, J. C.
 Daniel, M. R. M.
 Bingham, A. J.
 Bond, M. E. T.
 Fell, A. L.
 Carte, B. A.

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Collyer, M. W. B.
 Bates, C. A. S.
 Sims, J. F.
 Woods, R. J.
 Whitford, R. H.

QUARTERMASTERS

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

MEDICAL OFFICER

Major 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.)**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL**

Peckham, A. D., M.B.E.

MAJORS

Baker, R. W. M. (Trg. Offr.)
 Murray, W., T.D.
 Large, J. L., T.D.
 Ogilvie, J. B., T.D.
 Clemence, M. J., T.D.
 Devonshire, M. N.
 Watson, K. E., T.D.

CAPTAINS

Stacey, O., T.D.
 Fraser, C. G.
 Gregory, M. K.
 Burrell, G. K.
 Finnis, S. R.
 Sutton, J. D.
 Gibbs, W. J.

LIEUTENANTS

Andrews, A. J.
 Smith, M. J.
 Evans, G. W.
 Metzgen, H. G.
 Kelly, M. P.
 Dixon, R. C. B.

2nd LIEUTENANTS

Crosher, R. H.
 Metcalf, R. A.

QUARTERMASTERS

Capt. J. E. Grubb, M.B.E.

MEDICAL OFFICER

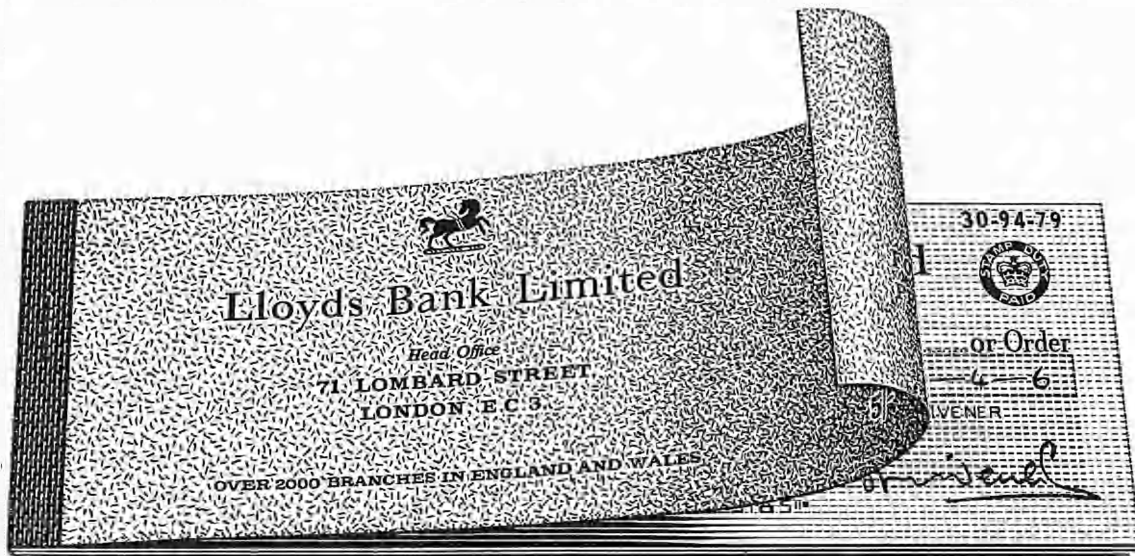
Major Barlas, J. A., R.A.M.C.
 (T.A.)

PAYMASTER

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

CHAPLAIN

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



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INVICTA

IT is only fair to the Editor, who is on leave somewhere in Austria with an unpronounceable name, to say that he can hardly be blamed for any errors of commission or omission in this issue.

However, as editor-designate of the new Journal, which begins life in January next, this does give me an opportunity to practise, and if the result is a bit of a "dog's dinner," I can always blame the printer!

G.U.W.

EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE 1st Battalion returned to Hong Kong during the early part of September and their address is:
1 Queen's Own Buffs,
British Forces Post Office 1.

CONGRATULATIONS to T/Major R. J. Durnell, Capt. J. C. Holman and Capt. J. N. Shephard on qualifying for promotion to Major by passing the written examination.

WE have been notified of the admission to the British Legion Home, Maurice House, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, of Pte. W. J. Castle, No. 7746, who served in the East Kent Regiment from 21st October, 1903, to 31st March, 1920, and who is now 80 years of age.

THE following is an extract from a letter received from the Chapter Office, Westminster Abbey, dated 23rd August, 1966:—

"A Service for the Armed Forces of the Crown, Friday, 11th November, 1966, at 3 p.m.

As you no doubt know, we are this year commemorating the 900th Anniversary of the foundation of Westminster Abbey in 1065 by Edward the Confessor. This is being done in various ways including a series of Special Services with the object of bringing to the Abbey this year people from all walks of life. One of the Special Services in the series will be for the Armed Forces of the Crown, which will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, 11th November. I now write on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster to extend a very warm invitation to representatives of your Association to attend the service. As invitations are being extended to almost 120 Associations, it is regretted that the initial allocation of seats offered must be limited to 10."

Editor's note: Requirements for tickets should be submitted to R.H.Q. by Branches of the Regimental Association by 12th October, 1966.

WARMEST congratulations to the Deputy Colonel on his recent appointment to Lieutenant of the Tower of London. The first Lieutenant of the Tower of London was William de Pluntel (1189). His duties then included "taking charge of prisoners of traitorous intent," and his salary was £20 per year, plus money accrued from the sale of furniture belonging to prisoners who were executed or escaped. The Lieutenant acts as deputy to the Constable of the Tower, at present Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer.

WE understand from his father, General Dennis, that Lt. Richard Talbot is getting married in Rhodesia on 22nd October, 1966.

THE address to which the Deputy Colonel and Lady Craddock will move on 3rd October, 1966, is Upcote, Chilbolton, Stockbridge, Hampshire.

CONGRATULATIONS to Lt. Christopher Grove on the award of the Director of Infantry's Prize as a result of his success during his recent course at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham. The prize is a monetary one and is awarded to the Infantry Officer who achieves the best result on the three-year course.

A MOST excellent collection of 20 coloured photographs of Tunisia and Monte Cassino, taken last year by Capt. Tony Money, M.C., has just arrived at Regimental Headquarters. The collection includes views of Green Hill; Bald Hill; Robaa; the Oued Zarga Cemetery (with the headstones of the graves of L/Sgt. Sewell, Ptes. Rixon, Clee and Quinn, and Ptes. Sears, Barron, Newman and Williams plainly discernible); and of Cassino (the town and the rebuilt Monastery). They will be of much interest to those who fought in that part of the world and in particular to anyone who served in 5th Bn. The Buffs and 6th Bn. The Queen's Own during that campaign. The Regiment's most grateful thanks to Capt. Money—who now, incidentally, is a Master at Radley.

TAIL PIECE

Noted in the "Observer" of 4th September, 1966:

BUFFS CELEBRATE CENTENARY

THE Loyal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, known as the "Buffs," yesterday started a week of celebrations in London to mark its centenary.

Its Grand Lodge of England was formed in London in 1866, but the benevolent movement was first inspired by a group of actors in a Drury Lane public house in 1822.

Editor—So that's how it all began!

News From The 1st Battalion

PRIVATE MICHAEL JOHN BARTON

It is with very deep regret that we record the death of Pte. Michael John Barton, killed whilst on patrol in Borneo.

THE month started off, as we are now accustomed, with news of change. Last month's notes had just been despatched when it became known that Indonesia was to ratify the Bangkok agreement and that all non-Malaysian troops were to leave Borneo as soon as sufficient Malaysian troops could arrive to relieve them. We were to be one of the first units out, leaving by 8th September, 1966. We further were informed that of our three bases, one was to be handed over to 3 Royal Malay Regt., one to 8 Royal Malay Regt. and one was to be demolished and abandoned. The boxes, so recently unpacked, fell-in in threes and packing started once again. The day before the news broke our first R and R parties left; 30 marrieds for two weeks in Hong Kong and 25 single men for a week in Singapore. The Hong Kong party rapidly became our advance "advance party," except for the MTO and RQMS who were summoned back post-haste.

Since then there has been a flood of high ranking Malay officers visiting, planners planning, and amendments arriving before the actual instructions. Somehow or other "A" Coy. group has returned to Hong Kong and the bulk of the Battalion are now poised to move out on 7th September by sea, with Bn. H.Q. flying a day later. The Q.M., along with 30 men, expect to remain until near the end of the month as Rear Party.

Operations

In spite of the imminent withdrawal, the tempo of operations has not diminished. Whilst the Bangkok agreement was being ratified, "A" Coy. group were carrying out an extensive cordon and search operation in an area known to harbour members of the Clandestine Communist Organisation, whilst 50 miles away on the border in deep jungle, "C" Coy. had a brisk engagement with some uniformed Indonesians who had strayed across the border. In the last few days, a composite Company, under Major Neve, working with the Police Field Force, made a lucrative find of CCO weapons, ammunition and food (a photograph of their haul appears elsewhere in this issue). This type of operation is likely to continue literally until the moment of departure.

Hong Kong

The return to Hong Kong so soon has taken people in many different moods. Most of us were mentally attuned to the thought of having our R. and R., making a good splash on it and then knuckling down to some hard soldiering until the end of the year. It is true that most, particularly the married ones, are looking forward to the return, but many believe that it will not be so long before they will be having nostalgic thoughts of Borneo. There is no doubt that even without an active enemy, Borneo offers unequalled advantages for training, free from the irksome restrictions found in orders for use of training areas, field firing ranges and the like, and with a very generous allowance to go with it. It is certainly true that after four months the Battalion is returning full of fitter and more mature soldiers.

Music Again

The Drums in the past month have scored two successes, firstly in their role of a rifle platoon on Operation "White Horse II," when the CCO arms were discovered, and secondly in their traditional role when they played during the Officers' Mess Farewell Lunch Party. It was pleasant to hear the compliments paid to them. They are now rehearsing with the New Zealand Band to Beat Retreat in Kuching in early September.

In Retrospect

These are the last notes to be written from Borneo, and certainly there is small likelihood that the Battalion in its present form will ever return here. It is perhaps ironic that the six months campaigning on which our thoughts have been centered and our training directed for the last 18 months, should be so drastically reduced through lack of enemy. To many young soldiers this is new and disappointing; the older and more cynical will nod their heads and say they've seen it all before. But there will be no time on return to Hong Kong to puzzle out the strange quirks of fate. A quick week's leave will be followed by the problems and drills of preparing for Internal Security duties in Kowloon on those two days (the tipsters' choice) the 1st and 10th October. And it was just those duties that we were doing last Easter weekend!

The Funeral of Pte. M. J. Barton

At 2.00 p.m. on 18th August, 1966, Pte. M. J. Barton, 1st Bn. The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, was buried at the Ulu Pandang Cemetery, Singapore. It was a military funeral and was conducted by the Rev. R. T. K. J. Wood, M.A., C.F., Tanglin Garrison Chaplain. 18 Signal Regiment provided the bearer party and the firing party, and twenty-two members of the Queen's Own Buffs were present, from Staff, E.R.E. and Transit Camps.

The coffin was brought from B.M.H. Singapore on a gun carriage and was borne straight to the grave. The weather was poor and as rain was falling heavily, the committal took place before the chapel service. The committal ceremony was short and wreaths were laid immediately after it, beside the open grave. The first was laid by the chief mourner, Pte. J. Neve, and was from "C" Company. He was followed by Captain G. B. Bateman, on behalf of the officers of the Battalion, and then by Sgt. A. James, on behalf of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants. Pte. T. Fitzgerald laid a wreath on behalf of the Messing Staff, there being no representative present. Finally, an officer from H.Q. Singapore Area laid a wreath on behalf of the Area Commander.

A short service was held in the Cemetery Chapel, at the end of which three volleys were fired. The drummer who accompanied the coffin from Kuching, L/cpl. D. Williams, sounded Last Post and Reveille, and this concluded the ceremony.

Despite the weather, the burial was simple and moving and one which all who were present will remember.

A Drumhead Memorial Service was held in the Battalion Camp at Serian the following day, conducted by Padre Crawte. The 1st Bn. The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment kindly loaned us their Band for the service. As many soldiers who could be spared from operational duties attended the short but sincere act of remembrance.

Social Events

All platoons, as part of their operational tasks, and forwarding the "Hearts and Minds" campaign, have been frequent visitors to the many kampongs in the area. Many football matches have been played on irregular-shaped and tree-studded grounds, and kampong dances—far removed from the current Western cults—have provided occasions for getting to know each other. That the local Dyaks are charming people is recognised by all, and we hope that the departure of the British soldier with his open-handed generosity and friendliness will not reduce their often precarious standard of living too much.

Promotion Exams

We congratulate Captains Taylor and Tarver on defeating the examiners in Singapore during their practical promotion exam, and wish them equal luck with the written one at the end of the year.

Also hunting the necessary pass marks in December are Major Richard Lea and Captain John Davison. To increase their chances they are now on courses of instruction in Singapore.



Equipment captured during Operation "White Horse II."

"A" COMPANY NOTES

Return to Hong Kong

Straws had been in the wind for some time, so the news of our impending return to Hong Kong surprised no-one. The speed with which the move was to be carried out did cause certain eyebrows to lift and led to conjecture as to the underlying reasons. However, "A" Company lead the way and although this month's notes are not due to the sub-editor until after the Company is back in Hong Kong, they have in fact been written as a swan-song to Serian.

Operations

For most of the last month our four platoons have been engaged on patrols and ambushes in "B" and "C" Company areas. We can claim to have a good knowledge of all the border gates, all the main tracks, the likely enemy approaches and most of the kampongs in the Battalion area. We know from hard experience just how fatiguing movement through secondary jungle can be. For any readers who were in Malaya, it is perhaps worth saying here that most of the Battalion area is covered by a thick secondary growth of bamboo, lallang, belukar and fern. Many parts are boggy, too. Primary jungle hardly exists. 2 Platoon, in six hours' movement off tracks, covered just 2,000 yards. Other platoons report similar going. The result of our platoon operations was a lot of sweat and an increase in our local knowledge; nothing else.

At one time we had up to 20 soldiers in the Company sick with ringworm. This we overcame with salt baths and resting the worst cases.

Our experience therefore is not new. The jungle is bloody and anyone who says otherwise does not have more than a passing acquaintance with it.

Company Operations

Twice Company H.Q. took to the field. On the first occasion the only one of our platoons under command was 2 Platoon, but we also had the two most experienced Platoon Commanders in the Battalion in the persons of the Drum Major and Sgt. Mogford commanding the Drums and the Assault Pioneers. This operation consisted of a base line search for two unidentified and suspicious persons seen in the area of Kampong Tama. The result, unfortunately, was negative.

Operation "Side Hat"

This was a joint operation with the Police in the coastal area, a known CCO stronghold. This time 1, 3 and 4 Platoons, the Drums and a Combat Tracker Team commanded by Sgt. Marshall made up the force. This was an entirely different type of operation. The coastal area had not been visited for many months. The only way in, apart from a four-day march, is by sea or helicopter. For our initial lift we were given two Belvederes and three Whirlwinds. Even so the lift in took three hours and before it was complete an Iban tracker from 3 Platoon had shot dead a Chinese male who refused to stop and attacked him with a scyth. Later the same day, thanks to some good work by L/cpl. Walker, four Chinese were arrested and some documents seized. The following day a more detailed search of the same area yielded more documents.

On the second day our net was spread wider and the Drums and 4 Platoon were redeployed by three Whirlwinds. We cannot help but feel that the R.A.F. were showing off at this stage, but even so the sight of three Whirlwinds taking off and landing in formation was most impressive.

The Company Commander for the first two days really had the feeling of power. He had a Scout helicopter entirely at his own disposal. This was a most valuable adjunct and, indeed at times, it would have been impossible to exercise control without it.

Finally, this operation gave us a valuable insight into the workings of the Sarawak Constabulary and the Police Field Force.

Names

As a tail piece we give a list of those members of the Company who bear the same name. We do not claim this to be a record—in fact we think that "C" Company can do better—nevertheless it is interesting.

There are: 3 Parkers; 3 Whites; 3 Jones; 2 Bakers; 2 Collins; 2 Finnelys (brothers); 2 Hayleys; 2 Hughes; 2 Simpsons (brothers).

Why does the Army Benevolent Fund still need help?



For most of us nowadays the memories we have of the two World Wars have become dimmed by time. But for those who were left disabled — and for the many bereaved families—the tragic aftermath of war is ever present. Many are suffering great hardships. The Army has also been in action in many parts of the world since the end of World War II. Thus even in peace-time the problem continues.

The sole object of the Army Benevolent Fund is to try to lessen this suffering. It does this by making contributions to the Corps and Regimental Associations and National Service charitable organisations which have been set up for this purpose. All the money, which is used in this really good cause is given voluntarily, by means of donations and bequests. You can help by giving as much as you possibly can yourself — and by recommending others to do the same.

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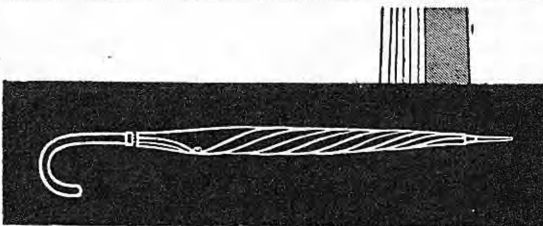
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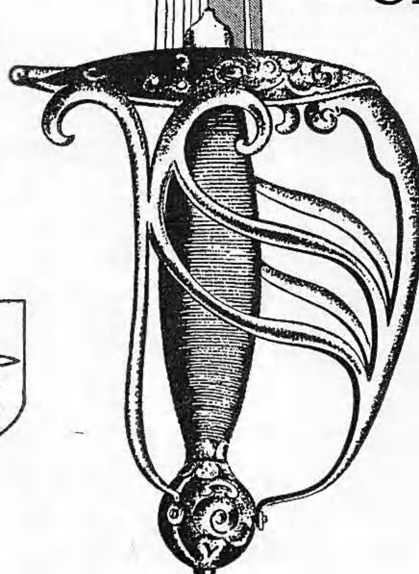
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The Tebedu Lament
(with apologies to Kipling)

The jungle war is over,
Try telling it to "C,"
They're bent on domination,
Along with Major Lea.

Warily they stalk the jungle track,
That leads from Tebedu,
And every eve at six o'clock
You'll hear the cry, "Stand To."

They're queuing for a meagre meal,
In "A" we call it lunch,
A well-known voice rings through the air
"Don't bunch, you fools, don't bunch."

Now confrontations over
And we're all going back,
We'll leave it all in "C's fair hands
We know they won't be slack.

So get your Bren gun loaded
And go climb Enemy Hill,
There were once Indons up there
But they have had their fill.

Forget the war, O shiny "C,"
Swallow your foolish pride,
Sir Lancelot leaves on the eighth
Upon the noonday tide.

"B" COMPANY NOTES

August has proved to be an interesting month for "B" Company, starting with everybody preparing for another five months of jungle operations and ending with our being eight days and an early breakfast from Hong Kong. The locals have not been slow to realise our impending move and among one of the Company Commander's letters appeared the following from a kampong Headman:

"... I would be most grateful if you are kind enough to give me something of a remembrance of you and your troops. If possible I would be glad if you would give me a piece of canvas, pieces of zinc and other unused articles that are of some value."

The platoons relate their stories below but first we must wish Sgt. Close a rapid recovery from his shock of meeting a Brigadier, after which he passed out and recovered in Singapore! We look forward to seeing him back again in Hong Kong. But welcome Sgts. Watson and Gill, who have joined the Company this month. Captain N. C. Pearce has also left us for a brief visit to the fleshpots of Kuching, being attached to the Staff there. Rumour has it that he is alarmed in case he does not return with the Battalion to Hong Kong.

Company H.Q.

Major Reid has organised a very efficient "Ops" room with a most impressive appearance with numerous screened secret maps, ably kept up-to-date by L/cpl. Laine in his "Acorn" role rather than "Paper Clip" (Company Clerk) capacity. With a remote control from the radio to the Company Commander's bed, coupled with a Collins pocket diary map of the Far East pinned on a wall by his bedside, he seems to ensure a perfectly adequate control of all situations.

C.S.M. Rickwood has had a very busy month dismantling the camp. His labour force of 30 local have, however, been forged into an efficient unit and the camp is in good shape. Sgt. White, M.M., as "Molar," has worked in unusual circumstances with resupply by air, as well as road, but he has the faithful Hodge to help him, so all is well. L/cpl. Thomas in the N.A.A.F.I. has coped ably with the changing tastes of the Coy., but rumours that he will keep a shop when he leaves the Army are definitely false. The cooks, under Cpl. Thompson, A.C.C., have performed excellently under very difficult conditions, while the Signallers, under Cpl. Regan, have proved an excellent team. Unfortunately their numbers have dropped recently by Pte. Holman being evacuated as a seriously ill case to Singapore and Pte. Knott going equally as rapidly to Kuching for an emergency operation on his appendix. Who said it wasn't tough in Company H.Q.?!?

5 Platoon

The Platoon has spent the month mainly pursuing the "Hearts and Minds" Campaign. Both sections have had great success against the kampong football teams, although on two occasions they had to resort to turning Mr. Jackson's watch back until the winning goal was scored! During "Hearts and Minds" a number of dances were given by the kampongs. We look forward to returning to the concrete jungle, but will miss sharing our beds with rats, ants, lizards, etc., and also being able to donate our blood uncomplainingly to the mosquitos! Many miles have passed under our feet during our stay and L/cpl. "Ticker" Woodbine regrets another tick—that he won't be able to catch any more snakes with which to threaten the platoon commanders. Finally, we will miss the inspiring sight of the kampong girls—a similar sight being most expensive in the "Civilised" world.

6 Platoon

6 Platoon has done its fair share of patrols and kampong visiting; most of the month has been spent patrolling and visiting kampongs in the company area. "Hearts and Minds" have been put into operation in a big way and happily brought very rewarding results to the platoon. Our own two medics, Ptes. Halpin and Boden, have done an extremely good job and have been summoned at all times of the day and night to apply their experience. Aches and pains from the jungle female locals, was a job which everyone tried to volunteer for. Badminton courts (improvised Mk. 1) by Cpl. Murphy and his section were a great success, although the odds were a little unfair to the locals. But the old saying goes, "if we weren't good at it we would never have played." Patrolling has made the platoon a far more closely knit unit and has been enjoyed by all. We are at present preparing for our return to Hong Kong and, needless to say, are looking forward to it. (Quote—all the married men in the platoon.) We will be sorry to say goodbye to our two Iban trackers, Neve and Silaig, and our Guide Interpreter, Nelson, who have now been accepted by the platoon as fully paid-up members. We wish them luck in the future. We welcome Pte. Helliwell into the platoon from Company H.Q. It cannot be decided yet whether or not our married soldiers' rosta has increased, but we know it came very close to it at times (Kampong Pitching).

7 Platoon

Patrolling and kampong visiting kept the platoon occupied for most of the month and it became expert in dispensing the fair word and the universal aspirin. The sections also played the locals at football, the main skill being to swerve the tree stumps on the field. We also played rounders which was a great success as it was played against the young girls of the kampongs. On the work side the platoon was fortunate in being able to take off at short notice on "White Horse II"; its great success providing a good boost for the platoon's morale.

Mortars

After months of trying to be Infantrymen, the Mortar Section have finally given up the attempt and reverted to support weapons. A 3in. mortar shoot was organised and ably conducted by Sgt. White, M.M. Mr. Critchley, the new Platoon Commander, loaded two bombs one of which provided the only misfire that day. Two weeks later, a Chinese was arrested who claimed he was the survivor of an Indonesian patrol who were brewing up cheerfully when a stonk of mortar bombs landed on their location!—(We were the only people firing that day)—Watch the New Year's Honours List! Spurred on by this the Mortar Section decided to have a G.P.M.G. shoot using it in its sustained-fire role. It rained so hard that day that the cry of "Target obscured" was nothing short of the truth. We now await the result of this shoot and its effects on ending confrontation with fear and trepidation.

Quotable Quotes

After one soldier had had his leg pulled unmercifully for some time, he was heard to say to the leg puller during a short break, "Whose the village idiot when you are away?"

A Future M.P.

Two soldiers overheard discussing the impending move:

First Soldier: "If it wasn't for the Labour Government we wouldn't have to move."

Second Soldier: "We don't discuss politics in the Army."

First Soldier: "The trouble with the Labour Government these days is that it runs on politics."

"C" COMPANY NOTES

It is with great regret that we report the death of Pte. Barton, who was killed on Sunday, 14th August, 1966. He was buried with full military honours in Singapore on the 18th August. A representative of the company attended the burial service and a memorial service was held at Serian on 19th August, which was attended by the members of his platoon.

Return to Hong Kong

The main news of the month is that the Battalion is returning to Hong Kong by mid-September. At the time of writing "A" Company have already flown back. However, in the accepted tradition of "First in and last out," this Company is not due to leave until the 8th September. The consolation is that we hope to have a relaxing sea voyage where the nature boys can regain their sun tan.

The Borneo War

Despite the news of our departure, our activities have continued as before and the platoons have all been working extremely hard and maintaining their alertness. The tendency to relax was countered by a number of incidents during the month which proved that the months of training were not in vain.

Welcome

To Captain Ted Taylor who has just joined the Company as Second in Command. Coming to us from commanding H.Q. Company he has been instilled with the "sharp end" feeling in a remarkably short space of time. Also welcome to Pte. Taylor, 55, who has come from "A" Company to join 10 Platoon.

Farewell

To Captain John Gerelli who has been appointed as an instructor at the Jungle Warfare School. After being Second in Command of the Company for over a year and serving with the Battalion for eight years his presence will be sorely missed. Also to 2/Lt. Hunter who has gone to the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, for a degree course. His appointment as O.C. 11 Platoon has been passed to Lt. Trevor Board.

R. and R.

The first party left for Hong Kong on the 3rd August, needless to say before the news of our impending return. Consisting of C.S.M. Histed, Cpls. Battell, Hunt and Hurley and Ptes. Atkins and O'Brien, they left Tebedu with broad grins and accompanied by storms of abuse from the on-lookers. Due to return on the 18th August (no doubt to their unbounded delight) they have remained in Hong Kong to await our return.

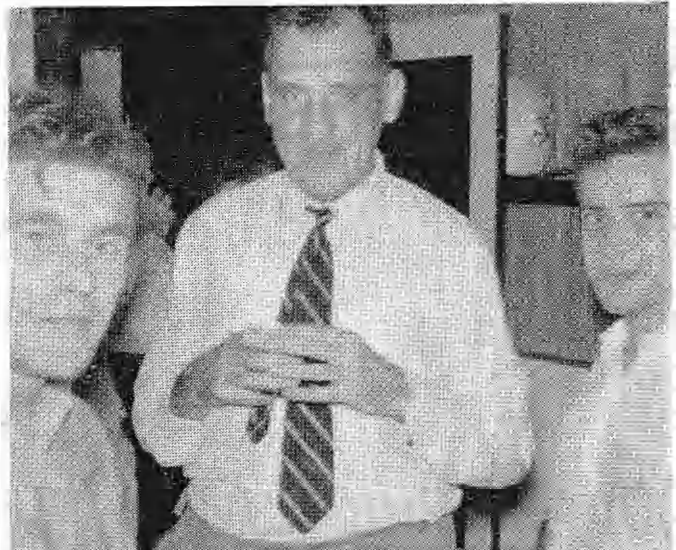
The Company Commander, Major Richard Lea, slipped quietly away to Singapore on the 23rd August for a short course prior to his promotion examination. His daily tour of camp defence and terrorisation of his Company Headquarters is noticeably missed. There is a suspicion that his course is in some way linked with R. and R.!

"H.Q." COMPANY NOTES**Off Again**

By the time this is in print we shall be back with the beat in the "Firecracker" and other favourite night-spots of Hong Kong. This will be our gain and the rifle companies' loss, as their detachments of cooks, drivers and signallers return to the fold. However, we shall lose the Recce Platoon and the Assault Pioneers to that country retreat on the Clearwater Bay Road. Do we detect a gleam in their eyes?

R. and R. (officially: Rest and Recuperation; Rack and Ruin for some)

One party of marrieds got away to Hong Kong and one of bachelors to Singapore just before the news of our return and so the lucky ones in Hong Kong have remained to prepare for our arrival. The M.T.O. and R.Q.M.S. were not so lucky and had to return to help prepare for our move after only a week in the bright lights.



(Top): The C.O. on his birthday, with Ptes. MacDonald and Smith.

(Middle): The Q.M. at work.

(Bottom): The funeral of Pte. M. J. Barton.

Cadres

The Training Team, with the help of Cpls. Knight and Apps from "B" and "A" Companies, got through two weeks of a three-week jungle cadre for newcomers. We don't know what they learned about the jungle, but they seem to have done pretty well at "Hearts and Minds," judging by the request to hold a dance in the camp to return hospitality received. If you want to learn how to do the local version of the Twist on a stamped earth floor and wearing jungle boots, ask Pte. Moss for a demonstration; though he will require the assistance of a certain curvaceous and almond eye beauty from Kampong Rayang for the best effect.

Combat Type

It appears that moustaches are mandatory in "C" Company. Captain Taylor, who recently vacated the throne as Company Commander to sample the joys of a rifle company, was seen furtively moving around Serian camouflaged behind a brand new moustache. Quite the David Niven touch!

Signals Platoon

Days to do are very few. This is probably the most prevalent comment one hears around camp these days and certainly it is only a very small minority who are not delighted to be returning to Hong Kong earlier than expected.

Advance Party

Clr.-Sgt. Barrell and Pte. Williams were lucky in that they were on R. and R. in Hong Kong when the word came through and immediately became the Advance Party; thus remaining in Hong Kong instead of returning to Borneo.

On the subject of Clr.-Sgt. Barrell, he deserves a mention in that he holds the unique record of being first up Kinabalu—first in the Battalion that is. It appears that he arrived at the top (13,400 odd ft.) before the local guide.

Up and Up

Talk of hills brings us to Sgt. Athawes, who somehow or other always seems to finish up on one. This time the hill was one selected for a radio rebroadcast site and Sgt. Athawes, along with Cpl. Kearns and Pte. Morley, were lifted to the top by helicopter. We stayed there for some five days—most of the time shrouded in cloud—and were eventually extracted by another heli! With us we took L/cpl. Thomas of the Drums as our defence, and although we got badly soaked one night, a pleasant time was had by all, and a useful task successfully completed.

L/cpl. "Bernie" Coppard also managed to escape from Bn. H.Q. for a while. He went to Kuching for two weeks to study for and take his A.C.E.II. He stayed at the Palm Grove Hotel (on the Army), so whether he passed or not only time will tell.

And now there are boxes to be packed again, and painted, and banded, for . . . days to do are very few . . .

Intelligence Section

Heigh Ho, Heigh Ho, it's only days to go!

Offices to Let

The sound of hammering can be heard once again from the Int hideaway; as can be heard all over camp. Once again it is time to pack our picks and shovels and move on.

Op. "White Horse II" and "Green Dragon"

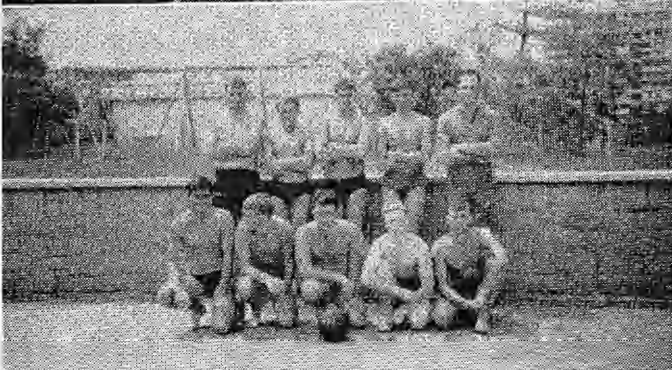
Snow White, ever the diplomat, well named these two ops.; if only to keep the peace amongst the dissident followers of his band. The dwarfs contributed to the two ops. by producing maps and traces, etc. Snow White even persuaded Grumpy to leave the warmth of his den to go out on "Green Dragon"; Grumpy agreed if only to prevent diplomatic relations from becoming too strained.

Pleasure Seekers

Sleepy and Happy recently spent a day in Kuching on a pleasure trip. By all accounts it was to see a group, known as the "Blue Stars"—a musical group from Hong Kong. Sneezy, from a source, firmly believes they didn't go just to hear music!

Lost and Found

One umbrella stolen from the Joint Ops. Room, property of Snow White, during thunderstorm. Found by Schhhh, you know who!



(Top): L/Cpl. Perrott, of A Company, organising the search of a suspicious hut.

Acknowledgement: British Army Public Relations Service, H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F.

(Middle): Football victory celebrations.

(Bottom): The water polo team. Back row: Sgt. Glew (H.Q.), Pte. Webster (B), L/Cpl. Perrott (A), Pte. Hills (A), W.O.II Goodwin (A.P.T.C.); front row: L/Cpl. Anthony (B), Cpl. Slater (B), Cpl. Wilton (H.Q.) (captain), Pte. Collins (A), Pte. Ray (A).



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The wedding arrangements are well in hand. A source (a saucy source) informs us that Snow White requires a new brief case, suitably inscribed. Unfortunately, having carried certain people for so long, our funds are exhausted. Could subscribers please give donations soonest; nil returns are required.

Heigh ho, heigh ho, farewell to Borneo.

Quartermaster's Department

Once more the scribe has put pen to paper, though we have once again missed a month—due of course to pressure of work.

This month is once again a busy time with the Battalion moving back to Hong Kong, which we feel sure the sub-editor will cover in full. But, of course, it falls to this Department to do the work and, as usual, to be the last out. Life is a little hectic. The Q.M. is not too pleased from all accounts, as he has been heard muttering words to the effect, quote, "I won't have enough money saved to buy my jalopy," unquote. Though I feel sure deep down that he doesn't mean it.

Albert Bassett and the R.Q.M.S. went off on the first R. and R. party to Hong Kong, but on arrival Albert was told that he would not be returning to Borneo. We've no doubt this pleased him. The same could not be said for the R.Q.M.S., who, after being home for only four days, was admitted to hospital and then told, on his discharge, that he was required back in Borneo. To date we cannot report him fully recovered but pleased to report that he is puffing along very nicely now.

Stop Press

We've been hearing rumours and mutterings from Rear Details in Hong Kong that Cpl. Sam Sharp has signed on again but until we get back to Hong Kong, we cannot confirm or deny. Readers will be informed.

We have, sad to say, one goodbye this month, and only after a short stay. That is to S/Sgt. (E.M.E.R.S.) Kingdom, who leaves us very shortly to return to U.K. with the Green Howards, from where we borrowed him. We wish him all the very best of luck with a reminder that the English beer is much dearer.

AROUND THE STORES

Clothing

Still, we are glad to say, in the very capable hands of Ray (Teddy Bear) Vale, assisted (since we have been in Borneo) by Brian (Chico) Horrex and, during the last two or three weeks, by John (Muscle Man) Young, seconded from H.Q. Coy. H.Q. It goes without saying that they were the first to be packed and ready for the move back to Hong Kong. We feel sure that Ray has a secret source of information, as yet not traced.

AFG1098

In the capable hands of Sgt. Don Knight and his crew Terry Wilkes and Peter (Sport) Marriott—they also have been very busy packing and Sgt. Knight must take honours for some of his brilliant work in painting the boxes (though the Pioneers have threatened strike action in protest!). Terry Wilkes has managed to miss most of the heavy work, due to the fact that he had been on an ACE II course in Kuching, living, we are told, a life of luxury in the Palm Grove Hotel. But the members of the Staff are still puzzled as to how he got the lovely black eye he returned with. Terry tells us that he walked into a door—but we hear that Kiwis are very large birds!

Accn. Stores

Under the management of Cpl. Ray Child with his second hat and his sidekick Bob (Horseless) Bailie. At the time of writing this store is a hive of industry as all accn. stores are to be returned to RSG Kuching. Ray and Bob together with Tony McLeod (we think stolen from the Pioneers' shop) can be seen roaring off to Kuching with loaded four-tonners. We notice that they keep referring to a place called 'The Jockey Cafe.' We are not sure what this place is, but we are sending the Q.M. down next week to carry out an on-the-spot investigation and then perhaps we shall learn the truth.

The Office

"Help" urgently required for the Quartermaster who is foaming at the mouth for some Old Holborn (fag baccy); two tins will do. Can anybody please supply? Cpl. Child (in his first hat) has been kept busy doing Airdems and we can often hear foul mutterings about call-signs two

and three. The R.Q.M.S. can be seen daily pouring over his clothing account trying to do an audit.

Pioneers' Shop

This establishment, under foreman Cpl. Dave Dearden, is keeping well within union rules and smiling as always. They have been busy during the last two or three weeks making crates, mending boxes and painting numbers and names all over the place. Ginger Tobin had a couple of days at C Company's location doing the odd jobs around there, and of course came back with the usual 'war stories' which we all took with a pinch of salt.

Armourers' Shop

We have mentioned earlier in these notes that "Staff" is leaving and at the time of writing, L/Cpl. Andy Poynter is jumping around like a two-year-old, doing his best to upset the rest of the staff by telling them how many hours he has to do before leaving for Hong Kong. Keith (Slim) St. John has been detached to C Company, whilst we have been in Serian, as their Alcon Pump Engineer; on the odd occasions he has also done a bit of weapon repair. But he was most upset when the Q.M. decided to bring him back to Serian; he was full of reasons as to why he should stay there, but we are pleased to report that he did not succeed. Never mind, Keith, perhaps you can get seconded.

Sport

Since we've been here at Serian we have played quite a bit of sport in the form of volley ball. The team, managed by L/Cpl. Andy Poynter, has had a reasonable amount of success. Ptes. Bailie and McLeod have played for the Company in a local knockout football competition which the Company won. Bailie has also been trying to teach the Medical Officer to play Badminton (we gather with a certain amount of success), though from all accounts he has had the M.O. on his knees a couple of times. Bob, you will have to watch it the next time you go sick!

Officers' Mess Staff

To start our notes for this month (the first in a long while) we send out a belated welcome to Pte. Joe Randall who comes to us via the Battalion Orderly Room. At the same time we say welcome to Pte. Pete Grimes who has joined us from A Company. It seems that this month is all welcomes and farewells, for we bid a sad farewell to Cpl. Sgt. Johnny Mace who leaves us to go to C Company.

On Saturday night, 6th Aug., we held a little party for the occasion and little did we know at the time that it was the C.O.'s birthday. Happy birthday returns, Colonel! You must be all of 21 by now!

Congratulations to Scouse Collins on his promotion to the exalted rank of Sgt.

Rumour has it that members of the Mess Staff are acting like soldiers at last! (what with guards, at which Pte. Smudge Smith tops the lot). On one occasion our cook, Pte. Tubby Erridge, could be seen having a bash at being an escort to our truck for Bar Stock, only to be welcomed back from Kuching by the plaintive cry of the R.S.M. commenting loudly on his "mod." hair cut.

Finally, we are all looking forward to our return to Hong Kong; even Pte. Toothy Cockram, when told the news, gave us all his famous toothless grin. Beware, girls, he is on his way.

Water Polo

The Battalion were doing quite well before we left Hong Kong. With the news that we are going back, we can carry on the job of winning games as before.

Some very good results were achieved from the games played, viz.: played 6, won 4, lost 2. Goals for, 42; against 14.

Results were as follows: Versus 49 Lt. Regt. R.A., lost 2-4; B.M.H. Hong Kong, won 11-1; 48 Brigade, won 4-1; 17 Inf. R.E.M.E., lost 4-7; 253 Sig. Sqn., won 11-1; 252 Sig. Sqn., won 10-1.

Goal scorers: Cpl. Wilton (H.Q.) 18, L/Cpl. Perrott (A) 7, Cpl. Slater (B) 6, Pte. Weekes (B) 4, Pte. Ray (A) 4, Pte. Hills (A) 3.

The team has much promise thanks to Cpl. Wilton and L/Cpl. Perrott, who did a lot of work in their spare time to train the team to the high standard they have reached. Cpl. Wilton and L/Cpl. Perrott both played for the Army Team in Hong Kong.

The team would like to thank W.O. II Goodwin, A.P.T.C., for all his help (even though he is not now with the Battalion), not only for his refereeing, but for all the encouragement he has given.



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News From The Territorial Battalions

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

THIS month has been unsatisfactory in a number of respects due to the state of flux which everything is in with the present system beginning its run down and the new system still in embryo and with a seven-month period of gestation still lying ahead. The position is perhaps analogous to building a new house within the framework of an existing one with a restriction on the one hand of starting demolition too soon and yet with a requirement to use much of the material from the old building in the course of the new one. This is not a very comfortable situation. T and AVR II and III are emulating the mother elephant with what will outwardly be a two-year pregnancy and one can only hope that the new organisation will have the life span of an elephant once it is finally born. The truth of the matter would seem to be that the whole reorganisation has been arranged to take place over too long a time scale, and that over generous allowance of time has engendered a sorry lack of decisiveness and urgency.

Progress is, however, being made and the new framework is taking laborious shape with conferences to blueprints and with blueprints to personnel and if the final design does not slip into action smoothly on 1st April, 1967, it will certainly not be pressure of work which prevents it.

Training

Against this background, training for the Brigade Skills Competition this autumn is getting slowly under way. This year, however, the selection of the gladiators is proving even harder than in the past, and to a more marked extent than in previous years, the spirit of "I have married a wife and cannot come" and similar excuses stalks about. However, we are confident that we shall be able to field sufficient skilful and determined teams to represent us with distinction and the training is beginning to build up accordingly.

Range Days

Apart from the training for the Skills Competition, there has been some good work done on the ranges and remarkably in this wet summer, the sun has warmed our backs on the two Sundays devoted to training the shooting team for the Div./Dist. Rifle Meeting, and preparing the detachment Skills teams for what lies before them.

Remembrance Parade

A goodly number turned out for the Annual Service of Remembrance. Two detachments were on parade and marched behind our Band and the Corps of Drums of our sister Battalion to and from the Cathedral. The C.O. was Parade Commander and the two detachments composed of those with No. 2 Dress (Service Dress) and No. 5 Dress (Battle Dress) were commanded by Majors Johnson and Taylor respectively. In last month's *Invicta* there appeared a photograph of the Deputy Colonel presenting the Territorial Efficiency Medal to W.O.II Cowles, while Cpl. Roper stood by looking apprehensive to say the least.

Apologia

In last month's article an edited account of the training attachment in Germany undertaken by Major Taylor and some dozen members of the battalion was included. The sub-editor added in the interests of clarification the statement that Vogelsang was in Belgium. This is in fact incorrect: Vogelsang is in West Germany, not far from the Belgian border, south east of Aachen and is a N.A.T.O. training area administered by the Belgian Forces in Germany.

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

THE first Command Board has now sat and selected those members of the Battalion to serve with B (Queen's Own Buffs) Company, 5 Queen's, at Westwood. Congratulations to all those who have found "slots" in the new organisation, including those who will be serving at Canterbury. We seem to have had a most successful T and AVR II A innings, with the result that numbers for the East Kent Territorial Battalion are looking rather thin, although we have still to drum up support for the T and AVR III unit from those who have yet to indicate their intentions. The Board for the Territorials has yet to sit so there is still time to opt for this form of service and we are confident that many more will do so. The Battalion Band are also in the throes of completing declarations for the T and AVR IV Band to be established at Canterbury—a difficult one this as no terms of reference are apparently available!

Capt. Maurice Dewar has gone on leave prior to going on the Army Staff Course and has our best wishes for the future and many thanks for his help over the past months. He was "seen off" at the Officers' Mess at an informal party and it was nice to have Major Michael Dracopoli as our guest also that evening.

Congratulations to Lt. Tony Bingham who is getting married early in September. Linda must be the only fiancée ever to have had an armed escort, if the Broadstairs Carnival was anything to go by!

The Battalion Band played in the Cathedral on Remembrance Sunday and acquitted themselves well, whilst the Corps of Drums augmented the 4th Battalion's Band and Drums for the march to and from the Cathedral.

The Command Secretary's visiting team descended upon us in August and examined Parade Rolls and Pay Sheets and, although discrepancies appear to have been found, their investigations only occupied one day so we feel confident that no major nonsenses were discovered!

During this time the P.S.O. managed to get away on leave, but not before he had arranged a useful attachment for two young soldiers of H.Q. Company who trained with the Junior Soldiers' Wing at the Brigade Depot, by kind permission of Major Norton.

Training of teams for the Brigade Skills Competition and the District Rifle Meeting is under way and W.O.I Maltman APTC/TA has been much in demand for road work and strengthening sessions—a fact brought out in subsequent Company notes.

A party of 16 under 2/Lt. Charles Bates will be going to B.A.O.R. in September for a period of training with 1 Queen's Surreys and we are certain they will have a successful time in Germany.

"A" Company

"A" Company held a reunion party on 3rd September at Willsons Road. Many past members of the Company attended. The opportunity was taken to present a cigarette and drinks dispenser to C/Sgt. A. Pottle, who recently left after 12 years' service.

All "A" Company Commanders from 1948 to the present day attended and a most welcome surprise guest was Lt.-Col. Rodney Hews, who by luck, happened to be in the area at the time.

A schooner race, uniformed men of "A" v. un-uniformed men of "A," resulted in a resounding win for the uniformed brigade. Obviously the men in uniform do everything better!

Major Pat Browne was welcomed as the future AVR II Company Commander and met some of the men he will command in the future.

The Company said "goodbye" officially to Capt. Maurice Dewar and wished him success. As usual C.S.M. Mirams and Mrs. Mirams worked very hard preparing for what turned out to be a very successful party.

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We say goodbye to L/Cpl. Edwards who is emigrating to South Africa and we wish him the best of luck.

Cpl. Spinner has returned from Camp at Senny Bridge with 1 Staffs and had a hard-working but enjoyable Camp.

Only one major function is planned before we close up at Willsons Road and we are all looking forward to the Annual "A" Company dinner which should transcend all previous occasions.

"B" Company

Sgt. Lockwood has returned to the Battalion from the Army Home Defence Centre at Devizes and is now installed in the chair in place of Sgt. Frankland, who is on leave pending taking his discharge. At a Company social in the T.A. Centre the outgoing P.S.I. was presented with an inscribed wrist watch to commemorate his lasting up so long at Battling "B." We are sure Sgt. Lockwood will enjoy his stay—although only a short one—with us.

Sgt. Woodward took a tumble during a recent training session—unarmed combat again—and damaged his arm. All now seems properly repaired and no doubt he will be back for more!

Lt. Bond is now working in London and so will only be available at weekends and this will apply also to Capt. Dineley for a while because of his promotion with his firm. Congratulations!

"D" Company

We were invaded by the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment who were involved on a KAPE tour and used the T.A. Centre as base for their recruiting drive in the Dover area. It made quite a change to have armoured cars about the place and to exchange gossip with the black-clad gentlemen of the Royal Armoured Corps.

With the disappearance of two out of three of the Company Officers, "D" Company is going through a rather difficult time. Crisis month will be September, when even Major Turner will be on leave! Anyway, Jock McAulay is still going strong and he will be fully equipped with his new teeth by then—so what have we to worry about?

Pte. Atkins recently took his discharge after completing two years' service because his business prevented him from attending training. A great pity, but good luck to him for the future.

H.Q. Company

The door of the Company office burst open: the wind blew documents, paper and envelopes over the office floor, blobs of ink scattered the table; I held my head in anguish, "What idiot left the door open?"

A voice broke through, "Well, I'm here, when do I start?" I looked up and saw a comical character with a

cheerful grin, "You've arrived at last," I said, "and about time, too." Fearless Fred Fleagle, your ace reporter from "Ed's Gazette," looked down at me. "If you want me to write the notes for the Invicta, then paper, pen and ink and at the double." And with a careless sweep of his arm completely cleared the Company Commander's desk of the accumulated Company accounts, files and letters of some five weeks, into an untidy pile of rubbish.

Thirty seconds later, came a shout, "I've finished," and a piece of paper fluttered to stop on the table before me. On it, in large capital letters, was written THE P.S.I., C.S.M. P. L. A. TODD, WENT ON LEAVE IN AUGUST.

"Is that all," I spluttered. "What about the Company Commander spending 14 days at the A.C.F. annual camp at Stanford P.T.A. and being mistaken for a mad bread pudding; getting a good report on the signal equipment, vehicle and weapons inspection; the way we pulled Sgt. Tim Philpott's leg about the rusty barrels of the two cannon outside the main entrance of the T.A. Centre; L/Cpl. Bob Maxwell qualifying on the range for a half share in a purple heart (medal, not pill); how the members of the Brigade skills shooting team are sweating buckets of blood, tears and brown ale practising the marching of three miles in 33 minutes, ready for the competition on the 15th/16th October; the sense of relief of those accepted for A.V.R. II."

I paused for breath, Fearless Fred still grinned at me as I carried on.

"Don't you know, the Recce Platoon are walking around with long faces because the Austin Champ, which they recently bent a bit, has been returned from workshops gleaming with paint, drab olive green. They thought that they had seen the last of it.

"And the Band with the Corps of Drums, smart as ever, led the British Legion and service parade at Canterbury Cathedral on 4th September.

"The members of the Battalion shooting team feverishly blazing away at every target on every range on every available day to enable them to reach the peak of 'Daniel Boon and Davy Crockett' marksmanship for the Div./Dist. competition on 24th/25th September." I drew a deep breath and wiped my heated brow, "If you know all that," said Fearless Fred, "you certainly don't need me. Write it yourself." He flicked his dog end with unerring aim into my ashtray and sauntered to the door, "Better still, get that P.S.I. feller to do it. You know the old jingle, 'Don't flap, old chap, the P.S.I. will see you by.'"

He gave a cheery wave of his hand and was gone. I reached for a sheet of paper, inserted it into the typewriter and wound it down. Naturally, it needed a new ribbon . . .

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

BY tradition August is holiday month and it was very apparent that it had arrived yet again as the Permanent Staff were suddenly no longer with us, having departed for foreign parts. C.S.M. Birmingham returned to his native country and it was rumoured that he wanted to check up on the quality of the whisky and practise his ambush drill. Needless to say, the Drill Halls did not burn down in their absences; nevertheless, we are very pleased to see them back.

Reorganisation

The reorganisation of the T.A. is now much in our minds; the first visible sign of change is the move, now taking place of the detachment of Headquarter Company which is at Southborough, down to the Drill Hall at Tonbridge. To many this provides the end of a long and happy association with a somewhat isolated Drill Hall which many of the "top brass" fortunately found difficult to find.

C Company, at Sevenoaks, also start training at Tonbridge at the end of September.

Attendances

It has unfortunately been noticeable that attendances at all Drill Halls have been below par. We hope that once the so-called summer is over people will begin to find their way back again. There is a lot of hard work and interesting training to be done before April next year.

River Crossings

Headquarter Company have been taking advantage of some of the fine weather to practise watermanship. During the Battalion exercise in July the Pioneer and Recce Platoons spent the night and most of Sunday morning building rafts on the canal at Hythe, Clr./Sgt. Howell, who was visiting the Pioneers, distinguished himself by volunteering to swim across; he dived in and then stood up in about three inches of water rubbing his head. For a change the rafts remained afloat, but not so at the next weekend at Pippingford Park. Someone forgot to look at the timbers used and as the Company Commander, the last of the passengers to embark, landed on the raft, one of the cross beams cracked and nine damp members of the Company climbed out of the river!

Three-inch Mortars

The three-inch mortar team, under Sgt. Atkinson and Cpl. Hart, have nearly reached a level of perfection; it is hoped they will not be overtrained by the Brigade skills competition. They managed to get in a practice over the August Bank Holiday at Erith Park and, along with the Cadets acting as infantry, gave a very well received display, which it is confidently reported was almost up to Royal Tournament standard.

A.20

Major Watson has been leading his merry men over a measured three-mile course on the A.20, and has at last managed to crack the 30-minute barrier.

Return Journey

Pte. Lee paid a visit to the Cadets during camp at Stanford, as he hopes to join them as an instructor next year.

A.V.R. II

We were very pleased to hear some of the results of the A.V.R. II Selection Boards and that Lt. Kelly, Sgt. Meacham and Sgt. Parish are going to join the Company at Canterbury.

Farewell Party

C Company are holding a party for all past and present members on the 23rd September.

At Last

C.S.M. Lowes has received the General Service Medal (Palestine) after a delay of 18 years!

Social

Capt. Finnis was presented with a pewter tankard at a party given by D Company prior to his leaving for Ecuador.

Personal

Our congratulations go to L/Cpl. Hughes and Pte. Wood on their recent marriages; and to Pte. Kerr (of cookhouse fame), who celebrated his coming of age.

True or False?

It is rumoured that K.T.A. are moving their location to Tonbridge.

Disposal of Certain Items of Property

IT has been decided by the Trustees of the 3rd West Kent Militia Battalion that certain items of property shall be sold.

Before a public sale is made it is intended that any past or present member of the Regular Battalion, its former regiments, or the Territorial Battalions should have the opportunity of purchasing any item or items.

Any potential purchaser is invited to contact Capt. J. E. Grubb, M.B.E., Q.M., 4th/5th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (T.A.), T.A. Centre, Avebury Avenue, Tonbridge (Tel.: Tonbridge 2826), and arrange a viewing time between 1st October, 1966 and 31st October, 1966.

All items have been professionally valued within the past few weeks. Items for sale consist of:—

Trophies (cups) (silver and plate).
Assorted table ware, mainly crested (silver and plate).
Crested crockery.
Sundry other small items of silver and plate.

Ex-Queen's Own R.S.M. Appointed Governor of Detention Centre



"Kent Messenger"

BORN just 100 yards from Maidstone Prison, where he first joined the Prison Service after the last War, Mr. Charles Thomas Pratt took up the post of Governor of New Hall Detention Centre, Wakefield, on 5th September.

Mr. Pratt joined 4 R.W.K. (T.A.) at the outbreak of the War and rose to the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major.

NEWS FROM THE DEPOT

BATTLE CAMP FOR INFANTRY RECRUITS

FOR several months now recruits of the Home Counties Brigade have undertaken tough, interesting training at a battle camp. Until recently this has been based at Colchester but from the end of August will be at Stanford in Norfolk, at the best Army training area in the country.

The Home Counties Brigade Depot, at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, is the home of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, The Royal Sussex Regiment and The Middlesex Regiment (The Duke of Cambridge's Own), and has led the way when it comes to the training of recruits. The staff know that when a man enlists he wants to get down to work without delay and, very soon after his arrival at the Depot at Canterbury, a recruit carries out exercises and actually fires a self-loading rifle, a machine gun and a sub-machine carbine even before he receives detailed instruction in these weapons.

A recruit is accepted at any time that is suitable to himself and, depending on when he arrives, a man spends anything from 14 to 17 weeks on intensive training before

he passes out and joins his battalion. In this period he is taught and fires all the weapons he is likely to handle in his battalion. These include the self-loading rifle, the general purpose machine gun, the sub-machine carbine, grenades of all types, the light mortar and the Carl Gustav anti tank weapon.

At all stages of his training the recruit carries out exercises in the field where he puts into practice the theories he has been taught during weapon training periods. The Depot has found that every recruit looks forward to exercises. The rougher the conditions and the harder the work, the more the recruit seems to enjoy himself.

Towards the end of his training, a recruit goes to the battle camp with his platoon for four weeks. The training carried out there is designed to ensure that after passing out from the Depot every man is fit to take his place in his battalion no matter in which part of the world it is serving.

COMING EVENTS

October

- 1 11th (Lewisham) Bn. R.W.K. Annual Dinner at the Victoria Hotel, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.
 1-2 Golfing Society Autumn Meeting—Littlestone Golf Club.
 4 Golfing Society Match v. Kent County Constabulary (Leeds Castle).
 8 6 R.W.K. Annual Dinner.
 8 6 (S) Bn. Buffs Annual Dinner at the Tower of London Restaurant.
 26 Regimental Buffet Luncheon in London.
 29 1/4 Buffs Annual Dinner at the County Hotel, Canterbury, 6 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. Tickets, 12/6, should be obtained from your Local Secretary, or from Lt.-Col. H. L. Cremer, Hampton Gay, 40 New Dover Road, Canterbury.
 29 1630 hours. A.G.M. Regimental Association.
 29 1915 hours. Darts Competition, Drill Hall, Sittingbourne.

December

- 3 8 R.W.K. Officers Dinner.
 8 H.M.S. Kent Engaged, Falkland Islands, 1914.
 13 Birthday of H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, Colonel of the Regiment.
 17 London (Buffs) Branch Buffet-Dance and Christmas Party.

1967

March

- 31 5 Buffs (T.A.) Annual Ball.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Supplements to the London Gazette

Regular Army

2nd/Lt. Neville Stuart Hunter from Short Serv. Commn., to be 2nd/Lt., 18th March, 1966, with seniority 10th July, 1965.

Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., relinquishes his appointment as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command, 13th July, 1966.

Lt. J. P. R. Strang to be Capt. 23rd July, 1966.

Lt. C. J. Pearson to be Capt. 23rd July, 1966.

Capt. I. D. Pybus to be Major 31st July, 1966, with precedence in the Home Counties Bde. below A. E. McManus, Mx.

Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., retires on retired pay, 10th August, 1966.

Major A. D. Peckham, M.B.E., to be Lt.-Col. 1st April, 1966.

Regular Army

Short Service Commn.

Christopher Martin Horley, Officer Cadet from Mons OCS, to be 2nd/Lt. 4th June, 1966.

Regular Army Reserve of Officers

Capt. (Hon. Maj.) P. A. Cashford having attained the age limit, relinquishes his commn., 2nd July, 1966, retaining the hon. rank of Major.

Territorial Army

Major W. D. Baddeley, T.D., awarded 1st Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.

Territorial Army Reserve of Officers

Lt. D. Baldock from Active List, to be Lt., 1st July, 1966.

Capt. F. J. Jakob from Active List, to be Capt., 5th July, 1966.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

ADAMS—On 16th June, 1966, at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kowloon, to Pte. and Mrs. G. Adams, a son, Ricky Mark.

WOOD—On 9th July, 1966, at Mt. Kellet Hospital, to Pte. and Mrs. P. Wood, a daughter, Carol Ann.

SHEENAN—On 21st June, 1966, at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kowloon, to Pte. and Mrs. J. Sheenan, a daughter, Christine Elizabeth.

POORE—On 27th January, 1966, at Mt. Kellet Hospital, to Pte. and Mrs. R. Poore, a son, Simon.

DAWNEY—On 20th June, 1966, at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kowloon, to Cpl. and Mrs. J. Dawney, a son, Stephen Jack.

MATTHEWS—On 25th May, 1966, at Mt. Kellet Hospital, to L/Cpl. and Mrs. C. Matthews, a daughter, Angela Patricia.

PITT—On 20th June, 1966, at Mt. Kellet Hospital, to Pte. and Mrs. W. Pitt, a son, William Thomas.

THOMAS—On 6th September, 1966, at Mt. Alvernia Hospital, Guildford, to Patricia, elder daughter of Lt.-Col. A. A. Eason, and Martin—a daughter, Amanda Catherine.

MARRIAGES

CHIDLEY—SHACKLETON. On 2nd July, 1966, at St. Margaret's, Rochester, Pte. R. Chidley to Carole Mary Shackleton.

PETERSON—FASSUM. On 25th June, 1966, at Lambeth Register Office, Pte. R. Peterson to Janet Margaret Fassum.

SMITH—PATTISON. On 2nd July, 1966, at Kowloon Union Church, Kowloon, Cpl. H. Smith to Barbara Patrick Pattison.

DEATHS

FAWCETT—On 13th July, 1966, Sara Rosemary (Sally), of The Spinney, West Clandon, dearly loved wife of Lt.-Col. George P. Fawcett, Queen's Own Buffs (ret'd).

MULLINS—On 31st July, 1966, at Lyminge, George Arthur Mullins, beloved husband of Winifred and father of Philip and Gerald.

BRUCE—On 7th August, 1966, at Cheltenham General Hospital, Brigadier-General Thomas Bruce, C.M.G., D.S.O., late Royal Artillery, aged 94, beloved husband of the late Violet Augusta and father of Erracht and Maurice.

BARTON—On 14th August, 1966, at Tebedu, Sarawak, Pte. M. Barton.

DAWNEY—On 21st June, 1966, at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kowloon, Stephen Jack, infant son of Cpl. and Mrs. J. Dawney.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr. J. R. D. HARRISON and Miss S. MARTYN
 The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Harrison, of 15 Alexandra Court, Chase Road, N.14, and Sarah, daughter of Col. and Mrs. A. Martyn, of Hart's Delyte, Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

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CORRESPONDENCE

The Nursery,
New Road,
Marlow Bottom,
Marlow, Bucks.
5th August, 1966.

The Editor, *Invicta*.

Dear Sir,

When you have read my account of the withdrawal from Baghdad (or near) back onto Kut al Amara, you will soon see what really happened; I have never heard or seen it written yet.

Let me try and make it as clear as I can. In November, 1916, General Townsend's Force engaged the Turks some 20 miles south of Baghdad; the action lasted two days against the original Turkish Force and the battle went in Townsend's favour. On the third morning, however, another new army appeared, which had withdrawn from a position some 30 miles away, where they were ready to engage the Russians. So the battle started again, and Townsend's men fought like tigers and forced the Turks to retire.

Now, why did General Townsend stop at Kut? The very same thing happened when General Montgomery fell back onto El Alamein, to make his position safer and his front narrower. On his right flank was the sea, and on his left flank was the Qattara Depression, but the vast difference between the two forces was that Montgomery had his enemy to his front only, whereas Townsend had the Turks all around him at Kut.

But let us go back a bit to the battlefield at Ctesiphon near Baghdad, before withdrawal (I do not want to say "retirement").

The transport available on the spot was river craft and mule transport. After the engagement every boat or mule transport was required to take back boat-loads and cart-loads of dead and dying men, and they were a long, long way from any reasonable help. The reinforcements arrived, but there was only half a Battalion of The Queen's Own plus odd men from other units. However, they were strong enough to fight a rearguard action, if necessary; we had very little trouble—a few Arab horsemen trying to get what loot was to be had. I don't think there was any!

Before the main withdrawal, Townsend's troops pitched several tents as a blind, as if we were still there. No doubt it gave the Turks the idea we were still there, but we had gone.

Best of luck to everyone.

Yours,

GEORGE H. CHEESEMAN.

(No. 8670 and 6334203. Late Master Cook 2nd R.W.K. from 1920-1928. Served 21 years from 22nd June, 1907, to 22nd June, 1928. Rejoined in 1939; was Master Cook 5th R.A.O.C., Portsmouth.)

THE following changes of address have been notified:—

Major R. W. M. Baker, 3 Queen's Court, Brunton Park, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 3.	22524685 W.O.II (RQMS) Gooch, F. C., 2nd Bn. Malaysia Rangers, Erskine Camp, Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor, Malaya.
Lt.-Col. C. S. Durnnell, O.B.E., Home Wood, Spyways Green, Hartfield, Sussex.	Mr. C. T. Pratt, 2 New Hall Way, New Hall, Flockton, Wakefield, Yorkshire.
P. J. Mitchell, Esq., 17 Boat Lane, Northenden, Manchester, 22.	J. F. De S. Lewis-Barned, Esq., Greystones, Long Hanborough, Oxford.
J. E. Catton, Esq., 38 Beach Avenue, Radlett, Hertfordshire.	Major J. S. Fletcher, M.B.E.,
Mrs. D. H. Gwilliam, One Ash, Frant, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.	15 Munro Road, Bushey, Watford, Herts.

Cricket at Canterbury

THE Regimental Tent was open to members during the match at Canterbury between Kent and Nottinghamshire on 27th, 29th and 30th August.

Much the same sorry conditions prevailed at this meeting as during the "Week," and after an exceedingly dull cricketing performance on the first day, Monday's play was frustrated by rain and by 5.30 p.m. the field was reduced to a soggy mess. The final day was always a doubtful starter and by midday the match was abandoned after only 4½ overs.

Not everyone who attended this meeting signed the Book, but those who did were: Lt.-Col. and Mrs. E. V. Argles, Mr. and Mrs. O. M. T. Argles, Major and Mrs. E. G. Elliott, Brig. and Mrs. J. F. Whitacre Allen, Col. J. Tilleard, J. R. G. Friend, Esq., Major and Mrs. R. A. C. Ravenhill, Keith Gardner, Esq., and Lt.-Col. and Mrs. T. N. Penlington.

We are most grateful to Mrs. West for her most artistic floral arrangements in the tent. Thanks are also due to Mr. Kennard and Mr. Knight for the many hours they put in behind the bar, and to 4 Buffs (T.A.) for their assistance.

THE following recently visited Regimental Headquarters at Canterbury:—

Lt.-Col. A. D. Peckham, M.B.E., D. H. A. Shephard, Esq., Major R. Tuke, Major-General D. E. B. Talbot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. P. N. Elgood, Major M. W. Ward, Major L. P. Critchley, W.O.I A. Parker, M.B.E., Mr. E. A. Rummey, Mr. T. S. Bowyer, Mr. F. Jackson, Mr. T. Blakelock, Mr. H. W. Maxlow, Mr. H. H. Knight, Mr. H. Coleman, Lt.-Col. J. E. Clarke, M.B.E., Mr. A. Sharp, Mr. S. R. Young, Major C. K. Kemp, Capt. F. J. Jakob, Mr. A. F. Carney, Mr. H. P. Nicholls, W.O.I J. Rogers, Mr. L. W. Dawson, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. E. V. Argles, Lt.-Col. H. N. Edwards, M.B.E., D.L., Mr. G. Wood, Mr. L. Ransome, Brig. H. C. T. Stronge, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Major P. G. Hill, Lt.-Col. E. G. Hollist, Col. F. Walden, D.L., Major-General C. H. Tarver, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Mr. O. W. Egeberg, Capt. S. M. Boucher, Major A. W. Franklin, C. M. M. Grove, Esq., C. M. Horley, Esq., Lt.-Col. E. L. C. Edlmann, M.C., Major G. A. E. Chapman, D.S.O., Col. R. O. Pulverman, O.B.E., Lt.-Col. R. H. Dendy, Major J. D. Norton, Lt.-Col. F. G. Neville, M.C., T.D., Lt.-Col. D. A. Willows, Col. Sir Henry d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, Bt., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., J.P., D.L., M.P., Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., Major C. L. Tarver, and Major D. H. Lees.

THE following recently visited the Office at Maidstone:—

Major S. R. O'R. Shearburn, Mrs. E. F. Shearburn, Major R. Love, Lt.-Col. A. D. Peckham, M.B.E., Capt. J. E. Grubb, M.B.E., Lt.-Col. F. K. Theobald, M.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. P. N. Elgood, Major A. G. Blake, M.B.E., Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Col. G. E. L. Pardington, M.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Gen. Sir William Oliver, G.B.E., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.L., Major J. L. Large, Col. R. O. Pulverman, O.B.E., Lt.-Col. P. H. Macklin, O.B.E., Major-General C. H. Tarver, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Major-General D. E. B. Talbot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. C. S. Durnnell, O.B.E., Lt.-Col. H. N. Edwards, M.B.E., D.L., Major B. A. Pond, M.B.E., M.S.M., Lt.-Col. R. C. E. Mines, M.B.E., Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., Major D. H. J. Wood, R.S.M., J. Rodgers, Sgt. Knight, Mr. L. R. A. Grove and Mr. J. Collins (Maidstone Museum), Mr. Howells, Mr. C. Whitlock.

REGIMENTAL

THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS



ASSOCIATION

THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

ASHFORD

WE welcome two new members to our Branch; Sgt. Bill Rolfe and Cpl. Bernard Smith. Both are with C Coy. The Buffs (T.A.) and we hope they will help our numbers to rise in future.

Our members were informed of the misfortune of Mr. Ossie Masters who is at present in the lung and chest hospital at Lenham; we are grateful to Mr. Filmer for keeping us informed of Ossie's progress. We all wish him a speedy recovery. The same message goes out to Mr. Green, of Eastleigh, Hampshire, who is at present recovering from an operation which he had at the end of July.

Yet another Canterbury Reunion has passed and not the best of weather for this day. We were pleased to see Mr. Jess Bridgeland being able to make the journey after his long period of ill-health.

With the proposed closure of the Drill Hall, which has been our meeting place and our quarters for several years, we are now trying to hire the Army Cadet Force building in the Drill Hall grounds. A letter has been forwarded to the authorities concerned and we hope to have a favourable reply in the near future. The Drill Hall is due for closure in March, 1967; failing this, it does appear that the only alternative is a public house in the area, but this no doubt would mean a high fee to hire a room for our meetings.

The meeting was informed of the Darts Evening to be held at Sittingbourne Drill Hall on 29th October. It was estimated a party of 40 would attend. Mr. H. Coleman offered to attend the 6th A.G.M. on the same afternoon, as our Branch representative. The Chairman thanked him for his services.

One wonders why so much hush at our past two Branch meetings. On looking around, the absence of Bert Vant is noticed. A suggestion was made to send him a telegram one hour before each meeting began! (No comment from me).

Members who wished to attend the Grand Darts Meeting on 29th October were asked to give their names in by our October meeting. It was agreed by all members present that those who give their names in must pay the fare, even if they do not attend on the date (with the exception of those who were prevented by illness).

With the Raffle afterwards, at last Harold Coleman was IN. (You cannot keep him out for long).

Best wishes to all.

A.C.M.

BROMLEY

OUR monthly meeting on the 27th August was well attended, although our President, Major Pyrke, for once could not be present.

After discussion it was regretfully agreed to abandon the idea of a further outing this year and to defer the matter until the early months of 1967.

An interesting incident occurred when our Secretary reported that he had heard from a Mr. Leigh, of Maidstone, stating that he had seen his name in Invicta and enquiring if he was related to a "Woolnough" with whom he had served in the 7th Battalion in 1916. Our Secretary replied that his father was killed in action whilst serving with the 7th Battalion and a meeting was arranged. At the meeting Mr. Leigh produced a painting in oils of the 7th Battalion at Trones Wood which he himself had painted and very kindly presented to our Mr. Woolnough. The painting, framed and glazed, must have represented many hours of concentrated work and was greatly admired by all at the meeting.

B.B.

CANTERBURY

NOT much business, *ergo* not much of note to write about this month, so these notes must be brief; though as some wit may have said, "Your brevity would fill columns!"

At the meeting of the Branch held at Leros T.A. Training Centre on Friday, 26th August, the President, Lt.-Colonel Roscow Reid, took the chair in the absence of Mr. Fred Kidder. In addition, Mr. Les Pain, our Secretary, and Major P. Ransley, our worthy Treasurer—who watches with some trepidation the incoming and outgoing of the funds—together with 15 members, were present. An apology for absence was received from Mr. Tom Miles who, in his capacity as a driver in the employ of the E.K. Bus Services, has a fine old time travelling around Britain and the Continent at the public's expense. (H - - m! I must remind myself to be missing when he next turns up!)

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted, with no query thereon. (Wonder what is the matter with the Branch?)

The President-cum-Chairman extended a welcome to a new member, one Mr. Fred Clark ("Nobby," of course). The acquisition of a new member to strengthen our numbers is quite an event.

It was announced that Plots No. 27 (for The Buffs) and No. 28 (for the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment) had been allocated for the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall in November. It was agreed to leave the placing of our tribute in the hands of the Officer from the London Branch, who has so courteously performed this duty for us on previous occasions.

Members were informed that a fellow-member in the person of Mr. Leury was now at home after being in hospital. We sincerely hope that he will make a complete recovery. The news was given by our Welfare Officer, Mr. Bert Rennells, who, by the way, seemed no worse for the hectic time he had during his golden wedding on 6th August.

The Darts Competition between the Branches entered for such will now definitely take place at Sittingbourne on Saturday, 29th October, so now, you doughty (or should it be doughty?) warriors, a little practice seems indicated. It was hoped to obtain the names of players and supporters who will be present, at our next meeting on Friday, 23rd September; or before if possible.

At the next meeting Mr. Bert Halladay will be showing some of his films in colour and members will, I think, appreciate the subjects chosen. The meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. instead of 8 p.m. Coincidentally, the 'bus will leave the usual points half-an-hour earlier, starting at 6.30 p.m.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 p.m.

A selection of music played by the Band of the Home Counties Brigade and recorded by Bert Halliday was appreciated by members at the close of the meeting.

With best wishes to all Branches and Buffs everywhere from the Canterbury Branch.

A. H. BERRY.

CHATHAM

THIS will probably be the last report of this Branch as such, for on the 7th November next we definitely merge with the Medway Branch of the Regimental Association. This is to be a very equal marriage as we find, after discussions, that our finances and attendance at meetings are identical. The desire also exists on both sides to keep things going, whereby old pals may be able to meet and talk over old times. If, by any chance, there should be any ex-member of The Buffs or Queen's Own residing in the Medway Towns, and who is not a member of the Past Association, would he please make an effort to come along

to the Hare and Hounds Hotel, High Street, Rochester, on Monday, 7th November, when we start off as a new and combined effort. New officers and committee will be elected, so there is every chance for newcomers to get in on the ground floor of an entirely new Association.

We are looking forward to a bumper meeting and more social life than of late.

Our meeting was graced by the presence of officers of The Buffs Association, who had come to finalise the arrangements for merging.

We received a money gift from our member, Major Smith in New Zealand, but were informed by the Bank that it could not be exchanged owing to the freeze. However, our Treasurer is holding it until restrictions are relaxed. Nevertheless, we do thank Major Smith for his generous thoughts.

I think this is all for now. Best wishes to our President, who is still prevented by illness from attending our meetings.

G.E.L.

FOLKESTONE, HYTHE AND DISTRICT

AT the last meeting, held on 12th August at the Drill Hall, Shellons Street, Folkestone, Mr. Wickens took the chair in the absence of Brigadier Parry.

The main item on the agenda for discussion was the Inter-Branch Darts Tournament which the Branch will be entering, and we hope to make it an afternoon and evening outing. The Competition will be held at Sittingbourne on the 29th October. I only hope that it does not clash with the 1st/4th Reunion Dinner at Canterbury.

The Branch has been very pleased to see quite a few ladies present, especially Mrs. Wanstall.

I am sorry that owing to the holidays, work, and being in charge of two Scotties, I have not been able to report any news from the Branch, but on 30th July they had a most enjoyable outing. Starting at 9 a.m. the party, consisting of 22 members, wives and friends, left Folkestone and proceeded by the coast road to Rye, where they stopped for coffee and then on to Eastbourne, where members made their own arrangements for lunch; leaving again at 2 p.m. via Lewes for Sheffield Park and arriving there about 4 p.m. After spending 1½ hours, which included tea, at the Park, they all travelled on the Bluebell line to Horsted Keynes and back—a 10-miles trip through the glorious Wealden Sussex scenery on the vintage train of 1886 stock. On the return to Sheffield Park, they again boarded their coach and made their way to Tenterden via Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge, arriving at 8.30 p.m. and stopping there for liquid refreshment at the "Vine" until 10 p.m. Their next stop was Ashford for a fish and chip supper, arriving home at about 11.15 p.m.

Although the weather was showery, it so happened that whenever they were out of the coach the sun shone on them—as it always does on the righteous!

Cheerio! I hope that all good Buffs have enjoyed their holidays and keep in the best of health.

E.V.L.

LONDON (BUFFS)

THE holiday season took its toll of members at our meeting on 20th August last, but we still had a roster of 17, accompanied by nine ladies, so we did not do too badly.

So pleased to learn from Headquarters that the Darts Competition is now arranged to take place on 29th October at Sittingbourne, even though we do not know who our opponents will be. But what a grand assembly it should be on that date. A chance for so many Branches to meet and exchange ideas, especially relating to membership in the various Branches. We are gathering back quite a few of our older members who have gradually broken away, possibly through age, ill-health, or it may be indifference.

However, we send a monthly News Letter to everyone whose name is in our list of members (a figure approaching 150) and include in this letter every possible item of interest, such as all the names of distant members from whom we have heard, as well as all the business that happens at our monthly gatherings.

It is surprising what a response this News Letter has brought. Not only do we hear from members whose names we have almost forgotten, but quite a few of them have joined us at our meetings and are now more or less regular "attenders." Nearly every month one or two book in and to say we are delighted when this happens, is putting it mildly and our Branch correspondence has trebled.

So Canterbury Sunday has once again come and gone. The "Weatherman" was fairly kind to us, for which we are truly thankful, especially after such a poor summer. It is wonderful to see, even after so many years, such a grand gathering of the "old 'uns" stepping it out with all the spirit in the world; then, when they returned to Howe Barracks, nattering over old times like a crowd of youngsters, holding their pints high!

Before I close, may I be allowed to congratulate the Young Soldiers' Band for their brilliant display when Beating Retreat.

Their instrumental rendering and military bearing are worthy of the highest praise. A grand finale to another Service of Remembrance to add to our store of memories.

With best wishes to all members of "THE QUEEN'S." A.E.S.

LONDON (QUEEN'S OWN)

OUR meeting held on 26th August was attended by 20 members. This was a surprise, as at one time early on in the evening, the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer had the place to themselves and were wondering whether they would form a quorum, when two or three members came along and spoiled their plans.

The Friday prior to Bank Holidays is never a good evening on which to meet, but in view of the disappointment to long-distance members who might possibly turn up, we do not postpone, except in December. The meeting for December this year will, in all probability, be on the 16th of that month as we like to hold it prior to Christmas; so keep that date in mind.

Our next function is on the last Saturday in October when we go to Sittingbourne to play darts. We are doing our best to arrange a coach for this outing at Branch expense and this should be well attended. Our Secretary has been given figures and we hope these will be our numbers on the day, or rather, evening. The coach will leave Vauxhall Bridge Road from the cinema near Victoria Station at 5 p.m., so any member not receiving my News Letter, can be there and get a lift to Sittingbourne. The coach will return at 10.30 p.m. in order that members may get their trains home before the last one out from London.

Soon we shall be receiving news of the new Journal. We wonder who will edit it and what form our notes will take. No doubt we shall be advised in plenty of time to ensure a good Number One copy. It is to be hoped we shall be given full rein to express our affection for old names and faces and that nothing the scribes send in will be rejected as being anti-new unit. Writing for these regimental journals is as much a part of my life as writing to my relatives. I commenced writing for my company in the early twenties and, except for the war period, have contributed regularly to the old "Buster" and to the newer "Invicta." During that time I have always tried to be fair and reasonable in all matters, and although always grousing about lack of space allotment, have always said the Editor knows best—he must run it to suit everybody—not the London scribe in particular.

All the Branch requests is being given full allowance to mention old friends, without the slightest intention of ruffling other units' feelings. I feel sure the same thought will enter other heads. Will the "X" Regiment chaps think we're "blowing our trumpet" if we mention this or that? We all love to chat over old times and mention these occasionally and I know that this branch would never do anything to slight any member of any other unit in any way. We welcome the amalgamation. We are not part of it as, physically, the serving officers and soldiers are, but we are glad to meet up with friends of the units to whom we shall soon be joined.

Let us hope that in the New Year we shall meet and enjoy the company of old comrades, some of whom I feel sure we shall have met in the pre-war days, when most of us were serving, either abroad or at home.

Our Christmas "Do" this year will, I hope, be a bumper number and we shall do our best to make arrangements for any visitors who might care to attend in addition to the usual all round invitation to members' wives and families.

We have had news (and acknowledged it) from Major Bob Brown. Our Canadian friends, Harry Brown and Fred Cannon, have also sent news; the former giving full details of the possible changes in the Canadian Forces. We are not alone apparently. Tradition dies very hard.

More next month.

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MAIDSTONE

OUR July meeting was rather disappointing as far as attendance was concerned; only a dozen members attending. It was, of course, a bad night, with quite a heavy downpour of rain, so perhaps members can be excused, especially as the World Cup matches were on TV. Our Chairman, Tim Hayley, told members that he had recently seen "Billy" Baker's grave at Maidstone Cemetery and was appalled by its condition. Members agreed that we should contact the Borough Council with a view to having the grave tidied up. This has been done at a cost of 25/-, which included re-turfing. The cemetery superintendent, however, has pointed out that he was very disturbed as to the dilapidated condition of the wooden cross which was originally bought with subscriptions from Queen's Own Branches. This matter is being taken up by our Branch representative at the next Regimental Association meeting and with the Queen's Own Regimental Museum Committee.

We were very pleased indeed to welcome Mr. English, who is the brother-in-law of one of our loyal supporters, Bill Croucher. Mr. English was a member of the old 10th Battalion of the Queen's Own and was on a visit to Maidstone. By the way, Bill Croucher is not able to get about as well as he would like and therefore would extend a welcome to any ex-member of the Queen's Own who may be visiting Maidstone and can find time to call at No. 7 College Road.

Our August meeting was an improvement on July; 22 members attending. It was proposed at this meeting that the Branch run an outing to a London show. Members agreed to this and the Chairman and Secretary were asked to arrange. Members were pleased to hear that the darts competition would be held at the T.A. Centre, Sittingbourne, and it does appear that a good number of Branches will be attending. We hope to get in a few practice games so that we can at least give whoever our opponents might be a good run for their money. By all accounts, it seems that 4 Buffs (T.A.) have "laid on" a very entertaining evening, so let's hope the competition is well and truly patronised by all Branches.

Extracts from the official letter regarding the amalgamation of the Home Counties Regiments were distributed to all members and at this stage no comment was made—but there is certainly much food for thought. Changes must obviously take place to keep up with the pace of this modern world of atomic power, but does it not look like the end of the road for ex-footsloggers if the glorious names of "Our Regiments" are wrapped up in "bundles of 10" and thrown upon the waggon of time? I am sure it is in the minds of most of us that whilst the Regular Army "marches on," we will "mark time" as we are, and be prepared to "fade away" in our own good time.

To all members of the Association, we wish you well and hope to meet up with many of our old friends at the darts get-together at Sittingbourne on 29th October.

JIM WELLS.

SITTINGBOURNE

THE 447th monthly meeting was held in the Drill Hall, Crown Quay Lane, on 7th July. First item was apologies for no meeting in June as Col. Dean was at camp with the T.A. Apologies were received from Mr. Davies, Mr. Dunk, Mr. Cousins and many more who were on holiday. The chair was taken by Col. D. Dean, V.C., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., supported by Col. J. E. Wills, J.P., Councillor Mount and a good attendance of members.

Next on the agenda was a letter from the London Branch, read by the Chairman, who said they enjoyed the darts social on 7th May. Members thanked Mr. and Mrs. Tobin for the refreshments they provided on this occasion. Members also thanked Councillor Mount for acting as host for the evening. Col. Dean is writing a letter to thank Mr. and Mrs. Tobin for all they have done for the Branch. Mr. Tobin has taken another post and I'm sure we are going to miss them both very much.

Col. Dean read a letter from Mrs. Grace thanking him for sending a donation on behalf of the Branch to help with her bottle party in aid of S.S.A.F.A. on 3rd July. Mr. Emberton went round with the raffle tickets; he likes doing this job. The booby was given by Mr. Jackson—pause in the meeting whilst the Chairman was getting ready to draw the lucky number—Mr. Deal's.

This being all the business, the chairman thanked his

Vice-Chairman and members, old and new, for being present.

The 448th monthly meeting was held at the Drill Hall, Crown Quay Lane, on 4th August. The chair was taken by our Chairman, Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., and was supported by a good attendance of members. Apologies were received from Col. J. E. Wills, J.P., Mr. Sinclair, Mr. Cousins and many others who were on holiday.

First on the agenda was a letter from Mr. Tobin, which was read by the chairman, who said that we had lost a good steward. By that he meant that Mr. Tobin has deserted us by taking up his new post as caretaker of Sittingbourne's new Civic Centre. We at the Sittingbourne Branch wish him well in his new job. Col. Dean proposed that he should be made an Honorary Member of The Buffs; all the members agreed. Next was the darts final, which will be held at Sittingbourne on 29th October. We hope to have a good attendance.

Concerning the Remembrance at London in November, we have agreed that a cross should be laid on behalf of The Buffs. In the past we have had two crosses laid, but members suggested that one only would do. It was put to the vote and this was agreed. It was proposed by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Deal.

Next, Col. Dean read the letter from H.Q. about the new Regiment and we all felt sure that it will all be one in the future. There is still a ghost hanging around the Regiment as they don't seem to mix together as they should, but we do hope to be closer together when the new Regiment is formed.

The darts match with London was discussed; we had a loss of 30/- on that, but the Secretary is writing to the London Branch in due course. Cpl. Hatten went round with the raffle tickets and made a good sum of money (for a learner). The prize was given by Mr. Deal and won by Mr. Louch. The sum raised was £1/10/-.

This being all the business, the Chairman closed the meeting and thanked all members present.



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TONBRIDGE AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS

THE monthly meeting of the Branch was held at the T.A. Centre at Tonbridge on Thursday, 18th August. It was reported that 11 members of the Branch attended the Canterbury Reunion. The Branch was very pleased to welcome Major-General D. E. B. Talbot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L., who is a member of our Branch, into our ranks. We were also glad to have Band-Sgt. Figgett from Maidstone with us.

After quite a lot of Branch business had been disposed of, the members got down to the arrangements for several autumn and winter outings. A circular letter is being despatched to all members giving particulars of these events. It is hoped that these events will be fully supported and that bookings, etc., be sent to the Secretary as early as possible, according to the dates notified. These will include a trip to see the lights at Southend on Saturday, 1st October, leaving Tonbridge at 4.30 p.m.

The Branch hope to support the Inter-Branch Darts Competition and Social at the Drill Hall, Sittingbourne, on Saturday, 29th October, leaving Tonbridge at 6.30 p.m. Sometime in January, 1967, arrangements are being made for a visit to either the Wembley Ice Show or the Palladium or some other interesting event to be notified later. It was decided to hold the next Annual General Meeting on the 20th October, at the H.Q., Avebury Avenue, Tonbridge. We hope to have a full attendance on this occasion.
H.A.

THE WEALD

DESPITE the uncertainty of the weather on Remembrance Sunday the Branch was represented by 25 to 30 members on parade. Our President, Col. J. Clarke, was unfortunately unable to attend but Col. F. Foreman kindly stepped into the breach and led the Branch in the march past, at which the salute was taken by Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Craddock.

The afternoon activities were somewhat damped by the weather and in consequence fewer old friends were to be found wandering round; doubtless many more were sheltering in the marquees. I am sure everyone agreed that the Beating of Retreat by the Band and Drums of the Junior Soldiers' Company was an outstanding example of smartness and precision, especially when it is realised that the average age of those taking part was about 16. All members send their best wishes to all Branches.
N.G.W.

11th Bn. THE QUEEN'S OWN

LET me first correct a statement in last month's notes (one cannot always trust one's memory, it seems). I referred to the late Ted Willson as being in D Coy. Stores; he was, in fact, Company Clerk for many a long day. Incidentally, the amount by which our Benevolent Fund has benefited as a result of donations thereto, instead of floral tributes, has reached the magnificent sum of £49/4/- and we are most grateful for Mrs. Willson's gesture.

The pre-dinner committee meeting has been held and most of the details settled . . . the price of the tickets to be only what the hotel charges us; the list of official guests settled (down to a minimum, in view of the low state of general and dinner fund finances); any loss to be debited to reserve fund; a generous offer from a committee-man to meet the cost of menu cards; a "fiver" from another who will be unable to get to the dinner; etc., etc. Except for all the donkey-work that Len Dawson has put in arranging it all, the rest of us can sit back and hope fervently for a good muster.

There will be one notable absentee this year—our Chairman, Bernard Bergl. We shall miss him. However, it is unavoidable as he is due to see his invalid sister off a plane at London Airport on arrival from the Continent and to see her on to a plane for New York. So it looks as if our worthy President, Donald Dean, will fill the breach.

September is a month which figures largely in our history; space does not allow us to refer to those many happenings, but we do suggest to our readers to cast their minds back to them, and to the good fellows who participated in them . . . and perhaps look up the history.
R.O.R.

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LONDON

A MEETING was held on 3rd September at the White Swan, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1. The election of officers and committee took place: Chairman, Mrs. Foster Hall; Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Cousins; Treasurer, Mrs. Kebbell; Secretary, Mrs. Dalgleish; Committee, Mesdames Dixey, Haslett, Lavender, Ricketts and Temple Hirst.

Before the meeting we stood in silence for Mrs. Peggy Gibson, one of our members and committee who passed away suddenly. Our deepest sympathy to her family, and also to Mr. R. Ashby and Michael in their grievous loss. Our sympathy also to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Odell, who were killed in an air crash on their honeymoon.

Many thanks to Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Watts for counting the votes, and to Mr. Dixey for printing and donating the ballot papers. Greetings were received from Mrs. Baxter, Mrs. Waters, Mrs. Cotton and Mrs. Everett. Our thanks to Mrs. Everett and Mrs. Cudlip for their donations. This being all, the meeting closed.

M.J.D.

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