

"The Queen's Own Gazette."

MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

[No. 296.

MAIDSTONE, JANUARY, 1900.

[Vol. XVIII, No. 1.

With the Compliments of the Season.

Twenty-five years ago to-day was published the first number of "The Queen's Own Gazette," a Monthly Record of Regimental Doings, it having been started as the Regimental Paper of the "old 50th," on January 1st, 1875.

For many years have the various doings of the Battalions been chronicled in its pages, and we hope that such will be the case for many years to come.

We wish to return our grateful thanks to all those who have so kindly assisted us with "copy." For past defects and shortcomings we tender our humble apologies, and we hope that our readers' criticisms have not been, and will not be, too severe.

And now in our first number of 1900 we wish all our readers the good old greeting:

A Happy New Year.

And we hope we may also anticipate our readers' feelings, in wishing a very prosperous year, and many of them, to

"THE QUEEN'S OWN GAZETTE."

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

1st BATTALION.

Appointed Lance Corporals:—No. 4184 Drummer W Palmer (1st September), No. 3145 Private A. M'Enuff (26th September), No. 4185 Private F. Stanshall (26th September), No. 4518 Private E. Crouch (9th October), No. 3958 Private J. Mackintosh (12th October), No. 4594 Private J. Barwick (18th October), No. 4864 Private F. Wood (18th October), No. 3810 Private C. James (24th October), No. 5480 Private W. Darkins (25th October).

2nd BATTALION.

Lieutenant J. T. Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes, from the 3rd Battalion to be 2nd Lieutenant on augmentation (9th December).

Promoted Corporals:—No. 4755 Lance-Corporal T. Dorrell, (5th October), No. 4696 Lance-Corporal H. Green, (17th October), No. 5179 Lance-Corporal A. Sarney, (8th November).

Appointed Lance-Corporals:—No. 5229 Private J. Kearney, and No. 5290 Private A. Smith (10th October), No. 4032 Private H. Morris (24th October), No. 3947 Private W. Humphrey, No. 4020 Private H. Wallace No. 4596 Private E. Gould, and No. 4496 Private F. Wood (26th October), No. 4317 Private T. Cooker (30th

October), No. 4629 Private C. Stringer (3rd November), No. 4445 Private A. Barnes (9th November), No. 4681 Private T. Roff (9th November).

3rd BATTALION.

Alfred Hopewell Pullman, and Sydney Spencer Hayne to be 2nd Lieutenants (11th December).

DEPOT.

Appointed Lance-Sergeant—No. 1337 Corporal C. Semmence (5th December).

Appointed Lance-Corporals—No. 94 Private G. Bance (11th December), No. 3616 Private A. Thompson, No. 4502 Private C. Argar, No. 3865 Private J. Franklyn, No. 4590 Private L. Clifton (14th December), No. 3795 Private S. Flowers (27th December).

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I am forwarding you this mail a description of Aden, which I hope may be of some interest to the readers of the *Queen's Own Gazette*. The Officers of the Battalion are engaged in a games tournament against the rest of the station. We are playing them at tennis, racquets, polo, golf, cricket, football, and hockey. The tennis match is the only one that has been played at present, and we were just defeated after a very even contest. We played the station at cricket last week, and managed to win fairly easily, thanks to the excellent batting of Lieut. Robinson, who compiled 83. The first dance of the season was given this month by the General at the Residency, and was a great success, and largely attended. We have had two gymkhanas during the month. In the first Lieut. Smith won the lime cutting, and in the second the officers of the regiment pulled over the officers of the Royal Artillery in the tug-of-war. Every Monday afternoon the band plays at the officers' mess, and the officers are "at home." Judging from the numbers of the fair sex, the majority of whom come from the other end of Aden, it is much appreciated. The band also plays twice a month at the club. We hear rumours of the garrison going out for a three weeks march into the desert in January, but at present it seems doubtful whether it will come off or not. The supply of water seems to be the main difficulty.

A and F Companies have completed their musketry, and B, under Captain Hewett, who rejoined us from leave last week, is now going through. Musketry is carried out at

Steamer Point, consequently all the companies will have their turn there. It seems to be a more popular part than the Crater. On the 19th November a boxing entertainment was got up at the Regimental Theatre, and proved a great success. I enclose you an account of the contests, all the men of the regiment taking part in them proving successful.

There has just been started in Aden a club for non-commissioned officers and men of the garrison. It seems to be very popular with all ranks, and should be a great success. Improvements and additions are already going to be carried out. At present it has only been started ten days, so not too much can be expected of it just yet.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Aden, 6/12/99.

We have now been a little over a month in Aden, and perhaps a few impressions of the place may be acceptable to your readers. Its ruggedness and barrenness cannot possibly be over estimated; scarcely a speck of green can be seen in and about cantonments. However, bad as it may be, everybody was pleased to be once more on shore, after the tedious voyage from Rangoon, and by this time everybody in a greater or less measure has settled down. Before this could be done, there was a vast amount of work to be done in the way of moving regimental baggage, and when we consider the number of times this always trying duty had to be performed during our move, the men of the Battalion are to be complimented on the way they worked. They stuck to it splendidly, and worked willingly and well, the breakages too were inconsiderable. No body of men could have worked better.

We disembarked on Sunday morning, the 15th ult. The Battalion is divided into three parts; four companies at headquarters, three at Steamer Point, and one at Isthmus. Steamer Point, just above the main landing place, is far and away the best of the three stations, and here there seems very little to grumble at in any way, except, of course, the usual eye-sore of brown or black and barren rocks. Some five or six miles by the road from Steamer Point lies headquarters, known as Crater Camp. Its very appearance would tell one that it is most appropriately named, and the power of the volcanic forces, which at some remote period must have reared the gigantic masses of rock, by which we are surrounded, cannot well be imagined. Those who were fortunate enough to leave the Dunera at Steamer Point, reached headquarters, *via* the Main Pass, a narrow gorge, which appears to have been either excavated or blasted, and which at first sight presents at least an uncanny, not to say tartarean appearance. The headquarter companies landed at Obstruction Pier, and had a nice little tunnel of about 350 yards in length to march through before reaching the camp.

The bungalows, especially the married quarters, are not all that could be desired, nor were they in a particularly good state when we took them over. They are built of rough hewn stones, the floor, when there is one, is made of the same material, and one requires several thicknesses of carpet or matting, or a pair of ammunition boots, to get about in them at all comfortably. The company bungalows are a great deal better than the married quarters. They, I suppose, are comparatively new, are close to the sea, and double storied. The barrack furniture is about on a par with the bungalows.

The Camp is laid out in a sort of irregular triangle, the mens' bungalows forming the east side, the married quarters the north, and the various offices the south side. The parade ground lies within this triangle. Beyond the offices is a nullah, and beyond this again are bungalows, occupied by the Ordnance Department, the band and drums, and one company of the Battalion. The bazaar is close to barracks, and consists of one principal street, in which are the Parsee shops and the usual native bazaar adjoining. Beyond this, on the northern side, proceeding towards the Main Pass, are the native infantry lines.

The bulk of the business is in the hands of the Parsees. There is not, as far as I know, an English shop in the place. There are a few Hindu merchants, also some Italians and the ubiquitous Jews. These two latter classes trade in hides, coffee, feathers, and honey, which articles are brought in by the Arabs from the interior. Aden is a much cheaper place to live in than either Dum Dum or Rangoon, that is if you don't go in for luxuries like green vegetables or beef. Of the former there are absolutely none, and the latter has been supplied two or three times since we have been here from the commissariat. The commissariat meat agent also supplies the bazaar, and as all the cattle have been condemned through rinderpest we have been reduced to a diet of mutton, very nice occasionally, but not furnishing much variety when continuously supplied for about three weeks. We have tried mutton fried, mutton boiled, and mutton roast; mutton curried, mutton hashed, and mutton cold; mutton stewed, fricusséd, or minced; mutton in puddings, and mutton in pies, and by this time we cannot honestly look a fat sheep fairly in the face. Tinned vegetables are cheap, and for the most part of a washy nature, and as there is just about as much flavour in them as in so much saw dust one soon gets tired of them. A good cargo of fresh vegetables, Mr. Editor, would be the most acceptable of Christmas gifts.

Servants are a nondescript race, the Somali strain being the most prominent. They want good wages for little work, but as the supply is limited one is forced to submit to almost all their demands. An ungainly hump fashion, much in vogue in England some few years ago, seems in great favour amongst the ayahs. The men have a filthy habit of daubing

their head all over with what appears to me to be a mixture of whitewash and grease, and this appears to act as some kind of a bleaching preparation, some of them rejoicing in a proper nigger face, with blonde or brown curls.

The place seems healthy enough, with the exception of the Isthmus. H Company, who were sent there first, have returned to headquarters with at least half the company sick. Let us hope that this will be an exceptional case. I am sorry to say that after a few days illness we lost our Armourer Sergeant, who only joined us at Calicut, and who was not long enough in the regiment to have made himself known to the majority.

Let Aden be lacking in whatsoever it will, it does not lack loos-wallahs, and these of a particularly daring character. Colour-Sergeant Willis was one of the first victims of these gentry, and they have cleared him out of all portable property except clothing, not forgetting the hard cash.

We are very quiet here at present, but there are signs of stirring in some directions. We have a football ground, marked out at least, and the sergeants have rigged up some sort of a tennis court, but I am afraid cricket at headquarters will be a failure. The competition for the inter-company football shield will shortly commence, and of the companies at headquarters C appears to have the best chance of taking it. They have played friendly matches with E and D companies, and succeeded in winning both.

A possible scene in the near future at Orderly Room:—

"There is a big score against you in the consumption book yesterday, Sergt. X."

"Yes, sir, I was playing euchre in a school of 'sharks,' and was let in four times."

An interesting shooting match took place on the range at Steamer Point, on the 3rd November, between the Sergeants and Corporals of the Detachment (A B and F Companies) at present stationed there. Owing to the light failing towards evening, 200 and 500 yards only could be negotiated, and the shooting was fairly good. but, no doubt, when the range has been used a little more, some still better results will be obtained. The Sergeants provided refreshments, and the tent pitched on the range proved very attractive, either for the purpose of utilizing the shade it afforded, or for obtaining "sighting shots." The following are the scores obtained, 13 of each team fired, and the last three were counted out:—

SERGEANTS.		CORPORALS.	
Sergt. Moore.....	50	Lance-Corp. Marchant	44
„ Newbold.. ..	49	Corporal Andrews	43
Col.-Sergt. Drew	45	Lance-Corp. Blanchard	41
„ Willis	42	Corporal Naylor.....	40

Sergt. Kill	41	Lance-Corp. Brown ...	39
„ Firman	40	„ Howes ...	38
„ Andrews	38	„ Igglesden.	34
„ Taylor	37	„ Darkins ...	33
„ McIntosh	37	„ Schmidt ...	32
„ Rogers ..	30	„ Kirby	31
	409		375
Average	40	Average	37

N.B.—With reference to above match, is it true that a certain sergeant, after firing a shot at 500 yards, and hearing someone say "Crater," and seeing the "Dancer" go up, turned round and remarked disgustedly, "Why, the thing didn't go off until after I had pressed the "trigger."

The return shooting match between the Sergeants and Corporals of the Detachments at Steamer Point, took place on Friday, the 10th November, and resulted in a decisive victory for the Sergeants. The shooting all round had improved, and the meeting was a great success in every way. The following are the scores, distances 200 and 500 yards, and, as before, the three lowest were counted out:—

SERGEANTS.		CORPORALS.	
Sergt. Moore	49	Lance-Corp. Smith	42
„ Newbold	47	„ Marchant .	41
Col.-Sergt. Willis	45*	Corp. Mills	40
Sergt. Andrews	45	Lance-Corp. Howes ...	40
„ Griffen	43	Corp. Holliday.....	39
„ Firman	42	Lance.-Corp. Brown ...	38
„ Head	41	Corp. Naylor	37
„ Taylor	41	„ Daykin	36
„ Kill.....	41	Lance-Corp. Cox.....	30
Lance-Sergt. McIntosh.	41	„ Darkins ...	24
Total	435	Total	367
Average.....	43	Average.....	36

1ST BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

The following have been permitted to extend their service to complete 12 years with the colours:—No. 4192, Pte. T. Barnes; No. 3575, Pte. G. Barker; No. 3274, Pte. A. Pearson; No. 3298, Pte. J. Marsh.

No. 2733, Pte. G. Roberts has been appointed Drummer, and No. 3121, Pte W. Knight has been appointed Bandsman. No. 3386, Pte W. Manville has been transferred to the Army Reserve.

No. 5383, Pte. C. Pettitt, and No. 2023, Pte. W. Carter have been permitted to re-engage to complete 21 years' service.

Certificates of Education have been awarded as follows:—

Second Class—Lance-Corporals J. Blanchard, H. Farmer, R. Soughton, J. Keyte, H. Bilbey, W. Lush, P. Balcombe, O. Minchin, W. Collins, G. Outred; and Privates W. Wells, J. Barker, H. Alderton, E. Gillespie, and L. Moir.

Third Class—Corporal H. Terry; Lance-Corporals H. Hall, J. Webb, J. Rudd, J. Payne, H. Marchant, C. Ford, A. Barnes; and Privates L. Newman, W. Bond, H. Roberts, and J. Bellenger.

Good Conduct pay has been granted as follows:—

At 3d.—Lance-Corporal W. Stannard, Privates C. Collins, and J. Francis.

At 2d.—Privates H. Say, D. Morgan, A. Hearne, G. Harris, W. McCrossen, C. Reis, A. Diplock, F. Banford, G. Clarke, F. Stevens, J. Shields, T. Harris, H. Keen.

At 2d. restored—Private H. Braybrooke.

At 1d.—Lance-Corporal R. Rose, Privates E. Pritchard, J. Thorpe, A. Caulfield, C. Pilcher, T. Cox, C. Sharpe, J. South, G. Webb, C. Goodman, F. Hyams, B. Fish, J. Wood, T. Dixon, G. Miller, A. Humphries, J. Markham, W. Pacey.

At 1d. restored—Privates G. Morris, E. Dowdswell, F. Duggan, J. McCarthy, P. Gilbert, T. Peel, F. Tucker, H. Brill, C. Goddin, and C. Thomas.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Alexandria does not seem to me to be a place from which it will be easy to send you much news of general interest. We have been here two months almost to a day. When we arrived the days were rather oppressively hot, and the heat at all events to those dressed as we were in English kit, was decidedly unpleasant. Now that we have got fitted out with Khaki, winter clothing is by garrison orders taken into wear. It seems that after sundown Khaki should always be exchanged for serge at all times of the year, and this is the rule for the Egyptian Police as well as for the British soldier. The climate now is certainly excellent. We are close to the sea, and bathing parades still take place on Wednesdays and Saturdays, but about ten a.m. instead of before breakfast.

The place, however, does not lend itself to boating, practically one has to go to Alexandria for that. Our barracks are called Mustapha Pacha. The bungalows for the men and the Officers' Quarters have been built since the 1st. Battalion was quartered here, but some of the old buildings are utilised for Married Quarters, Canteen, Sergeants' Mess, etc. Plans for proper Regimental Institutes are, I believe, only awaiting the necessary sanction to be carried out. Good canteen premises, recreation rooms, and corporals' room, are very much needed. The Sergeants fortunately have capital accommodation for their Mess, with an excellent view.

Constant trains run past our barracks, with a station less than half a mile off, and to walk to the Headquarters office, which is in the centre of Alexandria—Caracol Attarin—only takes an hour. So much for where we are quartered.

There is only one Regiment here, but there is a General and Staff, and a few men belonging to the R. A. Medical Corps, Royal Engineers, Army Service Corps, and Ordnance Corps. "Employs" take away a large number of N.C.O's and men, and there is a detachment at Ras-el-Tin. At present D company under Captain Dalison and Lieutenant Tulloch is quartered there.

From a soldiering point of view therefore, this place is not an ideal one, and there is not very much to be done in the way of amusement. Company cricket matches on the parade ground are of constant occurrence. An asphalt pitch exists, sand and stones make fielding somewhat difficult.

Football is about to commence. Inter-company matches ought to prove interesting, as well as of advantage in keeping up a Battalion team. Just now it will not be easy to get up Battalion matches. We have had one. It was against H.M.S. Nympe, but it was very one-sided, as the ship had not a strong enough team to make a match.

There is a "Sporting Club"—so called—not far off, where races are held periodically, and polo, golf, and lawn-tennis can be played constantly.

It seems that there are certain people in this country who go in for racing, but the number of men who ride, and of animals that are entered, is somewhat limited, and with both the riders and their mounts there is plenty of opportunity of becoming fairly familiar.

The Khedive was at Ras-el-Tin for a short time this month, and held a Levée, to which officers who were available went.

The palace, and the surroundings also, look rather different now to what they were seventeen years ago, when A, B, C, and D Companies, 1st Battalion, under Lieut.-Col. Doran, were quartered there.

General Lane, commanding here, is on leave in England, but returns early next month.

General Talbot, commanding the forces in Egypt, came here this month from Cairo, with his C.S.O., Col. Forestier-Walker, and inspected us.

He saw the men in their barrack rooms, went round the various Institutions, &c., and then inspected the men on parade. It was pleasant to learn afterwards, in a letter from the C.S.O., that the General was pleased, and "found everything in excellent order."

Lieut. Tulloch, and Sergeants Pond and Colyer, arrived a few days ago in a Moss liner. They, and Lieut. Hildyard, were at Hythe when the Battalion was suddenly ordered to Egypt. The latter has had the good fortune to go out as

Quartermaster to the Battalion of Mounted Infantry which Lieut.-Col. Alderson has taken out to South Africa. Lieut. Long, who was left behind—having taken up the appointment of A.D.C. to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—has also managed to get out to South Africa as Quarter-Master to the Battalion of Mounted Infantry which is commanded by Lieut.-Col. Tudway, Capt. Marsh is with Mounted Infantry, and it is believed that he is either with Col. Plumer at or about Tuli, or that he is with Col. Baden-Powell at Mafeking. So there are four officers of the Regiment now in South Africa. We hope all good fortune will attend them, and that we may welcome them back at no distant date. Would that both Battalions of the Regiment were now in Natal! Alas! there seems no prospect for either the 1st or 2nd Battalions.

YOUR 2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Alexandria, 22/11/99.

[The above letter reached us on 30th November, and was consequently too late for publication in our December Number. EDITOR, *Q.O.G.*]

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I am sorry that the notes for the December number of the *Q.O.G.* arrived so late in the month of November as to be of no avail. As they will appear in January's number you will not be in so great need of copy for that number. This is rather satisfactory, seeing how little there is to write about here. At the same time notes for the December number, which if published when writing would be lacking in interest, will now be still less interesting. Here, as elsewhere, the principal interest of the day is what will the next telegram tell us. Second only to the hope that we may hear of victories, and of no more disasters, is the wish that we may be ordered out to South Africa. I fear both Battalions are quartered in places where the garrison cannot be reduced, and where to relieve us is not convenient.

One more officer of the Battalion on special service has gone out to South Africa, viz., Lieut. James. We hear Lieut.-Col. Alderson was at De Aar a few days ago, the Rifle and Southern Company having been temporarily taken from him. It is said that Lieut. Long is with Lieut.-Col. Tudway, under General Gatacre. We were much interested to read in one of the latest *Times*, which we have received, that Captain Marsh has been actively engaged at Mafeking. We trust this place may be able to hold out successfully, and that Captain Marsh may come through the war triumphantly. Football matches are in full swing, and some very successful bayonet competitions are being held. Particulars of these, and of a capital smoking concert held the other evening, shall be treated of separately.

A very Happy New Year to all the Regiment, past and present, is the wish of your correspondent, and may the *Queen's Own Gazette* increase in popularity each succeeding year.

YOUR 2ND BATT. CORRESPONDENT.

2nd BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

No. 3547, Sergeant B. Pond, and No. 4054, Lance-Sergeant W. Colyer, have been awarded Hythe Certificates.

No. 4537, Corporal E. Boxell, and No. 4239, Corporal W. Ellis, have been awarded Field Work Certificates from the School of Military Engineering, Chatham.

The following have been appointed musicians:—Private R. Rouse, and Boys E. Matthews, G. Murphy, J. Postlethwaite, R. Page, H. Walling, F. Edwards.

No. 5512, Sergeant J. Dee, has been permitted to continue in the Service beyond 21 years.

Good conduct pay has been granted as under:—

At 2d.—Lance-Corporal H. Goddin, Privates W. Humphrey, R. Leppard, J. Williams, G. Peeke.

At 1d.—Privates H. Smith, G. Blackman, T. Stapleton, C. Mears, W. Hall.

EMBODIMENT OF THE 3RD BATTALION.

The 3rd Battalion was embodied for service at Maidstone, on 11th December, and, after the men had been equipped, paraded on the Barrack Square at 2.30 p.m.

The following officers were with the Battalion:—Colonel J. Bonhote (commanding), Lieut.-Colonel Wyndham Bailey (2nd in command), Major Farquharson, Captain Venables (Adjutant), Captain Brown (Quarter-Master), Captains Kennedy, Fleming, Burbury, Annesley, Wilson, Edwards, Boscawen, Neve, Pine, and Tufnell, 3rd Battalion East Kent (attached). The greater part of the subaltern officers were also present.

The Battalion entrained at the South Eastern Station, to which they marched, headed by the band of the 1st Volunteer Battalion.

The Battalion met with a cordial reception from the people of the county town, and proceeded in two special trains, in most inclement weather, to Chatham, where they are quartered in Chatham Barracks.

On Friday, 16th December, the Battalion, over 1,000 strong, was inspected, at 8.30 a.m., by Major-General T. Fraser, C.B., C.M.G., Commanding Thames District.

After a minute inspection of the ranks, the right half Battalion was turned about, and the General addressed the Battalion as follows:—

“Col. Bonhote, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men of the Royal West Kent Militia, I must congratulate you on the splendid Battalion I see before me. I am very pleased to see the men assemble in such large numbers, which proves a most patriotic spirit, as we are now engaged in the war of the century. I am also pleased to see so many men volunteer for foreign service.”

The General then told the men that if there was anyone who wished to change his mind, and to withdraw his offer to volunteer for foreign service, now was the time. Not a single man moved.

The General then wished the officers and men a quick passage and safe return, again congratulating Colonel Bonhote, and saying "I have seen many Militia Battalions, and this is one of the smartest."

At the date of writing, the Battalion is waiting definite orders when to embark, meanwhile the ordinary routine of regimental work is being gone on with.

The last time the Battalion was embodied, was during the Crimea, and altogether it has already had 37 years' embodied service during the last 150 years.

3RD BATT. CORRESPONDENT.

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

Up to the end of December the Depot Fixture Card reads as follows :—

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals.	
				For	Agst
21	18	2	1	79	19

Six matches have been played in December, of which we have won 5, and drawn 1, the latter was against Tonbridge on Boxing Day. The following accounts are copied from various local papers :—

DEPOT v. TOVIL.

Played at Tovil, on December 2nd, the proceeds of the match being devoted to the Transvaal War Fund. Tovil won the toss, and the Depot kicked off downhill. The Depot custodian was the first to be called on to clear, which he did in good style. The Depot now assumed the aggressive, but failed to score for some time. The result of some good play by Taylor, gave Davis a chance of scoring for the Depot, and he only just missed scoring. Play was very fast after this, and at length Hazlett scored for the Depot with a long shot. Just before half-time, Davis headed through from a well-placed corner kick of Taylor's. Soon after re-starting, Davis scored again from a corner kick, this time taken by Grigsby. The latter part of the game was played in semi-darkness, Tovil now playing downhill, being seen to advantage, but the Depot defence proved sound, and when the whistle blew, the Depot were victorious by 3 goals to *nil*. The Depot were represented by Stack, Shaw, Fenney, Spearing, Savage, Lieut. Nunn, Selves, Hazlett, Davis, Grigsby and Taylor. Result :—

Depot	...	...	...	3 goals
Tovil	...	...	...	<i>nil</i>

DEPOT v. AYLESFORD.

Played at Aylesford on Saturday, 9th, and resulted in a win for the Depot. With a slight wind in their favour, Aylesford were pressing until Shaw transferred, Hazlett got possession, and passing to Grigsby the latter had no difficulty in scoring. Hazlett scored the second just before half-time, the Depot crossing over two goals to the good. In the second half play improved, good combination being shown by both sides. After 10 minutes, Lieut. Nunn scored for the Depot with a stinging shot. Soon after re-starting, Selves scored the fourth goal for the Depot by a magnificent oblique shot. The light now became very bad, and nothing more transpiring, the Depot remained the winners by four goals to *nil*. The winning team consisted of Stack, Shaw, Fenney, Spearing, Savage, Lieut. Nunn, Selves, Hazlett, Neighbour, Grigsby and Taylor. Result :—

Depot	...	...	...	4 goals
Aylesford	...	...	...	<i>nil</i>

DEPOT v. DOBNEY INSTITUTE.

Played in the Barrack Field, Maidstone, on Saturday 16th. The Depot won the toss, and decided to take advantage of the little wind that was blowing. In the first half, most of the play took place in the Dobney's territory. Occasionally Dobney broke away, by dint of some good combination amongst their forwards, but in each case failed to score. From one of these breakaways, which was stopped by Shaw, that player transferring to Taylor, the latter by a good run, "topped" by a good shot, scored No. 1 for the Depot. Shortly afterwards Hazlett notched No. 2 for the Depot, after some very pretty passing by the Depot forwards. The Dobneys now woke up and pressed, the back division of the Depot having their hands full. At length Lieut. Nunn relieved the pressure, and, passing to Taylor, the latter made the requisite shot, thus putting up No. 3 for the Depot. In the second half the game was more evenly contested; some good work by Spearing and Savage enabled our forwards to again attack, Taylor scoring his third goal. Hazlett shortly afterwards scored the fifth goal for the Depot, after taking the ball nearly the entire length of the ground. Darkness now threatened to intervene; nothing more being scored, the Depot remained winners of an interesting game by 5 goals to *nil*. The Depot team consisted of Stack, Spearing, Shaw, Savage, Franklin, Lieut. Nunn, Grigsby, Selves, Hazlett, Davis and Taylor. Result :—

Depot	...	...	...	5 goals
Dobney	...	...	...	<i>nil</i>

DEPOT v. OLD MAIDSTONIANS.

Played on the Athletic Ground, Maidstone, on Saturday, December 23rd. In the first half the "Old Boys" scored a goal from an oblique shot, which the Depot custodian just

touched but could not save. In the second half the Depot made things very lively for the "Old Boys" goal-keeper, scoring on no less than seven occasions. Shaw, Hazlett, and Selves were conspicuous for some good play. The Depot team were:—Stack, Spearing, Shaw, Franklin, West, Lieutenant Nunn, Selves, Hazlett, Davis, Neighbour, and Grigsby. Result:—

Depot	...	...	...	...	7 goals
Old Maidstonians	...	...	...	...	1 goal

DEPOT v. TONBRIDGE.

Played at Tonbridge on Boxing Day before a fair gate. Owing to the holiday service of trains, which on our local lines does not seem to have been improved by their amalgamation, the Depot team had to leave Maidstone at an early hour with the result that two players were left behind. One substitute was raised on the ground. The Depot were the first to score, Neighbour scoring with a nice shot that hit the post and glanced in. Shortly afterwards Tonbridge almost scored from a scrimmage in front of goal. Up to half-time nothing more was scored, and the game was evenly contested. In the second half Tonbridge did most of the pressing, but failed to score until close on time, when they put in a shot that there was no chance of saving. Taylor, Shaw, Fenney, and Stack were most conspicuous for the Depot.— Depot team—Stack, Shaw, Fenny, Franklin, Lieutenant Nunn, West, Selves, Neighbour, Hazlett, and Taylor. Result:—

Depot...	...	...	...	...	1 goal
Tonbridge	...	...	...	...	1 goal

DEPOT v. OLD MAIDSTONIANS.

This return fixture was played on the Barrack Field on Wednesday, 27th, and resulted in a win for the Depot by 4 goals to 1. This margin for the Depot would have been increased but for some fine saves on the part of the Maidstonians' goalkeeper, and also many chances were thrown away by the Depot, owing to their forwards "trying a shot" at improbable ranges, when by short passings goals would have been certainties. The Old Maidstonians scored their only goal when the Depot goal-keeper had left his charge. The Depot team consisted of:—Stack, Shaw, Fenney, Spearing, Savage, Lieutenant Nunn, Selves, Neighbour, Hazlett, Grigsby, and Taylor. Result:—

Depot	...	...	...	...	4 goals
Old Maidstonians	...	...	...	...	1 goal

FIXTURES FOR JANUARY.

January 6th, Saturday, v. Southborough, at Southbrough.
 ,, 10th, Wednesday, v. Chatham Wednesday, at Maidstone.

Jan. 13th, Saturday, v. Wouldham, at Maidstone.
 ,, 20th, Saturday, v. Church Institute, at Tovil.
 ,, 24th, Wednesday, v. Church Institute (Wednesday), at Tovil.
 ,, 27th, Saturday, v. North End, at Maidstone.
 ,, 31st, Wednesday, v. Dobney Institute, at Maidstone.

A general meeting of the Depot Football Club was held on Tuesday, December 5th, for the purpose of a reconstruction of the Committee, which was necessitated by the departure of several of the Committee to Chatham, caused by the mobilization of the 3rd Battalion. A vote of thanks to Sergeant-Instructor Hurley for the able manner in which he had trained and managed the team was passed, also to Sergeant Neighbour (captain). Our excellent record proved the ability with which they had accomplished their tasks. Sergeant Savage was elected captain vice Sergeant Neighbour, and Colour-Sergeant Osborne kindly consented to take Sergeant-Instructor Hurley's place. Corporal Selves and Private Hazlett were elected to fill the vacancies caused by Sergeant Savage and Private Town.

No more footballers amongst recruits have been forthcoming this month to strengthen our football team. We have lost Sergeant Neighbour and Drummer Fenney, who have proceeded with the 3rd Battalion on mobilization. Privates Ott and Talley have left us with the draft for the 2nd Battalion, to whose team they should prove an addition. Private Davis was a waiting man for the Draft, but was not required.

It may interest some of our 2nd Battalion readers to hear about Football doings in Kent. Chatham are doing badly in the Southern League, their defeat by Southampton by no less than 7 goals to *nil*, does not point to good form. The Lancashire Fusiliers took the 2nd Battalion's place in the Kent League, but were compelled to withdraw, owing to being ordered to South Africa. The Army Cup is not to be competed for this year. Portsmouth, who contain in their ranks many of the now broken-up "R. A. Portsmouth" team, are the coming Southern Club, and are one of the surviving teams that represent the South in the Association Cup.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

No. 4727 Sergeant-Drummer C. Gee, Permanent Staff 3rd Battalion, No. 3538 Pte. W. Hayden, and No. 3591 Pte. E. A. Webbe have been permitted to extend their service to complete 12 years with the colours.

Col.-Sergt. A. Lee has been appointed to perform the duties of Sergt.-Instructor of Musketry at the Depot during Sergt.-Instructor of Musketry C. Hurley's absence with the 3rd Battalion.

Good Conduct Pay has been granted as follows :—

At 4d.—Pte. A. Cranmer.

At 2d.—Pte. J. Baker.

At 1d.—Pte. E. Waters.

At the recent examination for 1st Class Certificates of Education, Sergt.-Major T. Sumner was successful in obtaining a 1st Class Certificate; and Quartermaster-Sergt. (Orderly Room Sergt.) W. R. Gilburd was awarded a Certificate for Shorthand, and is permitted to add this subject to his 1st Class Certificate, which he obtained at a previous examination.

No. 2323 Pte. A. E. Soper has been permitted to re-engage to complete 21 years' service with the colours.

Lieut. C. R. S. Bromley, Cornwall and Devon Miners' Artillery, and 2nd Lieut. R. W. Gaskell, 6th Battalion Royal Fusiliers, are attached to the Depot for Duty.

Sergts. F. Neighbour and F. Coe have been posted to the Permanent Staff 3rd Battalion.

VOLUNTEER INTELLIGENCE.

1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

As most of your readers know, the 31st of October is the end of the Volunteer year, and after the compilation of the various annual returns we are able to look back and see what has been achieved during the year.

I think the record of the Battalion is on the whole favourable. We began the year 720 strong and finished it 740 strong. This may perhaps seem a very small increase, but the waste year by year is very large. For instance, this year 167 men joined, and 147 left for various reasons. We try in this Battalion to keep up our strength, but we insist on that strength being efficient. Out of the 740 men on the strength at the end of the year 736 were efficient, the four non-efficient were so for reasons not under their own control.

The figure of merit in musketry remains stationary, but the want of improvement is I think accounted for by the fact that a very large number of men fired the trained volunteer course for the first time. Our annual camp was undoubtedly a success, not in the ancient Volunteer sense, viz., a picnic, but we did some real and instructive work. The Sussex Downs offer a perfect manœuvring ground, and our Brigadier made full use of his opportunities. Many of us have cause to remember the waterless state of those same Downs.

The average strength in camp for the week was 528, which was much stronger than the other Battalions encamped with us.

On the last evening we tried to imitate our 2nd Line Battalion, and treated the inhabitants of Worthing to a Military Tattoo. This went very well judging by the applause of the spectators, who seemed very pleased.

During the past year we have sustained one loss, which I should be wrong were I to omit mention of it. I refer to the death of Colour-Sergeant and Acting Sergeant-Major Wall, which occurred at Ryde, Isle of Wight, on the 7th of Aug. last.

Sergeant-Major Wall was originally in the Leicestershire Regiment. He first joined the Westerham Detachment as Sergeant-Instructor, and eventually came to headquarters as Acting Sergeant-Major.

He was one of the best non-commissioned officers I ever knew, absolutely reliable and trustworthy, and a most able man. He was firm and just, and thoroughly understood how to make himself respected by all who came in contact with him. After his death everyone, both high and low, who knew him, bore testimony as to his strength of character and to the excellent example he set all ranks.

He was a very shy and reserved man, and it was with the utmost difficulty that he could be induced to press his claims for recognition with respect to the services he had rendered, in being the virtual inventor of the system of Heliograph Signalling as now used in our army. Even then he asked for no reward except that he might be granted the Meritorious Service Medal. His death prevented this distinction ever being enjoyed by him.

I am glad to be able to state, for the information of those who knew him, that his widow and nine young children are well provided for by the Royal Patriotic Fund.

I was very nearly forgetting to mention that we have once more won the Sussex Volunteer Brigade Challenge Cup, which is shot for annually under class conditions by Battalions of the Brigade. It was a close shave this year, but we won it.

This cup has only been in existence for two years, and up to date we have held it all the time. Our Sussex comrades are jealous.

Wishing you and all the readers of the *Queen's Own Gazette* a very Happy Christmas,

I remain, dear Mr. Editor,

1ST V.B. CORRESPONDENT.

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The Annual Prize Distribution took place at the New Cross Hall, on the evening of 27th November. Lord Hugh Cecil was to have distributed the prizes, but owing to the death of Lady Salisbury, his mother, he was unable to be present, and his place was taken by Mr. A. H. Morton, the Member for Deptford. The Hall was well filled by the officers and men of the Battalion and their friends.

The platform was prettily decorated with shrubs and palms, and there was quite an array of cups, shields, and other trophies, that had been won during the year by N. C. O.s. and men, and different companies of the Battalion.

The musical part of the evening's proceedings was admirably executed and much appreciated, being contributed to both by the Band of the Battalion and also by several talented performers.

Previous to the prizes being presented Colonel Satterthwaite, commanding the Battalion, made a few remarks as regards the strength of the Battalion, etc., and alluded to the great improvement in the figure of merit in the past year. In 1897 it was 111, in 1898 it had dropped to 107, but it had now risen to 156, whilst the classification shewed nearly three hundred marksmen.

Mr. Morton then handed the prizes to the various winners. Pioneer Sergeant Smith, who won the Thorold Challenge Cup and five guineas had a great reception from his comrades, and there was also great enthusiasm when Bugler Louis Smith, 14 years of age, was presented with the Royal Humane Society's parchment certificate and a bugle.

The presentation was in recognition of Bugler Smith having made four attempts to save life from drowning, in two of which he had been successful. There was again great enthusiasm when Mr. George Cheesman, who was for 20 years the Battalion Bandmaster, and is now quite blind, handed to Colonel Satterthwaite two certificates that had been awarded him and the Band in open competition, one in 1861 at Sittingbourne, and the other at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, in 1863, and requested that these two mementoes should be kept in possession of his old regiment.

Want of space prevents our being able to publish the long list of prize winners.

3rd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR, ENDING OCT. 31st, 1899.

As compared with the previous year, there is a slight falling off in the total strength of the Battalion. The number of efficient members is considerably greater, and the number of non-efficients, we are glad to be able to say, is very much reduced. The figure of merit in musketry is far below our usual standard, but this, however, is not due to bad shooting, but to want of range accommodation for 1st and 2nd classing. Very few members had a chance of becoming marksmen or 1st class shots, the percentage of which is the chief factor in being able to record a high figure of merit in individual practices. The percentage trained in collective practices was much greater than the previous year. 340 members were attached to the regular forces at Portsmouth for five days at Easter, being put up in the barracks there. The exercises included musketry at Browdown and Tipnor, and two days' manœuvres in conjunction with other troops.

260 members took part in a march to Maidstone at Whitsuntide, halts for the night being made at Dartford and Gravesend. Hard work at the Royal Arsenal is apparently not a bad preparation for marching, for only two men fell out during the march. The crack shots of the Battalion have been more than usually successful at Bisley and other Rifle Meetings.

3RD V.B. CORRESPONDENT.

THE BUNER EXPEDITION.

(Continued.)

BY PRIVATE MACKINTOSH.

True to their nature the Pathans had carried away their dead and dying immediately they were stricken down, and this accounts in a great measure for the very feeble resistance of the enemy at the supreme moment, as for each dead or wounded man carried off, at least two of his companions would be required. But if testimony were required of the slaughter inflicted by the four hours' battering which they had received from our artillery, one had but to look at what remained of their sangars, every stone of which bore traces of their awful punishment in the shape of blood, hair, and brains, indeed, they presented a sickening sight even to such callous hearted men as Thomas Atkins is supposed to be.

Yet it had been an almost bloodless affair on our side, only one casualty occurring to mar the day's success, a private of the Highland Light Infantry being shot in the breast, but a few moments before the pass was won, the wound terminating fatally the same night.

During a short rest on the ridge we were enabled to have a glance at what was, up to then, according to report, a country upon which no Briton had ever before feasted his eyes. The sight did not impress us very much, as it did not reveal an Elysium; on the contrary, the view was most disappointing, bringing to our notice only a bare rocky valley about a mile in extent, at the farther end of which, and situated under the lee of a beetling cliff, an apparently deserted village could be discerned, surrounded with the usual quota of bhoosa stacks.

We were then ordered to advance and occupy this village, General Meiklejohn remarking that it would be a close race between us and the 20th Punjabis. Pushing on into the valley below, the Battalion advanced in column as soon as the level was reached, and the march resolved itself into almost a double as the Kentish men, more determined than ever, pushed forward with redoubled exertion, and reached their goal quite half an hour before the native regiment.

Two companies being detailed as a search party, the remainder of the Battalion formed a cordon round the village, but beyond innumerable fowls, besides some cattle and goats, no sign of life was discovered, and by the time the search was completed, the leading companies of the 20th began to arrive, and extended the cordon around the rear of Kingergali, for such was the name of this unimposing hamlet.

As each company of natives passed "D" company of ours, the latter gave them three hearty British cheers, which were greatly appreciated by the former, indeed the credit of the day's proceedings was accorded to them, and no one begrudged them the honour which they had so deservedly won.

(To be continued.)

We hope that our Correspondent will send us a further instalment of this interesting narrative, as what he has already sent has now come to an end. EDITOR, Q. O. G.

We beg to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of subscriptions as follows :—For 1900—Mrs. Jury, Captain R. J. Roche, Major J. H. Vandermeulen, Lieut.-Colonel W. H. Wilson, Major N. H. Leckie.

The 3rd Battalion which was under orders to embark on the 21st of December, is now to embark on the 4th inst. at the Royal Albert Docks, in S.S. Golconda, for Malta. We wish them the best of luck, a good voyage, a pleasant time on foreign service, and a speedy return home.

Colour Sergeant H. J. Bass, Depot, has taken over the duties of Orderly Room Sergeant, 3rd Battalion, vice Qr.-Mr.-Sergeant J. Redmond, who will shortly be discharged to pension. Sergeant H. Parry has taken over the duties of Colour Sergeant of D company, Depot, from Colour Sergeant Bass. Many will remember Sergeant Parry's father, who was Colour Sergeant of A company, Depot, some 15 years ago.

During the absence of Captain Venables and Captain Brown with the 3rd Battalion on embodiment, Lieut. Isacke, and Lieut. Nunn are performing the duties of Adjutant and Quarter-Master-respectively, at the Depot.

Among the successful candidates at the recent examination for promotion, Captain Lowe, and Captain Venables passed in subjects C.D. and G. for promotion to the rank of Major, and Lieutenant James passed in the same subjects for the rank of Captain, the latter officer being "distinguished" in "Military Engineering."

Captain and Brevet Major F. Wintour has been appointed Assistant Provost Marshal, (graded as a Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General), on the staff of Lieut.-General C. Tucker C.B., commanding the 7th. Division, which proceeds shortly to South Africa.

Lieutenant E. L. H. James, 2nd Battalion, also goes out to South Africa, as a Special Service Officer.

We much regret to record the death of Mr. Henry Wakefield, which took place at Maidstone on the morning of Christmas day. Very many in the regiment will remember him as Canteen Steward of the 2nd Battalion, which appointment he held, as a pensioner, for about nine years, vacating it when the 2nd Battalion went abroad last September. Many will also remember him as Band Sergeant of the same Battalion, previous to his taking his discharge to pension and being appointed Canteen Sergeant. Mr. Wakefield enlisted in the 97th Regiment on 4th July, 1867, and after serving for a little over 23 years was discharged to pension, with an "exemplary"

character, on the 14th of October 1890. He was in possession of the Medal for Long Service and Good Conduct. He leaves a widow and two children.

A draft consisting of 1 Sergeant, 2 Corporals, and 118 Privates, under the command of Lieut. Arbuthnot, Seaforth Highlanders, left the Depot on the night of December 22nd, to join the 2nd Battalion at Alexandria. A supper was provided for them at 10 p.m. in the Gymnasium, and a special train at 12.30 a.m. from the South Eastern Station, conveyed them to Liverpool, where they embarked on board the s.s. Anubis.

Our best congratulations to Lieut. Fiennes, late 3rd Battalion, on having been given a commission in the Regular Army. Lieut. Fiennes has been gazetted to our 2nd Battalion, and goes out very shortly to join.

A weekly periodical, commenting on the ignorance of some of the French papers on matters connected with the war in South Africa, gives the following as amusing examples :—

"One paper publishes the report that H.M.S. Powerful has left Durban for Pietermaritzburg. The British Navy can go anywhere and do anything, but it might think twice before it took a man-of-war fifty miles over land! Another Paper publishes a portrait of Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, of the Horse Marines apparently, for they give his command as that of the Cavalry Division of the First Naval Corps."

We much regret to be obliged to inform our readers that this year we are unable to bring out an Almanac. Many matters have combined to prevent our being able to do so. To bring out an almanac on the same lines as in past years is a matter of several months' work, and for many reasons we have not been able to find the necessary time. Another obstacle in the way of its production is the fact of the late Editor having to hand over the affairs of the Q.O.G. only a few weeks ago on account of the embodiment of the Militia. Our readers must not blame the Editors, but must rather put the blame on Oom Paul and the Boers, who have laid extra work on the shoulders of the Editorial Staff, and have indirectly been the cause of the permanent Editor's absence from the Editorial Chair. We hope, however, that a few extra pages in the present number will to a certain extent compensate for the non-production of an almanac this year.

Sergeant-Instructor C. Maynard has been appointed Acting Sergeant-Major of the 1st Volunteer Battalion, vice the late Sergeant-Major D. Wall.

Sergeant-Instructor P. McRedmond, 1st Volunteer Battalion, is transferred from Maidstone to Tonbridge.

Sergeant-Instructors E. Pike and J. Hardy, 2nd Volunteer Battalion, have recently been attached to the Depot for a

week's special course of instruction in recruiting duties, etc. The remainder of the Sergeant-Instructors of the Volunteer Battalions in the Regimental District are to attend at the Depot for a similar course in turn.

We hear that Lieutenant Long, who holds the appointment of Quarter-Master of a Mounted Infantry Battalion in South Africa, arrived at Cape Town on 25th November, and went on to De Aar, where he met Lieut.-Colonel Alderson. At the time of his writing, (10th December), he was at Naauwpoort, and expected shortly to follow Lieut.-Colonel Tudway to Arundel. He mentioned that Lieut. Hildyard was then near East London.

Lieutenant E. L. H. James, 2nd Battalion, has been successful in obtaining a certificate in Military Engineering at the S.M.E. Chatham.

The *Birmingham Daily Mail* has the following:—"A Reservist's wife, on being observed to look peculiarly thoughtful, was comforted for her loss. 'Oh, it ain't 'im I'm troubling about,' she is reported to have said. 'It's them pore Boers. Bill's such a terror when he starts.' Another Birmingham soldier is said to have thrown aside his rifle in the midst of a fray with the remark, 'Here, Bill, you take my rifle. Just give me that brick-end, it'll be more home-like.'"

Captain H. W. E. Collum, 3rd Battalion, has been attached to the Army Service Corps, at Aldershot, since the early part of November.

Lieutenant L. H. Hickson, 1st Battalion, is attached to the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs, which embarked a few days ago for South Africa.

The following Militia Battalions, which have been embodied, are stationed in the Thames District, viz., the 3rd Battalion Royal West Kent, at Chatham; the 6th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, at Chatham; and the 4th Battalion Shropshire Light Infantry, at Gravesend.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. William Cleaver, which took place at Maidstone on the last day of the old year. Mr. Cleaver enlisted in the 4th Battalion West Kent Militia on 6th August, 1856, and was discharged, with an "exemplary" character, on 6th August, 1893, after completing 37 years service. He held the appointment of Master Tailor in the Regiment for many years, and since his discharge to pension, he has continued to be employed as such up to the day of his death.

Between the 26th and 30th of last month the men of Section A and B of the 1st Class Army Reserve of the Regiment

assembled at Maidstone on mobilization. There were no men of Section C to come up, the last one having passed into Section B, in November.

The first day or two did not see many arrivals, but towards the end of the week they came in fast, and it is very satisfactory to find that out of the number, viz., 374, that had been called up, 371 actually arrived, the other three being "accounted for" as being in hospital, etc.

After being medically inspected, fitted, paid, etc., they were allowed to go on short furlough.

Captain P. Umfreville and Captain A. Wood Martyn, Adjutants of the 1st and 2nd Volunteer Battalions respectively, also the following Sergeant-Instructors of our Volunteer Battalions (three from each Battalion), rendered most valuable assistance in the work connected with the mobilization:—Sergeant-Instructors C. Maynard, C. Funnell and P. McRedmond, 1st V.B.; E. Pike, J. Hardy and H. Cooke, 2nd V.B.; M. Audsley, J. Cooper and H. Greaves, 3rd V.B.

A very sad accident happened, on the night of December 30th, to Private H. Tiff, one of the reservists, who was returning home on furlough. The actual particulars of the accident are not to hand, but, somehow, at Dartford, he fell on the railway line, and was injured by a passing train to such an extent that he died the same evening.

It is a well known saying that good often comes out of evil, and surely the truth of this has never been more fully exemplified than at the present time, when practically every town and village is responding so freely to the cry for charity for the families of our Soldiers and Sailors in South Africa. Maidstone has not shewn herself behindhand in this respect, and during the past few weeks several entertainments have been specially organised for this cause. They have one and all been nobly supported, and have added a considerable amount to the sums already collected. Among the entertainments that have recently taken place, we may mention Major Best's "At Home," at Park House, Boxley, on the 1st of December, when a charming Amateur Concert, followed by an amusing little play, was greatly enjoyed by a large and appreciative audience. At the conclusion a collection was made on behalf of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association.

On December 4th, Major General Luard gave an instructive and interesting lecture at the Corn Exchange, which was organised by Mrs. Whatman, one of the Presidents of the Bearsted Division Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association. The lecturer dealt with the past, present, and future affairs of South Africa, and being personally acquainted with the country, he was able to speak from his own experience. The Band of the 1st. Volunteer Battalion played during the intervals, and was much appreciated.

On November 28th and 29th, a Dramatic Entertainment, organised by the Misses Collins, of Maidstone, was held in the Corn Exchange. On both nights there was a full house, and much praise is due to the Misses Collins and their co-adjutors for the admirable stage arrangements, &c. The patriotic tableaux, representing "Soldiers of the Queen," &c., were most realistically rendered, and the Band of the 3rd Battalion gave efficient aid to a very enjoyable evening's entertainment.

We regret to announce the death of Major-General William Richard White, which took place at Mallard's Close, Twyford, Winchester, on 17th November, at the age of 65.

Major-General White was gazetted to the 50th Regiment as ensign on 5th December, 1856. He served in New Zealand from 15th November, 1863, to 2nd October, 1866, led the storming party at the assault and capture of Rangiahia (mentioned in despatches); was present at the repulse of the enemy's attack on the camp at Nukumaru, was appointed aide-de-camp to Brigadier-General Sir Richard Waddy, 26th January, 1865, and served on the staff till 7th April, 1866. He was given a Company in the 56th Regiment, was promoted Brevet-Major, and commanded the 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment up the Nile, that Battalion being stationed with our 1st Battalion both at Korti and Tani.

"An Occasional Correspondent" sends us the following on "Depot Route Marching":—

Route marching, though not usually an interesting operation, comes as a welcome change to the stones and monotony of the Barrack Square. Thanks to the excellence of the weather, and the beauty of the autumn scenery, many of the marches recently done have been really enjoyable. Most of the villages in the vicinity of Maidstone have been in turn visited, much appreciation of the martial strains provided by the 3rd Battalion band being shown by the inhabitants. We hope that many have been inspired thereby to take Her Majesty's shilling. Owing doubtless to the warlike enthusiasm of all men at the present time, the Depot troops have been the recipients of much good-natured chaff during their walks abroad, one individual remarking, "You would move a good deal faster if Kruger were anywhere near."

This statement passed uncontested, it being obvious that if the wily President of the Transvaal Republic had been concealed in one of the adjacent hop gardens he would by that time have been displaying the power of the human leg in a wise if hasty retreat, the Depot troops demonstrating the value of Staff-Sergeant Riches' "Leg exercise" in pursuit.

GOLF.

BY A NATIVE SPORTSMAN.

Once saw, golf match, Quite sure, great catch. Easy game, hit ball, All same, that's all. Joined club, great swell, Paid sub, all well. That day, went off, To play, game golf. Bet fiver, beat all, Took driver, aim ball. Stick flies, miss badly, With eyes, look sadly. Once more, ball goes, First score, boy's nose. Second round, play better, Kill hound, prize setter.	Owner nettled, swore fearful, Damage settled, more careful. Very sad, have tea, Feel bad, whiskee. Third round, play well, Hit ground, great sell. Next try, boy's head, Oh my! boy's dead. Down lane, run fast, Catch train, the last. Next day, no joy, Must gang, bury boy. Great hash, nerves lost, Much cash, golf cost. All day, heart sore, Won't play, any more.
--	---

I.B.C.

BIRTHS.

At Rangoon, on 14th June, the wife of Sergeant G. Ashby, 1st Battalion, of a daughter.

At Rangoon, on 27th August, the wife of Sergeant J. Howard, 1st Battalion, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

At Wellington, Madras, on 1st October, No. 4287, Private G. Batt, 1st Battalion.

At Port Blair, Andaman Islands, on 20th August, No. 4781, Private R. Thomas, 1st Battalion.

At Aden, on 27th October, Emily, daughter of Colour-Sergeant H. M'Donald, 1st Battalion.

At Alexandria, on 21st October, No. 4375, Private T. Allen, 2nd Battalion.

At Alexandria, on 21st October, No. 4088, Private C. Lovell, 2nd Battalion.

At Maidstone, on 11th December, No. 3707, Private H. Hall, Depôt.

At Maidstone, on 25th December, Mr. Henry Wakefield, pensioner, (late Canteen Steward 2nd Battalion).

At Dartford, on 30th December, the result of an accident, No. 3112 Private H. Tiff, Depot, late Army Reserve.

At Maidstone, on 31st December, Mr. William Cleaver, pensioner, Master Tailor 3rd Battalion, aged 69.

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

[No. 297.

MAIDSTONE, FEBRUARY, 1900.

[Vol. XVIII, No. 2.

REGIMENTAL INTELLIGENCE.

1ST BATTALION.

No. 4157 Private W. Maslin has been appointed drummer, and No. 3595 Private J. Lerpiniere and No. 4316 Private G. Scudder have been appointed pioneers.

No. 3515 Private C. Quinnell has been permitted to extend his service to complete 12 years with the colours.

The following have been appointed Lance-Corporals:—
No. 3910 Pte. W. Jackman, No. 3953 Pte. E. West, and No. 4294 Pte. W. Gamblin, (6th Dec.); No. 4150 Pte. C. Cramp, and No. 4810 Pte. C. Culver, (16th Dec.).

Good conduct pay has been granted as follows:—

At 2d.—Lance-Corporals Blanchard, Kingham, Mackintosh, Jackman, Balcombe, and Privates Ingram, Martin, Mockford, Bradford, Barfoot, Ellis, Collier, Humphrey, and Cornwell.

At 1d.—Privates Meopham, Aggersberg, and Leach.

At 1d. (restored).—Private McLeod.

2ND BATTALION.

Good conduct pay has been granted as follows:—

At 2d.—Lance-Corporal H. Wallace, and Privates R. Rushby, J. Weller, D. Baker, D. Novell, and G. Everest.

At 1d.—Privates C. Stevens, T. Barnett, G. Bailey, and Musician E. Matthews.

The following have passed the examination for promotion to the next higher rank:—

For rank of Sergeant.—Lance-Sergeant T. Emmerson, and Corporals E. Gulliver, T. Rose, and A. Chasteneuf.

For rank of Corporal.—Corporals M. Hamilton, J. Teer, and W. Saunders.

No. 5411 Boy H. Holding, and No. 5031 Boy T. Adams have been appointed musicians; and No. 5149 Boy A. Ayres and No. 4569 Private G. Runnicles have been appointed drummers.

Mounted Infantry certificates have been awarded to the following:—Lance-Corporals J. Garwood and A. Jones, and Privates F. Amor, H. Bray, H. Fry, T. Matthews, J. Bailey, A. Child, and H. Gazzard.

No. 5270 Private H. Glynn has been permitted to extend his service to 7 years with the colours.

No. 4783 Corporal M. Hamilton has been appointed Orderly Room Clerk.

Certificates for proficiency in Transport duties have been awarded to the following:—Lance-Sergeant R. Thorne, and Privates T. Baker, T. Lawton, R. Richman, W. Tucker, and W. Bishop.

The following have been appointed Lance-Corporals:—
No. 4388 Pte. C. Ashby, (1st Dec.); No. 4202 Pte. D. Sullivan, (15th Dec.); No. 4311 Pte. H. Digweed, and No. 4339 Pte. H. Easter, (16th Dec.); and Pte. E. Hill (19th Oct.).

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

Christmas has come and gone, and was celebrated, as usual, by good cheer and good humour. The dinners were excellent, judging by the savoury odour that greeted the C.O. as he went round the barracks wishing the men a Merry Christmas, and many of them.

We must not pass over Christmastide without mentioning the exceedingly tasteful way that the Band and Drums had decorated their rooms. Yards, almost miles, of various coloured paper had been utilized in making chains and festoons round the walls and across the ceiling. The bandmen had not forgotten their patron saints, and names, such as Mozart and Beethoven, were to be seen over every bed-cot. May the owners of the beds follow the example of their selected patrons.

The wheel of time has also brought round a new century, and we take this opportunity of wishing the very best success to all connected with the Royal West Kent Regiment during the coming cycle.

The companies are for ever on the move in Aden. Each has to take its turn of three weeks at the Isthmus, and I am sorry to say that it is not a period that is looked forward to. The amount of sickness at the Isthmus is rather distressing, but we live in hopes of these barracks being shortly vacated. C company have now gone to Steamer Point, and D reigns in its stead at the Isthmus. The latter place has its good points as well as its bad ones. The best piece of ground for games undoubtedly lies within the position, and the company at the Isthmus is always ready to take on the world at any game they like to name. The ground, unfortunately, lies very low, and takes a long time to recover from the effects of rain. Since the showers last week it has had to lie idle, but I hear it will be soon fit to play on again. The rain came at a most inopportune moment. The sergeants of the battalion had made great arrangements for a picnic at Shaik-Othman on Thursday last, and twenty or thirty gharries started from the Crater with the sergeants and their families; but, alas! down came the rain, and instead of spending a real good time in about the prettiest spot in the vicinity, they had to amuse themselves as best they could in the Dak bungalow. Rain so seldom falls in Aden that it was cruel luck that it

should have come on the one day set aside for a picnic. I shall say nothing more about the rain, as I understand that our lunatic contributor has spilt a good deal of ink on the subject. There have been one or two "gaffs" lately at Steamer Point. The first was a boxing entertainment of sorts, and I am sending you a separate account of it. The second performance organized by Major Morse took the form of an assault-at-arms for the benefit of the South African war fund. I venture to think that it was a great success both financially and from the spectators point of view. There were two or three bouts with the gloves, some fighting with swords, bayonets, foils, etc., and a squad, trained by Sergt. Mason, gave an exhibition of Indian clubs and gymnastics. In lighter vein, Private Aslett brought down the house with his feats of balancing. The proceeds of the show amounted to 274 Rs., which has been forwarded to the regimental depot.

The Annual Inter-Company Football Tournament is in full swing, and I hope to be able to give you full accounts in my next budget, suffice it now to say that E is in the final, and has to try conclusions with either B or F, who have not yet played their tie. The officers of the battalion took on the rest of Aden at hockey the other day, and after making a level game of it at the call of time, the score being 3 goals all, it was decided to play five minutes more each way. The result of the game was not in doubt for long, as our officers scored no less than 4 goals in the extra time. I think some of our opponents ran short of wind. I hear rumours that a football match between the same teams is shortly to be played.

1ST BATT. CORRESPONDENT.

Aden, 10, 1, 1900.

HOCKEY PLAYED AT ISTHMUS.

"A" COMPANY v. "E" COMPANY.

On Wednesday, 29th November, "A" Company played "E" Company at the Isthmus, and beat them easily by four goals to *nil*. "A" Company forwards were very good and played well together, puzzling the backs completely. Teams:—"A" Company, Maskey, A. Lee, Howard, Capt. Style, Lieut. Stigand, Ely, Dixon, Newland, Jenner, Gowans, C. Lee. "E" Company, Aggersberg, Sutch, Crpl. Terry, Lewis, Dewing, Cramp, Corke, Roberts, Lalshaw, Sergt. Tapp, Lieut. Hall.

On 3rd December, "A" Company played the 8th Eastern R.A., beating them by two goals to *nil*. "A" Company team:—Hilton, A. Lee, Howard, Capt. Style, Lieut. Stigand, Ely, Crpl. Andrews, Neville, Jenner, Maver, C. Lee.

On Tuesday, 9th November a boxing entertainment was organised and carried out by the detachment at Steamer

Point, assisted by the R.A. and H.M.S. Pomone. The principal event was a 15 round contest between Gunner Cooper, R.A. and "Young Sparrow" of H.M.S. Pomone.

This was preceded by a series of four round contests of which the following details may prove interesting.

HEAVY WEIGHTS.

Morgan, H.M.S. Pomone, beat Gunner Smith, R.A. This bout was simply slogging from start to finish. The sailor proved the stronger man and fought his man to a standstill in the third round.

MIDDLE WEIGHTS.

Pte. May, R.W.K. beat Bombardier Walker, R.A. There was more scientific boxing in this contest than in any other during the evening. May (whom most of you know well), took the lead throughout, and at the call of time had won comfortably.

Pte. Fordham, R.W.K. beat Jordan, H.M.S. Pomone. This was a give and take affair, both men standing up to their work well, but Fordham had a slight advantage in height and reach, and this enabled him to gain the verdict on points.

LIGHT WEIGHTS.

Signaller Morley, H.M.S. Pomone, beat Gr. Meeham, R.A. The sailor proved altogether too smart for the gunner, who was the bigger man, and showed his superiority to such an extent that his opponent cried enough at the end of the third round.

Pte. Neal, R.W.K., beat Pte. Skinner, R.M.L.I. Skinner took the place of a man who was taken sick, but, although he gave a plucky display, he was outclassed by the scientific and hard hitting of Neal, and retired in the second round.

HEAVY WEIGHTS.

Pte. Keleher, R.W.K., beat Pte. Leitch, R.W.K. Keleher was to have boxed a man of H.M.S. Pomone, but he did not turn up, so Leitch volunteered to enter the ring with him. It was a one man show, for Keleher simply made a punching bag of Leitch, who, however, took his punishment good humouredly. I think that he will ever remember his first appearance in the magic ring.

CATCH WEIGHT CONTEST FOR A PURSE.

15 ROUNDS.

Young Sparrow H.M.S. Pomone beat Gunner Cooper, R.A.

When these men entered the ring it was seen that Cooper had a great advantage in height, weight, and reach, and everyone who did not know Sparrow's abilities looked forward to an easy victory for the gunner.

As soon as the contest began Sparrow showed that science and pluck more than counterbalanced the physical advantages of his opponent. Throughout the contest which lasted the whole 15 rounds, Sparrow did all the leading, and forced

the fighting in each round. No one expected that the contest would last the 15 rounds, as training and boxing in this climate is slightly different to the same thing at home. The two men showed that they had got thoroughly fit for the fight, and although beaten on points Cooper gave a good display, and with a little tuition will make a good man.

The town lies quiet under the dark and frowning rocks. All is as still as death, except where with scared and frightened faces a few natives hurry through the deserted streets, hastily drawing their tattered blankets about them. There is a general feeling of depression in the air, as if nature were about to work one of her mighty changes. The birds have ceased their song, and hide their heads beneath their wings, hoping that they shall thus escape from they know not what. The mighty peak above is hidden from view in the deepening gloom, and in the market the camels are on their knees as if praying that the impending doom may be averted. Suddenly a drop of rain falls. A second and yet a third is drawn from the unwilling clouds. Now with ever increasing frequency, the drops continue to descend until there can be no further doubt that for the first time in nine years it has rained in Aden.

The drizzle develops into tropical rain, and the puddles swell by the roadside, gradually turning into running streams.

There is but one opinion in Aden about rain. We don't want it. It brings fever with it, and the houses and barracks are not built to keep out the water. Drops filter through the ceiling and spoil our clothes, and having remedied this evil by means of a trusty valet, we find that the letter we were writing to our best girl is lying in a pool of water. The roads are covered with about two inches of greasy and particularly dirty mud, and are impassable for bicycles, and dangerous for horses. The polo ground is a swamp and we shall not be able to play for a month at least. The flood from the hills has washed out the bazaar and market, but alas the whole of the sweepings have been deposited in close proximity to the Regimental Institute, and the odour thereof is most offensive. The Isthmus position is a lake with a few deserted houses rising like ghosts from the water.

The tanks have been crowded with sight seers, and everyone has gone back with a grievance. We expected to see all the twelve tanks full to the brim, but were rewarded by the sight of about six inches of dirty water lying at the bottom of each.

The sky has now regained its normal aspect, but for the future we hope that while in Aden we may be spared any further rain.

Aden, 7th January, 1900.

3RD BATTALION NEWS.

The Battalion, under Colonel Bonhote, left Chatham on 4th January in two special trains, the last leaving at 8.30 a.m., via Thames Tunnel and Liverpool Street direct to Royal Albert Docks, to embark for Malta on S.S. "Golconda," of the British India Line. The strength of the Battalion was as follows:—30 officers, 990 non-commissioned officers and men, 25 women, 30 children, 3 horses.

After the embarkation had been completed the ship cleared the dock gates, and proceeded down the river at 2.30 p.m. There was a large number of friends of the regiment, who gave it a hearty send off.

During the journey down the river all were occupied in getting things in order for going down channel. Everything went on well till the evening of the 6th inst, when we began to get a taste of the rougher weather we were to experience before disembarking at Malta. During the finer weather the band played daily on the saloon deck, and there were concerts in the married quarters aft, and a smoker among the men on the after well decks.

On the 9th all hands and the troops were exercised at fire stations.

On the 11th the weather got very bad, and during the night there was great discomfort all round, several of the troops being injured and bruised. A boat was lost, the chart house carried away, and the fore staysail had to be cut away, and the horses on the forward well deck had a very rough time.

Afterwards the sea moderated somewhat, and we proceeded without further incident of interest till Gozo Light was seen in the early morning of the 13th. At 7.30 a.m. the pilot came aboard, and we proceeded into harbour in squally weather.

The first party went ashore at noon, and they and the remainder of the battalion marched up to Verdala Barracks through cold, drenching showers of rain and hail.

Headquarters and the greater portion of the battalion are at Verdala, with detachments at Zabbar Gate, St. Pauls, St. Clements, and Notre Dame.

At the date of writing we have settled down, and our only regret is that we are at Malta, while more favoured Militia regiments are at the front in South Africa.

3RD BATT. CORRESPONDENT.

Malta, 16th January.

The following from an evening paper:—"Some officers at Malta, being examined in reconnaissance with regard to water supply, said they would draw their water from 'the aqueduct.' The aqueduct in question has on one of its arches a Latin inscription signifying that it is the Valetta main drain!" (Third Battalion—please note!)

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR FUND.

Colonel Brock has recently received from our 1st Battalion the sum of £70 8s. 3d. for the above Fund, the amount to be apportioned as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Widows and Orphans	24	2	0
Sick and Wounded	1	12	4
Disabled Soldiers and Sailors	4	4	7
Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association	40	9	4
	£70	8	3

The money was forwarded to the Mayor of Maidstone, with a request that the first three sums should be sent to the Lord Mayor of London's Fund, and the amount for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association to the Local Division of that Association.

The amount was subscribed as follows :

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
A Company.....	4	13	9	A.T.A.....	6	13	4
B Company.....	3	7	0	Mr. Dellar (school-	0	6	8
C Company.....	4	7	1	master).....			
D Company.....	6	3	6	Officers.....	11	2	8
E Company.....	3	19	0	Proceeds of Assault at			
F Company.....	3	15	1	Arms.....	18	5	4
G Company.....	2	14	8		£70	8	3
H Company.....	5	0	2				

The following letter has been received from the Mayor of Maidstone:—

22nd January, 1900.

Dear Colonel Brock,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated yesterday enclosing a cheque for £70 8s. 3d., being the sum subscribed by the 1st Batt. Royal West Kent Regiment, now quartered at Aden, and I have duly noted that there is included in this amount a sum of £6 13s. 4d. from the Regimental Branch of the Army Temperance Association. Such total sum shall be apportioned as follows, as desired, viz. :

	£	s.	d.
Widows and Orphans	24	2	0
Sick and Wounded	1	12	4
Disabled Soldiers and Sailors	4	4	7
Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association	40	9	4
	£70	8	3

These handsome donations on the part of the 1st. Batt. R.W.K. Regt. will not only be duly acknowledged in the local press, but I would venture to ask you to be good enough to convey to the officers and men of the Battalion my grateful thanks, as Mayor of the County Town, for the great help they have given in aid of the Fund I am raising in this District; and my appreciation of the fact that such contribution has been entrusted to my care.

I beg to remain,

Yours most faithfully,

EDMUND VAUGHAN,
Mayor.

To COLONEL BROCK,
Commanding 50th Regimental District.

The following is taken from a local paper:—

THE WAR FUNDS.

His Worship the Mayor of Maidstone has been gratified by receiving through the hands of Colonel Brock, a sum of £70 8s. 3d., from the 1st Batt. Royal West Kent Regt., now stationed at Aden, the details of which subscription will be found in our advertised list. It is a matter of satisfaction to see how the Battalion, quartered at a distant part of the empire, is doing its utmost to support the efforts made by its brethren at home. It should also be mentioned that £6 13s. 4d., part of such amount, is a special contribution from the Regimental Branch of the Army Temperance Association.

The following amounts have also been sent to the Local Division of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association, of which Mrs. Whatman, Vinters Park, Maidstone, is President:

	£	s.	d.
Subscription from the Officers, 2nd Battalion ...	5	7	6
Annual Subscription from 2nd Battalion ...	10	10	0
Subscription from the Officers, Depot ...	1	15	0
Subscription from the Sergeants, Depot ...	3	0	6
Annual Subscription from Depot ...	2	2	0
	£22	15	0

To the Editor Q.O.G.

Sir,—May I ask you to publish the enclosed statement of accounts relating to the Memorial Screen erected by the Regiment, in All Saints' Church, Maidstone, to the memory of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, who were killed, or died of wounds or disease, during the North West Frontier Campaign of 1897-98.

The balance of £24 1s. 8d. is deposited in the London and County Bank at Maidstone, credited to the Commanding Officer's Fund 50th Regimental District.

The amount paid to Messrs. Lavers and Westlake was for renovating the brass tablet underneath the Egyptian window, and the amount paid to Messrs. Yapps, for an alteration in the case containing the Sikh Colours. All the other items belong to the Screen.

Yours faithfully,

T. H. BROCK.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
From 1st Batt.	66	17	4	To A. Robinson, Contractors	85	1	6
„ 2nd Batt.	40	15	1	„ F. Pearson, Architect	8	8	0
„ Depot	17	16	4	„ Cook, Decorator	2	9	6
„ 3 Seconded				„ „ 2nd account	15	6	
Officers	2	1	11	„ Clarke, Printer	7	1	6
Balance of 1885				„ Lavers and Westlake,			
Memorial Fund	4	0	0	Brass Workers	2	2	0
				„ Yapp, Cabinet Maker	1	2	6
				„ Sundries	8	6	
				Balance in hand	24	1	8
	£131	10	8		£131	10	8

Audited and found correct,

31st January, 1900.

O. J. DANIELL, Major.

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

During January the Depot have continued their victorious career, and have added four more wins to the card, which reads as follows:—

						Goals
Played.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.	For.	Against.	
25	22	2	1	94	22	

The clubs defeated this month have been Southborough, at Southborough, Church Institute (who are leading in the Maidstone League), Church Institute Wednesday, and Maidstone Rovers. The following accounts are copied from the *Kent Messenger*:—

DEPOT v. SOUTHBOROUGH.

Played on 6th January, at Southborough, before a good gate. Southborough won the toss, and the Depot, starting off with the wind, at once began to press, and were only prevented from scoring by the breeze and their old fault of shooting from impossible ranges. Taylor was conspicuous for some neat work on the left, the home back opposed to him wearing a worried look. After about twenty minutes had elapsed, Grigsby scored the first goal for the Depot, the home goal-keeper making an ineffective effort to clear. In the second half the "Borough" were seen to more advantage with the wind at their backs, some good work being done by Pankhurst. A penalty against Spearing nearly proved disastrous to the Depot, but Stack cleared in great style. Taylor and Grigsby were very prominent for the Depot after this, and Taylor, by a good centre, enabled Selves to put on No 2 for the Depot. Taylor, Shaw, Franklin, and Stack played well for the visitors. The Depot team consisted of Stack, Shaw, Spearing, Franklin, Savage, Lieut. Nunn, Selves, Davies, Hazlett, Grigsby, and Taylor. Result:

Depot	2 goals.
Southborough	Nil.

DEPOT v. MAIDSTONE ROVERS.

Played on the Barrack Field on Saturday 13th. Wouldham were to have opposed the Depot, but were unable to raise a team, so Maidstone Rovers, being free for this date, filled the breach. An unequal contest ended in a victory for the Depot by 7 goals to 1. The goals were obtained as follows:—Hazlett (4), Taylor (2), Lieut. Nunn (1). Depot team:—Stack, Shaw, Spearing, Flowers. Lieut. Nunn, Edwards, Selves, Davies, Hazlett, Taylor, and Grigsby. Result:

Depot	7 goals.
Maidstone Rovers	1 ,,

DEPOT v. MAIDSTONE CHURCH INSTITUTE.

Played on the Postley Field, on Saturday 20th. An interesting game ensued. At the start the soldiers pressed, and the game was not very old before Hazlett scored from a

good centre by Selves. Shortly afterwards Hazlett scored another, after having "tricked" both backs and goal-keeper. The Institute now began to try to get on terms, and from a break-away nearly scored from a scrimmage in the goal mouth, Stack having some difficulty in clearing. Encouraged by this escape the Depot again attacked, Hazlett putting on No. 3 for the Depot by a good shot. After changing ends, the Institute had most of the game, scoring 2 goals. Taylor netted the ball twice for the Depot, but in each case was ruled to be offside. Stack, Taylor, and Hazlett were the most conspicuous for the Depot. The Depot team consisted of Stack, Shaw, Edwards, Franklin, Savage, Lieut. Nunn, Selves, Davies, Hazlett, Grigsby, and Taylor. Result:

Depot	3 goals.
Church Institute	2 ,,

DEPOT v. CHURCH INSTITUTE WEDNESDAY.

Played on Wednesday 24th, on the Postley Field, in wretched weather. Scientific play was out of the question, and, as the Institute were two men short ten men aside had to be played, one of the Depot assisting the Institute. An uninteresting game ended in a win for the Depot. The Depot team was:—Stack, Edwards, Taylor, Franklin, Lieut. Nunn, May, Webb, Davies, Hazlett, and Grigsby. Result:

Depot	3 goals
Church Institute Wednesday	nil

The annual treat for the children at the Depot took place in the Gymnasium on Friday, January 19th. The treat had been postponed till a later date than usual, partly on account of the prevalence of measles in the Barracks, and partly on account of so many families being away earlier in the month. Tea was prepared for about 140 children and parents, and nearly that number attended. We do not remember having seen so many babies in arms at a Depot treat for some time. Proceedings commenced at a quarter to four with a conjuring entertainment, which seemed to be appreciated by the elder children, though perhaps it was rather above the heads of some of the younger ones. However, the next item on our programme—i.e., tea—could be, and was, thoroughly appreciated by all ages. The tables were prettily decorated with coloured flags and miniature "Soldiers and Sailors of the Queen." After tea had been disposed of the children engaged in a romp and dancing, the pleasure of which was much enhanced by Drummer Hibbert's skilful performance on the piano. At six o'clock, a magic lantern show took place, kindly given by Mr. Amies. He showed us, amongst others, several very interesting slides of South Africa and people, and views connected with that country to which at present so many eyes are turned. A noble Christmas tree and presentation of gifts to all the children closed the evening's entertain-

ment, which seemed to have been most successful. We should like to thank all those who so willingly contributed their time and trouble to make things "go" successfully. Amongst so many kind helpers it would be invidious to mention any in particular, but we should like to say how very much the cheeriness of the treat was added to by the very bright and tasteful way in which the Gymnasium was decorated.

DEFENCE SCHEME.

ADEN NOT EDEN.

This is the defence scheme,
This is the private with gybes uncouth,
Who mans the guns in the defence scheme.

This is the gunner, who forsooth
Has to teach the private with gybes uncouth
To man the guns in the defence scheme.

This is the officer who said "Dash it all,"
As he smoked his pipe, and looked over the wall,
And watched the gunner, who—etc.

This is the subaltern in khaki tight,
With eleven guns he is supposed to fight,
Who bucks with the officer, who said—etc.

This is the Major who commands the R.A.,
Of the X Division, four miles away,
And sees that the Sub. in khaki tight
Has the eleven guns he is supposed to fight—etc.

This is the Colonel with nothing to do,
(And who really belongs to Division II.)
But to bustle the Major who commands the R.A.—etc.

This is the C.O. who can't make out
What all the flags are talking about
So he chats with the Colonel with nothing to do—etc.

This is the aide who, with haughty sneers,
As he takes the reports, at the whole show jeers,
And who badgers the C.O. who—etc.

This is the D.A.A.G., who with troubled brow,
Looks at the map, and he ponders how
He can best get back to his lunch, I trow,
So he swears at the Aide who—etc.

This is the General who plans the whole show, and who tells the troops where they have to go, and sends messages to the D.A.A.G., who, with troubled brow, as he looks at the map he wonders how he can soonest get back to his lunch, I trow, so he swears at the Aide, who, with haughty sneers, as he takes the reports at the whole show jeers, to badger the

C.O., who can't make out, what all the flags are talking about, and who chats with the Colonel with nothing to do (and who really belongs to Division II), but to bustle the Major who commands the R.A. of the X Division four miles away, and sees that the Sub. in the khaki tight, has the eleven guns he is supposed to fight, and bucks with the Officer who says "Dash it all," as he smokes his pipe and looks over the wall, and watches the Gunner who, forsooth, has to teach the Private with gybes uncouth to man the guns in the

DEFENCE SCHEME.

The latest as regards our 2nd Battalion's movements is that they are expected to leave Alexandria about Feb. 17th, and will proceed to Aldershot to be mobilized, being included in the Eighth Division, which is now being formed for service in South Africa.

A company of 116, all ranks, is being prepared from our three Volunteer Battalions, and will be attached to the 2nd Battalion on mobilization.

We learn from the daily papers that the following ladies will be glad to receive comforts and money for necessaries for the 2nd Battalion on their proceeding to South Africa:—

Mrs. Fowler Burton, wife of the Hon. Colonel of the Regiment, address, Stoke Damerel, Devonport.

Mrs. Buckle, care of Mrs. Meryon, 84, Philbeach Gardens, London, S.W. All correspondence and money for comforts should be addressed to Mrs. Buckle, Raithby, Spilsby, Lincolnshire.

Miss Hampden Moody, 41, West Cromwell Road, S.W.

The Misses Joslin, 1, Wynnstay Gardens, Kensington.

Mrs. O. J. Daniell, Sterndale, College Road, Maidstone.

Mrs. Alderson, Poyle House, Ipswich, will be most grateful for any contribution of necessaries and comforts for the Brigade of Mounted Infantry under Colonel E. A. H. Alderson.

We regret to record the death of General J. M. Perceval, C.B., which took place on the 24th January, at the age of 85. General Perceval was appointed Colonel of the 97th Regiment in March, 1874, and was transferred to the Suffolk Regiment in February, 1888.

We take the following from the *London Gazette* of 26th January:—"Colonel W. H. Bayly, half-pay, retires on retired pay."

Captain and Brevet Major F. Wintour is seconded for service on the Staff (18th December), having been appointed Provost Marshal of the 7th Division, ranking as D.A.A.G.

Long Service and good Conduct Medals with gratuity have been awarded to No. 94 Lance.-Corporal G. Bance, and No. 32 Private W. Thompson.

THE BUNER EXPEDITION.

BY PRIVATE MACKINTOSH.

(Continued.)

Shortly after this the Brigade Staff, accompanied by the Highland Light Infantry, arrived, the 21st Punjab Infantry returning to their Brigade at Sangheo, while the 16th Bengal Infantry were detailed to occupy the pass, a most necessary proceeding it was considered, as the tribesmen might, under cover of the darkness, have made an attempt to recover their lost position, a contingency which would have proved a most serious drawback to what was anticipated by us—a speedy conclusion of hostilities.

Darkness had begun to set in by the time the whole force arrived at Kingergali, and arrangements for the housing of the troops were speedily carried out, a certain number of huts situated on the outskirts of the village, being allotted to each company, the latter having their own lines of defence to occupy, as it was considered that the enemy, compelled by the fortunes of war to spend the night shivering in the hills, while the hated "infidel" was enjoying (?) the luxuries which his wigwam afforded, would in any case harass our force by sniping, thus preventing the troops from obtaining the much needed rest after such a trying day's work.

Strange to say, not a shot was fired, and no incident out of the way occurred throughout the night.

Apropos of our first night's abode in Buner, the following anecdote may be of interest to the readers of the *Queen's Own Gazette*. I was one of the sentries of No. 1 Picket, (G Co.), and had just been relieved, (7 p.m.), when the relieving sentry (with evidently a sharper eye than 'yours truly'), called the attention of the picket to a heap of dead fowls lying on the roof of a house a short distance from his post.

They were immediately appropriated, and handed over to our Colour-Sergeant for disposal, he deciding that the most suitable method of distributing them would be to stew them for the men on duty, so with the aid of the coolies who had carried the Companies' kits over the pass, they were quickly got ready for the pot.

Our cook, with perhaps a lively recollection of the proverbial toughness of spring chickens, decided that in the present instance it would be through no fault of his if those chickens declined to be reduced to such a state that they could be easily masticated, for he stewed them for nearly five hours; epicures please note.

I came off sentry at 11 p.m. frozen nearly to the marrow, when it was announced that supper was ready, so after No. 1 picket was served, the remainder was carried round to the outlying pickets, and we were all agreed that it was about the most enjoyable and appetising meal we had partaken of for some considerable time; but the sequel is to follow.

After the pickets had been withdrawn on the following morning, my section were sitting round a fire in the compound attached to their hut, when a tremendous uproar as of some infuriated beast, was heard proceeding from the adjoining house. Curiosity demanded our going to ascertain the cause, which was discovered to be a Sergeant, who shall be nameless, in a towering rage, demanding to know what had become of his chickens, and when he was informed that those same fowls had been served up as a supper to the pickets on the preceding evening, the air in that vicinity assumed an azure hue, the language was such as would have caused a Militiaman to blush, or the proverbial bus driver to turn green with envy. It then transpired that by some mischance the rear picket, which had been under the command of the said sergeant, had been overlooked by the party told off to take the supper

round, consequently the real owner of the property did not even get a smell of what he had anticipated for the morrow's dinner. This I maintain is a case where realization has the advantage of anticipation, for, had he himself arranged to have his property cooked for supper, there is not the slightest doubt but that he would have had his share of the proceeds, instead of anticipating a huge repast for the following date. Such is the fate of gluttons. His angry ravings continued for some time until he was admonished by the Colour-Sergeant for not handing the fowls in with the remainder of the loot for equal distribution, which had the effect of quieting, if not solacing him, for if at any subsequent period one wished to raise his ire, the mention of chickens was quite sufficient.

The morning brought the satisfactory intelligence by heliograph, that Colonel Adams with his detached force had succeeded in effecting an unopposed entry into the enemy's country by the Pirsai pass route, and was marching north to meet General Meiklejohn's column.

So far, so good, but in the event of his having met with any opposition en route, the consequences might have proved disastrous to the small force, from the mere fact that General Meiklejohn through lack of transport, would have been unable to render him any assistance; such is the importance of transport on service that the mobility of even a small force is checked, how much more so in the case of a Brigade, or even a larger force, which usually moves with three or four days' supplies, is at once apparent.

Our brigade then was apparently useless as a fighting force until such time that the road over the Tanga Pass could be rendered practicable for the passage of the transport animals and supplies.

The most serious drawback to our mobility was a total lack of commissariat supplies, and a considerable obstacle it would have proved but for the abundance of supplies which the village afforded. Enormous quantities of grain and flour were stored therein, in addition to which there was sufficient cattle to provide the force with meat for several days, the late inhabitants having abandoned the latter in their hurried flight.

The supply of material for food was therefore unlimited, nearly every house furnishing its quota of flour, which was the chief article of diet.

Each man had to prepare and cook his own rations, with the exception of the meat, and it was quite interesting to watch the different members of the great Atkins family in their endeavours to outdo each other in the culinary art.

The flour was made into a pancake form called "chupatties," or native bread, and cooked on the glowing embers of a wood fire.

This article of food though only composed of flour and water was far from being an unwholesome diet, although in the cases of some of our epicures it had a tendency to produce nightmare, as was the case on more than one occasion.

The novel idea of being one's own cook appealed to all ranks as something out of the ordinary run of events, and competition ran high for the honour of turning out the most savoury dish from the limited means at their disposal, and some very tasty morsels were the result of some of their labours. Water at this place was exceedingly scarce, the only available supply being a small rill which ran down the hill side and poured itself over a ledge of rock at the rate of about a pint a minute, and yet from this scanty source the force was kept supplied for a whole week, although it entailed a considerable amount of extra labour on the part of the indispensable "Bhistie" or native water carrier, whose labours continued from early dawn till dusk daily.

(To be continued.)

We beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, the receipt of subscriptions as follows for 1900:—Mr. J. Blackburn, Mr. J. Weaver, Colonel H. W. Isacke, Colonel G. Henderson, Lieut.-Colonel Bellers, Mr. T. N. Hill, Lieut.-Colonel A. Dury, Mr. S. Rhoads, Major W. F. Brown, Mr. A. H. Pallett, Mr. J. Judge, Major W. H. Barker, Mr. A. Jagger, Mr. W. H. Hurrell, Lance-Sergt. G. H. Freeman, Mrs. Bridges Nunn.

Lieut. E. L. H. James has been seconded for special service in South Africa (13th December).

Sergeant-Major T. Sumner, 50th Regimental District, has been promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer, from 30th October.

The West Kent contingent of the Imperial Yeomanry mobilized at Maidstone early in January, and, after going through a course of drill, etc., proceeded on the 26th January to Chatham. Nothing but favourable comments as regards their soldierly bearing has been heard on all sides.

Maidstone showed her appreciation of the contingent by giving them a real good "send off." On the evening before they left, the Mayor arranged a smoking concert at the Corn Exchange. The room was beautifully decorated, and was filled to overflowing. An excellent programme was provided, which was much appreciated. In the interval, the Mayor, Colonel Warde, M.P., Major Cornwallis, M.P., and Captain the Hon. E. Milles (who commands the contingent), made appropriate speeches.

On the morning of their departure a farewell service was held in All Saints' Church. The Mayor and Corporation attended in State, and there were about 200 of all ranks from the Depot. On their leaving Maidstone at about one o'clock they were most enthusiastically cheered through the streets, and on passing the Barracks the troops turned out at the gate and gave them a very hearty "send off."

The following from the *Aldershot News*:—Two little boys, dressed in Highland suits, have been conspicuous during the past few days in camp and town. They are the sons of Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson's groom, and are collecting for Mrs. Alderson's fund for the Mounted Infantry. Quite a crowd gathered to watch them while they were being photographed by an enterprising local artist.

A contemporary, describing the uniforms of the City Volunteers, solemnly asserts that the two hundred men of the infantry portion will wear "khaki putties instead of breeches." It looks as though the Volunteer was determined to be a real absent-minded beggar.

The *Aldershot News* states that the force which Lieut.-Col. Alderson took out from Aldershot in October is at present patrolling and defending the district between General French and the Orange River, their headquarters being at De Aar. Colonel Alderson, who is also in command there, expects to join General French as soon as the cavalry force which is in the neighbourhood of Colesberg moves forward.

An Army surgeon was tending the foot of a soldier which had been smashed up by a bullet. Looking up for a moment to see how his patient was bearing the great pain he saw the man studying fixedly the hole in his boot. "What beats me," he said, in answer to the surgeon's look, "is how it ain't done more damage to my boot."

An aspirant for military glory lately presented himself for the usual medical examination. His teeth did not come up to the medical officer's requirements, as there were "not enough of them." The M.O. told him sadly that he was afraid he would not pass in consequence. After thinking the matter over for a moment, the warrior replied, grumpily:—"Well sir, I didn't volunteer for the purpose of eating the Boers. I only want to shoot them." But it was no use. The doctor failed to believe that the Boers would be frightened by a man who couldn't show his teeth to a foe.

In the latest list of "Soldiers balances unclaimed" we notice the names of two men, late of our 1st Battalion, to whose next of kin there is due the sum of money as stated opposite their names:—Philip Courtney (Lance-Corporal), £23 2s. 4d.; Philip Stockham (Private), £23 12s.

DEATHS.

At the Barracks, Maidstone, on Jan. 12th, the wife of Colour-Sergt J. McGregor.

At the Barracks, Maidstone, on Jan. 10th, Ethel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, aged 11 years.

At Malta, on Jan. 15th, the wife of Sergt. B. H. Grellier, 2nd Batt.

At Netley, on Jan. 20th, No. 4364 Pte. J. Herrett, late 1st Batt.

At Netley, on Dec. 27th, No. 3687 Pte. C. Lewis, late 1st Batt.

At Netley, on Dec. 29th, No. 4972 Pte. A. O'Grady, late 1st Batt.

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

[No. 298.

MAIDSTONE, MARCH 1st, 1900.

[Vol. XVIII, No. 3.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

1ST BATTALION.

Second Lieutenant J. O. Greenwood to be Lieutenant, vice E. L. H. James, seconded, 13th December.

Second Lieutenant W. H. Annesley to be Lieutenant, vice E. L. H. James, seconded, 13th December.

(The promotion to rank of Lieutenant of Second Lieutenant W. H. Annesley is ante-dated to 30th October, 1899, vice W. H. B. Long, seconded for service with the Mounted Infantry in South Africa)

Promoted Sergeant—No. 2192, Lance-Sergeant H. Moore, 30th December.

Promoted Corporals—No. 2972, Lance-Corporal A. Brown, 24th November; No. 3248, Lance-Corporal H. Drake, 9th December; No. 3564, Lance-Corporal F. Howes, 30th December.

Appointed Lance-Corporals—No. 3441, Private H. Robinson, 2nd January; No. 4858, Private P. Pope, 24th January.

2ND BATTALION.

Lieut W. H. B. Long to be Captain, vice Brevet-Major F. Wintour, seconded, 8th December.

Kenneth Douglas Murray Henderson to be Second Lieutenant, in succession to Lieutenant R. J. T. Hildyard, seconded, 19th January.

Second Lieutenant John Humphrey Bennett, from 1st Volunteer Battalion Hampshire Regiment, to be Second Lieutenant, on augmentation, 24th January.

Thomas Ernest Hulbert to be Second Lieutenant, on augmentation, 17th February.

Promoted Colour-Sergeant—No. 3268, Sergeant E. Bullock, 11th January.

Promoted Corporals—No. 4753, Lance-Corporal A. Marsh, 25th October; No. 3085, Lance-Corporal W. Jarrad, 25th October; No. 4844, Lance-Corporal W. Smith, 8th November; No. 4131, Lance-Corporal J. Page, 20th November; No. 4110, Lance-Corporal J. Smith, 4th December; No. 5186, Lance-Corporal W. Carrington, 2nd January; No. 5179, Corporal A. Sarney, ante-dated to 25th October.

Appointed Lance-Corporals—No. 4065, Private G. Carter, 13th January; No. 4359, Private R. Cairns, 16th January; No. 4750, Private W. Stewart, 16th January; No. 4280, Private

F. Murray, 16th January; No. 5413, Private H. Kane, 16th January; No. 4458, Private A. Clackett, 30th January; No. 4587, Private W. Coomber, 30th January.

DEPOT.

Promoted Color-sergeant—No. 964, Sergeant H. Parry, 1st January, vice Color-sergeant H. J. Bass transferred to Permanent Staff, 3rd Battalion.

Appointed Lance-corporal—No. 2731, Private J. Hibbert, 8th February.

VOLUNTEER BATTALIONS.

1st Volunteer Battalion—Charles Henry Cripps to be Second Lieutenant, 17th January; Frederick Norton Gerrard to be Second Lieutenant, 21st February; Herbert Benjamin Cohen to be Second Lieutenant, 21st February.

2nd Volunteer Battalion—Frederick Kesteven Selby to be Second Lieutenant, 6th January; Ernest Albert Belcher to be Second Lieutenant, 17th January; William Francis Marchant to be Second Lieutenant, 21st February; James Sawers to be Second Lieutenant, 21st February.

REGIMENTAL INTELLIGENCE.

1ST BATTALION.

No. 2751 Sergeant W. Seager has been granted a certificate as Sergeant Instructor in Musketry.

No. 5380 Private C. Lee has been awarded the Soudan Medal 1898.

No. 1209 Sergeant E. Sonnenberg has been appointed Band Sergeant, 1st February.

No. 3890 Lance-Corporal J. Dale has been transferred to the 1st Battalion South Wales Borderers.

Good conduct pay has been granted as follows:—

At 2d.—Lance-Corporals W. Newland, E. Mandy, and H. Marchant, Privates W. Murphy, T. Maskey, C. Lee, H. Cuthbert, F. Davey, T. Jeffreys, A. Munn, H. Macdonald, J. Dawkins, C. Musson.

At 2d. (restored).—Private J. Marsh.

At 1d.—Private J. Finch, E. Pellett, E. Davis, W. Smith.

No. 3408 Private R. Mervin has been transferred to the Army Reserve in India.

2ND BATTALION.

Good conduct pay has been granted as follows:—

Resumes 3d.—Private J. Bowman.

At 2d.—Lance-Corporals J. Smith, H. Morris, Privates G. Hawker, J. Hedgecock, W. Partridge, J. Stinton, A. Hill, G. Carter, C. Thornton, H. McDonald, E. Leaney, E. Sawyer, F. Clark, J. Stoneman, J. Partridge, A. Winfield, S. Swift, E. Littlefield, H. Alderton, J. Crisp, S. Barrow.

At 1d.—Private R. Cowing.

No. 767, 2nd class Armourer Sergeant G. Simons has been promoted 1st class Armourer Sergeant, 15th November.

No. 5746 Private T. Bant has been transferred to the 16th Company E. D. Royal Garrison Artillery.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

There is not much going on here at present, excepting in the football line. Enclosed are accounts of matches for Colonel Brock's challenge shield; also of three matches played by the officers—one v. the sergeants and the other two against the station. The cold weather here is exceptionally nice. No one could find fault with the climate at this time of year. We are not looking forward to the hot weather, however, with much relish, which will be coming on in a couple of months.

As to Aden, looking upon it this is what one sees—a lot of jagged and precipitous lava hills, the highest point being some seventeen hundred feet with a signal station at the top. This is called Shun Shun, and there is a pathway to the summit. The others may be ascended on all fours. A rapid method of descent was tried by one officer, I hear; he does not recommend it for further use. At the bottom of these hills in the valleys are stretches of sand and stones up to the coast line.

The whole of this, some twenty or more miles round, is joined to the mainland by a narrow isthmus of sand only a foot or two above sea level.

Aden, the Isthmus, and a similar rocky peninsula opposite, called little Aden (so called because it is nearly twice the size of big Aden), form the harbour. North of this the desert runs back, flat and sandy for 60 miles, to a range of rocky hills.

In ancient times Aden was an immensely important place for trade, as everything brought to Europe from the East had to come here, and then by the great caravan route northwards. The Red Sea is not practicable for the navigation of sailing vessels.

The old harbour, strangely, is outside the present one, and where what is called the Crater is now, since the introduction of steam, and later, the formation of the Suez Canal, the trade must have decreased enormously. Even now a good deal more trade goes through here than most people imagine.

By the way, there is not much sense in calling this part of Aden the Crater, as the whole place is full of extinct craters. The tanks here are a testimony to the importance of the place in very olden times, as they were built (by whom no one knows)

in the time of the Romans or earlier. About fifty years ago they were discovered, being then completely buried under a quantity of debris fallen from the cliffs and washed down from the hills. They were then excavated and repaired by the British Government. About seven years ago there was a heavy downfall of rain which filled them all. To the native population this makes a great difference, as they usually have only brackish water to drink. The tanks are in a series, one above another, up an enormous nullah, with perpendicular sides, and are made by partly excavating and partly damming where the nullah narrows. They are so arranged that the water overflows from the upper into the lower ones as the former fills. Besides these nearly each little ravine has its little tank, which, when full, is conducted into one or other of the big ones.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

CRATER CAMP, ADEN,
27/1/00.

The contest for Colonel Brock's Shield has taken place during the present month, and the result is that the shield has been won by "B" Company. Speaking generally, the football displayed by the various Company teams was not up to the standard of last year, when the shield was won by "G" Company, but several of the Companies have greatly improved. This is the case especially with "E" and "F" Companies, and the same might be said of "H," who, in the opinion of many, were unlucky in being knocked out of the competition by "E" Company. This was in the first match of the series, and in the first half "H" appeared to score through the agency of Harris, but in the opinion of the referee and many onlookers the ball struck the bar and rebounded into play. This if given would have meant two goals for "H" in the first half, but as it was given against them Keene was enabled to equalise in the second half. Extra time was played, and "E" were eventually returned victors by 3—1.

The next match was between "A" and "B" Companies. "A" Company, having just returned from Isthmus, were very weak, and were outplayed in every way. The first few minutes were an indication of the remainder of the play. From the kick-off the ball was taken up the field and Allen scored. "B" afterwards put on two more goals and won by 3—0.

"G" v. "D" were the next combatants, and this match resulted in a win for "G" by 3—1. "G" in the first half scored one goal, and at the commencement of the second half Burrows ran right through and equalised for "D." This appeared to wake up "G," who somewhat under-estimated their opponents, and Allen, who on this occasion played a good game at centre forward, sent in a splendid shot and placed "G" ahead. They afterwards found the net again, although Wood was forced to retire, and thus were victorious by 3—1.

wards; Bengel, Brill, McCarthy, half-backs; Lush, Linden, shaw, Keen, Stevens, forwards; Corke, Roberts, Pelling, half-backs; Tapp, Lewis, backs; Ball, goal.

OFFICERS V. SERGEANTS.

This match was played on the 24th January, and resulted in a win for the officers by 4 goals to 1. The last match of this character was played in Meerut in '96, when the officers were victorious by 13-1, so it would seem that the sergeants have improved in their football. The game was not so one-sided as the scores would seem to indicate, for two at least of the officers' goals should have been stopped by the goalkeeper, and he further assisted them by putting one goal through for them. But the shooting of the officers in front of goal was decidedly better than that of the sergeants, who missed several opportunities of scoring. The officers led at half-time by one goal, scored by Mr. Whitehead, to nil, and immediately after resuming the ball was taken up the field by Mr. Robinson and Mr. Hall and a further goal secured. The sergeants then obtained their only goal, the ball appearing to rebound off Mr. O'Dowda, and then the officers had the best of the game and scored two more goals, Mr. Robinson played a good game at centre forward, and Messrs. Hall and Whitehead would be acquisitions to the regimental team. Mr. O'Dowda was generally safe as usual at back. Serjts Mackintosh, Nicholson, and the forward division played well for the sergeants, but the backs have been known to do better, and the goalkeeper was a failure. The game was a pleasant one from beginning to end.

Teams:—Officers—Messrs. Robinson, Hall, Whitehead, and Lance-corporal Furlley, forwards; Annesley, Keenlyside, and Corporal Crockett, half-backs; O'Dowda and Greenwood, backs; Stigand, goal. Sergeants—Nicholson, Wren, Sonnenberg, Smith, Mackintosh, forwards; Crouch, Ashley, Seager, half-backs; Tapp and Murphy, backs; Eldred, goal.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

For the first time for some years the sergeants of the battalion celebrated their Christmas by a picnic to Sheikh Othman, a village some seven or eight miles from Aden. The day was exceptional in more ways than one, in the first place, by the fact that the sergeants were able to get a day off; secondly, by the fact that it rained from the time we left Crater until the time we returned. This was most remarkable, as it is said that it rains here but once in seven years. Nearly all members of the mess availed themselves of this opportunity of once more seeing a few trees and flowers, and nearly all the gharries in Aden were requisitioned for the purpose. In spite of the unfavourable state of the weather I think most of us enjoyed ourselves, a detachment of the band enlivening us to a great extent. Out-door games, for the ladies at least,

The match "C" v. "F" resulted in an easy victory for "F." The losers are a somewhat disappointing team, for they showed very good form in their preliminary games and appeared to have a good chance of winning the trophy, for which last year they were runners up. Several of their old players have left, however, and their loss was severely felt, whereas "F" is a greatly improved team. I was unable to see this game, but the result was a win for "F" by 3-0. "G" and "E" were the next opponents, and one of the hardest games played during the competition resulted in a win for "E" by one goal (Stevens) to nil.

On the 12th another good match between "B" and "F" was played. "F" in the first half scored twice, and undoubtedly had decidedly the best of the play. In the ensuing half, however, "B" played up wonderfully well, and to the surprise of everybody qualified for the final by 3 goals to 2.

FINAL FOR COLONEL BROCK'S SHIELD.

This tie was played off on 17th inst. between teams representing "B" and "E" Companies. The game was not very fast, both teams playing very carefully. As far as individual play was concerned both teams were fairly equal, but "E" Company, unfortunately for themselves, lacked combination to a great extent, their centre forward and outside right perhaps playing the best of their side. "B" Company's combination was nothing to boast of, but was much better than that of their opponents, and the particular stars of the team were Brill, centre half, and Mackintosh, outside left. Corcoran, the goalkeeper, also deserves a word of commendation, as does also McCarthy, who worked very hard. The start of the game was somewhat sensational, "B" Company, by means of Allen, taking the ball right up to the opposite goal, but Ball managed to clear. Thereafter both goals were visited, and both goalkeepers effected some very good saves. However, close on half-time, Mackintosh, from almost in line with the goal, put in a beautiful centre which Allen headed into the net, and thus gave "B" Company the lead at half-time by 1 goal to nil. Nothing of note occurred in the second half, play being mostly in favour of "B" Company, though once or twice it seemed that "E" would manage to equalise, and a fairly even and pleasant game resulted in favour of "B" Company by 1 goal to nil.

The shield was presented to the winners by Major Morse, who congratulated both teams on their play, and expressed a hope that football might be kept up in the battalion with a view of following in the steps of the 2nd Battalion and carrying away the Army Cup. We all hope that such will be the case some day, and do not despair of doing it, but it wants a lot of doing. "B" Company have now won the Colonel's shield three times.

"B."—Mackintosh, Mills, Brandon, Harden, Allen, for—
TEAMS FOR FINAL OF COL. BROCK'S SHIELD.

were out of the question, so impromptu dances and other indoor games were arranged, while the more daring of the men ventured to indulge in quoits and football. Those who did not indulge in these respects found great pleasure, I am told, in talking of feats of bygone days and arranging matches for the future, which I daresay pleased them quite as much.

It is a very great pity that we should have had such an unlucky day, for all arrangements for a capital outing had been made by an energetic committee, presided over by Q.M.S. Cover, and, given fine weather, the pic-nic would have been quite an event. It must have been intensely disappointing to them to find their arrangements upset by the weather, but at the same time they can congratulate themselves on giving us after all an enjoyable day.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREAT.

The annual Christmas treat for the children of the regiment and others attending the regimental schools was held on the afternoon of the 11th inst. in a vacant bungalow which was kindly placed at the disposal of the Commanding Officer. The children, with their mothers, sat down to a good tea, the arrangements for which were kindly made by Mr. and Mrs. Barton. They then adjourned to the sands, where donkey rides were provided and foot races and games were indulged in, and then at dusk returned again to the bungalow, where the business of stripping a very pretty Xmas tree was soon commenced. As no trees are to be found within miles of the place hearty thanks are due to Mrs. Morse for interesting herself so much to obtain the tree, and also to Major Western for the trouble he took in purchasing the toys. The choice of the latter in Aden is so limited that this task was far from being a sinecure.

W. D.

3rd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Since writing last I am afraid there is little news. The Regiment has shaken down at Verdala Barracks, and has been inspected on St. Clement's parade ground by both General Lord Congleton, and His Excellency the Governor of Malta—Sir Francis Grenfell—and we have had a field day each week.

On 30th January the recruits went to Pembroke Camp to do musketry, and now we are doing the trained course by half battalions.

On 5th February three more officers' wives arrived per P and O. "Shanghai," having had a fair passage.

Last evening H.E. the Governor dined with the officers.

To-day the Valentine races on the Marsa take place, and we hope for an exciting meeting, as one of the 3rd Battalion officers is riding.

I regret to say that on 28th January Sergt. J. Gosling, "E" Company, died suddenly, and was buried on 30th.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Malta, 17th Feb.

2ND VOLUNTEER BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

This is a very eventful month in the annals of Volunteers generally, and this Battalion in particular, viz., the raising of a contingent for service in South Africa.

It is eventful in our history—the fact being proved that we do not exist only on paper, but can and have fulfilled our mission of being able and willing to take our place side by side with our affiliated Regular Battalions in the defence of our country, and assist them to the best of our endeavour elsewhere.

On the 24th of February, 1900, a contingent of 56 non-commissioned officers and men, with 1 captain and 1 subaltern, and a S.I. to act as pay-sergeant, was despatched to the Depot at Maidstone to meet another contingent of 57 non-commissioned officers and men and 1 officer from our 1st Volunteer Battalion, the whole to form one Company.

This Company was originally raised to form part of either of our Regular Battalions proceeding to South Africa. To the great regret of all, the powers that be have decided that it being uncertain whether one of our Line Battalions will proceed to South Africa this Company would be attested for the 3rd K.R.R. This offer was refused until it appeared certain that neither Battalion would go, when we definitely accepted the honour done us of being attached to that splendid Corp the 3rd K.R.R.

Although our disappointment is great at not being able to go with our own clan, with those whom we know and feel would appreciate our services, we hope to worthily uphold the traditions of our Regiment and add one more honour to the Colours. It would interest your readers to know briefly the manner of mobilizing our contingent. First, to begin with, every man is postcarded personally as to whether he will or can volunteer for active service. Another postcard brings him to headquarters for medical inspection by the Regimental Surgeon. Then the many applicants have to be carefully selected to fulfil the many stringent regulations of the War Office, i.e. :—

- 1.—34 inch chest measurement.
- 2.—Unmarried, if possible.
- 3.—Age between 20 and 35 years.
- 4.—A marksman or 1st class shot according to Volunteer Regulations.

Either one or other of these regulations debar many applicants from being one of the fortunate selected. On receipt of the order for attestation the men were again post-carded to attend at headquarters, several County J.P.s, with the Earl of Dartmouth, our landlord, having kindly undertaken the work of attestation. Previous to this function the Earl inspected the contingent and addressed them, remarking "That although he had seen several detachments of Volunteers he had seen none that beat them in general appearance." On attestation each man was presented with a new 1900 shilling as a memento of this most momentous event, recalling the old custom of the "Queen's Shilling." After attestation the men were given furlough until the end of the week, the men of the contingent being fêted and banqueted night after night by the inhabitants of their respective towns and districts. A week never to be forgotten. On the contingent proceeding to Maidstone on Saturday the 24th they received such a "send off" from the district as could hardly be beaten anywhere. The whole Battalion paraded at headquarters at 3.30 p.m. A Chaplain of the Battalion gave the men a short address. All then proceeded by route march to New Cross Station, proceeding by Blackheath Village, Lee Park, Lee High Road, Lewisham, Greenwich, Deptford Broadway, to New Cross, the whole way being splendidly decorated with flags of all sorts. From start to finish the crowd was enormous. Those in rear of the Battalion could only occasionally hear the band in front by reason of the deafening cheers of the crowd. We at last fought our way to the station in time to catch the express to Maidstone.

We wish our Volunteer lads good luck, God speed, and a safe return, having worthily upheld the traditions of their Regiment and the County of Kent.

SCRIBE

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

During the past month the elements have considerably interfered with football fixtures. Six matches were to have been decided; but one, against Wouldham, was scratched, owing to a heavy fall of snow rendering the ground unplayable; and another, against Tovil, was prevented by flood. Talking of floods, I believe the flood experienced on the 17th, was a record one for Maidstone. Those who know the Barrack Field may form some idea of the magnitude of the flood from the fact that the water rose to such an extent, as to completely cover the iron gate at the bottom of the Barrack Field. Although the football ground was not covered, any "Chatham" tactics on the river side, would have necessitated the use of a boat. The Depot not being equipped with transport of this description, and the Tovil ground not being avail-

able, the match was not played. The four matches played resulted in wins, thus improving our record to the extent shown below:—

Played.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.	For.	Against.
29	26	2	1	126	22

The following accounts are kindly supplied by the *Kent Messenger*.

DEPOT v. DOBNEY INSTITUTE.

Played on the Barrack Field. A somewhat "slack" game resulted as follows:—

Depot	...	...	...	...	6 goals.
Dobney Institute	...	...	...	...	Nil.

DEPOT v. CHURCH INSTITUTE WEDNESDAY.

Played on the Barrack Field on Wednesday, 7th, and resulted in a win for the Depot. Hazlett scored four goals for the Depot, and Grigsby one. Result:—

Depot	...	...	...	...	5 goals.
Church Institute	...	...	...	...	Nil.

DEPOT v. EAST MALLING.

Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, 10th, in boisterous weather. A start was not made until nearly four o'clock. During the first half the game was evenly contested, Grigsby scoring one goal for the Depot. In the second half, the Depot, having the wind behind them, "took charge," scoring no less than 12 times; of these, Hazlett and Davies were responsible for three each, the latter playing a good game throughout. Result:—

Depot	...	...	...	...	13 goals.
East Malling	...	...	...	...	Nil.

DEPOT v. CHURCH INSTITUTE

This match was played on the Depot ground in splendid weather. The Depot won the toss, and elected to play with the sun behind them. During the opening stages the "Church" did the pressing, and Stack was called on to save, which he did in good fashion. After playing on the defensive for some time the Depot began to settle down, and, working the ball into the visitors' quarters, forced a corner. Spearing took the kick, and, placing the ball well in the goal mouth, enabled Davies to score the first goal for the Depot. Play now became slower, until close on half-time, when Selves, putting in some good play, enabled Spearing to score No. 2 by an excellent shot. On crossing over the Depot at once began to press, and scored 4 goals in 13 minutes, Spearing being responsible for two, Taylor and Davies for the others. The "Church" now made strenuous efforts to knock off some of the adverse balance, the Rev. Joy at back being very prominent for the visitors, but they found the Depot backs very much "at home." Taylor and Spearing adding two more goals the Depot ran out the winners of a game, not so one-sided as the score would indicate, by 8 goals to *nil*. Depot team:—Stack, Shaw, Hazlett, Franklin, Savage, Lieut.

Nunn, Spearing, Selves, Taylor, Grigsby, and Davies.

Result :—

Depot 8 goals.
Church Institute Nil.

To the Editor of the Queen's Own Gazette.

Alexandria,

7/2/1900.

DEAR SIR,

It may be of some interest to some of your readers to know the result of the Company Football competition this season. This year the competition was played on the league system again, and proved a great success. As there is no other amusement here for the men, there was always a great interest taken in every match, and it just so happened that the last match to be played was the deciding one for the Shield, so that interest remained right up to the finish.

The two best companies, as the enclosed form shows, were undoubtedly F and D, and the final match between these two companies was worthy of the occasion. F won, and won on their merits, being without doubt the strongest team. They were never beaten in the competition, and only had four goals scored against them throughout. D company were unlucky. They started badly, and never really recovered, though the way they polished off some companies, notably H, made their chances for the final match much stronger.

Mrs. Grove kindly presented the Shield to F company, who have now won the shield two years running.

F company team :—Private Frost (goal), Corporal Stuart and Sergeant Parker (backs), Corporal Stringer, Private Brewer and Private Nelson (halves), Private Dudman, Corporal Mills, Private Hill, Private Baker, Private Reynolds (forwards).

The following is the order of the Companies: 1st, F Company, winners of Shield; 2nd, D Company; 3rd, E Company; 4th, A Company; 5th, B Company; 6th, C Company; 7th, G Company; 8th, H Company.

I enclose a tabular form which gives more details, and perhaps may be of some interest.

YOUR 2ND BATT. FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT.

TABLE.

COMPANIES.	WON.	DRAWN.	LOST.	PTS.	GOALS.	
					FOR.	AGST.
A	3	—	4	6	14	15
B	3	—	4	6	10	12
C	3	—	4	6	9	15
D	5	—	2	10	32	6
E	5	—	2	10	12	8
F	7	—	—	14	24	4
G	1	1	5	3	7	17
H	—	1	6	1	6	36

In the latest list of "Soldiers' balances unclaimed" we notice the name of Thomas Jones, In-pensioner, 50th Regiment, to whose next-of-kin the sum of £1 11s. 1d. is due

The floods which have recently visited Maidstone were said to be higher than can be recollected as ever having occurred in the town, and along the banks of the Medway. The Barrack Field presented a most extraordinary sight. The water came quite half way up the field, the whole of the cricket ground being flooded. At the bottom of the field only just the top of the high hedge was to be seen, the iron gate leading on to the tow-path being entirely covered. The local papers tell of much damage done, and of much distress and loss to those who occupy the houses in the low-lying part of the town.

The following from the *Morning Post* of February 1st :—Lieut.-Col. Alderson, who was already well known by his distinguished services with Mounted Infantry in Mashonaland in 1896, and who is now commanding the Mounted Infantry attached to the First Cavalry Brigade in South Africa, has written a book entitled "Pink and Scarlet; or, Hunting as a School for Soldiering," which Mr. Heinemann will shortly publish. A considerable experience of both hunting and war has shown the author that the hunting man is already a more than half-made Cavalryman, and that the chase of the fox, affording as it does such unrivalled opportunities for the study of *terrain* and of the face of nature, is a fitting preparation for work in a field where ignorance of both is so often fraught with disastrous consequences. His ideas on this matter have been strikingly confirmed lately by the decision of the Government to send out to South Africa a large force of Yeomanry, the bulk of it composed of hunting men.

The Depot football team is certainly having a most successful season, and the record, which our football correspondent gives us, of only 1 match lost out of 29 played, testifies to the way in which the members of the team must have played up and played together in order to have obtained such a satisfactory result.

We hear that several cricket fixtures have already been made, and as a great deal of trouble has been taken during the winter to improve the ground we hope that a very successful cricket season will be the result.

The contingents furnished for the Imperial Yeomanry by the East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry embarked at Liverpool on the 28th ultimo in s.s. Cymric for South Africa. The contingent of the West Kent Yeomanry has been training at Chatham during the month of February, and that of the East Kent at Shorncliffe and Canterbury.

Owing to scarcity of space we are unable to acknowledge the receipt of the many Regimental papers which are sent to us monthly. We hope the *Q.O.G.* has reached our fellow Editors safely and regularly.

THE BUNER EXPEDITION.

BY PRIVATE MACKINTOSH.

(Continued.)

It must not be inferred from the foregoing that Tommy was having it all his own way, with no other occupation beyond that of cooking and eating his food; far from it, the duties furnished being many and varied, and in almost every case entailing the scaling of some of the heights in the vicinity of our quarters, such as escorting, signalling, and surveying parties, etc.

First and foremost of these duties was the detachment on the Tanga pass, which after the first night was relieved daily by a company of the Queen's Own, whose special duty it was to keep the road open from tribal attacks, and also to prevent the road from being utilised from both ends at once, thus preventing a congestion of traffic, and thereby considerable delay in forwarding supplies to the Brigade.

An efficient staff of signallers was always with this detachment, keeping open communication with Generals Blood on one side, and Meiklejohn on the other, by means of the heliograph by day, and lamp by night, by this means dispensing with the field telegraph, which was not utilised during the Buner campaign.

This pass detachment was one of the most onerous duties of the whole concern, the nights especially being excessively cold, and at an altitude of nearly 3,000 feet, with a cutting wind blowing, the temperature can be imagined within a little, although my pen is unable to describe it.

Sleep was entirely out of the question, in spite of the fact that when my company were detailed for the duty, they took sufficient wood to keep two large fires burning throughout the night. In the first place it was quite impossible to find a level spot to make a shake-down on, and my bedstead on that never to be forgotten night, was a small ledge of rock about two feet wide, on the lee side of the hill, with a chasm some sixty feet deep yawning below it, a most dangerous situation for a restless man, but in order to reduce the possibility of falling off to a minimum, I piled some flat pieces of rock on the outer edge of my "bedstead" and flattered myself that I had a tolerably good place whereon to lay my weary carcase, and really believe in spite of my precarious position that I slept, and the fact of my not being a restless man is apparent by the publication of these lines.

On our return to the village next morning we were surprised to discover that someone during our absence had taken possession of our mansions and had destroyed everything which we had left behind, including some manuscript Korans or native Bibles, besides some shields and other curios which the finders had intended to carry back to India as mementoes of the campaign.

The smouldering embers of a fire told us their fate, and then, as if to add insult to injury, the inscription G. Austin, Butcher, appeared in large characters over one of the doorways.

Whether this aspiring dealer in defunct cattle foresaw a fortune in that locality I am unable to say, but at the time of which I write no fat carcasses graced the portals of his shop, neither could be discerned the shopman or his customers, so it was evident that the erstwhile dealer in fat stock had given up the idea of catering for the wants of Kingergalis inhabitants as unlikely to pan out well.

This dwelling had formerly been the home of the Mullah or priest of the village, and when he subsequently saw the ruins of his homestead and the absence of all his religious books he burst into tears and blamed the hot-headed tribesmen whom he asserted he had tried in vain to persuade not to resist the advance of our force. He had travelled a great deal, this

Mullah, and was able to converse in good English, and he stated to us that this village alone had 18 killed and 30 wounded in the action of January 7th.

At length after six days' sojourn in the ancestral homes of the Bunerwals, the Brigade, which had been strengthened by the addition of another mountain battery, began a forward move through the barren valley.

Four companies of the battalion were left behind at Kingergali, besides a few details, to follow on next day, and as I remained behind with this party, I am unable to chronicle the actual doings of the forces during the period we were parted from them, but on information afterwards received, I learned that the brigade had been on a wild goose chase after an imaginary band of fanatics, who were reported to be holding a position in a graveyard, near by a place called Tursak or Dagga, I forget which.

We rejoined the force at the latter place, and on the following day moved to Bhajkatta, a large village on the borders of the Hazara country. During the march thither we encountered no less than five broad rivers, or the same one that number of times, and as no other means of crossing them were available, we had to wade through them. Fortunately none of them exceeded three feet in depth, so that beyond the inconvenience of getting ones legs and feet wet, and occasionally a boot full of sand, no serious discomfort was experienced.

A halt of two days was found necessary at Bhajkatta, in order to collect the fines and firearms due from its inhabitants as their share of the indemnity, the whole tribe having surrendered, but stating as an excuse for their feeble resistance at the Tanga Pass that their young bloods, the pick of their fighting men, were away in the Black Mountain country, settling an old feud with the tribesmen of that region, and adding that but for this contingency we would not have gained such an easy entry into their dominions.

The campaign was therefore practically settled as far as military operations were concerned, and there remained nothing for us but a speedy evacuation of the country, a proceeding which was welcomed by not a few, as we were nearly all fed up with roughing it in these outlandish places, and were looking forward to being shortly settled down in cantonments again.

(To be continued.)

BIRTHS.

At Maidstone, on 8th February, the wife of Lance-Corporal G. Bance, Depot, of a daughter.

At Maidstone, on 14th February, the wife of Lance-Sergeant C. Semmence, Depot, of a son.

At Maidstone, on 18th February, the wife of Colour-Sergeant G. Bourne, 3rd Battalion, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

At Dublin, on 27th December, Mr. Robert Lobo, late Sergeant 2nd Battalion, discharged to pension in December 1891, aged 42.

At Barrackpore, India, on 5th January, No. 4577, Private A. Jeffrey, 1st Battalion.

At Aden, on 7th January, No. 4689, Private W. Pacey, 1st Battalion.

At Maidstone, on 25th January, Mr. John Dunne, late 1st Battalion and Depot, discharged to pension in April, 1890, aged 57 years.

In London, on 26th January, Mr. Robert Bennett, late Sergeant-Instructor 1st Volunteer Battalion, discharged to pension in February, 1894, aged 47 years.

At Ashton-under-Lyne, on 21st February, Mr. Ernest J. Moss, late Sergeant 1st Battalion and Depot, discharged to pension in April, 1882, aged 60 years.

At Netley, on 1st February, No. 3288, Private H. H. Cooledge, late 1st Battalion.

Just before going to press (March 1st) we hear that the 8th Division have received their orders for South Africa, and the *Times* gives the 12th inst as the approximate date of embarkation, so our 2nd Battalion will soon be off to the front.

The contingent of the Maidstone Company Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, 14 in number, which left Maidstone for Aldershot about the middle of February, embarked at Liverpool on 23rd February in the s.s. Oratava for service in South Africa.

Second Lieut. E. J. Hudson, 1st Volunteer Battalion, who was attached at the Depot for a short time in January, has enlisted in "The Duke of Cambridge's Own," and sailed for South Africa on the 17th February.

Our best congratulations to Major H. A. Eyre, Paymaster, Maidstone, on his recent promotion to Staff Paymaster. We hope that this promotion will not necessitate his being transferred to another station.

The following from the *Aldershot News*:—Two small boys in khaki are attracting no small amount of attention in camp and town. They are doing their part for the war by collecting on behalf of Mrs. Alderson's Fund for comforts for the Mounted Infantry at the front.

We suppose these are the sons of Lieut.-Colonel Alderson's groom, to whose energy in collecting for this fund we referred in last month's number.

We beg to acknowledge with many thanks receipt of subscriptions as follows:—For 1900: Mr. E. Millar, Mr. W. Osman, Colonel M. A. Clarke, Sergeant-Major W. Maynard, Major J. G. Smith, Mr. W. O. F. Sergeant, Captain T. A. G. Sangster, Colonel C. M. Churchill, Mrs. Jameson, Captain A. W. Martyn, Colonel Bradish-Ellames.

To end of 1906: Colonel E. E. Larking.

We learn from the daily papers that the transport *Dunera*, with our 2nd Battalion on board, arrived at Malta on the 24th February, and, after embarking details, sailed for Southampton. The Battalion is due to arrive at Aldershot about March 4th, and, according to the *Aldershot News*, will be quartered in Tournay Barracks.

Many applications are coming in from "ex-soldiers" in response to the call to return to the Colours. The conditions as to service, etc., are published in most of the newspapers, and can be obtained on application to the Regimental Depot. Among other applications, one has been received from an old soldier, aged 52, who was discharged to pension about 15 years ago. He wishes to serve in South Africa, and mentions as one of his qualifications, that he "can speak the Boer and Kaffir language fairly." Several have applied to return, who are over the limit of age; the oldest, however, that we have heard of as applying, is 54 years of age.

Corporal William North, permanent staff 3rd Battalion, was discharged to pension on 24th January, having completed 43 years and 12 days service. Corporal North joined the 76th Regiment on 13th January, 1857, and was transferred to the West Kent Militia on 16th March, 1880, in which Corps he served as a drummer till date of discharge. He was in possession of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Since January, 1887, he has been drawing good conduct pay for six Good Conduct badges. He receives a pension of one shilling and five pence a day.

Color-Sergeant Patrick Boylan, permanent staff 3rd Battalion, was discharged to pension on 14th February, after 22 years and 24 days service. He enlisted on 22nd January, 1878, was posted as Sergeant to the permanent staff 3rd Battalion, on 5th May, 1891, and was promoted Color-Sergeant in 3rd Battalion on 8th February, 1894. He receives a pension of two shillings and fivepence a day.

Quarter-Master-Sergeant Joseph Redmond, Depot, was discharged to pension on 14th February, after having served 30 years and 145 days. Q.M.S. Redmond enlisted on 23rd September, 1869, and served with the 29th Regiment until his transfer to the permanent staff of our 3rd Battalion, on 14th January, 1882. He was appointed Orderly Room Sergeant 3rd Battalion, in May, 1883, and was promoted Quarter-Master-Sergeant on 15th March, 1885. He held the appointment of Orderly Room Sergeant, 3rd Battalion, from May, 1883, till December, 1899. He receives a pension of three shillings and sixpence a day.

We hear that Major Wintour, who went out to South Africa as Provost Marshal, 7th Division, is now D.A.A.G., Head Quarter Staff.

Captain Long writes from Wynberg, 2nd February, that he had been up with General French's Mounted Infantry north west of Colesberg, that he was, at the time of writing, in hospital with a bad touch of sunstroke, but that he expected to go back to Colesberg in a week or so.

The detachments for the "Active Service Company" formed from our Volunteer Battalions arrived at the Depot on Saturday evening, 24th February, being composed as follows:—

1st Volunteer Battalion: 1 officer (Captain C. Watney, who goes out as a subaltern) and 57 non-commissioned officers and men.

2nd Volunteer Battalion: 2 officers (Captain G. Morphey in command of the Company, and Lieutenant G. Morris), 1 staff sergeant (Sergeant Instructor G. Church, who goes out as Colour-Sergeant of the Company), and 55 non-commissioned officers and men.

The total of all ranks that form the Company is 116. So far as is known at present the Company will remain at the Depot until its embarkation for South Africa, when it will be attached to the 3rd Battalion King's Royal Rifles.

We hear that the detachments received most enthusiastic "send-offs" from the towns where their headquarters are situated, smoking concerts, dinners, etc. being given in their honour. The Company was met at the Town Station by the Maidstone Companies 1st Volunteer Battalion, with their band, and were most heartily cheered on their march through the streets up to the Barracks.

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The Officers of both the Line Battalions and Depots, 6d. per month

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

[No 299.

MAIDSTONE, APRIL 1st, 1900.

[Vol. XVIII, No. 4.

1ST BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

Private G. Lawrence has been transferred to the 1st. Batt. East Surrey Regiment to serve with an elder brother.

Lance-sergt. W. Page has been appointed Band Corporal.

Ptes. M. Harris and E. Williams have been appointed musicians.

Color-sergt. T. Callaghan, Sergt. W. Murphy, and Lance-corporal E. Mansfield have passed through the ordeal of an examination and obtained a first-class certificate of education.

Private H. Rowe has been transferred to the Devonshire Regiment.

Pte. W. Corcoran has been appointed musician.

Good conduct pay has been granted as follows:—Granted 3d., Pte. H. Jenner, Lance-corporal J. Hills; granted 2d., Ptes. W. Maver, J. Rudd, H. Baker, W. Wills, H. Lockyer; granted 1d., Pte. F. Brooker; restored 2d., Pte. M. Harris.

2ND BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

No. 2926, Private W. Bailey, has been permitted to assume his correct name, viz., William Leonard Broughton.

According to the table published by the War Office, compiled by the Inspector General of Army Signalling, the Battalion was 21st in order of merit.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR, EDITOR,

A good deal has happened since I sent you the last budget of notes, and, as I have not managed to see the March number of the *Q.O.G.*, I am not very sure up to what point your readers were taken as regards the doings of the 2nd Battalion. Our stay in Egypt was not very eventful. By those who left England on September 13th, 1899, and spent some five months in Alexandria, that period of time will always be associated with feelings of unrest and irritation. We felt when we were suddenly ordered abroad that we should in consequence miss a campaign. It is true that war was not declared until a month after we embarked for Egypt, but everybody felt that war was only a question of time.

When war broke out, and soon afterwards it was realised that it was not merely a question of an Army Corps being sent to South Africa, but that extra Divisions, one after another, were being sent, then indeed we felt that we were being very hardly dealt with. The regiment was one of the few which was not represented in South Africa by either battalion. At last, on January 13th, a wire was received ordering the 2nd Battalion home. If we could leave England in a way that elicited warm commendation by the G.O.C., under whom we were then serving, at four days' notice, how much more easily could we have embarked for home at still shorter notice. Day succeeded day, and even week succeeded week, and still we remained at Alexandria. It was not until February 19th that we embarked on board the transport *Dunera*. The Battalion left Alexandria in an extremely creditable manner, marching through Rue Cherif Pacha and past Caracal Attarin, the British headquarters. The bearing of the men reflected great credit, not only on themselves, but on the army of occupation. Thanks to the draft of some 200 men from the 1st Battalion, the draft from home in January, largely composed of seasoned men we had left behind on account of their length of service, and to the fact that our recruits had undergone five months more training, the Battalion which marched out of Alexandria was a very much finer Battalion than the one which had marched into it five months previously. Major-General Lane, C.B., owing to his state of health, had been prevented from coming out to Mustapha to inspect us. He saw us, however, on the troop decks after we had embarked, and gave us a word of praise and his good wishes. We could not but feel that the former was deserved and the latter were genuine. Though we had our dinner on board on the 19th it was not till nearly breakfast time on the 21st that we steamed out of Alexandria harbour. So strong a gale of wind was blowing that it was not considered safe to cross the bar. We stopped at Malta on our way home, which was particularly pleasant, as it enabled us to see many of our 3rd Battalion. We also shipped a recruit officer in the shape of Second-Lieutenant A. K. Grant, who has been fortunate enough to receive a commission in the Line. A parcel of Balaclava helmets, made by Mrs. Boscawen, Mrs. Fleming, and Mrs. Burbury, was also shipped, and, we need hardly add, much appreciated.

We stopped again at Gibraltar for a few hours and on Sunday, March 4th the Dunera was alongside at Southampton at an early hour.

On Monday morning in two special trains the Battalion proceeded to Farnborough, whence it marched to Ramillies Barracks in the North Camp. There all ranks, and the women and children were most hospitably looked after by the Manchester, South Staffordshire and Worcestershire Regiments.

Our Reserves began to arrive on Wednesday and succeeding days. Had they been already brought to Aldershot and had they been given a little training in drill and musketry it would have been greatly to their benefit as well as to ours.

The amount of work to be done in the Orderly Room, Quartermaster's Office, and by Pay Sergeants was very considerable. One Company (B), Captain Woulfe Flanagan's, had to be completely broken up.

A Company of Mounted Infantry, 140 strong, under Captain Flanagan with Lieutenants Nunn, Bonham-Carter, and Lister had to be formed. Some 300 men had to be left behind; about half of whom had not fired a course of musketry, and the remainder were ineligible either because they were not 20 years of age or because they had not completed a year's service, or they were not found by the doctor to be fit. Then 400 Reservists had to be selected, and the whole Battalion had to be clothed. Our establishment is 1,112 of all ranks, and we have left behind between 300 and 400 men, most of whom will at a future date be available to fill our casualties. Major Daniell was ordered to accompany us, but unfortunately the doctor could not pass him as fit. He therefore took over the details left behind at Aldershot. It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good. Captain Lowe takes Major Daniell's place and Lieutenants Isacke and Nunn are with us. At Aldershot 2nd Lieutenants Fiennes, Henderson, Bennett and Hulbert joined us, so with two attached we are practically complete in officers to start with. On March 16th in two special trains we proceeded from Farnborough to Southampton, where, but a few days before most of us had disembarked from the Dunera.

On board the transport Bavarian, in addition to ourselves are our Brigadier (Major General Boyes) and Staff, and the 2nd Manchester Regiment. A fine ship and apparently an excellent sea boat.

It may interest some of those who have left us to know what officers, warrant officers, staff sergeants, and colour-sergeants are embarking with us. I therefore give a list:—

Lieut.-Col. Grove, Major Harrison, Captain and Adjutant Buckle, Lieut. and Quartermaster Couch, Sergt.-Major Turner, Quartermaster-Sergt. Barnes, Quartermaster-Sergt. (O.R. Sergt.) J. R. Wood, Sergt.-Instructor of Musketry Mitchell (Machine Gun Sergt.), Pioneer Sergt. Burgess,

Sergeant-Master Cook Bass, Sergeant-Master Tailor Mitchell, Sergt.-Drummer Inglis, Band-Sergt. Hindmarsh, Armourer-Sergt. Simons.

A Company—Capt. Montgomery-Campbell, Second-Lieut. Elgood, Second-Lieut. Bennett, Colour-Sergt. Thorne.

B Company—Non-existent.

C Company—Capt. Moody, Second-Lieut. Fiennes, Colour-Sergt. Silver.

D Company—Captain Dalison, Lieut. Tulloch (c/o machine gun), Second-Lieut. Henderson, Colour-Sergt. Bullock.

E Company—Major Brock-Hollinshead, Lieut. Mulloy, Second Lieut. Hulbert, Colour-Sergt. Reddersen.

F Company—Capt. Martyn, Lieut. Joslin, Colour-Sergt. A. G. Wood.

G Company—Major Maunsell, Second Lieut. Luard, Second Lieut. Grant, Colour-Sergt. Outten.

H Company—Capt. Lowe, Lieut. Isacke, Lieut. Druce.

Mounted Infantry Company—Capt. Woulfe Flanagan, Lieuts. Nunn, Bonham-Carter, Lister, Colour-Sergt. Grellier.

The "Bavarian" is expected to reach and communicate with Las Palmas about midnight this day, 21st March. By this means it is hoped that these notes will reach you for your issue of April 1st.

A letter was received from Capt. Marshall at Gambaga a short time ago. He seemed then pretty fit, but his letter had been to Alexandria, and was dated early in January. When he knows we have gone to South Africa he will be as sorry as we are that he is not with us.

Except for an occasional mention of his name in the papers we have had no tidings of Captain Marsh from Mafeking. We trust that by now this place has been relieved, and that we may very soon meet Captain Marsh fit and well. We saw Captain Long just before we left Aldershot. He has had the crushing luck to be invalided home with sun-stroke. He had been given the command of the Scottish Company in the Mounted Infantry, and just missed the relief of Kimberley.

General Leach, Col. Tweedie, and Captain Hopegood, came to see us off. Col. Safford, Major Brown, Captain Lees, Col. Crosse, Captain Pedley, and Captain Long, came to see us at Aldershot, and with hardly an exception letters or wires were received from those who had served with us in the past. The kindness of those who have been connected with the regiment, or take an interest in it has been most marked. "Comforts for the troops" either in the shape of woollen things, tobacco, papers, have literally poured in.

Thoroughly appreciated are they, and I am sure they will be, but one feels that the difficulty of properly thanking everybody is very great. Things were received when time was short, and method difficult of attainment. The papers have published the names of several people who have laid themselves out very kindly to collect and forward these comforts.

To them all our thanks are most cordially given. From some places which we passed through when on the march last summer we have received subscriptions. Round Farningham, where Mr. Brown, well known for many years as Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion, has been specially interesting himself on our behalf, a very generous collection has been made.

I enclose the list of subscribers, as I am fortunate enough to have it. It speaks for itself. Half the amount collected has been expended in woollen vests and the remainder in tobacco which is to be issued to the men when in the field.

We can assure all those who have remembered us that we are most truly grateful. We hope that we may have the opportunity of bringing credit on West Kent and that when we have we may fully utilise the opportunity.

Among the many who have sent things for our men, the following names which are to hand may be mentioned:—

Genl. and Mrs. Fowler Burton, Col. and Mrs. Partridge, Major Brown, Col. Murray, Mrs. Daniell, Mrs. Tweedie, Mrs. Buckle, Mrs. Coles Child, Miss Moody, Miss Joslin, Miss Dalison, Col. Henderson and the 1st Volunteer Battalion Mrs. Elgood, Miss Mary Russell, Miss Tudor, Mrs. Luke, Mrs. Branfill Harrison, Mrs. Druce, Mrs. C. R. King, Mrs. Charles Daniell, Mrs. Carr, Mrs. Oliver, Miss Fawcett, Miss Hodgson, Mrs. Wilkinson, Miss Wigram, Mrs. Powell, Miss Golding, Miss Backhouse, Miss Gill, Mrs. Harden, Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Hassell, Mrs. Hodgkinson, Miss Joy, Mrs. Joy, Miss Poste, Lady Margaret Marsham, Mrs. Shaw, Wesleyan Higher Grade School, New Brompton.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

The undermentioned collected or gave the amounts shown opposite their names for extra comforts for the county regiment proceeding to South Africa on 16th March, 1900:—

	£	s.	d.
Miss Tudor, collected at Farningham	11	16	6
Mrs. English, „ Sutton-at-Hone	4	1	0
Mr. Parrett „ Sutton-at-Hone Post-office	1	5	0
„ Quinton „ Papermakers' Arms, Sutton-at-Hone	0	10	0
„ England „ The Bull, Hawley, Sutton-at-Hone	0	17	1
„ Butlers, „ The Post-office, Hawley, Sutton-at-Hone	1	0	10
Miss White, Sutton-at-Hone, gave socks and comforters			
Mr. Langley, Sutton-at-Hone	0	1	0
Smoking Concert, Greyhound, Sutton-at-Hone ...	1	2	4
Mr. Ayers, Sutton-at-Hone, gave	0	10	0
The Rev. Shaw, Sutton-at-Hone, gave	1	1	0
Mr. Barnacle, singing "The Absent-Minded Beggar" at teachers' meeting, Sutton-at-Hone	0	15	0
„ Thompson, collected at Farningham Road Station	0	15	0
„ Eyles collected at Sutton-at-Hone	0	7	0
„ Lane „ „	0	4	6

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Smith, collected at the Foresters' Arms Sutton-at-Hone, cigars, tobacco, and cigarettes ...			
„ Erry „ from Mr. Jones, tobacco, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter, Sutton-at-Hone, handkerchiefs, and	0	2	0
„ Rogers, Sutton-at-Hone, gave 7 pairs socks, 1lb. tobacco, and 10s. cash	0	10	0
„ Mayers collected at Ash,	1	2	6
„ Munn, „ Eynsford	2	0	0
„ John Wood „ Crockenhill	2	15	0
Mrs. Pride „ 2 shirts, 3 pairs socks, and 50s. at Horton Kirby	2	10	0
Mr. C. Brown „ Horton Kirby	11	0	
Mrs. Reeves „ Horton Kirby	16	0	
Mr. P. Kemp, Horton Kirby, gave	5	0	
Mr. Thacker, „ „ „	2	6	
Smoking Concert at the Fighting Cocks, Horton Kirby (£1 by Major Brown, Isle of Wight)...	3	18	1
Smoking Concert at the Sun, Horton Kirby	1	18	4
Mr. Simpson, Darenth	1	0	0
The Rev. Warland, for Kingsdown	1	0	0
From Longfield	2	0	
		42	18
		7	6
Deduct printing			
Total.....	£42	11	2

3rd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

MALTA, 27/3/1900.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Since my last, both half Battalions of the Regiment have been out to Pembroke Camp for Musketry, and now we are carrying on the usual work.

On the 21st, 23rd, and 24th of February, very successful performances of H.M.S. Pinafore were given at the Opera House by a company composed entirely of the officers and ladies of the garrison. The whole thing was splendidly done under the superintendence of Major General O'Callaghan and Captain Oakskisths, and added largely to the funds of the charities for which it was given.

On the 24th we were glad to see the 2nd Battalion arrive in the Dunera, and only regretted their stay was so short, and we had not their luck to be going to the front.

On the 3rd of March the garrison troops and Naval Brigade marched round the principal streets of Valetta, in honour of Ladysmith's relief, and at night there were brilliant illuminations.

To-morrow (28th of March) the Battalion troops the colors on the palace square, Valetta, and on Friday, the right-half proceeds to Mellieha for Field training.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

The undermentioned proceeded to join the 2nd Battalion at Aldershot on 9th March, 1900. The majority volunteered their services for South Africa :—Privates 3041 C. Bambury, 3658 E. Bingham, 5279 W. Brightman, 2968 R. Brown, 4227 E. Clare, 2361 T. Elliott, 3795 Lance-Corporal S. Flowers, Privates 4487 R. Goodchild, 4675 H. Grigsby, 3655 E. Harpour, 3642 T. King, 3276, T. Kite, 2789 W. Lapham, 3861 J. Lazell, 5780 G. Purnell, 3648 C. Rust, 3671 H. Stone, 3598 T. Warner, 1324 H. Wilson, 3574 W. Arnold, 2674 Lance-Corporal A. Barden, Privates 3656 F. English, 2371 D. Hartshorn.

We beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, the receipt of the following Regimental papers : *The St. George's Gazette* (1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers) for February, *H.L.I. Chronicle* (Highland Light Infantry) for November, *Army Service Corps Journal* for March, *I'm 95* (2nd Battalion Derbyshire Regiment) for January, *The Globe and Laurel* (Royal Marine Light Infantry) for February, *The Dragon* (1st Battalion East Kent) for February, *The Thin Red Line* (2nd Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) for January, *The Oak Leaf* (1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment) for February, *The Thistle* (2nd Battalion Royal Scots) for December, *The Maple Leaf* (1st Battalion Leinster Regiment) for February, *The Suffolk Gazette* (2nd Battalion Suffolk Regiment) for December, *The Green Howards' Gazette* (1st Battalion Yorkshire Regiment) for March, *The Seventh Regiment Gazette* (New York).

The following Regimental papers are also on our list of "Exchanges," but probably owing to the regiments being on active service we have not lately had the pleasure of receiving their papers :—*The Men of Harlech* (2nd Battalion Welsh Regiment), *The Sprig of Shillelagh* (1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers), *The Nines* (2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment), *The Lilywhites' Gazette* (2nd Battalion East Lancashire Regiment), *The Bengal Tiger* (2nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers), *XXX.* (1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment), *One and All* (1st Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry), *The Black Horse Gazette* (7th Dragoon Guards), *The Fau-a-ballagh* (1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers).

SOLDIERS' BALANCES UNCLAIMED.

The name of William Cloake appears in the 4th re-publication of List Effects, 1895-96. The next of kin are entitled to £9 17s. 10d.

The address of William Martin, discharged last December, is sought, there being a certain sum due to him.

3RD VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The annual prize distribution of the above corps took place in the Drill Hall on Saturday evening last, but owing to the war in South Africa, which is causing so much overtime work in the Arsenal, the distribution took place privately. Colonel Hunt, V.D., commanding the Corps, presented the prizes to those present, who were not more than half the number on the prize list, which was 70 for shooting (list published in our issue of 9-99) and 30 for drills. Also prizes for the band and jewels for Drummer Spiller, (gold), Staff-Sergeant Hessey (silver), and Sergt. Goodbody (bronze). Colour-Sergeant McLeod having held both the gold and silver jewels the bronze now becomes his. The Crosse Challenge Cup for individual shooting was won by Staff-Sergt. Hessey. The Beeching Cup for Sectional Volleys was won the second time by No. 1 Section of A Company, Sergeant Tatham commanding section. Colonel Hunt addressed those present, and alluded to the war, which had caused such a stir among Volunteers. He said he hoped to be able to complete the section now being formed for active service from the Corps under his command. He also stated that arrangements were being made to take the Corps to Shorncliffe at Easter for the usual time, viz., from Thursday evening until the following Monday evening. He also stated that there were still a few vacancies for recruits, and if any member wished to introduce recruits he advised them to do so at once, so that they could be clothed and equipped in time to proceed with the Battalion at Easter.

A number of Sergeants of the 3rd V.B. Royal West Kent Regiment assembled in their mess room on Thursday evening last week to wish God speed and safe return to Sergeant-Drummer J. Stubbins, who was leaving to join the service companies of the 1st Battalion Border Regiment at the seat of war. Sergt.-Drummer Stubbins, who has only been a short time in the Battalion, was a popular favourite with all the members of the Mess, and one and all wish him a safe and speedy return.

This Battalion was represented on the occasion of Her Majesty the Queen's visit to Woolwich by an armed party consisting of 1 Captain, 1 Subaltern, 4 sergeants, and 100 rank and file; also about 150 non-commissioned officers and men without rifles or side arms, the arms being away at Birmingham.

On account of the war in South Africa the annual ball of the sergeants, which usually takes place on the nearest Friday to St. Patrick's day, will not be held this year.

Several non-com's and men of this Battalion have joined the Royal Reserve Battalions, and have left Woolwich for their new corps.

The following is copied from a tablet on the wall in the Maidstone Museum, and is very interesting as showing when a Volunteer Corps was first formed at Maidstone:—"The Maidstone Volunteer Infantry Regiment was first formed in 1798, two companies parading in the Roebuck Field, when the Rev. James Reeve, curate of All Saints' Church, performed the act of consecration, and colours were presented by Mrs. Parker and Mr. Flint Stacey. Two more companies were added in July, 1799. At the review in the Mote Park, before George III., in 1799, they paraded 267 strong. They were disbanded in 1802 on the Peace of Amiens, but were re-embodied in 1803 in eight companies, under Colonel Finch Hollingworth, of Boxley."

VOLUNTEER ACTIVE SERVICE COMPANY.

A GENEROUS SEND OFF.

The members of the Active Service Company left Maidstone on 17th March, and expected to immediately follow their regiment in the Tagus.—However the Tagus sailed about two hours earlier than the Bavarian. For the past three weeks they have been quartered at Maidstone Barracks, preparing themselves by route marching, drilling, rifle practice at Milton, etc., for the sterner work of the field. They have been cordially received at whatever gatherings they have appeared, and their conduct in the town has been exemplary. Though many calls have of late been made on Maidstone purses, it was recognised as a patriotic duty by the Mayor and his colleagues on the Council that the Company should be in some way feasted before going away. A subscription was started, and, as a result, the Company, together with the 2nd detachment of the Maidstone Volunteer Medical Staff Corps who have offered their services, were banqueted on Tuesday evening. A very generous menu was set before them. A good number of leading townsmen were present, the tables being laid for about 250.

A FASCINATING SCENE.

It is probably no exaggeration to say that the Corn Exchange has never been more artistically prepared for any gathering. Red, white, and blue predominated, in art draperies, shields, trophies, and flags, while strings of small flags intersected each other across the room far above the heads of the diners. Then there were, in bright scarlet letters, such mottoes as "Success to the Volunteers Royal W.K. Regiment," "God-speed and a happy return," "God bless our Queen," "Good Luck to Ye," and "Invicta." Nor should the tables be forgotten. While Mr. Martin was responsible for the room, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson (late Quarter-Master-Sergeant, 1st Battalion) had elegantly adorned the tables. Here the prevailing patriotic idea was again worked out, for down the centre of each, on the snow-white table

cloth, was a broad band of blue, overlaid with a narrower band of red—or vice-versa, blue on red—and on these strips pretty foliage and flowering plants stood at intervals. The head table, raised, ran nearly the whole length of one side of the building, and the front of this presented to the general company a picturesque spectacle, achieved again with small festoons of red and blue drapery, which left vandykes of white on the background. But to adequately describe the scene is impossible.

Shortly before 7 o'clock the "gentlemen in khaki," who had had a musical escort to the banqueting hall, were conducted to their seats, followed by the "medicos." Then came the Mayor and Corporation in semi-state, and they were cordially received. The company also included representatives of the various military forces, magistrates, clergy, and other principal residents of the borough and district. Amongst them were:—Major F. S. W. Cornwallis, M.P. (second in command of the West Kent Yeomanry), Colonel Brock, and officers of the Depot. As the tempting fare was dispatched, the band of the 1st V.B. R.W.K.R., under the conductorship of Mr. J. Hunt, played in the Concert Hall, one of the selections being Moore's "Old Soldiers," which was performed for the first time in the county town.

In the natural order of things speeches followed the banquet, but after all the patriotic language which had been used during the last few months to departing troops it was difficult for the speakers to find anything new on which to orate. The wishes expressed towards the company were of course most cordial, and the responding demonstrations on the part of the men showed that the sentiments were appreciated. In addition there was a capital musical programme, which was evidently enjoyed. To add further to the delights of the occasion each of the heroes of the evening was supplied with a packet of tobacco and cigars, while as a souvenir each of the Maidstone men received at the hands of the Mayor, on behalf of the subscribers, a useful service knife.

The Mayor, having appropriately proposed "The Queen," followed with "Success to the Kent Volunteers going to South Africa." He was delighted to have the opportunity of showing the respect of his fellow-townsmen towards the gallant volunteers who had come forward to support their country's cause in South Africa (applause). When they were called upon, as Men of Kent or Kentish Men, he was confident they would be second to none in fighting for their Queen and country (cheers). When the West Kent Yeomanry were entertained, we were, as a nation, labouring somewhat under reverses, but, having struggled on, we were now placed in the happy position of victors (cheers). He was specially delighted that so many men from Kent had taken upon themselves to obey the country's call (applause); and whether they went out, as the members of the Medical Staff Corps were doing,

to assuage the suffering of the sick and wounded, or to take part in the sterner work of the battlefield, he hoped they would win renown, escape all injury, and have a safe return to the mother country. — The toast was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm, accompanied by the singing of "They are jolly good fellows."

Captain Morphey, who is in command of the company, met with a cordial reception on rising to respond. He said that while Great Britain could send her soldiers away with such hearty good wishes, he was certain nothing but success could attend our arms (applause). He acknowledged the great kindness shown them during their stay in Maidstone, and said that in going out to the war there were two things which each member of the company had at heart—loyal and deep affection for the Queen and reverence for their own particular regiment (applause). He expressed to Colonel Brock the great pleasure it afforded them to be associated with the county regiment. No greater honour could be done them, and they hoped to add greater honours to those which the colours of that distinguished regiment already bore (applause). In conclusion he expressed his confidence in the Imperial Volunteers, and assured his hearers that their good wishes and kind remembrances would stimulate the men in active service (applause).

Major Cornwallis proposed "The Health of the Mayor" in complimentary terms, alluding to the efficient manner in which he was discharging his duties, and the vast amount of time he had given to work connected with the outgoing of Imperial forces.—The toast having been drunk with musical honours, his worship briefly responded, expressing the opinion that as a result of the war we should reap one of the greatest blessings in the strengthening of the unity of the Empire (applause).

MUSIC.

Mr. F. W. Dutnall had charge of the musical programme, and he had secured the services of a number of favourite artistes.

BALL AT DARTFORD.

In honour of the eight Dartford members of the Imperial Company a ball was held at the Conservative Hall, Dartford, on Friday evening, and proved most enjoyable, thanks to the excellent arrangements, for which Sergt.-Inst. Cooke was mainly responsible. The hall was gaily decorated with flags, bunting and plants, and in connection with this Corporal Webster rendered valuable service. There was a large attendance, and dancing was kept up from nine until nearly six o'clock the next morning, to the music of Mr. L. T,

Exeter's efficient string band. During the evening each of the eight active service Volunteers was presented by Mr. W. A. Gales, on behalf of himself and a few friends, with a pipe and coins of the realm of sufficient value to purchase 2lbs. of tobacco. Several pleasing songs were rendered, and "The Absent-Minded Beggar" was recited, the inevitable collection following. Before the party separated "Soldiers of the Queen" and "Auld Lang Syne" were heartily sung.

SCENE AT BROMLEY.

When the Bromley members of the company left home to return to Maidstone after their furlough, they were accorded a demonstration which was taken as wiping out the supineness hitherto shown by the town towards the active service volunteers. The notice being too short to get a band together, tradesmen and others provided flags, and the result was a spontaneous demonstration such as probably had never before been witnessed in Bromley Market-square on a Sunday evening. Two or three thousand persons were present, and shouted "Rule Britannia" and sang "God Save the Queen" interspersed with cheers for the men in khaki. There was also a little speech-making, after which the irregular procession was formed, and marched to the L. C. and D. R. Station, the men being carried shoulder high and surrounded by their comrades in the Volunteer Corps most of whom were carrying flags. "Rule Britannia" and "God Save the Queen" were sung again and again, while cheers rent the air. At the station the platform was crowded, and the cheering was continuous. As the train moved out of the station the bugles sounded the "Last Post" amid more cheering. The procession was reformed, and on reaching the Market-square the National Anthem was impressively sung and the crowd dispersed. There was a similar scene on Wednesday.

The Company left Maidstone for Southampton, *via* Guildford, by special train at 8 o'clock on Friday morning, March 16th. The bands of the Maidstone Volunteers and Medical Staff Corps played them to the West station, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed, the streets being thronged with cheering crowds. The Volunteers had to practically fight their way in single file through the hundreds of people in the station yard, and the departing officers were carried shoulder high to the platform entrance by the "medicos." There was great excitement, and as the train moved away the band played "Auld Lang Syne."

Mr. Gilbert Lockyer recited the Kipling poem at a smoking concert given by the Bromley detachment of the 2nd V.B. Queen's Own Regiment, and £7 17s. resulted.

OBITUARY.

By the death on the 23rd. of March, at 13 Dean Terrace of Major S. D. N. Grinsell, late of the 50th (the Queen's Own), another gap has been caused in the ranks of the survivors of the Crimea. He was born in London in 1836, his father being S. D. C. Grinsell, of Grinsell Hall, Wem, Shropshire, who had been ensign and lieutenant in the 85th and 50th Regiments respectively, and had fought at Waterloo—receiving the medal for that campaign. Major Grinsell joined the army in 1853, and subsequently saw service in Turkey, Crimea, Ceylon, New Zealand, and Australia. For distinguished services in the Crimea, 1854-56, he received the medal with two clasps (Inkerman and Sebastopol), as well as the Turkish medal. He also received the medal for the New Zealand War of 1863-66. On his retirement from his regiment, Major Grinsell settled in Edinburgh, where for the last sixteen years he has been secretary of the Army Scripture Readers' Society for Scotland, whilst he also acted as secretary for the Naval and Military Bible Society. Major Grinsell was a widower, is survived by five daughters and three sons, the youngest of the latter being now engaged in the campaign in South Africa as a member of the Cape Mounted Police.

DEATH OF MR. E. J. CHAMBERS.

We regret to record the death, at Eastwood Lodge, Leamington, of Mr. Edward John Chambers, late of the 50th Regiment. Mr. Chambers died on Tuesday at the advanced age of 77. Although he never took an active interest in municipal or political affairs, Mr. Chambers was a prominent member of the Tennis Court Club, and on the foundation of the Leamington Club became its chairman, resigning this position as late as last year in consequence of failing health. He was a keen sportsman, and took much interest in all games, including cricket. Mr. Chambers was a courteous and kindly gentleman, and will be much missed by the large circle of friends and acquaintances in which he moved. Mrs. Chambers died on December 23rd last. Mr. Chambers' daughter, Miss Chambers, is well known as the Hon. Secretary of the North Warwickshire Ladies' Golf Club. The funeral took place on Friday. Mr. Chambers joined the 50th Regiment in August, 1841, and was present at the battle of Punniar on 29th December, 1843, under Major-General Grey, C.B. He served through the Campaign on the Sutlej, including the battles of "Moodkee," 18th December, 1845, and "Ferozeshuhur," 21st and 22nd December, 1845, under Sir Hugh Gough, G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief in India. He was wounded severely at the latter battle. He received the Bronze Star of India for Punniar, and the Silver Medal and Clasps for victories over the Sikh Army on the banks of the Sutlej in 1845 and 1846. In 1851 he joined the Ceylon Rifle Corps as Lieutenant on half pay on account of ill-health.

THE TOAST of the QUEEN'S OWN WEST KENT REGIMENT under orders for the front.

Pass the bottle round, my lads,
A toast before we go ;
The word has come, I hear the drum,
We're off to meet the foe.
The ship is waiting at the pier,
We'll soon be under weigh ;
Drain the cup, the anchor's up,
We're bound for Table Bay.
We soon will hear the cannons roar
From Kopje and from plain,
Whose very breath will smell of death,
Its terror and its pain.
But we will fix the steel, my lads,
Its terrors we'll defy ;
The shrieking shell may sound our knell,
We mean to win or die.

Our kindred blood is calling lads
From out the seething ground,
When side by side the heroes died,
The foemen swarming round.
Then "forward" is the word, my lads,
Let's hasten to the front,
The brave "West Kent" on vict'ry bent,
Are longing for the brunt.

We're leaving loving friends behind
For whom each bosom yearns ;
But cheer each heart although we part,
When the star of peace returns.
We'll home ward speed again, my lads,
All covered with renown ;
In peace and joy without alloy
We'll lay our weapons down.

Then pass the bottle round, my lads,
A toast before we go—
The word has come, I hear the drum,
We're off to meet the foe.
The toast that cheers the soldier's heart,
That shines with honour's sheen,
That lights each eye with courage high,
"Our Empire and our Queen."

MARRIAGE.

At St. Mary's, Newington, on 12th March, 1900, Sergeant J. Dark, Depot, to Miss Louisa Emaline Hudd.

DEATHS.

At Maidstone, on 13th March, Cufaude, the son of Lance-Sergeant C. Semmence, aged 1 month.

At Eastwood Lodge, Leamington, on 20th March, Edward John Chambers, late 50th Regiment, aged 76.

THE BUNER EXPEDITION.

BY PRIVATE MACKINTOSH.

From a political point of view, the operations had been highly satisfactory, for beyond the slight destruction at Kingergali, no appreciable damage had been done to the enemy's belongings, which I can safely say was not Thomas Atkins' fault, who is never happier than when destroying his friend the enemy's worldly goods. Our business transaction having been completed, the force marched on the 18th January for Umbeyla, a small village situated near the pass of that name.

This pass deserves a short description from the fact that it had once been the scene of a desperate conflict between a British force and a horde of fanatical tribesmen.

In 1863, in consequence of the Bunerwals and their allies, the Hindustani fanatics, having committed depredations on British territory, a strong force was despatched under General Sir Neville Chamberlain to punish the tribesmen for their act, reaching the Kotal or summit of the pass, they were met by countless hordes of fanatics from all parts of Swat, Bajour, and other distant valleys, under the supreme command of the Akhund of Swat, a noted leader of those days.

Against such a formidable combination it was absolutely impossible to attempt to force a passage, so the troops were compelled to halt, and entrench themselves where they stood, until such time that reinforcements could be sent from India, a slow process at that period, as the railway had not then been completed through the Punjab.

For six weary weeks the force was beleaguered, the enemy gradually drawing the cordon tighter round the band of brave defenders until it appeared that the whole force would be annihilated. The most irksome duty was the picketing of the heights on each side of the pass, reliefs on each occasion having to fight their way through masses of the enemy. Lord Roberts, then a Major, was one of the besieged, as also were two of the regiments composing the Buner Field Force, viz :—The Highland Light Infantry and 20th Punjab Infantry, both of whom suffered severely, the former having two companies all but annihilated. The General was also severely wounded. At length the much needed reinforcements arrived and they were thus enable to pay the enemy back, which they did with a vengeance, driving them out of all their positions, but the Government recalled the force after this so that the country was not then explored, although rumor has it that Major Roberts accompanied by a small escort ascended the Buner Pass and had a view of the country which lay beyond.

The three picket posts are still in existence and go by their former names, viz :—Crag, Eagles Nest and Water. These posts are situated some 2,000 feet above the pass and the rocky nature of the ground gave one a good idea of the insurmountable difficulties which had to be overcome in going to and returning from these posts.

The pass itself is some eight miles in length, the road badly in need of repair, and the whole distance littered with huge boulders, some of which are of gigantic proportions; in addition to which it was covered with bushes and pine trees the whole way through sufficient to afford cover to thousands of concealed foemen.

In deference to their long deceased comrades, the Pipers of the Highland Light Infantry played a solemn requiem while passing the scene of the deadly conflict of years gone by.

My narrative is now practically at an end as there is no need of my describing our subsequent march into Mardan beyond the fact that although it was the longest (21 miles) it was not by any means the hardest, as the road between Rustam and Mardan was in splendid condition which can be

gathered from the fact that it was accomplished under six hours and without any music to assist us in getting over the ground.

Ere concluding, I might mention that the regrets of the whole battalion were with :—

1st.—Colonel Brock, who through a serious illness was prevented from taking part in the operations.

2nd.—That the draft which was awaiting us on our arrival at Mardan were too late to participate in the honours, and thus losing a chance of perhaps a lifetime, and none were more sorry than the draft themselves, who blamed everyone from Bombay to Peshawar for delaying them, and thus depriving them of a medal and gratuity.

On the breaking up of the force at Mardan, our Brigadier, General Meiklejohn, addressed a few parting words to the battalion, and we marched off, headed by the band and pipers of the famous Corps of Guides, who accompanied us for fully two miles on the road. At parting they cheered lustily, a truly hearty British cheer, which caused many of us to feel a pang at parting with such a fine body of men, with whom we had been in close contact for nearly six months, both in camp and on the field, and that he may never be brigaded with better comrades during his period of service, is, the writer hopes, a sentiment which will not be looked upon as detrimental to other branches of the service.

The following epitaph culled from an Indian daily is very appropriate to the recent action at the Tanga Pass, hence its publication.

DEATH.

At Tanga Pass, on 7th January, 1898.

BOGIE BUNER,

Battered, Beaten, Broken, and Busted, in a brilliant but bloodless battle, by Binden Blood.

RIPping.

My task is drawing to a close, but ere I bid adieu to the readers of the *Queen's Own Gazette*, I endeavour to hope that this my first attempt in the literary line will not be too severely criticised.

In the first place I have confined myself entirely to facts which came under my notice, and secondly, I have had to make my composition entirely from memory, as I had no data whatever to work upon, which made the task doubly difficult, let him who doubts it try, after a lapse of two years, to compose a narrative entirely from memory.

The end of my tail.

ADEN, 15th January, 1900.

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

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MAIDSTONE, MAY 1st, 1900.

[Vol. XVIII, No. 5.

WAR FUND CARNIVAL.

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION THROUGH HORTON KIRBY, SUTTON-AT-HONE, AND FARNINGHAM.

One of the features of the Horton Kirby Cycling Club is its successful organisation of such events as that which delighted the residents of the Darenth Valley on Wednesday and Thursday. Their annual lantern parades are a well-known institution, and when the idea of a torchlight carnival and procession, in aid of the *Daily Telegraph* Widows and Orphans' Fund was mooted, the committee turned their minds to the project with a will, which left the elements alone as the only point in doubt between their plans and success. In this they were well favoured. The arrangements were excellent, and the prime object was well attained, nearly £50 being raised for the fund. On Wednesday the procession formed up at the Court Lodge, by kind permission of Mr. C. Pell, and proceeded through Horton Kirby (the active collectors well in advance), round through the Shrubbery to South Darenth, and went to the Homes and down the New Road. A short halt was made in Sutton-at-Hone, when Mr. W. Brown addressed a few remarks, pointing out that every penny collected would be given to the fund, all expenses being paid by those who were taking part. The procession then proceeded through Hawley, where they were very well received, crowds of people from Dartford and elsewhere having walked out to see the sight, and doing as everyone else, viz., pay, pay, pay. On arriving at the Orange Tree there was another halt, when Mr. W. Brown again appealed on behalf of the widows and orphans. On the Thursday evening the procession marched through Horton Kirby to Eglantine Lane, down Rutlands to the main road to Farningham. The public here made a generous response to the appeals. Proceeding to Eynsford, the collectors were likewise successful. On returning to Mr. Fenner's house at Horton Kirby, the procession gave hearty cheers for the committee of management, and Mr. Fenner in particular, and also for the Eynsford Fire Brigade and Band, and the Homes for Little Boys for their generous help, and the proceedings concluded with the National Anthem. On the first evening the amount raised was £25 6s. 8½d., and this was brought

up to the total of £46 2s. on Thursday, a result due to the following band of energetic collectors: Mrs. Carter, Messrs. Palmer, A. Reeves, M. Brown, A. Durling, Stockley, Holditch, W. A. Johnson, Misses Wells, P. Walkling, J. Stanley, M. Robertson, Johnson. M. Walkling, Mr. G. Brown, Mrs. E. Love, Miss Humble, Mr. F. Palmer, Misses Taylor and M. Stanley, Messrs. W. Brown, P. Glover, and F. Acton, Miss Mantle, Mrs. Hudson, and Miss Skinner. The total of Thursday night has been increased by a donation of 16s. from the band of the Little Boys' Home, and further sums will probably be forthcoming, as the committee are desirous of making it £50. No small portion of the measure of the financial success of the carnival and procession was due to the wiles of the lady collectors.

The order of the procession was as follows: Mounted police, under Mr. Howland; twelve torch bearers; Farningham Boys' Military Band; Lord Roberts, Mr. F. J. Fenner; Fighting Mac, Mr. Mace; Bugler Dunne, Master Eades; Officer, 17th Lancers, Mr. Evered; Private, Dragoon Guard, Mr. Busbridge; 17th Lancers, Mr. C. Palmer and Mr. Reeves; General French, Mr. Layland; Heroine, Miss Turner; Volunteer officer, Mr. Aldworth; Private, Dragoon Guard, Mr. King; 17th Lancers, Messrs. Wells and Mitchell; 18th Hussar, Mr. Hymas; Foot Soldiers; Ambulance Corps, Messrs. Hudson, Lane, Barton, Smith, Harber, F. Taylor, J. Taylor (under the command of Lieutenant Acton); Horton Kirby Fire Brigade, under Mr. H. Brown; Gentleman-at-Arms, Mr. Shipway; typical car, representing the kingdom in peace and war: Characters—Miss Ludlow (England), Miss Morgan (Britannia), Miss Dimond (Ireland), Miss E. Dimond (Wales), Miss Calvert (Scotland), Miss Aubrey (Peace), Miss E. Baldwin (War), Mr. Brown (Scotland), Mr. Hudson (Ireland), Mr. Martin (England), Mr. Hymas (Wales); Cycle scouts; Buffalo Bills, under Mr. Jones; kangaroos, &c.; Eynsford Brass Band; General Buller, Mr. Mullane; Officer, 18th Lancers, Mr. Sharp; 21st Lancers, Mr. Rowe and Mr. Hart; Sir George White, Mr. Lynes; Lancer in khaki, Mr. Springhall; Eynsford Fire Brigade, under Mr. Foote; Eynsford Ambulance; Naval Brigade, Messrs. White, Relph, and Love; Ammunition car, Mr. Simmons; Lord Methuen, Mr. Webster; Lieut.-Colonel Plumer, Mr. Brett; Officer, Dragoon Guards, Mr. Palmer; Colonel Baden-Powell, Mr. Burgess;

Yeoman Officer, Mr. Miller; N. S. Wales Lancer, Mr. Simmons; Irregulars under arms; South Darent Ambulance; Swanley Fire Brigade; Boy Arab, Master Jack Palmer; Buffalo Bill, Mr. Wyatt; Indian Chief, Mr. G. Durling; Nigger, Mr. Errey; Harlequin; Car representing girls our "Tommies" left behind them, Misses B. Howard, M. Howard, Robertson, Hudson, Welch, and Reynolds; Mr. and Mrs. Ally Sloper in State; Clowns; Lord Kitchener. Sergeant-Major Brown; Officer's Servant, Master Pell; Master Wood, wearing the uniform of an officer of the 18th Hussars through which a bullet has passed during the present war. Amongst those who also took part were: Fishwife, Mrs. Carter; Dame Carruthers, Mrs. Reeves; Yeomen of the Guard, Mrs. Love and Mrs. Holditch; Gipsy Queen, Miss L. Palmer; Indian Girl, Miss R. Reeves; Gipsy Girl, Miss M. Brown; Venus, Miss A. Durling; Empire Dress, Miss B. Stockley; Nurse, Miss Wells; Nurse, Miss Walkling; Nurse, Miss J. Stanley, Nurse, Miss Robertson; Nurse, Miss J. Johnson; Nurse, Miss Walkling; Nurse, Miss F. Humble; Black and White, Miss Taylor; Miss M. Stanley; Nurse, Miss Mantell; Nurse, Miss A. Skinner; Lady, Mr. G. Brown; Clown, Mr. F. Palmer; Zulu, Mr. W. Brown; Colonial, Mr. Glover; Colonial, Mr. S. Acton; Dragoon, Mr. Hutson.

The arrangements passed off without a hitch, and reflected credit on the committee and the two prominent workers, Mr. F. J. Fenner, the hon. secretary, and Sergeant-Major Brown.

ARRIVAL OF THE 2ND ROYAL WEST KENTS & THE 2ND MANCHESTERS.

(From the *Eastern Province Herald*, Port Elizabeth, Cape of Good Hope, Tuesday, April 10th, 1900).

With the arrival yesterday morning of the mammoth troopship, the s.s. Bavarian, 2,000 additional troops have been brought to this port. They are the 2nd Royal West Kent Regiment (the Queen's Own) about 1,000 strong and the 2nd Manchesters, also 1,000 strong. The former regiment was serving in Alexandria when orders were received about two months ago to return to England, and after a sojourn there of only ten days they embarked at Southampton on the Bavarian. The Manchester Regiment has served in India, and when called up for South African service they had been stationed at home for twelve months. In the case of each of these two fine regiments, the reserves have been summoned to rejoin, and with few exceptions, the men readily responded to the call. The Bavarian sailed from Southampton on March 16th, and calling at Las Palmas for one hour only, the vessel arrived in Table Bay on Friday last. Orders were

received for the men to disembark at the metropolis, but were afterwards cancelled. Some military details, including about 100 men specially instructed in gunnery, also accompanied the two battalions, but these disembarked at Cape Town. A few military details were also brought on here. Both the Kent and Manchester Regiments have a mounted section about 125 strong, and these have accompanied the infantry. A draft of South Wales Borderers also had the distinction of making the passage to the Cape in the great troopship Bavarian, and we may state for the benefit of those who were led to believe through a statement in the columns of our daily contemporary that some "New South Wales" bushmen had arrived by this vessel, that the South Wales Borderers landed at Cape Town. Thus the s.s. Bavarian brought out on the present voyage considerably over 2,000 troops. Early yesterday morning when the Bavarian was about to pass the port en route to East London, where she had orders to proceed, H.M.S. Barrosa steamed up to acquaint Captain McNicoll that the destination would now be Algoa Bay. The men, who presented a remarkably fine appearance, and came in for plenty of applause, marched through Jetty Street and Main Street to the North End in several contingents. The two regimental bands played two of the contingents to the camp.

The two regiments form part of the 16th Brigade of the 8th Division, and will shortly—perhaps within the next twenty hours—be drafted to the front.

THE RISING IN ASHANTI.

The whereabouts of Captain Marshall being to many uncertain, the following from the *Daily Mail* may interest our readers:—

"Great praise due to Marshall, special service officer, who took command, Inspector Middlemist having been taken ill; and to Inspector Armitage, who took command of the native levies of all ranks, who worked well."—Telegram dated Kumasi, April 30th.

The following extract is taken from the "Cape Times" of 5th April, 1900:—"A meeting of men of Kent took place at the Central Hotel last night for the purpose of arranging a welcome to the 2nd Battalion. Mr. R. H. Heward presided, and amongst those present were: Messrs. F. B. Steer, F. G. Green, H. H. Johnston, G. Kent, W. Obree, Whiting, and Captain Watson. After discussion it was decided to appoint a committee to obtain further information as to the date of the arrival of the detachment, to meet them on arrival, and to provide creature comforts for them while on their way to the front." It was also resolved: "That if possible the Detachment should be entertained at a social evening before their departure from Cape Town." A subscription list was opened, and Mr. Steer appointed treasurer.

2ND BATTALION "DETAILS" NEWS.

At very short notice, on the eve of the departure of our 2nd Battalion for South Africa, the Editor *Q.O.G.* was ordered from the Depot to take command of the "Details" left at Aldershot. Therefore with much regret he has to inform the readers of the *Q.O.G.* that "by reason of the exigencies of the Service" he is unable to bring out the Regimental Paper himself. However, he has no fears as regards its production, in fact he anticipates much more interesting numbers, as the affairs have been left in most capable hands at the Depot.

The "Details" left at Aldershot numbered about 440, principally composed of men under age, or who had not fired a recruits' course of musketry, and men who did not pass medically fit for active service, and some 80 men of Section D Army Reserve.

Colour-Sergt. Lee and Colour-Sergt. Neighbour were sent from the Depot on the following day, so that two companies were able to be formed, each over 200 strong, and things soon got into good working order. A few days later General Montgomery Moore, commanding the Aldershot Division, inspected the troops on the Marlborough Lines, when our "Details" formed up on the right of the Brigade. Our only officers have been Major Daniell, in command, Captain Bailey, kindly lent to us by the Worcester Regiment for a few days, and Captain Pollard, Reserve of Officers.

On 26th March, orders were received for the "Details" to move to Shorncliffe on 2nd April, to be attached to the Provisional Battalion. Captain Pollard's services were required at Aldershot, leaving Major Daniell as the only officer with the "Details." The number proceeding to Shorncliffe was about 320, about 60 being left at Aldershot and elsewhere, in hospital, etc., who will follow later on.

YOUR 2ND BATT. "DETAILS" CORRESPONDENT.

The above notes were, I regret to say, sent you too late for the April number, so I add a few lines for the May number.

The "Details" arrived at Shorncliffe on the evening of April 2nd. On the following morning they were inspected by Lieut.-Colonel Kelly, commanding the Provisional Battalion, and two days later by Major-General Hallam Parr, C.B., C.M.G., commanding at Shorncliffe. On the 18th April 100 recruits arrived from the Depot, which brought up the total strength of the Companies to about 500 all ranks; of this number, however, a good many are on furlough, and some are still at Aldershot in hospital, etc.

A second officer is badly wanted, as the numbers are rather big for only one. Rumour, however, has it that help in this respect is not far off.

The Provisional Battalion is just now very strong; parties are continually coming and going, but the total strength is just about two thousand.

YOUR 2ND BATT. "DETAILS" CORRESPONDENT.
Shorncliffe, 25th April.

3rd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

MALTA, 18/4/1900.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

As I told you in my last, we were to 'Troop the Colour,' on the 28th March, and we did so in fine and somewhat hot weather. As we were probably the first Militia Regiment who have trooped at Malta since the Crimea, there were lots of people looking on.

The following is an extract from Battalion Orders of March 30th, 1900:—

"2. It is notified for information—That His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief, was very much pleased by the excellent manner in which the battalion trooped the colour on the 28th inst. The men throughout stood well under arms and were very steady. The march-past, both in slow and quick time, was excellent. The officers' salute was very well done, and His Excellency particularly noticed how well the band played."

On the 29th, an Entertainment was given to the men, in the Gymnasium at Verdala, which was very much appreciated by them. All the ladies of the Regiment attended, as well as the wives of the N.C.O.'s and men.

Programme—Part I. March, "Austria," Band; Song, "Santa Claus," Pvte. Delaney; Song, "The Irish Parlimint," Major-Gen. O'Callaghan; Song, "She wandered down the mountain side," Mrs. Nugent; Song, "The Skippers of St. Ives," Capt. James; Song, Lieut. Been'an; Song, "Just one girl," Pvte. Lyons (H. Co.); Duet, Capt. James and Major-Gen. O'Callaghan; March, "A Frangesi," Band; Serenade, "Schubert" (Cornet solo, Bandmaster Gee), Band. Part II.—"My Lord in Livery," (a Farce in one act by Theyre Smith). Characters—Lord Thirlmere (H.M.S. Pinafore), Capt. Boscawen; Spriggott (an old family butler), Col. Nugent; Hopkins (a footman), Lieut. Bazley White; Robert (a page), Lieut. Cameron; Miss Amberley (daughter of Sir G. Amberley), Mrs. Boscawen; Laura and Rose (her friends), Miss Savile and Miss Goldschmidt. "God save the Queen." After which the ladies and performers were entertained to supper in the officers' mess.

On Friday, 30th, the right-half Battalion proceeded to Mullar Camp at 9 a.m., for field training; and the left-half paraded at 6.30 a.m., for field day, getting back to barracks at 4.15 p.m., after a march of about 23 miles.

There has been nothing of importance up to now except Easter Holidays. The Musketry Prize Meeting is now going on.

3rd BATT. CORRESPONDENT.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVE SERVICE COMPANY.

We have been favoured with the following letters, which we gladly publish :

S.S. "TAGUS,"

Monday, March 19th, 1900.

Before we left I was reminded that the Company would be pleased to hear as often as possible how we were getting on, and I will endeavour to describe our experiences so far. In doing so I think I cannot do better than start from the time reveille went on Friday, March 16th. On that day we rose at 4.30 a.m., and, after going through the usual preliminaries of a departure, we breakfasted at 6.15, and fell in at 7. At 7.15 we marched off and were subjected to treatment we had become accustomed to, except that it was not quite so violent as the "Battle of New Cross." We entrained at 7.50 and proceeded *via* Guildford to Southampton, which we reached at 12.45.

Of course it is hardly necessary to say that we did not find the right quay at first, but after various hunting operations and wanderings round the dock, which occupied the best part of an hour, we found ourselves opposite the Tagus. We then formed up on the quay, our helmets, valises, and rifles were sent to the store on board, and we were told off in messes and embarked in this order. As soon as we got on board we found our quarters and sat down to a good dinner, by the time we had finished that it was 3 o'clock, and at 3.20 we sailed out of the dock to the hurrahs of hundreds of people on the dock. On our way out we passed the Bavarian with our own regiment on board, and, of course, the usual recognition passed between the troops of both ships. We got well out to sea before it was dark, and entered the Bay about 9 a.m. the next morning. Through this locality I should imagine we had a fairly good passage considering its reputation, and emerged from it at 7 a.m., March 18th. On this day the weather became much rougher, and a cold head-wind sprung up which did not improve the condition of some of the fellows on board, but to-day I believe we passed Gibraltar about 100 miles West, so that the weather is very much warmer and not so rough. Needless to say we have had plenty of sea-sickness. Some of the fellows started on Friday evening and by Saturday I should think two-thirds of the ship were busily engaged. The members of "K" Company have been somewhat fortunate in this respect, Turpin being the only one queer. I have been wondering though if it is not as

bad to see people in the condition these fellows were in. They laid in rows three deep on the promenade deck and in every other corner they could find, looking pictures of the most horrible misery. Our life on board is as follows :—

The troops occupy the main and lower decks, each deck is divided into several cabins, and each cabin contains about eight messes, the messes varying in number from 12 to 20 men. Each mess is numbered, has its own table, and above the table are fixed shelves for the storage of kit bags. To the bottom of these shelves are attached hooks, upon which we sling our hammocks, so that it is pretty close quarters when the eight messes in one cabin have all got their hammocks slung. Fortunately, as soon as we get into a warmer climate, we shall be allowed to sleep on deck. Our daily routine is not quite in working order yet, at least as far as parades are concerned, but the other portion is as follows :— Rise at 5.30 a.m., breakfast 7 a.m., roll call 10 a.m., dinner 12.30 p.m., roll call 3 p.m., supper 4.30 p.m., sling hammocks 5.30 p.m., retire 8.15 p.m., lights out 9 p.m. I daresay people at home think this rather early to go to bed, but we manage to sleep from the time we go to bed until it is time to get up. I suppose it is the sea air, and I think this fact has to account for some very big appetites which have made themselves apparent since we have been on board. I am sure no one can help remarking on the excellent quality of the food. For breakfast we have chops, steaks, stews, and other similiar dishes, for dinner, joints, potatoes, and usually, puddings for supper, jam, marmalade, or butter. Of these we have usually more than enough, and tea and bread there seems to be no limit to. There is indeed no reason for one to get up from the table feeling hungry, for the food is thoroughly good, and far beyond what we would expect on a troopship.

Each cabin has two stewards to look after details, and the cooking is done by cooks supplied by the ship. There is also a dry and wet canteen, the dry one being a miniature Whiteley's, and the prices being on the canteen scale. At the wet canteen we can obtain bottled beer or mineral waters, and Navy-cut tobacco at 1/6 per lb. The ship itself I think will bear a little description. It is owned by the R.M. Steam Packet Co., and is a new boat, this being its third voyage, and the first to the Cape, so that everything is up-to-date, and beautifully clean. Her engines have not come up to what was expected of them, but she is by no means a slow boat, as we covered on Saturday 283 miles, and on Sunday 362, and that with a strong head-wind. We have the complete run of the boat, except the port side of the hurricane deck, which is the Officers' promenade deck. The troops have the corresponding deck on the star-board side, and is freely scattered with deck chairs and garden seats. In fact our comfort in every respect seems to have been studied as

much as possible under difficult conditions, and I am sure we heartily appreciate it.

It is very amusing to notice what trifles cause an enormous sensation when one is at sea. Yesterday we passed the whole day without seeing a thing of any description, but to-day we have had quite a field day. Just after dinner we passed a shoal of Porpoises and it looked as if the ship went dangerously near toppling over, as everyone crowded on the side to see them. While I have been writing this letter we have passed a British sailing vessel within 200 yards, and as soon as she discovered what we were, plenty of signalling took place, and as we passed her we gave her three good cheers. Such incidents as these may not seem very large at home, but one has only to be at sea two or three days even to find them highly interesting.

I hope both you and the members of the "K" Company will be able to make out this scribble, but this boat seems a beggar for rolling, and with extra lurches at intervals, the conditions of writing are not of the best. We expect to call at St. Vincent about 6 p.m. on Wednesday, and are looking forward to it: unfortunately most of our Company will be on guard that day. The members of "K" Company on board send their kind regards, and wish to be remembered to everyone of the Company at home, and with ditto from myself.

P.S.—One of us will write between St. Vincent and the Cape.

Friday, March 30th.

My last letter to you finished with our approach to St. Vincent, so that I will start this one from that point. Firstly, I will describe the island, which, although being a big one, seems to be inhabited only round the harbour. The harbour is a natural one, being about a mile wide at the entrance, and in shape forming a semi-circle. At the innermost point is situated the town, composed of a few imposing looking buildings and several smaller ones. There is no dock, all business with ships being conducted by lighterage. The island itself is perfectly barren, not a vestige of anything being grown on it, and as it consists of high, rugged, ranges of mountains, it looks as one approaches it one of the most weird places imaginable. Perhaps it will seem strange to some of you that nothing can be grown on this island, but it is accounted for by the fact that it is surrounded by several other islands, on which are mountains sufficiently high to break up any rain clouds which approach this locality, no rain consequently falling on St. Vincent, or at least very seldom. This is the explanation I had given me, and as they have had no rain for five years it is probably correct. They depend entirely for their fresh water on two springs which are apparently not very abundant, as we took on 100 tons of water, which they informed us would make them short. Parallel with the

entrance to the harbour, and about a mile off, is one of these islands I have just mentioned, which plays a very important part on St. Vincent. Rain here falls sufficiently for it to provide all the fruit and other products which St. Vincent sells. It may seem to you that if this island were out of the way St. Vincent would get the rain necessary to provide itself with all it required. So it probably would, but if it is a detriment in this respect it is a blessing in another. Without it St. Vincent as a harbour would be of little use, for it faces due west and would consequently be exposed to all the rough weather from the Atlantic, but this island acts as a magnificent break water. We arrived at St. Vincent at 7 a.m., 23rd March, in order to take on board 500 tons of coal and various provisions.

As soon as we appeared in sight, boats came out to us filled with black boys. Their object was to dive for money which we were to throw to them, and as their antics were very amusing they got a considerable amount thrown to them. The water here is particularly clear, one being able to see down several feet, so that we were enabled to see their performances very well. Shortly afterwards boats containing fruit and other sundries paid us a visit. At first they got London prices for their goods, but later on they let them go for next to nothing. I bought a magnificent bunch of bananas for 1s. 9d., containing 78, and the rest of their things went equally as cheap. The way they sold tobacco was very amusing. It is the real leaf rolled into a stick about half-an-inch in diameter, and this they sold at 6d. per *yard*. It is somewhat different to what one can get in England, but is not bad stuff. This sort of business lasted all day, during which there were plenty of amusing incidents. The natives here object very much to have things thrown at them, and as soon as this was discovered their boats became the receptacles of all the rubbish the fellows could find. They retaliated by sneaking coal from the coal barge and throwing it at us, but they didn't do very much damage, as the more indignant they got the bigger were the lumps of coal they threw. There were several ships in the harbour while we were there, amongst them H.M.S. "Cambria," who paid us several visits during the day. We left again at eight o'clock at night, the ships letting off rockets and coloured lights. From that time nothing important occurred until Tuesday, 27th March, the day on which we crossed the line. As there were so many on board to go through the usual ceremony I need not assure you the crew made the most of their opportunity. It was announced on the ship's notice board as follows:—

"The ship will cross the line about 3.15 p.m. Father Neptune will board the vessel, accompanied by his court, and attended by the band of the Royal West Kent Regiment. All those of the ship's company who have not yet been presented at Court will be good enough to be present

in as airy a costume as possible. Any man who has not had a wash or a bath while on the ship is to be brought forward by a guard to be particularly honoured.

“BY ORDER OF THE KING.”

NOTICE.

—o—

FREE SHAVING

BY THE COURT BARBER,

With FREE DRINKS on the FORE WELL DECK at 3.30 p.m.

It was known that about a dozen fellows were going to present themselves to go through the ordeal, consequently hundreds crowded round to see the fun. A sail bath was rigged up and filled with several hoses. A stool was placed against one of the sides, and on this the victim sits with his back to the water. He is first shaved, being lathered with a mixture of flour, size, and water, this being put on with a white-wash brush. He is then scraped with a wooden razor about 18 inches long, and when this is partially finished the stool is suddenly upset and he is sent backwards into several feet of water, the hoses playing on him as he endeavours to get out. This performance was now and again varied by the hoses being turned on those who were looking on. There were so many of us crowded into a small space that it was impossible to get away, with the result that we had to stand still and let the water drench us. I can assure you that those who looked on got quite as wet as those that went into the bath. We have had two concerts up to date, one being given by the Yeomanry and the other by the Volunteers. Tomorrow night we are to have a combined concert which I suppose will be the last. It has just occurred to me that you will be wondering what that reference to the Royal West Kent Band would mean in the notice I have just quoted. This band is composed of fellows in our company and consists of a few tin whistles and flutes, a tub for the big drum and tin dishes for the little drums. It would be rather hard for me to describe the class of music we get from this combination. The members of the company are in the best of health, and since I last wrote have all found duties of some description. Bance and Penfield have been appointed ship's pioneers, Fenn and Turpin are mess orderlies, and I have had my turn at swabbing the decks and a 24 hour guard. We have had splendid weather since I last wrote, it being particularly hot, but we have got used to that now. There has only been one incident which has marred a most enjoyable trip, and that is a very sad one, which I daresay you know of by now. We have had the bad luck to lose one of the fellows in our Company, he dying at 2 a.m. yesterday, 29th March. His name was Helmer, and belonged to M Company. He was very queer while we were at Maidstone,

being unable to attend any parades, and went into the hospital as soon as we got on board. He died from acute tuberculosis of the lung and was buried at 9.30 a.m. the same day, a dozen of the 2nd West Kent furnishing the firing party.

During the past week the whole of the ship have been inoculated. It is not a very painful process, but it affects people in very different ways; some it makes little difference to, and others are quite ill with it for about a day. It makes you feel very stiff also, but after about three days you are alright again.

I suppose by the time you receive this you will have paid the Easter visit to Gravesend. We hope you will have as enjoyable a time as we had two years ago.

I don't know if we are likely to see a copy of the “Battalion's Monthly Orders” out here, but we should be very pleased to see one now and again.

I believe we are due at Cape Town early on Wednesday next, and so will probably arrive before our regiment. All the news up to date I think I have now given you, and so will close with our kind regards to the Company.

T.C.

A “Scran bag” sale, in aid of the A.M.B. Fund, was held on board the transport Tagus, on April 3, which realised the grand total of £50 18s. The sale was got up by the Royal Engineers' electrical companies, the Volunteer Service Companies of the Kings' Royal Rifle Corps, Royal West Kent, Berkshires, Lancasters, and Lancashire Fusiliers, and the Bucks Yeomanry and Paget's Horse. Some of the articles sold for prices entirely disproportionate to their value, a packet of 25 cigarettes fetching £7 15s.

We beg to acknowledge with many thanks receipt of subscriptions as follows:

To 31st December, 1900:—Mr. R. Clayton-Browne, Mr. W. Locks, Colonel C. R. King, Captain W. V. Hopegood, Admiral Buckle, General E. Leach, Captain Holcroft, Colonel E. T. Luck, Major J. W. Jones, Colonel C. R. Crosse, Mr. J. Malone, Captain M. C. Matthews, Mr. W. G. Morris, Mr. R. Mercer, Colonel H. Cummings, Mr. W. Newberry, Mr. G. Stevens, Mr. A. Martin, Mr. J. Muddle, Mrs. Coulter, Major S. D. Grinsell, Brigade-Surgeon Owen-Owen, Captain S. H. Pedley, Mr. W. Geddes, Mr. R. Morphew, Mr. J. Tiley, Mr. J. Kelly, Mr. C. Donnelly, Mr. D. Harmson, Mr. J. Redmond, Mr. G. Rutledge, Mr. G. S. Strode, Mrs. Lowe.

To 31st December, 1901:—Mr. Willis, Captain F. B. Fanshawe.

To 31st December, 1903:—Lieut.-Colonel H. Cummings.

To 31st December, 1911:—Mr. W. J. Goss.

EXTRACTS FROM 'THE LONDON GAZETTE.'

Major Cholmeley E. C. B. Harrison to be Lieut.-Colonel, vice C. W. H. Evans, D.S.O., retired. Dated 21st March, 1900.

Lieut. Harry S. Bush to be Adjutant, vice Captain C. G. Pack-Beresford, who has resigned that appointment. Dated 8th March, 1900.

Capt. W. H. B. Long, to be aide-de-camp to the Right Honourable G. H. Earl Cadogan, K.G., Lieut.-General and Governor-General of Ireland. Dated 3rd April, 1900.

2nd-Lieutenant Edward Hubert Norman, from 3rd Batt., in succession to Lieut. W. H. B. Long, seconded.

2nd-Lieut. Hew Dacres Belgrave, from 3rd Battalion, to be 2nd-Lieut. in succession to Lieut. V. E. Muspratt, transferred to the Indian Staff Corps. Dated 21st April, 1900.

John Herbert Crangle Fegan, Gent., to be Second-Lieutenant. Dated 18th April, 1900.

The promotions to the rank of Lieut. of the undermentioned 2nd-Lieuts. are ante-dated as follows:—L. H. Hickson, to 7th October, 1899, vice V. E. Muspratt, transferred to the Indian Staff Corps. W. H. Annesley, to 22nd October, 1899, vice R. J. T. Hildyard, seconded.

2nd-Lieut. E. D. Luard to be Lieut., vice W. H. B. Long seconded. Dated 18th December, 1899.

Lieut. Charles G. Pack-Beresford to be Capt., vice W. H. B. Long, seconded for service in South Africa. Dated 18th December, 1899.

The under-mentioned officers to be 2nd-Lieutenants:—The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), 2nd-Lieutenant Eric Coote Norman, from 3rd Battalion Royal West Kent, on augmentation. Dated 4th April, 1900.

The undermentioned officers are borne as supernumerary whilst serving with the Volunteer Sections in South Africa:

1st Volunteer Battalion (The Queen's Own) Royal West Kent Regiment—Capt. C. Watney. Dated 28th March, 1900.

2nd Volunteer Battalion The Royal West Kent Regiment—Capt. G. Morphew. Dated 28th March, 1900. Lieut. W. G. Morris. Dated 28th March, 1900.

1st Volunteer Battalion The Royal West Kent Regiment—Barton Crosbie-Hill, gentleman, to be 2nd-Lieut. Dated 28th March, 1900.

2nd Volunteer Battalion, The Royal West Kent Regiment—Surg.-Capt. H. W. Roberts to be Surg.-Maj. Dated 28th March, 1900.

1st Volunteer Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment—The undermentioned 2nd-Lieuts. to be Lieuts.:—L. Phillips, A. E. Phillips. Dated 14th March, 1900.

Capt. G. Morphew, 2nd Volunteer Battalion, is granted the temporary rank of Capt. in the Army, whilst serving

with the Volunteer Co. in South Africa. Dated 3rd March, 1900.

The undermentioned Officers are granted the temporary rank of Lieut. in the Army, whilst serving with the Volunteer Co. in South Africa:—Capt. C. N. Watney, 1st Volunteer Battalion; Lieut. W. G. Morris, 2nd Volunteer Battalion. Dated 3rd March, 1900.

EASTER WITH THE VOLUNTEERS.

THE 2ND WEST KENT V. B. (QUEEN'S OWN)
AT GRAVESEND.

Nearly five hundred men of the 2nd West Kent Volunteers spent their Easter at Gravesend on the occasion of the annual musketry practice and drill. Special trains left New Cross on Thursday evening, and the men reached their destination about eight o'clock. The right half of the battalion was quartered in the Wrotham Road Board School, and the left half in the Board School in Milton Road. There was no unnecessary luxury, each Volunteer being allowed three blankets, with which he made as comfortable a bed as the boards of the school floor allowed. In spite of the simplicity of the accommodation, and the amount of hard work that was crammed into the three days, the battalion spent an enjoyable and certainly a profitable time. This was in a great degree due to the splendid arrangements for "messing." Captain and Quartermaster Matthews was in charge of the commissariat, assisted by Colour-sergeant E. Sayer. At Wrotham Road School the catering was under the direction of Sergeant Primett and Quartermaster-sergeant Palmer, Sergeant E. Congdon being in charge of the mess for the sergeants, who were quartered at the Bat and Ball. At Milton Road, Quartermaster-sergeant Palmer looked after the sergeants, and Sergeant Green with a staff of assistants catered for the men, all of whom spoke highly of the way everything was carried out.

On Friday morning, after a church parade, a portion of the battalion went to the Milton ranges for musketry, and the remainder were drilled. Owing to the terribly high wind which was blowing, the shooting was not at all good. Saturday was spent on the ranges by the whole battalion, and as the wind had slackened there was a great improvement in the musketry. On Sunday there was a second church parade, the battalion being accompanied by a strong contingent of the 1st (V.B.) West Kent Artillery, headed by the Artillery Band. After church the combined strength marched to Milton Barracks, where the men were inspected first by Colonel Brock, commanding the 50th Regimental District, and afterwards by General Fraser, commanding the Thames District, both of whom congratulated Colonel Satterthwaite on his command, and the men on their soldierly bearing.

As instancing the great increase in the strength since the war, it may be mentioned that from 80 to 100 recruits were present in their private clothes, the department having been unable to get uniforms made for them, owing to the great pressure of work. The new company which has been formed at Beckenham mustered 60 strong, under Lieutenant Moore. The company has already reached its full strength, and is refusing recruits every week. After a useful three days' work, rendered as much like actual campaigning as was possible under the circumstances, the battalion returned on Monday

The following has been sent by one of the oldest supporters of *The Queen's Own Gazette* :

PADDY OF KILDARE.

*Composed and sung by Private John Waite, Grenadier Co.
50th Regt. on voyage to Ceylon, 1857.*

1. I'm Paddy McClosky, just come for a trip,
I'd rather have walked it than come in a ship ;
The captain he shouted to haul in the slack,
I tried to stand still, but fell on my back.
Shure, the ship rolled and tumbled and bothered me so
I went to the stairs the cabin to go,
But didn't go down, for bedad, d'ye mind
The ship might have started and left me behind.

Chorus (*con animato*)—

I like a drop of whisky,
And I like to take it neat ;
It makes me feel so frisky,
And just now would be a treat.
To grow the 'tatars,' kape a pig,
And go to Wake and Fair,
Shure, there's none can sing or dance a jig
Like Paddy of Kildare.

2. Now Terry, my son, has enlisted, I find :
He'll lead on the troops, when he marches behind.
He'll be captain, or private, I can't tell you which,
When told to *fall in*, he fell into a ditch !
When told by the major to face right-about,
He never would *quarrel*, but always *fell out* !
When pointing his gun at the enemy's head,
His gun missing fire, he went off instead.

Chorus.

3. So pass round the can, your health I will drink ;
There's no place like Ireland, yet, somehow, I think
That England's not quite so bad, d'ye see
It's always been good to poor Paddy, that's me.
One country, I'm speaking the words that are true,
Is as good as the other—and a deal better too.

Chorus.

The *Globe* gives the following review of Lieut. Colonel Alderson's book, entitled, "Pink and Scarlet," a reference to which we made in our March number :—"A small experience of both hunting and of war having shown me how they dovetail one into the other, and having seen also that the hunting man is already a more than half-made soldier, I have endeavoured," says the author of this work, "to put my thoughts on the subject into words, in the hope that they may be of some use to those who have no experience at all." It was a happy idea, this of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. H. Alderson's—the idea of discussing "hunting as a school for soldiering." Nor could he have chosen a more opportune moment for discussing it. There must be many of our Volunteers in South Africa who have already discovered how excellent a preparation for soldiering their hunting experiences have been. The writer of "Pink and Scarlet" works out his excellent notion very thoroughly as well as capably. Regarding the hunting field metaphorically as a field of war, he goes through the whole process of considering "clothing," "equipment of necessaries," "interior economy and supply," "transport," "intelligence," "getting into position for attack," "the battle," "the care of the wounded," and so forth. He writes with abundant information at his fingers' ends, and very brightly and pleasantly withal—in a manner which should make his book easy reading, not only for the young hunting man or the young soldier, but for the general reader who knows nothing either of soldiering or of hunting. A number of pictorial illustrations help the text considerably, and Mr. Heinemann, we should add, is the publisher.

DEATHS.

- At Netley, on 13th April, 1900, No. 3937 Pte. W. Wakelin.
At Alexandria, Egypt, on 16th April, 1900, No. 4672 Pte. G. Morris.
At Alexandria, Egypt, on 16th April, 1900, No. 5780 Pte. E. Parsons.
At Maidstone, on 14th April, 1900, No. 5828 Pte. D. Daley.
At Netley, on 21st March, 1900, No. 4535 Lce.-Copt E. Perry.
At the Barracks, Maidstone, on 28th April, 1900, Edith, the second daughter of Ex-Cr.-Sergeant Murphy, canteen steward, aged 19, after three months' illness.

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Other Subscribers, 3s. per year, including postage.

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

[No. 301.]

MAIDSTONE, JUNE 1st, 1900.

[Vol. XVIII, No. 6.]

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Extracts from *The London Gazette*.

The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment—Second-Lieut. H. D. Buchanan-Dunlop to be Lieutenant, vice H. S. Bush, appointed Adjutant, dated 8th March, 1900.

The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment—Lieut. Robert Lynch White, from the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, to be Second-Lieutenant, in succession to Lieut. H. S. Bush, appointed Adjutant, dated 5th May, 1900.

Second-Lieut. A. Blair, 3rd Battalion, resigns his commission, dated 9th May, 1900.

1st Volunteer Battalion—The undermentioned gentlemen to be Captains on increase of establishment: Leonard Wodehouse Andrews, dated 16th May, 1900; Charles Octavius Faucus, dated 16th May, 1900.

1st Volunteer Battalion—The undermentioned gentlemen to be Second-Lieutenants:—Alfred Tennyson Smith, dated 9th May, 1900; Frederick Stewart Francis, dated 9th May, 1900.

2nd Volunteer Battalion—Lieutenant A. Moore to be Captain, dated 9th May, 1900.

Captain C. S. Marchant, 2nd Volunteer Battalion, is granted the temporary rank of Lieutenant in the Army whilst serving with the Volunteer Company in South Africa, dated 26th May, 1900.

4th Volunteer Battalion—Charles James, Esq., formerly Lieutenant 1st Bucks Volunteer Rifle Corps, to be Lieutenant-Colonel, and to command under paragraph 55a, Volunteer Regulations, dated 27th April, 1900.

2ND BATTALION.

Promoted Sergeants—Lance-Sergts. W. Warren, W. Wood, H. Thomas, T. Emmerson, W. Parker, J. Sharp.

Appointed Lance-Sergt.—Corporal W. McGowan.

DEPOT.

The following Corporals are promoted Sergeants:—

No. 1156 H. Lismore, 1352 H. Butler, 4568 G. Ingram, 2126 A. Kemp, 2848 J. Merrick, 1740 W. Taylor, dated 17th March, 1900; and 2841 J. Brierly, 12 April, 1900.

The following Lance-Corporals are promoted Corporals:—

No. 3645 J. Cooke, 2572 T. Tidy, 4421 E. O'Reilly, 2798

W. Wheatley, 4930 D. Davidson, 3614 G. West, 3734 H. Spearing, 1091 J. Denton, dated 17th March, 1900; 1343 J. Walmesley, 12th April, 1900.

The following Privates have been appointed Lance-Corporals:—

No. 3675 R. Pilbeam, 3785 F. Malt, 5308 E. Mitchie, 5874 P. A. Richardson, 26th April, 1900; 4444 E. Parker, 1st May, 1900; 3771 A. Duff, 15th May, 1900.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. Editor.

It is now some time since you received some first impressions of Aden, but I cannot say that the place improves on better acquaintance. We are just now at the commencement of the hot weather, and if the present state of the Hospital is anything at all to go by, we shall be in a nice position in a few weeks time. Both here and at Steamer point the Hospitals are overcrowded, and people half recovered are dismissed and excused duty in order to make room for those more seriously ill. The women and children are in a particularly unfortunate condition, whole families in some cases being down. The plague has reached here at last, and is very virulent, and indeed, I am told that quite half of the native population have left the station. Punkahs are now urgently required in some portions of the barracks, but though they have now been up some weeks they cannot be used as there are no coolies to pull them. Isthmus position, which played "Old Harry" with the companies sent to occupy it, is now closed on account of its unhealthy state, but the effects still remain. It seems that our detachment stations are destined to be fatal to us, for there is hardly any doubt that Delhi and Barrackpore caused a terrible amount of sickness, and certainly Isthmus was as bad as either of them.

Under the circumstances we are all more or less humpy, and to make matters worse, we in Crater at least, have very little opportunity of throwing this feeling off. Sport with the exception of about an hours football in the evening, is quite out of the question, cricket is impossible, and fishing appeals to only a very small minority. The Sergeants a few weeks ago had an open air dance on the tennis court, which proved a great success, and it is to be hoped that these may take place

periodically ; they at any rate furnish something of a change, and bring us into contact with a few fresh faces. A billiard handicap is also in progress—but I would respectfully suggest to the promoters that foot straps should not be worn in future by the players, as, according to one of them, they were instrumental in causing a severe headache, and no doubt caused him to lose his tie. He may in time, however, get used to them.

The return shooting match with the Sergeants R.M. at Steamer Point has also taken place, and resulted in a very easy win for our people. The match was followed by a very enjoyable smoker in the theatre, Q.M.S. Cover being in the chair.

In connection with the plague I forgot to mention that we were unfortunate enough to lose one man at Steamer Point through this dreadful disease ; but another who thought that he was developing the symptoms was saved by the promptitude of the acting S.M., Mr. Exshaw, and a good constitution. All the same though it is impossible to be too careful over this matter, for the plague takes one off in a very few hours.

The annual drill competition for Gen. Sandford's shield has taken place, and "A" company drilled by Col.-Sergt. Drew is to be heartily congratulated on winning it for the second year in succession.

We look forward anxiously for news of the 2nd Battalion at the Cape, and hope that they may have a good time amongst the Boers. Aden does not extend very far, but the hills surrounding it offer every facility for hill fighting, and amid much weariness and vexation of spirit, wind, and legs, and with the loss, to many, of superfluous pounds of flesh, every opportunity has been taken of practising this method of warfare, and, indeed, we have a little Spion Kop of our own. The Battalion is now under the impression generally that very few of the hills of South Africa would be impassable to us. Our only regret now is that we are not in a position to display our prowess in the face of the enemy. Better luck next time, we will hope.

News here is very scarce, and, as you will see from the desultory character of this effusion, very difficult to collect, but perhaps these few notes will serve to remind you, Mr. Editor that there is still a 1st Battalion of the Royal West Kent Regiment in existence.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

We beg to acknowledge with many thanks receipt of subscriptions as follows:—To 31st December, 1900—Officers' Mess 3rd Volunteer Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, and Colour-Sergt. W. H. Noller.

1ST BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

No. 3992, Private J. Brooker, has been transferred to the 2nd Battalion Border Regiment.

Lance-Corporal R. Rose has been awarded a 2nd Class Certificate of Education.

Privates W. Gillispie and E. Gillispie have passed group I of the examination for 1st Certificates of Education.

Good Conduct Pay as under has been granted:—

Granted 2d. : Lance-Corporal E. Wakeman, Privates J. Lerpiniere, F. Robinson, C. Beck.

Granted 1d. : Privates F. Pearce, S. Runham, W. Boreham. Private A. Wyatt has been appointed Lance-Corporal.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

April 24th, about 10.30.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

And I find myself at leisure for the moment, and with a pencil and note book available. The Battalion is lying down on the veldt in rear of the 2nd Manchester Regiment, a short distance from the camp where the headquarters of the 8th Division have been for the last 2 or 3 days. The vast majority of the Battalion is asleep, having been allowed to take off their accoutrements, but ready to put them on again at a moment's notice. It is said that the 11th Division, General Pole-Carew, is at hand, and also General French with his mounted troops ; and that we attack the Boers to-day, provided the forces with which we co-operate are ready, by 12 noon, otherwise the attack is to take place to-morrow. Such is the situation at the moment. General Rundle having his own Division, the 8th, here, and also what has been called 3rd Division, now commanded by General Chermiside. This latter appears never to have been more than a Division on paper, with it is the 22nd Brigade commanded by General Allen, well-known to so many of us when he was on the staff at Chatham, and in more recent years at the Curragh.

It may interest some of your readers if I briefly record what has happened since I posted my last notes from Cape Town.

When we arrived at that place on Friday, April 6th, we were ordered to go on to East London. We started for that port on the afternoon of the 7th. But on Monday early we were met by a man-of-war with orders to disembark at Port Elizabeth. This we did on April 9th, and stopping there Thursday, 12th, every effort was made to complete us for service in the field. Transport always has been one of the most difficult problems to solve in connection with war in South Africa. So far we have got no animals for our Mounted Infantry Company, and our transport "is undermined," and the want of mules affects us in other details, such

as water carts, machine guns, s.a.a. carts. Leaving Port Elizabeth in two trains we advanced north. Our destination was at first Burghersdorp, but the trains in which we started landed us at Edenburg on Saturday evening, 14th April. On our journey we stopped at Sand Flats, Cradock, Rosmead Junction, Naauwport, Springfontein, for meals and at Rosemead Junction we learnt that our destination was Edinburgh. At Naauwport we met Lieut. James, employed there on railway duties. He had been seedy and was naturally not elated at being left when his Battalion was advancing. From Edenburg we started on the afternoon of Easter Sunday, 15th, and then we said good bye to tents. Each man carries a blanket in a waterproof khaki coloured bag provided regimentally to carry the great coat. But the great coat is heavier than the blanket, and of course the object is that men should carry as little as possible besides food and ammunition. The great coat tied up in the waterproof sheet is carried in a waggon. A sweater or second flannel shirt and one pair of socks is carried by the man. In the haversack, woollen cap, towel, soap, dubbin, knife and fork, and rations, complete the soldiers marching and bivouacking kit. The first three days after leaving Edenburg the weather was very bad, heavy and constant rain. Since then we have had fine weather, somewhat hot by day, somewhat cold by night. The cold at night is likely to increase shortly. But if we can only completely defeat the Boers, whom we are about to engage, we shall make a great stride forward in the pacification of at all events the Free State. Two marches from Reddersberg brought us under the Boer firing on April 20th.

From then till to-day we have made no forward movement, but firing, chiefly artillery, has been going on in a more or less desultory manner. The pom pom is now a very familiar sound. I hope it may in our case maintain its reputation that its bark is worse than its bite.

4 p.m. We are as we were some hours ago. We presume the real fight is postponed till to-morrow. Rumour has it that Lord Roberts is joining us, and the impending operations will be under his supervision. We hope that this may be so. Here one knows little or nothing. Yesterday we heard that it is a fact that Mafeking has been relieved. Rumours of good news from General Buller were prevalent yesterday, but unfortunately we have not had them confirmed. In the papers before we came out here one constantly read of how our troops were tied to railways. Since April 15th we have been quite cut adrift from that class of communication, and do not anticipate being near a railway line for some time to come. One result naturally is "no post." We have not had a letter or paper from England yet, and know nothing of what is going on in the world.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

On Wednesday, 24th May by permission of Colonel T. H. Brock Commanding 50th Regimental District a smoking concert was held in the Gymnasium at the Barracks, which though decided on sometime beforehand came off most opportune when the Town was celebrating the Relief of Mafeking. Announced to commence at 8.30, with more than military promptness the band under Bandmaster Ingham opened the proceedings with an overture at 8.15, which enabled the first performer, Corpl. Hibbert, to appear at 8.30 in the song "That'll Doodle Doodle Do," this was followed with "O, the Soldiers of the Queen," by Pte. Russell. Miss A. Bradford most charmingly rendered a violin solo, "Il Trovatoe"; Bandmaster Ingham next sang "The Absent-minded Beggar," and was well received; Miss Wendon, sang "The Carnival," with effect; followed by Captain Pembroke with a recitation on "The Soldier's Story," which, dramatically delivered, caused immense amusement. The members of the band then sang a glee most harmoniously. Pte. Bonham was in the best of moods in his song, "Just one Girl;" and the efforts of Misses Semmence, Pierce, and Mann, were applauded for their song and dance, "Three little Maids from School;" Corpl. Stack next gave a display with the Indian Clubs, ably assisted by Col.-Sergt. Parry, who also gave an exhibition of weight lifting. Staff-Sergt. Fryer sang "Man, know Thyself," in good style; and Pte. Adams with "Too Hard," brought down the house, this concluded Part I. Without pausing the band played a short overture, the first item of Part II, Miss Warren sang "The Worst Girl;" Corpl. Hibbert next singing "Flight of Ages;" Pte. Adams followed with "Staring Me in the Face;" and Pte. Russell, "If it wasn't for the Houses in between." Captain Latter delighted the audience with a fine rendering of "Rochester Bells;" and Miss Wendon sang very prettily, "Just a Little Sunshine;" then came Pte. Brent with a song "All along the Rails;" a piano duet by the Misses Pierce and Hearnden was given with great gusto, and sent the piano going for all it was worth; Staff-Sergt. Fryer with "My old Stable Jacket," was deservedly encored; Pte. Bonham in a plantation song, "Santa Claus is coming in the Morning," showed talent; and a song "Here's a health unto His Majesty," by Captain Latter, was well received; Captain Umfreville sang "Come Landlord fill the flowing Bowl;" and then after a selection by the band the Misses Bradford and Warren and Capt. Latter sang "God Save the Queen," thus ending a programme lengthy but varied and entertaining.

To Sergt.-Major Sumner the greatest praise is due for its organisation, and he was backed up by ever ready assistants, so that everything was carried out without a hitch.

It is hoped that this concert is a forerunner of many to come, and that the latent talent may be revived, some of the old scenery has been unearthed, and there is reason to hope that the scope of entertainments will be enlarged.

The following officers have been doing duty at the Depot in place of the officers called away on active service, and for duty elsewhere.

Major A. T. Simpson, 1st Volunteer Battalion, Captains B. H. Latter and A. E. Pembroke, 2nd Volunteer Battalion, Captain H. Beeching, Reserve of Officers, Captain and Quarter-master R. J. Roche, Reserve of Officers.

Captain Soames, 2nd Volunteer Battalion, has joined for duty in place of Captain Latter, who was unable to stay after 30th ulto.

Capt. Hitchens, 2nd Volunteer Battalion, and Lieut. Riddle 3rd Volunteer Battalion, have joined the provisional Battalion at Shorncliffe for duty.

Private Barton, Somerset Light Infantry, has been transferred to the Royal West Kent Regiment, and has joined the Depot.

Captain Franks and Lieutenant Cohen have been attached to the Depot for a course of instruction.

Lieutenant A. P. Stone has joined the Depot for duty pending embarkation to join his Battalion at Malta.

Color-Sergeant T. Cornell, 3rd Battalion, has been discharged to pension.

The War office having sanctioned the employment of non-commissioned officers of the Royal Reserve Regiment as clerks to replace orderly room clerks in regimental district offices during the embodiment of the Militia. Sergeant A. Smart, Hampshire Regiment, has been selected for the 50th Regimental District office.

Pte. W. Gamblin has been discharged Medically unfit for further service.

Lance Corpl. Guest granted 2d. good conduct pay.

Lance Corpl. H. Spearing restored 1d. good conduct pay.

Pte. W. Brinkley restored 2d. good conduct pay.

Pte. G. Carnes granted 2d. good conduct pay.

Sergeant G. Taylor has been transferred to the 3rd. Middlesex Regiment, with a view of further promotion.

There has been no want of recreation at the Depot lately. The appearance of sundry white lines on the barrack square for the game of hockey suggested nasty knocks, but we have no casualties to report at present. Several games have been played thereon between the companies and various ranks, but we have not been furnished with details. Perhaps our would-be correspondents think that as the games are played under our very nose that there is no need to send. We would remind them that we have been quite unable to follow the game, though we have been somewhat perturbed by the noise the players create.

Perhaps we shall have a lawn tennis correspondent on the staff—who knows?

The cricket team has been fairly successful. The scores have not been exceptional. Corporal O'Reilly is the most consistent bat in the team, and for bowlers Corporal Stack and Private W. Ayres prove the most deadly. The fielding, too, shows an improvement.

3rd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

Malta, 18th May.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—

Your usual correspondent has gone on the small slice of leave granted to Militia officers here. They allow us six weeks; we do not grumble much as no Regulars get any leave at all. However, as he has gone I will try to do his work for him and recount our doings. I may mention that we have not yet received the *Q.O.G.* for May, so I do not quite know how much he has told you, but I believe he has carried on to April 18th. The right half Battalion had then just completed the field training course, Malta style, *i.e.* ten working days. We are supposed to be so competent that ten days are ample, and, be it noted, we really did get through a lot of useful instruction in the time. The left half followed suit on April 25th, but their time was much broken into by the manœuvres which took place on May 1st, 2nd and 3rd. This is no country for manœuvres; it amounts to a glorified route march, and the rank and file had not much chance of learning anything, nor regimental officers either for the matter of that. Four companies came round from Valletta to Mellietia in H.M.S. Dido, and enjoyed the trip amazingly, especially landing in the boats. They returned thence in the Venus, to the disgust of the Captain of the Dido. The field training companies finished on May 12th, and returned to headquarters by march route. All marching is now done in shirt sleeves, with the serge carried on the back rolled like a cape, and you would be surprised to see how smart it looks. It is a great pull in a way, but the heavy trousers are a drawback still. We have had no real hot weather yet, but it is often hot for an hour or two in the middle of the day. The roads are often hollow and narrow, and there is not much air. Nevertheless, on the whole, our marching will bear comparison with that of any regiment here. The annual big rifle meeting took place during the week ending April 21st (particulars on a separate sheet). Captain Neve shot consistently well, but hardly up to his best form, for which we are sorry.

We reached the semi-final in the Governor's Football Cup, and were really about second best in the island. The winners, 2nd North Lancashire, had recently received a draft of

reservists, and were distinctly better than any team here. They beat us 2-0. The debut of the 3rd Royal West Kent in football cups may therefore be pronounced a success. If we should ever enter for another may we win one, but let us hope, not in Malta, turf is preferable to gravel as a ground. Two of the old 2nd Battalion team played, Captain Burbury and Sergt. McGregor.

Cricket is not much of a game here. It is very spasmodic, and is ruined by the defective grounds. Fielding is impossible, in its best sense. The wickets, of course, are, or can be made perfect, and runs should be many. Captain Edwards made 112 v. H.M.S. Ramilies on 17th, in spite of which great effort we lost, the remainder of the team making 40 among them. The Fleet leave for their summer cruise next week, so we shall be reduced to military opponents. Another batch of three proceed on leave at the end of June, so we don't expect even to have a strong cricket team. Moreover, three of our mainstays of last training, the two Normans and Manwaring White, have been mean enough to take commissions in the Line. However, may all good luck be with them. I have now, I think, told you all there is to tell, and taken up more of your space than you will care about.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

SCORES MADE BY 3RD ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT AT MALTA RIFLE MEETING, APRIL 16TH TO 21ST.

Pembroke Challenge Cup, competed for by teams of eight from each regiment or ship. Seven shots at 200, 500, and 600 yards. H.M.S. Hibernia (winners) 645.

3rd Royal West Kent Regiment (16th) scores :—

Captain Neve	29	25	29	—	83
Colour-Sergt. Wise ...	25	16	21	—	62
Sergt. Neighbour	11	22	21	—	61
Sergt. Coe	18	23	18	—	59
Colour-Sergt. Bass.....	27	19	13	—	59
Colour-Sergt. Evenden	28	18	10	—	56
Sergt. Andrews	17	22	16	—	55
Sergt. Dugay	22	23	7	—	52

487

18 teams.

Junior Army and Navy Stores Cup, competed for by four officers of Regiment or Ships, seven shots, 200, 500 and 600 yards. 2nd Derbyshires (winners) 309.

3rd Royal West Kent (8th) scores :—

Captain Neve	30	25	28	—	83
Captain Pine	28	12	25	—	65
Lieut. Wakefield.....	12	19	25	—	56
Captain Burbury.....	22	10	8	—	40

244

12 teams.

Simmonds Cup, competed for by eight non-commissioned officers each regiment :—Royal Engineers, 430; 2nd Loyal North Lancashire, 413; 2nd Derby, 398; 3rd Royal West Kent, 377; 3rd Royal Warwick, 373; 3rd Lancashire Fusiliers, 366.

Running Man - Captain Neve (winner), H.P.S.

Revolver Sweepstakes—Captain Neve (winner).

PRIZE WINNERS AT MALTA RIFLE MEETING, APRIL 16TH TO 21ST, 1900.

	Scores.	£	s.	d.
Col.-Sergt. H. J. Bass—Sergeants and Petty Officers, 200 yards, standing.....	29	0	5	0
Ditto 500 yards, kneeling	30	1	0	0
One Central Bull at Pool, 200 yards, standing		0	7	9
Col.-Sergt. J. Evenden—Consolation, 500 yards, lying down	29	0	2	6
Col.-Sergt. F. Wise—All Comers, 500 yards, kneeling	27	0	5	0
Sergt.-Major Cook W. Dugay—Consolation, 500 yards, lying down.....	29	0	2	6
Sergt. Wells (British Militia)—200 and 500 yards, kneeling and lying	47	0	10	0
Pte. Garlick—Ditto.....	45	0	7	6
Pte. Leverett—Ditto	45	0	7	6
Pte. Foster—Ditto	43	0	5	0
Captain Neve—1st in Revolver, and several smaller prizes in other events				

FORMATION OF A FOURTH VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

On the 17th May 1900, authority was issued from the War Office for the formation of another Volunteer Battalion of the Regiment, to be designated the Fourth Volunteer Battalion and to be recruited from the Towns of Strood, Rochester, Chatham, and New Brompton, with Head Quarters at Chatham.

Charles James, Esquire, The Mount, Frindsbury-by-Rochester has been appointed to the Command. The Battalion will consist of 8 Companies. Captain Parsons, The West Riding Regiment, will be its Adjutant, and efforts are being made to secure its Sergeant Instructors; up to the present one has actually been secured, namely, Sergt. L. Carter of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, and he has been transferred to the Royal West Kent Regiment for the purpose. Owing to the present state of affairs and the absence of the 2nd Battalion on active service, several non-commissioned officers of both 1st and 2nd who would have been glad to have been posted to the new battalion, have to submit to their claims being placed aside. The names of several of the Royal

Marine Light Infantry have been submitted to the War Office for approval. The Battalion being formed at Chatham doubtless offers an exceptional opportunity for non-commissioned officers of that Corps to settle down on the Volunteer Staff.

The names of several gentlemen for appointment to the Battalion have been submitted and there appears no difficulty in getting together the nucleus of a Battalion.

Extract from *Morning Post* of May 3rd.

From Major Baillie, War Correspondent in Mafeking.

"I breakfasted with Captain Marsh—this officer whose squadron has held the Stadt since the commencement of the siege, has, from his West Coast experience, a wonderful knack of dealing with the natives. In a great measure the absolute confidence of the Baralonga in the white garrison may be ascribed to him, and they have constituted him a sort of universal referee in all their local troubles.

Extract from *Daily Mail*.

Mafeking, Saturday, May 12 (via Ootsi, Monday, May 14).

Lieutenant Eloff has for some time been menacing Mafeking with the prospect of what he and some of his bolder comrades were going to do.

To-day he fell into one of the various traps which we have left open for him for months.

This morning at four o'clock the enemy, who had evidently been much strengthened during the last few days, made a feint of attacking on the eastern side of the town while a large force, which during the night had crept along the river, under the guidance of rebel natives, who chose the most crafty detours, managed to pass into the Baralong location.

This they burned, the natives' huts blazing fiercely for nearly a mile in length.

Then, finding themselves unopposed, the leader of the enemy shouted, "Hurrah! come out, you skulkers, to-day we take Mafeking."

Instantly another man behind him called out "Run, run! here are the rooineks."

Nearly all turned and fled, in spite of the leader's piteously crying out, "Come back, come back! Allmachtig, we are surrounded."

They were.

Captain Marsh, of the Protectorate Regiment, at once opened fire from the fort on either side, cutting off and repulsing the main body of the Dutch, who, true to their usual tactics, kept well in the rear, but driving the vanguard of about 150, who were apparently for the most part Portuguese, Germans, and French, into the native location, which they had burned.

The enemy here broke into two parties, one being penned up in a stone cattle kraal, and the other hemmed in a hollow behind a kopje, but inside our outer defences.

Here they were cornered, having no water and little food.

Meantime, however, the enemy had been active in another direction.

A strong party who were estimated at 500, ran round outside the native location and reached the camp close to the railway.

There they surprised and, after sharp fighting, captured Lieutenant-Colonel Hore, Captain Singleton, and Veterinary-Surgeon Dunlop Smith, who for a time were penned up with about forty of the enemy in the offices of the British South African Protectorate.

This position, too, was covered by our western forts.

Captain Gordon Wilson, aide-de-camp to Colonel Baden-Powell, went with a white flag to ask the Boers to surrender, but they refused.

Fighting was accordingly resumed, and went on interruptedly for some hours, the Boers, as we could see, losing heavily.

Ultimately the hammering told. Two parties of the enemy surrendered, and one managed to make its way out.

We recovered our men who were captured. The casualties are not yet fully known, but I hope to telegraph them later. The Boers have lost about 150 in killed, wounded, and prisoners.

Our losses are under twenty. They include Heale, the head gaoler, who was killed by a fragment of a shell in the gaol, and Hazlerigg, of the Cape Police, who recently got some despatches out of the town in a very daring way, and Sergeant Malley, of the Protectorate Regiment, both wounded; while one of the town guards is missing.

Mr. Angus Hamilton, of the *London Times*, is missing, but may turn up.

2ND BATTALION "DETAILS" NOTES.

Never since Shorncliffe was first established by Sir John Moore has so large a number of Troops been assembled at the Camp. In Barracks are the Provisional Battalion, the 7th Battalion Rifle Brigade, two Batteries of Royal Field Artillery, and Detachments of the 1st Royal Dragoons, and 7th Dragoon Guards; while, under canvas in the old "Brigade Parade" Field, are the 5th Battalion Connaught Rangers, the 4th Battalion Suffolk Regiment, the 3rd Battalion Sussex Regiment, the 4th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers; and beyond Cheriton Church, the East and West Kent Yeomanry have been under canvas for the past month.

On the 14th there was an "all hands" parade on Dibgate Plain to practice for the Queen's birthday parade, but after a few drill movements had been performed, the troops were sent home on account of the very strong gale. A rehearsal however took place on the 21st.

On the 24th, the Queen's birthday parade took place on Dibgate Plain, where a large number of lookers-on assembled to see the parade. The weather was glorious.

Our "Details" numbers still go on increasing. During the past month we have received two drafts from the Depot, bringing our strength "on paper" up to just over 600, so our two Colour Sergeants (Lee and Neighbour) have their hands somewhat uncomfortably full.

Of Officers we have: Major Daniell, Capt. Fenner, 21st Finsbury Rifle Volunteers; Capt. Hitchins, 3rd Volunteer Battalion Royal West Kent; Lieut. Riddle, 3rd Volunteer Battalion Royal West Kent; Lieut. New, 21st Finsbury Rifle Volunteers; Second Lieut. Norman, lately gazetted to our 2nd Battalion from 3rd Battalion.

On the day that the news came of the relief of Mafeking the troops paraded in front of their respective lines at midday, by order of the G.O.C., and much cheering and band playing took place, the rest of the day being observed as a holiday.

During the past two months several hundreds sick and wounded soldiers from South Africa have arrived here. The greater number were accommodated at Beach Rocks Convalescent Home, Sandgate, while the more serious cases were sent to the Station Hospital at Shorncliffe.

We still have a large party of men at Lydd, where they are at work enlarging the range, and we also have a party of about 20 men at Hythe on permanent range duty as markers, etc.

YOUR 2ND BATTALION "DETAILS" CORRESPONDENT.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVE SERVICE COMPANY.

—o—
Edenburg, Orange Free State,

May 3rd, 1900.

Having been here a week guarding the railway bridges, town and district, some of us having to do as much as three 24 hours' guards in a week, as well as fatigues, we have been reinforced by two companies of the Norfolk Regiment, which considerably relieves our company of duties, I therefore take this opportunity of informing you of our movements up to date, after a somewhat uneventful voyage from a nautical point of view, but a very pleasant and evenful one to us, on the Tagus, being one of the best equipped steamships on the line. We started from Southampton at 3.20 on the 16th of March, passed through the Bay of Biscay in splendid weather, and on the 21st our half company were inoculated, we being the first to go through the mill, and very glad when it was over, and we had recovered from the effects of the same. Although the majority felt no ill effects from it some of us were very queer for a day or two. We called at St. Vincent on the 23rd to take on coal, fresh water, and meat, and were very much amused by the natives, who were diving from their boats into the sea for money. H.M.S. Cambrian was lying

in the harbour, and on leaving we gave three cheers for her, and sang "Rule Britannia" and "God save the Queen." On the 27th we crossed the line. On the 29th we lost by death from tuberculosis Private Helmer, of the left half company of our regiment. He was buried at sea with full military honours, all troops attending. Church service was held every Sunday in officers' saloon at 11 o'clock. Our average steaming speed was about 340 miles. On the 4th of April we arrived at Table Bay, all eager to learn the latest news from the seat of war, but could not disembark until the 6th, when we marched to Greenpoint Camp and commenced our duties of guarding Boer prisoners and supplying fatigue parties for Woodstock hospital, about a mile distant from our camp. On Good Friday a box of buns were sent to the camp with no address, so they were commandeered by the Colour-Sergeant and enjoyed by our company. On the same day we received orders to embark on the Pavonia the next day, our destination being Port Elizabeth. The accommodation on the Pavonia was wretched compared with the Tagus, Being only a three days journey we drew no hammocks or blankets, sleeping on the decks, tables, or stools, but the living was very good. We disembarked from the Pavonia on Easter Tuesday, and pitched tents at the West Camp, spent one night there, when we embarked on train, comprised mostly of second-class sleeping saloons, which we found very comfortable. Starting about two o'clock we passed through country covered with miles of cactus and aloes. We stopped at various stations for tea and coffee to wash down our biscuits and tinned beef. On the second day we passed a swarm of locusts; there seemed to be thousands of them, and we were 15 minutes going through them. We stopped at Craddock for breakfast and Rosmead for tea. Passing Naaupoort in the night, we crossed the Orange River, and entered the Free State. Detained at Springfontein and pitched tents. The day after the 21st we practised in attack by half companies. Struck tents, loaded waggons, received one hundred rounds of ammunition, and bivouacked for the night; having received orders to escort a convoy of ox waggons, starting at four o'clock the next morning. We marched for about three hours, then halted for rations, and rested during the heat of the day, and commenced our march at four o'clock for another three hours, when we bivouacked round our arms for the night. After a three days' march, passing through Kilfontein, Jagersfontein Road, Van Kyles Spruit, and Kruger's Side, we were detached at this place, being our Regimental base, having safely convoyed the stores, etc., which was made up of 100 waggons with 1,600 oxen attached. We are expecting orders to proceed to the front every day. We understand that the reason that we have not yet joined our Regiment is that the mounted company have not yet got their horses. We are all in good health and spirits, and eager to show the world what the Queen's Own West Kent Volunteers can do.

J.K.

3RD BATTALION CRICKET.

—o—

Appended are the results of our matches with the 3rd Battalion Warwickshire Regiment and H.M.S. Ramillies, with scores :—

Match between 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment and 3rd Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Played at Malta on Thursday, May 24th. Score :—

3RD ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT.

W. M. Darvill, b Edwards.....	42
Lance-Corporal Burgess, b Hayne	4
R. de C. Lyons, c Edwards, b Opton	44
Sergt. Hall, lbw, b Edwards	0
E. G. S. Turell, c O'Brien, b Opton.....	19
P. T. Foster, b Edwards.....	1
C. B. Benson, b Hayne	77
T. H. D. Costeker, b Burbury	46
Captain Loring, b Hayne	0
Private Brennan, b Hayne.....	28
Private Wingfield, not out.....	16
Extras	33
Total	310

3RD ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.

A. H. Hooker, c Lyons, b Benson	52
S. S. Hayne, c Brennan, b Wingfield	12
Captain F. W. Burbury, c Hall, b Foster	38
Captain A. C. Edwards, b Benson	14
W. D. O'Brien, b Benson	0
C. M. Allfrey, b Benson.....	3
Private Opton, b Benson	0
Captain Haddaway, b Benson ..	0
Captain Annesley, b Foster	3
Sergt. MacGregor, not out.....	0
G. S. Fenning, b Benson	4
Extras.....	17
Total	143

Second Innings—Captain F. W. Burbury, b Benson 63; Captain A. C. Edwards, not out 104; W. D. O'Brien, not out 6; extras, 17; total (1 wicket) 190.

Match between 3rd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment and H.M.S. "Ramillies," played at Malta on Thursday, May 17th. Score :—

H.M.S. "RAMILLIES."

Captain Hankey, c Edwards, b Hooper...	2
Commander Hood, not out	139
T. M. Murray, b Hooper	19
Midshipman Barron, run out.....	3
S. Keyes, c Hayne, b Opton.....	13

A. H. Waistell, c Hayne, b Hooper.....	17
W. D. Paton, c Hayne, b Opton	0
Midshipman Bartelot, c Hayne, b Hooper	8
A. C. Kent, b Hooper.....	2
Paymaster Bennetts, b Edwards	13
Midshipman Hewett, b Hooper	5
Extras	27
Total	248

3RD. BATT. ROYAL WEST KENT REGT.

Captain F. W. Burbury, run out	5
Captain A. C. Edwards, c Hood, b Barron	112
S. S. Hayne, b Murray	0
Bandmaster Gee	0
A. H. Hooper, b Barron..	4
W. D. O'Brien, b Barron	2
Captain Annesley, b Murray	6
A. C. Beeman, not out	0
Pte. Opton, b Murray.....	4
Pte. Haddaway, c Barron, b Waistell ...	16
Pte. Other, c Bartelot, b Barron	0
Extras	3
Total	152

DEATHS.

At Sea, on 1st April, No. 3098, Private E. Reed, 2nd Battalion.

At Thaba Nchu, South Africa, on 26th April, No. 2538, Pioneer G. Kew, 2nd Battalion (accidentally).

At Dewetsdorp, on 3rd May, No. 2659, Sergt. C. W. Wood, 2nd Battalion (dysentery).

At Sea, on 29th March, No. 6878, Private F. Helmer, Volunteer Company.

At Maidstone, on 10th May, No. 2599, Private W. Green, Depot.

At Maidstone, on 31st May, No. 3769, Private E. Cunningham, Depot.

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

No. 303.

MAIDSTONE, AUGUST 1st, 1900.

[Vol. XVIII, No. 8.]

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

1ST BATTALION.

Promoted Sergt.-Major—Clr.-Sergt. W. Willis, 23rd April.
Appointed Orderly Room Sergt.—Sergt. J. Howard, 22nd June.

Promoted Clr.-Sergt.—Sergt. W. Seager, 16th February ;
H. Rogers, 23rd April.

Promoted Sergt.—Cpl. W. Budd, 23rd April.

Promoted Cpl.—L.-Cpl. E. Mandy, 23rd April ; W. Budd,
27th March.

Appointed L.-Cpl. — Pte. F. Howard, 27th June ; Dr.
Palmer, 2nd May ; Dr. A. Churchill, 7th May ; Pte. J. Fordham,
7th May ; Ptes. W. Wood, G. Russell, and L. Moir,
8th May.

DEPOT.

Promoted Cpl.—L.-Cpls. C. Farmer, O. Minchin, and W.
Newland, 1st July.

3RD BATTALION.

The under-mentioned 2nd-Lieuts. to be Lieutenants, dated
22nd June—A. C. Beeman, K. L. Cameron, A. H. Pullman,
S. S. Hayne, H. T. Thornhill.

The under-mentioned gentlemen to be 2nd-Lieuts., dated
5th July—Cecil W. Case-Morris and Arthur J. Irons.

Capt. J. S. D. Gage to be 2nd-Lieut., 5th Dragoon Guards,
28th July.

1ST VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The Rev. W. M. Falloon, B.A., to be Acting-Chaplain, 11th
July.

We regret that through an error the promotion of Major
Wintour and Capt. Long was shown under the heading of 3rd
Battalion in our last number.

1ST BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

Boy Chant has joined the Battalion from Alexandria, Egypt.
Good Conduct Pay has been granted as under :—
Granted 3d. : Lance-Corporal E. Mansfield.
Granted 2d. : Privates W. Ryan, R. Osmond, Lance-
Corporals J. Smith, W. Collins, W. Moir, Privates W.
Merrony, A. Jones, J. Liddington, Dmr. H. Maslin.

Granted 1d. : Privates T. Humphrey, G. Roberts, E. New-
ing, J. Ward, C. Potts, T. Cooksey.

Lance-Corporal A. Sayer reverts to Private at own request.
3rd Class Certificates of Education have been awarded to
Lance-Corporals P. Sawyer, W. Gamblin, F. Wood, W.
Barwick, H. Stevens, S. Joyce, E. Wakeman ; Privates A.
Sawyer, H. Gore, H. Melloy, S. Norris, J. Dawkins, J. Smith.
Pte. W. Dickenson has been transferred to the 2nd Con-
naught Rangers.

Lance-Corpl. J. Mackintosh has been permitted to extend
his service to complete 12 years with the colours.

Pte. E. Pollard has been permitted to assume his correct
name—Cornelius Brian.

The undermentioned have embarked for England :—

Col.-Sergt. H. McDonald, for service with the 1st Vol.
Battalion.

Sergts. F. Edmonds and A. Firman, accompanying sick
wife to England.

Pte. J. Kempton accompanying an invalid officer to Eng-
land.

Drummer W. Marsh, Ptes. G. Sinden and E. Gardner,
invalided.

Pte. S. Collins has been permitted to assume his correct
name, viz., Stephen Bushell.

2ND BATTALION NOTES.

DEAR MR. EDITOR—

The last time I sent you notes for the *Q.O.G.* was on April 24th—
not far short of a month ago. On that day we had been moved a few
hundred yards away from our bivouac, and we were told that if General
French's forces from Bloemfontein—consisting of his own Cavalry
Division and General Pole-Carew's Division, the 11th—arrived where
they were wanted before about mid-day, the contemplated attack on
the Beer positions would take place. Those who have soldiered out
here will, I know, bear me out when I say that one seldom knows any-
thing beyond what one sees, and not unfrequently one fails to under-
stand what one does see. On April 20th we first came really in touch
with the enemy, and under their fire. It is said that it was the intention
of our Commander to attack on the 22nd. Our force consisted of the
Eighth Division and the so-called Third Division, with some Imperial
Yeomanry and Mounted Infantry under General Brabazon. The
Eighth Division consists of the 16th and 17th Brigade, but the 16th
Brigade has only three battalions in it, the fourth battalion allotted to
it, viz., the Leinster Regiment, not having yet joined it. The Third
Division, however, has, I believe, never existed in this country except in
name. As we saw it, it appeared to consist of but little more than
General Allen's Brigade.

It was generally understood that Lord Roberts had ordered that an
attack should not be made until the reinforcements above alluded to

arrived. Be that as it may, no attack did take place. The Battalion for two nights and a day occupied the spur on which it bivouacked when darkness stopped operations on 20th April. Just below, on one side of this spur, four of our guns were in action. The practice of the Boers seemed to be excellent. Shells were dropped between the guns and the limbers, and all round the guns, and yet, fortunately, there was not, I believe, a single casualty. The steadiness under fire—I might, without exaggeration, say the absolute indifference to the enemy's fire—of our gunners is a sight to see. The Boers were very busy for a couple of days in their attentions, and if one battalion, relieving another on outpost, offered a good target, it was saluted immediately by, at all events, a pom-pom. A fault most noticeable in our infantry is the way in which men close in. Leaders are sometimes slow to extend their men; but when extended the men themselves are very apt to lose their extension. The result is obvious. A tempting target to the enemy, and a heavier casualty list for our side. But to continue from where in my last notes I left off. The reinforcements under General French did not arrive in time to commence a fight on April 24th. General French's orders—for he, on arrival, was in supreme command—reached us on the evening of the 24th. Our Brigade—the 17th—was to be reinforced by some Mounted Infantry, a battery of Artillery, half Field Co. R.E., Bearer Company, &c., and under our Brigadier, General Boyes, was to move at 4 a.m. round the Boer right flank and seize a certain hill. To surround the enemy and cut off his retreat when attacked was the general object.

We were duly roused at 2.50 a.m., and ready to march at 4 a.m. But alas, we could not start, because the Mounted Infantry, &c., had not joined us. The darkness gave way to dawn before our little force was ready to start, and it was getting lighter and lighter when we commenced to move. To our surprise we were not greeted by a succession of shells, and as our movements took place when it was light instead of when it was dark, had we been under fire we should probably have suffered a good deal.

The surmise that the Boers had thought fit to retire proved correct. A fairly long march brought us to the hill we were ordered to hold, but the object for which it was to be entrenched and held had ceased to exist. After a short halt we were ordered to go on towards De Wet's Dorp. Just before dark we passed through some of the Boer positions, and could see for ourselves how skilfully one of the guns which had fired a good many shells at us had been placed. This day's march was the longest and most trying we have yet had. We could not but feel that it was unnecessarily so. Just before dark we were ordered to let the R.A. and the R.E. get ahead of us. The way we entered De Wet's Dorp necessitated a long steep descent in the dark over a very bad track. To follow wheeled transport under these circumstances often means constant checks. Halting, necessitated by these checks, is fearfully harassing to infantry: barely has the rear company halted than the leading company starts off again so as not to lose touch in the darkness of the vehicles it is following. But when these same vehicles have reached level ground and disappeared in the darkness at a trot, the annoyance of the situation is increased a thousand-fold. We entered and passed through De Wet's Dorp without knowing or being able to learn where the 8th Division had bivouacked. The delay thus caused was considerable and most trying to men who wanted rest and food. It was not until between 9 and 10 p.m. that we found our bivouac. Had we been shown the way, *i.e.*, the South Staffords and ourselves, should have been at our bivouac about two hours sooner! The Boers had, unfortunately, thought better of remaining to oppose our advance.

The next day we had a fairly easy march towards Taba Nchu, but that night a terribly sad accident occurred. Near our bivouac some cattle were being shot for food, and in shooting one the bullet, after entering the bullock, was deflected and entered the chest of Pioneer Kew, near the heart; he expired almost immediately. When the Battalion went to Egypt he was left behind as he had over ten year's service and had not re-engaged, but he rejoined us later on at Alexandria. He is a great loss to the Battalion. An excellent carpenter as well as an excellent soldier in every way, all who knew him keenly deplore his untimely end. Buried that evening, by daylight next morning when we had to march again his grave had been carefully tended and stones skilfully placed to mark the spot and preserve it.

A stiff march lay before us to Taba Nchu. It was important that we should reach that place as soon as possible, and for the last few miles the ordinary halts had to be foregone. Many a man was very severely tried in his powers of endurance, and the way the men stuck it was most plucky. One could not but be pleased at the way the Battalion marched compared with other regiments under the same circumstances. General Rundle saw us march past him as we arrived at our bivouac, and right well the companies went by. We felt that the complimentary remarks he made were really well deserved. He added that we should have a rest next day and probably the day after, and that we should get full rations. Those who promise have not always the power to perform.

DEAR MR. EDITOR—

Opportunities of writing have been rare until the last day or two, but the opportunities of posting letters have lately been even rarer. If I remember rightly, I left off in my 2nd Battalion Notes, posted to you on May 22nd, at the date when we had just arrived at Taba Nchu, and after a particularly hard march and rather trying times had received a word of praise from our Divisional Commander, and had had a prospect of at least a day's rest held out to us.

The morning after our arrival at this place—pronounced Tabanchu—we received, about 11 a.m., an order to be ready to march as soon as possible, and without waggons. But a certain amount of delay occurred in getting the necessary amount of food from the Supply Column. The 17th Brigade did not move very far from where we had bivouacked, and about 3 p.m. the orders for the disposition of each Battalion were received. Our own Battalion was ordered to ascend what I believe is called Taba Nchu Mountain. As usual, the place of ascent looked easier and much nearer than it really was. Three companies were already detached on outpost duty, and one company is always away as escort to our Divisional General. Of the remaining four, the Mounted Infantry Company (Capt. Flanagan) and "C" Company (Captain Moody) went for one part of the mountain, under Lieut.-Colonel Grove, while "D" Company (Captain Dalison) and "E" Company (Major Hollinshead) went for another part, under Major Harrison.

The latter got their scouts on to the top before nightfall, and were in touch with a company of the East Yorkshire Regiment. But the former were less fortunate, and when at dawn next morning these two companies continued their ascent they got on the Boer side of a spur, and instead of coming on a company of the East Yorkshire, came under fire of the Boers. Captain Buckle, who had gone a bit forward to find the exact position of the East Yorkshire company, was seen no more that day. The two companies naturally changed their direction. But these two companies were a good deal exposed to musketry fire from the Boers, and, as usual, had not much to fire at in return. During the afternoon of Sunday, 29th, the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards arrived on the scene to relieve us. The descent was not easy, and it was not until after dark that we reached our so-called camp. The thirty hours or so which had elapsed since we had left it had been a trying experience. But the rest we counted upon when we laid down to sleep that evening was not destined to be a long one.

At 11.30 p.m. our Brigade-Major came to us to say that the Battalion must move at once to assist a convoy. We and the 2nd Manchester Regiment, and a battery of R.F.A. were under way at 12.45 a.m., and marching about ten miles we occupied a nek whence we could view the convoy, and by means of which we could assist it to reach Taba Nchu. This convoy was coming from De Wet's Dorp, and a large number of oxen had been captured by the Boers, and the convoy itself might have been captured but for timely help.

We were naturally not very fresh when we were called upon to march on the night of the 29th and 30th April, and we were full of anxiety as to the fate of our Adjutant (Captain Buckle), and of Lieut. Bonham-Carter and his sections of mounted infantry, of whom we had no tidings. We were much relieved about dawn to learn from a passing doctor that Captain Buckle had reached the Field Hospital, though wounded in two places.

His experience must have been a very trying one. It appears that he came unexpectedly under close fire from the Boers, and before he could reach cover the Boers dropped him. This was soon after daybreak. He managed to keep his head and body covered to some extent by stones, but his legs were exposed. To attempt to move away was to be fired at immediately. Sunday was a very hot day, and without a helmet Capt. Buckle lay from dawn till dark, hoping that when darkness came on he might have strength left to enable him to gain a place of safety. This he eventually succeeded in doing. He was wounded through the left wrist and thigh. One bullet did the mischief it is believed. Fortunately, the bullet was a mauser, and missed bones and arteries. Captain Buckle is going on so well that he hopes to be back at duty in a very few weeks.

It was not until our night march to save the convoy was finished that we learnt that Lieut. Bonham-Carter, under cover of darkness, had succeeded in safely withdrawing his men. The escapes were numerous, and some rather curious. Colr.-Sergt. Silver, carrying his rifle at the slope, had a bullet imbedded between the stock and barrel. On another rifle the back-sight was shot away.

Thus far I got some time ago, and much has happened since, but chiefly as a result of the well-known phrase, "March at once."

I will try and briefly chronicle what may be of interest to some of your readers, and which has happened during May and the first half of June. From the middle of June some other pen must supply you with 2nd Battalion Correspondence, as I shall be unable to do so; but that other pen will, doubtless, run more swiftly and more regularly than has been the case with mine.

To resume, we have been, as a Battalion, singularly fortunate as regards our casualties; not only were the escapes many and lucky on the 29th April, but the same has been the case both before and since that date. It is not unpleasant to be able to take the bullet that has been fired at you out of the heel of your boot, like Pvt. Buss, of the Mounted Infantry Company, did on April 29th, without suffering any ill effects. Moreover, a bullet under such circumstances makes a rather satisfactory souvenir. The night of Monday, 30th April, was one on which there could have been but few in the 2nd Battalion who did not sleep very soundly. From May 1st to 5th, the Battalion was chiefly occupied with outpost duty. The Boers were pretty regular in their attentions with shell fire when any attractive target presented itself.

On May 5th, about 6.15 a.m., we received orders to march at 10 a.m. The Worcesters and South Staffords, two batteries R.F.A., and some mounted troops under General Brabazon, accompanied us. The Boers were located about four miles off covering the retreat of a largish force. We had to manoeuvre to gain a certain hill—as we were leading Battalion—to hold 'it'; a few shells were fired when the Yeomanry first got to the hill. Whether we had a chance of capturing one or two guns and harassing the retreat of the Boers I am not in a position to say. It is always easy to be wise after the event, and in this country, especially, it is foolish to believe much—if anything—of what one hears.

General French and the two Cavalry Brigades which had been with us since April 25th had left us, unfortunately, previous to May 5th.

We held—there was nothing, however, to hold it against—the hill to which I have alluded until it was dark, and then returned whence we had come.

Our Brigadier told us that evening that we and the Manchesters were to start off the next morning at 8 to assist Brabant and a convoy which was threatened by the Boers. Accordingly, next morning off we treked in the same direction once more, viz., towards De Wet's Dorp. We marched about seven miles and halted for some time, and then, retracing our steps about three miles, bivouacked at a Nek or Poort which it was important to hold. The convoy was safely brought to Taba Nehu. We also got back to this same place about 8.15. Soon after our return we were ordered to march at 3 p.m. for Abraham's Kraal. The march was not a long one, but it meant 'keeping on going,' and it meant, too, that we could not arrive at our new bivouac until after dark. I think I have before now alluded to the fact that there is no twilight out here and sunset soon becomes darkness. Here, at Abraham's Kraal—there are any number of places in this part of the world called by the same name—we remained till the 11th May, when about 10 a.m. we were ordered back to Taba Nehu; but we escaped that spot, our destination was changed, another Battalion being detailed for Taba Nehu. Orders to march at shortest notice and at every conceivable hour must be expected. Sometimes such orders would be counter-ordered. Sometimes circumstances would prevent, in spite of every endeavour, the march commencing at the hour named. When you are in touch with an enemy like the Boers you need not make plans for many minutes ahead. And, because, when you lie down to sleep no orders, to move have been received, it is no reason that you shall not begin to move a few minutes later. The 16th and 17th Brigades moved a few miles apart during the time to which I am now alluding. What the 17th Brigade may have known about us I cannot say, but certainly not less could have been known by the 16th about the 17th than was known by us—the 17th Brigade—about the 16th Brigade. After trekking and halting several times—sometimes by day, sometimes by night—we arrived at a place called Bester's Flats; and there we remained about six days, until at 1 a.m. a messenger arrived with once more the order to march. That day—the Queen's Birthday—was brought home, probably for the first time, to most of our men what grass fires are in this part of the world, an experience which five days' later must have been brought home so vividly to most of the Battalion, that it is never likely to be forgotten.

May 25th was one of those days on which all ranks required to summon to their aid all the grit that was in them, and right nobly did all respond to the call made upon them. We knew Senekal or its neighbourhood was our destination, and we knew that we had a long march in front of us when we were roused at 2 a.m. But when about 4.30 p.m. we reached the place where we were to bivouac, the order to take off kits had hardly been given than that order was cancelled, and the march had to be resumed.

Your readers may recall the announcement in the daily papers of the death of Captain Dalbiac, and the capture of the handful of Yeomanry who were with him, and who were not at the same time killed or wounded. It was this incident that caused us to hurry on, and support the 16th Brigade that night. Men who had done what our men had done the last 36 hours could hardly, being human, yet be fresh. Nevertheless the march was again resumed in the very best spirits. With troops animated by such a spirit it is a pleasure to serve.

We bivouacked about 8 p.m. within three miles of Senekal. No fighting took place that night, and the next morning the Battalion moved a short distance to hold a hill about two miles south of Senekal.

On May 27th, Colonel Grove was sent by the doctors to Bloemfontein, on account of the appearance of symptoms which caused them to take rather an alarming view of his state of health. He left us, therefore, for Bloemfontein, but I am delighted to say that after a very short time he was able to resume duty.

The day after he left an order was received transferring temporarily the Battalion from the 17th to the 16th Brigade. We moved through Senekal, and bivouacked about four miles east of Senekal. The Yeomanry were engaged that afternoon, and the Boers were known to be blocking the road to Bethlehem. We were ordered to have everything packed before dawn next morning, ready to move whenever ordered. But it was not till 8 a.m. that the Battalion moved, with orders to follow the Scots Guards. Instead of moving along the Bethlehem road we made a turning movement round the enemy's right flank.

About 10.20 a.m., General Campbell, commanding 16th Brigade, ordered Lieut.-Colonel Harrison to detach a company in support of guns coming into action against the S.W. salient of Biddulph's Berg. The guns, however, were quickly moved, and two batteries came into action further round what was believed to be the enemy's right flank.

From this point the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards was launched, with the object, it was understood, of capturing a Boer gun which had been shelling us from a position near the base of the hill. The 2nd Battalion Scots Guards moved off to the right of the Grenadiers, and our Battalion was in support of the Grenadiers, with three companies on either flank of the guns. A very noticeable feature in the day's operations was a grass fire. This was raging over a vast expanse of ground, and had to be crossed and recrossed more than once by our troops. The grass was fairly long and there were several patches of meales which were some five feet high and which burnt fiercely.

To an unwounded man the crossing of the belt of fire was but of little account, but to a wounded man, who could not move, the burning grass, meant all the horrors of a most horrible death—if not death itself. Many a brave Grenadier would be now recovering from his wounds, had it not been for these truly awful fires. Many believed at the time that the grass had been purposely fired by the Boers, but this I have heard on good authority they deny, and it is stated that the fire originated through the carelessness of one of our mounted men throwing down a match after lighting his pipe.

The Battalion was extraordinarily fortunate, the fire passing diagonally in their rear, and thus the cover from view which the men had in the position occupied never failed them. It is not difficult to realize that when a fire has passed over the veldt, the black charred ground is not the place one would select to lie for comfort or safety.

Before our guns had been in action very long it was found that a hill on our left front was also occupied, and from there another gun or two took upon themselves the congenial task of shelling our guns and us. The hill against which the Grenadiers were sent was a position naturally very strong; it is hard to say how strongly it was held. The Boers reserved their fire for some time, and at first the casualties were not very many. But between the Grenadiers and the guns—their special objective—were men in a donga, or trench, and, as it were, out of the ground suddenly came countless shots at close range.

Whether it would have been possible for a Battalion to have advanced and cleared this well-covered advanced line of men it would be hard to say. If any Battalion could have done it, it would unquestionably have been the gallant Battalion of the Grenadiers, but an order absolutely forbidding any further advance was sent, and, of course, had to be obeyed.

An advance under fire is not bliss; a retirement is undoubtedly very much the reverse of bliss. The Grenadiers suffered very heavily, but curiously enough had it not been for the veldt fire they say they would have suffered during their retirement far more. The smoke from the fire was so dense that as they retired through it the Boer fire materially slackened from want of a visible target. This is, of course, some little offset to the horrible effects of the fire on the wounded. It, naturally, from the position of affairs, became the duty of the Battalion to cover the retirement of the Grenadiers. An easy task with a well-disciplined Battalion, and a foe who is disinclined to risk his skin in the open, and follow up a retirement. I think few will be found to differ from me when I say that the same man with the same rifle will get as good, if not better, results in South Africa at 1,500 yards as he would in England at 1,000. The 'state of the atmosphere,' as our text books would say, is such in this country (S.A.) that objects, to me at all events, though about two thousand yards away, stand out so distinctly that one can hardly realize the actual distance is much more than one thousand.

General Campbell, commanding the 16th Brigade, was good enough to send to General Boyes, commanding our Brigade, the 17th, a very kindly and appreciative letter about the Battalion. This was naturally read to the Battalion and put in orders. A copy was sent to the Officer Commanding 50th Regimental District for record, and readers of the *Q.O.G.* will now, in the number in which this appears, if not in an earlier number, read the remarks. Many of our officers and men had been under fire before, but there must have also been many who had, at all events, not remained some hours under a fairly hot shell and rifle fire without replying to it, and if by any chance there were any who were in need of an object lesson as to conduct under fire, no better object lesson could have been given than that afforded by the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards. Men advanced or retired, as was ordered, exactly as if there were no such things as bullets. Those whose mission it was to take forward ammunition did so as if at an Aldershot field day—no excitement, no hurry; perfect steadiness, perfect discipline. Those who had brought out on their stretcher a wounded comrade were ready, though no more stretchers were available, to do their utmost to bring in more wounded.

It was not possible for our men to help more than a very few of the wounded to a place of safety, for, except our stretcher bearers, our men were needed with their rifles in the ranks. But our doctor—Civil Surgeon Turner, with his orderly, Corpl. Dorrel—did most gallant and invaluable service to the wounded.

The 'material aid,' as General Campbell expresses it, rendered by the Battalion to the Guards was most fully exemplified by Dr. Turner. When the Battalion finally retired from the field he was last seen attending to wounded Grenadiers, and this he continued doing all night long. The other doctors more to the rear had their hands more than full, so had it not been for Dr. Turner many a brave man must have passed the long hours of a dark cold painful night untended by surgical aid. The Boers eventually gave Dr. Turner two armed men to protect him in his errand of mercy, for he had at first been attending the wounded under a heavy fire, undoubtedly directed at him and the wounded he was succouring, and many a Boer that night did his utmost to alleviate the sufferings of our wounded by bringing out brandy, coffee, soup, and food.

It must not be forgotten that the Boers themselves had no doctor, and next day they asked for a doctor to attend their Commandant—De Villiers—who was shot in the head. Their casualties were probably few; ours, alas! were many. But, except the Grenadiers, our losses were not heavy. It was the Grenadiers who suffered so severely. In the Battalion there were only eight casualties. I attribute the immunity, in a great measure, to the cover afforded by the mealies and the line the fire had taken. It had missed us in a most fortunate manner.

The heroism of many of the severely wounded was magnificent. A doctor with whom I was recently travelling—a civilian—made to me a remark that is very generally true, and which was not made with reference to those who took part in the action of May 29th:—"Tommy, wounded, is a hero."

I find the mail is leaving. By the next I hope to describe events up to the middle of June.

YOUR 2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

24th June, 1900.

2ND BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

EXTRACT FROM BATTALION ORDERS, 2ND ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.

*Ficksburg, Orange River Colony,
26th June, 1900.*

With reference to Battalion Order, No. 332, of 23rd inst., the Commanding Officer feels that he cannot let the occasion of Lieut.-Colonel Harrison leaving the Battalion pass without recording his sincere appreciation of the valuable services rendered by that officer to the Battalion during his long connection with it.

Lieut.-Col. Harrison's devotion to duty, and his thoughtfulness for others should serve as an example to all ranks, and the Commanding Officer feels sure that he but echoes the feelings of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, in saying that he heartily regrets his departure.

CRICKET IN SOUTH AFRICA.

2ND BATTALION v. WILTSHIRE YEOMANRY.

Played at Ficksburg, Orange River Colony, on July 1st, being the first match played between British troops since the occupation of Ficksburg. Score:

ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.

Lieut. C. Druce, not out	106
Corpl Knight, b Daniels	3
Lieut. C. C. Mulloy, b Shoreland	0
Sergt. Spooner, b Daniels	11
Capt. H. Moody, b Daniels	2
Sergt. Hindmarsh, b Daniels	0
Pte. Elvy, b Daniels	0
Pte. Barry, b Shoreland	1
Pte. Davidson, c Clarke, b Seath	8
Sergt. Bass, b Daniels	1
Pte. Dixon, run out	1
Extras	19
Total	152

WILTSHIRE YEOMANRY.

Capt. E. T. Shoreland, c Bass, b Mulloy ...	3
Trpr. Foreman, lbw, b Knight	18
Trpr. Havlock, b Knight	7
Trpr. Daniels, c and b Davidson	65
Trpr. Seath, b Knight	0
Trpr. Davey, b Knight	0
Corpl. Berry, b Davidson	2
Trpr. Coomber, b Knight	0
Trpr. Dean, not out	1
Lieut. Speke, b Davidson	5
Capt. Stanley Clark, b Davidson	4
Extras	13
Total	113

LIST OF CASUALTIES.

Below will be found a list of N.C.O's. and men whose lives have been given to the service of our Queen and country since the embarkation of the 2nd Battalion for active service in South Africa.

2659 Sergt. W. Wood, 5th May, Dewetsdorp, dysentery; 4060 Cpl. F. Page, 2nd June, Bloemfontein, enteric; 3878 Pte. J. Cousens, 6th June, Winburg, enteric; 2538 Pte. G. Kew, 26th April, Thaba Nchu, accidentally shot; 6878 Pte. F. A. Helmer, date not known, at sea; 2427 Pte. A. Malvern, 13th July, Ficksburg, gangrene; 2587 Pte. J. Marchant, 12th July, Ficksburg, enteric; 3282 Pte. E. A. Lines, 10th July,

Bloemfontein, enteric ; 4376 Pte. J. S. Dornan, 30th March, at sea, pneumonia ; 1168 Pte. R. Horsnell, 18th July, Bloemfontein, enteric ; 3798 Pte. W. Bridges, 13th July, Deilfontein, enteric ; 4987 Pte. J. Humphrey, 28th July, Naaupoort, enteric.

Mr. Mills	26	29	28	83
Mr. Derrith	26	26	16	68
Mr. Bishop	28	22	10	60
			Total	*583

*55 counted out.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

Captain and Adjutant P. Umfreville and Captain Soames, who have been doing duty at the Depot, have rejoined their Battalion for camp.

2nd-Lieut. Case-Morris, 3rd Battalion, has joined, pending embarkation for Malta.

Sergt. H. Riches has rejoined the Regiment, and is posted to the Depot for duty.

Sergts. W. Bates and C. Coles have rejoined from the Army Reserve, and join the Provisional Battalion for duty.

Pte. Leary has been discharged as an invalid.

The Borough Police who entered for the tug of war at the recent police sports received instruction from Sergt.-Instr. Riches, and though they did not win the event, they considered that their instructor deserved some acknowledgment. The result was that he was the recipient at the hands of the Chief Constable of a silver-mounted ebony walking stick. Sergt. Riches made a suitable response, and expressed a hope that the Maidstone men would win on a future occasion.

A shooting match between the Depot and Sevenoaks Shooting Club took place on the Shoreham Range on 28th July, in which the Depot came off victorious by 27 points. Scores :—

	200 yds.	500 yds.	600 yds.	Total
Sergt.-Major Sumner ...	26	22	19	67
Lce-Corpl. Malt	30	27	25	82
Corpl. Denton	20	21	23	64
Sergt. Savage	33	21	20	74
Corpl. Spearing.....	27	16	13	56*
Lce.-Corpl. Hibbert.....	28	14	18	60*
Corpl. Selves	24	31	25	80
Private Wells	29	16	24	69
Colour-Sergt. Osborne	31	28	29	88
Mr. Murphy	31	26	29	86
			Total	*610

* 116 counted out.

Mr. Payne.....	29	21	20	70
Mr. Harrison.....	27	22	13	62
Mr. Copeland.....	21	26	8	55*
Mr. Ledger.....	29	32	18	79
Mr. Pugh.....	31	25	23	79
Mr. Freeman.....	31	25	26	82

Extract from the *Eastern Province Herald*, Port Elizabeth, Cape of Good Hope, Wednesday, April 11th, 1900.

THE MEN O' KENT

WELCOME THE VOLUNTEERS.

SPEECH BY COLONEL SCHERMBRUCKER, M.L.A.
AN ENTHUSIASTIC GATHERING.

CAPETOWN, Tuesday (Special).

Last night a large number of men o' Kent residing in Capetown, assembled for the purpose of welcoming the Volunteer Company of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. Colonel Schermbrucker, M.L.A., was present by invitation. After the toast of the Queen had been enthusiastically received, Colonel Schermbrucker tendered a hearty welcome to the Kentish Volunteers, not only on behalf of the Cape Colony, but on behalf of the greater South Africa, which they were all proud to believe would be the ultimate result of this war. Having referred to the object lesson to the world caused by the troops from four quarters of Her Majesty's Dominions coming to fight her battles in South Africa, the Colonel proceeded to say that although he was getting a bit old for active service, if the occasion arose he would shoulder his rifle and would be found fighting with the rest of them (cheers).

The toast was greeted with a great deal of enthusiasm and was responded to by

Captain G. Morphew, who said they all felt that in coming to the Cape they were coming to another home, as they looked upon the Cape Colony being as much English as good old England (cheers). When the call of duty rose, the men of Kent felt that they could not be backward, and the people of South Africa had already seen what men from their fair country could do on the field of battle. One thing that cheered up those who were fighting for the cause of freedom was that the heart of not only England, but the entire Empire, was with them.

We have pleasure in publishing the following letter from the Colonial office, to Col. T. H. Marshall, C.B. as showing high appreciation and recognition of the services in West Africa of the late Capt. G. Marshall.

Downing Street,
21st July, 1900.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to convey to you the expression of his sympathy with you in the loss

of your son, of whose death from wounds on the 28th of June on the march down from Coomassie you have already been informed.

2.—I am also to inform you that Mr. Chamberlain is very sensible of the loss which Her Majesty's service has sustained through the premature death of such a gallant and capable officer.

3.—It will perhaps be of interest to you to learn that before the outbreak of the disturbances in Ashanti, a despatch had been received from the Governor of the Gold Coast in which he recommended that on the expiration of Capt. Marshall's year of temporary service in the Colony, he should be offered a permanent post as Commissioner in the Northern Territories, adding that, from personal knowledge, he felt sure of his efficiency and capability.

4.—Capt. Marshall was, as you have been informed, at Prahsu on his way home from the Northern Territories invalided, when he heard of the disturbances at Coomassie. He at once returned to Coomassie with the first reinforcements which were sent up, and the Governor has reported that great praise was due to him for his services in command of the British forces in the severe engagement which took place at Coomassie on the 29th of April.

5.—Mr. Chamberlain deeply regrets that, after enduring all the hardships and privations of the seige, Capt. Marshall should not have lived to reach the Coast in safety.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. ANTROBUS.

Colonel T. H. Marshall, C.B.,
Bryn-y-Coed,
Bangor, North Wales.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

—o—

Malta, July 19, 1900.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

As I have now returned from leave, here goes for another small yarn as to our doings in this "heavenly" place.

Since your temporary correspondent's letter we have played various cricket matches, the scores of which are herewith.

On the 2nd inst. the gymnasium was filled in the evening by "Tommies" of all sorts to witness a most successful boxing entertainment. The talent was of very good quality, and gave great satisfaction to the company assembled.

DETAILS.

Pte. Milligan, 3rd R.W.K., v. Pte. Abrams.—A 4 round contest in which Milligan got the honors after some very pretty sparring.

Exhibition sparring by Sergt. T. O'Leary, 3rd R.W.K., and Pte. Vardy, 5th Northumberland Fusiliers. The first part of

this was very good, but towards the close got a bit rough, and the audience were not altogether satisfied.

Next was a 6 round contest in which Ptes. Banks and Gould of the Regiment performed. Banks though the lighter sailed in throughout and won.

Exhibition boxing by Pioneer Brooks and Drummer Wright. A very pretty show in the best form.

After a short interval the event of the evening viz:—a ten round contest between Petty Officer Underdown, H.M.S. "Victorious" and Pte. Batchelor, 3rd. Royal West Kent, took place. This was Batchelor's first attempt at a contest, but Underdown is by no means a novice. Underdown had the advantage in height and reach, and there was not much to chose in the first two rounds. Batchelor was not man enough for his more experienced opponent, and in the middle of the eighth round had to throw up the sponge. Both were heartily cheered as they left the ring.

The final event was a six round contest between Pte. Haley, 5th. Northumberland Fusiliers, and Lce. Corpl. Baker, 3rd. Royal West Kent. This was a good hard-hitting show, but in the 3rd. round Baker put out one of the small bones of a hand and had to stop.

The whole Exhibition was ably arranged and carried out by Staff Sergeant Harriss, A.G.S.

There were pony races on the "Marsa" on the 5th. inst., but a poor attendance and not very good sport.

Of late the band, under bandmaster Gee, has been getting golden opinions at the Slieina Club, and has also been playing in the barrack square from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. for the benefit of the men. They also got great credit when they played at the "Testa" of Zabbar Village.

On Sunday last, 15th July, after the Parade Service, Major Farquharson, with a few well chosen words of congratulation on his good service, presented Sergt.-Instr. of Musketry C. Hurley (who is now acting as sergt.-major during the illness of Sergt.-Major Chapman) with Her Majesty's medal for long service and good conduct,

As I am writing, I hear that the Battalion is to move to Mellieha Camp for change of air.

"B" and "K" Companies, who were on detachment at Imtarfa from 15th May, under Capt. Neve, have now returned to headquarters, and "A" and "I" Companies have taken their place; Capt. Kennedy commanding, with Lieuts. Pullman and Thornhill as subalterns. We understand that Capt. Kennedy is starting a "crammer's" establishment for the forthcoming examination for Militia officers for commissions in the line. We also expect to hear at Mellieha that Capt. Kennedy has returned to his old 2nd Battalion cricket form.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

3RD BATTALION CRICKET.

The following matches have been played at Malta :—

Match between 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment and 2nd Derbyshire Regiment, played on "The Marsa," Malta, 22nd June. Score :—

2ND DERBYSHIRE REGT.		3RD R.W.K. REGT.	
Sergt. Plair ...	1	Capt. Burbury ...	69
Capt. Bosanquet ...	3	Capt. Edwards ...	19
Lieut. Mortimer ..	7	Bandmaster Gee ...	36
Pte. Barry ...	4	Col.-Sergt. Evenden ...	1
Lieut. Chins ...	0	2nd-Lieut. Hayne ...	2
Capt. Porter ...	1	Col.-Sergt. Sullivan ...	1
Lieut. McPorter...	2	Pte. Upton ...	6
Pte. Shaw ...	13	2nd-Lieut. Stone ...	0
Sergt. Hallam ...	3	Corpl. Askew ...	0
Capt. Bowman ...	0	2nd-Lieut. Allfrey ...	0
Sergt. Pippon, not out...	13	Sergt. McGregor, not out	1
Extras ...	2	Extras ...	3
	49		138

Match between 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment and H.M.S. "Canopus," played at Corradino, Malta, 26th June. Score :—

H.M.S. "CANOPUS."		3RD R.W.K. REGT.	
Lieut. Kendal ...	22	Capt. Burbury, retired...	107
Mid. Evans ...	20	Capt. Edwards ...	98
Lieut. Kettlewell ...	15	Bandmaster Gee ...	0
Capt. Phillips ..	38	2nd-Lieut. Hayne, not out ...	37
Rev. Horan ...	14	Pvt. Upton ...	18
Sergt. Reynolds...	23	2nd-Lieut. O'Brien ...	0
Mid. Tillard ...	0	2nd-Lieut. Stone, not out ...	2
Mid. Scott ...	0	Extras ...	7
Mid. Wilson ...	6		
Surgeon Hill ...	0		
Mid. O'Neill, not out ...	0		
Extras ...	1		
	139		269

Match between 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment and Royal Artillery, played at Verdala, Malta, 28th June, 1900. Score :—

ROYAL ARTILLERY.		3RD R.W.K. REGT.	
Lieut. Hope ...	33	2nd-Lieut. Hayne ...	52
2nd-Lieut. Cudlip ...	11	Bandmaster Gee ...	6
2nd-Lieut. Morrison ...	0	Pte. Upton ...	28
2nd-Lieut. Lucy...	0	Lieut. Barrow ...	29
2nd-Lieut. Smith ...	23	2nd-Lieut. Stone ...	1
Gunner Parham...	5	Col.-Sergt. Sullivan ...	1
Sergt. Moseley ...	8	2nd-Lieut. O'Brien ...	2
Lieut. Graham, not out	21	2nd-Lieut. Pullman ...	13
Gunner Greenwood ...	1	Col.-Sergt. Evenden ...	10
2nd-Lieut. Mason ...	0	Corpl. Askew ...	2
Lieut. Jones ...	11	Pte. Schmeldt, not out...	0
Extras ...	12	Extras ...	13
	125		157

Match between 3rd. Royal West Kent and 3rd. Royal Warwick, played at St. Clement's, Verdala, Malta, July 2nd. Score :—

3rd. R.W.K. REGIMENT.		3rd. ROYAL WARWICK REGT.	
Captain Edwards ...	83	Lieut. Darville ...	11
2nd-Lieut. Hayne ...	0	Pte. S. Karrow ...	10
Bandmaster Gee ...	7	2nd-Lieut. Neville ...	61
Pte. Upton ...	41	Lieut. Lyons ...	5
Sergt. McGregor ...	12	Lce. Corpl. Burgess ...	1
Captain Kennedy ...	2	Lieut. Truell ...	100
2nd-Lieut. Allfrey ...	9	Pte. Trotman ...	11
2nd-Lieut. Pullman ...	1	Pte. Brennan ...	41
Corpl. Askew, not out ...	21	Sergt. Hall, not out ...	17
Pte. Schmeldt ...	0	Pte. Saunders ...	12
Corpl. Haddaway ...	9	Pte. Robinson, not out...	4
Extras ...	3	Extras ...	12
	188		275

Match between 3rd Royal West Kent Regt. and The Dockyard Police, played at Verdala, Malta, 30th June, 1900. Score :—

THE DOCKYARD POLICE.		3RD R.W.K. REGT.	
Mr. Abbott ...	42	Capt. Edwards ...	2
„ Wiggins ...	0	Lieut. Hayne ...	25
„ Helford ...	45	Pte. Upton ...	2
„ Wilby ...	7	Lieut. Barrow ...	20
„ Potentier ...	0	Col. Sergt. Evenden ...	20
„ Marr ...	18	2nd-Lieut. Stone ...	4
„ Hill ...	6	2nd-Lieut. O'Brien ...	0
„ Toyer not out ...	31	Corpl. Askew ...	22
„ Parks ...	0	Sergt. McGregor not out	19
„ Grubb ...	17	Pte. Smith ...	0
„ Dowsett ..	7	Lieut. Fenning ...	4
Extras...	7	Extras ...	8
	180		126

Match between 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment and Eastern Telegraph C.C., played at Verdala, Malta, 6th July. Score :—

EASTERN TELEGRAPH C.C.		3RD R.W.K. REGT.	
Phillips ...	11	Capt. Edwards ...	64
Williams...	0	2nd Lieut. Hayne ...	1
Prosser ...	24	Col.-Sergt. Evenden ...	16
Kirton ...	9	Lieut. Barrow ...	51
McLeod ...	6	2nd-Lieut. Stone ...	6
Shaefer ...	0	Corpl. Askew ...	38
Walsh ...	13	2nd-Lieut. Allfrey ...	9
Jones ...	0	Sergt. McGregor ...	12
Dempster ...	2	2nd-Lieut. Pullman ...	0
Fisher, not out ...	0	2nd-Lt. O'Brien, not out	4
A. N. Other, absent ...	0	Pte. Bailey ...	0
Extras...	3	Extras ...	34
	68		

Match between 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment and 2nd Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, played at Pembroke Camp, Malta, 9th July. Score:—

LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE.	3RD R.W.K. REGT.
Lieut. Fairlie 22	Capt. Edwards 47
Pte. McMahon 43	Lieut. Barrow 12
Pte. Molyneux 0	Col.-Sergt. Evenden ... 0
Col.-Sergt. King 52	2nd-Lieut. Hayne 4
Pte. Miller 5	Pte. Upton 5
Lieut. Greenhill 1	2nd-Lieut. Allfrey 6
Capt. Faulder 8	Sergt. McGregor 0
Sergt. Marquis 17	2nd-Lieut. Pullman ... 13
Sergt. Hedingham 2	2nd-Lieut. Stone 2
Pte. Collins 9	Lieut. Fenning, not out 3
Corpl. Nickers, not out... 13	Corpl. Haddaway 1
Extras 23	Extras 8
195	98

Captain A. W. Martyn, Royal West Kent Regt., will complete his term of service as adjutant of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion on 30th September.

YEOMANRY AND VOLUNTEER EQUIPMENT FUND.

Earl Stanhope, the Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, publishes the accompanying account showing in what manner the £8,608 11s. 10d., subscribed by the county towards the Imperial Yeomanry and Volunteers, has been expended.

RECEIPTS.

By donations received by Messrs. Wigan, Mercer, and Co., Kentish Bank, Maidstone, and Messrs. Hammond and Co., Canterbury Bank, in support of the Fund ... £8,608 11 10

PAYMENTS.

By amounts paid to the undermentioned officers for expenditure in respect of the training and maintenance of men and horses, and the equipment, outfit, and comforts of Yeomanry and Volunteers, namely:—

	s.	d.
Colonel Lord Harris, G.C.S.I. (East Kent Yeomanry) ...	4,592	13 5
Major Cornwallis, M.P. (West Kent Yeomanry)	2,311	11 1
Colonel Lord Abergavenny, K.G. (ditto, 2nd Company)	100	0 0
Lord Kesteven (ditto, Colt Gun)	100	0 0
Colonel Knocker, C.B. (1st Vol. Batt. East Kent Regt., including large Dover subscription)	730	7 10
Colonel Hussey (2nd Vol. Batt. East Kent Regt.) ...	298	11 10
Captain Umfreville (1st Vol. Batt. West Kent Regt.) ...	218	11 10
Colonel Satterthwaite (2nd Vol. Batt. West Kent Regt.)	218	11 10
Amount paid in Advertising, &c.	38	4 0
	£8,608	11 10

(Signed) STANHOPE,

Hon. Treasurer.

CHARLES TURNER,

Hon. Secretary.

BIRTHS.

At Maidstone on June 8th 1900, the wife of Colour-Sergeant H. Parry, Depot, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

On 3rd July, at Cottonera Hospital, Malta, No. 1934 Corpl. W. Savage, "L" Co., 3rd Batt. (pneumonia), after two days' illness.

At Aden, on 18th June, No. 3147 Private P. Tame, 1st Battalion.

Colonel T. H. Brock, commanding the 50th Regimental District, on the 29th of June was the inspecting officer at the Annual Drill Inspection of the St. Paul's School. Everything went off without a hitch, the boys showing the usual keenness in drill, and well deserved the words of approbation addressed to them.

Orders have been given for the men of the 3rd Battalion, who have not volunteered for service abroad, to assemble at Maidstone on 9th August, and proceed to Shorncliffe the following day for duty, and attached to the "Details" Royal West Kent Regiment.

The annual course of musketry is now being performed on the new Volunteer range at Boxley, constructed near the old Boarley range, but at an angle giving greater zone of safety behind the butts.

A draft of 57 Line and Militia recruits proceeded to Shorncliffe to join the Provisional Battalion on 7th July.

The annual inspection of the Depot by Major-General T. Fraser, C.M.G., commanding Thames District, took place on 9th July, and passed off satisfactorily.

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The Officers of both the Line Battalions and Depots, 6d. per month

Other Subscribers, 3s. per year, including postage.

Copies will be sold at 1d. per Number to Non-Commissioned Officers and Men serving with the Colours. If sent by post 1s. 6d. per year.

Extra copies or back numbers can always be supplied.

The price of back Numbers will be as follows: To N.C.O.'s and Men, 1d.; to all other Subscribers, 2½d. (Postage ½d. extra).

All Subscriptions payable in advance, and all Correspondence be addressed to THE EDITOR, The Queen's Own Gazette, The Barracks, Maidstone.

"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

No. 304.

MAIDSTONE, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1900.

[Vol. XVIII, No. 9.]

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

1ST BATTALION.

Promoted Colour-Sergeant—Sergt. E. Sillitoe, 16th July.

Promoted Sergeants—L.-Sergts. G. Seaton, 2nd June ; G. Page, 2nd June ; J. Wren, 22nd June ; G. Button, 9th July.

Promoted Corporals—L.-Cpls. T. Cox, 2nd June ; T. Joyce, 2nd June ; W. Ball, 22nd June ; P. Balcombe, 9th July.

Appointed Lance-Corporals—Ptes. J. James, 3rd July ; T. Cooksey, 4th July ; Dr. J. Ford, 17th July ; Ptes. W. Pilcher, 25th July ; F. Adams, 28th July.

2ND BATTALION.

Lt.-Col. E. A. W. S. Grove to be Brevet-Colonel, dated 19th August.

1ST BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

No. 2270, Sergt. A. Rogers has been transferred to the India unattached list.

2nd Class Certificates of Education have been granted to Cpls. J. McAnulty, J. Suffield, ; L.-Cpls. J. Mackintosh, W. Gamblin, J. Furby ; and Ptes. E. Ransome, and B. Bruce.

1st Class Certificates of Education have been awarded Clr.-Sergt. J. Holland and Sergt. D. O'Connell.

An Acting Schoolmaster's Certificate has been awarded Cpl. H. Smith.

Good Conduct Pay has been granted as under :—

Granted 2d.—Ptes. W. Arnold, C. Stace.

Granted 1d.—L.-Cpl. P. Sanger, Ptes. P. Melloy, R. Mason, A. Quittenden, E. Day, G. Clarke, E. Yeatman.

Cpl. Lush has been appointed Band Corporal.

Sergt. G. Griffen has passed Group II. for 1st Class Certificate of Education, and Sergts. G. Allen, A. Pye, F. Taylor, F. Ailwood, and Ptes. C. Beck and W. Grey in Group I.

Clr.-Sergt. G. Allen has, at his own request, reverted to Sergeant ; and Sergt. A. Klein to Private.

THE MARCH FROM KUMASSI.

Daily Graphic, 25/8/00.

No incidents of the recent disturbances in Ashanti were more exciting or more striking than those which accompanied the march from Kumassi to the coast. The column moved out of the capital of Ashanti in a heavy morning mist, a mist which proved the salvation of the fugitives. There were 600 Hausas of all ranks with the columns and 800 combatants, including the Governor and Lady Hodgson, the Basel missionaries and their wives, engineers, doctors, and other civilians. There were also 1,000 natives, who were unarmed ; and the column stretched for a couple of miles. The ladies were in the middle, protected and surrounded by a special guard. While wading through the swamps the advance guard was attacked ; four men were killed and nine wounded ; and this attack was but the prelude to many others throughout the day. Captain Marshall was among the wounded. A tornado made the first night of the retreat into a night of terror, and each day the privations and difficulties of the march bore more heavily upon the fugitives. On June 28th, five days after they had left Kumassi, Captain Marshall, who had been steadily growing worse, died of his wounds. The column halted to bury him, and the poor fellow was buried in the jungle. It was a most melancholy little scene, but so far as was possible, this brave man and fine officer was buried with military honours. Major Morris, the commander of the fugitive column, read the burial service, and all the officers assembled round his grave. Some of those who continued that terrible march were almost disposed to envy him, so great were their sufferings, especially those of the wounded. The swamps and never ceasing torrents of rain increased their hardships, and it was not until July 11th, or nearly three weeks from their setting out, that they reached safety.

2ND BATTALION NOTES.

DEAR MR. EDITOR—

I promised you in the last 2nd Battalion notes I sent you, that I would continue an account of our daily doings up to the middle of June. If my memory does not play me false, I left off at the fight on May 29th, known as that of Biddulphsberg.

We were informed the next day that the object our General had in view by engaging the Boers as we had done, had been achieved. It will be within the recollection of some of your readers that a force of Yeomanry, about 500 strong, under Colonel Spragge, which had been ordered to Lindley, found on arrival that Lindley was not in occupation of our troops. Without food and surrounded by Boers, their position

was desperate. As we learnt later on, the efforts made by a portion of the 8th Division on May 29th did not prevent the surrender of Spragge's force. When in the neighbourhood of Senekal it was generally believed our next objective point was Bethlehem. At all events the Boers believed it to be so. According to a statement made to one of us by their Intelligence officer, a very warm reception had been prepared for us had we advanced along the Senekal-Bethlehem road. As a matter of history on May 30th instead of going north we went south. And that night the Battalion bivouacked once again on a hill about 2½ miles south of Senekal, known as West Kent Hill. We *i.e.* the Grenadiers, a Battery R.F.A., and ourselves, rather expected to be left in peace for a day. But those who did expect that were wrong. If practice makes perfect we ought to be really good at moving at the shortest notice, day or night. But, though a Battalion may be ready at the appointed rendezvous, it does not necessarily follow that everything else is so ready as to enable the Battalion to advance. The day when we were ordered to be on a certain road by 12.30 noon (and were there): and when our final mission that day was to occupy as outposts, long after dark, a certain hill, and after strenuous efforts great coats and coffee were obtained just about midnight, is a day many will remember well.

The estimated distance covered that day was about six miles. And yet how tired some of us were! We were now heading towards Ficksburg. We had rejoined the 17th Brigade on the day we marched six miles. But we knew little else beyond that fact. I have heard it stated that the 8th Division would have been employed for the relief of Mafeking, had it not been for the disasters at Sanna's Post and Reddersburg. As it is, the G.O.C. 8th Division has had the very difficult task of endeavouring to contain the Boers in the Eastern part of the Orange River Colony, and to prevent their breaking away south. Sometimes therefore, the Division would be very much split up; and marching and counter-marching would become an unpleasant necessity. Though the Division never carried tents, and carried little else but food and ammunition, its mobility could never of course equal that of the Boers. Miles away from any railway line, and with very limited transport, the question of even maintaining a sufficient food supply was a very difficult one. On Saturday June 2nd, as the Battalion arrived at a Nek known as Klip Drift, General Rundle sent for Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison, and pointing out some dust rising a few miles to the rear in the direction of Senekal, told him that he had sent out some Yeomanry to ascertain whether the dust was made by Boers following us up, or by an unexpected convoy. It was known that the Boers were moving parallel to us in the same direction, a few miles away on our left flank. Gen. Rundle was going on to Hammonia with the remainder of his force, except a couple of guns and some five companies of Imperial Yeomanry, including the West and East Kent, which, with our 2nd Battalion were to occupy this Nek. Getting in convoy is a game the Battalion has taken part in before more than once, and if this dust proved to be that of a convoy, every effort was to be made to bring it on safely to Head Quarters, whereas if the dust was made by Boers, the Nek was on no account to be abandoned, and reinforcements would be sent. The dust proved to be that of a convoy; and the importance of the Nek proved to be so great that next day General Boyes returned to it with a Battalion of the South Staffords and two more guns. The 2nd Battalion remained here till June 6th, fully occupied with holding and strengthening Klip Drift Nek. On June 6th came an order for the Battalion to march at once to Hammonia. A four hours march brought us there about 6.15 p.m., an hour after dark. We were all much surprised, and it need hardly be added, grateful at our reception on approaching our Bivouac. The 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, headed by their C.O., turned out and cheered us in as an acknowledgment of our conduct when they suffered so heavily in the fight at Biddulphsburg on May 29th.

Lieut.-Colonel Harrison took this, the first opportunity, of going to see General Campbell to thank him on behalf of the Battalion for the flattering terms, in which in his letter to General Boyes, he had been good enough to allude to the conduct of the Battalion on May 29th. General Campbell was good enough to say that he considered the Battalion thoroughly deserved all he had said, and that he had meant every word of it.

At all events, I am convinced that the Battalion will gladly seize, any and every opportunity of reflecting credit on the Regiment; and I cannot but add from an intimate connection with all ranks under every varying condition of wet or cold, or heat by day and by night—that our men have proved themselves to be men of consummate grit, on whom a C.O. may count with absolute confidence.

General Campbell and the Grenadiers and East Yorks left Hammonia the next day, and the day after that General Boyes with the South Staffords rejoined us. Much lightning and heavy rain will be associated with this bivouac, as will also be a little incident about a gun. I refer to a suddenly expected attack by the Boers, the idea of which was traceable to an imaginative outpost commander, who judged that a few of Brabant's people (who, unfortunately for us had to scatter guns),

shooting quail, represented Boers advancing to the attack with supports and reserves at the orthodox intervals of 400 yards! ! !

Whether as a result of this, or not I cannot say, but the bivouac was shifted next day the other side of a hill which was held by us, and was afterwards known as Boyesberg. The bivouac allotted to the Battalion was about as bad a bit of ground as can well be imagined, very cramped and very difficult to move over without a fall. Here it was, on Saturday, June 9th, just after dark, that we welcomed our gallant Volunteer Company. Right glad were we to see them. No fault of theirs that they had not joined us two months sooner. Pure bad luck. Captain and Adjutant Buckle came with them, bringing also Second Lieutenants Henderson and Hulbert; your readers will remember that Captain Buckle was severely wounded on April 29th, in two places on Taba Nchu Mountain. His wounds healed very well and quickly; and we are all delighted to see him back again. It will be remembered that on the same day also No. 2702 Pte. W. Brook was severely wounded, and No. 5144 Pte. J. Johnson and No. 2565 Pte. E. White slightly wounded. I am afraid Pte. Brook's recovery will prove a longer affair.

The following day—Sunday—was a quiet day, but not so the night, about 10.45 the C.O. was woken up by the brigade-major in consequence of a report that the Boers contemplated an attack. This necessitated the shifting of all animals at once, and eventually our own withdrawal to a more suitable spot. That night was not a restful one, and the Boers, in the slang of the day, never gave us a show after all. Next day the C.O. was ordered to hold Boyesberg with four companies, to provision it for some days, to strengthen it as much as possible, and if possible to get up a R.F.A. gun, and at all events our own machine guns.

The other four companies were to be near General Boyes about a couple of miles off. C company, Capt. Moody; D company, Capt. Dalison; G company, Major Maunsell, and the M.I. company, Lieut. Bonham-Carter (Capt. Flanagan not having yet returned from his expedition in search of saddles), were therefore detached under Major Maunsell; E company, Major Brock-Hollinshead; F company, Capt. Martyn; H company, Captain Lowe, and the Volunteer company Capt. Morpew, remained with Lieut.-Col. Harrison. Boyes Berg was a high hill or rather two hills connected by a nek. One of these two hills was naturally very strong indeed, and on this one was a signal station, and on to this one our men managed, with the skilled aid of gunners and sappers, to get up a gun. The gun was, of course, taken off its carriage. It was then tied to a blue gum tree cut down for the purpose, and gradually carried up a track which the sappers made.

Our General—General Boyes—set much store on having the gun upon this hill, which was thought by experts to be barely feasible, and a Brigade Order issued that night was helioed up to as expressive of the General's appreciation of our men's efforts, and to celebrate the occasion a tot of rum was to be issued. I wish I had a copy of the Brigade orders for it referred to the Battalion in very nice terms. Supplies were steadily carried up all day long; and the greatest credit is due Sergt. I of M. Mitchell and his gun team for the way in which they got up their gun where it was wanted.

We were afraid that on the top of Boyes Berg we might be left; but at all events we should never receive the familiar message, "March at once." The result as usual was not the expected one. I have said there was a signal station on this hill. Through this station went not only messages starting from Ficksburg to Klip Drift, where were Divisional Head Quarters, but messages from Ficksburg which originated at Leribi. This latter place is in Basutoland, near the border, and from the Assistant Commissioner there news of the Boers was obtained. One message that passed through was fairly typical. Steyn had, as is his wont, been stirring up the Boers to continue the contest. By way of encouraging them he had related to them a few facts! ! The three quoted on this occasion made rather an impression upon me; and your readers must remember that it was but little we knew of what was going on in the world. Still, this much even we knew was not true. How much the Boers believed we do not know. But the facts (!) were threefold:—1, that France had declared war against England; 2, that, though it was true Pretoria had been taken, yet Lord Roberts had been properly entrapped, for he was surrounded, cut off, and it was but a question of a very few days when starvation would compel him to surrender; 3, a large portion of the British Army in South Africa had revolted. Could it truly be said we were without news on the top of Boyes Berg. Soon afterwards the helio flashed quite another message and equally unexpected. Colonel Grove, in spite of all the doctor's prophecies, has returned. Most heartily do we congratulate him on his return to duty, and hope he will keep fit during the remainder of the campaign. Hardly had he taken over command again than at 3.15 a.m. on June 16th came by lamp the message, "Prepare to move." Lieut. Lister quickly followed mounted, with the detailed order to move.

The Battalion was to come together again and start before dawn for Ficksburg.

YOUR 2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

A private of the 2nd Battalion spontaneously writes to the Editor of the *Kent Messenger*. His letter is dated: "Opposite Boer Position, Spitz Kop, Orange Free States, July 9th." and he says: "No doubt you have heard very little of the doings of the 2nd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, as we have been moving so fast from place to place that few of us have had time to contribute a little to the county paper.

"We have had some awful marches. General Rundle complimented us on being the best marching regiment in the 8th Division. At the time of writing, the headquarter companies, under Colonel Grove, are entrenched at Ficksburg, and four companies, under Major Maunsell, are here opposite the Boer position of Spitz Kop, about 2,000 yards off. This is eight miles from Ficksburg, so you see we are split up; in fact, the whole of the Division is split, as we are now keeping the Boers from retreating southwards and holding positions, like a half moon in shape, from Senekal to Ficksburg. We are properly playing the Boer at his own game of hide and seek. They snipe us all day long, but being here close on 14 days, we have made the front of this kop like Gibraltar—nearly impregnable; so their bullets strike the rocks only. Our strength here is 500 men under Major Maunsell, and one gun (a 15 pounder), two maxims, and a troop of Colonial Volunteers, who, I assure you, make it very warm for the Boers whenever the occasion arises. About 1,700 yards on our right is another kop, which Mr. Boer inhabited every day at sunrise to snipe our sentries. But this was carried on for a week only. Last Tuesday some Colonials went out about two o'clock in the morning and hid themselves behind a small hillock, and when Mr. Boer appeared they made it pretty lively for him for a while; in fact the sniping has now nearly disappeared.

"We are now at the beginning of the end, as our orders are to double all sentries as pressure is being brought to bear from the rear of the Boers, probably by General Buller or Lord Kitchener; and my opinion is that the final stand of the burghers of the Free State, who, at the time of writing, have been considerably reinforced, will take place here, or at least very close. So we hope soon to have our fingers round the throats of Generals De Wet and Olivier, who have led us round the Free State so long. The health of the Regiment is fair considering all things, as we have had till lately only one blanket and often half rations and 18 to 20 mile marches daily. Trusting this will not unduly trespass on your time, and thanking you in anticipation,

"F. G., G Company."

Will F. G. please send some company jottings for the *Q.O.G.*—Ed.

THE HALF-STARVED EIGHTH DIVISION.

The alleged neglect of General Rundle's division (the Eighth), formed the subject of a question in the House of Commons. It was alleged by Mr. Hales, a war correspondent, writing in July, that the men are absolutely starving. Many of the infantrymen are so weak that they can barely stagger along. They are worn to shadows, and move with weary, listless footsteps. . . General Rundle faces the work in front of him with men whose knees knock under them when they march, with hands that shake when they shoulder their rifles—shake, but not with fear; tremble, but not with wounds, but from weakness, from poverty of blood and muscle, brought about by continual hunger. Are those men fit to storm a kopje? Are they fit to tramp the whole night through, to make a forced march to turn a position, and then to fight as their fathers fought next day? Mr. Wyndham, the Under-Secretary for War, had to admit a good many of the accusations, and while remarking in passing that General Rundle had achieved one of the greatest successes of the war, said that the complaint must be investigated to its very depths.

ARRIVAL OF THE DRAFT FOR THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY AT THE FRONT.

The following is an extract from a letter from a correspondent to the *Kentish Mercury*:—"Friday, July 6th, was quite a red-letter day with us, for early in the morning we heard that our second contingent was down in the town. This proved correct, for at about 10 o'clock we saw a small body of men climbing up the hill towards us, and they turned out to be the men under the command of Lieut. Marchant. We accorded them a hearty welcome, receiving them with three cheers. Just before dinner we had a tin of cigarettes served out which had been sent by Mrs. Marchant, and they were most acceptable, as I told you last week to what straits we were put for smoking. On behalf of the men in the Active Service Company belonging to the 2nd. Vol. Batt. we wish to thank Mrs. Marchant very much, and to say how pleased we are to have Lieut. Marchant with us, the more so as he has earned the golden opinions of the men who came with him. After dinner we were paid out with £3 each, so that we have some money again, though we cannot buy much. Just before tea and before the men went on duty, four mail bags put in an appearance, and we found three lots of copies of the *Kentish Mercury* among them, viz:—March 30th, April 6th, and 13th. They were very welcome, and we found also three weeks' letters and parcels. This is the first mail we

have had for three weeks, so we are once more up to date. There is nothing new in the situation here except that we have had a letter from General Rundle telling us that the next 8 or 10 days are most critical; and there is a rumour that Lord Roberts is coming down to join us. The Boers hold a very strong position, but we hope to finish them off with very little loss. I must bring this to a close owing to want of paper." A copy of the *Kentish Mercury* has been sent each week since they left England, to every member of the Active Service Contingent.—Ed.

SOLDIERS' BALANCES UNCLAIMED.

The next of kin of Pte. A. Burris, late 1st. Batt., are entitled to £10 19s. 7d.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

SHOOTING MATCH.

The new Boarley Volunteer Range has been in great request lately. The second Shooting Match by the Depot Club was held there on 22nd August, against the West Kent Yeomanry Cavalry. The conditions were not exactly equal, as the Yeomanry used their carbines, whilst the rifle was used by the Depot. Still, it was expected that a tighter match would have resulted. From the scores below everything went in favour of the Depot, who ultimately won by 306 points.

Scores:—

	DEPOT CLUB.			
	200-yds.	500-yds.	600-yds.	Total.
Staff-Sergt. Wright.....	29	25	29	83
Sergt. Smart.....	34	20	22	76
Pte. Wells.....	33	25	23	81
Corpl. Malt ...	33	23	32	88
Sergt. Paine	33	28	30	91
Corpl. Gale	30	26	32	88
Corpl. Selves ..	33	31	32	96
Sergt. Savage	26	22	30	78
Colr.-Sergt. Bourne.....	29	27	32	88
Colr.-Sergt. Osborne ...	34	29	31	94
Colr.-Sergt. Murphy ...	31	27	32	90
Q.M. Sergt. Gilburd ...	29	12	30	71*
				1024
* Counted out	...	...	...	71
				953

WEST KENT YEOMANRY CAVALRY.

	200-yds.	500-yds.	600-yds.	Total.
Sergt.-Major Halls ...	31	11	2	44
Bandmaster Hayward...	34	21	22	77
Trooper Green	30	21	17	68
Trooper Fremlin	28	22	12	62
Sergt. Hirons	29	24	9	62
Sergt. Oliver.....	25	14	16	55
Sergt. Wallond	29	25	19	73
Sergt. Saville	34	22	19	75
Quartermaster Seymour	6 retired	—	—	6
Trooper Smythe	26	24	23	73
Trooper Kite	29	12	15	56
				651

Awarded 3rd Class Certificate of Education, 28-8-1900. Boys: G. Page, J. Law, W. Hannan, J. Knight, J. Marra, F. Wilson, E. Orchard, J. Irvine, G. Gabriel, H. Norrington, and G. Wright.

No. 3224 Pte. J. Jones granted 2d. good conduct pay.

Dr. Williams has been permitted to assume his correct name, viz.: Alfred William Saunders.

Orders having been issued for the disembodied portion of the 3rd Battalion to be called up—90 responded, and have been sent to Shorncliffe to join the Provisional Battalion.

The Thames District Rifle Meeting is now in progress, and we have received a telegram from Gravesend to say that the South Eastern Challenge Cup and the Warde Shield has been won by the Depot Team.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

Mellieha Camp, Malta,

19th August, 1900.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

As I stated in my last, when I wrote, we were under orders for Mellieha Camp; now we are to go back "home" to Verdala Barracks on Wednesday next, sending a detachment to Pembroke Camp for musketry. We are to strike all the camp and take all tentage, &c., &c., along with us by sea, in A.S.C. lighters to Valetta. Truly, the "moving" spirits in Malta are immense.

H Company came out here as advance party to take over camp from the 3rd Loyal North Lancashires, who have been in Verdala during our absence, and G Company goes to Verdala on Monday to take over from them.

During our stay here we have had a field day once a week, and the remainder of the time has been spent by the men in bathing and company cricket, &c. ; and the officers, in sailing about the coast. "A" and "I" Companies are still to stay at Imtarfa.

The great events of our stay here have been the picnic of the married families on the 11th, when all the women and children came out in the garrison tug "Sir Edwin Markham," and had a real good day at the seaside. There were about 60 women and children, and the youngsters and some of the elder ones of the party thoroughly enjoyed paddling on the beach. At one o'clock they partook of the following lunch in the recreation room :—

MENU.

Mayonnaise of Chicken.
 Roast Capons. Braized Turkey.
 Roast Beef.
 Pigeon and Steak Pie.
 Ox Tongue.
 ———
 SWEETS.
 Blanc Mange. Compôte of Apples.
 Pine Apple Jelly.
 Dessert.

During which the band turned out of their own accord and played a lively selection.

Before they returned to the married quarters at Verdala, they also had a substantial tea, and the younger children toys and crackers. Great credit is due to Sergt. Blount, who made all arrangements for their entertainment, and to Sergt.-Instructor M. Hurley, for conducting the party safely to Mellieha and back.

The same evening the orderly room tent was burnt down, and so the Adjutant's department have got plenty to do to get things straight.

During our stay here there have also been detachments of Derbyshire's gunners and the Lancashire's, and to-day the Chaplain from Imtarfa paid his monthly visit, and took the service.

Lieut.-Col. Bailey, Capt. Annesley, Lieuts. Bazley-White, Barrow, and Hooper are in England on sick leave. Col.

Bonhote, Capts. Edwards, Burbury, Fleming, and Neve, on ordinary leave ; so the officers are a somewhat small party.

Yesterday we held sports on the Mellieha "Marsa" in a storm of dust, which went off very well, the arrangements being under a committee of officers and sergeants.

RESULT.

1.—Swimming Race (final).

1. Pte. Bishop, M Company, 10/-
 2. Pte. Thompson, F Company, 7/6
 3. Private Harper, H Company, 5/-
 4. Lance-Corpl. Knight, H Company, 2/6
- A very good race over a hard course.

2.—Tug of War (final). Teams.

1. K Company Team, 20/-. Coach, (Sergt. Neighbour), 5/-
 2. B Company Team, 10/-. Coach (Sergt. Matthews), 2/6
- A very good competition throughout, and undoubtedly won by the best team in camp.

3.—100 yards (final).

1. Sergt. Neighbour, K Company, 10/-
 2. Pte. Carter, D Company, 7/6
 3. McDonald, G Company, 5/-
 4. Edwards, L Company, 2/6
- Won easily. No times taken as on sand.

4.—Three-legged Race, 50 yards.

1. Sergt. Neighbour, 10/-
Col.-Sergt. Bass,
 2. Rose, D Company, 6/- Sheen, F Company,
Coat, D Company, 4/- Stone, F Company,
- Amusing race, dead heat for 2nd place.

5.—Half-mile Race.

1. Nichols, H. Company, 10/-
2. Ludgrove, M Company, Baker, 7/6 and 5/-
Dead heat 2nd place.
4. Schmett, H Company, 5/-

6.—150 Yards (Sergeants).

1. Sergt. Neighbour, 10/-
2. Sergt. A. N. Other, 7/6
3. Col.-Sergt. Bass 5/-
4. Sergt. Amies, 2/6

7.—220 Yards open (West Kents excluded).

- 1 & 2 Carey and Connolly, 2nd Derby, 10/- and 7/6
- 3 Brooks, 2nd Derby, 5/-
- 4 Millan, 2nd Derby, 2/6

8.—Musical Race, 100 yards (instruments to be played while Racing).

1. Pullen (big drum) 10/-
2. Cooper, flute 7/6
3. Lance-Corpl. Price, double bass, 5/-
4. Chandler, bugle, 2/6

- 9.—100 yards band boys.
1. Richardson, 5/-
 2. Francis, 2/6
- 10.—Turning out in Marching Order.
1. Scott, F Company, 10/-
 2. Cheeseman, D Company, 7/6
 3. Izzard, H Company, 5/-
 4. North, M Company, 2/6
11. Old Soldiers, 100 yards.
1. Cantan, B Company, 10/-
 2. Brown, L Company, 7/6
 3. Conchin, H Company, 5/-
 4. Bryant, 2/6

3rd BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

3RD BATTALION CRICKET.

The following match was played at Mellicha Camp, Malta.
Match between 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment and 1st Lancashire Fusiliers (Gozo Detachment), 9th August, 1900.

3RD ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Col-Sergt. Neighbour,			
c Cowen, b Simpson ...	8	run out	2
Lt. O'Brien, b Simpson ...	6	b Ogden	6
Pte. Upton, b Simpson ...	0	c Ogden, b Smith	18
Lieut. Hayne, c Broderick,			
b Brown.....	1	c LeMarchant, b Brown ...	27
Sergt. McGregor, b Brown	11	c Carmody, b Ogden.....	0
Lieut. Grant, c Simpson,			
b Brown.....	7	b Ogden	3
Pte. Askew, b Ogden	0	c Simpson, b Brown	0
2nd.-Lieut. Stone, c Brod-			
erick, b Brown ..	0	lbw, b Brown ..	3
2nd.-Lt. Allfrey, not out ...	2	b Simpson	2
Capt. Fleming, b Ogden... ..	0	c LeMarchant, b Simpson	0
Pte. Driver, run out... ..	5	not out.....	1
Extras... ..	5	Extras ..	5
	45		67

1ST LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS.

Cowen, b Upton	1	c Allfrey, b Upton	3
Broderick. c Driver, b do.	0	c Hayne, b Upton ...	3
Melvin, b Upton	3	c McGregor, b Upton	7
Ogden, b Upton	3	b Upton	0
Lt. LeMarchant, b Stone	9	c O'Brien, b Stone.....	1
Smith, b Upton	0	not out	4
Ashworth, b Upton	4	lbw, b Stone	0
Lieut. Bromley, b Upton...	0	b Upton	3
Simpson, c Hayne, b Upton	6	c O'Brien, b Grant.....	5
Carmody, run out.....	2	c O'Brien, b Stone.....	2
Brown, not out	0	b Stone.....	14
Extras... ..	5	Extras	5
	26		46

VOLUNTEER INTELLIGENCE.

1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Twenty-nine Members of the Maidstone Church Institute have been sworn in as members of the Cyclists' Company attached to the first Volunteer Battalion Royal West Kent Regt., and it is expected that 20 more will be enrolled shortly. Work has been commenced in earnest, and eight evenings during the past fortnight have been devoted to drills, etc. Sergt. Dark is taking the squad drills, while Sergt. Hughes gives instruction to the signalling class. The uniform, which will be blue with red facings, and field service caps, is not expected before the end of October. The members are showing the greatest interest in the drills, which take place at the Institute, and there is every prospect of a successful company being established.

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

THE CAMP AT HYTHE.

The weather during the second week of the camp at Hythe has been anything but pleasant. The canteen marquee was blown down on Friday night, and most of the tents were strained and consequently a trifle leaky. However, at the time of writing a decided improvement has been noted. On Saturday morning about 350 officers and men with the bugle band paraded at 4 a.m. for two days' mobilisation at Chattenden, near Chatham. This portion of the Battalion were to take part in the experimental mobilisation of the various units comprised in the Thames District Defence Scheme, and Chattenden is the position which the 2nd Volunteer Battalion West Kent would at once proceed to occupy in case of national need for their services. The post is a most important one, it covering Chatham from the River Thames and protecting the immense magazine at Chattenden. On arrival (after a long journey *via* Paddock Wood) the men were at once ordered to pile arms and take off their equipment. The various fatigue men were told off in parties to obtain wood, water, draw stores, &c., exactly as if on active service, the remainder setting about pitching the tents. This took till dinner time, when tea was provided with the bread and meat which the men had each brought from Hythe. At 3 p.m. all marched off to take up their positions in an outpost line extending some two and a half miles in length and from three to five miles from camp. At eight o'clock four out of the six companies returned into camp, the other two keeping their ground until relieved. After a good hot meal three companies were again marched off for all night duty, relieving the two

which had been left out. An enemy was expected to make a vigorous attack from the river during the night, and with searchlights flashing and guns booming the lonely outposts had a trying experience. I am glad to say that the enemy did not get through our lines. All the companies had a hard time, one in particular putting in twenty-seven consecutive hours' duty—in marching order a good part of the time. Sunday was made a day of rest, which was very welcome, but as an order to turn out might come at any moment men had to remain in camp. The whole thing was carried through under conditions nearly as possible approaching active service, and the instruction was invaluable. Nothing like it has been carried through so thoroughly before. The mobilisation men returned to Hythe on Monday morning, leaving Chattenden soon after three o'clock and arriving at 7.30. At the annual inspection of the battalion, held shortly after breakfast for these men, Colonel Brock (commanding the 50th Regimental District) expressed entire satisfaction, and it was also stated that the officer commanding at Chattenden was highly pleased with the work performed, and wished the men could have remained longer. The remainder of the battalion, including a number who came down specially for this purpose, were to have been inspected, but the weather put that out of the question. It rained in torrents, making the whole camp a quagmire. Colonel Brock had seen in the morning these men at company drill, and was enabled to judge of their efficiency. On Wednesday the battalion paraded for a field day in the Elham Valley on the way to Canterbury, and had a good march out and home, making about 17 or 18 miles altogether. Reveille for this parade was sounded at 4 a.m., and the men did not return until 2.30 p.m. Major-General Parr, commanding the South-Eastern District, who superintended the operations, was quite satisfied with the battalion. It will be seen that plenty of good useful work is being done, and the men are getting very fit.

The concluding week of the special training has so far been marked, writes our special correspondent, by more suitable weather for life under canvas than was the case at the outset. A large number of men left camp on Saturday, having completed their 14 days—in many instances three weeks—but there are still over 400 here. The sergeants of the Battalion were "at home" to those of the London Rifle Brigade in a shooting match on the ranges adjoining the camp. The result was a win for our men, who thus avenged their defeat last year. The following are the scores:—

Col.-Sergt. Mitchell	20	29	54	93
Sergt. Bryant	33	28	27	88
Sergt. Davis	27	32	28	87
Col.-Sergt. Bullied	25	31	30	86
Col.-Sergt. Allard	24	31	28	83
Col.-Sergt. Tebbutt	27	31	23	81
Pioneer-Sergt. R. A. Smith ...	28	30	23	81
Col.-Sergt. McDonnell	24	32	20	76
Sergt. F. Hall... ..	17	29	29	75
Col.-Sergt. Towell	29	30	15	74

824

Average 82.4.

Sergt. Wright... ..	30	29	29	88
Sergt. Puckle	27	33	26	86
Sergt. Barry	24	31	28	83
Col.-Sergt. Koszelski... ..	24	24	34	82
Sergt. Taylor	23	26	26	75
Col.-Sergt. Roche	24	31	20	75
Q.M.S. Lintott	25	33	17	75
Sergt. Stribling	25	26	14	65
Sergt. Butler	22	28	11	61
Sergt. Potter	26	14	18	58

748

Average 74.8.

An excellent dinner was provided in the sergeants' mess by the Hon. Secretary, Sergt. G. Tams, after the match, and meanwhile the well-known Winchester Orchestra (specially engaged) rendered selections of high-class music, under the direction of Mr. A. E. Jackson. A smoking concert followed, which was attended by Colonel Satterthwaite and the other officers of the Battalion, together with representatives from many regular and volunteer sergeants' messes. Most of the L.R.B. sergeants were put up for the night in the camp, and were further entertained by a trip to Folkestone on Sunday morning, and a sacred concert by the Winchester Orchestra in the afternoon. *Kentish Mercury*.

On Monday a detachment was at Hythe Station awaiting the arrival of the London train when a woman threw herself on the metals. Lieut. Price, of Dartford, who was in charge of the Volunteers, at once jumped on to the line and succeeded in dragging the woman on to the platform just as the train steamed into the station. But for his prompt action the woman would have been in all probability killed, for the Lieutenant was only just in time, in fact he was knocked on to the platform by the engine, but sustained only a few bruises.

We have received three pieces of poetry from H. H. at the front, which we regret being unable to publish.

3RD VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

About 200 members of this battalion, under the command of Col. Hunt, V.D., paraded at the Drill Hall, Beresford Street, Woolwich, at 5.15 on the morning of Bank Holiday, and proceeded by special train to Waterloo, and thence by the South-Western to Staines, whence they marched to Runemede for the purpose of completing the special course of musketry. The party arrived on the range about nine, and after breakfast in the pavilion formed up facing the targets for practice, the first part being completed by one o'clock. After dinner rain delayed the shooting until about four o'clock, when the course was concluded. Considering the state of the weather some fairly good results were obtained. After tea the battalion paraded for the homeward journey, headquarters being reached about 10.30.

DRILL BY NUMBERS.

When the martial hobby takes you and you join the Volunteers,
And you've got to put in sixty drills within your first two years,
You start to drill by numbers in a very awkward squad,
That's the way you learn your fighting for your country and your God;
Just learning drill by numbers, just by doing what your told,
The same as those that learned it in the good old days of old;
They taught them to stand steady and be shot at by the hour;
Their patience was a model and their strength it was a tower.

Now the ways of men have altered, and its just the same all round;
The ways of guns have altered, too, but the good old drill is sound.
We play a lot of hide and seek and each new-fangled game,
But a rooky's got to learn his drill by numbers all the same.
It makes a lad keep steady, it keeps his chest in trim,
It helps to teach him something, and it makes a man of him,
So bring your pals to join us and we'll show them how to drill,
But they'll have to learn those little things we teach by numbers still.

You don't admire the system? It is out of date. But then
We'll show you lads that learned it, and those lads have grown to men;
You can see them walking out with girls, their shoulders set and trim;
You can see them walking here in camp all sound in wind and limb;
Or, if you take a voyage abroad, you'll see them at the Cape,
Where they're gone a fighting Kruger, just you see the way they shape.
George Morpew and his men are there, all working with a will,
And yet it was by numbers that he taught them how to drill.

Lee-Enfield, smokeless powder, loose formations and the like,
It all sounds right and proper, yes, and drilling on a bike,
But you've got to go to Holly Hedge and join that awkward crew
That learn their drill by numbers, just the same as me and you.
Before our soldier learns to run, he must be taught to walk,
Ere he comes to taking cover and all that sort of talk;
So bring your pals to join us and perhaps in course of time
They will profit by that good old drill by numbers pantomime.

The moral of my little lay's not hidden you'll admit,
It's "don't run mad on theory, stop and practice for a bit,"
You'll learn when lead is flying round not to be over bold,
We'll teach you in the drill hall just to do what you are told;
A loose formation's handy when you're scrambling up a kop,
It may get a trifle looser ere you come to reach the top,
But the good old drill by numbers, simply that and nothing more,
You've got to learn a lot of it before you thrash the Boer.

Camp, Hythe,
August, 1900.

M.C.

BIRTH.

At Maidstone, on 9th August, the wife of Sergt. F. Coe, 3rd Battalion, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

At Aden, on 14th July, No. 5289, Pte. B. Hillier, 1st Battalion.

At Aden, on 23rd July, No. 4085, Pte. H. Cuthbert, 1st Battalion.

At Ficksburg, on 25th August, No. 5185, Pte. J. Davis, 2nd Battalion, of enteric fever.

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

No. 305.

MAIDSTONE, OCTOBER 1st, 1900.

[Vol. XVIII, No. 10.]

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

1ST BATTALION.

Second-Lieut. F. S. Treanor resigns his commission, 1st September.

Appointed Lance-Corpl. Pte S. Bushell, 24th September, 1900.

2ND BATTALION.

Promoted Sergeant, Lance-Sergt. A. Jasper, 4th May; Cpl. E. Bennett, 30th June; L.-Sergt. W. Humphries, 6th July.

Appointed L.-Sergts.—Cpls. A. Collins, J. Balding, and E. Martin, 13th August.

Appointed L.-Cpl. Pte. T. Gadney, 2nd August.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

—o—

ADEN, 15/8/00.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

There is a little more news than is usual for Aden to give you this month.

Major Western and Captain Beresford received orders to join the 2nd Battalion, and after some delay, owing to the scarcity of boats running from here to South Africa, embarked on July 30th, and are due to arrive at Durban about the 24th of August. Captain Burt has gone home on leave for two months, and Captain Hotham to Poona for a garrison class, so that we are rather reduced in numbers at present. Lieut. O'Dowda has been appointed A.D.C. to Brigadier-General Penton. There has not been nearly so much fever during the last month, and the health of the Battalion has considerably improved.

It has been decidedly cooler for the last few weeks, and more matches have been played.

The Detachment played the R.A. at Steamer Point, and drew with them after a good game. The Regimental team is playing them in the course of the next week, and should be successful.

An open-air concert was held on the Parade Ground, Crater, last week, and was a great success, chiefly owing to the efforts of Mr. Davis, the bandmaster. Pte. Brooker's

songs were especially good, also those of Clr.-Sergt. Allen, Ptes. Harris, and Cassidy. Lieut. Barton's songs were much appreciated. It was rather a hard day for the band as they were suddenly called out to a funeral in the afternoon, and early on the morning after were marching in to Steamer Point. The harbour has lately been filled with men-of-war of all nations on their way to China. A serious accident took place on a German cruiser. A boiler exploded just as she was entering the harbour, and two men were killed and two others so severely injured that they died a few hours' afterwards.

ADEN, 10/9/00.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

We are well into the so called worst month of the Aden year. The average temperature, however, has not, up to date, been as high as that recorded during the month of June. Wind and sandstorms still prevail, and on account of these, the doings of the 1st Battalion have been very limited.

On the night of the 28th August we enjoyed a concert in the regimental theatre. The front seats were packed, and Bandmaster Davis is to be congratulated on the success of his efforts.

On the 1st September an inter-company boat race was started, each company being limited to two crews. Eleven crews entered, and it would have taken a very learned prophet to foretell the result. It, however, turned out to be an easy affair for "D" Coy's crew, which in the final heat made the pace all through, and won in a canter. "G" Coy's crew gained second prize, which was all the more creditable as, being at headquarters, they had not the same opportunity of practising as the others.

The band, now being at Steamer Point for a change of air, are giving a series of musical evenings on the Maidan, opposite the Gymkhana club, which are largely patronised by the inhabitants of Aden. In another month the Aden season will once more be starting. Indeed, there are even now rumours of the arrival of some of those lucky persons who have escaped the hot weather, and have been enjoying themselves in more fascinating spots than sun-baked Aden.

Colonel Harrison has arrived, and Captain Burt has returned from leave. Capt. Hewett, to the regret of all, has left to take up his new appointment at Kingston College, Canada.

We have just received by the Indian mail the news of the death, at Naini Tal, of Hon. Captain Mansfield, late quartermaster of the 1st Battalion.

YOUR 1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

1ST BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

A first class certificate of Education has been awarded to Lance-Corpl. S. Bushell.

Good Conduct pay has been granted as under :—

Granted 3d. : Pte. C. Pettitt

Granted 2d. : Lance-Corpls. E. Kirby, E. West, and Pte. W. Hyde.

Granted 1d. : Lance-Corpl. J. Southon, Ptes. G. Home-wood, P. Sullivan, W. Collins, L. Newman, J. Porter, H. Wood, Boy J. Whitmore, and E. Rixon.

Through Reuter's Agency,

Aden, August 31st.

Count Von Waldersee, the Commander of the Allied Forces operating in China, landed here this afternoon, having accepted an invitation from the British Political Resident, who received the Field Marshall with much ceremony.

He was received by a Guard of Honour of the 1st. Batt. Royal West Kent Regiment, and salutes fired.

The Field Marshall was much gratified with his reception, and expressed himself as highly pleased with the appearance and smartness of the Guard of Honour.

At 5 o'clock in the afternoon Count Von Waldersee continued his voyage to China.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

June 15th.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Your correspondent has changed, the long-expected blow has fallen, "Our Major" has gone! "Good wine needs no bush," and all those who know him will be able best to appreciate what an irreparable loss he is to the Battalion. We all wish him the best of luck in his new command, and congratulate the 1st Battalion on its good fortune in getting Lieut.-Colonel Harrison for a C.O.

When we left Senekal we were full of regrets at having lost Colonel Grove (27th May), who we thought was seriously ill, and did not expect to see again, as the doctors all agreed he would be ordered home, but I think the doctors reckoned without their host, or at any rate his pluck for he turned up about three weeks later at Hammonia quite well and in the best of spirits, having been to Bloemfontein, and done a few days in command at Winburg on his way back. Our long-lost Flanagan arrived, too, the same night, with a waggon load of saddles for his company of Mounted Infantry, which the men call "Flanagan's Horse"! During the night of the 15th June, orders were issued for the Battalion and two guns to move to Ficksburg. D Company was on outpost, and had been warned that an attack on the post would be made during the night. The officer commanding D Company received, about 11 p.m., a message which puzzled the signallers, who brought it to him thinking it was a code message, but he quickly saw it was a message in Hindustani, saying "Khubar dhar, bunah fugar," which means, "take care, early morning." He guessed at once it was from Major Maunsell, who was in command of the half Battalion to which D belonged, warning him of the impending attack in the early morning, as sending a message in plain English would have been read by the Boers, who were only about two miles in front of us, and might have put them off. The answer to the message was returned in Hindustani to show it was understood

About 3 a.m. an orderly of the Mounted Infantry arrived with an order to say we were to join the Battalion on the road to Ficksburg at 5 a.m., and that we should be relieved immediately by a Company of the East Yorkshires. Of course the attack did not come off, the usual morning sky at sunrise disclosed the Boers shaking their blankets, and performing other useful morning rites. Our relief was late, but we overtook the remainder of the Battalion a few miles on the road. Half way to Ficksburg was a post called Willow Grange occupied by two companies of the Manchester Regiment. The road all the way to Ficksburg was a dangerous one, but near here it entered a very bad defile about three miles long, which without Willow Grange being occupied, would have been very dangerous, as it was, through glasses, I could see Boers watching our progress, but they kept a long way off. When we arrived at Ficksburg we were much pleased with the look of the place. There were nice young plantations of fur trees dotted about, and the town was a decent size and well treed too. We were marched close to it, and halted in quarter column, as we thought, at last in for a good rest, we were not a mile from the Basuto Border, the Boers about two miles in front of us and the idea of going South was, of course, absurd. The Officers established their mess in the cricket pavilion, and we all slept in the Recreation Ground, the cricket netting was hung on the barbed wire fence to keep the wind off. As night fell the clouds gathered and before we had been in bed long one heard the patter, patter of rain drops on one's valise, and it rained nearly all night and ran into our beds, it had stopped when we got up. But in the middle of the night I heard talking in the Colonel's direction, and the one magic word "Ladybrand," the only word I caught, told me that the absurd idea of going South was indeed about to become fact, and sure enough orders were issued early in the morning for ourselves and two guns 2nd Battery R.A. Queenstown Volunteers and Imperial Yeomanry, and Col. Mayne, R.E., to march at once to Ladybrand. After a last meal in the pavilion, we had to go on parade in the pouring rain, and owing to some hitch we were standing about till nearly one o'clock, when we got off the state of the road can be better imagined than described, the streets of the town were far worse than the country roads, which were very slippery, and getting heavier every minute. Even after the Regiment started some of the companies were halted and had to stand in the rain, and got gradually soaked; it was most unpleasant when the cold rain began to run down one's back, and I don't know that that was the worst of it, but it was the certain knowledge that you would have to spend the night without change and sleep in one's misery. Well, we trudged on in the slush till the day's work was over; we passed through the worst defile I have ever seen, about two miles long, with beetling crags on either side, 800 to 1,000 feet high, 10 men could have made it impassable. However, it was clear of the enemy and so one could afford to say it was very pretty, with a branch of the Great Caledon running alongside the road and two of the biggest mills in the country working by steam at the foot of the immense hills. This was on a Sunday, but I do not suppose 10 men in the force knew it, it is curious how one loses all count of the day of the month and week unless you keep a diary regularly. Next morning we paraded at 7 a.m. and marched to Clocolan, about 14 miles. The going was excellent and one could never have told how it had rained all the previous day and night. About half way we came to the house of an Englishman with a Dutch lady for his wife. The estate was most beautifully laid out with large groves of fine trees, the house itself standing almost hidden by one. Col. Grove and some of the officers went up to lunch at the house, while we all sat out on the veldt envying them a champagne lunch with paté and all sorts of good things, in fact, we thought it rather mean considering the man was a millionaire that champagne was not provided for all the officers and beer for the men, but those who went to lunch told us quietly when they came back that they were still hungry and thirsty, and would have done better on the veldt, our feelings were instantly relieved. This house, which was furnished in the most approved style by Maple, standing by itself in a desert, was a curiosity, and one could not help thinking, "what waste," and wondering how any man could choose to come and live a solitary life of this sort; it must be so dull for his wife, too. But perhaps there is more in this than meets the eye! All the ladies staying at this palace came out to see the camp, their conductor, a young officer of Yeomanry, clearly demonstrating his lack of knowledge of how a camp should be laid out, by his conduct of the party, and I am sure the ladies saw many strange sights that day they did not come to see.

At Clocolan, parade was ordered for 7 a.m. At 6.30 we were just in the middle of breakfast, when Colonel Mayne, commanding the column, came to tell us he had just received a message from Ficksburg to say the column was to return at once; so instead of going on, we went back one march, and entered Ficksburg about mid-day on June 20th, and took over the trenches and position originally occupied by the 2nd Manchester Regiment on Imperain Mountain. D Company was sent into the town for town guard. Four companies went to the top of the

hill and two companies occupied the trenches on a lower spur, which was under fire from the Boer gun on Zoutkop, the enemy's advanced position. On the 22nd, F.G. Volunteer and Mounted Infantry paraded at 4 a.m., and marched back to Hammonia. D Company was moved to the spur. What is so eminently unsatisfactory about all these sudden moves is that nobody is told *why* or wherefore they are thus shifted about; for instance, in these extraordinary moves would it not have been much nicer for those four Companies if they had been left at Hammonia? Was it done for exercise? Was our General playing the stage game, and trying to make out to the Boers he had more troops than he had, by marching them up and down his line? Had the Boers become very active? And so we reasoned and wondered; we were ready to do or die, but the poet was a cruel one who expected that the honest Tommy should be deprived of his privilege to "reason why," though of course this pastime was only indulged in to ourselves; but it is the 22nd August, 1900, as I write this, and I don't mind telling you that we are absolutely sick of even "reasoning why" now; we leave that out, it is useless and hopeless. We do the doing, and are ready to die after a fashion, like machines, and so we shall go on till it is over, but as for expecting to be given a reason, or told anything which might put some interest in a move, you might as well expect to find a clean shirt in your valise. The four companies at Hammonia, 10 miles off, remained there till 26th July, entrenched, and more or less under fire the whole time, as the Boers sniped at anyone who showed himself. I was not there myself, but the officers of the Mounted Infantry often came into Ficksburg with convoys, and they told us. We used to send them jam and other stores, but the air was very good at Hammonia, and we never sent them enough. I heard that Captain Morphew returned thanks to his God, who had at last allowed him and his Volunteers to come under fire! By the way, I think this is not a bad place for me to mention how grateful we all are to this handful of men, who have thus come, of their own free will, to take their share in our hardships, and do all they can for their country in its hour of need. Except that their clothes are a different shade of green (not khaki) to ours, you cannot tell that they are Volunteers and not regulars, and it is a joy to see them go on outpost! To us, not to them.

C, D, and H, Companies, together with four companies of the South Staffordshire Regiment, three guns R.F.A., one company Imperial Yeomanry, and one section R.E. constituted the garrison of Ficksburg during all the, to us, memorable four or five weeks which we honoured by calling the Siege of Ficksburg. One day succeeded another, but there was little variety, it was one perpetual round of digging trenches, covered ways, and putting up barbed wire entanglements; the only relief in the monotony of the thing was the almost daily exchange of a few shells with the enemy, or a run into the town to get a hot bath in a room for 5/-. You took your own wood to boil the water, and all your own soap, towels, and the *etceteras*. We even got as far as making a megaphone, so that we could talk to the top of Imperani Hill, but we found it was more bother than it was worth. Of alarms we had plenty, the only night we really were attacked we had already had one alarm and had stood to arms for about three hours and had been turned in and were all sound asleep when a big gun went off followed by a tremendously heavy musketry fire which continued about half-an-hour with a few gun at intervals. There was not a single casualty on our side. The attack was made entirely on the position held by the South Staffords, and we afterwards learnt that this feeble demonstration which the papers called "Desperate attack," was done at the instigation and in honour of a visit from Ex-President Steyn. We laid a few mines in different parts of the position, one was a fongass filled with Boer ammunition and stones, backed with 30 lbs. of gun-cotton. One poor sapper blew himself up in fuzing a shell, but I am glad to say has had a wonderful recovery and is doing well, and I heard a day or two ago, that after we had left the place altogether, some nigger whose curiosity got the better of him, could not resist pulling the connecting string, and they only found one of his boots, but beyond this I know nothing and believe the mines are still there, their positions being known to us alone, as our relief was too hurried and sketchy to think of such insignificant details as locating mines. All our day time at Ficksburg we lived more or less underground in a splinter proof shelter which was a nice protection from the cold weather but at night every man had to sleep in the open trenches or was on outpost. At last, on the 21st day of July, General Rundle with the Scots Guards and Leinsters arrived at Hammonia, and on the 22nd moved on to Willow Grange, and on that night D and H Companies, under Captain Dalison, were ordered to rendezvous at a point on the Zont Kop road, at 4 a.m., there to form part of a force which threatened Zont Kop all the next day and shelled it well, whilst General Rundle made a demonstration against Julie's Kraal Hill, the next Boer hill, on our left, the demonstration lasted all day and was carried on for miles to the left, and had excellent results. About 4 o'clock D and H Companies ad-

vanced on Zont Kop, in line with two companies of the South Staffords, under shell fire, and entrenched about 2,000 yards from the Boers, but they did not begin this till after dark, and the Boers must have been certain they were going to be attacked, for the South Staffords advanced quite close up to Zont Kop, and lost one man killed and one wounded, retiring to the trenches after dark, and in the morning the Boer gun did not fire because it had been removed during the night, and about mid-day both Jules Kraal and Zont Kop were occupied by the 8th Division. The four companies at Hammonia marched to Ficksburg and out to Zont Kop and thence to Commando Nek and Generals Nek, followed by the Ficksburg companies under Major Hollinshead. We overtook Colonel Grove with the rest at about mid-night at Generals Nek. The four Companies from Hammonia had done about 24 miles. The heart must have been out of the Boers for we passed several Neks any one of which if held would have taken a day to clear, and only then with great loss, but they evidently knew they were being surrounded, and were going as hard as they could for the only exit from the mountains left to them called the Golden Gate, but only De Wet and Olivir got out with about 2,500 men and a good number of guns, and they are, as far as we know, at the moment of writing, fighting still. Next day we marched to Brestlers Vlei, about ten miles, and there we overtook Head Quarters of the Division, and were close to Fourisburg, and in the centre of the much-talked of Boer stronghold, called the Brandwater basin. Here we halted all day, but sudden orders came from General Rundle, who had gone on about noon, for us to move after him on receipt of the order, so we marched at 8 p.m., and got within about three miles of him by about 2 a.m., when our column was stopped by a river drift which was blocked by two upset waggons of his supply column; so we lay down where we were till dawn, freezing hard, when we moved on, and were rewarded by seeing we were in for a good thing. As far as one could see were our troops, and long strings of supply and baggage columns. Generals Hunter, Paget, and Clements were there, with a large force of about 20,000 men, with two 5-inch guns; and General Macdonald, with 5,000 men and 1,500 mounted troops were at Naupoort Nek, whilst General Bruce Hamilton with a force was at the Golden Gate, the two latter being at the other end of the only road out of the hills. We were detailed to escort the enormous train of baggage of the 8th Division, of which the Scots Guards, ourselves and Leinsters were the only representatives up with General Rundle that day, he was good enough to tell Colonel Grove that he had brought us on as a special mark of favour, and a very neat return it was for anything the battalion had done in the way of marching, &c., &c., for I think we would have been very sorry to miss being so to speak, "in at the death." Next mail, whenever that may be, I hope to bring this account of some of our doings up to date. But we are more or less lost here, at the junction of Hol Spruit and the Wilge River, right in the desert, and no road leading anywhere within several miles. The Yeomanry have left this morning for Vrede, and I should not be surprised if we follow them in a few days. Up to here we have marched just 490 miles. The march, as we did it, from Ficksburg to Reitz being 185 miles, and accomplished in 13 days marching.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

GOOD SHOTS.

The Depot had a very fair proportion of successes at the Thames District Rifle Meeting at Milton Ranges on 28th, 29th, and 30th August. The Depot, indeed, did exceptionally well in carrying off the challenge cup presented by the South Eastern Railway Company, and also that given by Col. Warde, M.P., as well as a number of individual prizes: Sergt. Savage had the fourth prize of 15s. in the Officers, Warrant and Petty Officers, and Sergeants' Competition with the rifle at 200 yards; Lance-Corpl. Malt (25), Pte. Wells and Corpl. Selves (24), got 5s. each out of a similar competition between rank and file and seamen; Corpl. Selves (28), took the second prize of £1 in the 500 yards' match, among the same classes: and Col.-Sergt. Osborne (26), entitled himself to 10s. as fifth prize in the 600 yards' rifle competition between officers and non-

coms. Sergt.-Major Sumner (27), gained third prize, 15s. in the match, Officers, Warrant Officers, and Sergeants at 500 yards.

Of the 1st Volunteer Battalion Sergt.-Major Maynard (22), took fifth prize, 10s. in the competition between Officers, Warrant Officers, and Sergeants, at 500 yards. Sergt.-Instructor McRedmond, second prize, 5s. all comers' match at 600 yards, and the next day, first prize, £1, with a possible at 600.

False hopes were raised by the publication of the Depot Team as winners of the second prize, £3, in the Scouts' Competition, but this was found to be an error, they came third, but there was no third prize.

DEPOT CRICKET.

The Depot has had a fairly successful cricket season, only two matches having to be put off through bad weather. The results do not show so particularly well on paper, but after all, the result of a friendly cricket match is to be judged by the sport provided, and of that we have had plenty. We have had a large selection of players during the season, no less than 37 different names appearing in the score book. All praise is due to Clr.-Sergt. Parry for his energy, in spite sometimes of a press of business, in getting together our elevens.

PRINCIPAL BATTING AVERAGES.

	Innings.	Times Not Out.	Runs.	Average
Captain Beeching	8	1	106	15.14
Sergt. O'Reilly	20	2	269	14.94
Pte. Haslitt	22	2	240	12.
Captain Soames	7	2	47	9.4
Sergt. Merrick	15	2	101	7.07
Sergt. Stack	22	2	117	5.85
Pte. Taylor	21	1	103	5.15
Pte. Hyns	19	1	65	4.16

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	Overs.	Runs.	Wkts.	Average.
Sergt. Stack	199	461	69	6.71
Sergt. O'Reilly	42	130	16	8.12
Pte. Ayres	139	317	38	8.34
Pte. Taylor	70	207	19	10.89
Pte. Haslitt	18	54	4	12.5

Sergt. O'Reilly gained the bat kindly presented by Capt. B. H. Latter, 2nd Vol. Battalion, for the best batting average, and Sergt. Stack the ball presented by Capt. Beeching for the best bowling average.

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

Football is in full swing again, and already six matches have been played, of which the Depot have won four, and lost two. Only two players of last year's team have been lost, Grigsby and Davies; amongst fresh players that we have gained, are Mr. Irons, Sergt. Merrick, and Pte. Iliffe. So

far all our matches have been "friendlies," but shortly we shall be fully occupied in trying to win the "Maidstone League" once more, for which contest we have entered this year, as well as the Kent Junior Cup. The following reports are copied from the "Kent Messenger."

DEPOT v. MAIDSTONE ROVERS.

Played on Saturday, Sept. 8th, in the Barrack Field. The Depot won this, their first match this season, by three goals to nil. Early in the game Mr. Morris had to retire from the ranks of the Depot with a twisted knee, but, by kind permission of the Rovers, Pte. Barry was allowed to fill the vacancy. For the Depot, Taylor scored all three goals, Mr. Irons and Pte. Ayres being the most prominent of the remainder. The Depot team consisted of:—Sergt. Stack, Corpl. Spearing, Pte. Ayres, Sergt. Savage, Mr. Irons, Mr. Nunn, Mr. Morris, Corpl. Franklin, Ptes. Taylor, Vickery, and Corpl. Selves. Referee, Col.-Sergt. Bourne. Result:—

Depot... ..3 goals
Maidstone Rovers ...nil.

DEPOT v. H.M.S. PEMBROKE.

Played on the ground of the former on Wednesday, 12th. A very fast game resulted in a win for the sailors by four goals to nil. Unfortunately, after ten minutes play Mr. Irons had to retire owing to an injury to his leg, his place being taken by Pt. Ayres. During the first half Skinner and Scoons scored for "Pembroke." In the second half Scoons added a third for the "Pembrokes," and just before time a penalty against Shaw gave the visitors their fourth goal. The Depot consisted of Stack, Spearing, Shaw, Savage, Mr. Irons, Mr. Nunn, Walker, Franklin, Hazlett, Taylor, and Barry. Referee, Col.-Sergt. Bourne. Result:

H.M.S. Pembroke.....4 goals
Depotnil.

DEPOT v. OLD MAIDSTONE INVICTA.

Played on the Depot Ground on Saturday, 15th: From the start the Invicta pressed, and, after a quarter of an hour, following some good work by the right wing, scored their first goal from a scrimmage in front of goal. Play now became more even, each side trying hard to score, but without result. On crossing over, the Depot had most of the play, and came very near equalizing on several occasions. About ten minutes from time the Invicta put the issue beyond doubt by scoring the second and last goal of the match. Selves and Iliffe played well for the Depot, who were somewhat handicapped by the absence of Taylor, Mr. Irons, and Franklin. The Depot were represented by: Stack, Shaw, Spearing, Ayres, Savage, Mr. Nunn, Watling, Barry, Selves, Walker, and Iliffe. Referee, Col.-Sergt. Bourne, Result:

Old Maidstone Invicta.....2 goals
Depotnil

DEPOT v. TOVIL.

Played on the Barrack Field, on Saturday 22nd. The Depot proved too strong for their opponents, having the advantage throughout, although only three goals (one penalty) were registered for them. In the first half Hazlett scored from a scramble in front of goal, and in the second half Walker put through from a well-placed corner kick by Hazlett. Hands in front of goal, for which a penalty was given, gave the third goal. Hazlett, Savage, and Spearing played well for the Depot, whose team consisted of: Stack, Spearing, Savage, Mr. Irons, Mr. Nunn, Shaw, Hazlett, Iliffe, Selves, Walker, and Franklin. Referee, Col.-Sergt. Bourne. Result:—

Depot3 goals
Tovilnil.

DEPOT v. MAIDSTONE CHURCH INSTITUTE.

Played on the Depot Ground, on Wednesday 26th. The Depot were too strong for the "Institute," and won by five goals (Taylor, 2; Franklin, Iliffe, Walker, one each) to nil. But for bad shooting on the part of the Depot the margin in their favour would have been increased. The Depot team were: Stack, Edwards, Ayres, Savage, Mr. Irons, Franklin, Hazlett, Walker, Selves, Iliffe, and Taylor. Referee, Col.-Sergt. Bourne. Result:

Depot5 goals
Church Institute.....nil.

DEPOT v. AYLESFORD.

Played at Maidstone on Saturday last. During the first half the game was very fast and neither side could claim any advantage. In the second half the Depot showed to great advantage and scored five goals in half-an-hour, Hazlett being conspicuous for two excellent shots. Mr. Irons was a tower of strength at half, and the Depot backs were very safe. Depot: Stack, Edwards, Ayres, Savage, Mr. Irons, Mr. Nunn, Hazlett, Selves, Merrick (retired hurt), Iliffe, and Walker. Referee, Color-Sergt. Bourne. Result:

Depot5 goals
Aylesford.....nil

FIXTURES FOR OCTOBER.

October	3rd	v.	Church Institute	...	at Home.
"	6th	v.	East Malling	...	Away.
"	10th	v.	Chatham Amateurs		Away.
"	13th	v.	Maidstone North End		Home.
"	17th	v.	H.M.S. Pembroke	...	Away.
"	24th	v.	4th Bn. Lanc. Fusiliers		Away.
"	27th		1st Round Kent Junior Cup.		

3rd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

16th Sept., 1900.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—

We duly returned to Verdala on 22nd August, and made a most imposing procession round to the grand harbour, the Regiment—less the Pembroke detachment—being conveyed in three government tugs of sorts, each tug towing two lighters of baggage, camp equipment, &c.

There have been few exciting events since our return.

I enclose account of Imtarfa Detachment Sports on the 28th Aug.

The 5th Northumberland Fusiliers have gone to Imtarfa, and we have put detachments into all their barracks.

Another move is on the board this time by half Battalions to Pembroke to do Captains' rounds.

The draft from Shorncliffe arrived here on 13th, and seem a fine lot.

We had a sharp shower of rain yesterday, the first for many months.

There are various rumours of a much bigger move for the whole Regiment, but in this place of "shaves" we don't take much notice of them.

Captains Fleming, Burbury and Edwards have returned from leave.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

"A" AND "I" COMPANIES' DETACHMENT SPORTS.

These sports were held on 28th August at Imtarfa Barracks and passed off very successfully. The band of 2nd Derbyshire Regt. was kindly lent by the Officers of the old 95th. At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. Boscawen presented the prizes. There was a large attendance of the "Derbyshires," and some of the officers of the 3rd Battalion went over from Verdala. The amusing obstacle race was arranged by Captain Kennedy, and the General Committee of the sports was as follows:—Lieuts. Pullman and Thornhill, Colr.-Sergts. Botting and Palmer, Lance-Corpl. Bryden, "I," Pte. Way, "I," and Ptes. Muir and Abel of "A" Company.

RESULTS.

100 yards.—1st, Pte. Mansfield, "I," 4/-; 2nd, Pte. Corrick, "A," 2/-; 3rd, Corpl. Simmonds, "I," 1/-.

Tug of war.—"A" Company beat "I" Company, 10/-.

One mile.—1st, Pte. Brock, "I," 7/-; 2nd, Pte. Mansfield, "I," 3/-; 3rd, Pte. Abel, "A," 2/-.

Three-legged race.—1st, Ptes. Abel and Lyons, "A," 4/-; 2nd, Ptes. Farn and Fisher, "A," 2/-; 3rd, Ptes. Nixon and Cross, "I," 1/-.

Half-mile (open).—1st, Pte. Harrison, 2nd Derbyshires, 10/-; 2nd, Pte. Nailan, 2nd Derbyshires, 5/-; 3rd, Sergt. Carey, 2nd Derbyshires, 2/-.

Obstacle race.—Jump high wall off road, run 200 yards over rough ground to top of hill, pass through sack filled with various coloured powder, sit on seat and eat bowl of hot porridge, swarm greasy tables, pass over two carts, under tarpaulin, between them, cross greasy horizontal ladder, pass under low poles and win.

1st, Pte. Fisher, "A," 8/-; 2nd, Pte. Bryden, "I," 5/-; 3rd, Pte. Gadler, "A," 3/-; 4th, Pte. Wombwell, "A," 2/-.
Seven ran.

This race caused great amusement, and the condition and appearance of the competitors at the finish can be better imagined than described.

Wheel Barrow race (blind-folded).—1st, Corpl. Twiddy, "A," 4/-; 2nd, Corpl. Beck, "I," 2/-; 3rd, Pte. Abel, "A," 1/-.

3RD BATTALION CRICKET.

3RD BATTALION ROYAL WARWICK REGIMENT
v. 3RD. BATTALION ROYAL WEST KENT.

3RD ROYAL WARWICK.

Lieut. Truell, b Edwards	...	...	...	5
Pte. Skanow, b do.	...	...	...	0
2nd-Lieut. Nevill, c and b Stone	...	...	...	68
Lieut. Darvill, b Burbury	...	...	...	2
Lieut. Castecker, b Edwards...	...	...	...	6
Lieut. Benson, run out	...	...	...	0
Pte. Brennan, c Allfrey, b Edwards	...	...	...	49
Captain Vaughan, not out	...	...	...	49
Col.-Sergt. Callender, b Stone	...	...	...	13
Lieut. Foster, b Edwards	...	...	...	21
Pte. Barrett, b Burbury	...	...	...	3
Extras	...	...	...	22
Total	...	...	...	238

3RD ROYAL WEST KENT.

Capt. F. W. Burbury, c Barrett, b Foster	105
Capt. A. C. Edwards, b Foster	7
Bandmaster Gee, run out	70
Lieut. Hayne, c Skanow b Benson...	5
Clr.-Sergt. Neighbour, st. Barrett, b Foster	9
2nd-Lieut. Stone, st. Barrett, b Darvill	2
Lieut. Grant, c Nevill, b Foster	1
Capt. Fleming, c Benson, b Darvill	2
Lieut. O'Brien, c Nevill, b Foster	1
2nd-Lieut. Allfrey, b Darvill	4
Lieut. Beeman, not out	0
Extras	15
Total	221

3RD ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT v. LIEUT.
A. BURROW'S XI.

LIEUT. A. BURROW'S XI.

Lieut. Darvill, b Edwards	...	...	26
Captain Vaughan, b Gee	...	...	43
Lieut. Davenport, c Bailey, b Hayne	...	...	60
Lieut. Benson, run out	...	...	11
Major Clarkson, b Stone	...	...	29

Pte. Brennan, c Diver, b Stone	...	...	0
Lieut. Wilson, b Edwards	..	...	8
Lieut. Burrows, b Stone	...	...	18
Lieut. Gaskell, not out	...	...	0
Lieut. Watson, b Stone	...	...	2
A. N. Other, did not bat	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	32
Total	...	...	229

3RD ROYAL WEST KENT.

Captain Edwards, b Vaughan	...	...	92
Bandmaster Gee, c Gaskell, b Darvill	...	...	15
Lieut. Hayne, lbw, b Benson	...	...	14
Clr.-Sergt. Neighbour, c Wilson, b Darvill	...	...	3
2nd-Lieut. Stone, b Benson	..	...	0
Pte. Driver, b Benson	...	...	0
2nd-Lieut. Allfrey, b Gaskell	...	...	9
Lieut. Grant, b Gaskell	...	...	12
Captain Fleming, b Gaskell	..	...	0
Corpl. Haddaway, c Vaughan, b Gaskell	...	...	6
Pte. Bailey, not out	...	...	3
Extras	...	...	4
Total	...	...	158

The Battalion finished their cricket season last week having played 16 matches, of which 7 were won, and 9 lost.

BATTING AVERAGES.

	No. of Inns.	Times not out.	Total runs.	Most in an Inns.	Average.
Captain F. Burbury	11	1	722	158	72.20
Captain A. C. Edwards	16	1	825	112	55.00
Lieut. C. D. Barrow	8	1	162	51	23.14
Sergt. McGregor	10	4	97	40*	16.16
Bandmaster Gee	10	0	156	70	15.60
Lieut. Hooper	7	0	108	52	15.42
Lieut. S. S. Hayne	23	2	296	52	14.57
Corpl. Askew	10	1	114	38	12.66
Pte. Upton	16	1	186	41	12.40
Clr.-Sergt. Neighbour	6	0	58	36	9.66
Clr.-Sergeant Evenden	8	0	52	20	6.50
Lieut. R. Grant	9	0	57	12	6.33
2nd-Lieut. Stone	14	1	80	54	6.15
Corpl. Haddaway	8	1	40	16	5.71
Lieut. Pullman	7	0	37	13	5.28
Lieut. O'Brien	20	3	80	16*	4.70
2nd-Lieut. Allfrey	17	1	66	9	4.12
Capt. Fenning	7	1	23	10	3.83
Pte. Schmelt	6	1	0	0	0

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Average.
Lieut. Stone	80	7	287	27	10.55
Pte. Upton	170	28	518	45	11.51
Lieut. Hooper	63	7	251	20	12.55
Captain Burbury	76	9	311	24	12.95
Lieut. Barrow	68	11	257	18	14.27
Captain Edwards	186	20	700	46	15.21
Lieut. Hayne	134	15	559	22	25.46

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

The 40th Annual Prize Meeting of the battalion took place at the Milton Ranges, Gravesend. There was a very fair attendance, about 150 members competing, and on the whole the weather was favourable for shooting. One bad time was ex-

perienced by some at about 12.30 or 1 o'clock. The wind changing from the left to a nasty breeze, varying from the left front to right front, which had the effect of spoiling many promising scores.

But shooting is not all that the men go down for. With the aid of the regimental canteen the day is made an enjoyable outing and re-union, for this is one of the occasions when headquarters' men see their comrades from the outlying Companies. Good fellowship and "esprit de corps" are promoted by such gatherings, and even the unfortunate few who come back without a prize, bear their troubles philosophically, putting them down to bad marking, or some other cause either real or imaginary. Perhaps the marking might be better, but this year is not one in which to grumble, owing to the absence at the front of so many regulars. The Militia are mainly doing this duty, Irish Militia too. They do their best, as a visit to the Buffs showed, but they really have not had the necessary experience to do the work efficiently.

Speaking of the shooting again, it will be seen that Pioneer Sergeant Smith of 'B' Co. again takes the first prize; this is the second consecutive win. If he is fortunate enough to come in first again next year he will be entitled to an additional £5 5s., or a miniature of the Cup of that value. Sergt. Smith is a steady old shot, but he must look to his laurels, as there are a number of promising young shots in the Battalion at his heels.

We regret not being able for want of space to publish the full scores in this, and the 3rd V. B. Annual Prize meeting.—
Ed.

Captain A. Wood-Martyn, who has been adjutant of the battalion for five years, completed his term on September 30th, but will not yet leave to rejoin the line regiment. During the time he has held the Adjutancy Captain Wood-Martyn has made himself very popular, and his departure will be sincerely regretted by both officers and rank and file. He probably will be succeeded by Captain O. B. Simpson, of the 1st Battalion.

3RD VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The annual prize shoot took place on the Government ranges at Milton under the superintendence of Major Murphy and Captain and Adjutant Pedley. The other officers present were:—Captains Swiss and McCracken and Lieut. Dodd. Colonel Hunt, V.D., commanding the battalion, visited the range during the afternoon. The greater portion of the competitors left Woolwich about 9 o'clock in a downpour of rain, which continued until lunch, and made matters anything but pleasant and comfortable on the range. The registers were jointly kept by N.C.O.'s from the musketry depot and by N.C.O.'s of the corps, the whole of the marking being carried out by the regulars under Sergt. Instr. Audsley. Sixty prizes, ranging from £5 down to 10s.

IMPRESSIONS OF OUR VOLUNTEER CAMP.

After an absence of sixteen years from military life, perhaps one may be pardoned for chronicling one's impressions of what may seem commonplace enough to most of the readers of "The Queen's Own Gazette"—viz., a fortnight under canvas.

In common with many other things, this South African War has proved the necessity of increasing our defensive powers, and the authorities have decided to make the volunteers more proficient, to do which it was absolutely necessary to increase the annual camping period. Therefore in conformity with the new idea, the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of The Queen's Own went for its month's camp on the 23rd July to Hythe, and, if the corps had had the choice of its own ground, it could scarcely have pitched its tent on a more agreeable spot; at any rate, that seemed to be the general consensus of opinion; for the camp was beautifully situated amongst trees that almost hid it from view. Added to this, we had the bracing effects of the sea, which was only 800 yards away.

At about 11 a.m. on Monday morning the few who had gone down in advance were apprised of the Battalion's approach by the sound of a familiar bugle march, and, arrived on the parade ground, they were kept "standing at ease" while the details of camp were arranged. On being dismissed the real bustle began, and our old familiar "a new canteen for an old chackoo-o-o" (or what seemed to be the more favourite version: "C—S—'s a nice old m-a-a-a-n!") was frequently heard until "Come to the cook-house door, boys," heralded the approach of dinner, a cold collation. Then, after dinner, what was practically a muster parade took place, to see how many really had arrived, and to arrange details for sectional firing to take place next morning, no doubt to ascertain what destruction we could wreak on an enemy. This brought on tea time, after which bathing parade took place at six o'clock. Many of the battalion attended this parade, more especially, perhaps, because the Adjutant had announced that individual bathing would not be allowed. To finish up the day a most interesting duty was to be performed, viz., the preparation of our beds, and, more important still, getting to sleep, for the presence of innumerable earwigs had fostered serious misgivings, if not real fear, in the minds of some, that they would crawl into the ears, nose, or mouth when we slept, a fear which was strenuously denied by those who were twitted; but the denials were sadly at variance with the elaborate precautions that were taken against the inroads of the said earwigs; and if the same precautions both individually and collectively are made against invasion by a foreign army, as were made (the first evening at any rate) against those earwigs, one need not have any fears for the safety of this "tight little island." An effort was made to burn them out with a candle; but, that proving tedious, stamping them out was resorted to. Still they came, so attention was given, not so much to getting rid of them, as to defending oneself against their attacks, for it seemed to be thought that they must of necessity get in your ears or mouth, the latter fear, of course, appealing more to those whose consciences told them that they snored vigorously. At last preparations began, and the extent of those preparations was a good criterion of the amount of fear entertained by each, in spite of his protestations, one young man in particular tying up his mouth, nose, and ears, added to which he wore his cap and trousers, and swathed his body so tightly in his blankets (the thermometer registered about 80 degrees), that he might have been taken for a mummy were it not for the fact that a pair of very much modern hob-nailed No. 9's protruded from the bottom, the soles of which strongly bore evidence of the destruction they had wrought when their owner was stamping about. But familiarity with even earwigs breeds contempt, and this fact, together with a very forcible and sarcastic admonition from the Colonel that "lights out" at 10.15 p.m. meant "lights out" at quarter past ten, and that "veille" at 5 a.m. did not mean everyone being awakened by unnecessary noise between 3 and 4 a.m., rendered the nights more peaceable; and, as for the mornings, they were merely enlivened by a cry of earie-wig-ho-o-o as a sort of substitute for the vernacular "what-ho!"

On Tuesday morning soon after "veille," coffee and a biscuit were served out; then out on parade—drill order in shirt sleeves—preparatory to going on one of the ranges to be put through a course of sectional firing until breakfast time. Out again at 10 a.m. to resume rapid volleys, etc. While on the range the heat was intense, and brought to mind a slight incident of the summer of 1876, when the 50th Regiment was on the Curragh for the manœuvres. Someone with Head Quarters had sent to the "Gazette" (which was being printed at Kinsale) an account of the drills they were undergoing, and when the proof appeared before the Editor *pro tem* (Mr. Ozanne, if memory serves aright), the word "grilled" was misprinted for drilled. The mistake rather tickled the Editor, and he was sorely tempted to let the error go; but the idea that Colonel Lock would not see the joke in the same light as himself

prevailed, and he had it rectified. Yet, though the term grilled might not be strictly correct as applied to 90 per cent. of those in the camp we are now discussing, still there were some amongst us of tender skins whose forearms presented the appearance of having been dipped in boiling water, for the skin from the upper parts had peeled off, and the arms had to be bandaged, and one could not but sympathise with them. The Commanding Officer, no doubt fearing sunstroke, caused pugasees, of a light green shade, to be issued, which a few days after—when the sun had abated his rays somewhat—were ordered to be carried over the tops of the service caps and tucked down the sides, rendering the head-dress certainly more picturesque in appearance; and there was a dark hint that the Colonel was so enamoured of their appearance that it was just possible an effort would be made to have the upper portion of the caps made of green cloth. And so mote it be.

So the days sped busily by, and when the major portion of those in camp had completed their sectional firing, attention was given to outpost duty, advanced and rear guards, shelter trench work, and battalion and company drill. Then by way of furnishing a little excitement, combined with utility, a couple of companies were sent out with instructions to make a detour and attack the camp, and others were told off to act on the defensive. Great was the excitement, and numerous were the conjectures as to who might be the attacking force (as, by the way, no information had at that time been given.) Sentries were posted out at advanced positions, and divided their attention between the possible point at which the enemy would show himself, and the probable difference in degrees of Fahrenheit between the sun and the shingle on which they were lying. At one time the interest was very acute, for a party of men were seen advancing from the direction in which the enemy was expected; sentries were preparing to give the necessary signals, and commanders were getting ready to pour volleys into the approaching party, when a serious *contretemps* was averted by the discovery that the party were bathers not invaders.

A camp without a rumour would be incomplete, and a rumour that the Volunteers were going to be mobilised in view of a prospective French invasion, found ready listeners, the more so as it was argued that the corps would not have gone to the expense of having gas manufactured for the officers' use if a prolonged stay were not intended. Night attack rumours, too, were born with each day, it being assumed that the Bedford Volunteers were to be the invaders; but we only experienced one in Hythe Camp in the first fortnight, and that took place just before "lights out," a portion of the battalion being told off to make the attack. Then followed an exciting time, cyclists rushing here and there with orders, a company doubling along the road, only to come back a few minutes later to rush on another point. A terrible fusillade from several points must have done great destruction on both sides had ball cartridge been used. The situation was rendered a bit comical at one time by some commander shouting out in an excited tone: "Is that you firing, Mr.—?" However, one portion of the attacking force rushed a certain point and claimed to have scored; but this was somewhat discounted the next day by a gentlemen protesting that the victorious party would have been annihilated had bullets been used. So, between interesting work, minor excitements, and cricket, not forgetting a very violent storm on the first Friday night (which quite unsettled the weather,) the first week passed quickly. On Sunday morning we had Divine Service, and our Colonel read the lessons as if to the manner born; and after our march back to camp on the parade he complimented the men on their exemplary conduct in Church, his remarks being accompanied by one of those lovely showers that soak you in a little while. The next week, too, brought its variations. We were trained in preparing for a bivouac, as a prelude to the Annual Inspection; but, as on Sunday, the elements were against us, and just as we had succeeded in making some tea, a perfect deluge drove us back to camp, and arrived there, the formality of a dismissal was, by instruction, ignored, and we ran, helter skelter to our tents. No more parade that day beyond an assemblage in the Canteen to hear some wholesome remarks from the doctor on the virtue of cleanliness, etc.

Striking and pitching tents on another occasion seemed to afford as much amusement as instruction by the spirit of rivalry set up as to who should have the first tent packed in the tent bag; and the cheer that was given when the first one was packed, gave an idea of what might be expected if something more important were achieved.

By Friday in the second week a rumour that had received more or less credence developed into an actual reality, viz:—that we were to parade at 5.30 on Saturday morning to proceed to Chattenden, there to undergo a training on the ground that the Battalion would operate and defend in the event of an invasion. Emergency rations were served out for the morrow, and each one took as much rest as an extremely boisterous and wet night would allow. Reveille was ordered for 4 a.m., which time brought to mind the early departure of the 50th from Kinsale, in March 1878. Saturday morning broke with very little promise in the weather; in fact, we paraded in great coats, and marched

to the station at 6 a.m. However, while in the train the weather so far improved that an order was passed along the platform at one station to roll coats before arriving at Strood. Arrived there, a delay was caused by some of the men either mislaying their tickets or having rolled them in their coats, which fact made the ticket collector so bumptious and noisy, that, had it not been for the presence of the officers, he would have had a bad quarter of an hour. About a three mile walk brought us to our camping-ground at Chattenden, where we found the Lancashire Fusiliers Militia already under canvas, together with the 3rd Middlesex Volunteer Artillery.

(To be continued).

A BRISTOL VETERAN.

We regret to announce that Mr. John Thorne, a Bristol veteran, died on September 15th. Born in 1837, Mr. Thorne enlisted in June, 1854, in the 97th Regiment, now 2nd Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent), and served in that regiment for over 21 years. He saw active service in the Crimea and in India during the mutiny, receiving the Crimean, Turkish, and Mutiny medals, with clasps for Sebastopol and Lucknow. Mr. Thorne was on the committee of the Veterans' Association and worked hard in the interest of his old comrades, and for some years he had been steward of the Beaconsfield Club, Ashton Gate. He was well known and much respected. The funeral took place at Greenback Cemetery, and was attended by a number of the local veterans.

Bristol Times and Mirror.

DEATHS.

At Aden on 13th August, No. 4896, Pte. E. Alma, 1st Battalion.

At Cottonera Hospital, Malta, on 31st August, 1900, No. 172, Pte. T. W. Roberts, "D" Company, 3rd Battalion. Buried at Aldorata Cemetery, Malta, 1st September, 1900.

At the Raussay Hospital, Naini Tal, on Friday, 17th of August, 1900, Captain A. E. Mansfield, of Vergomont Farm, late of the Royal West Kent Regiment, aged 49 years. (Deeply mourned by his widow and 9 children.)

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

No. 306.

MAIDSTONE, NOVEMBER 1st, 1900.

[Vol. XVIII, No. 11.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

3RD VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The undermentioned Second-Lieutenants to be Lieutenants, dated 3rd October:—S. H. Jones and A. H. Jennings.

4TH VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

H. J. Driver, gent., to be Second-Lieutenant, dated 30th October.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—

Life in Aden is just beginning to get a little less unsatisfactory. The violent dust storms which used to continue for days together at the Crater, flinging hard gritty sand, not to mention stones and plaster from the roofs, into one's face, are now but a memory. The weather is also a little milder—that is to say the heat is not quite so ferocious—and everything presages the rapid approach of the so-called cold weather. It is never really cold in Aden, or hardly ever, but that is a mere detail. The point is that it is not very much too hot in the winter, so everybody longs for the "cold weather" with a great longing.

We have now been very nearly a whole year at Aden, and have seen it in all its moods. I believe the general verdict is that although Aden is by no means a particularly delectable or salubrious spot, it might be a good deal worse after all. Anyhow, we were not led to expect much, and find that on the whole, it is perhaps a little better than we dared hope. However, we should none of us be very much distressed at saying "good-bye" to it, and it looks as if we soon should do so. There are all sorts of rumours flying about as to our destination this next trooping season. The most probable seems to be that we are to go to some station in the Mediterranean, but whether to Malta, Gibraltar, or possibly Egypt we have at present no idea. Another "shave," on the authority of a well known Indian brewer, is that we go back to India. That, however, seems hardly likely to be correct, all things considered. Wherever we may be sent, I think we are all unanimous in hoping that the Battalion will be all together again for a change. If we can't go home, I think most of us would prefer Egypt to anywhere else. That, though, does not seem very probable.

There is nothing much in the way of games to tell you about. The weather up to date has not been at all suitable for them. C Company drew with one of the Artillery Companies at hockey, and lost by 20 runs to the same Company at cricket. I hope next month to have some cricket and football matches to record. We are looking forward to a race meeting in about a month; several of our Officers intend to enter gees of sorts, and I hope some of them will prove winners.

Colonel Harrison is giving us some reminiscences of the war in South Africa in the form of a series of lectures delivered on the barrack square in the cool of the evening. These are very much appreciated by all, and I think everyone feels that he has now a far better idea than he had before of what campaigning in South Africa is like, and realizes a little how hard our Second Battalion has worked, and what a lot of discomfort it has undergone, and is I suppose still undergoing, whilst upholding the honour of the Regiment and County. We hope that by this time Major Western and Captain Beresford may be taking their share of the work and honour of war with the others.

On the 8th and 9th, there was performed in our Regimental Theatre one of the most successful "gaffs" we have had for many years. Judging by the patched condition of the theatre and the vociferous applause of the audience, no entertainment was ever better enjoyed. Part I consisted of nigger minstrels, Sergt.-Drummer Budd most ably performing the part of Interlocutor, whilst Grover, Brooker, Harris, and Roberts made capital corner men. There were a great variety of jokes, some good and some very bad. But I think the badness of the bad jokes pleased the audience quite as much as the goodness of the good ones. As for the songs, there were so many good ones that it is difficult to pick out any for special mention. Perhaps Colour-Sergt. Burge's "Bell of Honolulu," McCarthy's "I'll wander back again," and Brooker's "Bobbing up and down," were the favourites. Harris's "This is how he laughs," was also extremely funny and very well sung and laughed. The drill of the Mulligan Guards, under that able instructor, Colour-Sergt. Burge, quite brought down the house. The sketch at the end was decidedly funny and very well done. Brooker's acting was specially good and drew roars of laughter from the audience.

Altogether, Mr. Davis, the Bandmaster, who was mainly responsible for drawing up the programme, and who trained the chorus (which was excellent) deserves a great deal of credit, and I am sure the success of the entertainment (the proceeds of which go to the Aden European General Hospital) well repay him for the trouble he has taken. I enclose a programme.

PROGRAMME.—MINSTREL CIRCLE:—Overture, Band; opening chorus, "Come where the Lilies bloom," Troupe; song, "The Belle of Honolulu," Colour Sergeant Burge; song, "From the Cradle," Mus. Lewis; song, "Never, never no More," Mus. Cassidy; song, "There's a Girl for us all," Lce.-Corp. Fordham; song, "Waiting for me," Sergt.-Drummer Budd; song, "Cockney Picannies Serenade," Mus. Roberts; song, "Sing a song of nonsense," Lce.-Cpl. Rose; song, "This is how he Laughs," Mus. Harris; song, "I'll wander back again," Drummer McCarthy; song, "Here we are again," Pte. Brooker; end song, "Mulligan Guards," Col.-Sergt. Burge and Troupe. VARIETY: selection, Band; song, "Marching through Georgia," Masters Sillitoe and Kill; song, "Bobbing up and down like this," Pte. Brooker; song, "Blowed if Father aint began to work," Mus. Ransome; song, "Hooligan's Mule," Mus. Cassidy; sketch, "Exchange is no Robbery" in one act, characters, "Mr. Botherby Bibbins," Pte. Jones; "Mr. Horatio Tattleton," Mus. Lewis; "Dick the Ostler," Pte. Brooker; "Miss Violet Bibbins," Sergt.-Drummer Budd; "Emma the Slavey," Mus. Roberts; "God save our Queen Empress."

The Band and Drums, which have been at Steamer Point for about three months, move back to the Crater on the 10th. Steamer Point will be very sorry to lose them, as the band has been playing once a week at the Gymkhana Club, where practically all the European population congregated to enjoy the music. However, Steamer Point's loss is the Crater's gain, and now that the hot weather is nearly over, we hope many from Steamer Point will come over and hear the Band at our Monday "at Homes" at the mess.

C., E., and F. Companies are now at Steamer Point, and H. Company replaces the Band and Drums there. C. Company would have come in to-day, had it not been that they are now carrying out a new sort of musketry course, drawn up in India, and based on the experience gained in the Boer War.

Captain Hotham should return shortly from his garrison class at Poona, and we soon expect to see 2nd Lieutenant Snow back from sick leave. Lieutenant O'Dowda is now acting as A.D.C. to General Penton, commanding the district.

YOUR 1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

2ND BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

A telegram from Lord Roberts, dated Pretoria, October 13th, says:—

"A satisfactory little affair took place near Frankfort on the 11th, when Col. Grove, Royal West Kent Regiment, surprised a Boer laager at dawn on that day.

"Seven of the enemy were killed, nine were wounded, and 18 made prisoners.

"Our casualty: No. 3,766, Sergt. W. Canty, Royal West Kent, severely wounded."

Sergt. Canty belongs to Woolwich where he enlisted in 1893. He was promoted corporal in 1897 and sergeant in 1898.

We regret Sergt. Canty died of his wounds on 17th October, at Kroonstad.

"COMFORTS FOR THE ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT."

DEAR SIR,—As I chanced to be in England for a few days on my way from the 2nd Battalion in South Africa to the 1st Battalion at Aden, I have been asked to give information as regards the "comforts" that have been sent out to South Africa for the benefit of the men of my Regiment, and at the same time Mrs. Grove, the wife of Lieut.-Colonel Grove, commanding 2nd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, has asked me to publish briefly what has so far been done by her with money entrusted to her by many kind friends for the purchase of "comforts." Notices are often seen in the Press acknowledging with grateful thanks the receipt by the men of "comforts," and that notice has in the case of my own Regiment been of necessity postponed. The 8th Division, to which the Battalion belongs, has been somewhat exceptionally circumstanced. Early in April this Division was moved from Port Elizabeth to Edenburg (O.R.C.) by rail, and immediately cut itself adrift from any railway. Its task was to prevent the Boers in the eastern portion of the Orange River Colony from coming south. Therefore it would be marching east for some days, then north, and then again—as after the action at Biddulphsberg on May 29th—south-east.

Such things as tents have, of course, never been carried by the 8th Division. Its transport has been reduced as much as possible to increase its mobility, and the G.O.C. must have had a most anxious and difficult task to bring in safety from his ever-changing base convoys of food and ammunition.

Under these circumstances it has never been practicable to bring from the base to the Battalion any comforts. Warm things and tobacco would be appreciated more than any words of mine can express by our men were it possible to

convey them to a railway line to the bivouac. This had been impossible up to the middle of July. Now that the Orange River Colony apparently has been cleared of Boer Commandoes our men will, I trust, receive that which they so much stand in need of, and which has been so generously provided by a host of kind friends. It is the "military situation" alone that has prevented for so long the original issue of comforts to our men being supplemented.

Mrs. Grove has received most valuable assistance in money from the following, viz. :—Mrs. Whatman, Col. Warde, M.P., Mrs. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, Mr. Walter Druce, Mr. G. A. Phillips, Colonel Kidd, Captain Long, Miss Turnock, Captain Lees, Mrs. Leach, Mrs. Day, Miss Fitt, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Beville, C.K. (Sidcup), Mrs. Luck, Mrs. Elgood, Col. Isacke, Mrs. J. M. Maunsell, Mrs. Festing, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Montgomery Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart-Jones, Mrs. Vansittart, Miss C. M. Waring, General and Mrs. Tulloch, Mrs. John Dalison, Mrs. Robinson, Major Brown, Mr. Arthur Baker, Mrs. Dean-Claughton, Mrs. Smythe, Mrs. E. Felix, Mrs. Holder, Mrs. Austin Gourlay, Mrs. Watney, Miss Violet Berens, Miss Kate Kelly, Captain Heygate, Miss Maude Safford, and amounts collected by Mrs. Brock-Hollinshead, Miss Evelyn Bazley-White, Mr. W. Brown, and the West Kent Working Society. £195 18s. 6d. is the handsome total.

Up to July 31st, 1900, the following has been expended :—

	£	s.	d.
268lbs. tobacco and 400 pipes	25	11	0
30,000 Woodbine cigarettes	15	18	6
300 sweaters	49	13	6
Carriage and postage	1	10	6

£92 13 6

thus leaving a balance for further expenditure of £103 5s.

Mr. J. M. Bruce, of Newcastle, sent a thousand cigarettes, and through Mrs. Fowler Burton have no less than seven cases of clothing been sent out.

In getting together subscriptions and goods the following have worked most nobly :—Colonel Partridge, Mrs. Buckle, Miss Dalison, Miss Moody, Miss Joslin, Mrs. Elgood, Mrs. Daniell, Mrs. Coles-Child, Mr. W. Brown, Mr. Maunsell, Mr. Leather-Gully, Colonel Henderson, Mrs. Watney, Capt. Holcroft, and many others. To one and all the thanks of "The Queen's Own" are very gratefully given, and by this time I hope the men of the Regiment will be using the woollen things and the smokes. Long as they may, by circumstances, have been compelled to wait for the comforts, I can assure your readers that when they are received they will be most thoroughly appreciated.

Trusting you will very kindly find space for the above,

I remain, your obedient servant,

CHOLMELEY HARRISON, Lt.-Col,

1st Q.O. R. West Kent Regt.

At Sea, 25/8/00.

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

Up to date, the Depot have won six and lost five matches. Goals for, 29; against, 22. All these matches have been "friendlies." During November we meet Aylesford, Snodland, and Dobney in the Maidstone League, and hope to commence December with six points to the good in this competition. In the "Kent Junior Cup" we have drawn byes in the first and second rounds. The following accounts are copied from the *Kent Messenger* :—

DEPOT v. EAST MALLING.

This match was played on Saturday, 6th October, at East Malling, and was won by the Depot by five goals to one. Hazlett scored four goals for the Depot, his last shot being a superb drive; Iliffe was responsible for the fifth. The Depot team were: Stack, Shaw, Spearing, Savage, Franklin, Malt, Walker, Selves, Hazlett, Iliffe, and Barry. Result :—

Depot	5 goals
East Malling	1 ,,

DEPOT v. CHATHAM AMATEURS.

Played at Chatham on Wednesday, 10th, in beautiful weather. The Amateurs opened the scoring, but the Depot soon equalised, Hazlett putting through. Just before half-time Chatham put up No. 2, Hazlett again balancing matters soon after the resumption with a good shot. The Amateurs again took the lead from a doubtful goal, the ball being sent into the net from a corner kick, the referee maintaining it touched a blue shirt. Elated by this piece of luck, Chatham put on a fourth, about the genuineness of which no doubt could exist. This was all the scoring. Shaw played a grand game for the Depot, whose weak man was Hazlett, who was not in the best of health. Depot team was: Stack, Shaw, Spearing, Savage, Franklin, Ayres, Barry, Walker, Hazlett, Taylor, and Iliffe. Result :—

Chatham Amateurs	4 goals
Depot	2 ,,

DEPOT v. MAIDSTONE NORTH END.

Played on the Depot ground on Saturday, 13th October, the home team winning somewhat easily by four goals to *nil*. Several times the Depot looked like increasing their score, but failed, owing chiefly to the forwards not being up in their places, from very erratic shooting, from the great desire of shooting from impossible distances, and, in consequence, lack of combination. Times without number the ball was excellently centred by the outside right, but the centre forward was not there to put it through. Walker scored twice, Hazlett once, and the fourth was the result of a penalty. Twice during the second half the visitors got past the backs and goal keeper (the latter wandering up the ground for exercise), the first time the ball was sent behind and the second it was just averted by Mr. Irons. Two members of the home team were

absent, Mr. Nunn and Taylor, the former having had the misfortune to sprain his knee in a previous match. The Depot were represented by Stack, Shaw, Spearing, Savage, Mr. Irons, Malt, Walker, Selves, Iliffe, and Franklin. Referee, Sergt.-Instructor Audsley. Result:—

Depot	4 goals
North End	<i>Nil.</i>

DEPOT v. H.M.S. PEMBROKE.

The above match was played at New Brompton on the 17th inst. At the commencement of play the sailors pressed and kept the ball in the vicinity of the Depot's goal for some considerable time. After some five minutes' play they registered their first goal, which was quickly followed by a second, the result of some very pretty play on the part of their left wing. Now came the Depot's chance, a penalty being given for hands in front of their opponents' goal. However, the ball was not destined to find a place inside the net, for Hazlett shot a little too high. Yet another three goals were placed to the sailors' credit before the whistle blew for half-time, up to which time the Depot had fared rather disastrously. However, during the first half of the game the latter were placed at a material disadvantage on account of having to play uphill, and also against the wind. The score now stood: H.M.S. Pembroke, 5 goals; Depot, nil. But even in the second half, when the Depot were playing downhill, they did not fare much better. The "Pembroke" added still two more goals to their score before the call of time, the game ending in their favour by 7 goals to nil. The losers throughout the whole of the game were outclassed by the sailors, who played a really brilliant game, and whose combination was pretty to watch. The great fault of the Depot team is undoubtedly the lack of combination amongst the forward line; more so in the centre, where a little more combining and passing would make the whole difference. Amongst the forwards, Corpl. Selves worked hard, as did also the three half-backs, Taylor playing with his customary ability. The same must be said of the two backs, Spearing and Shaw, who did their level best. Result:—

H.M.S. Pembroke	7 goals.
Depot.....	<i>Nil.</i>

DEPOT v. HOLMESDALE.

Quite the best Depot match was played on Saturday, 27th, at Sevenoaks, as far as play was concerned, though players and onlookers were treated to severe showers of rain occasionally. The teams were well matched and during the first half an exceedingly tight struggle was anticipated, and on half-time being announced, after very fast play, the home side had just managed to secure the lead by 3 goals to 2. On resuming the Depot forwards seemed to be disheartened and at times were inclined to be slack, still, some excellent rushes were made on their opponents' goal without success, how-

ever. Soon after changing ends a mediæval incident occurred, a free kick being given within five yards of goal, the West Kenters, nevertheless, were equal to the occasion, and lining up between the posts made such a formidable wall that the referee's error came to nought. For the Depot team, everyone played well, but an additional word of praise is due to Sergt. Stack, who only allowed the home team to add one more goal to their score of the first half, saving time after time. Shaw, at right back, also distinguished himself, seldom missing his kick which was very creditable, considering that the heavy showers made the ball very greasy. Walker and Selves were responsible for the two goals scored by the visitors. The Depot were represented by Sergt. Stack, Shaw, Corpl. Spearing, Mr. Nunn, Mr. Irons, Ayres, Sergt. Savage, Iliffe, Corpl. Selves, Corpl. Walker, and Hazlett. Result:—

Holmesdale	4 goals.
Depot.....	2 ,,

FIXTURES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

Nov. 3.	v.	Aylesford (Maidstone League)	Home.
„ 10.	v.	Southborough	Away.
„ 17.	v.	Snodland (Maidstone League)	Home.
„ 21.	v.	Royal Marines	Away.
„ 24.	v.	Church Institute (Maidstone League)...	Home.
Dec. 1.	v.	Dobney (Maidstone League).....	Home.
„ 8.	v.	Old Maidstone Invicta.....	Away.
„ 15.	v.	Tovil (Maidstone League)..	Home.
„ 22.	v.	Maidstone North End.....	Away.
„ 26.	v.	Tonbridge	Away.

In addition to Depot football, an excellent match was played on Oct. 26—Officers and Sergeants v. Corporals; the former consisting of 6 officers and 5 sergeants, who were returned the winners by 4 goals to 2. Clr.-Sergt. Osborne by his fine play as back being greatly responsible for the defeat of the corporals. Another sporting event brought off this month was a hockey match in which the "right-half" Depot beat the "left-half," after a good game, by 3 goals to 2.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

MALTA, 21 OCT., 1900.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—

Since I last wrote you from this very salubrious island little of interest has happened, and we have mostly been speculating on the time when we shall return to England. So far, however, it has been entirely speculation as we have had no definite news on the subject.

Each half Battalion has had three days under canvas at Pembroke Camp finishing off "Captains rounds," and on Friday next the Battalion goes out there to do "Colonels rounds." The last draft have also been there doing their firing, finishing up and returning to Headquarters yesterday, so now the Regiment is all together, anyhow for a short time.

On the 6th inst. a most successful "variety" entertainment was given by Mr. Freecer to the Regiment in Verdalu Gymnasium.

On Friday last we were inspected by the G.O.C., Major-General Lord Congleton. The General had his marching order inspection on St. Clement's Parade in the morning at 9-30 a.m., and after that, till lunch time, inspected books, institutions, etc.

In the afternoon we paraded in Review Order and marched to the "Marsa" for drill inspection.

The men drilled splendidly, as they always do on these occasions, on a most tiring and oppressive day, but it was rather unfortunate that through the sudden illness of the Colonel we were without a field officer. We got back to barracks about 6 p.m.

We are trying to get a Battalion Hockey Team and football will soon be in full swing.

Capt. Neve has returned from leave in England.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

1ST VOLUNTEER BATT. INTELLIGENCE.

The first annual inspection of the L or Cyclist Company of the 1st Volunteer Batt. Royal West Kent Regiment, which is made up of detachments from Maidstone, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, and Sevenoaks, took place at Maidstone Barracks on Wednesday afternoon, in the presence of Col. Henderson, the commandant of the battalion, Major Pine, Captain Umfreville, Major Simpson, Captain Toottell, Captain Holcroft, Lieut. Phillips, Surgeon C. Pye Oliver, and other officers of the regular and auxiliary forces of the town. The men, nearly ninety in number, assembled at the Bell Hotel, Week Street, at 3 o'clock, and shortly afterwards marched to the Barracks, where they were carefully inspected by Col. Brock, who, it was stated, seemed in a very critical mood. The representatives from the several detachments went through a course of semaphore signalling. The inspecting officer, before dismissing the cyclists, congratulated them on the very creditable muster which they made, but pointed out that before they could hope to become efficient Volunteers they must work very hard. He expressed the hope that it would be his privilege to inspect them at the end of another twelvemonth, when he should expect to see a great improvement. In the evening the company attended a smoking concert at the Church Institute, Major Pine in the chair. In the course of a few remarks, the Chairman, having apologised for the unavoidable absence of Colonel Brock and Major Cornwallis, spoke in encouraging terms of the general turn-out of the whole company on parade that day, and said he felt confident that the cyclists would soon form a very important adjunct of

the 1st V.B. R.W.K.R.—Captain Umfreville also said a few words, and asked the men to do all they could to maintain the high traditions of the West Kent Regiment.

Captain Umfreville, who was received with cheers, said as the Adjutant of a Line Regiment for many years, he felt that it was his place to find fault and to point out what was wrong, and that it was a most unpleasant position, but he had got a good regiment, and did not mind, as everyone recognized the fact that he was merely doing his duty. So that, in future, they must not go away with the idea that he was a bad tempered individual. He would find fault with them first on this occasion. Their turn out that day was, on the whole, excellent, considering it was the first time many of them had been in uniform. One or two points required attention. On going round the drill shed he noticed that the brass work in many cases was not attended to, some of the clothes were not brushed, and many of the bicycles were not cleaned. They might have read in the papers lately that soldiers should never be clean. With his amount of service, he could assure them that a dirty soldier never made a good one. If they ever went into the field in England they could get as dirty as they liked, but in time of peace they must turn out spick and span, take a pride in their uniform and the regiment to which they belonged. Their line battalion was out in South Africa, and it did not matter what source the news came from, they heard nothing but praise of it. There were very few invalids among them, which spoke highly for the physique of the men in the regiment, and the care taken of them in training. They must remember that they belonged to that regiment; they were not only Volunteers, but a part of a grand territorial corps composed of two line and four volunteer battalions. He wanted them to remember the fact that they belonged to the West Kent; to remember the position the regiment had made, and that they had got to keep it up. They must also remember that while they were cyclists they were not horsemen, but infantry soldiers; and therefore they must learn their infantry drill. He hoped during the winter months to devote as much time as possible to the Maidstone detachment of the corps, so as to bring them in line with the other members. He warned them as to what was called "tinkers mufty." Nothing gave so much offence to a regiment of soldiers as to see a man in a field service cap and plain clothes, or in uniform trousers and a plain coat. When in uniform they were to be in uniform, and when in plain clothes to wear plain clothes. He asked them also to remember the simple fact, and it was an unpleasant thing to tell them, that if they committed any offence in civil life they would be dismissed at once as a disgrace to the corps. He hoped this would never occur, but it was only fair they should know it. He would reserve future remarks till they met again.

The gathering closed with the National Anthem.

The Annual Match between the Sergeant Instructors of the 1st Volunteer Battalion was held on October 8th, on Boarley Range. Sergt. McRedmond came out at top, and took 1st prize, £3; Sergt.-Instr. Funnell 2nd, £2; and Sergt.-Instr. Leury 3rd, £1. The occasion was also made the subject of a match between the Sergt.-Instrs. and the Depot.—The Sergt.-Instrs. winning by 13 points.

1st. V.B.				
Sergt.-Major Maynard	24	26	26	76
Sergt.-Instr. Leury	24	33	23	80
„ McRedmond.....	22	33	31	93
„ McDonald.....	8	20	15	43
Sergt. Biddle	23	27	22	72
Sergt.-Instr. Funnell.....	28	34	27	89
				453
DEPOT.				
Sergt. Smart	29	30	20	79
Corpl. Selves	21	21	29	71
Lance-Corpl. Malt	21	30	27	78
Col.-Sergt. Osborne	28	29	28	85
Sergt. Paine	24	22	12	58
Mr. Murphy	24	19	26	69
				440

The postponed competition among members of the A, B, and F Companies (Maidstone) of the 1st. V.B. Royal West Kent Regiment took place last Saturday at Boarley in trying weather, which somewhat reduced the standard of the shooting. Among the efficient Sergt. H. Lockyer headed the list with 86. He found the bull's eye on eleven occasions, and was thus the winner of a special prize. Sergt.-Instructor McRedmond was second with 80. Pvt. Dann, a recruit, showed much promise, making 72 under trying conditions. Range prizes were also offered. At 200 yards, Lance-Corpl. Sayers, with 31 points, took first prize; Sergt. J. S. Welch, with 29, being second; at 500 yards, Sergt. H. Lockyer, with 32, was first; and Pvt. Diprose, with 29, second; and at 600 yards Lance-Corporal G. Lambden, 33, was first; and Pvt. Andrews, 32, was second. The officers present were:—Major Pine, Captains Smith and Tootell, and Lieuts. L. and A. E. Phillips.

4TH VOLUNTEER BATT. INTELLIGENCE.

Saturday last was an important day with the newly-formed 4th Volunteer Battalion of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. The occasion was their first inspection, and this took place on Chatham Lines, in the presence of an assembly numbering several thousands. The inspecting officer was Colonel T. H. Brock, Commandant of the 50th Regimental district, Maidstone. The Battalion paraded

between six and seven hundred strong, in service marching order, at three p.m., on the brow of the hill, near Fort Amherst. They here formed up, and with their band of forty performers and the drums, afterwards marched to the centre of the Lines, where the inspection was to take place. A special roped enclosure was provided at the saluting point for officers and their friends, and in this a large number of carriages was accommodated. Among those present were many of the leading townsmen—including the Mayors of both Rochester and Chatham—from Chatham, Rochester, and New Brompton, besides several military friends. Drawn up in review order, the Battalion presented a very smart and soldier-like appearance. Lieut.-Col. C. James commanded, and the officers present were:—Major (Lieut.-Col.) J. Newington, Capt. and Adj. E. M. Parsons, Captains J. E. Castle, R. J. Passby, A. B. Hearn, H. F. Cobb, W. T. Boucher, J. W. Nash, H. F. Homan, and W. L. Wyllie, A.R.A., and Lieutenants Biggs, W. Watson, J. S. McLellan, E. Basset Willis, Burrell, H. D. Driver, Woodman, and Wyllie, Quartermaster H. Hayman, and Surgeons A. T. Franklin Brown, W. Watson, G. Bryan, and Hon. Chaplain the Rev. Canon H. C. Pollock. The exceptionally strong cycle company, under Captain Wyllie, attracted special attention.

Colonel Brock arrived shortly before four o'clock, and at once proceeded with the inspection. The troops were formed into line to receive him, and, passing along the line, he eyed them critically, stopping occasionally to offer suggestions or to ask questions of the commanding officer who accompanied. The Battalion next formed into quarter column, and, wheeling round on the saluting base, marched past in column, the band playing the West Kent Regiment's Regimental March. The troops returned in quarter column at the trail, and were next put through Battalion drill by Major Newington. The march past was splendidly accomplished, the men kept a capital line, and were loudly cheered. The men also went through the various movements of Battalion drill in admirable style, the advance in line being a really fine performance. Retiring in line, the Battalion formed back into column, and were addressed in complimentary terms by the inspecting officer, who remarked that they had made very good progress indeed. He was, he said, particularly struck with the remarkably steady way in which they stood when he was passing down the line. Colonel Brock further expressed himself as both pleased and satisfied, and remarked that everybody must have worked very hard for them to have done so much in the time. He hoped they would not have got tired of it and gone back next year, but that they would have increased both in numbers and efficiency.

Considering that work was only commenced at the latter end of May last, the Battalion has done magnificently, and

the spectators were most agreeably surprised. Captain Parsons and his excellent staff of instructors must have worked tremendously hard to have attained such satisfactory results in so short a time, and they are to be heartily congratulated upon their success. A special word of commendation is also due to Mr. G. Garvey, the bandmaster, who has got together a really first-class band; in fact, Saturday's parade was most creditable to all concerned.

The first mess dinner of the officers was held at the Bull Hotel, Rochester, on Saturday, after the first annual inspection, Lieut.-Colonel C. James presiding.

In the evening the first annual dinner of the non-commissioned officers took place at the Queen's Hall, Military Road

IMPRESSIONS OF A VOLUNTEER CAMP.

(Continued.)

It was here that our previous practice of pitching tents helped us very much. We were served out with brand new tents, blankets, and waterproof sheets. As soon as the tents were pitched we were ordered to Lodge Hill Redoubt. We believe it was first intended by the authorities that we should occupy this redoubt at its precincts at night in order to defend it against an invading force; but that order was cancelled, so that our Commanding Officer ordered us out in the afternoon. So away we went over hills and dales to Lodge Hill, and were rewarded by a panorama of the Medway and surrounding country that one could not fail to admire. Here about an hour and a half was spent by the officers receiving instructions in the art of ascertaining the distances of visible objects, as also locating the position and fixing the distance of points hidden by intervening hills, with the object of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the country. At about 6.30 p.m. we were ordered to camp, and on arrival there found that the original order for a night defence was re-issued; consequently another parade in marching order was to take place immediately after our supper. Between 8 and 9 we set off again for the valley facing Lodge Hill, meantime a rumour getting noised abroad that the bluejackets had landed on the marshes, and we were to resist their advance. Away we went tramped, pausing now and then to receive some signal, or to despatch messengers on mysterious errands, everybody being on the *qui vive*. At length our commander halted at what seemed to him to be a good position to defend, and disposed his outposts and sentries on a wide front to frustrate the approaching enemy. To give the situation a tinge of reality, the silence was repeatedly broken by the sound of distant heavy cannon, this being explained to us as part of the French invasion. The gravity of our commander was slightly disturbed by a doubt being thrown on the existence of an enemy other than possibly some of our own corps; but he was very emphatic that the Bluejackets were coming, and exhorted us to be extremely vigilant. Hour after hour we were vigilant, the monotony being relieved by the conveyance of reports, to different points, of the movements of the enemy.

Suddenly the excitement became intense, slumbering warriors were awakened, and hurried instructions given to secrete ourselves in the shadow of the hedge, preparatory to pouring volleys into the enemy; a report had arrived that the enemy was seen approaching. But we were disappointed.

The day was now beginning to break, and the light was just sufficient to make our quickened senses imagine that every object we looked at intently was moving. Still the enemy came not, and word was passed round that if he did not come by 5.30 a.m. we were to get back to camp. But if the enemy did not appear, we had a substitute in one of the most beautiful sunrises it is possible to imagine—the sky was one glorious flood of varying lights; nor did the thought that such a blaze of colour portended rain in the least degree lessen our appreciation of its grandeur.

By this time a visit from Major Latter was a signal that we were to get back to camp; so after a nip of whiskey all round (for which we were indebted to the thoughtfulness of Captain Lovibond), we fell in and marched back to camp, too tired, perhaps, to appreciate the value of the lesson we had received.

The afternoon turned out wretchedly dull, as a set off to which some genius had suggested a camp fire, the lighting of which was to be accompanied by a concert; but the concert fell through—perhaps those who could sing were too modest—and the National Anthem only was sung. In the absence of a concert several officers were shouldered round the ground, the Colonel being the last, whose face under the ordeal gave one the suspicion that his "Thank you," when placed on *terra firma*, was really thankfulness that it was all over. The Colonel then asked for the National Anthem to be sung, after which he enjoined everyone to get to bed early.

We paraded very early on Monday morning and marched to the town of Strood, and at such an hour the sound of our bugles must have blended oddly with the dreams of those who slumbered. Our journey from Strood to Hythe was uneventful, and when we arrived at camp (about 8 a.m.) found the numbers had swelled considerably, as this was our Annual Inspection day. Now came the swelling of chests, and the enumeration of our hardships, long hours on duty, very little rest, etc., etc., and, as if to accentuate our importance, the order was given that "active service" men would only parade for inspection at 11.30; every one else would parade at 10 a.m. The term "active service" men seemed to act as an incentive to narration of what we had gone through (camping at Hythe was mere child's play), and if what one heard on the inspection morning was a criterion of what might be expected in the succeeding fortnight, it is just possible that those who did not go to Strood will have known as much as those who did—and a little more.

But the event of the year—the Annual Inspection—was to take place at 11.30, so that the doings at Chattenden had to be shelved for the time being. A more than usual number had turned out to witness this function, notwithstanding the unpromising morning. We were paraded in front of the officer's tents, and when all were ready the inspecting officer Colonel T. H. Brock (who, beyond showing the marks of time that the intervening sixteen years must show on most of us, was much the same style of officer who in its younger days conducted the editorship of "The Queen's Own Gazette"—active, decisive, and penetrating) rode down the front and rear ranks, accompanied by Colonel Satterthwaite. The presence of Colonel Brock brought to mind many of the phases of life in the 50th Regiment that it would be a liberty to bore your readers with. This part of the inspection over, we were marched off to a copse to exhibit our proficiency in a bivouac; and, as on a previous occasion, rain, and plenty of it, vied with us for the mastery of the fires, our duty being to light them, the rain's ambition being to put them out, and suppressed amusement was visible on the faces of the officers at the futility of our efforts. However, the indecision of the moment was settled by an order to unpile arms and get back to camp, there to await orders, which turned out to be, remain in camp, as an alarm would be sounded. But we had rain, rain, rain, and nothing else all that afternoon, and when the time arrived to parade for marching to the station (those who were returning to London) we were drenched, which, to say the least, was a very bad finish to a fortnight's training, and must have made it very difficult for the inspecting officer to decide our degree of merit, and very disappointing to our Commanding Officer.

W.H.T.

HOME FROM THE WAR.

On Sunday, October 14th, there arrived in Maidstone about 130 men from the seat of war in South Africa, who, having served the full period of 13 or 22 years, have been returned home for disbandment. They arrived at Tilbury on Sunday morning in the Armenian, and were sent to the Depot at Maidstone for accommodation. The men who were from as many as forty different regiments, of course were a heterogeneous collection so far as uniforms were concerned. They met with a hearty reception, however, by the townspeople, and were played by the Depot band to the Barracks in Sandling Road, where they were also welcomed. During the serving of dinner Colonel Brock went round the rooms, and gave the newly-arrived men advice as to how to conduct themselves during their stay at Maidstone. Most of the men who arrived on

Sunday were of that class who originally joined for twelve years, with an additional year's service if required, and having completed the required year, receive their discharge in accordance with law. There were some of the Rhodesian Horse, Brabant's Horse, Kitchener's Horse, Rimington's Scouts, Imperial Yeomanry, City Imperial Volunteers, Cape Mounted Police, and others. As soon as their names and Corps were ascertained their Depots were communicated with, which was a preliminary to their discharge being carried out. On 17th October, however, orders were received from the War Office to send the men to their own Depots. This meant the gathering of the men together, and despatch to all parts of the Kingdom. The men, however, were most eager to get home, and with a staff eager to get them away they were soon off.

From the *Field*, 6th Oct., 1900.]

MODERN JOCKEYSHIP.

AS SEEN BY AN AUSTRALIAN.

SIR,—I can most thoroughly endorse every word of the letter under the above heading, signed G. de H. S., which appeared in the *Field* of Sept. 29, with the exception of that part which states "that Australian jockeys also win races, both on the flat and over the stiffest fences in the world, against all such English and Irish jockeys as find their way to Australia from time to time." This appears to imply that the English and Irish jockeys who have heretofore visited Australia are inferior to their colonial brothers.

I well remember when living in New South Wales, between 1866 and 1870, there were two English amateur riders who more than held their own against the best Australians of that day, amateur or professional—I allude to Mr. Adam Lindsay Gordon, well known in Victoria, and Lieut. Churchill, of the 50th Regiment, then quartered in Sydney. I always considered these two riders as good as, perhaps superior to, any in Australia at that time, and I believe such was the general opinion. As a convincing proof of this I may quote *Bell's Life in Sydney*, Nov. 21, 1868: "As to the *Australasian's* assertion that we have no riders like Mr. Gordon, I would mention that in Lieut. Churchill, of the 50th Regiment, we have as good a steeplechase rider as ever has been seen in these colonies. The manner in which the gallant lieutenant rode Comet at the late Homebush meeting is a convincing proof of this, and I doubt not that he is Mr. Gordon's equal as a rider on the flat as well as over the sticks."

I have no doubt this can be corroborated by numerous Australian sportsmen now living in England.

N.S.W.

Oct. 2.

We beg to acknowledge with many thanks receipt of subscriptions as follows:—

To 31st December, 1900:—Mrs. Rowe, Mr. E. C. Coupland, Major R. W. Coombs, Mr. E. Rogers, Lieut.-Colonel H. D. Armstrong, Lieut.-Colonel M. Wynyard, Miss Fletcher, Colonel A. E. Fyler, Mrs. D. B. Roffey, Captain B. H. Latter, Colonel F. F. Johnson, Colonel J. L. Tweedie, Mr. J. F. Grellier, Captain W. H. B. Long, Mrs. Dalison, Mrs. Graham-Wigan, Mr. D. R. Pack-Beresford, Mrs. Simpson, Colonel J. Bonhote, Captain J. H. Kennedy, Captain E. Fleming, Captain F. W. Burbury, Captain A. C. Edwards, Captain A. Griffith-Boscawen, Captain H. Neve, Captain A. C. Pine, Mr. A. C. Beeman, Mr. K. L. Cameron, Mr. A. H. Pullman, Mr. A. P. Stone, Mr. C. M. Allfrey, Major F. Pine, Mr. R. Whitehead, Miss H. Taylor, Mr. A. Stewart.

To 31st December, 1901:—Sergt.-Major J. Brasch, Mrs. Jury, Mr. W. Barrow, Staff-Sergt. C. Foote, Mr. G. Frankling, Captain E. L. Heygate, Mrs. Denton, Mr. D. P. Forestier-Walker, the Secretary Sergeants' Mess, 2nd Vol. Batt., Private C. Collins, 1st Batt. (the latter to 30th June, 1901).

To 31st December, 1902:—Mr. S. L. Monckton and Captain P. Umfreville (the latter to 28th February, 1902).

BIRTH.

At Malta, on 25th October, the wife of Clr.-Sergt. Botting, 3rd Battalion, of a son.

DEATH.

At Kroonstad, on 17th October, Sergeant Canty, 2nd Battalion, of wounds received in action.

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS
OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

No 307.

MAIDSTONE, DECEMBER 1st, 1900.

[Vol. XVIII, No. 12.]

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—

Since I wrote my last letter to you, the cold weather may be said to have begun. I believe I am right in saying that the official cold weather began on the 25th October; but be that as it may, it is very decidedly cooler, and we have even had a little rain. Talk about the plagues of Egypt! I bet we could equal them in one respect, and that is flies. They are really terrible just now. It is all right out of doors, but they make every daylight hour spent indoors a perfect misery. I rather think the Crater is now cooler than Steamer Point. In the hot weather, Steamer Point is the cooler.

We have had three very enjoyable cricket matches lately, played on 25th October and on the 1st and 8th November, of which I send the scores. The first two were at Crater, and the third at Steamer Point. As you will see, the officers gained a fairly easy victory on each occasion.

On 8th November, there took place a boxing contest in our Regimental Theatre between sailors of our Station Ship, H.M.S. *Racoon* and men of the Regiment. I enclose a short account from the "Aden Gazette." I had hoped to have sent you a regular account of the different events, but unfortunately have not received it in time. What struck me, an ignoramus on the art, most, was the plucky way in which Neal came up smiling again and again after the punishment he received from his heavier opponents, who kept going for the body. He fought out the ten rounds in great style and was, to all appearance, only defeated by superior weight. Garland came forward at the last moment to take the place of a man of the *Racoon* who could not be present. This contest was fought under the old "London Prize Ring Rules," which seems to allow wrestling and hitting below the belt among other things. Garland made a good fight of it, but was, I think, hardly so well up in that particular game as his opponent. It is a pleasure to see Mansford and Keleher box. The former had it evidently all his own way from the first and won easily. In the heavy weight championship, Keleher allowed his rather heavier adversary no look in at all, and finally knocked him out in the fourth round. I have not mentioned the three "exhibition" events. They were all interesting, especially perhaps the pretty boxing of Fordham.

The seamen of the U.S. warship "*Albany*" gave a display of baseball at Steamer Point at the end of last month. I imagine it was not a very brilliant exposition of the game, but it gave those who had never seen it before some idea of what it is like. It bears a strong family likeness to rounders.

Colonel Harrison brought his series of very interesting lectures on the war in South Africa to a close last month. I think we all regretted that there were no more to come, but Colonel Harrison had taken us up to the point at which his own experiences with the 2nd Battalion came to an end.

There is no doubt that one can take a much more intelligent interest in the operations East of Johannesburg after hearing those lectures. We are naturally very keen on hearing details of the fighting in the course of which Colonel Grove surprised a laager. Rundle's division appears to be very busy just now, and we expect the 2nd Battalion is getting its share of the fighting.

The Band and Drums and C company have now returned to Head Quarters, their places at Steamer Point being taken by B and H companies. Captain Hotham has returned from his garrison class at Poona, where he seems to have had a good time. Second Lieutenant Hall has proceeded to England on six month's sick leave, necessitated by continual doses of fever.

We have no certain knowledge of when or where we move (if we move at all), but the present betting is to Malta in February.

Perhaps those of your readers who have not the pleasure (!) of knowing Aden might be interested in a short description thereof. It is so very different from one's preconceived ideas of the place that I am sure that no one who has not been here understands at all what it is like. Roughly, then, Aden proper is shaped like the fat foot of a bear, pointing westward. It is about five miles from E. to W., and nearly three at the broadest point from N. to S. The Isthmus (at the ankle) joining the Peninsula to Arabia, is just one mile across. The harbour's mouth is formed by the bear's claw on the E., and Little Aden, an uninhabited promontory nearly five miles distant, on the W. It runs about ten miles to the N.W., making a great bay where the foot joins the leg. Roughly, the whole of the interior of the Peninsular is steep, bare rock. The highest point, called Shum Shum, where there is a signal station, is nearly 2,000ft. high. The inhabited part extends roughly along the shore, from nearly the heel of the bear on the E., over the top of the foot, and round to below the claw on the S.W. Our two officers' messes occupy almost the extreme ends of this most irregular line. They are more than six miles apart by the only road (that along the top of the foot) whereas if there were only a tunnel through Shum-Shum they would not be much more than two. All the part at the heel below the Isthmus is called the "Crater." Very roughly it is a semi-circle of nearly level land of about half-mile radius, the sea forming the diameter and hills the circumference. Here are our head-quarters and those of a Bombay Infantry Regiment, as well as a large native village, the treasury, and the gaol. It is decidedly hotter than Steamer Point, and is visited by fearful sandstorms, from which the latter is almost free. Inland from the Crater is Shum-Shum plateau, where company manœuvres are carried out. It is far from flat, but most of it is workable. On this plateau are situated the famous Tanks. The road from the Crater leads, at the west end of the ankle, through a very narrow and deep rock cutting on to Mala Plain. This is a nearly flat, stony piece of

ground, bounded by the harbour on N. and hills on S. It is about 1½ miles long and half-mile wide. A village lies along the road, which latter keeps close to the water, and our race-course runs parallel to it. Then a smaller cutting is crossed about the knuckle of the toe, and we are now within the Steamer Point defences. First comes a weary mile scattered with a few commercial buildings and native houses, and here and there enormous blocks of coal—the *raison d'être* of Aden as a British station. Further on is the "Crescent," where are the shops of Steamer Point, and where the bulk of the population congregate. A mile more of always winding road, sea on right, hills on left, past club, post and other offices and church, brings us to another small cutting with a big fort on the right and a spur running up into the hills on the left. On this spur are our detachment barracks, the R.A. barracks occupying another spur nearly parallel. Here the hills recede, leaving a flat sandy piece of ground which forms the Steamer Point play and drill grounds. The above-mentioned fort, Morbat by name, on a rocky promontory, might be considered as forming a corn on the top of the bear's toe near its end, whilst another fort, named Tarshyne, also on a great rock promontory, about half-mile away, represents the claw. These two forts are the main defences, commanding as they do the entrance to the harbour and the roadstead. Our detachment mess is at the top of a steep hill about 400ft. high, half-mile S.E. of the claw. It is about a mile from the barracks, which fact officers find very trying in the hot weather. The offices and quarters of the Cable Company occupy the foot of this hill, which is practically the end of things. The road, it is true, continues for another mile, but it leads to nowhere. The sole of the foot is uninhabited. There the spurs run right down into the sea, and he who would traverse that coast must swim for it. Steamer Point has a better climate than the Crater, has rather more facilities for games, and is much more interesting, for war ships and others of every nationality come in and go out at the rate of about four a day, and the Steamer Pointers see many a refreshing new face in the hot months which is denied to the Crater. Many, however, prefer the latter, principally, I think, because it is headquarters. There are three companies of Garrison Artillery besides our detachment at Steamer Point. Two miles N. of the Isthmus, up the Bear's Leg, is Khormuksar where the Aden troop, 100 Indians, half on camels and half on horses, are quartered. There also is the polo ground, three miles from Crater and seven from Steamer Point. The native population is very mixed. The bulk, however, are either Arabs or Somalis, with a good sprinkling of Jews and Seede-boy coal heavers. The shopkeepers are mainly Parsees, and there are a few other natives of India. Except for a number of very bad pony carriages for passenger traffic the camel is almost the only animal either for draft or burden.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

CRICKET.

The return match between the Sergeants and Corporals was played on the Garrison Parade Ground on Thursday, 8th November, when the Sergeants won, after an exciting finish, by 3 runs. Neither team was fully represented. The Sergeants winning the toss, elected to bat first, but the innings opened disastrously, three wickets being down for seven runs. Crouch and Sonnenberg carried the score to 23, when the former was clean bowled by C. Ford. The team was eventually disposed of for 55, the Fords sharing bowling honours equally. Nothing of an exciting nature occurred during the

Corporals' innings until the last wicket, when a gallant attempt was made by Balcombe to secure a win. Rose was unable, however, to stop a straight ball from Sonnenberg, which got among his timber and put his "duffy" down. C. Ford played a good game for the losers, and Sonnenberg and Crouch for the winners. Score:—

Sergeants.		Corporals.	
Eldred, b C. Ford	2	Allen, b Ashby	4
Saunders, b J. Ford	5	J. Ford, run out	0
Murphy, b C. Ford	0	Lush, run out	3
Sonnenberg, c Lush, b J. Ford	11	C. Ford, c and b Sonnenberg	10
Crouch, b C. Ford	10	Seal, b Sonnenberg	3
Cover, b C. Ford	3	Andrews, b Ashby	9
Howard, c J. Ford, b C. Ford	0	Gamblin, b Ashby	0
Mason, b J. Ford	8	Keen, c Page, b Sonnenberg	0
Page, b J. Ford	9	Balcombe, not out	11
Ashby, run out	2	Wood, c Mason, b Sonnenberg	5
L.-Cpl. Harris (sub), not out	2	Rose, b Sonnenberg	2
Extras	3	Extras	5
Total	55	Total	52

Played at Aden on Thursday, November 1st, 1900, between the Officers and Non-commissioned Officers of the 1st. Batt., resulting in a victory for the Officers by an innings and 39 runs.

Officers—1st Innings.

Lieut. Annesley, b Wood	2
2nd Lieut. Keenlyside, c Saunders, b Wood	4
Lieut. O'Dowda, c Wood, b Sonnenberg	49
Lieut. Bush, c Allen, b Wood	14
Lieut. Robinson, c Wood, b James	39
Major Morse, b James	6
Major Rowe, run out	2
2nd Lieut. Whitehead, c Ford, b James	2
Lieut. and Qr.-Mr. Barton, c Saunders, b Allen	15
Lieut. Greenwood, b Sonnenberg	2
Lieut. Dunlop, run out	0
2nd Lieut. Stigand, not out	19
Extras	2

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N.C.O.'s 1st Innings.		N.C.O.'s 2nd Innings	
Lce.-Corpl. James, c and b Bush	2	c Whitehead, b Bush	19
Lce.-Corpl. Allen, c Robinson, b bush	8	c and b Bush	12
Lce.-Corpl. Ford, b O'Dowda	1	run out	2
Sergt. Saunders, b Bush	0	b Bush	0
Sergt. Sonnenberg, b O'Dowda	10	b Bush	0
Cpl. Seal, b O'Dowda	4	not out	7
Lce.-Sergt. Reeves, b Bush	1	c Whitehead, b Bush	7
Cpl. Lush, c and b Bush	1	b Bush	8
Lce.-Corpl. Harris, b Bush	3	c and b Bush	0
Lce.-Cpl. Wood, c Whitehead, b Bush	2	b Bush	0
Cpl. Andrews, not out	3	b Bush	0
Sergt.-Dr. Budd, b O'Dowda	3	b Robinson	4
Extras	6	c Bush, b Whitehead	12
		Extras	2
			73
	44		

Played at Aden on Thursday, 25th October, 1900, between the Officers and Sergeants of the 1st Battalion, resulting in a win for the Officers by an innings and 39 runs.

Officers—1st Innings.

2nd Lieut. Stigand, b Tapp	0
Lieut. and Qr.-Mr. Barton, b Sub.	7
Lieut. H. S. Bush, b Budd	23
Lieut. Robinson, c Saunders, b Budd.....	6
2nd Lieut. Whitehead, c Osborne, b Budd	5
Lieut. O'Dowda, c Sonnenberg, b Reeves ...	59
Lieut. Dunlop, b Sonnenberg	2
Lieut. Greenwood, c Sonnenberg, b Allan ...	9
2nd Lieut. White, b Reeves	1
2nd Lieut. Keenlyside, run out	38
Lieut. Annesley, not out.....	22
Extras	12

184

Sergeants—1st Innings.

Sergt. Reeves, b Whitehead ...	0
Sergt. Eldred, b Whitehead	9
Sergt. Sonnenberg, b Whitehead	1
Substitute, b O'Dowda	21
Sergeant Saunders, b Bush	1
Sergt. Tapp, c Stigand, b Bush	0
Qr.-Mr.-Sgt. Cover, c Dunlop, b	Bush
Sergt. Crouch, c Whitehead, b	Robinson
Sergt.-Dr. Budd, c Bush, b	Robinson
Sergt. Wren, not out.....	2
Sergt. Osborne, b O'Dowda.....	1

Extras ... 10
64

2nd Innings.

b Greenwood	32
not out	10
b Bush	13
c ane b Bush.....	0
c Robinson, b	O'Dowda.....
b Greenwood	4
b O'Dowda... ..	5
st Keenlyside, b	Bush
c Bush, b Green-	wood
lbw, b O'Dowda ...	1
c O'Dowda, b	Robinson
Extras	7

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Officers v. N.C.O. and Men. Steamer Point, Aden, 8/11/00
Officers.

Lieut. O'Dowda, b Nudd	4
2nd Lieut. Stigand, b Nudd	11
2nd Lieut. Whitehead, b Brown	20
Lieut. Bush, st James	122
Lieut. Robinson, c Nudd	122
2nd Lieut. Keenlyside, run out	1
Major Morse, b Little	5
Lieut. and Q.M. Barton, b Little	2
Lieut. Annesley, not out.....	4
2nd Lieut. Dunlop, b Little	2
Lieut. Moloney, b Nudd.....	1
Byes	4

Total ... 298

N.C.O.'s and Men.

1st Innings.

Cpl. Joyce, c Lt. Robinson, b Lt.	Bush
L.-Cpl. James, c Lt. Whitehead,	b Lt. Bush
Pte. Nudd, b Lt. Bush	0

2nd Innings.

c Lt. Robinson....	0
c 2nd Lt. Keenly-	side
c Lt. O'Dowda, ...	8

L.-Sgt. Reeves, b Lt. O'Dowda	9	c 2nd. Lt. Stigand	9
Pte. Little, b Lt. O'Dowda	2	b Lt. Bush	2
Pte. Davey, b Lt. Bush.....	0	not out	0
,, Carden, b Lt. Bush...—.....	0	c Lt. O'Dowda ...	5
,, Edwards, not out	5	b Lt. O'Dowda ...	0
,, Turner, b Lt. O'Dowda.....	0	b Lt. O'Dowda ...	0
,, Brown, c Lt. Bush..	0	c Lt. Robinson ...	5
Sergt. Wren, b Lt. Bush	0	b Lt. O'Dowda ...	0
		Byes	4
	50		50

BOXING.

An interesting symposium of the "noble art" took place at the Regimental Theatre on the evening of Thursday, 8th November, by permission of Lieut.-Colonel Harrison.

The contest for the lightweight and heavyweight Championships of Aden were the principal items. In the former, Fido, H.M.S. "Racoon," won from Neal, R.W.K., after a spirited bout, the handy man punching lustily and getting in some good left-handers. Both looked fit to go on for a bit at the end of the ten rounds. In the heavyweights Keleher, R.W.K., v. Willis, H.M.S. "Racoon," Keleher got in an upper cut on the chin at the beginning of the third round, knocking his man against the ropes, where he collapsed, and was counted out. Payne, R.W.K., v. D. Druce, H.M.S. "Racoon," was a lively tussle, with an extra round to decide it, the sailor boy taking a good many facers smilingly, and the other twice sitting gently on the floor.

The greatest good humour was in evidence throughout the whole programme, and the spectators were glad they came.

First Event, Exhibition Sparring—Pte. Lee, R.W.K., 11st, v. A. B. Davis, H.M.S. "Racoon," 11st 3; won by Lee, three rounds. Pte. Roberts, R.W.K., 10st, v. A.B. Coles, H.M.S. "Racoon," 8st 6: three rounds, won by Coles.

Second Event, Light weight Championship of Aden—Pte. Neal, R.W.K., 9st 6, v. A.B. Fido, H.M.S. "Racoon," 10st; ten rounds, Fido won.

Third Event, Exhibition Sparring—Payne, R.W.K., v. Druce, H.M.S. "Racoon"; four rounds, extra won by Payne.

Fourth Event, Four-round Contest—Pte. Mansford, R.W.K., 9st 9, v. A.B. Welsh, H.M.S. "Racoon," 9st 2; Mansford won.

Fifth Event, Exhibition Sparring—Lcc. Corporal Fordham, R.W.K., 10st 6, v. A. B. Maltby, H.M.S. "Racoon," 9st 6; Fordham won.

Sixth Event, Four-round Contest—A.B. Wilder, H.M.S. "Racoon," 12st 2, v. Private Garland, 11st 4; Wilder won.

Seventh Event, Heavyweight Championship of Aden—Lcc. Corporal Keleher, R.W.K., 12st 3, v. C.P.O. Willis, H.M.S. "Racoon," 12st 7. Knock out third round, Keleher won.

BILLIARDS.

Our Drummers fancy they are some on the green baize covered table, and there is no doubt a fair amount of talent exists in this line, the outcome of which was, that a challenge was posted up in the Regimental Billiard Room by Private Crampton, himself an ex-Drummer, to play anyone in the

Battalion not above the rank of Corporal. This hit Drummer Baker in a tender spot, and he immediately took up the gauntlet, the terms being 300 up—all in for a stake of 20 Rupees a-side. The match was brought off on the evening of the 20th instant, and resulted after an interesting game in favour of Crampton by 70 points. Crampton held a slight lead throughout the game, and played some good strokes with perfect confidence. Baker, on the other hand, although he played a more careful game, had not the same ease and confidence as his opponent. He, however, made the biggest break during the game, viz. 22. Crampton is now looking for more scalps, but it is doubtful whether the Battalion can produce another with sufficient courage to oppose him, for there is no doubt he is a hard nut to crack amongst the rank and file.

YOUR OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT,

21/11/1900.

ADEN.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Without any hint or warning I have been suddenly asked to write you a letter containing the doings of the Battalion from arrival at Harrismith up to present date, which in figures means from September 7th to October 30th. This is a large order to one who has not made many notes, whose brain is weary with the toils of war, and whose fingers have grown more accustomed to manipulating field glasses and toying with a knife and fork than wielding the mighty pen. But what is, is; and with a looted penholder in my hand, and a penny bottle of ink, I sit me down to think over and recall the doings of the last two months.

The time may be roughly divided into three periods, namely: first—a rest at Harrismith after many days of marching; secondly—a round-about trek to Frankfort covering about 150 miles; and thirdly—the garrisoning of Frankfort, at which place we are still in camp. And now to take them in their proper order. We arrived at Harrismith on September 7th, and pitched our camp on a nice clean piece of ground S. of the Wilge River. Very glad most of us were to see a railway again; it brought us the little luxuries which had long since become mere memories. Tobacco was plentiful, food of all sorts could be obtained in the stores in the town and a daily paper arrived at 3.30 p.m. each afternoon. No longer was it necessary to count one's matches to see if one could be spared to light the last cigarette. The days of famine were past, and prosperity and plentitude reigned in their stead. We found about three weeks' mails waiting for us, and above all things we were able to complete the issue of our boots and clothing. It would be impossible for anyone not in South Africa to realise the absolute state of raggedness to which the old clothing had been reduced. Trousers were almost relics of the past, their place being taken by kilts made of old sacks, waterproof sheets, or blankets. The West Kent Highlanders was not an inappropriate name for the Battalion. Some of the coats were coats in name only; two sleeves held together by a pull-through is hardly an efficient jacket, and is not calculated to keep out 10 degrees of frost. But what matter the appearance of the uniform on service, as long as the men keep their health. Every man looked fit and well. The faces of all ranks were tanned the colour of mahogany, and with a look of health upon them that could not be mistaken. How

different from the pale and yellow countenance of our Indian warriors. This reminds one that a few days previous to our arrival at Harrismith, Major Western and Captain Beresford joined the Battalion from Aden, having made a lengthy journey down the East Coast of Africa. Their complexions were a bit conspicuous at first, but a few days of trek soon brought their skins to the approved South African tint, the process is, however, a somewhat painful one. During our stay at Harrismith, several of our officers played polo on the station ground. The game was generally somewhat sketchy. Some of the members of the club played by Hurlingham rules, some by Indian rules, and a large number of players, knowing no rules, played by none. The ponies were not perfectly trained. The greater number were introduced straight into the game, without ever having seen a polo ball before. Without undue blowing the Regimental trumpet, I think I may safely say that the officers of this Battalion could have easily taken on the remainder of the garrison. A polo meeting was held, which for formality and debate was well worthy of the annual meeting of the Hurlingham Club. A committee was duly elected, of which Colonel Grove and Captain Beresford were president and secretary respectively. They did not, however, hold their positions for long, as the Battalion treked about a week afterwards. We played two regimental cricket matches, but I regret that I cannot give you many details about them, as the Hon. Sec. for cricket kept the scores on odd pieces of paper, which reminded us strangely of unpaid bills; doubtless he destroyed the scoring sheets when he discovered the unwelcome writing on the back. I remember however, the results of the matches. The Yeomanry beat us badly, but we took tea with the East Yorks. The principal features of the latter match was the batting of L. Bonham Carter, who hit freely, and the fact that three catches were held by our officers, and none missed. This I believe is almost a record in the Battalion cricket, and is well worth some mention in any history of the Regiment that may be published in future years. It was during this match with the East Yorks that we got our orders to march the next day; so I now reach Part II. of my letter. We left Harrismith on September 22nd with orders to take a convoy to Bethlehem, with supplies for the 17th Brigade. This was not a particularly interesting trek, the chief feature of the scenery being the number of dead beasts by the road-side. This reminds me that at any rate in this part of the Orange River Colony the aasvögel is a fraud. The picture papers show us sketches of wounded officers and men, revolver in hand, protecting their dying horses from the ferocious assault of the vultures, but at Bethlehem and Frankfort the dead ox is left in all his glory unmolested and free to taint the atmosphere as far as he and the wind think fit. He seems to get a longer range each day, and certainly on the Bethlehem road he manages to extend his sphere of influence until it joins with that of his brother, who lies further up the road. We reached Bethlehem on September 25th, having done a ten mile march that morning, and it was somewhat of a jar to find that we had to carry straight on and join the 17th Brigade that day, which meant from all accounts another 17 miles to be done. But "hukum hukum hai," as the native of India well knows. An order is an order, and we at once set off on our stern chase. We had not, however, to go so very far; another 12 miles of road brought us to camp, and we joined the 17th Brigade. It was at this camp we were joined by Lieut. Kitson and Lieut. Norman and a draft of some 135 men. After joining our brigade the Battalion meandered o'er devious roads to Frankfort. We left Lindley on our left; then we went towards Reitz, but this we left on

our right, and eventually we rounded up at this town on October 3rd, after a trek from Harrismith of about 150 miles.

From Bethlehem to Frankfort we were constantly in touch with the enemy, but we never got anything tangible to play with. A hot fire would be opened at a long range on our advance guard. There would be a slight check, and then the enemy's position would be stormed. We generally found a cow or two about these positions, but never a Boer. These little spars were not very entertaining. They entailed a lot of solid walking over bad ground, and neither side did the other any harm. We had practically no casualties, and I don't expect the Boers had many either. On September 29th we were joined by General Hunter with a regiment of Mounted Infantry, and on that day we were transferred from General Rundle's command to that of General Hunter. We ceased to belong to the 8th Division, and became divisional troops of the 10th.

The scene now changes to Frankfort, where we have been in camp for the last month. The only other troops here are the East Kent Yeomanry and two guns of No. 2 F.B., R.A. Our duty consists, I believe, of simply keeping the Boers out of the town, and thereby preventing them from getting any supplies. What supplies they want to get from here I know not. Ploughs, tin tacks, and cocoa nut oil are plentiful, but the staple articles of diet and necessities are conspicuous by their absence. The following are some of the articles urgently required by everybody, but which money cannot buy in Frankfort—luxuries in the food line, tobacco, candles, matches, soap. Verily there is again a famine in the land, and the days of plenty are not even visible in the dim obscurity of the future. But again, "what is, is," and we might be worse off. We have still got trek ox to go into the stew, and then to rend our stomachs we have biscuits to break our teeth and unsweetened sugar to complete their decay in conjunction with ration tea. Dried grass is procurable in large quantities, and when wrapped in a piece of puttie and lit with the lens of our field glass it makes an excellent substitute for the over-rated Egyptian or pinhead cigarette. Fastidious indeed must be the man who wishes to change such fare for a higher style of living. Although a mere garrison we have not been wholly inactive since our arrival in Frankfort. Digging has, of course, been our principal occupation, and the motto of Frankfort now is "let 'em all come." Brother Boer has not, however, thought fit to test our fortifications, so we instead have amused ourselves at intervals by bearding him in his own den.

The first raid was on a date which I have forgotten, but which was shortly after our arrival here. This was a little moonlight picnic in which the Mounted Infantry alone took part. They visited several farms seven or eight miles from here and collected a dozen of the enemy, who were peacefully sleeping in the houses, little dreaming that they were going on a trip to Ceylon via Frankfort. Most, if not all, of these men had rifles beside them. Our most successful raid took place on October 11th. Lieutenant Craig, the intelligence officer, reported that he had found a laager about five miles from our camp, which could be surrounded without much difficulty if approached from the side furthest away from Frankfort. Colonel Grove decided to try and capture this camp next night, and accordingly C, E, and H Companies and the Mounted Infantry and East Kent Yeomanry paraded after dusk on the night of 10th October and made a round-about march of about seven miles to the laager. When about 1,000 yards from it the companies separated, each moving to its allotted place. None of us had seen the ground before, but we all had a general idea as to the lie of the ground and the position of the enemy's tents. Roughly speaking,

the dispositions were as follows. We approached the laager from the south. The Mounted Infantry were to move round to the north of the tents; C company was to occupy a small kopje to the west, commanding the camp and supposed to be about 300 yards from it; half of H company to occupy a similar kopje on the east side; while the other half of H was to block the southern exit; E company being in reserve. We took up our positions by midnight and waited for daylight, the idea being to let them have it with the first flush of dawn. We found that the scene of operations was much smaller than we had supposed it to be. The camp was hidden away between two kopjes in quite a diminutive little valley, and C and H companies were able to creep within about 25 or 30 yards of the sleeping camp, and in such positions that although they were within 60 yards of each other and on opposite sides of the enemy, yet the chances of firing into each other were not very great. The Mounted Infantry took up another position which was about 100 yards north of the tents. It was a cold and weary wait, as absolute silence had to be maintained in order to ensure success. From time to time a Boer would come out and take a stroll round to see if the horses were all right, and at 3.15 a.m. one of these strollers meandered right on to the spot where H company was lying. He was told to "hands up," and the muzzle of a rifle nearly touched him. He however would not surrender, and fled screaming to the tents. Though subsequently killed I fancy he reached his haven in safety, as report says that the absent-minded beggar who tried to hold him up had forgotten to load his rifle. The fat was now in the fire, and we pumped lead into the camp for about ten minutes. The enemy then surrendered, and we were able to estimate results. Seven Boers lay dead on the field, nine were wounded, of whom two subsequently died, and we had seventeen unwounded prisoners, forty odd rifles, and forty-four ponies. The sole casualty on our side was Sergeant Canty, of H company, who was severely wounded in the lower part of his body. I regret to say that he died about four days afterwards. By his death the Battalion lost a conscientious and good soldier, a first-class football player, and a pleasant comrade. His loss was deeply regretted by all.

On October 22nd D and C Companies with the Mounted Infantry set out to burn a farm some four or five miles from camp. This expedition resulted in what I believe was a mutual surprise. The Boers, it seems, laid a trap for the patrol, which usually went out every morning in that direction. The left flank of the Mounted Infantry walked up to this trap and came under a heavy fire from the enemy, who were only about 70 yards away. The Boers themselves were surprised, for they were waiting for a patrol of at most 20 men, and found that they had about 200 to deal with. They consequently fled, and in the confusion of the mutual surprise they managed to get a good start and got away. We then burnt the farm without further opposition. Our casualties were Ptes. Selling and Clarke killed, and one or two others with scratches, while the Boers left one man dead on the field and took away two others who had been badly wounded. Privates Sellins and Clarke were both 1st Battalion reservists; the former was a well-known football player in the 1st Battalion. On October 26th the Mounted Infantry burnt the farm of one Pretorius, the Field Cornet of the Frankfort district. Pretorius himself and his son were taken prisoners, the latter being dangerously wounded. This was an important capture, the ex-Field Cornet being a man of great influence with the burghers.

This ends my chronicle of military operations, and I have now but little to add.

On October 8th we said good-bye to our Volunteer Company, and it was with sincere regret that we did so. Service in the field is the best thing in the world for promoting good feeling and good fellowship, and we hope that in future years if either of the Battalions proceed on service they may be joined by as good a lot of fellows as served with the 2nd. Battalion in South Africa. We wish Captain Morphew and his men the best of luck and a pleasant journey home. On October 9th I regret to have to record the death of Private Ashby of D Company, who was accidentally drowned while bathing in the Wilge River. He swam across a deep pool and got entangled in a mass of weeds. A gallant attempt was made to rescue him by Private Roberts, of D Company, who very nearly sacrificed his own life in trying to save Pte. Ashby.

My budget would not be complete without a passing mention of the Kentish Club, Frankfort. This institution was opened on October 26th. The Club is a most select one, all the members being officers of either the Royal West Kent Regiment or East Kent Yeomanry. The entrance fee and subscription are *nil*. The expenses of the Club being small. The Club-room has been kindly placed at the disposal of the members by a certain Mr. de Koch, who is at present on commando. The furniture has also been provided free of charge by some of the Frankfort inhabitants who are still in arms against us. The rules of the Club are somewhat differently worded from those usually in vogue in London Clubs. Rule 4, I remember, is to the effect that "Ladies, Dogs, and Dutchmen are not allowed in the vicinity of the Club. Alas, the days of chivalry are past!

And now Mr. Editor, I must draw my letter to a close. I fear my pen has run somewhat wild over the paper, and the budget is already over long. The looted nib has given out, the inkpot is full of dust, and a swarm of flies has driven reminiscences from my weary brain.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

The month of November has brought us to what might be called "serious football," as distinct from "friendly football." The Depot team have been equal to the occasion, and during the month have won four matches and drawn one. Three of these have been League matches, of which two against Aylesford and Snodland have been won, and the other against Church Institute drawn, but for bad luck in losing Hazlett at half-time through a strained leg the latter might also have been a win. However, as both Snodland and Church Institute came to barracks with the firm conviction that they would take two points out of us, we cannot grumble. During December the only match in the Maidstone League in which we are engaged is against Tovil at Tovil. Here again I shall predict a win for the Depot, The following accounts are copied from the "Kent Messenger":—

DEPOT v. AYLESFORD (Maidstone and District League),

This match was played at the Barracks on Saturday, November 3rd. The visitors won the toss and started at 3.15. At once the visitors began to press, and after a few minutes' play forced a corner. This was of no use to them, however, and the Depot getting away on the right wing would have scored but were pulled up for off-side. Again the Depot only just missed scoring from a good shot by Walker. Aylesford now took up the attack, but were prevented from scoring by a good save from Stacks'. From the kick-off play was carried into the visitors' quarters, and remained there until half-time without result, the Aylesford custodian saving well from good attempts by Irons and Nunn. On changing ends the Depot

began to force the game, and from some good combination, in which Iliffe was most conspicuous, Walker scored for the Depot. Aylesford now made a great effort to draw level, but Stacks was "at home" and saved well. Hazlett now put on No. 2 for the Depot, and "no-side" was then blown, leaving the Depot victors by 2 goals to nil. The Depot were represented by:—Stack, Shaw, Spearing, Savage, Mr. Irons, Mr. Nunn, Walker, Selves, Hazlett, Iliffe, and Freeman, Referee, Mr. G. W. Taylor. Result:—

Depot 2 goals
Aylesford..... *nil*.

DEPOT v. SOUTHBOROUGH.

Played at Southborough on Saturday, 10th November, before a good "gate." A very evenly contested game was the outcome of this fixture. Nothing was scored in the first half, but in the second the only goal of the match was scored by the soldiers after the borough custodian had cleared. Hazlett played a grand game at back for the Depot, whose team consisted of:—Stack, Shaw, Hazlett, Savage, Edwards, Mr. Nunn, Selves, Franklin, Walker, Freeman and Merrick. Result:—

Depot 1 goal.
Southborough *nil*.

DEPOT v. SNODLAND (Maidstone League).

The Depot team once more appeared in a League encounter on Saturday, 17th, when it defeated Snodland by three goals to one at the Barracks. The game was a very fast one throughout, and in the first ten minutes both teams scored, in each case through a scrimmage in front of goal. Taylor, for the Depot, soon managed to give his team the lead through a penalty, and the Depot, gaining confidence, began to press, shortly afterwards adding their third goal. At half-time, Snodland, getting the advantage of a useful wind, seemed like making a close game of it in score as well as in play, but although they worked extremely hard, they were unable to break through the home team's defence. There were one or two improving changes in the Depot team. Hazlett, who previously played forward, now joined Shaw at back, making a strong combination. Freeman, a new comer, proved a good addition to the forwards, and looks like remaining in the team. Taylor was quite up to form. Mr. Irons, who has left to join his battalion, is a serious loss to the team, but Spearing, who takes his place, puts fear into the timid, and works hard. Mr. Nunn, at left-half, was seldom found wanting, and fed his forwards well. Stack, Savage, Walker, Selves, and Iliffe composed the remainder of the team. Result:—

Depot..... 3 goals.
Snodland 1 "

DEPOT v. ROYAL MARINES, CHATHAM.

A somewhat loose game was played on the Great Lines, Chatham, on Wednesday, 21st, when the Depot were again successful. The Depot backs had rather an easy time defending during the first half, a strong wind being behind them. Freeman scored the first goal for the Depot through an excellent shot from the wing, Taylor very shortly adding another. These were the only goals scored. Lack of energy caused both teams to suffer from the intense cold. The following represented the Depot:—Stack, Hazlett, Shaw, Mr. Nunn, Savage, Spearing, Iliffe, Freeman, Taylor, Selves, Walker. Result:

Depot..... 2 goals.
Royal Marines *nil*.

DEPOT v. MAIDSTONE CHURCH INSTITUTE (Maidstone League).

Played on the Depot Ground, on Saturday 24th. Immediately the ball had been kicked off the Depot began to press,

and after ten minutes' pressing Iliffe opened the scoring for them. Within three minutes Taylor headed a second for the Depot, whose chance of success now seemed rosy, but the Institute were by no means done with yet, for before half-time they had drawn level. In the second half nothing further was added, despite strenuous efforts by the Depot, who were considerably handicapped by the absence of Hazlett, who had been compelled to stop playing at half-time owing to an injury to his leg. Joy played well for the Institute, and Taylor for the Depot, made two gallant efforts to put his side ahead during the concluding stages of the game, but was prevented from doing so by the Institute's custodian, who made some remarkably good saves. Depot team:—Stack, Shaw, Hazlett, Savage, Spearing, Mr. Nunn, Selves, Franklin, Taylor, Freeman, and Iliffe. Referee, Mr. W. Clark. Result:—

Depot..... 2 goals.
Church Institute 2 ,,

MAIDSTONE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE (Up to and including December 1st.)

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts.
Depot	3	2	0	1	5
Church Institute	2	1	0	1	3*
Invicta	2	1	0	1	3
Snodland	3	1	2	0	2
Aylesford	3	0	2	1	1
Tovil	1	0	0	1	0

*Church Institute received two points from Snodland who scratched to them.

FIXTURES (December and January).

December 1st, v. Church Institute	Away.
„ 15th, v. Tovil (Maidstone League).....	Away.
„ 22nd, v. Maidstone North End	Away.
„ 26th, v. Tonbridge	Away.
January 5th, v. Sevenoaks	Home.
„ 9th, v. Royal Marines	Home.
„ 12th, v. Aylesford (Maidstone League)..	Away.
„ 19th, v. Invicta (Maidstone League) ...	Home.
„ 26th, v. Church Inst. (M'stone League)	Away.

DEPOT FOOTBALL TEAM BY A "RANK OUTSIDER."

The arduous duties of Referee are generally "Bourne" by the Militia Quartermaster-sergeant. The team, which might have difficulty in hitting a hay "Stack," find it better having one behind them in goal. The captain is quite "Shaw" of his backs now he "Haz-lett" one of the forwards defend. When the halves get in a de "Spearing" mood they are rather apt to think there is "Nunn" like them in weight, and become "Savage," which is a pity.

The "Tayl-or" end of my tale is of course the forwards. "Iliffe" to see them top of the Maidstone League, and think it should be a "Walk-er" ver, though "Franklin" speaking it really rests with them—"Selves."

(I cannot hold myself responsible for this Rank Outsider. —There's "Ayres.")

DEPOT FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT.

3rd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

Malta, 22nd Nov. 1900.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Still a dearth of news re our move, and some who profess to be quite "in the know" say we are booked to stay in Malta till—anyhow after Easter Sunday.

The opera is in full swing, and now the fleet has returned always gets a full house.

We have had Mr. Chamberlain here, and he was entertained at dinner by the members of the Union Club. He witnessed the Trooping of the Colours by Battalion Loyal North

Lancashire Regt. on the 8th, and in the evening attended a party on H.M.S. "Renown." On the 7th, after the Club, he also witnessed a tattoo on the Palace Square.

On the Prince of Wales's birthday a grant was made from the Canteen Fund of 1s. per man to all companies and the women and children. On the 13th there was a Brigade field day, at which we all got a good ducking, as the weather is now rather like April at home.

Lieuts. Pullman, Thornhill, and Hayne were successful in passing at the recent examination for commissions in the line.

Colonel Bailey has returned from leave, and we are all very pleased to have him again in mess.

Mr. Case-Morris and Mr. Irons have joined Headquarters, coming out with the Duke of York's guard of honour in the "Brittanic." Captain Fenning has gone on leave.

Below are extracts from Malta General Orders, 17th Nov., 1900:—

An account published in "Malta Chronicle" of yesterday's trooping:—

GENERAL ORDERS.

Headquarters, Valetta, Malta, Saturday, November 17th, 1900.

3.—INSPECTIONS.—(I) H.E. the Commander-in-Chief was much pleased with the smart appearance and steadiness under arms of the 3rd R.W.K. Regiment. This marked improvement reflects credit on all ranks. The manual exercise and military movements were carried out with precision.

From the "Daily Malta Chronicle," Nov. 22nd, 1900.

"THE PALACE SQUARE.

TROOPING THE COLOUR—3rd ROYAL WEST KENT.

This ceremony, which is always of a highly interesting nature, was remarkably well performed yesterday morning by the above battalion. Nothing could have been more satisfactory than the weather on this occasion. A pleasant cool breeze and an English spring sky, tempted a large number of visitors and inhabitants to find their way to the square where so many functions of the same nature have been held.

The various movements were performed with a precision which is supposed to belong of right to service Battalions, and while mentioning this it is only right to add that it has been generally noticed by those who are competent to judge, that the Militia Battalions who have found a home in Malta for the last twelve months or so have certainly proved themselves up-to-date in every respect. Their bands are good, and the quality of the music supplied of a high order.

We embrace this opportunity of taking a brief glance at the history of the Battalion. By a curious coincidence the colour trooped yesterday was one of a pair presented to the Battalion on the 21st November, 1855, exactly 45 years ago. This regimental Colour, although its tattered remains now appear to be on a white ground, was originally of "Kentish Grey," the colour of the old facings, but by exposure to the sun and weather has quite faded.

The West Kent Light infantry Militia, as the regiment was then called, was stationed at Aldershot in 1855, and the colours were presented prior to embarkation for Ireland, which took place a few days later. The new colours replaced those borne by the West Kent throughout the early years of the century, when the regiment was embodied during the Peninsular War.

The embodied service of the West Kent since 1759 is as follows:—

1.—Seven Years' War, 22nd June, 1759, to 15th December, 1762, 3 years 6 months.

2.—American Rebellion, 26th March, 1778, to 20th March, 1783, 5 years.

3.—French Revolutionary War, 1st December, 1792 to 24th April, 1802, 9 years 5 months.

4.—Peninsular War, 21st March, 1803, to 24th June, 1814, 11 years 3 months.

5.—Waterloo Campaign, June 1815 to 25th May, 1816, 11 months.

6.—Crimean War, 3rd January, 1855, to 19th July, 1856, 1 year 6½ months.

7.—S. African War, 11th December, 1899, to present time, 11½ months.

This gives a total of over 36½ years during which this Battalion has been embodied out of the last 140 years.

The Field Officer in Command of the parade yesterday, was Hon. Lt. Col. Bailey, the senior Major of the Battalion, and the smartness and correctness of the movements were most creditable to all concerned. We understand that at the conclusion of the ceremony, His Excellency the Governor, was pleased to send a special message to the Officer in Command, to express his satisfaction and approval.

The Regimental Slow March is a very old Kentish Air, entitled "The Men of Kent." The Regimental Quickstep is a popular and well-known Irish Air, "The Low-backed Car" supposed to have been adopted by the Battalion when serving in Ireland in 1798.

Colonel J. Bonhote, the popular Commanding Officer, may well be proud of the smart Battalion in his charge."

3RD BATTALION FOOTBALL.

Up to date, November 20th, the above may be written down as a failure. We have played five matches in the Garrison League and lost them all. Goalkeeper and backs are responsible for the loss of the last three matches, the forwards having improved considerably. There is a great lack of dash and decision about the team generally. Any team that can play a rushing game will score three or four goals against us before we have fairly started, and then it is an uphill game, which, to do ourselves justice, we play fairly well, usually being found going strong at the finish when too late. However, we mean to stick to it, and in another month or two hope to have as good a team as any in the island. There is no reason why we should not. Physically we are as good as any; it is simply a lack of confidence that lets us down. Results to date:—

Nov. 1st v. 2nd L.N. Lanc. Regt.,	lost 4—1.
" 5th v. R.A. West (B)	" 4—0.
" 8th v. R.A. West (A)	" 2—1.
" 15th v. 2nd Derbyshire Regt.	" 4—1.
" 19th v. 3rd Lancashire Fusiliers	" 3—0.

3RD BATTALION HOCKEY.

There have been several games played on the Verdala parade ground, which does not lend itself well to that form of exercise. A large supply of sticks were purchased, and there was a rush for them every day when a game was on and we frequently have had more than the regulation number a-side. There are about a dozen officers who play.

We have only played one match so far v. 3rd N. Lanc. Regiment, which we failed to win through inaccurate shooting. We certainly ought to have scored six goals, but only succeeded in getting one, and the match was drawn. This was played at the Marta. We hope to have some successes to record next month.

ERRATUM.—In our previous issue, through an omission, the word "Militia" was omitted from the report of a speech by Captain Umfreville.—Ed.

2ND BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

"M" (GREENWICH) COMPANY.

The 41st annual prize distribution and smoking concert took place at the Prince Albert, Royal-hill, Greenwich, Major E. J. Heward (captain commanding) presiding. The other officers present were: Cols. E. Satterthwaite (commanding the battalion) and F. W. Frigout, Major W. Kent Lemon, Surgeon-Major H. W. Roberts, Captain and Adjutant A. Wood-Martyn, Cpts. E. J. Dolphin, E. A. Lovibond, and T. N. Dinwiddy, and Lieut. J. P. Trousdell.—Major Howard said that he had prevailed upon Captain Wood-Martyn to distribute the prizes. This would be the Adjutant's last public appearance with the battalion. Last time they were assembled there he appealed to them for recruits, and the appeal had not been in vain. He should like to see all of them put in their drills as early as possible, thus preventing chance of non-efficiency. During the year five had left them to join the regulars and seven of their men were out in South Africa on active service. Their strength stood at 114, but the formation of the cyclists' company had drained their ranks to a certain extent. He appealed for recruits. This was the first year they had a standing camp for a month, and it was very gratifying to him that during that time 67 men of the company did 14 days' training.—The prizes were then distributed by Capt. A. Wood-Martyn.—Colonel Frigout, in proposing the health of the Adjutant and a vote of thanks, said that Captain Wood-Martyn had striven with might and main to raise the efficiency of the battalion. He goes away with our best wishes.—Captain Wood-Martyn, in returning thanks, said he was sorry to leave the corps. On the other hand the sorrow was taken away by going at the end of a record year. He handed over the battalion to the new adjutant over 1,300 strong. He congratulated "M" Company on its shooting, and also pointed out the enthusiasm shown by all ranks in attending drill.—Major Heward, in proposing the toast of "The Colonel and Staff," said that no officer could take a greater interest in his battalion than Colonel Satterthwaite.

We are glad to learn that Captain Maurice Fitzgerald, late 16th Lancers, who has recently undergone two operations at Brighton in the foot and leg from the effects of an old wound received at the storming of the Redan in the Crimea, when in the 97th Regiment, is now progressing favourably. He was also wounded in the same leg at the siege of Lucknow, and lost the sight of his right eye, which compelled him to retire from the service at any early age. He joined the 97th Regiment on the 16th January, 1855.

SOLDIERS' BALANCES UNCLAIMED.

The sum of £23 2s. 4d. is due to the next-of-kin of Lance-Corporal P. Courtney, late 1st Battalion; and £23 12s. to the next-of-kin of Private Philip Stockham, late 1st Battalion.

NOTICES.

The Fortieth Annual Distribution of Prizes is fixed for Wednesday, 12th December, 1900, at the Drill Hall, Headquarters, 7.30 p.m.

Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P. for Greenwich, has kindly consented to present the prizes.