

"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS OF THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

No. 308.

MAIDSTONE, JANUARY 1st, 1901.

[Vol. XIX, No.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1ST BATTALION.

Capt. E. V. O. Hewitt is seconded for service on the Staff, dated 27th October.

Sec. Lieut. E. J. Hudson, from 1st Vol. Batt. and Pte. Imperial Yeomany, to be Sec. Lieut. in succession to Lieut. J. W. O'Dowda, promoted, dated 5th Dec.

Capt. O. B. Simpson to be Adjutant of 2nd Vol. Batt., vice Capt. Martyn, whose period of service has expired, dated 1st Dec.

Appointed Sergt.-Drummer—Sergeant W. Budd. Promoted Sergeant—Lance-sergeant A. Davis. 18th Oct.; Lance-sergeant H. Punnett, 22nd Oct. Promoted Corporal—Lance-corporal R. Rose, 19th Oct.; Lance-corporal E. Ashton, 26th Sept. Promoted Corporal—Lance-corporals T. Dixon, H. Smith, W. Pearce, R. Osmond, T. Ward, 15th Sept.; J. Lloyd, W. McCrossen, A. Dennis, 17th Sept.; W. Mockford, 24th Sept.; J. Francis, 16th Sept.; C. Stace, 31st Oct.; T. Humphrey, 7th Nov.; G. Verrall, 20th Nov.; C. Sharp, 20th Nov.

2ND BATTALION.

Appointed Lance-corporals—Ptes. T. Kevan, F. Wells, W. Fellick, W. Burden, H. Smith, H. Grigsby, 16th July; J. Lynch, A. Clackett, 12th Nov.; J. Beelan, 18th Oct.; T. Jolly, 30th Oct.

Good conduct pay has been granted as under:—

Granted 3d.—Ptes. R. Edmonds, G. Lemens, W. Martin.

Granted 2d.—Lance-corporals J. Bolday, W. Gamblin, J. Harris; Ptes. A. Lewis, R. Haddaway, J. Bacon, A. Tinker, L. Turner, H. Poile, S. Eley, E. Thornton, W. Harmer, J. Pitts.

Granted 1d.—Lance-corporal W. Keleher; Ptes. F. Sandell, A. Somerville, A. Daniells, G. Laycock, H. Gore, R. Powell, A. Pearcey, A. Wyatt, A. Walker, H. Glazebrook.

Restored 2d.—Lance-corporal H. Robinson; Ptes. T. Knight, S. Salt, J. Moser, W. Stimson.

Restored 1d.—Ptes. A. Lee, J. McCarthy, E. Pressland, H. Warwick, A. Dowdeswell, J. Fuller, W. Draper, C. Hill, A. Lawrence, H. Ward, W. Done, C. Last, F. Newman, W. Burton, S. Simmonds, E. Champion.

DEPOT.

Appointed Lce.-Corpl.—Pte. P. Walter, 15th Oct.

3RD BATTALION.

Capt. A. S. T. Griffith-Boscawen is seconded as a Member of the House of Commons, dated 5th Nov.

The undermentioned Sec. Lieuts. to be Lieuts.—A. P. Stone and C. M. Allfrey, 2nd Nov.

1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Lieut. W. C. Lewis to be Instructor of Musketry, 5th Dec.

2ND VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Lionel F. Schooling, gent., to be Sec. Lieut., 14th Nov.

Lieut. R. T. Miller resigns his commission 21st Nov.

The undermentioned Sec. Lieuts. to be Lieuts., dated 21st Nov.—H. L. Dinwiddy, L. E. Taylor, P. K. Selby, E. A. Belcher, W. F. Marchant, J. Sawers, C. D. Clark, jun., T. L. Price, J. P. Trousdell.

Cadet Corps attached—Hon. Capt. C. Marsh, to be Capt., 1st July.

4TH VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Arthur B. Rogers, Esq., to be Capt., 5th Dec.

1st BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

CRICKET.

Lieut. Annesley, who has taken over command of G Company, has embarked on a crusade of cricket, with the intention of beating all comers. At present I have two victories to record against one defeat, the latter being caused through a mistake on the part of the captain of G Company's team (Corpl. Seal) in playing on after the time fixed for the drawing of stumps, hoping to keep the remaining wickets in hand until it got too dark to continue. Lieut. Bush, who played for the Band and Drums, thought fit to disabuse Corpl. Seal of any such notion by taking the remaining three wickets in one over without further addition to the score.

G COMPANY v. B COMPANY.—Played on 14th November, 1900. Scores: G. Company 34, B Company 30.

G COMPANY v. C COMPANY.—Played on 15th November, 1900. Scores: C Company 103 (Pinder 46, Lce.-Corpl. Ford 21), G Company 106 for 8 wickets (Corpl. Seal 22, McNamara 18, Lieut. Annesley 17, Lce.-Corpl. Harris 15).

G COMPANY v. BAND AND DRUMS.—Played on 30th November, 1900. Scores: Band and Drums, 1st innings, 36; 2nd innings, 73 for 8 wickets, innings declared closed (Lce.-Corpl. Ford 33, Lieut. Bush 18). G Company 50 (Lieut. Annesley 16) and 44 (Corpl. Seal, not out, 15).

OFFICERS v. N.C.O.'S AND MEN.—Played at Aden on 22nd November, 1900. This was a decidedly one-sided affair, the officers proving their superiority by inflicting a defeat of an innings and 77 runs. Some new hands were tried in the regimental team, but none distinguished themselves with the exception of Bandsman Pinder, whose fielding was particularly smart, in addition to which his bowling was the best of his side, his four wickets only costing 21 runs. Lieut. Robinson's score was a decidedly lucky one, as he gave a chance before scoring and another at 59, which, however, Sonnenberg failed to accept. On the N.C.O.'s and Men going in, three wickets fell to Lieut. Bush in the first over, without a single run being scored. Scores:—

Officers.

2nd Lieut. Stigand, c Howard, b Wood.....	2
Lieut. and Qr.-Mr. Barton, b Allen	13
Lieut.-Adj. Bush, lbw, b Nudd	16
Lieut. Robinson, not out	86
Lieut. O'Dowda, c Allen, b Pinder	16
2nd Lieut. Whitehead, run out.....	10
Major Rowe, b Wood.....	15
Lieut. Dunlop, b Pinder.....	1
Lieut. Annesley, c Sonnenberg, b Pinder ...	0
Lieut. Greenwood, b Wood	0
2nd Lieut. Keenlyside, b Pinder	1
Extras.....	22
	—
	182
	—

N.C.O's and Men.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Pte. Howard, c and b Bush	0	c Stigand, b Bush	3
L.-Cpl. Allen, c and b O'Dowda	6	c Robinson, b Whitehead	10
Bdsn. Pinder, s Dunlop, b Bush	0	b O'Dowda	1
L.-Cpl. James, c Rowe, b Bush...	0	lbw, b Robinson..	7
Cpl. Seal, c Bush, b O'Dowda ...	12	c Whitehead, b Robinson	17
Sergt. Sonnenburg, b Bush	2	not out.....	0
Pte Nudd, b O'Dowda	6	b Robinson	0
L.Cpl. Wood, c Bush, b O'Dowda	4	b Bush	0
Pte. Burrows, not out.....	10	c Whitehead, b O'Dowda.....	5
Cpl. Joyce, b O'Dowda	0	c Dunlop, b O'Dowda	7
Pte. Lee, c and b Bush	2	b Robinson	6
Extras	4	Extras	3
	—		—
	46		59
	—		—

1ST BATTALION CRICKET CORRESPONDENT.

Sergt. H. Crouch has been awarded a Certificate in Musketry qualifying as Sergt.-Instructor.

Pte. F. Lewis has been appointed Bandsman.

Lce.-Corpl. Keyte and Pte. W. Lerpiniere have been permitted to extend their service to complete 12 years with the Colors.

Ptes. Bathurst and Stannard have been discharged "free."

No. 4158 Drummer H. Maslin reverts to Private at his own request.

Sergt. Button and Ptes. G. Rumens and E. Pafford have re-engaged to complete 21 years service.

Boy Highton has been appointed Drummer.

Pte. G. Rumens has been transferred to the 2nd Batt. Border Regt., as has also Pte. Pafford.

Pte. W. Andrews has been transferred to the 1st Batt. Royal West Surrey Regt.

Sergt.-Drummer R. Cates reverts to Sergt., and proceeded to England for discharge to pension.

No. 5603 Pte. W. Byatt has been transferred from the 2nd Batt. Suffolk Regt.

Pte. E. Paine has been appointed Bandsman.

Bandsman M. Harris has re-engaged to complete 21 years' service.

Pte. C. Reis has been permitted to extend his service to 12 years with the Colors.

Lce.-Corpl. E. Mansfield has been transferred to the 1st Batt. Royal Scots Fusiliers.

Pte. C. Reis has been transferred to No. 8 Co. E.D.R.G.A.

Sergt. Murphy and Sergt. Tapp have been awarded a Sergeant-Insp. of Musketry Certificate.

Pte. Roberts has been appointed Bandsman.

Second Class Certificates of Education have been awarded to Lce.-Corpls. C. Wells, C. Cramp, W. Keleher, Drummers W. Gregg, J. Highton, Bandsman A. Somerville.

We expected not to be able to publish in this number any detailed account of the doings of the 2nd Batt. in South Africa, owing to the fact of the Battalion being virtually cut off from all outside communication.

However, the following notes have come to hand from various sources, and will probably be of interest to many, in addition to those received at the eleventh hour.

Nov. 2nd.—About 20 letters were brought by a Kaffir from Heilbron, who was hunted by two Boers, for the last six miles, to within 1,500 yards of the outposts.

Nov. 6th.—Major Western proceeded at 3 a.m., with a small column, to burn a farm. On the way back he was attacked, and had quite a hot fight for four hours. The attack was driven off and the Boers pursued for three miles. Our casualties were three wounded, two of whom, unfortunately, subsequently died (Sergt. Montague and Pte. Munday).

Nov. 22nd.—A convoy arrived bringing the much-delayed mails and some tobacco.

Nov. 25th.—A force, under Col. Grove, proceeded to carry out a combined movement with Hamilton against a Boer laager. Col. Grove's force were to prevent the Boers breaking south. However, they failed to come that way, and the expedition only resulted in the capture of 12 prisoners, an ammunition waggon and some other useful stuff.

The Volunteer Company are still at Norvals Pont.

Two accounts of the doings of the 2nd Battalion have reached us, for which we thank the senders, but as they are a repetition of the matter published last month we regret being unable to make use of them. Both carry events up to the latter part of October.—Ed.

SOLDIERS' BALANCES UNCLAIMED.

The sum of £2 13s. 9d. is awaiting the next of kin of the late Sergeant J. H. Gosling, 3rd Batt.

Charles Farr, one of the survivors of the Sutlej Campaign of 1845-46, died on the 14th December at Rochester at the age of 80. He served with the 50th Foot at the Battles of Moodkee, Ferozeshah, Aliwal, and Sohraon, and present at the signing of the treaty of peace at Lahore. Farr was injured at Loodihana on the 20th May, 1846, when ten buildings forming barracks for the troops collapsed owing to the effects of a terrible storm. No less than 84 men, women, and children were killed and 184 persons injured, mostly belonging to the 50th. An appeal on his behalf was made through the columns of this paper a few years ago.

MILITARY EXHIBITION.

It is notified that a Military Exhibition is to be held at Earl's Court in 1901, under the Presidency of H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge.

The Committee are desirous of obtaining, as exhibits, any articles of interest which may have been brought from the seat of war in South Africa by any unit or individual.

The greatest care would be taken of all articles lent, and they would be insured against loss or damage or for any sum which the owner may consider to be their value.

The Address of the Secretary is:—The London Exhibitions, Limited, Earl's Court, S.W.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—

In my last letter, if I remember right, I spilt a lot of ink over odds and ends and reminiscences before I gave you the military intelligence.

I am now, however, going to give you, more or less, a diary of the affairs of State, and then if I have time I will ransack the memory for minor details and fill up the deficiencies with rapid vapourings. On October 29th the mounted troops (*i.e.* the Yeomanry and Mounted Infantry) set forth to burn a farm. They set fire to the building and then retired, thinking the job was done. Unfortunately, the moment they left, the Boers came down to the farm and managed to put out the fire. This was considered a victory by the enemy, who instantly got their tails aloft, and talked of attacking our camp, etc. This sort of thing could not be allowed; it was necessary for us to teach the Boer a lesson and to show him that we were the masters of the district.

On November 6th a small mixed force, consisting of H Coy., $\frac{1}{2}$ E, $\frac{1}{2}$ F, the M.I., Yeomanry, and one gun, the whole under command of Major Western, sallied forth at 3.10 a.m. to burn and destroy the already partially burnt farm which was situated some five miles from camp. We expected considerable opposition and were quite disappointed, when the buildings were destroyed without a shot being fired. The news of our raid had, however, spread abroad, and the dense clouds of smoke from the burning farm acted as a beacon to the men in the various laagers in the district. From all points of the compass the enemy came up in twos and threes until quite a respectable number had been collected. Here was an excellent opportunity to show our independence. We got on the high ridge to the north of our camp, and we walked along the top with coat tails behind us, and we dared the brother to come and tread thereon. The enemy metaphorically spat on our coat tails for the most part, but once or twice he came close enough to make it very hot for us. F Company and one section of H at one time came under an exceedingly warm fire, while the gun and its appurtenances, in the shape of limber, team, &c., could show the marks of upwards of a dozen bullets. The day was, however, on the whole, extremely satisfactory. We accomplished our object, namely, the burning of the farm, and, in addition, we showed the Boers that they were powerless to prevent us doing exactly what we wanted. Both sides used a lot of ammunition, but this hits the enemy harder than it does us; their stock must be getting low now. Our casualties were marvellously few, considering the fire our men had come under. They consisted of four men wounded, namely:—Pte. Munday, of H, dangerously, abdomen (since dead); Sergt. Montague, F, severely, forearm; Pte. Hipkins, F, slightly, upper arm; Pte. Chapman, F, slightly, nose. The enemy's losses cannot even be guessed at. We only know that we got some of them.

On Nov. 9th a most successful little raid was made by the mounted troops, $\frac{1}{2}$ D and $\frac{1}{2}$ G, under command of Major Maunsell. This was a moonlight jaunt, and resulted in the burning of four farms and the capture of 98 head of cattle. The enemy were not expecting us and not a shot was fired.

On Nov. 11th a few snipers fired into camp. This is a daily occurrence, and would not be worthy of note except for the fact that it was Sunday. This breaking of the Sabbath was atoned for by the Boer prisoners, who sang in the evening a particularly doleful hymn of 13 verses (repeating verses 5 to 13).

On Nov. 14th we sent a sick convoy of seven men in an ambulance to Heilbron. The ambulance and the men returned to the camp next day, having been sent back by the Boers. The invalids gathered from the enemy that they (the enemy)

considered the Battalion, more or less, out of action. They said that we were completely hemmed in and done for. If you ever get this letter you will know that the Boers were mistaken on this point.

On Nov. 18th Private Munday, of H Company, died from the effect of the wound received on Nov. 6th. He was buried in the Cemetery here. The following epitaph was written on a card attached to a wreath from the men of H Coy.: "A faithful soldier and a good comrade." No soldier could wish to leave a better record than this. The cool courage with which Munday met his wound and his death sets a good example to all.

On Nov. 19th two Boers attacked Frankfort. The attack was not pressed home, and was repulsed by the examining guard at a loss of one calf. It is not known whether the calf was part of the guard or a casual onlooker. The enemy did not advance beyond 2,000 yards from the position, and retired without loss.

On November 22nd, the convoy having now arrived, I have still a few minutes to collect some of the camp chat and local gup and to let you know how we kill the time. To tell you the honest truth time is very nearly killing us; it is hard to find anything to do when you are cramped up in a garrison, and have no materials to work with. There are some splendid bits of ground for polo, cricket, football, &c., but balls and bats, &c., are not included in our service equipment, and as I told you before the shops in town have only got ploughs, tin-tacks, and cocoa-nut oil. All are, doubtless, excellent things in their own way, but I defy anyone to invent a game in which they can be utilised. Fishing is one of our best amusements, but owing to the scarcity of tackle the number of men who can partake in this sport is limited. It is not a very interesting form of angling. You sit on a rock, generally within the sphere of influence of a dead horse, and watch a cork floating placidly on some muddy-looking water. As soon as you are tired of watching the cork you can pack up and go home. Sometimes if you are in luck you see the cork give a bob. Then you pull up your hook and find that the worm has been cunningly removed by the wily barbel. There are lots of fish in the river, and big ones too, but they are not easy to capture. A fish called the "yellow fish" is supposed to be the most sportive and the best eating of the denizens of the river, and in this fish I have no difficulty in recognising the mighty mahseer of India, but I do not know to what size he attains in African waters. There used to be a lawn tennis club in Frankfort, and the court is at the disposal of the officers for three days in the week; the other three days it is occupied by the British remnants of the inhabitants of Frankfort. The court is a mud one and not a very good one of its class. The net is one that Noah must have used on the ark: it has to be constantly repaired during the course of a set, and for this purpose we use the hair-pins with which the court is plentifully bestrewn. Rounders has become a popular game with the men, and several company matches have been played. On Nov. 13th we had an open-air concert. One of the chief charms of such an entertainment was missing, for, alas! it was a smoking concert in name only; tobacco has long given out. Nevertheless, several good songs were sung, and one of the transport Kaffir boys gave us a Basuto dance to the accompaniment of a concertina. Camp chat has been confined to two topics—1st food; 2nd, the advent of the convoy. The burning question of the day, which only the Orderly Corporal can answer, is, "Shall we get 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ biscuits to-day?" Rum, bacon, &c., have long been things of the past. But now the convoy has come. What stores and mails have been brought? Alas! I cannot answer the query, as my letter must close at once to catch quarterly mail.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

2nd BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

CRICKET.

2ND BATT. (THE Q.O.) R.W.K. REGT. v. THE MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY.—We played our first cricket match at Harrismith against the Middlesex Yeomanry. The ground was hardly all that could be desired, but considering that it had been neglected for over a year, it might have been worse. As the score will show, we hardly distinguished ourselves, but our opponents, who had been here a month, had the advantage of getting some practice, while we were all quite out of practice. Our best team was not available, as half a battalion was still on the trek. But I don't wish to excuse our poor display; we only hope we may soon have an opportunity of having our revenge. Sergt. Bathurst, of Oxford University and Middlesex fame, has played a splendid innings of 85 not out. We only managed to get three of our opponents out, our weakness in bowling being very evident. In Lieut. Bennett we have a very welcome addition to our team, and with practice he should be very useful. Scores:—

The Middlesex Yeomanry.—1st Innings.

Sergt. L. C. V. Bathurst, not out.....	85
Sergt. Mercer, lbw, b Bonham-Carter.....	42
Trooper Lee, b Bonham-Carter.....	1
Trooper Westley, c Druce, b Bonham-Carter	3
Trooper Elliott, not out.....	5
Extras	26

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Did not bat.—Corpl. Coles, Trooper Hughes, Trooper Winter, Corpl. Clifton, Trooper Neal, Lieut. Few.

2nd Batt. The Queen's Own.—1st Innings.

Lieut. C. Druce, b Elliott	5
Lieut. C. Bonham-Carter, b Neale	11
Lieut. F. J. Joslin, c Coles, b Neale	4
Lieut. Bennett, b Neale	1
Lieut. Luard, b Elliott	2
Mus Ball, c Bathurst, b Neale	6
Corpl. Barry, st Coles, b Elliott ...	0
Col.-Sergt. Grellier, not out ...	4
Pte. King, b Hughes	5
Corpl. Moss, b Bathurst.....	0
Col.-Sergt. Evans, b Bathurst	0
Extras	11

50

2ND BATT. (THE Q.O.) R.W.K. REGT. v. E. YORKSHIRE REGT.—Our second match at Harrismith, O.R.C., against the E. Yorks was a great success from our point of view. As the score shows, we won by 18 runs and 2 wickets in hand, but that wasn't the real feature of the match; it was our fielding. Not a catch was dropped, not a ball was mis-fielded. Such a thing, I am sure, is a record in the cricket of the 2nd Battalion, and this match will always be handed down as a red letter day in the cricket annals of the 2nd Battalion. It shows what we can do if we like. What different stories might be told of the result of some of our jolly matches in Kent last year if we had held some of the catches that came to hand! The writer blushes, for he knows he is the worst culprit of all. Yet he also knows that you can't expect to win matches until you can field. Lieut. Joslin bowled splendidly throughout the whole innings, taking 8 wickets for 35 runs. Lieut. Bonham-Carter played a real good innings, his powerful hitting being a pleasure to watch. The only thing

that marred the match was the news that we got towards the end of the game, that we were going to move the next day. After being comfortably settled in Harrismith we hoped we should stay here for some time, but the fates decreed otherwise, and we are on the trek once more. However, we hope to return to Harrismith again and have some more cricket and polo. Scores:—

2nd Batt. E. Yorks.—1st Innings.

Sergt. Knapp, lbw, b Joslin	1
Capt. Sweetman, b Joslin	27
Lieut. H. W. Stenhouse, c Druce, b Joslin	0
Sergt. Braund, c Beresford, b Joslin	0
Lieut. G. Boyd, b Joslin.....	4
Lieut. H. Wilson, b Mulloy	5
Lieut. G. Hill, b Mulloy.....	0
Sergt. Taylor, b Joslin	0
Sergt. Dudley, not out	8
Lieut. Maclean, c Bennett, b Joslin	0
Sergt. Jones, c Bonham-Carter, b Joslin.....	11
Extras	14

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2nd Batt. The Queen's Own.—1st Innings.

Lieut. C. Druce, b Stenhouse	2
Lieut. C. Bonham-Carter, b Stenhouse	36
Lieut. C. N. Watney, c Dudley, b Stenhouse	16
Lieut. H. Isacke, b Stenhouse ...	6
Lieut. F. J. Joslin, c Sweetman, b Knapp ...	3
Lieut. J. Bennett, b Dudley	5
Capt. Pack-Beresford, st Jones, b Stenhouse	5
Lieut. E. D. Luard, c Maclean, b Stenhouse	0
Lieut. C. C. Molloy, not out ...	2
Extras	13

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Did not bat.—Pte. Ball and Lieut. T. W. Fiennes

We have received the following interesting letter regarding the Volunteer Company now serving in South Africa. This will be read with interest by their comrades in the Volunteer Battalions. They appear to be in good health, and have gone through so far without injury.

Volunteer Company,
Royal West Kent Regiment,
Field Force, South Africa.

DEAR SIR,—We were in hopes of being home again before Christmas, but as it looks very doubtful at present, we thought you would like to have a few lines to know of our doings. No doubt you have heard that we have been with General Rundle in the Eighth Division, and I will try and give you a brief account of our doings during the whole time we have been out. We arrived at Capetown on April 4th, after a pleasant voyage of 19 days. We were at Capetown eight days, when we embarked on the Pavonia for Port Elizabeth where we arrived after a stormy passage lasting three days. We only stayed here 24 hours, entraining next day for up-country. We were aboard the train for three days and nights when we arrived at Springfontein, where we de-trained. The scenery we passed while on the train was grand, some of the kopjes were magnificent. We were at Springfontein for two days, when we received orders overnight to be prepared to start off at daybreak next morning with a convoy. There were about 2,000 of our troops altogether escorting the convoy, which consisted of 101

waggons, and each were drawn by 16 oxen, so you can guess we formed a pretty long string. We marched for four days, marching early and late, and resting mid-day. We reached Edenburg on the 4th day, and here our company received orders to stop to help garrison the town, as the Boers were pretty strong in the vicinity, and they expected an attack. So here we had to stop, and we had to build fortifications and otherwise prepare for the enemy which never came, at least not while we were there. We were there five weeks and had a very pleasant time; it was a pretty town, and we were fairly comfortable, only anxious to get up country and join our regiment. We left Edenburg on May 30th, passing through Bloemfontein. We arrived at Winburg on Saturday, June 2nd, leaving next day for Senekal, marching 24 miles the first day, which came rather hard at first. We reached Senekal on June 4th, two days after the fight where the Guards were cut up so much; we saw most of the wounded lying in the church, and an awful sight some of them were; most of the poor fellows had been burnt after they had been shot. We were at Senekal two days, when we marched off again towards Ficksburg. We reached a place called Hammonia after two days' marching, and we here joined the regiment who were doing duty on the surrounding kopjes. The enemy were very strong in the vicinity here, the whole of the Eighth Division being in the neighbourhood. Fighting was very frequent here, some of our troops being engaged every day. Our regiment was on outpost duty in companies on different kopjes, and our company was on one quite close to the enemy's position. We were all on outpost duty every night. Kimber and Pickett had quite an exciting experience one night; they were on visiting patrol and lost themselves, they must have gone quite close to the Boer lines, as they found themselves quite close to a farm which the Boers were supposed to visit every night. They very soon got back to their own post without finding any of our other posts, and found they had been absent four hours. We were here living very bad, the only rations we had were 1lb. of dry flour and stewed mutton for dinner. We were here five weeks altogether, except seven days, during which time we had a march to Chloclan after the enemy; it was a miserable march, raining all the time, and we stopped at Ficksburg for two days, and the Boers shelled us the whole time, but could do no damage to us, as we were in bomb-proof trenches. We had to march out of Ficksburg at midnight, as we had to cross the enemy's front. We marched back to Hammonia all well by mid-day. On Wednesday, July 25th, General Rundle ordered a general advance, having driven all the Boers out of the surrounding hills, a job lasting five weeks; he decided to keep them on the go, and we marched off at midnight. We marched 36 miles the first 24 hours and caught the Boer rearguard up, and a little fighting ensued, but the Boers did not stand until they reached Naupoort Neck, three days march from Ficksburg. We had a big fight here, lasting from day-break until dark. At night three companies of our regiment, with the Scots Guards and the Leinster Regiment, were ordered to take a kopje where the Boers were supposed to have entrenched themselves. We marched out of camp at midnight and reached their position about three a.m., and when we got there we found the Boers had evacuated their position and scooted. Next day they applied for an armistice, which was refused them, and seeing their game was up, as we had completely surrounded them, they surrendered. There were 5,000 Boers under General Prinsloo. The prisoners were sent down country under escort of our mounted troops, and the rest of our division, except us, marched into Harrismith. Our regiment was ordered to proceed to Bethlehem, but when we got five miles we had to return to

Harrismith. We had 24 hours' rest here, and were then sent off again, this time in the direction of Reitz. We were marching about the country for about five weeks, and occasionally came across small bands of the enemy, but none of them showed much fight, and were generally off after a few shots. We ultimately landed at Vrede on August 28th; we were here a week, but it rained nearly the whole time. We were here served out with much better food. We had some bread issued to us, the first for just on three months. We left here on September 6th, marching towards Harrismith, arriving on the 12th. We here had another rest, this time for ten days. We then received orders to take a convoy out to our brigade who had gone on. We caught them up outside Bethlehem, and we were marching and fighting for three days until we reached Driefontein, just outside Lindley. After leaving here we joined General Hunter's column and marched to Frankfort, which town our regiment had been ordered to garrison. We here received the welcome news that all Volunteers were to mobilize for home. We left Frankfort on October 8th, and reached here on the 17th, where we were ordered to stop. We are supposed to be guarding the railway bridge here. We are very comfortable and live pretty well. It is very uncertain about us being home for Xmas, but it will be pretty close either way.

Norvals Pont, Cape Colony,
November 18th, 1900.

From Lieut.-General Sir Leslie Rundle, commanding the 8th Division.

To the Officer Commanding 50th Regimental District.

Harrismith, 5th Dec., 1900.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward a copy of a Divisional Order which I have published on the departure of the Volunteer Company, West Kent Regiment, from this Division.

I cannot speak in too high terms of the work done by this Company during the time it has formed part of this Division.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) LESLIE RUNDLE, Lt.-Gen.

Commanding 8th Division

DIVISIONAL ORDER, 5th NOVEMBER.

By Lieut.-General Sir Leslie Rundle, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Commanding 8th Division.

The Volunteer Companies attached to the 8th Division have been ordered to England, viz., the Volunteer Company, R.W.K. Regiment, commanded by Captain Morphew.

The Lieut.-General takes this opportunity of placing on record his appreciation of their services, and regrets he has had no opportunity of personally saying good-bye to the R.W.K. Company previous to their departure.

Sir Leslie Rundle thanks them for the excellent spirit which prompted them to enlist for active service in South Africa with the Regular Battalion of their respective Battalions under his command, and for their uniform good conduct during the campaign under trying and arduous circumstances.

In bidding them good-bye, God speed, and a safe return to old England, the Lieut.-General is confident he is expressing the feelings of the whole Division.

By order,

(Signed) G. F. HARLEY, Col., C.S.O., 8th Div.

The headquarter address of the 4th Vol. Batt. is 21, Victoria-street, Rochester.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

No. 2635 Pte. J. Large was discharged on 5th October, by claim, after three months' notice.

Good conduct pay has been granted as under :—

Granted 2d., Lance-Corpls. A. Thompson, F. Malt, and Pte. J. Colegate. Granted 1d., Boy H. Gardiner and Pte. J. Murphy.

The undermentioned have been discharged medically unfit :

5056 Pte. T. Blackman, Lance-Corpl. A. Shiell, 4689 Ptes. G. Osborne, 5700 W. Baker, 5657 W. White, 5831 G. Allen, 5722 J. Berry, 5638 J. Horrigan, 5364 C. Shaylor, 2812 H. Corrie, 4420 F. Capelin, 3650 G. Kidd, 3387 J. Barden.

Pte. T. Ayres has re-engaged to complete 21 years' service.

Drummer P. Walker reverts to Private and is appointed Lance-Corpl.

Pte. Janeway has been discharged on completing 13 years' service.

The wife of Corpl. J. Denton has been taken on the strength of the married establishment.

The members of the Sergeants' Mess have competed with the members of the West Borough Working Men's Club in indoor games. The results are not to hand, but the evening spent proved very enjoyable.

Hockey takes place on the square frequently, and inter-company matches held.

UNCLAIMED MEDALS.

The following medals have been received in the Orderly Room at the Depot awaiting claimants :—India Medal, 1895, with clasp, "Punjab Frontier, 97-8," belonging to the late No. 3937 W. Wakelin ; ditto, 4051 Lce.-Corpl. P. Courtney and 1533 Corpl. J. Tutty.

Now that Invalids and Time expired men are beginning to arrive home from South Africa, the pressing need of finding suitable employment for such men is brought home to us.

It is hoped that Officers and others who have served in the Regiment, and others of those also who read the Q.O.G. will assist in this most important matter. It is proposed to publish in each number of this paper, a list of those requiring employment, stating their capabilities, and it is hoped, that readers of this paper will let the Editor know of any suitable situations they may hear of—forwarding the following information—Name of employer desiring men ; Nature of situation, age, wages ; if to be single ; and any other special qualifications man required must possess, and endeavours will be made to place applicants in communication with employers.

Much can be done by our readers forwarding lists of such cases to employers of labour residing in their Districts.

Care will be taken that none but reliable men are recommended.

It is also certain that many non. coms. and men must return more or less shattered in health, and whose ultimate recovery depends on comfortable homes and careful nursing. Should any readers of the Q.O.G. have tickets or votes for convalescent homes, where such treatment would be forthcoming, they are earnestly entreated to remember the regiment.

If anyone has the right to nominate a deserving case now existing, they are requested to consider the following, No. 4157 Dr. J. Maslin—arrived home from 1st. Batt. on 24th June, suffering from debility and consumption.

Many of his relations have served in the Regiment, some have been invalided from the service, of whom two have died, and one other is serving still.

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

During December six matches have been played, three having been won, one drawn, and two lost. Two Maidstone League matches have been played, and both away from home. The first against Tovil was an easy win for the Depot by six goals to one, and the second against our old rivals was a draw of two goals. This result, although giving us only one point, is satisfactory, as we were meeting the Invicta on their ground. The following is the record of matches played this season by the Depot up to the end of 1900 :—

Matches Played.	Matches			Goals	
	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Goals for	against.
22	13	7	2	55	36

The following accounts are copied from the "Kent Messenger"—

DEPOT v. CHURCH INSTITUTE.

This match took place on Saturday, December 1st, on the Postley Fields, and resulted in a win for the Institute by three goals to one. The Depot, who were without the services of Shaw, Hazlett Spearing, Savage, and Taylor, took this opportunity of trying two new players, Chantler and Maver, both of whom may prove useful. Freeman scored for the Depot from the wing, and one of the Depot backs headed the ball through for the Institute, who had most of the game after ends had been changed. Depot team : Stack, Ayres, Edwards, Chantler, Mr. Nunn, Franklin, Selves, Walker, Maver, Iliffe, and Freeman. Result :—

Church Institute.....	3 goals
Depot	1 "

DEPOT v. ECCLES.

This friendly match was played at Eccles on Saturday, December 8th, the Depot having been obliged to scratch for the Kent Junior Cup Tie, owing to the rule that players in military teams must not exceed the age of 20. The home team were responsible for a late start, which necessitated the end of the game being played in semi-darkness, a somewhat uninteresting game ending in a win for the Depot by one goal to nil, the only goal being the result of a scrimmage in front of goal. A large number of spectators witnessed the game. Depot team : Merrick, Shaw, Spearing, Franklin, Chantler, Mr. Nunn, Selves, Maver, Hazlett, Freeman, and Botting. Result :—

Depot.....	1 goal
Eccles.....	nil.

DEPOT v. TOVIL (MAIDSTONE LEAGUE).

This League match was played at Tovil on December 15th. Up to half-time each side had scored once, but on changing ends the Depot "took charge" and put on five more goals. Taylor was responsible for three, Merrick two, and Savage one goal. Depot : Stack, Shaw, Edwards, Franklin, Savage, Mr. Nunn, Freeman, Iliffe, Taylor, Merrick, and Maver. Result :

Depot	6 goals
Tovil.....	1 "

DEPOT v. NORTH END.

The Depot were not at full strength when they met North End on Penenden Heath on Saturday, Dec. 22nd, several of the team being away for Christmas. A one-sided game ended in the Depot's favour by six goals (Maver 4, Iliffe 1, Rowland 1) to nil. Depot :—Stack, Edwards, Bennett, Russell, Mr. Nunn, Chantler, Freeman, Rowland, Maver, Iliffe, and Merrick. Result :—

Depot	6 goals.
North End	nil.

DEPOT v. TONBRIDGE.

Played on the Racecourse, Tonbridge, on Boxing Day, before a good gate. A typical holiday match ended in favour of Tonbridge, who were ably assisted by some outside talent by five goals to nil. Result :—

Tonbridge 5 goals.
Depot nil

DEPOT v. INVICTA (Maidstone League).

These teams met in the Maidstone League on Saturday, Dec. 29th, on Penenden Heath. The heavy rains of the previous days put both teams at a disadvantage, owing to the heaviness of the ground. During the first half neither team played up to form, the forwards not attempting to keep in their places, and on the whistle blowing the score remained as at the kick-off. On resuming, Maver, for the Depot, managed, after a good rush, to put the ball through the posts, but the Invicta shortly after equalised matters. Again Maver scored for the Depot, and again the Invicta equalised. But it should be mentioned the Invicta, in getting each of their goals, were assisted through the misfortune of the Depot backs. Owing to the home team being responsible for a very late start, the light towards the finish was extremely bad. Although both sides made strenuous efforts to gain the lead, their efforts were not crowned with success. Depot team :—Stack, Shaw, Hazlett Edwards, Savage, Mr. Nunn, Freeman, Maver, Taylor, Iliffe, and Merrick. Result :—

Depot 2 goals.
Invicta 2 "

MAIDSTONE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE (Up to and including Dec. 29th).

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Points.
Depot	5	3	0	2	8
Invicta	5	2	1	2	6
Church Institute...	2	1	0	1	3
Snodland	3	1	2	0	2
Aylesford	3	0	2	1	1
Tovil	2	0	2	0	0

The following match was played on the Barrack Field on Christmas Eve for the benefit of the Maidstone League. The Depot band played selections during the game.

MAIDSTONE LEAGUE, TOWN v. DISTRICT.

The match between teams selected from the elevens playing in the League Competition was played on the Barrack Field, Maidstone, in aid of the funds of the League. Considering the fog there was a good attendance. The Town were far the best side, winning by eight goals to nil, three of these being given them by one of the District's backs, while the country goalkeeper did not play his best defensive game. The teams were :—Town : Langley, Ambrose, Brooks, Lieut. Nunn (Depot), Savage (Depot), A. Relf, Grey, Pettitt, Taylor (Depot), Matthews, and J. Cloke. District : Woodger, Woods, Winds, Barnard, Cousins, Penny, Ovenden, Parker, Freeman, and Fellow. Mr. C. Adams refereed. Result :—

Town 8 goals
District nil

The following are the goals scored for the Depot in the 22 matches they have played this year :—Hazlett 13, Taylor 11, Walker 7, Maver 7, Iliffe 5, Freeman 4, Franklin, Selves, and Merrick 2 each, and Savage and Rowland 1 each.

FIXTURES (JANUARY AND FEBRUARY).

Jan.	5th, v. Sevenoaks	Home
"	9th, v. Royal Marines	Home
"	12th, v. Aylesford (Maidstone League)	Away
"	19th, 1st Round Tunbridge Wells Charity Cup	
"	26th, v. Church Institute (Maidstone League)	Away
Feb.	2nd, v. Tovil (Maidstone League)	Home
"	9th, 2nd Round Tunbridge Wells Charity Cup	
"	16th, v. Ashford Athletic	Home
"	23rd, v. East Malling	Home

3rd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

Malta, 26th Dec. 1900.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I am afraid that my December letter will be a somewhat short one as there has not been a great deal doing, but, however, "here goes." Since my last, both halves of the regiment have been to Pembroke Camp to 1901 musketry. The right half who went first had most terrible weather, and so did not make a very good record. The left half battalion, on the other hand, were favoured with exceptionally good light, an absence of a lot of wind, and no rain until the morning of the day they marched back to Verdala, and so made very good scores. The rain came on about 8 a.m. on the last day and so delayed the homeward start, as we could not strike the tents till they were dry.

On the 11th the officers and the sergeants both celebrated the anniversary of the embodiment. After dinner the officers and their guests all attended a very successful smoking concert, given by the staff-sergeants and sergeants in the gymnasium.

We have had the usual field days, and during the last two days Xmas has been celebrated by all ranks in the old-established fashion. Most of the company rooms were very ornate with festive holiday decorations.

On Friday last we were asked to find a Mounted Infantry detachment, and on Christmas Eve 78 non. coms. and men paraded at 6.15 a.m. and went across to Valetta to the M.I. barracks. These men had been selected on the Marsa from the total men (151) who responded to the call from the Battalion. We expect some of these men will go to South Africa with the Mounted Infantry already trained here, and the others will be trained and probably go later.

Lieut. Beeman is also accepted for M.I. and is in charge of the party.

We are expecting Major Farquharson back from leave tomorrow.

Captain Kendall-Oram, 6th Liverpool Regiment, is attached to the Battalion for duty.

H.E. the Governor and Commander-in-Chief will hold a levee at the Palace on the 1st January.

I enclose account of football and hockey and of a shooting match.

With all best wishes for the new year.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

A Shooting Match between G H I v. K L M Companies took place at Pembroke Camp on Dec. 20th, 1900. Seven shots at 200, 500, and 600 yards, Bisley targets and positions.

G H I.				
Rank and Name	200 yds.	500 yds.	600 yds.	Grand total.
Corpl. James	16	20	20	56
Pte. Leverett	17	16	24	57
Col.-Sergt. Pearson.....	17	13	9	39
Capt Pine... ..	24	24	20	68
Col.-Sergt. Evenden ...	30	28	31	89
Sgt. McGregor.....	16	19	9	44
Pte. Bailey	23	20	18	61
Col.-Sergt. Botting.....	22	9	20	51
Sergt. Moon.....	19	20	31	70
Drummer Pendry	22	13	31	66
	206	182	213	601

K L M.				
Rank and Name	200 yds.	500 yds.	600 yds.	Grand total.
Capt. Neve	34	28	30	92
Col.-Sergt. Neighbour	31	22	25	78
Drummer Chawkley ...	22	15	13	50
Lce.-Corpl. Corbett.....	21	26	11	58
Col.-Sergt. Wise	28	29	22	79
Pte. Ready	18	2	11	31
Pte. Edwards	28	17	15	60
Corpl. Le ry	28	11	13	52
Pte. Emmett	25	27	24	76
Pte. Parsche.....	20	25	15	60
	255	202	179	636

Won by 35 points by K L and M.

The weather was extremely favourable, no wind, light good
Sergt. Newbold, H., Loyal North Lancashire Regiment has been transferred to the permanent staff, 3rd Battalion.

Sergt.-Major J. Chapman has been discharged on termination of second period of engagement, as has also Sergt. T. Cousen.

FOOTBALL AND HOCKEY.

There is not much more success to be recorded this month. We succeeded in winning our match v. R.A. Central by 4—1, but then fell off again, and lost our remaining matches in the Garrison League; we had not the best of luck all through, never having our best team available, and in the actual play being pursued by a demon of misfortune, posts and cross-bars being heavily bombarded. The Governor's Cup Competition commences in February, and we mean to make a better show.

There is so much garrison hockey played here that there is not much time available for regimental matches, and we have not played one since that recorded last month. Several officers of the Batt. play for the Garrison, Capt. Burbury, Lieuts. Allfrey, Stone, Hayne, and Pullman all having figured in the Garrison team; so we hope for success in any big matches that may be arranged.

BIRTHS.

At Walton Hall, Wakefield, on 18th Dec., the wife of Capt. O. B. Simpson, Adjutant 2nd Vol. Batt., of a daughter.

On Christmas Day, at Malta, the wife of Col.-Sergt. Pearson, 3rd Batt., of a daughter.

DEATHS.

At Frankfort, on Oct. 22nd, 2566 Pte. F. Sellings, 2nd Batt., killed in action.

At Frankfort, on Oct. 9th, 5108 Pte. J. Ashby, 2nd Batt., drowned.

At Frankfort, on Oct. 12th, 2660 Pte. G. Clarke, 2nd Batt., killed in action.

At Frankfort, on Nov. 23rd, 3664 Pte. W. Capon, 2nd Batt., of dysentery.

At Frankfort, on Nov. 18th, 1745 Pte. W. Munday, 2nd Batt., of wounds.

At Norvals Pont, on Nov. 22nd, 6948 Sergt. E. A. Eveleigh (Vol. Co.), of enteric.

At Frankfort, on Dec. 3rd, 4304 Pte. J. Shoebridge, 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Frankfort, on Dec. 4th, 3082 Pte. W. Pike, 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Heilbron, on Nov. 29th, 2431 Sergt. W. Montague, 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Frankfort, on Dec. 5th, 4844, Pte. W. Smith, 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Norvals Pont, on Dec. 10th, 6884 Pte. Turpin (Vol. Co.), of enteric.

At Norvals Pont, on Dec. 15th, 6865 Pte. Wiilcox (Vol. Co.), of enteric.

At Norvals Pont, on Dec. 18th, 6868 Corpl. H. Marchant (Vol. Co.), of enteric.

At Frankfort, on Dec. 17th, 5514 Pte. W. Barnes, 2nd Batt., of internal obstruction.

At Kroonstadt, on Dec. 19th, 4461 Sergt. E. Court, 2nd Batt., of dysentery.

At Frankfort, on Dec. 20th, 2937 Pte. A. Fricker, 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Frankfort, on Dec. 23rd, 2522 Pte. J. Allen, 2nd Batt., of heart disease.

At Harrismith, on Dec. 26th, 3387 Pte. F. Galpin, 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Aden, on Oct. 17th, 1533 Sergt. J. Tutty, 1st Batt.

At Aden, on Nov. 20th, George, the son of Bandmaster G. Davis, 1st Batt., aged six weeks.

At Aden, on Nov. 30th, Frank, the infant son of Col.-Sergt. G. Burge, 1st Batt.

At Aden, on Sept. 24th, 4489 Pte. C. Tookey, 1st Batt.

At Aden, on Sept. 28th, 4532 Pte. A. J. Humphrey, 1st Batt.

At Maidstone, on 3rd Dec., No. 4527 Pte. W. Cordell, Depot.

At Maidstone, on 27th Dec., Harry, the son of Corpl. J. Sayer, "Details," aged 2½ years.

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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. 309.

MAIDSTONE, FEBRUARY 1st, 1901.

[Vol. XIX, No. 2

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

1st BATTALION.

Captain E. V. O. Hewett has been granted the local rank of Major whilst employed as a Professor, Royal Military College, Kingston, Canada.

Promoted Corporal, Lce.-Corpl. G. Julian, 14th November.

Appointed Lce.-Corpls. ; Ptes. J. Liddington, W. Falshaw, J. Howard, 4th December ; W. Gray, 5th December.

Lieut. A. H. Pullman, from 3rd Battalion, to be 2nd Lieutenant ; to date 19th May.

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

W. G. Trousdell, Gentleman, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2nd January.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Here we are half way through the cold weather. I fancy it is considerably warmer than it was this time last year, and one feels rather done out of one's rights because it is'n't cooler.

Colonel Harrison gave a dance in the Head Quarter Mess, on 12th December. It was a most successful one. Nearly everyone in Aden was present, and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. There was nothing lacking to make it pleasant unless it was a cooler climate, which latter, unfortunately, is not to be had to order. Another very pleasant dance was given by General Penton, at the Residency on 1st January, at which most of the Officers of the Battalion were present.

The 1st Jan., being the Anniversary of the Proclamation of Her Majesty as Empress of India, was celebrated, as usual in the Indian Empire, by a parade of all the troops in Aden. There are not enough to make much of a show here, but with salute from the guns (camel guns) and feu-de-joie from the Infantry we did our best.

The last month has been a time of great soldiering out Steamer Point Detachment joining Head Quarters at the Crater for manœuvres in conjunction with the 5th Bombay Infantry, Field Firing &c. Only enough men were left at Steamer Point to look after the Barracks (which have undergone "spring cleaning") and to provide the necessary duties. All the rest were under canvas at the Crater. The Steamer Point Companies are now returning, the manœuvres being over.

Lieut. General Sir Robert Lowe, commanding the Bombay Presidency is coming to Aden in about a week. Then most of the battalion will repair to Steamer Point, and there will be

general manning of defences. That I fancy, will entail a lot of night work.

We have just concluded a most successful 5 days Battalion Rifle Meeting, of which I enclose a programme with some of the winners. The number of entries for the individual matches was most satisfactory, and some of the shooting very good in spite of an annoying wind.

The officers of the Battalion gave a Gymkhana at the Crater on 12th January. The events were most amusing. The "Chicken Catching" competition was on the same lines as a boot race, a lady's name being attached to the neck of each chicken, all the chicken being tastefully dressed. The men had to catch a chicken and ascertain if it was the right one. The first man to present a chicken bearing her name to the lady nominating him won. The costumes for the donkey race were excellent. There was a Herod (or Nebuchadnezzar), a Chinaman, a Jap, a Harlequin, and several smart girls among others. Herod, (Lieut. Bush) who won the race, was adjudged the winner, his costume being the most admired.

The Inter-Company tug-of-war was won by G Company. The final, pulled on 8th January, was between G and H. The first pull was a very long and even one, and was eventually won by H. Then H had the misfortune to lose one of their heaviest men, who did a faint, and, pulling a man short, were walked away with the next two pulls.

The Inter-Company football match is now in progress. I will send the details next month, as well as those of the water-polo.

There is still no sign of a move this trooping season, so we shall all have to buck up and make the best of things for another hot weather. After all, we might be in worse places.

Capt. Hotham has been sent home by a Medical Board, having suffered a great deal from fever.

2nd Lieut. Stigand has done a smart thing, for which he deserves every credit. In spite of being rather laughed at and told it was quite a useless language, he set to work and learnt Somali, in which he passed an examination. On the row in Somaliland breaking out, he at once obtained ten days' leave, went over, and was promised employment, there being very few officers who know Somali. Now he has gone to raise levies of Somalis for this show, and has achieved the apparently impossible in getting on service of sorts from Aden. So the laugh is now on his side, and his energy and perseverance have been well rewarded.

We must congratulate the band and drums on the very tasteful way in which they decorated their barrack-room on Christmas Day. The room was prettily festooned with chains of brilliant coloured paper, Chinese lanterns, flags, &c. On the walls were appropriate mottoes, wishing success and good luck to our comrades in South Africa. There was also an excellent imitation of the colours, done in chalks by Dr. Harris. A long table down the centre of the room, simply laden with good fare, added no little to the enchantment of

the scene. Great credit is due to the Committee of Management for the tasteful decorations. We trust that next Christmas they will have their dinner in a better place than Aden.

GYMKHANA.

On Saturday, January 12th, 1901, at 4 p.m., a Gymkhana took place at Isthmas Position.

1st Event—V. C. Race.

2nd Event—Chicken catching competition; ladies' nomination

3rd Event—Masks and faces competition; ladies draw for partners.

4th Event—Costume race on donkeys; ladies' nomination ladies to supply costumes for the nominees; marks will be given for time and best costume.

5th Event—Diana competition; men's nomination; men will ride and throw a tennis ball to lady, who catches it, and then throws at a target.

Marks given for catching and hit on target.

YOUR 1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

SHOOTING.

COMPANY CHALLENGE SHIELD.

To be competed for by Teams of 10 per Company.

Rounds. Position. Distances.

7	Standing at	200 yds.—Winner, C Coy., 472 pts.
7	Kneeling at	500 ,, —Second, B ,, 470 ,,
7	Lying at	800 ,, —Third, F ,, 419 ,,

Sighting shots—One at 500 and two at 800 yds. if desired, to be declared before firing. Entrance fee, Rs. 10 per Company. Total entrance fees to go to winning team. Dress, Drill order.

COMPANY CHALLENGE CUP.

To be competed for by Company Teams of 6 R and F under an N.C.O. (who is not to fire).

Position, any position; No. of rounds, 10; targets, one sectional target; hits, upper half of Target 1, lower half 2.—Winner, H Coy., 70 pts.; second, A Coy., 48 pts.

CONDITIONS OF PRACTICE.—Teams to be drawn up at 800 yds. and fire one round individual at that distance. The team will then double to the next point indicated by the Superintending Officer, where another round per man will be fired, and so on up to 300 yds. Time allowed, 10 minutes; points will be deducted from the scores of teams over time. Dress, Regimental Musketry Order.

MAJOR ROWE'S CUP.

Open to Officers of the Regiment only.

Rounds. Position. Distance.

7	Standing.	200 yds. } Winner, Lieut. Robinson,
7	Lying	600 ,, } 38 pts.

Sighting shots—One at 500 yds., one at 600 yds. optional. To be declared before firing. Any rifle or sights.

INDIVIDUAL MATCH 1.

Open to the Battalion.

Rounds. Position. Distance.

7	Any except lying.	200 yds.—Winner, Pte. Ralph, C, 70 pts.
7	Any position	500 ,, —Second, Col.-Sergt. Tench, 69 pts.
7	Do.	600 ,, —Third, Sergt. Crouch, 69 pts.

Sighting Shots (optional)—One at 500 yds., one at 600 yds., to be declared before firing. Range Prizes at each distance—Rs. 5, Rs. 4, Rs. 3; total Rs. 12. Aggregate Prizes—Rs. 30, Rs. 20, Rs. 10, Rs. 5, Rs. 5; total Rs. 70. Competitors to enter for all three distances.

1st BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

Bandsman W. Corcoran, and Pte. C. Musson, have been permitted to extend their service to complete 12 years with the colours.

Ptes. G. Piers and W. Cridland have been appointed bandsmen.

Pte. A. Robins has been transferred from the West Yorkshire Regiment.

No. 3595, Pte. J. Lerpiniere, has been transferred to the 16th Co. W. D. Royal Garrison Artillery.

Sergt. W. Head reverts to Private at his own request, and has been transferred to the Scottish Rifles.

Lce.-Corpl. W. Pearce reverts to Private at his own request, and has been transferred to the Border Regiment.

2nd Class Certificates of Education have been granted Corpl. E. Ashton, Lce.-Corpls. P. Sangar, C. Ford, P. Payne, F. Wood, F. Howard, J. Boldy, J. Southon, P. Schmidt, J. Harris, W. Wood, C. Stace, W. Jackman, E. West, Dr. J. Ford, Bandsman M. Macnamara, Ptes. P. Pope and G. Russell.

Good Conduct pay has been granted as under:—

Granted 2d., Ptes. J. Cassidy, A. Bowers, R. Goodman, W. Castle, H. Hall, H. Kipps, W. Lock, C. Brooks, S. Pettitt, E. Harden.

Granted 1d., Ptes. C. Roberts and J. Pitcher.

Restored 2d., Pte. J. Kilby, W. McFadden and Lce.-Corpl. J. Lloyd.

Restored 1d., Pte. W. Davey, W. Carmody, F. Smith, C. Pilcher.

Pte. W. Carter has been transferred to the Suffolk Regt.

We hear, on reliable authority, that Colour-Sergt. Bullock has been recommended for the Medal for Distinguished Conduct in the field, and that several non-commissioned officers and men of D Company have also been mentioned as having been doing well.

On the same day as the Queen passed away, William Lidget, late 50th Regiment, died at Morgate, near Retford, after 23 years' service. He joined the 50th Foot in 1839, shortly afterwards being sent out to New South Wales. He was twice shipwrecked. In 1840 he was with the Regiment in India, and saw a lot of service against the Sikhs, receiving the Medal with Clasps, Punjab, Aliwal, and Sohraon. After seven years in India he was invalided home, suffering from wounds.

Recovering, he embarked for the Crimea and was present at the battles of Inkerman and Sebastopol, receiving the Crimean and Turkish Medals with Clasps. He also was granted the Medal for Long Service and Good Conduct.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Happy is the nation which has no history, but I do not think the same applies to battalions. In Frankfort we are more or less vegetating, and I cannot truthfully think that we are making much history. Fate has assigned us Frankfort as our garrison town for a bit, so we must not grumble, though we should like to hear the rumble of a train and get a newspaper occasionally.

Our long expected convoy arrived on November 22nd, and brought us a great many of the things we had been longing for, though of course it disappointed a good number of people. When you fondly hope to get 19 letters from your best girl and only 18 turn up, you cannot help having a legitimate grouse. Joking apart, the convoy put new life in the corps. For nearly 9 weeks we had been without news, letters or tobacco, and the enormous mail we received was quite like a whiff from home.

Talking about tobacco reminds me that it may after all be an over-rated weed, and that, here in South Africa at least, other materials can be found with which to fill the empty pipe. Tobacco ran absolutely out in the beginning of October, and yet many men were to be seen with pipe in mouth. Long and deeply did I ponder over the mystery, but could find no solution until one day I came across the following fragment of poetry flying in the wind across Beresford Kop:—

- 1.—When cigarettes are ended, and tobacco is no more,
And the ration plug is finished at the quartermaster's store,
We do not sigh or grumble, we utter ne'er a sound,
But we makes our own tobacco, from the weeds that grow around.
- 2.—The smokes we make are various, with different flavours all,
There's Navy cut from off the veldt, made from a flower tall,
Our friend the cook supplies us with a stock of tea leaves grand,
And these we soon convert into the famous leaftee brand.
- 3.—Dried puttee mixed with coffee grounds, is quite a favourite blend,
The pugaroo from off our hats, in pieces small we rend,
We soak it then in strongest tea, and dry it in the sun,
And this by some is thought to take, the veldt tobacco bun.
- 6.—There's Frankfort mixture, Kent Hill twist, and Kopje Myrtle Grove,
They're smokes that ought to suit the taste, of every sort of cove,
For when of genuine baccy, we've finished every type,
Why *everything's* tobacco, to the soldier's empty pipe.
The mystery was solved, and the next thing to do was to make a practical trial of one of the new brands. I decided to make my initial experiment on Veldt Navy Cut. I filled my pipe, lit it, and then lay down to study new sensations. Opium has a great reputation for producing sensations of different sorts, but it can never compete with Veldt Navy Cut in its own peculiar line. As his past is vividly recalled to a drowning man, so several incidents of my life were recalled to me, and they came in the following order. First came the incident in my youth when I greedily swallowed a spoonful of mustard, mistaking it for sweet custard. Reminiscences of my first cigar followed quickly after, and my last sensation before putting down my pipe was much the same as I experienced when crossing the channel on an exceedingly boisterous day. My dinner that day was a sniff at a khaki

steak and a tot of rum. Should any of your readers care to try any of the South African Campaign Special brands, let them send 2s. 6d. (address 2nd battalion Correspondent), and I will be most happy to send samples carriage paid.

The Infantry who escorted our supplies left Frankfort on November 23rd, but the Cavalry and Mounted Infantry waited here for a day or two, and then made a sweep round the district. On November 25th Colonel Grove took out 3 companies with the Mounted Infantry and Yeomanry to take part in a combined movement with General Hamilton's mounted troops. We saw nobody that day, but we burnt 9 farms, while Rimington's Scouts captured some 31 prisoners and an ammunition wagon in a different direction.

I regret to have to record the death of Sergeant Montague, which took place on November 29th. Sergeant Montague was wounded in the arm on November 6th when leading his section. His wound began to heal up well at first, but a blood vessel burst and he gradually sank until he died.

On December 10th we had a sort of general post, and the company camps are now spread round a considerable area. We are now like a sort of jelly fish. We have no head or tail, and no inside. Should the enemy attack us in any direction he will find plenty of resistance, and even if he gets inside our lines he will not have gained much. He might with luck capture the C.O., the adjutant, and the Sergeant Major, but would have considerable difficulty in getting them away.

We had a little skirmish on December 6th and 7th. Captain Flanagan with the Mounted Infantry and Yeomanry occupied a farm house just before midnight on December 6th, with the hope of surprising some of the enemy. About 10 Boers turned up next morning, but unfortunately one of the supporting posts had to fire at a couple of Boers just at the critical moment. The party of 10 smelt a rat and fled. Captain Flanagan and his party stopped all day in the farm and came away at dusk. In the meantime we heard that he was more or less shut up in this farm, and consequently Major Western took out a column to assist him in getting away. The services of this column were not however required, as it was met by the Mounted Infantry while waiting for the moon to rise. We brought in one badly wounded Boer as prisoner, and four or five others are known to have been wounded during the course of the day. We, I am glad to say, had no casualties.

The first game of polo was played at Frankfort on November 28th, and was quite worthy of record. The ground had not previously been prepared, unless the turning out of several thousand sheep counts as preparation. A couple of khaki coats at each end represented the goal posts, and in the absence of side lines the horizons to the east and west bounded the ground. A few ant heaps artistically scattered about added to the difficulties of the game, while innumerable holes lent the necessary excitement. The goal posts were invisible from most parts of the ground, so the scoring was not heavy.

On December 2nd the Frankfort polo club was started with Captain Pack Beresford as secretary. We have now got quite a respectable little ground and get a good deal of fun out of it. I regret to state that Colonel Grove met with a nasty accident on December 5th while knocking a ball about. His pony slipped and fell on him giving his ankle an ugly wrench. He is at this moment laid up, but we hope to see him about again shortly.

The fruit in the gardens in Frankfort is fast ripening, but hardly gets a fair chance. If the men would only refrain from eating green peaches it would save the Medical Officer such a lot of work.

I think my stock of news has now come to an end. We have two or three things to look forward to. December 22nd is the day selected for the garrison sports, December 25th they tell me will be Christmas day, and the next convoy will arrive on—but this a forbidden subject.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Frankfort, December 14th, 1900.

MEMOIRS OF SLAAP KRANTZ.

Being a short account of events which led to the surrender of General Prinsloo.

Slaap Krantz, 29/7/00.

(From Ficksburg to Slaap Krantz.)

On the night of the 3rd July the four companies 2nd Royal West Kent Regiment, under Major G. Maunsell, then garrisoning Spitz Kop, Hammonia, received orders to join Colonel Grove and the head quarter companies at Ficksburg in order to take part in the operations which finally led to the surrender of Generals Prinsloo and Devilliers, 4,000 Boers, and 2 guns. At about 10 p.m. we commenced the night march, landing at Ficksburg just as day was breaking, only to find that the other half battalion had moved the night before to Quet Kop, which place the Boers had evacuated rather hurriedly. On this kop the Boers had menaced the town with a creusot gun, evidently served on the hydraulic or disappearing principle, as our guns could not hit it, though right across its front were marks made by our shells; in fact, the whole face of the Kop was like a huge Scotch pebble. At 2 p.m., 25th, the Battalion moved off from Quet Kop with the intention of catching our Divisional Commander, who was then supposed to be only five miles off in the direction of the Drakenburgs, but more of this anon. As we passed through the Boer positions, which was a series of high kops running almost in a line, one could but exclaim what splendid trenches. A brigade in extended order would have scarcely seen them, so natural did they look, and that at 100 yards one could have walked on top of them, and then would have had an eye-opener. It is very obvious that the poor ignorant farmers as the Boers are styled are past masters in the art of trench digging; in fact, to my opinion, the average Britisher is too indifferent to the meaning of the word *enemy*. At 6 p.m. we were still trekking, which you will admit was a queer five miles. We passed several waggons of Boer prisoners who were on their way to Ficksburg. And I asked one of the Imperial Yeomanry, one of their escort, how far General Rundle was. He said "Oh, about eight miles ahead," which, from a mounted man, means double to us. We trekked till nearly nine o'clock, when a halt was ordered for the night, and we were all glad to bivouac, especially us, viz., the four companies from Hammonia, who had been marching all the night previous. Just as we had laid our weary bones down waiting for a drop of warm tea, which we stood sorely in need of as it was bitter cold, one could hardly feel one's fingers, I heard a heavenly voice saying "Rouse 3.30 a.m., breakfast and waggons packed 4 a.m., trek 4.45 a.m." Very soothing cordial to sleep on. We moved off by 5 a.m., 26th, and marched till about 11 a.m., when we met "A" Company of the Yeomanry, and later "A" Company of ours on the staff of General Rundle, and then we all exclaim "Now we shan't be long." But no; it appears General Rundle had moved off in the Fouriesburg direction, so we halted and waited instructions. I forgot to mention we brought a convoy up with us and a mail too, so advantage was taken here to issue letters, &c., which all are at any time glad to receive, it being the only link that binds one to his friends at home in dear old England, especially parcels of tobacco and cigarettes, and owing to the very hilly and difficult nature of this part of the country it is hardly possible to get food supplies, let alone mails and tobacco, &c. We had dinner and tea here, and still no orders up to 6 p.m., so we were just preparing for the night, the outposts were all out, when we received orders to trek at once, for the third time a night march in a week. We started off about 7.15 p.m., and marched along some awful footpaths, not roads certainly, where one kept stumbling over stones and ant-hills. We kept on till about 10.30 p.m., when we fell in with a large convoy coming from Behelem, escorted by some of the Scots Guards and Leinster Regiments. Here we bivouacked for the night. I think it was by far the coldest night we have had, and having only one blanket per man and no great coat, we felt it more. When morning came it was frozen as stiff as a sheet of corrugated iron. We moved off at 6 a.m., 27th, forming the advance guard to the convoy. Arrived without further mishap at Fouriesburg about 9.45 a.m., just in time to see General Hunter's Brigade advancing from the town in extended battle formation, Wiltshire Regiment forming the firing line, supported by the Royal Irish Regiment and half battalion K.O.Y.L.I. We were not aware the enemy was so near, but were quickly enlightened. At 10.5 a.m. the Boer big guns opened a terrific bombardment

from three high kops about 3,000 yards in our right front. Just about this time General Rundle came up and ordered us to lay down and act as escort or rear guard to the baggage and supply columns, which had now been halted, and which had now assumed a very large proportion, composing, of course, Generals Rundle and Hunter's supply and baggage columns. Probably this was done to give us a chance after such long and weary night marches. But the inactivity was felt by all in the regiment, as we were all so eager and ready for the fray. For five long hours did we chafe thus. In the meantime our guns were throwing shells with lovely precision right along the enemy's position, which overlooked a deep valley, through which we should have to pass. Now we could hear a perfect fusillade of rifle fire, and we said to one another, the good old Witte are well into it, and at 12 noon not a Boer gun replied, so we concluded, with truth, that our fire had been too hot, and they had been compelled to retire. At about 3.30 the welcome order came for us to move, and move we did just as the sun began to sink in the west. As we passed by the high kop overlooking the valley through which the road we had to follow went, one could but exclaim what splendid natural positions. How they managed to get their big guns up and down is a mystery to most of us. By looks it scarcely seemed as if a cat could get up, let only heavy guns of large calibre. I presume that their convoy was passing into a safer place at the opening of their fire, which was simply terrific, and if so they protected it with a vigour which surely was worthy of a better cause than Oom Paul's. At about 7 p.m. we reached our camp on the left of General Hunter's column, and laid down, hoping our turn would come on the morrow. But, no, 'twas not to be. At about 10 p.m. we were aroused by the Orderley-Sergt. Four companies, under Major Maunsell, were for a night attack. We received orders to support the Scots Guards and Leinster Regiment in taking a high hill, on which the Boers had a gun, which would, if not taken, made it pretty warm for our camp at daybreak, and which was the advanced post of the Boers outpost line. At 10.30 p.m. we trooped off amidst a silence grim, no talking, chin straps down; one could see each other feeling if our bayonets were loose and ready for Boer ribs. We thought we were in for it in real earnest this time, and our spirits rose accordingly. This hill, I am told, was the key to Slaap Krantz. After dodging ant-hills, etc., for about three miles, we were ordered to halt, and then we heard, with something akin to dismay, that the Boers had fled on the approach of the Scots Guards and Leinsters, taking their gun, which made it a simple walk-over. One of the Leinsters, I am told, said wittily, within the hearing of one of his officers, "Put a tot of rum on top, sorr, and sure we'll soon take it," meaning, I presume, he would be at the top first. It was now about 2 a.m., 28th, and Major Maunsell, putting out the necessary outposts, ordered us to bivouac till daybreak. At 5 a.m. we arose and kept walking about to keep ourselves warm. We could see batteries of R.H.A. and large cow guns being hurried up to the front, which meant the act of war was to be resumed as soon it was light enough to see; 6.30 a.m. we saw two Boers bearing a large flag of truce in the direction of the General's quarters, and many were the questions and surmises as to its purport. But we soon heard that Generals Prinsloo and De Villiers wanted 3 days armistice to consider the terms of surrender, but received the prompt reply not 3 hours, and then, unconditional surrender! back went the flag of truce escorted by our cavalry through our lines. Bang! Bang! went the heavy guns very shortly afterwards, and during a lull, we heard General MacDonald's guns, whose brigade had arrived in the nick of time and effectively barred the Boers from retreating through the golden gates, though, that past-master in the art of retirement, DeWet of course, managed to get through somewhere with some men and guns. We had by now had some breakfast of hot coffee and cold meat sent out by someone very thoughtful in camp, in Cape carts. It was now 10 a.m., and as the firing had by now entirely ceased, we thought with reason that negotiations for surrender were on the wing; our advanced posts were by now 4 to 5 miles ahead, right into Slaap Krantz. At about 3 p.m. we rejoined the other half Battalion, and moved off in the direction of Slaap Krantz, where we arrived at 6 p.m., then we were told that General Prinsloo with his whole force had surrendered unconditionally to Generals Rundle and Hunter. Then the music started, the Leinsters Band playing "Come back to Erin," "God Save the Queen," "Soldiers of the Queen," etc., the Scots Guards piped "Yankee-Doodle," "Cock of the North," etc., we having no band started with Company sing songs, in fact we yelled and shrieked hurrah, and "God save the Queen" till we were blue in the face, in fact, I strongly suspect a few visited our Regimental Doctor Turner next morning, suffering from hoarseness. The climax came when we all got two tots of rum each, when I am afraid some of us nearly ran amuck. The morning of the 29th came with a cloudless sky, this being the date of the formal surrender, we paraded at 12.30 p.m. and were marched to General Rundle's head-quarters, where the union jack was waving on a flag-staff, offering, as it were, defiance to all comers. At 2.30 p.m. we formed up, 4 Companies each side of the road, with fixed bayonets and shouldered arms, when General Rundle and his staff took up their position under the flag with drawn swords, the Leinsters with band immediately in front of the saluting posts. At

2.50 p.m. the first batch appeared, a motley crew certainly, old men and young men, and boys of scarcely 12 years old all mounted on wiry Boer ponies, solemnly laid down their Mauser rifles and bandoliers, some thought it funny as with a sarcastic leer they glared at us, as if they would like to do something only "hadn't" got time, they looked as if they had just left the ranks of the great unwashed, Dantes Inferno, or somewhere. At about 5 p.m. they all had passed, and one batch well on their way to Winburg, with a 3rd single ticket to Ceylon in their pockets. The band played "God Save the Queen," and General Rundle called the Colonel, saying something highly complimentary about the behaviour of the Regiment which made our chests two inches larger as we marched past him and staff in fours. Our share was now nearly finished in the surrender, and fall of Slaap Krantz, which no doubt was not so imposing as if it had taken place on Laffan's Plain, but nevertheless we all felt proud of our small mite, as it must be borne in mind that the 8th Division held the long line of defence to prevent them breaking southwards, from the Basuto border to Ficksburg to Winburg, nearly 80 miles, which was admittedly a very hard and onerous task for one division. The Regiment for several days found the guard over the prisoners, and I had an opportunity of talking to several Boers, who stated their Commandant told them baseless fabrications to keep their pecker up, which would simply be futility on my part to mention. Trusting the readers will pardon any little error that may have crept into this short account, as I have had the misfortune to lose my note-book.

F.G.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

Our Christmas festivities must be chronicled in this number as they are deserving of record.

On Christmas Day, after Divine Service, the troops sat down to a sumptuous dinner, and the Barrack rooms were visited by Colonel Brock and the Officers. The efforts of the decorators had been stimulated by the offer of a prize for the best room, and all were very well adorned, but D Company proved to be far and away the best, and was awarded the prize.

On January 2nd the Annual Christmas Tree and Entertainment took place in the Gymnasium, which was very nicely decorated.

The proceedings commenced with a Torch-light procession headed by the Band. The route was from the Pay Office, right round the Square, finishing at the Gymnasium.

After tea—which was the next item—a little free dancing was indulged in, while the tables, etc., were removed. Then came the most exciting feature of the evening.

To slow music and the singing of "Noel," a triumphal car emerged from behind the curtains stretched over one corner of the Gymnasium. In the car was seated Father Christmas, supported by two tame Polar bears and his court jester. The whole turn out was very well done and most picturesque.

After a short address to the children, Father Christmas ordered the curtain to be drawn, and the Christmas Tree was slowly pushed into the centre of the room on its car.

The distribution of presents was soon over with the help of many willing hands. The rest of the evening was spent in dancing, and finally all retired, seemingly most pleased and happy.

We are sure that the many helpers who kindly took so much trouble to decorate and arrange the evening's amusement, felt that their efforts had been crowned with success when they saw the happy faces of the children.

The Depot has been recently routed out of its modest seclusion, and made to take part in functions beyond its wont. On the Proclamation of His Majesty King Edward VII., we turned out a smart guard of honour of 50 men, under Lieut. Nunn, with the band.

The proclamation was made at four points in the town, and the guard looked well and did well.

On the occasion of the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, Lieut. Nunn proceed to London with Lieut. Strutt, 3rd East Surrey (attached), and 50 men and three sergeants to assist in lining the streets.

We have no other doings to set forth, except those of the football team, which are ably dealt with by our Special Correspondent.

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

Owing to the great national loss which has befallen us in the past month, very little football has to be recorded. Only two matches were played, Sevenoaks being defeated in a "friendly," and a somewhat unexpected defeat of the Depot by Aylesford in the Maidstone League. This latter is a severe blow to the Depot, and unless they can give the Church Institute their "quietus" playing away from home, they will have to retire from the head of the League. With regard to the defeat by Aylesford, there is no doubt that Aylesford were exceedingly lucky in winning, the match being won for them by their goal-keeper, who played a magnificent game. But even then they could not have won without the aid they received through the referee having what might be called an "off" day. Three times were the Depot penalised for doubtful "off-sides" when the goal was at their mercy. One goal for Aylesford was admitted by the scorer to be off-side, but the referee was unable to see it. League matches against Church Institute and Tovil have been postponed. In the first round of the "Tunbridge Wells Charity Cup," we have drawn a bye, and have to meet Southborough at Southborough in the second round on February 9th; this should be a tough struggle. The following are accounts of the two matches played during January:—

DEPOT v. SEVENOAKS.

A "friendly" match between these two clubs, at the Barracks, on January 5th, resulted in a win for the Depot by two goals to one. Short time had to be played owing to the lateness of the start. Maver scored both goals for the Depot, and Moyce, with a fine shot from the wing, got Sevenoaks' only goal. Merrick made one or two good attempts to add to the Depot's score, but Sears declined to be beaten, saving one or two shots in fine style. The Depot team was Stack, Ayres, Edwards, Chantler, Mr. Nunn, Byford, Merrick, Iliffe, Maver, Franklin, and Freeman. Referee, Col.-Sergt. Bourne. Result:—

Depot	2 goals.
Sevenoaks	1 ,,

DEPOT v. AYLESFORD (Maidstone League).

This match was played at Aylesford on January 12th. The previous match was won by the Depot by two goals to nil, and as a much stronger team was taken to Aylesford by the Depot, it was expected that they would have no difficulty in again winning; but it was not to be, as Aylesford turned the tables, winning by two goals to one. All the scoring was done in the first half. The Depot scored within a few minutes of the kick-off, through the agency of Taylor, but Dunster equalised for Aylesford about twenty minutes afterwards; unfortunately, the referee did not penalise this player, who was standing off-side, as he thought that the ball had touched a Depot player before Dunster received it, whereas the ball passed quite two yards clear of the only Depot player who was in that part of the field. Forest now made a good run for Aylesford, and, beating Stack, scored their second goal. The Depot now had hard lines in being penalised

twice for "off-side" when the goal was at their mercy. On changing ends Aylesford nearly added a third from the initial play, the ball being lifted over the bar; and this was their last chance, the Depot now having all the play, shot after shot being rained on the Aylesford goal, Hazlett being the most aggressive, sending in some very hot shots, all of which were saved by Woodger in magnificent style. Time came with no further score, and Aylesford were left lucky winners by two goals to one. Depot:—Stack, Shaw, Edwards, Spearing, Savage, Mr. Nunn, Merrick, Taylor, Hazlett, Maver, and Freeman. Referee, Mr. Taylor. Result:—

Aylesford 2 goals.
 Depot 1 "

MAIDSTONE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

(Up to end of January).

	Pld.	W.	L.	D.	Goals		Pts.
					For.	Agst.	
Depot.....	6	3	1	2	16	8	8
Church Institute	4	2	0	2	11	3	6
Invicta	5	2	1	2	10	10	6
Aylesford	5	1	2	2	7	10	4
Snodland	3	1	2	0	7	8	2
Tovil	3	0	3	0	1	13	0

FIXTURES (February and March).

Feb. 9th.—v. Southborough (Tunbridge Wells Charity Cup	Away
„ 16th.—v. Ashford Athletic	Home
„ 23rd.—v. East Malling.....	Home
Mar. 2nd.—3rd Round Tunbridge Wells Charity Cup	
„ 9th.—v. Snodland (Maidstone League)	Away
„ 16th.—v. Maidstone Invicta (Maidstone League)	Home
„ 20th.—v. Chatham Amateurs	Home
„ 23rd.—Semi-Final Tunbridge Wells Charity Cup	

We beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, receipt of subscriptions as follows:—To 31st December, 1900: General Luard, Mr. E. Mayo, Captain H. Beeching, Mrs. J. Dalison, Colonel Satterthwaite, the Sergeants' Mess 3rd V.B., the Adjutant 2nd V.B., Captain E. F. Venables, Mrs. Rivers. To 31st December, 1901: Captain C. F. Hitchins, Captain A. Moore, the Recreation Room 2nd V.B., Mr. A. Jagger, Mr. W. Dawson, Mr. H. Taylor, Lieut.-Col. Wilson, Major R. W. Coombs, Mr. R. Morphey, Pte. Janeway, Lieut.-Col. J. H. Vandermeulen, Colonel C. R. King, Mrs. E. Miller, Mrs. Nevard, the Rev. Canon C. Grant, Mr. W. Newberry, Major N. H. Leckie, Mr. W. H. Hurrell, Mr. W. G. Osman, Lieut.-Col. C. M. Churchill, Colonel H. W. Isacke, Colonel G. Henderson, Mrs. Hampden Moody, Mrs. H. Mann, Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Uings, Colonel M. A. Clarke. To 31st December, 1902: Sergt.-Inst. J. Blackburn, Quartermaster-Sergt. Guess, Miss Harber. To 31st December, 1903: Lieut.-Col. E. A. Alderson, Major W. H. Barker.

We regret to record the death at Sandown, Isle of Wight, of Major W. Brown, on the 11th Jan. Major Brown entered the service in 1866, was promoted Captain in 1878, and gained his Majority in 1881. He served in the Boer war of 1881. Major Brown suffered from a painful internal malady which hastened his end.

3rd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

Malta, 21st Jan., 1901.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Since my last on 26th December, 1900, the following men of the regiment embarked on s.s. Rameses to be transferred to s.s. Hawarden Castle at "Gib" for South Africa with the detachment of Mounted Infantry:—No. 1914 Lce.-Corp. G. Corrick H, 2950 Pte. H. Cheeseman B, 2716 Pte. J. Hanwright G, 1263 Pte. J. Bailey H, 1022 Pte. H. Terrill H, 2870 G. Gray I, 3058 Lce.-Corp. E. Corbett K, 2982 Pte. E. Driver K, 3127 Pte. C. Gurr L, 1719 Pte. T. Barnes G, 2521 Pte. A. Brandon A, 2046 Pte. J. Batchelor D, 2849 Pte. T. Waterhouse G, 2654 Pte. L. J. Saull H, 2777 Pte. E. Smith I, 2615 Pte. J. Wheeler I, 2472 Pte. G. Aldridge K, 3109 Pte. C. F. Weston L, 1616 Pte. S. Cowlard L, 3031 Pte. F. Oliver M.

The Rameses left here on Saturday, January 5th, about 4 p.m.

Pte. J. Bailey, H, has been permitted to resume his correct name of J. Elder.

H.E. the Commander-in-Chief's Levee was attended by all available officers of the 3rd Batt.

On the 10th January the officers celebrated the first anniversary of the voyage on s.s. Golconda from England to Malta.

The rest of the M.I. detachment are now under training in Malta, and are quartered at Marsamacelto Barracks.

Major C. Farquharson has returned from leave, and we are expecting Captain Fenn on Thursday next.

We had a long field day last Friday, parading at 7.20 a.m., marching to Nashar entrenchments, and getting back to barracks about 4.15 p.m.

We have lately had the German training ship Stosch in harbour, and the usual courtesies were exchanged to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

We have had no news up to the present of any move of the regiment, either towards home or South Africa, but we still live in hopes.

I enclose short account of hockey match played against R.E.

Captain Neve has to-day gone on short leave with the cruisers to Greece, &c.

Four officers and 20 recruits and casuals went to Pembroke this morning for musketry, and half battalion expects to go to Millieha for field training on 29th January.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

HOCKEY.

3RD R.W.K. REGT. v. R.E.—Played on "Marsa," Malta, 17th January, 1901, won by R.E., 4 goals to 2. The West Kents were unfortunately without the services of Captain Burbury, but did the best they could. 3rd R.W.K. team:— Captain Venables (captain) back, Captain Wilson, Lieut. Pullman, Lieut. Stone (half-back), Lieut. Irons (half-back), Lieut. Case-Morris, Lieut. Hayne, Colour-sergt. Bass (back), Sergt. McGregor, Pte. Hone (goal), Lance-corporal Emmett (half-back).

1ST VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

—o—

It may interest some of the readers to know how this Battalion stood at the end of the volunteer year.

On the 1st November we numbered 1,070 strong, of whom 1,063 were efficient. This is an increase of 330 on last year's figures. During the year 534 men joined and 204 left, of these latter, 105 joined the regular army.

1,053 were classified in musketry. The figure of merit was only 127, which we hope will be improved on next year. Three new companies, including a cycle company, have been added to the establishment.

The camp at Bisley has borne good fruit in many ways, as many men attended for the whole month, and the effect of a month's discipline is good.

We are anxiously watching the new Commander-in-Chief for signs of re-organization, transport, etc.

THE "QUEEN'S OWN GAZETTE" EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

The following men are in search of employment, and references can be obtained on application to the Adjutant, 50th R.D., Maidstone:—

W. Johnson, aged 47, single, seeks employment as groom-servant, etc.

H. B. Corbett, aged 25, single, any light employment.

Robert Bright, aged 29, single, any light employment.

George Bellchambers, 36, married, caretaker or any out-door work.

Charles Chandler, 31, married, as gamekeeper, etc.

James Penfold, 31, married, as caretaker, etc.

Time-expired men are now arriving in England for discharge, and it is satisfactory to note that in most cases places have been kept open for them by their former employers.

Sergeant Watkins on his return to his employment was entertained by the Superintendent and Staff of the West London District of the Prudential Assurance Company, and he acknowledged with feeling the manner in which the Managers had cared for his wife and family during his absence in South Africa.

OUR CARNIVAL.

BY A WOZZLEITE.

—o—

I do not feel well. There is a feverishness upon me; also plasters. My housekeeper has offered to cool my brow. I have declined to admit her to my brow. With some women, give them your brow, and its all up with you. But though uncomfortable, it is my duty to record Wozzle's doings last Saturday, for the envy and example of the Empire. Such a thrilling outburst of feeling, such a display of patriotism, such an uproarious tribute to our glorious arms, and such an uncorking of the best champagne of our nature, I never took part in before, old as I am; and I hope I may never—but I anticipate.

We had our little show for Mafeking, of course, but it only whetted our appetites for more, and we determined to do

something worthy of Wozzle when Pretoria fell. I cannot describe the scene when the glorious news came. Flags burst into bloom on every building, from our church steeple to our lock-up. All hearts beat as one except Miss Green's, who tells the young men she has no heart at all, and likes to be asked why. The wild bells pealed to the wild sky, (N.B. The sky was not really wild, but I have read it in Shakespeare, and its sounds beautiful, so excuse me). But the bells really were wild, the ringers being very so-so, and quite made up for the sky. All business stopped. Binks, our grocer, suspended the water-can over his tobacco; Brown, our butcher, left his knife in Mrs. Jones's leg; our schoolmaster brought over the Norman invasion in three minutes; our station-master even came out of the refreshment room. All the leading inhabitants met at the Open-Air Club at the end of High Street, and formed a committee to celebrate the occasion in a dazzling manner.

That committee sat in permanence for three days, in the loft over our fire-engine house, being very private. Besides, the members had to climb a ladder to get there, which was an excellent test of fitness for business. When you had climbed that ladder you had before you the pick of Wozzle. Major Knobkerry, the chairman looked quite imperial, seated on a saddle placed on a fire bucket, and the whole lot on the table. Binks supported him as vice. Hobbs, our auctioneer, was there of course; likewise our butcher and draper; Mr. Pairth, our Scotch farmer, young Weets, and everyone else of distinction. We were allowed the same privilege as a sewing meeting, all to talk at once. There were differences of opinion, of course, but by a wise arrangement the Major held in his hands the nozzle of a hose pipe in direct connection with the main, and when he didn't agree with a speaker, he intimated the same with the nozzle. I recommend that nozzle to other public bodies. It acts like a charm. The fire buckets circulated at short intervals.

Gradually, during those three anxious days, the idea of our grand Carnival was beaten into shape. Our principal difficulty was not to find actors, but parts. We had a tough job, for instance, about Lord Bobs. All the short men on the committee, who in the usual way pride themselves upon being just above the middle height, discovered that they were really short, and likewise of a military bearing. We shot them down the ladder while we discussed their merits. The point was, which man was safest outside a charger? Our blacksmith was the best figure, but he is unaccustomed to riding, except the high horse at home. Our brewery clerk can ride the bicycle well; but with a bicycle your knees are constantly getting up to your chin, which hardly looks well on a charger. At last we fixed on our jobbing tailor, who can sit on anything, for any length of time. The rest of the short men then suddenly became of average height again, and even entered for the B.P. stakes; B.P. was an even worse nut to crack. The Major claimed the character as a right, but we gently hinted that his figure is now the shape of the sun's path through the heavens, and hardly shows those results of famine and vigil which were required for B.P. There were so many claimants that we decided to have a squad of B.P.'s, consisting of everybody who could ride; and those who could not should walk as Captain Lambton's. These are trifling examples of our difficulties.

Pass we on to Saturday night, at 3 p.m. Behold the bunting of Wozzle more gay than ever, and hear the church bells wilder than before, if possible. See the houses open-windowed, and the inhabitants open-mouthed. See the line of route thronged with a patriotic population, and hear the National Anthem colliding against the "Soldiers of the Queen," and both of them run over by "Rule Britannia."

There are lights approaching. Lo! they are torches, casting a romantic glow over dwelling and duck puddle, over public hall and pump. The procession approaches, led by our town band, looking quite picturesque with their coats turned inside-out to show the linings. Then comes Lord Bobs. What a crowded hour of glorious life for a tailor! After him, three B.P.'s and five naval officers, each with a private conviction that he represents Lambton. Then the Naval Brigade. Oh! those sailors! Such rollicking jovial fellows! Our church choir had volunteered to a man for that brigade. Then we had some splendid troops from the brewery, and then what we French scholars call the piece of resistance. This grand feature of our Carnival, on which all eyes fastened, and on which our hearts rained soft sentiment, was the Car of Empire. It was simply superb. It was built on the model of the Albert Memorial in Hyde Park, of course reduced to the meridian of Wozzle. Miss Miggs, our infant school teacher, was Britannia on the top, when she was not jolted off going round the corners, and O! lovely she looked, O! Bink's assistant, who does the local poetry, said he felt ready to throw himself under the car. His poem on her, riding the waves on her trident, will be finished next week, and given away with every pound of tea. Then, supporting Britannia, were India, Canada, Australia, and Africa. India, pretty dear, came from our post office, and had bathed in a sunbeam of silk on the way. At the office she blushes if you ask her for a stamp, but here her sparkling eyes braved the universe unmoved. Canada has left her mother's wing, and her father's prime joints, to array her dainty form in bewitching furs. Africa had been coaxed from the bar of the Rising Sun, to be a perfect dream in yellow window curtains. The younger Miss Hobbs was Australia. She wore a sweet smile, beautifully moulded arms, a spangled dancing-skirt, and red heeled shoes; in fact, she was Australia to the life. All our colonies, it appears, are decidedly strong in back hair, wavy, flossy, distracting. They likewise frequently shake their hair out by a bewitching toss of the head. For a piece of resistance, give me them.

After the car walked Mr. Pairth in kilts, blowing the pipes, and looking larger than a whole Highland Brigade. He had one eye on Miss Hobbs, and one on his knees, all the way, and it is difficult to say which he admired most. (N.B., I believe it will be a match, now that they have seen each other under such romantic circumstances.) Then our fire brigade, looking very fierce and determined. I cannot say what they were determined about, but they were decidedly determined, and it was very striking. After that a grand ladies' bicycle contingent, all ready to carry messages across the felt and up the coppys, in dainty rainbow costumes, killing as a pom-pom, over which the Chinese lantern at the prow shed its refulgent light. Then our ambulance waggon, with five nursing sisters, all complete. Our doctor's assistant played patient, and looked most interesting on a bundle of straw. He had caresses lavished on him all along the route, to say nothing of egg and sherry, lucky dog. Then more troops escorting the Major, as the D. and C., a part he filled out well. So we triumphantly paraded the parish, let off fireworks, and lighted our bonfire, and finally addressed a patriotic chorus to the silver moon, who received it with a truly British well-bred calm.

Such is a mere glimpse of our carnival. There was but one disgraceful episode, but it will relieve my feelings to mention it. The committee thought it desirable that the Prime Minister should walk in the procession, and who so suitable

to represent him as me? Besides mental similarities there are several personal characteristics in which we agree, such as age, dignity, fighting weight, and general tournoor, and it was thought that with a little "making-up" I should be recognised at once. So they made me up in the loft. I called for a looking-glass to admire myself in, but, unfortunately, there was none. I swelled with pride as I took my place in the ranks. But, would you believe me, no sooner did we start than I was presented with a big cabbage on the head. Shouts of "Good old Kruger!" and "Who stole the money?" rent the air, and the cabbage was speedily followed by an exhibition of flour and eggs. So it was all along the route. In vain I called out that I was the Prime Minister, nothing but Kruger would they have; and sure enough, when I had taken refuge in the Rising Sun, and looked in a glass, I found those irreverent boys had actually made me up just like Uncle Paul. This is why I do not feel well.—*Globe*.

BIRTH.

DRISCOLL—On 18th Jan., 1901, at Zabbar Married Quarters, Malta, the wife of Corpl. W. Driscoll, 3rd Batt., of a daughter.

DEATHS.

At St. Nicholas Married Quarters, Malta, on January, 13th, 1901, James George, eldest son of Col.-Sergt. Botting, Perm. Staff, 3rd Batt., aged 2 years 8 months.

At Frankfort, on January 8th, 1901, 4659 Pte. W. Collins, 2nd Battalion, of enteric.

At Frankfort, on January 8th, 1901, 4035 Pte. J. Greenwood, 2nd Battalion, of enteric.

At Harrismith, on January 16th, 1901, 3817 Pte. J. Richardson, 2nd Battalion, of enteric.

At Norvals Pont, on January 18th, 1901, 6910 Pte. H. Baines (Vol. Company), of enteric.

At Heilbron, on January 24th, 1901, 2435 Pte. E. J. Ashton, 2nd Battalion, of enteric.

At Harrismith, on January 27th, 1901, 4209 Sergt. E. C. Bennett, 2nd Battalion, of enteric.

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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 310.

MAIDSTONE, MARCH 1st, 1901.

[Vol. XIX, No. 3

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

1st BATTALION.

The promotion to the rank of Lieut. of Second-Lieut. P. S. Hall is antedated to 1st August.

2nd BATTALION.

Second-Lieut. G. Elgood to be Lieutenant, 27th October.
Second-Lieut. J. C. Parker is seconded for service under the Colonial Office, 23rd January.
Lieut. E. L. H. James to be D.A.A.G. and Staff Officer to an Assistant Inspector-General on the lines of communication in South Africa, 23rd August.
Promoted Sergeant—Lance-sergts. A. Collins and D. Leaver, 9th November.
Appointed Lance-sergts.—Corpls. W. Penny, B. Carr, and W. Hayes, 26th December.

3rd BATTALION.

Lieut. T. H. Thornhill to be Second-Lieut., The King's Royal Rifle Corps, 16th February.
Lieut. R. W. Grant resigns his commission, dated 16th February.
A. C. K. S. Clarke, gent., to be Second-Lieut., 28th Jan.
1st. VOLUNTEER BATTALION.
Second-Lieut. A. M. Cohen to be Lieut., 20th February.
4th VOLUNTEER BATTALION.
Geo. E. Leavey, gent., to be Second-Lieut., 16th February.

KING EDWARD'S MESSAGE TO THE ARMY.

—: o :—

The following message has been promulgated to the Army through Earl Roberts, the Commander-in-Chief, from his Majesty King Edward VII. :—

"On my accession to the throne of my ancestors I am desirous of thanking the Army for the splendid services it has rendered to my beloved mother the Queen during her glorious reign of upwards of sixty-three years.

"Her Majesty invariably evinced the warmest interest in her troops, especially when on active service, both as a Sovereign and as head of her Army, and she was proud of the fact of being a soldier's daughter.

"To secure your best interests will be one of the dearest wishes of my heart, and I know I can count upon that loyal devotion which you ever evinced towards your late Sovereign."

MOURNING FOR THE ARMY.

The following special Army Order has been sent from the War Office to all the commands in the United Kingdom and Colonies :—

Orders for Mourning for the Army of her late Majesty Queen Victoria, to be worn until July 24th, 1901.

"His Majesty the King commands that officers of the Army shall wear mourning with their uniforms on the present melancholy occasion, as follows :—

"Officers are to wear black crape on the left arm of the uniform and of the greatcoat.

"The drums are to be covered with black, and black crape is to be hung from the top of the colour staff of infantry, and from the standard staff and trumpets of cavalry, until after the funeral of her late Majesty."

1st BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

THE INTER-COMPANY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT.

This annual competition, after pursuing a somewhat irregular course from the middle of December till 7th February, was brought to a successful conclusion on that day. The final match between B and G Companies would have been played sooner, but it was put off for a fortnight in consequence of the sudden and sad death of our dear and much-lamented Queen. The weather in Aden is already beginning to get warmer, and we were decidedly fortunate in February 7th being both a cool and cloudy day. The game was started in the barrack square at head quarters at 4.45 p.m., and a considerable crowd of men surrounded the ground. The Adjutant filled the somewhat thankless post of referee, Privates Burrows and Rudd being linesmen. The game was fast and furious at the start, though signs of fatigue were visible towards the approach of half-time, the play being of such an even nature that from the form exhibited it would have been difficult to prophecy the winner. G Company, however, held the better reputation, and in the second half they justified public opinion by scoring a couple of goals and pressing their opponents nearly the whole time. B Company made a few rushes and played up hard, but they were never really dangerous. At the call of time the two teams assembled in front of the Commanding Officer, who, before presenting the challenge shield, said a few well chosen words, in which he recorded his appreciation of the excellent and well-matched games which had formed the feature of the tournament. Football, he said, was a game to be encouraged in the Battalion, and not only football, but all games. A very nice remark had been made by the Brigadier-General in his report on the recent inspection. It was: "That the men of the Battalion went in for all kinds of sport, cricket, football, swimming, &c.; in fact, they were a good all-round lot." This remark he knew would give them pleasure as it had done to him. He concluded his remarks by saying that he hoped next time this tournament was contested it would be on the green fields of Kent instead of on the barren rocks of Aden. Pte. Ellen, the captain of G Company's team, then came forward and received the challenge shield on behalf of his company, and bore it away amidst the cheers of the spectators. The two teams were afterwards entertained at supper in the coffee shop, and where doubtless any momentary differences

of opinion which may have occurred during the heat of the game were amicably settled. It is a matter of regret when these annual tournaments come to an end, and especially so in our present circumstances. The one which has just come to such a successful conclusion has proved a bright paragraph in our none too-exciting life in Aden, and it was the wish of many as they left the ground that the first and not the last game had just been decided.

The results of the various matches played in this tournament are given below. Nine teams entered, one from each company, and one from the band and drums.

The First Round, therefore, only consisted of one game, E Company having to oppose A, the remaining teams drawing byes. This match was quite one of the best of a series of excellent and keenly contested games, and A company won by three goals to two. Had the forwards of E availed themselves of their opportunities the result might have been different.

The Second Round consisted of four games.

G v. Band and Drums.—Won by G by three goals to love, but a much better and more even game than the result would lead one to imagine.

A v. D.—Won by A by three goals to one, and remarkable chiefly for keen play and bad shooting on both sides, but it was a very interesting game to watch.

H v. B.—Won by B by three goals to two. Each team scored two goals in the first half-time, and the game remained even for well into the second half, when B succeeded in putting the ball into the net.

C v. F.—This game had to be played twice before any result was arrived at. F Company were hot favourites at the start, and certainly looked like winning at the commencement of the first game, but they appeared surprised to find their opponents such a hard nut to crack, and eventually suffered defeat in the second game by 1—0.

Third Round.—*B v. C.*—This was a most even and exciting game throughout, the ball travelling up and down the ground time after time, hovering in dangerous proximity, first in front of one goal and then the other, all the efforts of either side to score proving futile. Pte. Brandon, of B, during this time was conspicuous, and plugged in one or two very good shots, one of them being very smartly saved by Pte. Bridges, C Company's goalkeeper. Give and take play continued until well on into the second half, when the ball was sent into the mouth of C Company's goal. Pte. Bridges saved, but failed to clear, and B Company's forwards seeing their chance were on him in a moment; in order to save his life the referee blew the whistle, and the ball was thrown up in the air. Another scrimmage ensued, and this time B Company put the ball into the net. C Company played up hard for the remainder of the game, but failed to equalise. For the winners Pte. McEuff in goal and Pte. Thorpe at back were conspicuous, while for the losers Lance-Corporal Ford and Pte. Bridges were good. C Company were unfortunate in Sergt. Murphy (one of their best men) being unable to play.

A v. G.—Won by G by one goal to love. This was another close game, but there was not quite so much go about it as in some of the others. G were undoubtedly the stronger team and had slightly the best of the game all through, but there was a lack of dash about the play on both sides. For G, Pte. Taylor played well, and it was through a pass from him that Pte. Collins was able to score. Pte. Gore played up hard as usual. For A, Pte. Howard was best.

The Final—*B v. G*—won by G, 2 goals to love. This game (to which reference has already been made) started with a tremendous amount of dash, and the enthusiasm of the spectators was aroused from the very commencement; each

team seemed to thoroughly realize the important moral advantage which scoring the first goal always gives. It was not, however, until the close of the second half that any advantage was gained by either side. Towards the end of the first half considerable excitement was caused by the ball going into G Company's goal-net, but it was soon apparent that no goal had been scored, but that owing to the ball having gone out of play over the touch-line, everyone had stopped play, with the exception of the energetic individual who had seized his opportunity and kicked it into the net. About twenty minutes before the end of the game B Company seemed to get a bit done, and G, after manœuvring round their opponents' goal for some minutes and obtaining three corners in rapid succession, claimed a free kick for "hands" which was allowed and converted into a goal. B Company after this were never dangerous, and on the call of time G Company improved their advantage through a fine shot by Pte. Ellen. Pte. Ellen, who has for a long time been a prominent figure in 1st Battalion football, certainly deserves credit for the way in which he has got his team together, though he has been undoubtedly fortunate in having such good material to work upon. The two teams were composed as follows:

G Company—Goal, Pte. Cove; backs, Cpl. Laing, L-Cpl. Harris; half-backs, Pte. Gore, Sergt. Ashby, Sergt. Crouch; forwards, Ptes. Taylor, Collins, Simmons, Ellen, and Wood.

B Company—Goal, Pte. McEuff; backs, Ptes. Murphy and Thorpe; half-backs, Ptes. Austin, Brill, and Macarthy; forwards, Ptes. Ingram, Pritchard, Soughton, Harden, and McIntosh.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

January, 15th.

Once again, Mr. Editor, I am afraid I must plead no news as an excuse for an uninteresting letter.—Doubtless a fertile brain could fill your columns with accounts of the heroic doings of the 2nd Battalion in South Africa, but alas! I am (your correspondent), so truthful, that my pen refuses to record anything but facts.

Christmas has come and gone, and there is no disguising the fact, that it was not a merry one. An extra tot of rum was issued to the troops, but even two tots of rum do not make a Christmas. We must content ourselves with wishing the 2nd Battalion many happier Christmases. The garrison sports were a great success; and I have given you a detailed description elsewhere. Two of the events which were not competed for on the day of the Sports, were held on Jan. 12th. The tug of war was won by a sturdy lot of men from F Company, who twice walked away from a team of gunners in the final heat. The "rouse and turn out" was won fairly easily by E Company. The final rush in this competition made by six waggons with 16 oxen apiece was somewhat awe inspiring.

The afternoon was finished by a tug of war between our best team of oxen against the pick of the East Kent Yeomanry transport. Two waggons were hitched tail to tail, and both teams pulled all they knew. Our team won the first heat to the great joy of Lieut. Isacke, our transport officer. A slight hitch occurred in the 2nd heat as the oxen of the Yeomanry team got out of hand, and bolting round the corner they damaged some of the gear, and the match had to be off. This event was concluded on January 18th, our team pulled 8,000 lbs. of sand out of a sandy pit in 24 minutes. The Yeomanry tried the same waggon load, but after 19 minutes they gave in, as the waggon had not been moved a single inch. This was somewhat of a triumph.

Since my last letter we have had a good many changes in appointments in the Battalion. Colonel Grove was suddenly ordered to Bloemfontein to take up some unknown appointment. We know not what his new billet may be, but we wish him every success in it. He stole away somewhat like a thief in the night, but therein lay his wisdom, for when you have to ride 30 miles along a road infested by the enemy, it is not a sound thing to publish your departure to the multitude.

Major Western now commands the garrison of Frankfort, Major Maunsell rules over the Battalion, and Captain Pack-Beresford has relieved the latter in his appointment of Provost Marshal. I am sorry to say that we have a good deal of sickness in the Battalion. Enteric is rather running riot, there being over 30 cases in hospital, in addition to several officers. The following officers are now on beds of sickness: Captain Flanagan, Lieuts. Kitson, Lister, and Belgrave, also Lieut. Craig, our intelligent one, Lieut. Turner, our medical adviser, and Captain Annesley of the Yeomanry (late of the Buffs). We hope the tide of sickness will soon turn and that the hospitals will empty themselves into the ranks.

January 25th.

We have just got orders to evacuate Frankfort, and to take everybody and everything with us. Anything that we cannot take in the way of foodstuff or live stock has to be destroyed. The convoy arrives to-morrow and we shall quit on January 27th and 28th. The hospital has the first call on the transport and I gather that the waggons available for removing food stuffs are very limited. Already the work of destruction has begun, 1,000 bags of mealies (i.e., 20,000 lbs.), have been told to their doom, and their contents have been poured into one of the deepest reaches of the River Wilge. I fear that owing to want of transport a certain amount of oats from the Quartermaster's store will have to follow the mealies. This seems a horrible waste, but war is always an expensive game, and it is better to destroy all this foodstuff than to fatten up our enemies and their horses. The civilians in the town have just realized that we are going to take them with us, and their hearts are very sore. They were all in favour of the war at the commencement, but now it is brought to their own homes they like it not. The total population to be removed consists of about 25 men, 84 women, and 200 children. They are a most helpless crowd, consisting as they do almost entirely of women and children, whose husbands and fathers are still on commando. Several women have openly declared their intentions of making a bolt of it. Others say they will go out and bring back their husbands from commando. They don't relish the idea of travelling on waggons at the rate of 20 souls per waggon. It is not a pleasant phase in the war, but I cannot help thinking it is a move in the right direction. The people of Frankfort will feel the move of the R.W.K. Regiment more than any other incident in the whole campaign. I am quite prepared to see a number of men surrender to-morrow, so as to accompany their families. Our orders are to go to Heilbron and to form a mobile column there. This sounds a simple programme, but I fear that it will be some time before we shall be able to carry out the latter part of it. Frankfort has made terrible ravages with the health of the Battalion, and we shall have to recoup our strength before we become mobile.

And now, Mr. Editor, I will close this epistle. The convoy comes to-day, and we leave to-morrow for Heilbron. We shall be on the railway, and my letters to you should in future be more regular.

YOUR 2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Frankfort.

2nd BATTALION INTELLIGENCE. GARRISON SPORTS, FRANKFORT.

A very pleasant afternoon was spent on December 22nd, when the garrison sports took place. The meeting was a great success. No hitch occurred, and the thirteen events on the programme were got through in record time. Major Maunsell bossed the proceedings, and an energetic staff gave him every assistance. The programme included three mounted events, of which our M.I. carried off two, the tug of war on bare-backed horses being won by the R.A. The latter event was not very exciting. The steady old gun horses got the command "walk, march," and without seeing any joke in the proceedings the team moved on, headed by our old friend Mary Jane, who, by the way, left her footprints on the polo ground. The mounted rouse and turn out and wrestling were quite exciting, and we congratulate the M.I. on winning these events. The number of entries for the foot-racing was very disappointing. We hoped to see 30 or 40 starting for each race, but the largest field only came to ten. The reservists carried off most of the prizes, and put the young soldier to shame. Why did so few of the younger men run? Was it laziness or incapacity? Both excuses are deplorable. Col. Sergt. Outten won Col. Grove's prize for the best all-round man, and no doubt he deserved it. He scored 8 points, his nearest opponent only scoring 5. The officers' race was won by Captain Annesley, late the Buffs, with a start of 14 yards, Major Maunsell (22 yards) being second. These were the only two placed by the judges. The race for third place was evidently a good one, as about 14 officers say they were third. This is not an uncommon occurrence in sports. As a matter of fact the writer was really third.

The following is a list of prize-winners:—

No. 1, 100 Yards Flat.—1 Pte. Dempers, R.A.M.C.; 2, Dr. Thompson, R.W.K.; 3, Pte. Needham, R.W.K.; 4, Pte. Booker, R.W.K.; 5, Pte. Davidson, R.W.K.

No. 2, Reservists' Race.—1, Pte. Edwards, R.W.K.; 2, Pte. Booker, R.W.K.

No. 3, Marching Order Race (prize presented by the East Kent Imperial Yeomanry)—1, Pte. Carroll; 2, Pte. Edwards; 3, Pte. Davidson; 4, Pte. Needham.

No. 4, Rouse and Turn Out.—1, Mounted Infantry, 2nd R.W.K.; 2, No. 3 Section East Kent Yeomanry.

No. 5, Half-mile.—1, Color-Sergt. Outten, R.W.K.; 2, Pte. Dempers, R.A.M.C.

No. 6, Officers' Race.—1, Captain Annesley, East Kent Yeomanry; 2, Major Maunsell, R.W.K.

No. 7, Veterans' Race.—1, Pte. Smallcomb, R.W.K.; 2, Color-Sergt. Outten, R.W.K.

No. 8, Affinity Race.—No. 1, Pnr. Peeke and Pte. Abbey; 2, Ptes. Bridlecomb and Parfrey; 3, Ptes. Brooks and Shields; 4, Ptes. Moore and Davidson; 5, Pte. Allen and Lance-cpl. Dowell.

No. 9, Quarter-mile.—1, Trooper Ludgater, East Kent Yeomanry; 2, Pte. Watson, R.W.K.; 3, Trooper W. Seath, East Kent Yeomanry; 4, Trooper Morgan, East Kent Yeomanry; 5, Pte. Carroll, R.W.K.

No. 11, Tug-of-War (Horseback).—2 Battery, R.F.A.

No. 12, Sergeants' Race.—1, Color-Sergt. Outten, R.W.K.; 2, Sergt. Spooner, R.W.K.

No. 14, One Mile.—1, Pte. Needham, R.W.K.; 2, Pte. Edwards, R.W.K.; 3, Trooper W. Seath, East Kent Yeomanry; 4, Dr. Wall, R.W.K.; 5, Trooper Ludgater, East Kent Yeomanry.

No. 15, Wrestling on Horseback.—Mounted Infantry 2nd Batt. R.W.K. Rgt.

Championship Prize, presented by Colonel Grove—Color-Sergt. Outten.

SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES,

News from the seat of war is scarce, and we can only get jottings of the 2nd Battalion doings. Their time at Frankfort seems to have been mainly taken up in doing outposts. It appears that a front of six or seven miles had to be covered, this large space being required to feed and accommodate the herds of sheep and cattle on charge. The Boers keep all round about, but trouble very little beyond indulging in an occasional sniping exercise. Colonel Grove has left the battalion to take up a command at Krugersdorp. By the last mail we hear that the Battalion has gone to Heilbron, and the march there seems to have been a very trying one. The roads were indescribable after the heavy rain, wagon after wagon getting hopelessly stuck, and a good deal of the loads had to be destroyed. The transport took seven hours doing two miles, and afterwards $12\frac{1}{2}$ hours to cover six miles. There was fighting the whole way, the Boers had to be shelled, severely on some occasions, but the battalion had only one casualty. This was on the 30th. On the 31st ten miles were covered in ten hours, again fighting all the way, and here again waggon loads had to be destroyed. Heilbron was apparently reached about one p.m. on the 31st. Heilbron does not seem a very attractive place at first, but may become more comfortable as the battalion settles down. An expedition has left in a south-westerly direction. It consists of two companies R.W.K., W.K.M.I., two guns, and three companies Oxfordshire L.I. The object of this trot is unknown, but they expect to be absent about ten days. Major Brock-Hollinshead was in command of the Infantry.

In the published despatches on the South African War the following officers of the regiment have been mentioned:—Brevet-Col. F. F. Johnson, Army Service Corps, formerly of R.W.K. Regt.; Major and Brevet Lieut.-Col. E. A. Alderson; Captain F. C. Marsh and Lieut. H. L. Hickson, who was attached to the 2nd Battalion the Buffs.

A South African story as told by a doctor:—"There's one incident which occurred at Pretoria which I had almost forgotten, but which I think might interest you. It was really the most remarkable operation I ever saw. In a skirmish an Irishman, whose regiment I forget, was riddled with dumdums. His name was Patrick O'Hara, and he was one of the best men in the corps. He died like a hero, and was carried to the rear. I happened to see the body as it was carried past me, and remarked on the fine physique of the man. Not long afterwards I was in the thick of the fight, in which were engaged also a body of Highlanders. One of the men I knew, and called out a few cheery words as I passed by. 'Eh, dochtor,' he replied, 'but we'll pound the deils afore munelicht,' and he rushed on with a bravery which every one knows the Scotch possess. I thought no more of him until I came back, when, to my sorrow, I found my old friend Angus MacTavish—for that was his name—on a stretcher, with his upper lip clean blown off by one of the guns of the enemy. He was a horrible sight, and I was more than concerned what to do with him. Suddenly a thought struck me, which I immediately carried into effect. I found the body of Patrick O'Hara, which was still warm, and giving MacTavish an anæsthetic, I sliced the top lip off Patrick and stitched it under the nose of MacTavish. The operation was perfect, though you may think me conceited in saying so. A month or so afterwards I was in Pretoria, not having seen MacTavish since the operation. One day I came across him and was delighted to see him looking so well. Evidently he was quite convalescent. I stopped him and said, 'Well, Angus, how goes it my man.' To my astonishment he replied in the richest brogue, 'Begorra,

dochtor, I'm as roight as I can be, and faylin illigant.'" You see the fact of the lip being transplanted had transferred the accent also. This is the story. How we wish the name of the surgeon had been given.

Barracks, Maidstone,
27th February, 1901.

THE EDITOR

SIR,—Herewith I enclose a copy of a letter received by a non-commissioned officer of the 2nd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, who was placed in charge of a party of Boer families in South Africa, and I should be glad if you could find space for it.

The present which accompanied the letter was a small but well furnished dressing case, and a two-bottle air-tight travelling inkstand, and gave the greatest pleasure to the recipient and his men—Yours truly,

C. UMFREVILLE, Captain,
Act. Adjt., Depot, R.W. Kent.

Harrismith,
31st October, 1900.

To Corporal Dad.

Hereby we wish to tender our hearty thanks to Corporal Dad and his men, for the careful and patient attention shown us during the journey from Bethlehem to Harrismith.

At the same time it gives us great pleasure to hand you this small token of our esteem and appreciation, which we hope you will accept.

We remain, Yours truly,

(Signed) H. C. Jas, G. F. Kion, C. J. Davel, J. F. Van Helsdingen, J. Pretorius, S. Muller, Alice Muller, K. Murray, Maria Duminy, M. Wessels, Bessie Wessels, Minnie Marce, Jennie Swart, Magritha de Yager, Martha Muller, Annie Wolmarans, Maritha Wolmarans, Alida van Zyl, Annie Muller, Ralie du Plessis, J. Bartnmanae, J. Batmann, R. du Plessis, E. Rabie, S. P. Rabie, B. Rabie, A. Olivier, J. D. van Zyl, D. J. Odendal, Susie v d Merive.

THE LATE QUEEN VICTORIA'S FUNERAL.

:o:

Rumour had it that those regiments who bore the Queen's name would be selected to form the funeral cortege; it turned out, however, that "The Queen's Own" would share the honour of lining the route.

A party from Shorncliffe was present, under the command of Major Daniell, stationed in Hyde Park, and a party from Maidstone, under Lieut. Nunn, lining the street in Piccadilly at the bottom of Hamilton-place. The Depot detachment, 55 strong, rousing at 2 a.m., travelled by special train to London, stopping at Gravesend to pick up about 300 of the Connaught Rangers, and arrived at Charing Cross before dawn, at the time when scavengers were busy washing down the streets with a superabundance of water (where is the Water Company's Inspector?) to the great discomfort of military pedestrians, who were legion, and to the disgust of the detachment, who had taken great pains to be spruce on this great occasion, and, it may be said, fully upheld the reputation of their regiment.

A march from Charing Cross to Buckingham Palace Road was invigorating after the railway journey, the wait for breakfast was short, and in time the detachment was swinging along to the place allotted for it. Being early in place the party saw a good deal of the troops, for at this point regiment after regiment passed to take up their positions. Time after time was it called to attention as Colours passed. The repeti-

tion of the command, "The Queen's Own," attention was not lost on the minds of those of the spectators who had already assembled.

At last came the procession. One accustomed to military funerals was forced to the conclusion that, owing to the rather quickened step, the gorgeous uniforms of the group of foreign princes, military attaches, officers of Indian and Colonial Corps, too much pomp and splendour was present for it to be as impressive as a soldier's funeral with its "Dead March" in Saul. It was certainly magnificent but not impressive.

As soon as the procession had passed, the crowd—well, became a crowd—the military became swallowed up in a sea of human beings, goodness knows where they had been previously packed, and how many of them had seen the procession as it passed.

Owing to the late arrival at Charing Cross of the Gravesend party a couple of hours had to be spent in the station, and after seeing about seven train loads of troops glide away it became the turn of the detachment, and Maidstone was eventually reached about six o'clock.

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

The feature of the past month's football have been our frequent visits to Southborough. No less than three times had we to make this journey. Our first appearance at Southborough, on the 9th February, was an unexpected surprise for the Southborough footballers, as they had written to us to inform us that the ground would be unplayable owing to its being covered in snow. This letter we never received, hence our fruitless visit. Our second visit on February 16th resulted in a great win for the Depot by one goal to nil. We naturally expected this to be our final appearance, but no such luck. Southborough protested against Taylor as a "senior player;" the protest was upheld, the Depot being exonerated from all blame in the matter, the wording of the Tunbridge Wells Charity Cup rules being at fault owing to their ambiguity. Once more, on February 23rd, we put in an appearance, without Taylor this time. This time we were defeated by four goals to one, and thus ended our interest in the Charity Cup. It is no use crying over spilt milk, but it is no consolation to know that Southborough are by far the best team in the competition, so that had our defeat of them in the first instance held good the cup would have been a "good" thing for the Depot. Our other matches this month have been a draw with the Marines, and a one-sided affair with a scratch team of the Volunteer Active Service Company. No Maidstone League matches have been played during the past month, but during March we shall be unusually busy as will be seen from the list of fixtures. Details of matches are given below, and are copied from the local papers.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHARITY CUP (SECOND ROUND.

DEPOT v. SOUTHBOROUGH.

Progress was made with the local Charity Competition on Saturday, when the match that excited most interest was the meeting between the men of the Royal West Kent Depot (Maidstone) and the "Borough" at Southborough. The match had been postponed from the previous week as the ground was then unfit, and up to within an hour or two of the kick-off it was doubtful whether the tie would be decided. However, a welcome change in the temperature on Saturday morning, combined with the brilliant sunshine, rendered the turf playable on this and other grounds. The fine weather

conditions of the morning gave way to rain and hailstorms in the afternoon, but this did not prevent several hundreds of spectators from witnessing the encounter, a fair proportion of whom came over from the Wells. The military were a bit on the heavy side, but the Borough fairly held their own until the last few minutes of the game. Previous to the commencement and at half-time the Southborough Town Band rendered some pleasing selections, and the officials of the home club, as is their wont when charitable institutions are to be benefited, worked hard to ensure a good "gate." Mr. J. G. Povey was the official in charge, and carried out his duties with satisfaction to both teams. The Depot defended the goal nearest the entrance end in the first half, and from the kick-off Keemer received from Wakeford. Sergt. Savage checked the Borough left wingers, and Chapman stopped the Depot advance by kicking out. Bridgland and Small got up, the latter sending behind, and some effective passing on the Depot left brought them in close proximity to Miles, who saved from Taylor and Lieut. Nunn. Taylor put in a neat run, but "Lowie" got the leather away, and for a while mid-field exchanges prevailed. Then the "Tommies" made things lively for the Borough defenders. Hewitt, Chapman, Standing, and Farmer playing a fine defensive game, and wearing the attack down the home front line paid Corpl. Spearing a visit. Small again shot by, and from Marchant's centre the leather was put behind by Pte. Shaw. Pankhurst muddled finely from the flag kick, but Spearing fisted away, and a return from "Browell" went perilously near the net. Down again went the Depot forwards, Taylor and Sergt. Merrick being responsible for some fine passing, and Hazlett put in a fast shot, which was deftly turned aside by Miles, and he also cleared from Walker and Maver. A speedy run and centre by Marchant saw the leather returned by Lieut. Nunn, and following this the Depot put on the pressure. Miles and the Borough rear division had a lively five minutes, the "Tommies" forcing a couple of corners. Hazlett headed over the bar, and an upward movement on the Borough left saw Keemer put "hors de combat," a few minutes elapsing 'ere Teddy was on his feet again. Both custodians were visited in turn, but the defence was always equal to the occasion, and the interval arrived with the score sheet blank. On resuming, the Borough front line soon got to Spearing's end, Marchant and Keemer working hard on the left. The Depot took up the running, but some fine play by Farmer and Standing kept the "Tommies" from troubling Miles, and Hewitt and Chapman also made their presence felt. A rush down the field by Keemer, and Marchant saw "Riley" land across a fine centre, and a fine chance of scoring was missed through Wakeford not being up, as the leather slipped from the custodian's hands as he came out to clear. Lieut. Nunn got the leather away, and the Depot then began another pressing movement. Their halves fed the front rank very judiciously, but they couldn't find the way past Miles, until mid-way through the concluding moiety, and then the point was disallowed. Lieut. Nunn put in a shot which beat Miles, but as a foul was given at the same moment, the jubilation amongst some of the onlookers was a little premature. The Depot had matters pretty much their own way from this point, but the Borough halves and backs offered a stubborn resistance, and with time rapidly approaching it appeared as though a drawn game would be the result. Just before the finish, however, Lieut. Nunn threw in to Hazlett, and an overhead kick sent the ball in Miles' direction. He stopped the flight of the ball, and was trying to clear when Sergt. Merrick ran up and potted it. Loud applause greeted the success of the Depot team. Some fine shots came from the Depot halves on the re-start, and another goal seemed likely in the last minute, as from a foul against the homesters just outside the

penalty line there was a scrimmage round Miles, the ball eventually going behind. The final solo then came from the "ref." the Depot winning an exciting and vigorously contested game by 1-0. Teams:—

Depot—Spearing, Shaw, Edwards, Chantler, Savage, Lieut. Nunn, Walker, Maver, Hazlett, Taylor, and Merrick.

Southborough—Miles, Hewitt, Chapman, Farmer, Standing, Pankhurst, Marchant, Keemer, Wakeford, Small, and Bridgland.

Referee, Mr. J. G. Povey; linesmen, Corpl. Franklin and B. Russell. Result:—

Depot 1 goal
Southborough nil

(*Kent and Sussex Courier*).

SOUTHBOROUGH v. R.W.K. DEPOT.
(RE-PLAYED TIE.)

These teams it will be remembered, met in the Second Round of the above competition the previous week, the soldiers winning by a goal to nil. Southborough, however, successfully appealed against the Depot for playing a Senior man, and on Saturday, the 23rd, the game was re-played on the Southborough Athletic Ground. Following the long-looked-for improvement in the weather, the pitch had been rolled, and although somewhat heavy going, the conditions were better than at the initial contest. There was a crowd of some 500 present, and the greatest interest was evinced in the result. During the game the cheers of the rival supporters were distinctly heard in Tunbridge Wells, and when the Borough were seen to be gradually but surely gaining the upper hand, excitement knew no bounds. The Depot eleven were early on the scene. Punctually to time the leather was set in motion, the Borough attacking the entrance goal. There was little to choose between the teams during the first thirty minutes, except that Miles had several shots to negotiate. At this period Sergt. Merrick gained possession from a spirited attack by the soldiers' front line, and dribbling close in from the left, Merrick shot straight at Miles. The custodian stopped the course of the ball, but it screwed back over the goal-line whilst Miles made a futile effort to throw out from the net. The soldiers thus took the lead, but this only tended to bring out the Cup-fighting qualities of the home team. Marchant, Keemer, and Bridgland shewed prominently, and the soldiers' defence were forced to kick out repeatedly to save their goal. Miles cleared a couple of long shots and gave the visitors a corner, but from the latter Wakeford got away and sent across to Marchant. Wakeford spoilt a fine chance by infringement, and after Bridgland and Keemer had shot wide the interval was signalled, the Depot leading 1-0. The homesters played a remarkably fine game on resuming, and the team has seldom been seen to such advantage. Aply supported by their defence—Standing and Hewitt being most conspicuous—the Borough forwards fairly revelled in their work, and when Wakeford equalised there were tremendous cheers. Going up straight from the centre, Keemer placed the Borough ahead, and from this point they never gave their opponents the slightest opening. Miles saved a high drive by fisting the leather on to the net, and the corner-kick proving of no account, the Borough transferred to the opposite end, Small leading the attack. Here the soldiers were penned for a time, Farmer and Pankhurst checking their efforts to break away. Marchant was well in the "fatal line" when he was charged from behind, and the referee promptly awarded the Borough a penalty-kick. Hewitt undertook the kick, and a swift shot saw the custodian gather the sphere from the back of the net. The game was resolutely contested

around the home goal, and the soldiers caused a lively scrimmage which ultimately resulted in the 'borough clearing their lines. A similar incident occurred at the other end, but the soldiers were unable to avert further disaster. Keemer's shot was partially saved, but Bridgland fastened on to a rebound from Marchant and scored. The Borough eventually won a fast game by four goals to one. The Borough team were composed of identically the same men who suffered defeat the previous week. The Depot substituted Selves for Taylor, but otherwise were the same. Referee: Mr. J. G. Povey, Linesmen: Corpl. Franklin and B. Russell. Result:—
Southborough 4 goals.
Depot 1 "

FIXTURES (March and April).

- March 6th—v. Church Institute (Maidstone League) Away.
- " 9th—v. Snodland (Maidstone League) Away.
- " 16th—v. Invicta (Maidstone League) Home.
- " 20th—v. Chatham Amateurs Home.
- " 23rd—v. Sevenoaks Away.
- April 6th—v. Maidstone Rovers Away.
- " 13th—v. Tovil (Maidstone League) Home.

MAIDSTONE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

(Up to and including March 2nd.)

	Pld.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		Pts.
					For	Agst.	
INVICTA.....	7	4	2	1	15	12	10
DEPOT	6	3	2	1	16	8	8
CHURCH INSTITUTE	5	2	2	1	12	6	6
AYLESFORD	6	1	2	3	8	12	4
SNODLAND	3	1	0	2	7	8	2
TOVIL	3	0	0	3	1	13	0

It may interest some of our football readers abroad to hear that the English Cup ties, so far as the south are concerned, that Reading having beaten Bolton Wanderers at Bolton, and Tottenham Hotspur doing the same to Bury (holders), there are still two representatives from the South. As they are drawn together in the next round, one must go; but I hope to see Aston Villa and Tottenham Hotspur the finalists for this season.

Maidstone are top of the Kent League at the present time with ten wins in a like number of matches; Pte. Taylor assists them when not required for the Depot.

I hear that the "gates" at Southborough in our two matches were records for this competition, and that the hospitals of Tunbridge Wells will reap the benefit to the tune of over ten pounds, so that our frequent visits to Southborough have done some good.

DEPOT FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

We beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, receipt of subscriptions as follows:—To 31st December, 1901: Lieut.-Col. Bellers, Mrs. Nunn, Major J. W. Jones, Sergeant Watkins, Mrs. Nevard, Mrs. Coulter, Sergeant-major Turner, Mr. W. Geddes, Mr. S. Rhoads, Mr. T. Hoare, Bde. Surgeon Owen Owen, R.P., and Mr. J. Blackburn, whose subscription was shown in error in last month's number as having been paid up to 31st December, 1902.

DETAILS—NOTES OF NEWS.

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On the 2nd February the 1st Provisional Battalion went to London to take part in lining the route on the occasion of our beloved Queen's funeral. As Colonel Kelly was in command of the party of Colonials which were in the procession, and Major George, second in command, being away, Major Daniell was in command of the Battalion, which paraded about 450 of all ranks. Reveille sounded at 12 (midnight), parade being at 1 a.m. We reached Charing Cross about 4.30 a.m., and after partaking of breakfast at St. Martin's Hall marched to Hyde Park Corner. The place allotted to the Battalion was from Apsley Gate to the Achilles Statue. The procession was a most impressive sight, but there is no need to describe it here, as the details have been so fully given in the daily papers. The crowd can only be described as tremendous, and only those who saw it and worked their way through it can at all realise its immense proportions. We got back to St. Martin's Hall about two o'clock, where the Battalion was provided with "lunch," and travelled back to Shorncliffe in two trains, the last party reaching camp about 7.30 p.m., where we found dinners ready for us. It was a long and tiring day, as we had been "on the go" for nearly 18 hours.

Two men, late of the 1st Battalion, have recently died at the Station Hospital here, No. 4303 Private E. Jarvis on 20th December, and No. 2709 Private G. Sinden on 23rd February. At Private Jarvis' funeral the detachment made up a company to follow, as so many men were on furlough, and the band of the 3rd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment played the funeral march, the band of the Provisional Battalion being on furlough. At the funeral of Private Sinden No. 1 Company Details followed, with the band of the Provisional Battalion. On each occasion a very handsome wreath was placed on the coffin, subscribed for by his comrades.

Route marching is still going on, and has taken place twice a week during the winter months, the casuals performing a march at the end of each week. The majority of the marches have necessarily been in a westerly and northerly direction, so we have got to know the country in those parts pretty well. On the whole, we have been fairly fortunate as regards the weather, and have very seldom been "caught" by the rain, though we have had plenty of mud to wade through at times.

No. 1 Company, under Captain Allpress, and No. 3 Company, under Captain Kent, have commenced field training, the course being under Major Daniell, while Major George, second in command of the 1st Provisional Battalion, supervises the whole. The course began on 24th February with the six days' instruction to N.C.O.'s, and the above-named two companies commence their companies' course on Monday, 4th March.

The following officers are now doing duty with the detachment:—

No. 1 Company.—Captain E. P. Allpress, 3rd Battalion Bedfordshire Regt.; 2nd Lieut. G. E. W. Morris, 2nd Battalion R.W.K. Regt.

No. 2 Company.—Capt. A. J. P. Annesley, 3rd Battalion R.W.K. Regt.; 2nd Lieut. E. J. Hudson, 1st Battalion R.W.K. Regt.; Lieut. C. D. Barrow, 3rd Battalion R.W.K. Regt.

No. 3 Company.—Captain H. H. Kent, 1st Vol. Battalion West Surrey Regt.; Lieut. E. V. Riddle, 3rd Vol. Battalion R.W.K. Regt.

The draft that came from the Depot on 21st February numbered 26 recruits and one dutyman, the strength of the detachment being now a little over 500 all ranks.

A brigade parade took place on February 7th on St. Martin's Plain, when the Proclamation of King Edward VII. was made, and the Royal Message was read to the troops. The weather was fine, but the ground was very slippery on account of the frost, and a biting north-easterly wind prevailed.

3rd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

—o—

MALTA,

20th February, 1901.

DEAR SIR,

Since writing you on 21st January of course the most absorbing event has been the loss of our beloved Queen.

You will, doubtless, also know that we have been asked to volunteer for South Africa, and that the Regiment nobly responded, and when we go, which we hear is practically certain, we shall be about 800 strong. At present headquarters and all those passed medically fit are at Mellieha Camp going through our field training. It has been frightfully cold here and very wet, but all hands are well and very glad to think that at last we are for the front. Verdala is occupied by the 5th Battalion Munster Fusiliers, and our details are occupying the out barracks in the Cottonera district.

I have heard to-day from Table Bay that No. 2777 Pte. Smith, of I Company, who was one of our mounted infantry proceeding to South Africa, died at sea on 16th January.

He was a very quiet man and in every way a good soldier. He acted for a long time as Captain Kennedy's servant.

We hope to sail about the third week in March.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

NAVAL AND MILITARY EXHIBITION.

CRYSTAL PALACE, 1901.

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The Directors of the Crystal Palace Company have decided to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Great Exhibition of 1851, for which the Crystal Palace was erected, by holding in the same building a Naval and Military Exhibition during the summer of 1901. No more appropriate date could be fixed than the year which marks the close of the hardest fought campaign of modern times, and of the first great war in which Her Majesty's Colonial Forces have fought side by side with the Regiments of the United Kingdom.

The Exhibition of 1901 will be opened on the first Thursday in May (the same day on which the Great Exhibition of 1851 was opened fifty years ago), and will remain open for a period of five months from the date of opening, registered under the Patents, Designs and Trade Marks Act, as an International Exhibition, and conducted on similar lines to the Exhibitions at Chelsea, which attained great popularity, and which were productive of lasting benefit to the Services.

The claims upon the resources of Naval and Military Funds and Institutions have been and continue to be so great, that in view of their urgent necessities, the Committee of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, the Royal Naval Fund, the Committee of the Soldiers' Daughters' Home, the Committee of the Royal School for Daughters of Officers of the Army, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society, and other Naval and Military Institutions and Societies, have gladly availed themselves of the offer made to them by the Directors of the Crystal Palace, in connection with the Naval and Military Exhibition, to place at their disposal any number up to 50,000 Guinea Season Tickets for one year from date of issue, to be sold for the benefit of the above Societies, the entire proceeds to be devoted to their objects. Thus, without any risk to the Societies, a large sum of money may be raised, the amount being only dependent upon the individual exertions of members in the sale of tickets.

The only condition is that the tickets shall not be sold to those holders of Crystal Palace season tickets who have subscribed during the year 1900. As these number over 15,000 and are increasing, it is evident that Crystal Palace season tickets should be easily saleable in large numbers. It is calculated that the population within a five-mile radius of the Crystal Palace is not far short of two millions, and within this area certainly the Crystal Palace has no rival as a place of popular entertainment upon a large scale.

The regular programme of the Crystal Palace includes Polo (London Polo Club ground), Cricket (London County C.C. ground), Cycle and Motor Racing (the fastest cement track in England), Fireworks on Thursdays and Saturdays from June till September, Concerts, Military Bands, Illuminations, Skating (the largest asphalt rink in England), Circus, Picture Exhibitions, and numerous periodical Shows.

A Guinea Season Ticket entitles the holder to free admission to the Palace and the grounds from date of issue to 30th April, 1902, and carries the advantage of a specially reduced railway fare, holders of Crystal Palace Season Tickets being entitled to a return railway ticket at single fare from the London termini of the L.B. & S.C. Railway and the S.E. & C. Railways, Victoria, Holborn, London Bridge, St. Paul's, as well as from Croydon, Beckenham, and all intermediate stations.

In addition to the money raised by the sale of season tickets, the Directors of the Crystal Palace propose, amongst other special events, for the benefit of the Naval and Military Funds referred to, to revive the Army Cup (which had to be suspended last year owing to the war), for a Polo Tournament Week. The stands provide excellent seating accommodation for about 6,000 persons, and if a sufficient number of regimental teams are available next summer a substantial sum should be realised by the sale of stand tickets.

They also propose to organise in June and July a Grand Naval Concert and a Grand Military Concert upon Handel Festival scale. The great seating capacity of the centre transept, galleries, and Handel Orchestra may be judged from the figures of the Handel Festival held last June, when about 4,000 performers took part in the festival, over 80,000 persons visited the Palace, and the receipts on four days were over £14,000. The net proceeds of these Concert should result in a large addition to the total of the Naval and Military Funds referred to.

CURIOUS LETTERS.

Specimen of a letter written by a recruiting sergeant of an out-station in Ireland in the early forties to his recruiting officer.—"Honoured Sir, Mr. W.,—The party has struv their best all this month; and we was at Kilmachthomas and Crossakeile, and Inistiogue, and listed five men, and two niver stud the hoighth, and one was rejected by the Doctor for very coarse (? varicose) veins; and one as the drummer listed was close upon forty, and a wif and 3 childer, so he got his expenses off of him, and had no more to call him; and one is tested, a clane boy, as stands 5 ft. 8. So Corporal Mullins run up a score of 18d at Mrs. Rogers, and behaved disgraceful, and should have tak the stripes off him, only in regard of yir honour; and hopes you will be plased to send me two pounds and some surtifikits. No more at present, only your dutiful soldier, Peter Morris, Sergt." "Sir, we was at all the markets since last return, and at the fair of Ballyquirkeen; so we got no recruits, only broke the drum head. So there is no heads mended in this town, if yir honor would make inquiry in Athlone. So Owen Reilly is only actin' drummer. So the people here is noways inclined for the Army, and it would be well if the party was shifted. If yir honor would be pleased to send orders about the drum head. Terence Rooney, Sergt." "Actin drummer doesn't pay for his own head when it gets broke.—T.R."

BIRTHS.

February 14th, at Maidstone, the wife of Captain P. Umfreville, Adjutant 1st Vol. Batt., of a daughter.

February 24th, at Tunbridge Wells, the wife of Sergt.-major C. Maynard, 1st Vol. Batt., of a daughter.

DEATHS.

At Mooi River, on February 7th, 1298 Color-sergeant R. Thorn, dysentery.

At Kroonstadt, on February 2nd, 4681 Pte. T. Roff, enteric.

At Frankfort, on January 22nd, 4483 A. Bailey, enteric.

Near Kopje on march, on February 9th, 4705 Pte. A. Bish, dysentery.

At Heilbron, on February 11th, 5600 Pte. S. Rowe, enteric.

At Wynberg, on February 13th, 5393 Pte. E. Barwick, enteric.

At Heilbron, on February 23rd, 5168 Pte. M. Christie, 2nd Battalion, enteric.

At Sea, whilst proceeding to South Africa, from Malta, No. 2777 Pte. J. Smith, 1 Company, 3rd Batt., on 16th Jan., 1901.

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

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No. 311.

MAIDSTONE, APRIL 1st, 1901.

[Vol. XIX, No. 4

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

1st BATTALION.

Second Lieut. C. R. Ingram, Unattached List, to be Second Lieut., dated 9th March.

Lieut. J. O. Greenwood resigns his commission dated 13th March.

Promoted sergeants: Lce.-sergt. Rogers, 14th November, 1900; Lce.-sergt. McGee, 17th November, 1900; Lce.-sergt. Osborne, 1st January, 1901; Lce.-sergt. Murphy, 7th January. Appointed Lance-sergeants: Corporal Francis, 7th January; Corpls. Mendham, Crockett, Daykin, 4th February. Promoted Corporals: Lce.-Corpls. Kingman, 14th November; J. Smith, 17th November; Bailey, 1st January; J. T. Smith, 7th January; Schmidt, 1st February; Blanchard, 1st March. Appointed Lance-corporals: Pte. J. Smith and S. Ely, 9th February; Pte. A. Collins and W. Brown, 16th February; Pte. Blake, 6th February.

2nd BATTALION.

Appointed Lance-corporals:—Ptes. S. Flowers, G. Kesby, A. Meagher, 29th January; R. Cowing, J. Lawrence, 4th January; J. Davis, 10th February; W. Bucklow, 25th Jan.

DEPOT.

Corpl. J. Selves, appointed Lce.-Sergt. 26th February, 1901.

3rd BATTALION.

Second Lieut. H. A. C. Waring, from 4th V.B. Oxford Light Infantry, to be Second Lieut., dated 21st January.

Second Lieuts. to be Lieuts.—C. W. Case-Morris and A. I. Irons, dated 7th March.

1st. VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Capt. Holcroft is granted the temporary rank of Lieut. in the Army whilst serving with the Volunteer Service Company, dated 9th March.

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Lascelles de Barry Barnett, gent., to be Second Lieut., dated 27th February.

Capt. B. H. Latter is granted the temporary rank of Captain in the Army whilst serving with the Volunteer Service Company, dated 9th March.

The Rev. J. Hodson, M.A., LL.D., to be Acting Chaplain, dated 13th March.

Lieut. T. L. Price to be Second Lieut. in the Imperial Yeomanry, dated 27th March.

3rd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Lieut.-Colonel and Hon. Colonel W. Hunt resigns his commission, dated 23rd February.

Qr.-Master and Hon. Captain H. J. Norman, from the Woolwich Company, V.M.S.C., to be Lieut., retaining the honorary rank of captain, dated 27th February.

Captain P. J. McCracken is granted the temporary rank of Lieut. in the army whilst serving with the Volunteer Service Company, dated 9th March.

Major E. J. Moore to be Lieut.-Colonel and to command the Battalion, dated 16th March.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE,

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The following letter was received by the Adjutant 1st Batt. from the Cantonment Magistrate, Aden. It is sufficient evidence in itself of the credit which such actions as are described in it bring upon the Regiment, and it calls for no further comment from us. We, however, take this opportunity of congratulating Ptes. Williams and Pellett on their conduct, and we trust their presence of mind and coolness will ever assist them in trying circumstances:—

DEAR SIR,

Aden, 1st March, 1901.

Yesterday a fire occurred in the Jewish quarter of the town, which was got under with the aid of the fire-engine and the energy of those who assisted. I desire to draw your attention to the services rendered by two of your men—

3361 PRIVATE WILLIAMS,
3637 „ PELLETT,

who are reported to have acted with the greatest coolness, standing practically in the fire and throwing down the burning material into the street below.

Yours sincerely,

W. BEALE,
Cantonment Magistrate.

It is my pleasant duty to have to describe to the readers of the *Q.O.G.* a very interesting ceremony which took place at Aden on 18th February, when the G.O.C. Aden District presented to Lce.-Corpls. Ward and Griffin testimonials on vellum awarded by the Royal Humane Society for saving life.

The "Queen's Own" and the 5th Bombay Light Infantry were drawn up in line of quarter columns on the British Infantry Parade Ground at 7 a.m., under Colonel Nicholletts, 5th Bombay Light Infantry. Punctually at this hour Brigadier-General Penton, attended by his staff officer, appeared on the scene, and Lce.-Corpls. Ward and Griffin were called out in front of the line. Brigadier-General Penton, in presenting the testimonials, said: "Lce.-Corpls. Ward and Griffin, I have very great pleasure in presenting you with these two vellum testimonials, which have been awarded by the Royal Humane Society for what, in my judgment, was a very gallant deed. I trust that you will each live long to keep in your possession a distinction which must always reflect honour upon you. It is not always that gallant actions are suitably rewarded, nor, in fact, do those who perform them look for any reward, but it must, nevertheless, always be a source of satisfaction to all when they do meet with recognition."

After the presentation was over the troops marched past and then returned to barracks. The circumstances under which these testimonials were earned were as follows:— On August 6th, 1900, whilst fishing near Syra, Lce.-Corpls. Ward and Griffin observed a native boy struggling in the water, and Lce.-Corpl. Griffin immediately jumped in to his assistance. The sea was very rough, and Lce.-Corpl. Griffin soon became exhausted, whereupon the other N.C.O. also sprang into the water, and eventually, with the help of some gunners who were near the spot, all three were brought safely to land. The chief danger incurred by these men in jumping into the sea was not that of drowning (for they were both good swimmers), but the sea being very rough they were in considerable peril of being dashed against the rocks, and it was well known to them that the sea was infested with sharks.

FOOTBALL.

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On February 16th a football match between a team from Headquarters and the 18th Eastern Company R.G.A took place on the parade ground at Crater Camp. The result was a draw, both teams scoring two goals. The game was not a good one, and the football was not of a very high order, but as it was anyone's game right up to the call of time, the spectators were able to derive a certain amount of excitement from it. In the first half each side scored once. Our point was obtained from a corner-kick soon after the commencement of the game. The gunners, however, equalised just before the half-time whistle, and followed up their advantage by scoring a second goal immediately the game had recommenced. We equalised about ten minutes before time, the ball being put into the net by 2nd Lieut. Whitehead. From this point until the end of the game the advantage of the play lay most decidedly with us, and several times we were on the point of scoring. All our efforts were, however, defeated by the gunner goal-keeper (who was certainly a fine performer), and the game was still in an unsettled condition when time was called.

The result is not one we should be proud of, as we have at headquarters about 400 men to select a team from, and the gunners have only 100, but on the other hand it must be borne in mind that the men who represented us had never played together before. One or two of their team played a very good game individually, but collectively there was, naturally, a sad want of combination. In Lance-Corpl. Harris we have the making of a very good back. His kicking is clean and good, though sometimes wanting in judgment. Lance-Corpl. Falshaw also promises well, and Pte. Gore played a hard and plucky game; the others were not so good. The players were—

Goal, Pte. Hilton; backs, Lce.-Corpl. Harris and Pte. McIntyre; half-backs, Pte. Cork, Gore, and Lce.-Corpl. Falshaw; forwards, Ptes. Taylor, Collins, Burrows, Howard, 2nd Lieut. Whitehead.

TUG OF WAR.

On the 8th inst. the Royal Artillery sports were held on the Maidan at Steamer Point. The chief interest of the spectators was centred in the tug of war, for which the regiment had entered two teams, one from headquarters and one from the detachment at Steamer Point. The heats were pulled off on the evening of the 6th, when the detachment team, after a most exciting pull lasting 7½ minutes, were pulled over by one of the Royal Artillery teams. The pull was, without doubt, the most interesting feature of the sports. The Royal

Artillery, at the start, pulled our team all over with the exception of the last man. Our men then, by locking the rope, stopped the rush, and coming up when the Artillery had tired themselves out, took them the whole way back. So far did they go that with another six inches they would have won. Unfortunately, however, at this point training began to tell, and the gunners managed finally to pull us over. The detachment team had unfortunately not had sufficient training, several men of the team being so done as only to be passengers during the latter part of the pull. On the same evening the headquarter team, who were a very workmanlike looking lot, pulled over their opponents without difficulty. This placed them in the finals, as they luckily drew a bye in the second round. On Friday, the 8th, they again took the field, their opponents being the 16th Western Division Royal Artillery. At the first heave our team secured a slight advantage, but were unable to move the gunners further. In the same way the gunners, try all they would, were unable to move them. This went on for some time, and to all appearances neither side had gained anything. After, however, about ten minutes our men began to show signs of cramp in the hands and several looked about done. Still, however, they stuck to it in a most determined manner, obeying every sign from their coach, and it was not until they had been pulling for 17 minutes that they were finally pulled over. The two teams were made up as follows:—

Headquarter Team.	Detachment Team.
Sergt. Ailwood.	Pte. Crisp.
Pte. Smith.	Corpl. Joyce.
Pte. Collins.	Lc.-corpl. Keleher.
Lc.-corpl. Ward	Lc.-corpl. West.
Sergt. Ashby.	Pte. Finnis.
Sergt. Mason.	Pte. Kilby.
Lc.-corpl. Wood.	Pte. Tucker.
Pte. Peckham.	Pte. Avery.
Col.-sergt. Seager.	Pte. Klinker.
Pte. Pearson.	Pte. Thorpe.
Coach—Pte. Martin.	Coach—Col.-sgt. Callaghan.

1st BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

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Re-engaged to complete 21 years with the colors—Bandsman E. Williams, Pte. G. Klein, Pte. F. Sullivan. Dmr. E. Collins, Bandsman McNamara, and Boy Chant have attained the age of 18 years. Ptes. Jeffrey and Newman have been permitted to extend their service to complete 12 years with the colors, and have been appointed drummers. Ptes. Mercer and Rawlings have been permitted to extend their service to complete 12 years, and have been transferred to the Border Regiment. Corpl. Rodwell has reverted to private at his own request and has decided to become a Scotchman, he having been transferred to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Pte. Pettitt has gone back to his old regiment, the 2nd Suffolk Regiment. Lance Corporal Wakeman has been permitted to extend his service to complete 12 years with the colours, and has transferred to the Royal Garrison Artillery. Corporal Hammersley has been transferred to the Norfolk Regiment on extension of service. Lce.-corpl. H. Smith has been permitted to revert to private at his own request.

The following have been granted and restored good conduct badges:—Granted two: Lce.-corpl. Brown, Drummer Churchill, Ptes. Raines, Stoneham, King, F. Wood. Granted one: Ptes. Jaggs, Bengé, Rye. Restored one: Ptes. May, Mitchell.

Pte. C. Beck will henceforth be known by his correct name, viz., Samuel Charles Fletcher.

No. 1921 Pte. T. King has embarked for discharge after 13 years' service. Lce.-corpl. O'Connor and Pte. Brooker have been invalided home.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Owing to the absence on the "trek" of our regular correspondent the duty of informing you of our doings during the past month has fallen upon my unworthy shoulders. I fancy the last letter you received chronicled the doings of the Battalion up to the morning of January 26th. About 11 a.m. on that date, a convoy, consisting chiefly of empty wagons, arrived, escorted by a mixed force, composed as follows:—

- 2 Cos. R.I. Rifles, Mtd. Infantry.
- The Berks and Bucks Co., I.Y.
- 1 gun, 17th By., R.F.A.
- 2 Cos. Royal Sussex Regt.
- 1 Co. Bedford Regt.

The column being under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Williams (The Buffs), they bivouacked on the left bank of the Wilje River, such wagons as were necessary being brought over to our side. Lieut. Tulloch, who had been away from the Battalion since the middle of August, performing various duties in different parts of South Africa, rejoined, and managed to bring with him the letters of 9 or 10 mails which had been lying at Heilbron waiting for us. These, naturally, were very acceptable to the men, who had been without letters since November 22nd, the date of arrival of our last convoy.

The rest of the 26th, the 27th, and 28th were spent by the garrison in destroying food-stuffs and other articles which were likely to be of use to Brother Boer. It was absolutely necessary that this should be done, as we had not nearly enough transport to take it all into Heilbron. Thousands and thousands of pounds of oats and mealies were poured into the Wiljeor destroyed by fire, and many an officer thought with pangs of regret how well his polo ponies might have fared during the past two months, if only it had been known, what the ultimate fate of these reserve supplies of forage was to be. A dynamite professor arrived with the column, and after several hours of expectation the corn mill was very successfully demolished. The professor displayed keen disappointment at not being allowed to blow up the churches and other structures of interest in the town, his anxiety being somewhat accounted for when I tell you that he is a builder by trade and has been busily employed lately in making work for himself, "after the war is over." On the 29th, at daybreak, the cattle and sheep commenced to cross the bridge, an operation which took a good three hours, there being 2,000 of the former and 3,000 of the latter, who are famed for their poor marching powers. These were followed at 9.30 a.m. by the Dutch refugees, who numbered in all some 20 men, 80 women, and 230 children. Only 15 wagons could be spared to carry this little party, and they presented an amusing sight closely packed on their wagons with the few household goods they had room to carry. Some of the ladies were inclined to be insubordinate at the start, and I am not surprised that our Provost Marshal, when he had once got them on the road, preferred to rejoin his Company and face the bullets of the enemy than endure the angry scowls and sharp tongues of these ladies. The supply column, which was not a very large one, owing to so many wagons being required for other purposes, crossed at noon, and was followed later by the hos-

pital. In the latter there were 8 officers and about 100 men, 20 of the cases being so serious that they had to be carried on stretchers the whole march, and were thus spared the horrors of being jolted for many hours daily in an ox wagon. For this purpose the Battalion had to find 120 men as stretcher bearers, a serious loss to our fighting line, with our already somewhat diminished strength. They were, however, absolutely necessary, and gained great praise from the medical officer for the manner in which they performed their duties. It was thought that even so the move was likely to prove fatal to several of the critical enteric cases, but I think I may say, largely owing to the admirable arrangements and unremitting care of Captain G. E. Mansfield, R.A.M.C., whom some of your readers may remember in Meerut years ago, Heilbron was reached without any such occurrence.

The regimental transport crossed shortly before dark to the new bivouac about a mile to the west of the town, and the garrison having put out outposts in the usual night positions, just to fox the Boer, withdrew them after dark and crossed the river to where the rest of the force was now collected.

Several houses in the town were seen to burst into flames just before dark, which was undoubtedly the work of Kaffirs, paying off some outstanding debts against their friends the Boers.

Frankfort was thus evacuated on the night of January 29th, and the Battalion came under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Williams for the subsequent march to Heilbron.

I might mention here that the whole of the force bivouacked throughout the march, Lieut.-Colonel Williams' original column because they had no tents, and the rest of us, because ours were required for the sick. The force marched at 4.30 on the 30th, the Battalion finding right and left flank guards and rear guard, supported by mounted men and one gun, 17th By., R.F.A. After proceeding about two miles, sniping commenced, and the convoy had to be parked, preparatory to clearing the way. The condition of the roads was terribly heavy, and wagon after wagon got hopelessly stuck and had to be partially or totally off-loaded, before it could be pulled clear. To give you some idea of the rate of progress I should say it took seven hours before the last wagon completed the first 2 miles.

A further advance towards Leeuw Spruit was then made, the enemy being particularly attentive to the right and left flank. It is supposed that they numbered about 500, without guns it is true, and they held an extremely strong position commanding the Spruit, from which, had they held it with any tenacity, they could have made a further advance for us very warm. They, however, lacked courage, and on D and G Companies advancing to assault the position, with E and F Companies in support, and covered by the fire of our old friends, a section of the 2nd By., R.F.A., with whom we have now been connected for so many months, they retired and allowed us to occupy it. Meanwhile, owing to further mishaps to the transport, the rear guard had dropped some way behind, became quite heavily engaged, the enemy attempting, somewhat faint-heartedly, to cut them off from the rest of the column.

By the time the enemy's late position was occupied it was 4 p.m. It was therefore decided to bivouac there for the night. Calculating from the time the rear guard arrived in camp we had covered 6 miles in 12½ hours, under somewhat adverse circumstances, as will be seen from the above.

The casualties during the day were three among the R.I. Rifles, M.I., and Private Jupp of E Company, none of them, I am glad to say, being serious.

We had some rain that night, which did not add to the pleasures of bivouacking, but the force marched again at 4.30

a.m. on the 31st, so there was not much time to think about it. The Battalion was on this occasion finding advance and flank guards, and gained the next ridge, about 4 miles from our bivouac, having crossed Krom Spruit, without opposition. The crossing of the Spruit was, however, a somewhat lengthy operation for the transport, and the rear guard became somewhat heavily engaged with some 300 Boers, who pressed them closely in their retirement across the Spruit. Shortly after crossing the Spruit H Company wagon came to grief, and had to be partially off-loaded to get it clear. During the operation some Boers managed to creep up unseen and opened a heavy fire, Sergt. Thorne's horse being wounded through the shoulder, and a conductor who was assisting received a bullet through his shirt. It was therefore thought better to save what was on the wagon than to run the risk by the oxen being shot down, of losing everything, so the wagon was ordered to clear, leaving, I regret to say, on the veldt, the kits of Lieuts. Bennett and Norman and some 20 men of the Company. After many more transport difficulties, but without very much further opposition, Brak Spruit was reached about 2 p.m., and the force bivouacked there for the night. There were no casualties on our side during the day. We marched again on the 1st at 4.30 a.m., and with the exception of a few snipers on the right flank, who were easily dispersed by shell fire, Heilbron was reached without further opposition. Owing to part of the Battalion forming the rear guard we did not get settled down on our camping ground till about 1 p.m. All ranks were most hospitably received by the 1st Oxford L.I., who form part of the garrison of Heilbron, the remaining troops being the 77th Company I.Y., two guns 17th By., R.F.A., and a 5-inch gun, more commonly known as a cow-gun, the whole under command of Lieut.-Colonel Honble. A. E. Dalzell, 1st O.L.I., who commands the lines of communication from Wolverhock to Heilbron. The 33rd (E. Kent) Company I.Y. also encamped alongside of us, and are now commanded by Lieut. Honble. H. A. Miller-Lade, vice Major Frewen, who has been promoted second in command of the 11th Battalion I.Y.

On Feb. 4th G. H. and M.I. Companies, with Major Brock-Hollinshead, joined Colonel Williams' column, nominally to go on a 10 days' trek. We heard of them last at Kroonstad on the 24th, and they were then starting on a three weeks' trip westward, so there is no saying when we shall see them back again. I hear they trekked 17 out of the first 18 days, covering some 170 miles, and that they were soaked to the skin about a dozen times, but they did not mind as they were being well fed. They are engaged in what is called "clearing the country," and as they frequently came upon large supplies of poultry and fruit, they were obliged to consume them, as it would not have been right to leave them for the Boers and so enable them to further prolong the war. They appear to have frequently been sniped at, and on one occasion, at Paardekraal, about Feb. 20th, were quite heavily engaged, though fortunately with no casualties to our detachment. The two field guns from Frankfort also went with this column, and the 2 guns from here have been sent down to Cape Colony, so we are now without field guns.

On the same date that this detachment left us a great many of the sick were sent by rail to Kroonstad, including Lieuts. Kitson, Mulloy, Lister and Belgrave and Civil Surgeon Turner, who had been with the Battalion since April 18th. Some of them are now recruiting at Wynberg, and I trust we shall soon have them all back again with us, fit and well.

The rest of us have been sitting here for the last month, enjoying, I can assure you, after the experiences of the past 10 months, regular mails, bumper rations, and many of the necessaries and even luxuries we have not known before.

Camp routine is much as usual, outposts every other night, frequent small skirmishes outside the outposts between patrols and a few Boer snipers, and an occasional expedition, more commonly called a "show." On Feb. 14th all available men of the Battalion and the E.K. Yeomanry, all under Major Western's command, proceeded out about 9 miles N.E. to try to co-operate with Colonel Williams' column, which had worked round in that direction, but, as usual, the enemy broke the wrong way, and we had a dull day, getting back to camp about 5.45 p.m., accompanied, during the retirement, by the harmless attention of a few snipers.

On the 25th, owing to rumours that the enemy intended to blow up the line on the following day, the Commandant decided to run the train a day earlier, and to send a force down the line as an additional precaution. Accordingly at 2.45 that morning a force, consisting of 200 men of the Battalion and 25 E.K. Yeomen, all under Major Maunsell's command, proceeded about 7 miles down the line and took up a position guarding it. We saw the train safely through to Heilbron and back again on its return journey to Wolverhock and then retired to camp, which we reached at 3.15 p.m., having met with no opposition throughout the day.

On Friday last, March 1st, Lieut. Henderson and 50 men of F Company proceeded to Cottenberg about 12 miles down the line, and were followed on March 2nd by Capt. Moody and C Company. They are relieving a similar detachment of the Oxfords.

We are now, therefore, sorely reduced in numbers, those now present at headquarters being Majors Western and Maunsell and Lieuts. Isacke, Joslin, Tulloch, Hulberts, and Couch, with about 320 men.

Captain Buckle had to retire to hospital on the 13th, and has since had one of the mild attacks of enteric which have been so prevalent lately amongst our officers. He left yesterday convalescent and proceeded down country to recruit his strength, and I trust he will be with us again before very long.

Captain Flanagan left yesterday to join General Alderson's M.I. in the Transvaal, where among others he will find some 30 men of the Battalion, who proceeded last December to Pretoria from our Harrismith details to be trained, and who, doubtless by now, have become efficient M.I.

Colonel Grove, with Captain Martyn on his staff, is, as you probably have heard, commanding at Krugersdorp. On the 18th Civil Surgeon R. W. Mullock was attached to the Battalion as medical officer, vice Turner invalided. The health of the men, which was indifferent when we left Frankfort, owing to our long stay there in standing camp, has now undoubtedly improved, due chiefly, I feel sure, to better rations and the fact that, being at last on a railway, we have been able to get up cricket and football gear, and the men are thus able to indulge more in recreation.

We of course received tremendous mails of papers and parcels on our arrival here, and though it was a bit behind the so-called festive season, were at last able to indulge in a few Xmas luxuries.

We also at last received many of the cases of the comforts our many friends at home have so kindly sent out, and I can assure them all that their kindness was thoroughly appreciated and will continue to be now that the winter is coming on again.

Our Volunteer Company is still, as far as I know, at Norvals Pont, but doubtless they will send you a contribution describing their own doings.

Several deaths from disease have, I regret to say, occurred at various places in South Africa during the past month, which include those of Color-sergt. Thorn, Sergt. Bennett, Lce.-Corpl. Bird, Ptes, Bish, Christie, Rowe, Barwick, and Roff.

And now having trespassed too long and taken up too much space in your valuable columns, I will conclude by hoping that by this time next month our "pucca" correspondent will have returned, and be able with his more ready pen to describe the further doings of the Battalion.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Heilbron, O.R.C., 3rd March, 1901.

Frankfort, O.R. Colony, December 6th, 1900.
By Native Runner.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

"One-half of this world knows not of the other half" (except through the medium of our far-reaching journals and newspapers), and in the interests of our Regiment, of those who belong to us, but through unavoidable circumstances are left about all over the country, and those also abroad and at home, I gingerly sat down to recount a few of our experiences in a "bird's-eye" style, knowing your pleasure at receiving such jottings as come to the regimental paper spontaneously.

Your correspondent keeps a strict diary, which in its natural brevity and recordial tone must necessarily omit the bye scenes, pathetic and humorous, which inevitably follow a regiment on service, and one would heartily appreciate a few more such correspondents as Pte. Conner of the 1st Battalion.

After reading the moans and wails of the average type which appear in our local papers, although I admit a tremendous per centage of truth in them, I look upon the cheerful letters of the enthusiasts as I do the genuinely funny man in the ranks. He is indispensable and inevitable in a company. A timely joke will do more to cheer us on to the end of a hard day; the topical verse, fitted to a popular air, "goes down" like cool, clear water on a hot day, and one can appreciate him immensely on witnessing his ditties catch on. Hundreds of miles of heart-sickening trekking have been performed and forgotten after a good sleep (when we ever get one), and so from day to day we went through our work with a certain amount of renewed energy, which carried us, oh! how many many miles, cheered on by the funny man.

The regiment, I am proud to say, acquired a fine reputation at the very beginning, which, I am still happier to say, they have certainly maintained. We always made a boast that no battalion could leave "us" behind on a march at home. We throw down the same old gauntlet now. We, you remember, were frequently drawn from the Divisional Cordon of General Rundle's Division to go with the 16th Brigade, and on every occasion we were rewarded with the participation in a fight. But then, of course, all the official records of your correspondent will duly appear, and I must not usurp his position, so the objects, the results, and the intermediate operations being so seldom, if ever, known to us, I ungrudgingly pass by; which reminds me that this state of things had more to do with our anxiety to see the end of the war than anything I can call to mind. If I may, I will use a little more of your valuable space to tabulate any or an average week.

Rouse any time before daylight or at break of day.

A march over such country as you have formed an idea of already, about 15 or 16 miles, sometimes more, sometimes less, often more. Perhaps a mid-day halt for dinner. Then, on arrival in camp, 145 miles from anywhere, we bivouacked, and about every third march it would take the company for outpost, and what was more to be considered, a very early march the next day. You can see then that we get practically no rest for days together, as most times the outpost companies were on a rear guard behind a whole brigade (and of course its transport), and generally we got into camp about time the advanced guard was about to move again. But these are only what one might anticipate in a campaign. Resting here as a garrison we look back and forget it nearly. But a bullock transport on the South African roads, or through the eternally appearing drifts, does not go fast enough to give one a fair chance of marching, and it becomes a crawling, halting, and distance—correcting, kopje—holding struggle, that I really think no army was ever so tried before, and what made the thing infinitely worse was that the destination, that mighty unknown factor, was, as I said before, seldom, if ever, known to us. We knew, everyone knew, that we were General Rundle's "chess pieces," being moved toward the sun, from the sun, at the southern cross, and towards the equator all in 24 hours, and that the incidental sufferings such as hunger, raggedness and cold, wet blankets and soles boots, "jipatty" cooking on the march, and like inconveniences, became dwarfish compared to the universal and perpetual desire for a key to the situation, or at least for the "Mighty Atom," the object. But wait, though! One red-letter day we distinctly call to mind. It was after that Biddulphsburg fight, that has already been narrated in your columns, in which the battalion shone. Col. Harrison, before moving off the next day, told us on parade that our object yesterday "Was to relieve the Lindley garrison of Irish Yeomanry under Col. Spragge, who were exceedingly hard pressed, so that reinforcements from the Boer Cordon would be withdrawn to resist our attack, and that

our fight was "not in vain." We lost 140 that day, chiefly among the Grenadiers, but how cheering it was to know what we have been about. It was an incident which was discussed all through the regiment with the utmost possible pleasure and appreciation. The commanding officer would, I doubt not, have always been only too happy to be able to tell us what we in our hearts desired. And off we went the next day, gay and jubilant at our promotion, due entirely to the splendid reputation of the regiment's own speciality (marching), which I can personally state was a fact known to the whole division. Passing the Guards near Fouriesburg, who were bringing up the convoys, I heard, as we swung by, a stalwart Guardsman say to another, "This is the crush that can move them, Tom!" About this time we were excited and happy. We had got a grip on the Boers at last. We had punched them about a little about Thaba N'Chu and Dewetsdorp and other places, but we dreamt of a firm grip at last, and we were happy. We turned in about 9.30 p.m., but, like the hunted rat, we know not how long we might stay there. Shortly after we got an order to fall in at midnight to capture a hill with the Guards and Leinsters (the only other regiments with us of the division) at the point of the bayonet. Then, "No shots to be fired," as a starting signal, we went out and in and around kopjes and dongas, and finally got to the hill, which hill, I suppose, by morning, was to bear either our guns or General Prinsloo's. We took it and slept. No casualties. That is as briefly as I can possibly put it. To continue, a flag of truce came to us next morning, asking for four days' armistice. Not four minutes (we heard was the reply) said General Hunter, and presently, during our further advance, the rumour came down that General Prinsloo had thrown up the sponge. I heard the commanding officer say that good news was on its way down, but its nature was not yet "given out," but presently, during a temporary halt, such a tremendous cheer went up from a company in rear, which was taken up by the whole battalion, who perhaps for the best part had not heard the good news, but promptly participated in the outburst of joy that, like an epidemic, it expanded rapidly on to the gunners, the cavalry, the "Farmyard Lancers" (the Yeomanry), if I may explain, and so on right through the whole division. It was not for some minutes that the word of command to move could be properly carried out but our gladness found expression in such exclamations as "Next train for New Cross," "This way for Earls Court," "What price biscuits," and "Who can pitch a tent," all of which remarks have a complete story to themselves. Then once more my funny man was heard to advantage. This time the Incurable drew general attention to a wagon load of Boers, genuine and typical, passing us. Everybody was not looking that way, but his naughty spirit asserted itself when he called out "There's 'air," and looking round we beheld the Dutchmen in all the personal glory of long hair and shaggy beards. The hearty laugh which you may naturally supposed followed, acted like a tonic, and the double "tot" of rum, the strange looking tents, the blankets, the thousands of ragged, hungry, but happy Tommies standing to a man, uncovered, singing the National Anthem with such fervour and lustiness, the issue of biscuits (after such a stay on flour only) and the order that no outpost would be found, and the bands of the brigade playing patriotic airs, in which we all heartily joined, and a thousand other incidents, which included a regimental impromptu concert and the information that six thousand Boers had surrendered, made us so indescribably happy that we live on that day even now. We were appointed Guard of Honour to receive the Boers next day at noon. But I should, I'm afraid, weary you in describing them. Brevity is not my strong point, but such a crowd of beings, of all sizes, ages, and even sexes, I had not dreamed of. They sang in their laager to the cordon of "our boys" at dark. Occasionally they got in tune, but in all my experience of Dutch singing I have found that everybody warbles on "his own" until a strong voice asserts itself above their discordant chantings, and it is also to their credit that they all followed him like sheep, being slightly in rear of his lead, and should the air demand a prolonged note occasionally the whole crowd would chance their (not arms), but voices at what we understood to be melody. A much bewhiskered Boer came past one of our men during a spell for breath and a halt for a new lead, humming "Where is my wandering boy to-night" in English, to which the man sung in the same air, "He's gone to Ceylon, dear dad," to the Dutchman's delight (at the joke). We had a good deal to do with Boers from that time onwards. They seem to me to be a people among whom any respectable person has only to assert himself, and, right or wrong, all follow him, and it has only struck me just at this moment that this is the reason Lord Roberts attaches so much importance to the surrender of leaders before declaring peace. What matters it to a Boer whether his towns are occupied? In our humanity, which the Boers have, unfortunately, learned to mistake, they care nothing for wives and children, and so long as the country is called a veldt they will leave all to our charity and campaign on mealies and meat and outlying farms, where eggs and butter and such things can be obtained. We have, of course, burnt down every farm within an eight miles' or more radius, but they trek till they come to one, and so exist in defiance still.

(To be continued).

Heilbron, O.R.C.,
15/2/01.

SIR,—Kindly permit me, in the absence of Colonel Grove, who is on staff employment, to thank through the medium of your columns the many generous donors of comforts to the Battalion under my command. Owing to the exigencies of the service, until the arrival of the Battalion at Heilbron on the 1st February, 1901, none of the many boxes of comforts despatched had been received. On our arrival here, however, we found 25 bales and boxes awaiting us. I need hardly add that after ten months on active service the receipt of these comforts was intensely appreciated by all ranks.

I remain, sir, yours obediently,
W. WESTERN, Major.
Commanding Royal West Kent.

The Editor, *Queen's Own Gazette*.

Colonel T. H. Brock, Commandant's House, Maidstone Barracks, Maidstone, will be glad to receive any comforts which friends of the 2nd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment may wish to send to South Africa.

DETAILS NOTES OF NEWS.

—:o:—

I fear my notes will necessarily be somewhat scanty this month, as very little out of the ordinary run has lately been taking place. Nos. 1 and 3 Companies are finishing their course of field training this week, having had a few extra days allowed them on account of the exceptionally bad weather experienced, especially at the beginning of the course; and for that matter the weather during the whole course has been most inclement. When it has not been wet, the cold, strong north-easterly winds have been terrific, and out-of-door field work has therefore been carried out under very unfavourable circumstances; and the high ground in the neighbourhood of the golf-links and Dibgate Plateau are certainly not the places to select wherein to spend a happy morning when a keen N.E. wind is blowing.

Hardly any football has been possible during the past month, as owing to Sir John Moore's Plain having been so frequently more like a bog than a grassy plain, football had to be knocked off for the time being. There is time yet, however, for some before cricket commences, and as far as that goes a football is generally in eminence for the greater part of the summer.

Route marching came to an end about the end of February, at which time field training commenced.

2nd Lieut. G. E. W. Morris is with the Mounted Infantry Company which was formed a few weeks ago at this station. The company consists of about 140, all ranks, one section of which is commanded by 2nd Lieut. Morris. Twenty-nine men of our detachment are being trained with this company.

Shorncliffe, 27th March.

DETAILS CORRESPONDENT.

We regret to hear of the death, suddenly, of Pensioner Color-sergeant James Parry, on 15th March, at Bromley. He was employed as caretaker at the Bromley Public Library, and at the time of his death was at his post. An inquest was necessary, and medical evidence showed that the immediate cause of death was *angina pectoris*.

We beg to acknowledge with many thanks receipt of subscriptions as follow:—To 31st December, 1901: Admiral Buckle, Lieut.-Colonel Belgrave, Mr. J. Kelley. To 31st December, 1902: Sergeant Watkins (erroneously shown in last month's number as paid up to 31st December, 1901).

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

Last month it was my painful duty to chronicle our "exit" from the Tunbridge Wells Charity Cup. This month I must record our retirement from the head of the Maidstone League. During March the Depot have been defeated in three League matches, one of these being on our own ground. As we are only eight points in the League, and we have only one match to play, i.e., against Tovil, our position is now hopeless. Let us hope for better luck next year. Below are detailed accounts of the matches played during March.

DEPOT v. CHURCH INSTITUTE (MAIDSTONE LEAGUE).

This match was played in tempestuous weather on the Postley Fields on March 6th. Neither team gave a good display, the state of the ground being adverse to scientific play. The Depot were the first to find the net from a corner kick well placed by Taylor, but the point was disallowed, as in the referee's opinion the ball was not touched until over the goal line. Crossing over with the wind behind them the Institute had most of the game, Joy putting in some good shots which were well saved by Spearing. Two minutes before time the ball, slipping from Spearing's hands, Gray rushed in and scored for the Institute the only goal of the match. The Depot were represented by: Spearing, Shaw, Hazlett, Edwards, Savage, Mr. Nunn, Merrick, Selves, Taylor, Maver, and Walker. Referee, Mr. G. Taylor. Result:—

Church Institute	1 goal.
Depot	nil.

DEPOT v. SNODLAND (MAIDSTONE LEAGUE).

On March 9th the Depot team paid a visit to Snodland in order to play their return fixture in the Maidstone League, the first meeting having resulted in a win for the Depot by three goals to one. On starting, even the vast crowd of Snodland supporters had to admit their opponents caused fear and trembling amongst them as to the result; and this feeling was maintained for some time, until suddenly Snodland succeeded in defeating Spearing. This success seemed to depress the visitors, and although Merrick, who played a fine game throughout, did his best to raise the spirits of the forwards, his efforts were unavailing, for, as has been very noticeable in late matches, the other forwards were never up and put no life into their efforts. Again Snodland scored after a fine rush by their left wing. The pace now subsided somewhat, but the vigorous cries of the Snodland spectators roused the home team to fresh efforts, which resulted in a third goal for Snodland. Soon after the re-start time was called, Snodland being left with a well-deserved victory of three goals to nil. Depot team: Spearing, Shaw, Hazlett, Savage, Edwards, Mr. Nunn, Walker, Maver, Selves, Taylor, and Merrick. Referee, Mr. Waterman. Result:—

Snodland	3 goals.
Depot	nil.

DEPOT v. INVICTA (MAIDSTONE LEAGUE).

The Depot, who were without the services of Taylor, were defeated for the first time in a League match on their own ground. Hazlett took Taylor's place at centre forward, but gave a very poor display. The Invicta were the first to score, but the Depot soon equalised from a good shot by Franklin. In the second half the Depot had if anything the best of the game; but Invicta did not neglect their chances, and from a breakaway took the lead and maintained it to the end. Depot team: Spearing, Shaw, Edwards, Franklin, Savage, Mr. Nunn, Merrick, Maver, Hazlett, Freeman, and Walker. Referee, Mr. Waterman. Result:—

Invicta	2 goals.
Depot	1 „

MAIDSTONE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

(Up to and including March 30th.)

	Pld.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		Pts.
					For	Agst.	
Invicta.....	8	5	2	1	17	13	12
Church Institute	9	4	3	2	19	8	11
Depot	9	3	2	4	17	14	8
Snodland.....	6	3	1	2	12	9	7
Aylesford.....	7	1	2	4	8	17	4
Tovil	3	0	0	3	1	13	0

Extract from the London Daily Papers.

Pretoria, Oct. 13th.

A satisfactory little affair took place near Frankfort on the 11th, when Colonel Grove, Royal West Kent Regiment, surprised a Boer laager at dawn on that day. Seven of the enemy were killed, nine were wounded, and eighteen made prisoners. Our casualties, Sergt. Canty, severely wounded.

The following effusion was suggested by the above successful sortie of the regiment.

The Boer Camp—

Asleep! The gaunt rocks and hills around
 Make this, their little camp, most easy to defend.
 But ah! the foolish men who in there lie
 Are wrapped in sleep, in dreams' imaginings.
 Secure from every foe. No man would dare
 On this dark night to move abroad. But what
 Is yon dark mass creeping for ever onward?
 Surely, 'tis clouds rising above the ridge.
 Sleep on! No hateful "Ruinek" would be about.
 They rest in Frankfort; far too small a force
 To venture on a sally. For who could know
 What time the enemy might threaten the town,
 And, through their weakened outpost line, might press
 Right in. Ah no! the English may be fools,
 But, such a vast calamity, would not risk.
 Ah well! Sleep on poor senseless dreamers,
 To-morrow's dawn is not for some of you.

The British camp—

The night is dark; the call to arms has sounded;
 The camp's astir. What means this sudden haste?
 Surely some enemy is near, but no sharp word of warning
 Has yet been passed. 'Tis most mysterious.
 They're falling in! Nor haste, nor undue noise is there,
 No flurry. The camp, then, still in safety is.
 Ah! now they move away with measured tread,
 Passing from sight into the twilight gloom, from whence
 Still can be heard the tramp of many feet,
 Until the strained ears of comrades left behind
 Can no more find a sound worth listening to, and yet
 In wrapt attention, still they listen on, till sleep,
 Their weary task, turns to oblivion: and the night
 Goes on in solemn silence. But at early dawn
 The sound of musketry is heard some miles away.
 At once all ears and eyes are opened, and the men,
 Whom sleep has left in haste, when the first shot
 Is heard, rise up, and, in a frenzy seizing arms,
 Make for the open air. But then their sense returns.
 Their comrades must be fighting. Yes, 'tis they!
 More firing going on, they're in it thick! I wonder
 Whether ours are trapped, or can it be that they
 Have come upon the enemy unawares? Thus some are soon
 Conjecturing on the noise they hear. But yet,
 No news can be obtained. Hark! firing has ceased.
 What the result? Who hurt, or may be, dead?

3rd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

Melleha Camp, Malta,

18th March, 1901.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Since my last we have had nothing fresh about South Africa, except we have received information we are not to proceed there at present. All the companies have completed their field training—Melleha Camp.

The "Marsa," where we had our sports last year, is under water and likely to stay so for some time. Captain Neve and K Company have gone to the new field training camp at Ghain Tuffieha, about three miles south of this.

On Wednesday next headquarters and 400 of all ranks, including band, proceed to Imfarfu, in connection with the visit to Malta of H.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, the remainder staying here.

After that we have no idea of our future movements.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

1st V.B. INTELLIGENCE.

PRESENTATIONS TO ACTIVE SERVICE MEN AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

The members of No. 3 section of L (Cyclist) Company held a very successful smoking concert at the Clarendon Restaurant, Tunbridge Wells, on the 16th ult. in honour of two of their number who have been accepted for active service in South Africa. Sergeant F. Griggs carried out the duties of chairman in a very efficient manner, whilst the vice-chair was occupied by Corp. A. Watson. In spite of very short notice an excellent programme had been arranged, among the various items being mandolin solos by Lance-Corporal Wheeler and Private Wells, a vocal duet by Corporal Rose and Private Ranger, and songs by Corporal Rose, Privates Ranger, Gillet, Skinner, and Pollard, while assistance was also given by several friends of the members who were present.

The Attack—

No sound, no voice, not even whispering is heard.
 As the thin line of Kentish men advance.
 Reaching the summit of the ridge, they lie
 Prone on their stomachs; hardly dare they breathe,
 For there, bare fifty yards away, they clearly see
 The outline of some tents. So white they look
 That e'en the night does scarce enshadow them.
 Sleeping within those careless Dutchmen lay.
 No thought of harm, and yet they restless seem,
 For ever and anon a word is spoke; 'tis some one dreaming.
 Sweet is a dream, but sad when wakening comes.
 Anon, a horse will neigh and snort, his owner comes
 From out his tent, yawns, rubs his eyes, and moves
 Towards his horse and pats it; but the frightened beast,
 Scenting some evil round, will not be quieted.
 The master, still in the toils of slumber, walks away
 And wanders towards the ridge. Be careful, friend!
 You little know what there is waiting you.
 "Hands up!" The order given sharp and stern arrests him,
 His eyes dilate, he turns, with hands thrown up and yells—
 "Ah! Rooineks!" The cry his last on earth;
 For quick a bullet lays him in the dust, and then
 Oh! horror, indescribable. The startled men
 Rush from their tents in terror. While, from countless mouths
 Fire and lead are hurled, ripping the tent to ribbons,
 And the sleeping forms within are riddled through.
 Soon all is silence, save the groans of dying,
 Or the moans of some poor miserable wretch with leg
 Or arm destroyed. Old men and boys, who by their President
 Have been compelled to fight for his own ends,
 Now left alone, not e'en a man whose generalship
 Might be relied on. And they, in fancy safe from strategy,
 Were peacefully reposing, while their thoughts
 Were far away, with mother, wife or children, who
 Perchance they hoped to soon return to. But no more
 Will their fond gaze rest on their loved one's forms.
 They rest from labour and their fight is done.

Comments—

Call you it victory? Alas! 'tis war's illfortune that the strong
 And weak alike must pay the penalty of greed.
 For England's just and righteous vengeance has been ta'en
 For all her sons' illtreatment, at the hands of men,
 Unprincipled; and who, for their own callous ends,
 Would see their people fall in thousands round,
 And tell them falsehoods, making out a loss
 Has been a gain, and so befooling them
 That though their cause is lost, they still do fight
 In a half-hearted way—still fancying
 That they are gaining ground, only to have it dashed
 Away at one fell swoop. And these their President
 Do still smile on, and keeping well from harm, do urge
 These simple-minded folk to further foolishness.
 Ah! Kruger! Steyn! may God your blackguard hearts search out,
 And mete to you the measure you have merited.

J.A.E.B.

BIRTHS.

At Maidstone, on 16th March, the wife of Pte. A. Jepp,
 Depot, of a son.

DEATHS.

At Aden, on 5th February, 1901, No. 4,800 Pte. G. Russell,
 enteric fever.

At Aden, on 21st February, 1901, No. 4513 Pte. A. Wood,
 enteric fever.

On 3rd March, 1901, at St. Nicholas' Married Quarters,
 Malta, Nellie Rachael, youngest daughter of Sergeant C. A.
 Theobald, Perm. Staff, 3rd Battalion.

At Heilbron, on 18th February, No. 5293 Pte. A. Bird, and
 Batt., dysentery.

At Cape Town, on 1st March, No. 889 Pte. T. King, and
 Batt., pneumonia.

At Kroonstad, on 14th March, 2nd Lieut. C. C. Molloy, and
 Battalion, abscess on liver.

Obituary.

Just as we go to Press we learn of the death, on Easter Day,
 of Colonel D. J. D. Safford, late 97th and R.W.K. Regt., at
 Rowlands Castle, Hants, at the age of 63.

Colonel Safford joined the 97th Foot as Ensign on the 23rd
 March, 1855, and in October of that year went to Malta, and
 from thence to the Crimea. After twelve months at home he
 went to the East Indies, serving in the Indian Mutiny, was at
 the actions of Chanda, Ameerapore, and Sultanpore, Siege and
 Capture of Lucknow, Operations in Bundelcund and the
 Chultepore Territory in 1859, receiving the India Medal and
 Clasp for Lucknow.

Again in the East Indies in Dec., 1865 to 1867, during
 which time he gained his Company, when, after nine years at
 home, he embarked for Bermuda, thence to Nova Scotia,
 Gibraltar, and South Africa, in which country he served with
 the Natal Field Force in the 1881 Campaign. In 1877 he
 gained his majority, was promoted Lieut.-Colonel in July,
 1881, commanded the 2nd Battalion from Sept., 1884, till
 June, 1887, when he retired on half-pay. He commanded the
 50th Regimental District from July, 1889, till July, 1894, when
 he finally retired from service, to the regret of all those who
 were associated with him.

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[Vol. XIX, No. 5

1st. BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York paid their visit to Aden yesterday, the 5th. April, and I hasten to write an account of it for the Q. O.G., whilst it is fresh in my memory. H.M.S. "Ophir" with their Royal Highnesses on board arrived in the harbour about 8 a.m., and was received with salutes from the men-of-war and the land battery. The landing, however, did not take place until 4 p.m. The programme provided for a drive to the Crater, where the Duke was to lay the foundation stone of a new hospital, and where the famous tanks would be inspected—about ten miles there and back. The whole route was lined by troops though the numerical strength of the Aden Garrison only provided one man for every 25 yards. To those who know Aden it may be interesting to hear that the Head Quarter Companies were posted from the Bridge at the Crater to past the Mess and round to the Tanks. The Detachment extended from Little Pass to the police chauki on Mala. The Guard of Honour at the landing place was formed by 100 of our men, principally from B. and H. Companies under Capt. Annesley, with Lieuts. Snow and Whitehead, the former carrying the King's Colour. Our band was stationed behind the Guard of Honour. The landing stage and the principal points along the route were wonderfully well decorated, considering the very limited material in the way of greenery which Aden affords. The ships in harbour were all dressed, as also were all shore flagstaffs visible from the "Ophir." The troops were in position by about 3 p.m. and had rather a trying wait for an hour; for an April sun is apt to be warm in Aden, between 3 and 4. A large awning had been erected at the landing place, and before the time fixed for the landing, this was well filled, all officers not on duty with the troops being present besides most of the European civilians and many leading Asians. Punctually at 4 p.m. the Royal launch put off from the "Ophir" and 5 minutes later Brigr. Genl. More Molyneux received their Royal Highnesses whilst the Band played the National Anthem and the Guard of Honour came to the present with lowered colour. An address, presented in a very handsome silver casket was then read by a prominent member of the Parsee community and the Duke replied expressing a hope that some day they might visit India. Mrs. More Molyneux presented a fine ostrich feather boa to the Duchess on behalf of the Aden ladies, after which the Duke inspected the Guard of Honour, with which he expressed himself as very pleased. Their Royal Highnesses then drove off escorted by Lancers, of the Aden troop amidst the loud cheers of Somalis, and Arabs, who crowded a neighbouring hill. The Cavalcade returned about 6.30, when the Guard of Honour again saluted. Having received some Aden grown flowers (a veritable curiosity), their Royal Highnesses returned to the "Ophir." A dinner was given on board in the evening to which the heads of corps and departments were invited. Afterwards there

was a reception attended by all the Officers of the Garrison among others. Their Royal Highnesses most graciously shook hands with all their guests, who then had an opportunity of seeing something of the magnificently arranged ship, and listening to the excellent string band of the Royal Marine Light Infantry. This concluded the proceedings, and the "Ophir" left escorted by her two attendant cruisers at 12 midnight.

FOOTBALL.

—:o:—

On Thursday, 23rd March a return match was played with the 18th. Coy. Southern R.G.A. at Steamer Point. It will be remembered that in a previous game about a month ago this team had played a drawn match with the Head Quarter team at the Crater, on this occasion they challenged a Regimental team, and the result of the match amply justified their temerity for they only suffered defeat by the narrow margin of a single point, which point by the way, was scored for us by one of their own men. I do not consider that the game merits a long description, as it was singularly devoid of any amusing or exciting incidents. The only goal scored (the one I have already alluded to) was from a miss-kick on the part of one of the gunner backs which took a tremendous amount of screw and pitching right in the mouth of his own goal, utterly defeated the keeper by doubling back on its own tracks and squirming through the corner of the goal. Though the defeat of a Gunner Company by one goal is not a performance to be proud of, yet I do not think in the circumstances that we need be down hearted, for it is an undoubted fact that in football, without combination one can do nothing, and in Aden there are no opportunities for "getting together" a battalion team. There has been a considerable amount of company football played since we have been here, with very good results as far as the companies are concerned, so much so in fact that I confidently believe that "G" company's team would defeat any team (however carefully selected) from the remainder of the battalion, but given a fortnight in which to "get together" the team from the remainder of the battalion, and opportunities for doing so, and "G" company would not have a look in, such is the mystic power of "combination" which is after all only another name for the golden principle of "give and take," that principle which is so essential in order to attain success in any of the games of life. There were undoubted signs of individual merit in the play of our team in the game I am supposed to be describing (though I am afraid I have wandered somewhat from my subject), and I think that a very fair team could easily be produced from the material at our disposal. Lce.-Corporal Harris and Pte. Collins are good backs and they both kick clean and well, the forwards, with practice at passing and shooting, would be very fair, and the halves have plenty of

dash, but they should remember that their first duty towards their forwards is to supply them with the ball, and not to kick to the opposing backs. The team was as follows:— Goal, Pte. Brill; backs, Pte. Collins, Lce.-Cpl. Harris; half-backs, Pte. Gore, Sergt. Ashby, Pte. Simmons; forwards, Ptes. Burrows, Ruby, Ellen, Laycock, Lce.Cpl. Ford.

A very successful open air concert took place at the Headquarters on Friday, 15th March. This is always a popular form of entertainment in Aden, as the normal temperature is well over 70 degrees, and therefore not conducive to the comfort of a crowded and lamp-lit room. This particular concert was, I think, if anything, more appreciated than usual, in fact judging from the applause it was undoubtedly so. The re-appearance of Pte. McEuff, who has been in Bombay for the last eighteen months, added considerably to the strength of the programme, his songs "Making the ladies laugh," and "While you're sleeping," which were vigorously encored, were quite in his best form. Pte. Brooker was, as usual, most amusing, tho' the ladies seemed more inclined to frown than laugh. The greatest compliment was paid to the performers at this concert by the Editor of the *Aden Weekly Gazette*, who was so affected by the quality of the music and the skill of the various vocalists, that he burst into song himself on the subject. I have taken the liberty of extracting the words from his valuable paper and of re-producing them below with my most humble apologies. I am afraid that the aptness of his reference to the "Alabama Coon" can only be appreciated by those who were fortunate enough to attend the concert, but that it will be thoroughly appreciated by them I am well assured.

PROGRAMME.

Part I.—Song, "For a Woman's sake," Sergt.-Dr. Budd; song, "The Baden-Powell Scout," Bds. Cassidy; song, "Blue Bells," Lce.-Corpl. Fordham; coon song, "Little Dolly Day-dreams," Clr.-Sergt. Burge; song, "Hanging them out to Dry," Pte. Brooker; whistling, "The Amorous Goldfish," Mr. Snow; song, "Making the Ladies Laugh," Pte. McEuff; song, "Sunshine after rain," Dr. MacCarthy; song, "Jack's the Boy," Mr. Lynch White.

Part II.—Song, "The Shadow on the Blind," Sergt. Allen; song, "The Jap," Bds. Harris; coon song, "Little Black Coons, Good-night," Clr.-Sergt. Burge; song, "While You're Sleeping," Pte. McEuff; whistling, "Weaner Mad'lu" Mr. Snow; song, "Some day I'll wander back again," Drummer McCarthy; coon song, "The Alabama Coon," Mr. Whitehead; song, "The Boers have got my Daddy," Lce.-Corpl. Fordham; song, "Soldiers in the Park," Mr. Lynch White; song, "What does he take me for," Pte. Brooker. "God save the King."

"QUEEN'S OWN" OPEN AIR CONCERT.

(A Memory.)

A most enjoyable concert that
Said Captain Macrae to Major Pat.
I like the way that the thing was done;
Nineteen "turns" and plenty of fun.
In the open air, by the light of the lamps,
We stuck to our seats like postage stamps.
"For a Woman's sake," the while "The Jap"
Was "Making the ladies laugh," mayhap,
The "Blue Bells" and the "B.-P. Scout,"
"While you're sleeping," was "Hanging them out
To dry" in the "Sunshine after Rain."
"Some day I'll wander back again."
But "The Boers have got my Daddy" now,
"The Amorous Goldfish" knit his brow,

And said "What did he take me for?"
The "Soldiers in the Park," or find
I was only "The Shadow on the Blind?"
"The Alabama Coon" uprose,
His face was perfect, so were his clothes;
His song so short that nobody knows
Whence that Coon and whither he goes.
We laughed as we thought of it sometime after
That McEuff truly can *make enough* laughter.

We were all extremely sorry to hear from the Depot by last mail, that Mr. Webb, late Drummer of the Regiment, who was invalided home from India in 1893, is now very ill with consumption at Woolwich, with a wife and child dependent on him, and therefore, through no fault of his own, is in very sad circumstances. A subscription on his behalf has been raised, and over 160 Rs. have been collected. This sum will be sent him by this mail, and if it can be the means of doing him half the good the willing subscribers wish him, it should do him good indeed. More than seven years have passed since Drummer Webb left the Regiment, but he is still remembered as a good cricketer, a good footballer, a good drummer, and above all a good example.

BOXING ENTERTAINMENT.

On the night of the 23rd March, a most successful Boxing Entertainment was held in the Regimental Theatre, Steamer Point, between men of the regiment and H.M.S. Raccoon, now stationed at Aden. The programme was as follows:—

Lce.-Corpl. Keleher, who now holds an unbeaten record in Aden, being unable to find anyone with whom to make a match, sparred three rounds exhibition with Pvt. Lee. The latter made a good show, and should do well with an opponent his own weight. In the 2nd Event, which caused a considerable amount of interest, Pvt. Payne was awarded the victory on points; but with a little more experience in ring tactics, Pvt. Macnamara should one day become a useful lightweight. The latter did not follow up sufficiently any advantage gained, and by this usual fault in beginners, allowed Payne to profit on several occasions by making good use of his superior knowledge of the game. For the 3rd Event both men looked fit, Lce. Corpl. Fordham having the advantage in height and weight.

ROUND 1—opened with careful sparring on both sides, Fordham presently taking the offensive and putting in some useful work with his right. The round ended with a slight advantage to Fordham.

ROUND 2—Fordham immediately attacked and a sharp rally followed, in which the exchanges went still in his favour. At the call of time, in spite of Fordham's right, which had been pretty busy in the direction of Neal's head, both men retired to their corners with apparently little outward damage done.

ROUND 3—Neal received a lot of punishment, and was on more than one occasion rushed to the ropes. The other had, however, taken a lot out of himself in this and the preceding rounds, and towards the latter end showed signs that the pace was beginning to tell, appearing slightly distressed in the wind.

ROUND 4—Fordham again made all the fighting, but was met with several stiff facers, and in the middle of a sharp rally, Neal placed a hard left on the point of the jaw, to which Fordham succumbed, being counted out before he could recover sufficiently to regain his feet.

The opinion formed was, that Neal was the cleverer boxer, his head work being particularly good; but that Fordham, whilst possessing a very useful right, should cultivate the use of a straight left.

Pte. Roberts and A. B. Welsh of H.M.S. Racoon, next took the floor. The advantage in weight and strength was obviously all with Roberts, who, making the most of this, immediately went in, and landing heavily on the head, brought Welsh to the boards, who however was again on his legs after 3 seconds had gone. The latter was dazed, and was knocked down twice again, being unable to recover himself on taking the floor for the third time.

In the 5th Event, which was the match of the evening, A. B. Fido of H.M.S. Racoon, was the heavier and stronger man, but Mausford's knowledge of the game went far to counteract this advantage.

ROUND 1—Mausford attacked and gave Fido some very nasty blows, which, however, had not the same effect they must have had on an opponent more his own weight. Time was called with the best of the round to Mausford.

ROUNDS 2, 3, 4 and 5—All went much the same as the first round, Mausford doing all the attacking. Fido, however, seemed none the worse, and occasionally put in some useful blows.

ROUND 6—Weight now began to tell, and although Mausford did some beautiful work with his head, and still held his own, it was apparent that he had a stiff job before him. He was getting somewhat marked, and was evidently not in the same condition as his heavier and younger opponent.

ROUNDS 7, 8, 9 and 10—Although Mausford, as before, forced the pace, there was no doubt that he was done, being repeatedly knocked on to the ropes by Fido. He however returned to the attack again and again with undaunted pluck, and at the end of the 10th and last round, there was some doubt in whose favour the referee would decide. He gave the victory to Fido. The latter is an exceedingly strong fighter; but has not the same skill as Mausford, who was unfortunately a bit off colour that night from the effects of fever.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

After an absence of 6 weeks on trek, your regular 2nd Battalion Correspondent again takes up his pen at Head Quarters. The South African equivalent of the Office Boy has, I am sure, worthily represented your paper during the interval. (N.B.—The office boy resents his name and would like to be known as the *Locum Tenens*—so be it.)

This letter ought undoubtedly to have been written by the L.T. as any events to be recorded took place before my arrival, but he the (L.T.) has struck work on the staff of the *Q.O.G.*

On the night of March 15th stirring events took place on the railway line between this and Wolvehock. At about 1 a.m. Sergt. Balding and 20 men of F. Company, holding a small post on the line, heard a series of explosions, and at once realized that the line was being destroyed by the Boers. At about 2 a.m. an attack was made on their post by a number of Boers, estimated at about 50 or 60. The attack was well met by our men, and was repulsed without any loss. In spite of the darkness the fire of the Boers seems to have been heavy and wonderfully accurate. The tent and every bivouac could show bullet holes in the morning, and one bivouac had been penetrated by no less than 10 bullets. As pointed by the C.O. in Battalion Orders it is most gratifying to learn that the success of the defence was in a great way due to the initiative of Sergt. Balding, who when taking over his post a few days before thought that the defences were somewhat flimsy, and straightway strengthened them on his own. Would all officers, N.C.O.'s, and men kindly note for future guidance.

The line was not seriously damaged; a few odd culverts were blown up, but everything was put to rights next day, and our bi-weekly train service was not disturbed. Since then the garrison of Heilbron has made one or two little darts out of camp, but a few odd snipers were all that was met.

On March 18th, G., H., and the M.I. returned to head quarters after their six weeks' trek. They all looked the picture of health and the change from the somewhat sedentary life at Frankport had driven out the fever and the various internal troubles contracted at the latter town. This detachment seems to have enjoyed the trek and would, I think, liked to have continued with Col. Williams, instead of returning to the "common round and daily task." We are glad to be able to forward to you a letter from Col. Williams to the O.C., which was read out on parade, and which, I hope, you will find room to print. Colonel Williams and his reorganised column arrived here on March 24th. His stay will not, I think, be a long one, and no one knows his destination.

It is with the greatest sorrow that I have to conclude this letter by recording the death of Lieut. Molloy, which took place at Kronstadt, on March 14th. He had been very seedy for some time at Frankport, but bravely fought against his ills. He had eventually to succumb and went to hospital. He was sent to Kronstadt General Hospital on our arrival in Heilbron, and eventually died there from abscess of the liver following on dysentery.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Heilbron, 26/3/0

The Officer Commanding,
Queen's Own Royal W.K. Regiment.

On the re-organization of the force under my command, which, I regret to say, necessitated the return to Heilbron of the detachment belonging to your Battalion, I feel it my duty to bring to your notice the very excellent work performed by Major Brock-Hollinshead, the officers, and N.C.O.'s and men under his command. During the whole time they have been with me, they have done their utmost to afford me every assistance and I wish to place on record my appreciation of the good work done.

I never wish to command better officers, N.C.O.'s and men. Their marching was excellent; they performed the outpost duty and all other duties in a thoroughly soldierly manner, and the general tone of the detachment merits the highest praise.

Although included in the above remarks, I also wish to bring specially to your notice the good work done by Lieut. Bonham-Carter and his detachment of M.I., who also formed part of my force. Lieut. Bonham-Carter is an officer of exceptional promise, and I consider him an excellent M.I. officer.

Until he and his company joined my command, I considered that I already had under my command some of the best M.I. in South Africa, but I soon found that the Queen's Own Royal West Kent M.I. were second to none.

(Sd.) E. WILLIAMS, Lt-Colonel

Commanding 3rd Corps M.I. and Mobile Column.
Pardekraal, 24th March, 1891.

N.B.—I have been requested by Lord Kitchener to express to the troops forming my late column "his entire satisfaction of the work done by the column," specially in the Doornberg, when P. Botha the Commandant (elder brother of Louis Botha, Commander-in-Chief of Boer Army) was killed, and his two sons badly wounded.

(Sd) E.W.

WITH COLONEL WILLIAMS' COLUMN.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

On February 1st the Battalion marched into Heilbron, and on February 8th G H and the M. I. Companies marched out again with a column under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Williams. The column consists of the following troops:—2 guns, 2 F.B.R.A. under our old friend Capt. Manly, the W. Kent Gunner; 2 Companies M.I., R.I. Rifles; 1 Company M.I., R.W. Kent; G and H Companies; and 3 Companies of the Oxford L.I. The following officers of the Battalion went with the column:—Major Hollinshead, commanding the Infantry; G Company, Lieuts. Luard and Grant; H Company, Capt. Beresford and Lieuts. Bennett and Norman; M.I., Lieut. Bonham-Carter; while Colour-Sergt. Evans was appointed Q.M. Sergt. to the R.W.K. Detachment. We took 10 days' rations with us, and were told that we were off on a 10 days' jaunt just round Heilbron to clear up the district. We left all superfluities at Heilbron, so as to travel light, and we fully expected to return again shortly to headquarters. We have now been 29 days on the trek and are at this moment encamped on a farm called Bronkhurstfontein, about the centre of the triangle formed by Kronstadt, Winburg, and Senekal, and within sight of several ancient haunts of the Battalion, namely, Bidulphsberg, Besters Flats, and Boyesberg. The following is a rough diary of our wanderings:—Feb. 3rd, we left Heilbron and made a semi-circular tour southwards, arriving at Gottenberg on Feb. 13th. We picked up 2 days' rations on the way from Wredefort. From Gottenberg we went north to Elandskop, and then back again to Leeawpoort Station (near Heilbron). At this camp we were glad to meet our mails, and also picked up 10 days' more rations. We then commenced meandering in a south-westerly direction and eventually arrived at Kronstadt on Feb. 21st. We left Kronstadt on Feb. 24th and here we are. And now for our doings *en route*. Our job has been to clear the district, and very thoroughly has the work been done. All families, no matter whether Dutch or Native, are picked up and carried along with us, to be dumped down on the first opportunity and sent to a refugee camp. We drive off all live stock, eat the poultry, and burn all food-stuffs. We burn no homesteads unless they are so full of food-stuffs that the burning of the house is the only way of destroying the food-stuffs. We have had skirmishing of sorts almost every day, and sometimes quite an annoying amount of bullets have been buzzing round. Perhaps the hottest fire we have been under was on Feb. 19th, and again on Feb. 27th. On Feb. 19th, we were at a place called Paardekraal, about half-way between Heilbron and Kronstadt. G Company was furnishing the advance guard, and several of the enemy took up an entrenched position in a farm and greeted the column as it arrived. A thick cloud came over the scene of battle, and taking advantage of it the Boers decamped. We surrounded the farm only to find the bird had flown. On Feb. 19th, we were about 3 marches out of Kronstadt, on a branch road leading to Senekal. H Company were rear guard and had to hold a position while the waggons passed across a drift. About 150 Boers were following the column, and they sat and sniped us at about 1,800 yards range. They evidently knew the range to a yard, for every bullet struck the ground within a few yards of the position and generally within a few feet or inches of the men. It speaks wonders for the way in which the men took advantage of the ground that not a single bullet found its way to any other billet than that of mother earth. During this little action one section of G Company did good work in protecting the flank of the rear guard. On the afternoon of the same day we heard that 50

men of Driscoll's Scouts who had been sent out to join us had been surrounded about five miles from our camp. Col. Williams went out to try and rescue them but heard that they had all surrendered. This cast a heavy gloom over our small column, but about dusk some of the scouts crept into camp in twos and threes, and reported that some of the men were still holding out in a farm three miles from camp. The M.I. went out at once, and Lieut. Bonham-Carter with our own M.I. was the means of digging out the 13 men who were still defending a farmhouse. Of the 50 men of Driscoll's Scouts who left Kronstadt 33 are now with us, and it is hoped that the remainder found their way back to Kronstadt. We have had a fairly hard time of it. We have covered about 230 miles since leaving Heilbron, and not a yard of it has been done on the road as far as the infantry is concerned. Fours is an unknown formation in the column. The five Companies forming advance, rear, and two flank guards, with one Company as gun escort, and are generally 1,000 yards to a mile from the nearest waggon. Nothing is left to chance in this column, and everyone has supreme confidence in our Commander, Col. Williams. We had a terrible lot of rain during the first ten days, and were sometimes soaked through two or three times during the twenty four hours, for we have no tents. There has, however, been no lack of food, and meals are fairly regular. Poultry is food and has to be cleared away. No one knows how to catch a chicken better than a hungry Tommy, and when discipline permits many fat pullets, turkeys, geese and ducks find their way into the Company degshies. The fruit is getting ripe now, and apricots and peaches form an agreeable change to bouille beef and biscuits. Rum is a daily issue. I think this about ends my budget, but I will keep the letter open until the day arrives on which I can post it.

CASUAL CORRESPONDENT.

Bronkhorstfontein O.R.C.,
March 2nd, 1901.

On the 3rd we were joined by Major Pine Coffin with a reinforcement of about 200 M.I. and 250 infantry and 2 guns. The day was one of considerable excitement as the Doornberg, through which the combined columns marched, is a favourite stronghold of the Boers. We beat the covers without seeing much game, but flashed a number of Boers at the end of the cover. Three parties of strength varying from a hundred to two hundred appeared at the same moment. One party rode quietly within 400 yards of H Company, who were right-flank guard, but, being mistaken for a party of Driscoll's Scouts who had just joined the column, they were not fired on. They did not get off quite free, however, as they were met by the M.I., who, after making the same mistake as H Company, discovered their error in time to give chase for four or five miles, during which time the Boers lost three men. On the 6th the column reached Virginia Siding, and received orders to march again on the 7th. This time report says that we are to join in the chase of DeWet. On the 8th, the M.I. went out with a party of mounted troops consisting of Driscoll's Scouts and the West Riding M.I., and met with considerable opposition. During the fighting we are sorry to say that 4264 Pte. J. Pocock was wounded by an expanding bullet in the shoulder and back.

CASUAL CORRESPONDENT.

Virginia Siding, 7/3/01.

I think my last letter left us at Virginia Siding waiting for orders, so I will take up my tale from that station. We had not long to wait, as on the day after our arrival we got our orders for the trek. We had to move as quick as possible to Bultfontein Drift, over the Zand River, to block it before the

arrival of the ubiquitous De Wet and his harassed commandoes. I think we may congratulate ourselves over that march. The distance was 36 miles as the crow flies, and we arrived at our destination exactly 28 hours after our start. Taking into consideration the fact that we had done 20 miles the day before, my diary shows me that the column (largely composed of infantry) covered 56 miles in 60 hours, a fairly useful performance. In spite of our efforts we got no value for our money. De Wet went somewhere else; where, I know not; and, after waiting at Bultfontein dodging about for two or three days, we returned to Virginia on March 14th. Three days afterwards the column was reorganised and the R.W.K. Detachment and M.I. found themselves in the train *en route* to Heilbron.

In conclusion, I can give you a few statistics as to our trek. Our ten days' jaunt was eventually lengthened out to nearly six weeks, and in 30 marching days we covered 343 miles. Every Officer, N.C.O., and man learnt a lot while working with this column, at least, if they didn't they ought to have done. A small column is the best school in the world for all ranks. The field of operations is small enough to be taken in at a glance, and the tactical situation can be easily understood.

The enemy, though they never offered any real opposition, were sufficiently numerous and persistent in their attacks to render every precaution necessary.

When leaving Virginia, Col. Williams came to see us off, and the cheers he received from the men as the train steamed off, showed how they appreciated their late commander. I cannot, of course, answer for all individuals, but I am certain that if Col. Williams ever wanted troops to form a column while the Battalion was in garrison, the great majority of G, H, and the M.I. would be only too glad to accompany him.

CASUAL CORRESPONDENT.

Heilbron, March 19th.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

On Sunday, 21st of April, the troops at Maidstone for the first time attended Divine Service at All Saint's Church. The change long wished for is now an accomplished fact, and the men now have the satisfaction of attending the place of worship where their regimental memorials have been erected.

SOLDIERS' BALANCES UNCLAIMED.

:o:

In the latest issue of the List of Balances unclaimed are the names of W. Brightman, Reginald Thomas, W. Wake-ling, and A. Clarke. The sums of 18/-, £12/16/8, £40/14/7, and £1/19/1 are due to their respective next of kin.

It is noticed with satisfaction that the Regiment has not been forgotten. In the list of South African Honours in the London Gazette, Colonel E. A. W. S. Grove has been granted the C.B., and Major and Bt.-Lieut.-Col. E. Alderson (Local Brigadier General) gets the C.B., a Brevet Lieut. Colonelcy and Aide-de-Camp to the King. We congratulate the recipients.

We beg to acknowledge with many thanks receipt of subscriptions as follows:—To 31st December, 1901—Mr. C. Donnelly, Captain H. H. Kent, Captain E. Allpress, Captain A. J. P. Annesley, Lieutenant G. E. W. Morris, Lieutenant C. D. Barrow, Mr. J. Redmond.

Frankfort, O.R. Colony, December 6th, 1900.

By Native Runner.

I have, I fear, been generalising too much in my letter. I really intended to write just such news as would appear personally interesting, if I may say so to your readers, but I cannot resist the impulse to tell you a little story. It seems fairy-like in its simplicity, and I think the Volunteers will say "Hard lines on us" when it becomes known to them. The Volunteer Company had "gone home" *via* Heilbron, and we settled down here in Frankfort with two month's supplies, which we went on to Heilbron (four companies, one gun, and General Hunter's mounted troops strong) to bring back here, and we returned to camp on the fifth day, doing 60 miles and resting two nights at Heilbron. A small record again. Colonel Legalais (since killed when acting with General Knox) brought us back safely, and here we stayed until another convoy came in, under General Bruce Hamilton, on 22nd November, bringing with it 90 more days' supplies, two months' mails, and tobacco, a luxury which officers and men alike were sorely in need of. I hadn't had a smoke for weeks, and once again, for the "manyith" time, we looked round for "Veldt Bird's-Eye" and "Kopje Returns," productions of this country, which we have all tried with mixed experiences of pleasure and disgust.

Now for the little story. It was on the anniversary of the war, October 11th. Our native runners had reported that "De Dutchmans sleep, boss." The commanding officer accordingly grasped the situation, and on anniversary night the "Sky Blues" trekked out of camp at intervals, with the West Kent Mounted Infantry and Yeomanry, and later, under Captain Manly, R.A., one gun. The destination was reached, a halt was made, and quickly everybody got down, and, having nothing else on hand, apparently slept. Very early in the morning a shot rang out, and in a few minutes all hands were having capital musketry practice. A whole commando was completely surprised, and they suffered to the extent of 10 killed (some hit 20 times), 17 wounded, and 18 prisoners (marvellously alive) were taken. We, I regret sincerely to say, have lost Sergeant Candy, our old left half-back, who died of his wounds and is buried in our little cemetery on Kent Hill. The pioneers are, by the way, executing some highly commendable work in erecting memorial crosses, with inscriptions. I am also sorry to add that Sergt. Montague and nine men of the regiment have been interred there, all dying of wounds received in our fighting in Frankfort's vicinity and of malarial diseases and dysentery. They have left us so suddenly that one wonders whose turn is next. But the anniversary night attack was such a complete success that messages of congratulation have reached us from G.O.C., Heilbron (General Hunter). The success then obviously was due to two facts. First, that perfect discipline was maintained on our side, and, secondly, the Boers had neglected the very elementary practices of war in resting behind an inefficient outpost or none at all. Since then we have captured Commandant Pretorius, whose bushy beard was noticeably much neater and cropped shortly after his incarceration in the local Court House, where the others were. Had somebody greeted him with the Incorrigible's own joke, "There's 'air'?" And so we go on. Last night the Yeomanry sent in to say that Captain Flanagan and the Mounted Infantry were surrounded. Out we went and occupied all the country towards him, to cover his retirement if, as the report said, he was not surrounded but waiting to retire under cover of darkness (which was afterwards quite true). He had, however, wounded one Boer, who was brought in to our hospital. We have often gone out in this way, and it is practically the only way to amuse ourselves, and generally we bring in somebody or some cattle, or put a few Dutchmen on the sick list. Otherwise, until we have our sports near Christmas time (22nd), we go on cheerfully, enduring the horrors of a seige, smoke, and wonder whether the convoy will come along before our tobacco gives out. If we mend the wire the Boers cut it. Quite simple, isn't it? If we go out and give them battle they clear out, but, like the tide, they return, and pride themselves on their daring investment. It is quite funny to read in last October's papers (the latest here) about the "Closing Scenes of the War" and "Pursuit and Hot Chase of De Wet," &c., &c. Who shall say that this is not worse than marching and fighting?

A sale of kit of three men of my company took place yesterday on Beresford Hill. The men turned up, and one could see, unmistakably, the manifestation of charity in their bidding for the odds and ends of a soldier's kit. Three boxes of cigarettes realised the fabulous sum of £1 19s. 6d. (in all 75 cigarettes), a pound and half of sugar 22s. 6d., a small packet of Epps' Cocoa 6s., and a bag containing such things as the accumulations of a schoolboy's pocket (a mystery to the bidders) 8s. 6d., and so the bidding went on, each one showing at least a desire to assist the friends of the deceased.

The many sights of this campaign, I think, will all be described by *the boys* in due time, but it is pathetic to see so much dead cattle lying about on the veldt. It tells its own story, indeed, in such language that in passing one could instinctively shed tears, and often one has hesitated in listening to their mute protest against the consuming exposure

to wind, rain, frost, and sun as to where the handkerchief should be applied. Generally, in its journey towards the eyes, its progress was arrested and used for more practical purposes in fortifying the nose. It metaphorically "speaks" volumes for itself.

The transport difficulty is the same as ever. It is not safe anywhere. De Wet had a turn at our last one I think, but there seems no attack in them worth mentioning. We *shell* the gentlemen who visit us daily at musketry practice, but so far our casualties are one calf wounded. It was a very nice one indeed, and my personal thanks are due to the daring marksman for a good veal cutlet. The owner had one-half of it. We carried it to his house, and had milk in our tea for the fatigue. It was very nicely dressed by our sectional butcher. Mentioning butchers reminds me of another development of resource which the campaign has brought out. A visit to this hill (Beresford Hill), named after its detachment commanding officer, would show you how extremely resourceful the men have become in the construction of bivouacs. Each one is a substantial monument of careful thought and ingenuity. All weathers are guarded against. One actually has got glass windows to it, and (as our comedian says, "One for the ladies") window-blinds. All available material, such as biscuit tins, iron fencing, turfs, wire, etc., are in evidence, and some have ingeniously constructed doors and clothes-lines to them. We have erected a sergeant's mess here of corrugated iron; the interior is eminently comfortable on wet days. Light at evening was a difficulty, also a problem solved. We used to bake meat every day almost in a capital oven of mud and sheeting, but since there were no more houses to be pulled down fuel has become a scarcity. The company in town live in houses, etc., one section being in the Dutch Reformed Church, very much reformed now into a fort. The Battalion holling the garrison at various points is much separated you see. "Kent Hill" has two companies and two 15-pounders, "Beresford Hill" also two companies, "Flanagan's Ridge" one company in a semi-barricade, and "Town Guard" one company." The machine-gun commands the road north, the M.I. and Yeomanry (East Kent) divide the country between Kent and Beresford Hill. Colonel Grove is Commandant; Major Western, Commanding Officer; and Major Maunsell, Provost-Marshal. There are also resident amongst us Lieut. Craig, Intelligence Officer, and Major Salmon, Commissioner. Flags of truce come, and some stay at our various requests. We kept two Dutchmen for our runner detained by them. The town west and south is provided with a natural obstacle, the River Wilge, over which goes a fine bridge, which, being our only means of crossing, has to be carefully watched. A Bloemfontein paper, just in by runner, says we put 26 out of 28 Boers out of action on Sunday, Nov. 25th. I think out of that total eight were killed, so you see our musketry is not to be despised. That, up to date, makes our total 72 certainly, but Capt. Manly, R.A., shoots very straight and often, and it is believed that our garrison can put at least 100 casualties among the misguided Dutchmen to our credit. We have lost a few ourselves, I regret to say, and Col.-Sergt. Grellier, of the M.I. Company, has been recommended for gallantry during one of our sallies under Major Western. This is the second or third sergeant recommended for grit.

The hospitals are full. I think we must look round for more housing. There is an increasing percentage of sickness obtaining among the men, and it is fully expected to spread like an epidemic everywhere. Nearly 200 men are under treatment and advice. All the Boer wounded, under a German doctor and Geneva Cross Orderlies, are doing well. These were wounded in their laagar on October 11th, which we captured.

Rumours run amuk, emanating from the professional camp "chancers," but one that has fastened on pretty well was about a dry canteen which may arrive during the month. Oh! may it be true. One can live contentedly on Quaker Oats and treacle and tinned mysteries even at siege prices. Twelve months on the biscuit is no alluring prospect when varied only with "flower wads" when the biscuits give out. But, as for beer, I don't know what will happen when the "quart per man" from Heilbron comes. I'm afraid the "Incorrigible" will be prominent again. He sits quietly in his tent now in these quiet days when he is not "grouching" about the night in bed and offers to the universe his

"TENT-POLE BALLADS," by MUDYARD KICK-ME-IN.

The first one I look at--

"There was a tall captain named Manly,
Fired off a big gun, straight, one day, and he
Blew legs, feet and arms from the ridge near some farms,
Into tracts undiscovered by Stanley."

A trifle too *Arm-enian* I thought.

The next must have come from the Shakesperian fiend. The patriotic lines are thus mutilated and adapted--

"Liv'st there a man with stomach of lead,
Who never to himself hath said,
Take back this pound, my pound of flour"—and I dish out biscuits.

A local paper once said that De Wet could take plenty of prisoners by tying a chicken on the top of a wall. So the "Tent Poet" mused on again in his plethora of ideas, and attacked the Yeomanry--

"There was an Imperial Yeoman,
Who scouted for chicks and not foemen,
One day 'chanced his arm' at a big Dutchman's farm,
And De Wet took him in tow, man."

But the *guide ropes* pulled hard on the pegs at the following. It came in a tragic mood, and one feels a little uncomfortable that the tragedy itself—Was Never Ended. It is called the

"GUERRILLA NIGHT ALARM."

Slowly, stealthily they came and silent,
Nor needed they the Southern Cross nor
Celestial light to guide them. Each went
Upon appeasing that which generous nature hath him endowed,—
A fearful appetite. "Invicta" their motto, onward came they,
Till, moved to desist, entrenching at each his chosen spot
By upheaving and shock as of a mighty universe.
Quiet and tranquil lay the guerillas, till moved they by
Nature's calling once more. Then, like as elements mad,
And rent asunder, came crashing, tearing sounds,
Shocks violent and awful in contemplation, and lines
Of no mighty ploughs tearing up and crushing existence
In merciless repetition, and voice, louder than seeming
Thunder, saying at each and separate shock, unhook, unhook, you—

The tragedy does not make itself realistic, he assures me, until the poem is nearly finished, but it is said to touch with death and horrors of mutilation of such a character that I could not press him for its conclusion. I do not think there is one.

Yours very obediently,
"C."

We are glad to see among the names of the N.C. officers and men who have been awarded the medal for distinguished conduct in the field in South Africa the name of Colour-Sergt. B. H. Grellier (Mounted Infantry)

"DETAILS" NOTES OF NEWS.

The Company of Mounted Infantry which has for some time been training at Shorncliffe, a section of which is commanded by Lieut. Morris, 2nd Battalion, embarks for South Africa, according to the latest report, on 6th May; 26 West Kent men are in this section. Lieut. Morris is also performing the duties of Adjutant of the Company. A new Company, formed a short while ago, has 20 West Kent men with it, and a large number of men have been medically examined with a view to the formation of yet another Company.

Our strength is fast on the increase, as we now number some 540 of all ranks, but unfortunately the number of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers does not increase in like proportion. Lieut. Barrow has just gone to the Depot for duty, and this leaves us with 1 Major, 3 Captains (Captains Annesley, Allpress, and Kent), and 2 Subalterns, (Lieuts. Riddle and Tulloch); the latter, recently gazetted to the Regiment, and posted to the 2nd Battalion, joined us a few weeks ago.

It was with the deepest regret that we heard of the death of Colonel D.J.D. Safford, which took place, after a short illness, on the 7th April, at his residence near Havant. There are many here who knew him when he commanded at Maidstone, and some also who knew him when he commanded the 2nd Battalion, and a wish having been expressed by some of the men of the Details to send a wreath as a token of regard, a large wreath, composed of white lilies and narcissi, was sent "with sincerest sympathy."

The completion of the G.O.C.'s examination of Numbers 1 and 3 Companies at Field Training took place on 15th April, when a section in an outpost line was allotted to them under Major Daniell. Captain Allpress was in command of No. 1 Company, and Captain Kent commanded No. 3 Company.

The piece of ground occupied was from the Kiln Quarry above Pean to S. Martin's Church. The General came on the Ground at 10 a.m., and inspected the line of outposts, and questioned some of the men; after which the two Companies of the Detachment Loyal North Lancashire Regt., which were going through Field Training, attacked the outposts from the direction of Saltwood, and a fierce battle was in progress, though not fully developed, when the "Cease Fire" sounded.

Owing to the wet state of the ground and the necessity of preserving the grass on Sir John Moore's Plain, football had to be stopped some while ago. Cricket, however, will soon be commencing, and our Detachment Recreation Club, the funds of which have recently been augmented by a liberal grant of £6 from the Provisional Battalion Regimental Institute, starts the season with a good stock of cricketing gear. A meeting of the Recreation Club will take place in a few days' time, when a Cricket Committee will be appointed, and matters connected with the Club will be discussed.

Sergeant W. Colyer left us on 15th April, going to the Depot on promotion to the rank of Colour-Sergeant, a promotion which he thoroughly deserves. He has learnt his Pay-Sergeant's work here under some difficulties, as he commenced his duties as such with a strong newly formed company on 1st August last year. This company for the first month was about 200 strong, and since that time has averaged about 150. He has performed his arduous work here well and ably, and we wish him every success at the Depot. Sergeant G. Rigglesford succeeded him on 15th April as Pay-Sergeant of No. 3 Company. As regards the other two companies, Col.-Sergeant Lee and Col.-Sergeant Neighbour, both of whom joined the Details from the Depot on the formation of the Details at Aldershot over 12 months ago, are the Colour-Sergeants of No. 1 and No. 2 Companies respectively, and the result of their labours speaks for itself, and testifies to the excellent way in which they have met and over-come the various "difficulties of the situation," with such strong Companies and a scarcity of Non-Commissioned Officers.

It was with the greatest pleasure that we heard this morning that Colonel Kelly has been given a year's extension in command of the 1st Provisional Battalion. Colonel Kelly's time would have expired in a few days, and the news of his extension is greatly welcomed by all.

"DETAILS" CORRESPONDENT.

Shorncliffe, 28th April.

3rd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

—:O:—

VERDALA BARRACKS,
MALTA.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

In my last I told you we were to send 400 men and headquarters were to go to Imtarfa, but in accordance with the usual practice, this was cancelled, and leaving one company at Mellelia, the rest proceeded to Verdala and camped on our old parade ground on March 20th. On the 20th the regiment lined the streets—our station being close to the landing place at Custom House—and then after the Royal procession had passed we followed the route in fours and marched past at the Palace and then returned to Florian parade ground, where the men and officers had the usual light refreshments. On the 26th the "Ophir" was thrown open to officers for inspection, and several availed themselves of the privilege. On the 27th, Admiral Sir J. Fisher gave a party and reception afterwards to meet their Royal Highnesses the Duke and

Duchess of Cornwall and York and witness the illumination of the fleet. There have been several dances at the Union Club since Easter, which have been very well attended.

On the 15th April, on the occasion of the visit of the Lords of the Admiralty, there was a great parade of Bluejackets and Marines on the "Marsa" for their inspection and review. Twelve thousand men were landed from the ships of the fleet and made a great show.

On the 18th, the fleet left on its summer cruise, and consequently the place is now somewhat denuded of sailors. Two companies went out to some of the outlying forts here on Friday last to be there during the Artillery mobilisation. To-day our company at Imtarfa returns to Verdala.

On the 25th, the Malta Annual Manœuvres commence, and on Saturday we go out to the other end of the island and drift about from camp to camp and then back to Verdala, unless orders are cancelled.

On the 17th and 18th the Garrison Sports took place on the Marsa.

Our heavy-weight tug-of-war team won the event open to Infantry in splendid fashion owing to the good training of Sergt.-Drummer Newbold, who acted as coach. Prize £5.

Heavy team—Pte. Noble, Corpl. Arundel, Sergt. Wells, Sergt. Crawford, Pte. Thompson, Pte. Hill, Pte. Masling, Pte. Northe, Pte. Hawkins, Pte. Clarke, Sergt.-Drummer Newbold (trainer and coach).

Obstacle race (open to garrison)—2nd prize 30s., Pte. Sudgrove.

Old Soldiers' Race—2nd Prize, 15s., Col.-Sergt. Neighbour.

Officers Veterans' Race—(220 yards handicap) 1st Prize, (H. E. The Governors' Prize) Captain Burbury, 10 yards start.

Officers' Tug-of-War, Final Heat, R. E. v. 3rd Royal West Kent. R. E. won easily. 3rd Royal West Kent Team:—Captain Pine, Captain Oram (attached), Lieut. Allfrey, Captain Burbury, Lieut. Case-Morris, Lieut. Stone, Captain Wakefield.

Lieut. Case-Morris competed in 9 events, but was only successful in winning his heat in the officers' 100 yards.

Our light-weight Tug-of-War team had rather hard luck, as they scaled over weight, and had to put in fresh men at the last moment.

3RD. BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

MEMORIAL.

A memorial brass has been erected in All Saints' Church, Maidstone, to the memory of the late Captain G. Marshall. The following is the inscription which is surmounted by the Crest of the Regiment:—

To the Glory of God
And in Memory of
George Marshall,
Captain, The Queen's Own
Royal West Kent Regiment,
Who, on the 26th June, 1900,
Died of Wounds received in Action
Near Kumassi, aged 31 years.
He lies buried at Edubia,
Gold Coast Territory.

Erected by his brother officers
In Loving Remembrance
And appreciation of his
Gallant and Soldierly Conduct.

A Concert arranged by Mrs. Paget, Oxon Hoath, which took place last month for the Comfort Fund of the 2nd Batt. realised between £30 and £40.

2nd V.B. INTELLIGENCE.

The Battalion will attend Church Parade at St. Alphege, Greenwich, on Sunday the 12th inst., in commemoration of the return of the first active service company of the Royal West Kent Regiment. Parade at headquarters at 3.15 p.m., in Divine Service order.

RETURN OF 1ST ACTIVE SERVICE CONTINGENT FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

It is proposed to entertain the members of above contingent on their return, at a supper and smoking concert, to be held in the Drill Hall at headquarters, on Saturday, 11th May. Supper (cold) at 7 p.m., concert to commence at 8.15 p.m.

The charge for tickets (available for members of the Battalion only), will be 2/6 each, and this will include proportion of cost of entertaining returned comrades.

The Commanding Officer and officers will be present, and it is hoped that there will be a large representative gathering of N.C.O.'s and men of all ranks.

Tickets for the supper can be obtained of the Canteen Steward, or of Sergt.-Instructors of outlying Companies, up to Thursday, 9th inst., but none will be issued after that date.

Members of the Battalion not attending the supper will be welcome at the concert at 8.15 p.m., up to which time the Drill Hall will be reserved for ticket holders.

RETIREMENT OF COL. FRIGOUT, V.D.

The C.O. regrets to announce the resignation of Lieut.-Col. and Hon. Col. F. W. Frigout, V.D., after forty-two years' continuous service, which has included duty in every grade in the Battalion. His hard work and devotion to the interests of the Battalion have earned the thanks of successive Commanding Officers; and in his honourable retirement he will carry with him the best wishes of all members of the Battalion to which he has rendered such excellent service.

FRANKFORT, O.R.C.

To the Editor of Pearson's Weekly.

"I enclose herewith on behalf of the men of G Company of the Royal West Kent Regiment, the sum of £3 19s. 6d. (three pounds nineteen and sixpence) the amount realised at a sale of tobacco, given generously by the officers and colour-sergeant of the above company. Being cut off from all chances of supplies except that which arrives by convoy, the men very soon become 'hard up' for tobacco and other luxuries, and when the object of the sale became known, the auctioneer had no trouble in providing fresh air for the children at 9d. per head. The original store cost prices would amount in all to 4s. 6d, but the 'boys' ran each other up in the bidding without any hesitation, and the winners of the much-prized smoke were happy enough in their luck. Our regrets were that we could not raise a cigarette for sale. Any money at all would have been offered. Will you please, as is usually the case, name that day in which the money is used after the donors, *i.e.*, G Company Royal West Kent Day, as the men were told this would be done?"—This, of course, I gladly do. What is the next regiment to which I may apportion out a day?

REGIMENTAL DINNER.

NOTICE.

In consequence of the death of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, there will be no regimental dinner this year.

Obituary.

DEATH OF LIEUT. C. C. MULLOY, 2nd BATT.

Since our last month's number we have received some particulars as to the last illness and death of Lieut. Mulloy. It appears that for some considerable time Lieut. Mulloy had been suffering from illness, but would not give in. In the end he had to be admitted to the hospital, and there it was discovered that he was suffering from enteric and abscess of the liver. His constitution, weakened by his continuing to do duty when really ill, could not stand this combination of illnesses, and he finally passed away at Kroonstad Hospital on the 14th March. Lieut. Mulloy joined the 2nd Battalion from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, on the 25th March, 1896, and obtained his lieutenancy on the 28th Sept., 1898. We offer our deepest sympathy to Colonel Mulloy in the loss of his son.

DEATHS.

At Cottonera Hospital, Malta, on 28th of March, 1901, Corpl. W. C. Riordan, "I" Co. and band, 3rd Battalion. Mediterranean Fever, aged 43. Buried at Aldorata Cemetery, Malta.

At Cottonera Hospital, Malta, on 20th April, 1901, No. 1866, Col.-Sergt. J. Eke, permanent staff and "F" Co. 3rd. Battalion, aged 33. Buried at Rinella Cemetery, Malta.

At Heilbron, on the 23rd February, 5168 Pte. M. Christie, of enteric.

At Heilbron, on the 5th March, 4339 Pte. F. Abbey, of enteric.

At Heilbron, on the 15th March, 4136 Pte. R. Ball, of dysentery.

At Harrismith, on the 12th March, 4649 Pte. W. J. Mills, of enteric.

At Harrismith, on the 31st March, 5507 Pte. J. E. Macey, of enteric.

At Kroonstad, on the 1st April, 4332 Pte. F. Gordon, of enteric.

At Harrismith, on the 2nd April, 2480 Lce.-Corpl. A. Chandler, of enteric.

At Harrismith, on the 1st May, 5487 Pte. C. Huntley, of enteric.

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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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).

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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. 313.

MAIDSTONE, JUNE 1st, 1901.

[Vol. XIX, No. 6

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

LINE BATTALIONS.

Second-Lieut. C. H. Stigand to be Lieut., dated 13th March, 1901.

Second-Lieut. G. E. W. Morris is granted the temporary rank of Lieut. whilst employed with the Mounted Infantry, 10th April.

Second-Lieut. H. W. Snow to be Lieut., 15th March.

Arthur D. Knox (Honorary King's Cadet) to be Second-Lieut., 8th May.

Godfrey H. S. Shaw to be Second-Lieut., 8th May.

Capt. G. S. T. Fenning, 3rd Battn., to be Second-Lieut., 14th May.

3rd BATTALION

W. C. O. Phillips, gent., to be Second-Lieut., 5th April.

Second-Lieut. G. H. Redfern to be Lieut., 3rd April.

Secoud-Lieut. J. A. Gardner to be Lieut., 3rd April.

2nd VOL. BATTALION.

The undermentioned gentlemen to be Second-Lieuts.:—
G. R. Edey, 13th April; L. E. Haines, 13th April.

E. C. L. Smith, gent., to be Lieut. Cadet Corps (attached), 13th April.

Lieut.-Col. and Hon. Col. F. W. Frogout resigns his commission with permission to retain his rank and wear the uniform of the Battn. on retirement, 27th April.

Surg.-Lieut. R. A. Fegan to be Surg.-Capt., 8th May.

Major E. Latter to be Lieut.-Col., 15th May.

Capt. and Hon. Major E. J. Heward to be Major, 15th May.

3rd VOL. BATTALION.

Second-Lieut. A. J. Dodd to be Instructor of Musketry, 4th May.

Capt. J. Swiss to be Major, 22nd May.

4th VOL. BATTALION.

J. C. Nash, gent., to be Second-Lieut., 22nd May.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

The hot weather has set in in earnest and all is damp unpleasantness. It is considerably hotter than this time last year. There are very few events to be recorded. I enclose an account of a successful game of polo, and after informing you that A Company drew at hockey with one Gunner Company, defeated another by 2 goals, and took the bad knock from Steamer Point A.T.A., I believe I have exhausted most of my information. The Companies at Steamer Point at present are A, C, and O, with the band and drums. The band plays once a week at each of the clubs, and Steamer Point thoroughly appreciates it. Capt. Style and Lieuts. Bush and Dunlop have left for England on leave, and Capt. O'Dowda goes on sick leave immediately, his place as A.D.C. being taken over by Capt. Burt.

YOUR 1ST BATTN. CORRESPONDENT.

POLO.

ADEN v. THE OFFICERS (1ST BATTALION).

The afternoon of Tuesday, May 7th, was the occasion of a polo match between Aden and the Officers of the 1st Battalion, so from 3 till 6 a continuous stream of gharis might have been observed issuing from the Barrier Gate and flowing along the two miles of dusty uninteresting road which separates Aden Fortress from Rhormaksar—the headquarters of the Aden Polo Club. The contents of these gharis were first the band, then the tea and refreshments, and finally the greater part of Aden society. Hardly had the most belated of the guests arrived than the most bored of the early arrivals began to depart, and the procession, or stream as I have called it above, began to flow in exactly the opposite direction, until at about 8.0 Rhormaksar Plain was again as desolate and bare as it had been in the morning. Anyone observing this performance from the top of Shum Shum must have been reminded of the antics of the man behind an American bar who empties your drink from one glass into another and then back again, in this case Aden representing one glass, Rhormaksar the other, and Aden society the drink; the simile is perhaps far fetched, but it is an idea born of a hot climate and an insatiable thirst, and one which for that reason should appeal to those who share with me the misfortune of having to live in Aden in May. I must not forget, however, that the description of a polo match is my objective at present, and not that all-absorbing subject drink and its connection with this unpleasant spot, Aden. At five o'clock sharp the band was ready to play, the tea was ready to be drunk, and the advanced guard of Aden society had arrived, consequently the game began. The teams were:—for Aden, Major Carleton and Capt. Parker of t

the Gunners, Mr. Bell of the Suffolk Regt., and Mr. Murray of the P. and O. Company; while Messrs. Robinson, Bush, Hastings, and Snow represented ourselves. Capt. Palmer, R.G.A., kindly undertook the rather thankless task of umpire.

In the first chucker we scored a couple of goals. The play was decidedly fast, and the goals were both the results of fine runs by Bush. Aden played up hard and were once or twice dangerous, but failed to score. The heat was intense.

The second chucker was very even. We had, perhaps, a slight advantage in the play, and Robinson succeeded in scoring. Everyone bustled about a great deal, and even the ponies seemed to know that they were playing a match. The game was decidedly fast, and already some of the players showed signs of distress. The heat was still intense.

The third chucker was fast and furious from beginning to end, and the play very even, no points being scored by either side. Aden did their utmost to get a goal, but they could not quite manage it. Both men and ponies were nearly done, and judging from their appearance, the heat had become still more intense.

The fourth chucker was by common consent abandoned, everyone being thoroughly cooked, so that the victory rested with us by the substantial advantage of 3 goals to nil. The players then spent a pleasant half hour in the futile but enjoyable endeavour to quench their thirst, while the ladies expressed in extravagant language the interest they took in watching polo, and then completely gave themselves away by asking such questions as "Who won?" and "How many people play on each side?" Personally I enjoyed myself, and I hope everyone else did; an excuse to get out of "torrid but beautiful Aden" is always welcome, and the opportunity of entertaining ones friends to tea, and listening to the band was certainly appreciated by us, and as far as I can gather, it was also appreciated (though of course in a less marked degree) by them. The words which I have put in parenthesis above were used by a *Times* correspondent in describing Aden on the occasion of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York's visit here a few weeks ago. I cannot pass by the opportunity of saying that after 18 months' residence, I consider the first of the adjectives he uses as appropriate as the second is the reverse of appropriate. There is a certain poet—I forget which—who talks about finding sermons in stones; the gentleman who finds beauty in Aden has been still more successful; personally I could more easily find champagne in an empty soda-water bottle.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

This letter is purely and solely a duty letter, for I have no stirring tales to relate, and nothing of much interest has come to my notice. We are hard at work at the never ending job of building fortifications. As soon as one work is done, another is promptly started. Heilbron would be a hard nut for anybody to crack now, but give us another month and it will be impregnable. The men are rapidly becoming trained engineers, and I hear that one man on going to the reserve is to start a school to instruct embryo Napoleons in the art of scientific sod cutting.

One might easily have to put in time at a worse place than Heilbron. It is certainly a bit out of the world, but on the

whole the men cannot be said to be having a bad time of it. Mails arrive once a week, rations are plentiful and good, and the duties are not very severe. Every company has now got a fair amount of sporting gear. Cricket matches are played nearly every day, and the left flank of camp is dotted with rifle pits caused by the constant playing of quoits. There are a sufficient number of Boers about to keep the outposts thoroughly alert at night. Small parties of 3 or 4 are constantly dodging round the camp to see if they can pick up any straying animals or men, and hardly a night passes without a few shots being fired by the outposts.

Of actual fighting we see little. Colonel William's column often pays us a visit to pick up supplies, and then departs to sweep fresh districts. On March 27th, Major Western went out in command of a small column to co-operate with Colonel Williams, and returned again on April 4th. E and F companies were included in his column. They met a good many Boers, and had quite an interesting trek. I understand that an officer with this column is writing you a short account of it.

On March 8th, Colonel William's column left Heilbron, and Lieutenant Bonham-Carter and our Mounted Infantry accompanied his force. In all probability the Mounted Infantry will now be permanently attached to this column, and will cease to be an integral portion of the Royal West Kent Infantry Battalion.

On March 11th, a small column, including D, F and H Companies went out for the day to collect some mealies from a farm close by. The day was quite a pleasant one, but not of much interest; a few Boers only were seen, and they did not annoy us much, though they managed to hit one of the new I. Y. through the hand. I hear that the wounded man is quite a hero in his corps.

The new I. Y. affords us a certain amount of amusement, as, although I have no doubt they will soon be an efficient body of men, yet their qualifications as soldiers at the present moment are of the sketchiest nature. The company here at Heilbron is busy learning the art of equestration. They are as keen as mustard, and judging by the stiffness of some of them when they get off their horses, they are undoubtedly earning their five bob a day. This same five bob a day is somewhat galling to Mr. Atkins who has been on service for the last twelve months, but we must remember the little parable of the men taken on in the vineyard at the eleventh hour at the exorbitant rate of 1d. I enclose a small effusion by our budding laureate on this subject.

The approach of winter is beginning to be felt by all. If any charitable reader wishes to send comforts for the benefit of the staff, "Queen's Own Gazette" in South Africa, please ask him to send a full size sealskin jacket, addressed to your

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Heilbron,
April 12th, 1901.

:o:

COMFORTS FOR THE 2nd BATTALION "THE QUEEN'S OWN" (ROYAL WEST KENT REGT.)

Col. Brock desires to express his grateful thanks to the many friends of the 2nd Battn. who have kindly contributed either in money, tobacco, or clothing.

Money amounting to £129 3s. 6d. has been received from the following:—Mr. Pembroke, Mr. J. B. Johnstone, Mr.

Bonham-Carter, Capt. Heygate, Major Jones, Capt. Long, Mr. H. Monckton, General Leach, Capt. Lees, Mrs. Mercer, Col. Richmond, Mrs. Western, Mr. T. N. Hill, Mrs. Marriott, Mrs. Ruck, Mrs. Luard, W.F. and anonymous, Mrs. Maunsell; and £32 from Mrs. Guy Paget, proceeds of a concert at Oxon Hoath.

Clothing and tobacco have been received from Mrs. Watney, Mrs. Heather, Mrs. G. Winch, Miss Druce, Mr. G. Marsham, Col. Sankey, Mr. Druce, Mr. Isacke Mrs. Satterthwaite, Mrs. Killick, Miss Goodenough, Miss Cockerill, Miss M. S. Jones, Mrs. Franks, Miss Morier, Colonel Henderson, Mrs. Maunsell, Mrs. Moody, Mrs. Gascoigne, Mrs. Moir, Mayoress of Maidstone, Miss Sheppard, Rev. S. Wigan, Mr. W. Hunt, Mrs. Luard, Mrs. R. F. E. Paget, Mrs. Nunn, Mrs. Platt, Mr. W. Kent Archer, Miss Burney, Mrs. Pullman, Miss Knight, Anonymous, and from Wilverly, Holtye.

All the clothing, which filled 12 large cases, has been dispatched, as well as 750-lbs. of tobacco and 750 pipes.

£50 still remains to be expended, awaiting information from the Battalion as to what is most needed.

A SIX WEEKS' TREKK.

—:o:—

HEILBRON, O.R.C.,

February 4th, 1901.

Three Companies of the R.W. Kent Regiment, viz., "G," "H," and M.I. Co., were ordered to form part of a mobile column under Col. Williams. The object of the column was to clear the country of cattle and food supply, and bringing in Boer families. These operations were chiefly conducted in a south-westerly direction, including the Kroonstad and Ventersburg districts.

At 4.30 p.m. on 4th February, we moved off in the direction of a place called Spitz Kop. The convoy was chiefly composed of empty bullock wagons drawn by eight span of oxen. These wagons were to bring Boer families and their goods and chattels to the various Refugees' Camps *en route*, quite a respectable lot, I assure you, measuring from the head of the convoy to the rear quite 2½ miles. We armed at Spitz Kop, which was held by a few Boers, who, however, were quickly in headlong flight, after a few well-placed shells from our two 15-pounders. Here we picked up three families with five children, who, evidently, were not so bad off after 16 months war—flour, butter, and tea and sugar in galore, sacks of mealies, which we at once destroyed. Our onward march was continued day by day, with the same results; four families one day, six or seven another, until about the 9th day it was found our convoy was full, when we then made for the railway at Kopje siding near Vredefort to entrain our load for the nearest refugee camp, which, I believe, was Wolvehoek. This we did on the 10th day. I might here observe that the women were treated by us with the greatest kindness. It was a treat to see little children climbing all over Tommy at the end of his day's march for the purpose of receiving biscuits and jam, which, by the way, they are more fond of than I. Old men, too, who were too old for commando, would come up and ask Tommy for tobacco, and although this fragrant weed was at a premium they invariably

received a pipe-full. In fact, an European not knowing the fact would scarcely have took them for enemies. About the 15th February we drew another 10 days' supply, and wagons again empty, we started on our second trip with the same results—day by day desultry shelling and long range rifle fire, and a few casualties here and there; the inevitable or rather ubiquitous snipers, hidden behind rocks, who scoot off at our near proximity. We entrained this load at a place called Leeuwoort, quite close to Heilbron. Drew ten more days' supply, and started this time in the direction of Kroonstad. I mention this fact as I consider it by far the worse trekk, called the 3rd trekk. We started off about 4.30 a.m., burning and commandeering everything likely to assist the Boers in their guerilla style of warfare. All went well till about the third day, when, owing to the heavy down-fall of rain, a mist arose, and one could scarcely see his comrade right or left. My Company ("G") was escort to guns. We were now coming over a hill leading to a deep spruit, when the Boers opened a terrific rifle fire from a farmhouse, about 800 yards in our direct advance. The Artillery, under Captain Manley, 2nd Battery R.F.A., opened a shrapnel bombardment, which speedily put brother Boer on the scoot. This delayed us an hour or so. The women appeared to be very little frightened, and took it all in good part. We moved on again, and the rain poured in torrents, something like a second deluge. We were, for the third time this day, drenched to the skin, and not a very comfortable feeling to go on outpost with by any means. We arrived at Kroonstad the next day, rested for two days, drew the necessary supplies, and started this time in the Ventersburg direction. 4th trekk. It was on this trekk Philip Botha, brother to Louis Botha, was killed and his two sons seriously wounded on the Doornburgs. They were, I am told, dressed in khaki, so deserved their fate. Also a corporal of the West Riding M.I. was killed, and the Boers refused to let us fetch his dead body. After trekking five days with the same results, we passed through Ventersburg, and encamped one days' journey from Virginia siding. We had halted for the night, when we received sudden orders to reach our destination that night. We moved off at 6 p.m., and never shall I forget this night. I never have read of an ordinary convoy by night, so can hardly describe it. The road was one mass of wagons, full of females—some were walking. Kaffirs, male and female, with loads of mealies on their heads, and the bullock drivers' hideous yells (Agua), etc., the bleating of the thousands of sheep, and bellowing of bullocks all combined, seemed to be a scene from another world. Virginia siding being reached at mid-night, we bivouacked and took a much-needed repose. At noon next day we moved off again, this time as a fighting force, to take up a position at a drift near where the Vet and Rand Rivers join. This drift is crossed by the main road from Bulfontein to Hoopstad. Our object was to stop De Wet, who had been scattered by Colonel Plumer, from crossing at this point. We marched all night and day, took up our position, entrenched ourselves and guns; also we were reinforced by a column from Winburg, and one came by rail from Bloemfontein, but all to no avail. De Wet broke across the line and scooted East, so we sadly wended our way back to Virginia, sadder, if not wiser, men. I may mention we were the subject of some very complimentary remarks on our marching, etc.; also the M.I. Company greatly distinguished themselves, who also have been in receipt of a memo. to this effect. At Virginia siding we entrained again for Heilbron, parting from Colonel Williams with regret. He came to see us off, and was the recipient of a great deal of cheering, and here ended the fourth and last trekk.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE COMPANY.

The arrival of the "Tagus," due at Southampton on 28th April, was awaited with much interest by the Kentish fraternity, for it conveyed to England, amongst others, the West Kent Volunteer Company who, it will be remembered, had gone out to South Africa in the same ship a year previously. Owing to delays the boat arrived too late on Sunday night for the disembarkation of the troops on board to take place, but early next morning they landed on English soil, and the West Kent Service Company reached Maidstone on the Monday afternoon.

The Company was met at the station by the bands of the Depot and Volunteer Detachments, who preceded them to the Old Church, where they were joined by the Mayor and Corporation. After a short thanksgiving service a hearty welcome home was accorded the men by the Mayor from the steps of the Town Hall. The march to the barracks, or rather the struggle to the barracks, through the large concourse of people occupied some time, on reaching which Colonel Brock addressed the Company. A substantial meal was served in the drill-shed, and in the evening the men were entertained in the Corn Exchange. Mr. W. Dawson was entrusted with the catering.

The following day was necessarily one of bustle, but owing to the adequate arrangements, which went as regular as clockwork, the discharges of the 111 men were carried out, and the men despatched to their destinations by the afternoon.

To describe all the various functions, the hearty welcomes which were given at every town or village from which the various members of the Company were drawn would be too much of a tax on the space at disposal, suffice it to say that everyone vied with his neighbour in welcoming home the men, and that the welcomes were heartfelt and enthusiastic goes without saying.

Thanksgiving services have been held, and honour done to the memory of those who have fallen in the war.

Below is given a list of casualties which have taken place in the Company since it first proceeded abroad:—

Died in South Africa—Sergt. Eveleigh, Charlton; Corpl. Harold Marchant, Sevenoaks; Privates F. J. Wilcox, Tunbridge; H. Barnes, F. A. Helmer, H. W. Turpin, Blackheath.

Died on Voyage Home—Private H. Twort, Sevenoaks.

Invalided home previously—Privates C. W. Clayson and C. Clifton, Maidstone; W. H. Richardson and W. S. Lee, Tunbridge Wells; Corpl. A. C. Pakes, Private L. de B. Barnett, and Private Tovey, Blackheath.

Left in South Africa—Private J. W. Hope, Maidstone; Private H. Gaston, Tunbridge Wells; Lance-Corporal R. Loveland, Sevenoaks.

At Netley Hospital—Private J. Dunwell, Dartford.

Joined I.M.P.—Privates G. R. Bunce, P. A. Hesman, and H. E. Mortlock, Blackheath; T. Turney, Dartford.

FAREWELL ORDER BY CAPT. G. MORPHEW.

The O.C. Volunteer Active Service Company, Royal West Kent Regiment, in taking leave of his command, wishes to express how deeply he feels the true and earnest way in which every individual has worked for the success of the Company. Without such co-operation, it would have been

impossible to have obtained such high praise from the various Commandants under which it has served, notably the C.O. of the Battalion, the O.C. Regimental District, Major the Hon. G. Leigh, 3rd Grenadier Guards, the Major-Generals commanding the 16th and 17th Brigades, and the Lieut.-General commanding the Eighth Division.

Captain Morphey feels, however, that he is not in reality taking leave of the Company, for the hardships all have endured have created bonds of comradeship between him and all ranks which can never be broken, and he will continue to watch with interest the future career of those he has had the honour to command. His greatest regret is not to have been able to bring back all who so nobly volunteered. The risks inseparable from active service have, of course, prevented this, but those who have laid down their lives for Queen (King) and country will ever live in affectionate memory.

Words fail to express the thanks he would particularly render to both officers and N.C.O.'s, especially to Lieut. C. N. Watney, who for so long had practical charge of the Company.

G. MORPHEW, Captain,
Commanding Vol. Active Service Co.,
2nd Royal West Kent Regiment.

Maidstone, 30th April, 1901.

:o:

To the Editor of the Queen's Own Gazette.

DEAR SIR,

While I was parted from my Company (acting S.S.O.) at Norvalspont, the incident referred to in the following letters occurred. I heard of it casually afterwards but did not know until I made enquiry after arrival in England that such a brave act had been performed by one of the Vol. Active Service Co. I have written to South Africa to find out who was the rescued one, and to ask for a signed account of what took place. In the meantime I think the accounts of the eye-witnesses should appear in this GAZETTE, as a proof that we have brave fellows in our midst. As soon as I get the necessary statement from South Africa I hope to draw the attention of the Royal Humane Society to the deed, but whether they take cognizance of it or not I feel sure we of the "Queen's Own," whether regulars, militia, or volunteers, whether officers, N.C.O.'s, or men, will commend the brave act which undoubtedly took place. At present, perhaps, it will be better to mention no names. The rescuer himself is very modest and does not consider he did anything worth "talking about," but in answer to much questioning I elicited the following:—

He was with No 1, the Donga piquet. Believes the person rescued to belong to the ————Regt. It was in the afternoon about 3. It was below the bridge near the piquet on the north side of the river. Two persons were fishing from the rocks. He heard someone calling, went down and saw the rising river had cut them off. The "fall-in" had just sounded for a fatigue for broken pontoon bridge. One person swam ashore by himself; the other was apparently exhausted. The rescuer took off his jacket and went in to the other for about 30 yards, got hold of him and swam with him to the shore.

On this I found out who would have been likely to have seen the occurrence, and separately asked them to write and tell me what they saw. The four men who witnessed it live apart, two at opposite ends of the same town, the other two in other and separate towns. Following are their letters—The originals are in my possession at present—

"I was doing outpost duty with———when we heard cries for help come from river. When arriving there we found two———on the rocks. The current was so strong they could not get back. They asked us to go for help. I went up to their camp, and on arriving back one———had reached the shore, and the other was taken about 200 yards down by current, and———went after him and managed to get him out. Both were completely done up. (Signed)———"

"I, with———and———was on river piquet on the Orange River at Norvals Pont on or about the———I heard a cry for help which I reported to———and we went to ascertain the cause and found two———of the———Regiment in the middle of the river. Me and———went to the rescue.———sent———to camp for assistance. In the meantime one———gained the shore, and the other became exhausted, and———and myself went into the water and rescued him.———returned with the assistance and a medical officer. I do not know the names of the———concerned." (Signed)———"

"We was on piquet together, heard cries for help, went to the river and saw two———surrounded by water. One swam ashore alright, the other plunged into the water and swam towards the bank when the tide carried him away, and there———went in to his aid for he was nearly done, and brought him to the bank. I do not think he would have got out otherwise, the river was running very high, and was dangerous at that spot. I have been away, or I would have wrote before."

"When———saved———from drowning he was———on the post in the wood close to the river. We had seen———fishing from off the rocks in the middle of the river. We heard someone shouting and we thought it came from the river, so we ran down and found the water was already up to the rocks where but a short time before they had been fishing from. So one of our chaps went up to the———Regt. and told them all about it, and they sent a few men down, but while he was gone one of the two swam ashore (he must have been a strong swimmer), but the other one he kept waiting, and all the time the water was gradually rising. We shouted to him to swim it and at last he did, but the current was so strong it took him down the river about 100 or 150 yards. The poor chap was nearly exhausted so———went in and brought him safely to the shore. I don't think he could have got in by himself. He had lost all his clothes and boots. He laid them on a rock before he started, so of course they were washed down the river. He could not get back to camp like that, so we lent him one of our blankets to put round him and some puttees for his feet. Just then the party of———Regt. came, but too late. It was very lucky for him he did not get washed against some rocks, also trees, because soon after this happened there were large trees, also the pontoon bridge going down. I think, sir, this is all, hoping this will enlighten you about it." (Signed)———"

Further comment is, I am sure, needless.

Yours very faithfully,

G. MORPHEW, Captain,

Volunteer Active Service Co., Royal West Kent Regiment.
Blackheath,

18/5/01.

DEPOT CRICKET INTELLIGENCE.

A good number of matches have been arranged for the season, and up to date 8 have been played with the following result:—5 won, 2 lost, 1 drawn.

The team has really done very well considering the very small selection available to draw upon. Is the interest as regards cricket decreasing in Kent? It would almost seem so, if the condition of the pitches is any guide, for most of those we have played on are in a very bad condition. As to some I could name, every player deserves the Victoria Cross for standing up to the fast and sometimes erratic bowling that seems to be fashionable now. Our own Depot pitch, notwithstanding the amount of football played on it last year, is in a fair condition.

The matches played, with result, are as follows:—

May 4th—v. Dobney Institute, lost by 13 runs. Dobney Institute, 76; Depot, 63. Sergt. O'Reilly, 15; Sergt. Stack, 14; Lt. Barrow, 14. Col.-Sergt. Collyer took 5 wickets for 20 runs.

May 11th—v. Larkfield, won by 43 runs. Depot, 85; Larkfield, 42. Pte. Taylor, 20; Sergt. Stack, 10; Sergt. Merrick, 30. Col.-Sergt. Bourne took 4 wickets for 15 runs, Col.-Sergt. Collyer 3 for 7, and Sergt. Stack 2 for 11.

May 15th—v. St. Philip's, draw. This was a very close match, as we only wanted 2 runs to win and had 1 wicket to fall when stumps were drawn. Score:—St. Philip's, 104; Depot, 103 for 9 wickets. Sergt. Merrick, 16; Col.-Sergt. Bourne, 12; Sergt. O'Reilly, run out, 39; Lt. Barrow, 10; Lt. Phillips, not out, 11. Lt. Barrow took 5 wickets for 40 runs, and Pte. Ayres 4 for 34.

May 18th—v. Springfield Mill, won by 101 runs. Springfield Mill, 35; Depot, 136. Sergt. O'Reilly, 30; Pte. Taylor, 20; Sergt. Merrick, not out, 62. Sergt. Stack took 5 for 15 runs; Pte. Ayres 2 for 12, and Sergt. O'Reilly 2 for 7.

May 22nd—v. Chatham Tradesmen's C.C., won by 44 runs. Chatham Tradesmen's C.C., 61; Depot, 105. Pte. Shaw, 18; Lt. Barrow, not out, 32; Sergt. O'Reilly, 11; Pte. Ayres, 11; Lt. Phillips, 13. Sergt. O'Reilly took 5 wickets for 15 runs, Sergt. Stack, 3 for 25, and Pte. Ayres 2 for 10.

May 25th—v. Turkey Mill, won by 31 runs. Turkey Mill, 83; Depot, 114. Pte. Hazlet, 25; Pte. Taylor, 17; Captain Umfreville, 20. Sergt. Stack took 4 wickets for 19 runs, and Col.-Sergt. Collyer 5 for 27.

May 27th—v. Dover Road C.C., lost by an innings and 5 runs. Dover Road C.C., 144; Depot, 69 and 70. Capt. Beeching, 14 and 7; Capt. Umfreville, 16 and 0; Lt. Lister, 15 and 1; Lt. Barrow, 0 and 27; Sergt. Colyer, not out, 7 and 12. Sergt. Stack bowled well, taking 8 wickets.

May 29th—v. Church Institute C.C., won by 131 runs. Church Institute, 40; Depot, 171. Lt. Barrow, not out, 30; Capt. Umfreville, 11; Sergt. Stack, 15; Sergt. O'Reilly, 31; Sergt. Merrick, 45. Sergt. Stack took 6 wickets for 15 runs, and Lt. Barrow 4 for 25.

REGIMENTAL JOTTINGS.

Second Lieut. Fenning, transferred from the 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment to the regular service, will join the 2nd Battalion now in South Africa.

Captain Buckle will next month give up the adjutancy of the 2nd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment.

Lieut. Nunn, serving at the Depot, has been selected for service with the Mounted Infantry, and joined at Aldershot.

Major Lockhart-Ross, 5th Lancashire Fusiliers, who has been serving with the Depot Companies, has joined at Aldershot for duty with his Battalion, which has just been embodied for service at that station.

Second Lieuts. Knox and Shaw, appointed to the Royal West Kent Regiment from Sandhurst, do duty with the details at Shorncliffe.

The publication of the annual report of the Inspector General of recruiting for the past year, shows that the number of recruits enlisted during 1900 is not at all satisfactory. As regards recruiting for the West and East Kent Regiments, matters were fairly satisfactory. There is nothing to complain of as regards recruiting in the 3rd and 50th Regimental Districts.

By the retirement of Colonel Bonhote on completing his term of service, and the promotion of Lieut.-Colonel Bailey, of Wrotham Heath, the command of the 3rd Battalion has undergone a change. Colonel Bonhote has been at the head of this Battalion since May 30th, 1896, when he succeeded Colonel E. T. Luck. Commencing his career in the regular service, he was for a time a subaltern in the 2nd York and Lancaster Regiment. He was appointed Captain in the old West Kent Militia in 1877, became Major in May, 1889, and Lieut.-Colonel, May, 1896. Major C. H. Farquharson, late of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, now becomes second in command of the Battalion.

The 1st and 3rd Volunteer Battalions, together with the 1st Cinque Ports R.V. and the 1st V.B. Royal Sussex Regiment, will make up the camp of the Sussex Volunteer Infantry Brigade under Sir Henry Fletcher, which will be held at Aldershot during the August Bank Holiday period. The 2nd Volunteer Battalion will also camp at Aldershot during the same period.

Sergeant Instructors Byrne and Nealon, 1st V.B., and Sergeant Instructor Ray, 4th V.B., have passed the course at the Hythe School of Musketry.

The following appeared in Battalion Orders in reference to the retirement of Colonel Frigout which we recently intimated:—"The C.O. regrets to announce the resignation of Lieut.-Colonel and Hon. Colonel F. W. Frigout, V.D., after forty-two years' continuous service, which has included duty in every grade of the Battalion. His hard work and devotion to the interests of the Battalion have earned the thanks of successive commanding officers; and in his honourable retirement he will carry with him the best wishes of all members of the Battalion to which he has rendered such excellent service."

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

"K" (CHARLTON) COMPANY'S DINNER.

The "K" (Charlton) Company held their annual dinner at the Lord Howick, Woolwich road, on 4th May.

The Charlton members of the Active-Service Contingent—Lce. Corpl. Fenn, Pvts. G. Bance, T. Crockford, C. Wingfield and T. Penfield—were the guests of the evening. Col. Satterthwaite, in submitting the toast—"the South African Contingent"—said it was a new thing that Volunteers should be accepted for service in a war many thousands of miles from our shores. It was a splendid thing not only to those who had gone out, but for the whole Volunteer force. It had given the Volunteers a different status in the eyes of the world, and it would be a real good thing for all of them (hear, hear.) Their Battalion had sent nearly 200 men to the front, and the recently returned contingent, under Captain Morphew, had earned golden opinions wherever they went (applause.) The "K" Company had lost two of the five men who had died during the campaign. This cast a note of sadness over their gathering, but it was the fortune of war. The toast was drunk with musical honours, and Captain Morphew, in response, said that when he was connected with the "K" Company twelve years ago, he little thought that he would have the honour of fighting for his Sovereign and country. The campaign, especially during the last six months, had been an exceedingly hard one, but he was bound to say that owing to the loyal and good way in which the men had performed their duties, the work had been one of unbroken success. He referred in sympathetic terms to the deaths of the two "K" men at Norval's Pont, and remarked that both had done their duty nobly. Sergeant-Instructor Church also responded.

ARMY REFORM.

Army reform is all the talk, the question of the day,
And to my mind the whole thing rests upon the rate of pay;
I don't allude to Generals, Colonels, or any such,
But simply to the little points which Thomas Atkins touch.

A bob's the pay the private draws, whether he's good or bad,
But why not give the good man more; that is my little fad.
A man who hits his brother Boer is surely worth more pay
Than he who shoots his rifle in a wild erratic way.

Give threepence a day to the marksman, the same to a well-
trained scout,
A little extra to the men who know their way about;
A little more to the useful men, keep your bob for the lazy lout,
Encourage Private Atkins, and 'twill pay you without doubt.

Give him more independence, don't let his brain pan shrink;
He's lots of native cunning, if you'll only let him think.
Don't make machines of Atkins, give him a freer hand;
'Tis thus you'll get the gravel, and wash away the sand.

"THE NEW LOT!"

I'm one of the 'Perial Yeomen,
 Just got to South African Veldt ;
 I'm a-longing to get at the Dutchies,
 And give 'em a slap in the belt.

But I can't say I've ever tried shootin',
 And ridin's a thing I don't like ;
 Unless it's upon the Great Eastern,
 Or may be a second-hand "byk."

And I aint over much of a figger,
 I don't go much more than five-three ;
 But I make up for that by a-talkin',
 And I do look a "Nib" in Khar-kee.

This country seems dandy for growin':
 The Yeomen as has been all through,
 Look a fine lot of well-seasoned fellows,
 And they seems sort of decent blokes too.

Bnt they don't seem too eager to "pal on ;"
 I suppose that they think us are lords ;
 But they needn't be back'ard in speakin',
 And lookin' as if we was "gords."

We aint proud ! and we wants to be "chummy,"
 For a fellow don't like to look big ;
 (But 'o course they aint class with us "New Lot")
 And he don't want to act like a "prig."

The reg'lars turn yaller with envy,
 When my ridin' whip jauntily twirls ;
 And I feels a good two inches taller,
 As I goes out a-mashin' the girls.

I tells 'em their "rations" is rotten,
 And talks about "Tarble de oatys" ;
 But I don't mind a-tellin you quiet,
 I don't know what "Tarble de oat" is.

They tells me I aint out here a-courtin',
 But I don't see what else can be done ;
 They wont take us out with 'em fightin',
 As they say we aint safe with a gun.

But I'll show 'em we aint here for nuthin',
 Just wait till we gets in a row ;
 We keep on a-thinkin' we're goin'
 But there don't seem much chance for us now.

They tell us that when we are "ready,"
 They'll have finished the whole bally job ;
 But there's one thing they can't stop us gettin',
 And that is our daily "FIVE BOB."

F.B.

*In memory of our Comrades, who died of sickness, in
 Frankfort, O.R.C.*

FRANKFORT.

Frankfort ! Oh town of sickness and disease ;
 How many of our lads lie buried there ?
 Whilst we, their comrades, who with health are blest,
 Can only tend their graves with gentle care.

Your lives laid down, without a thought of self,
 For England's glory, and for Briton's right,
 Must ever stand before us in the light of day,
 Whilst your poor spirits rest in endless night.

Ah me ! while friends at home are waiting their return,
 Day after day fell sickness pulls them down,
 And one by one to yonder churchyard borne,
 They lay at peace outside the little town.

Ah, Frankfort ! you have much to answer for,
 For due to you is most of this disease ;
 You smile beneath your radiant Southern sun,
 Your murmuring river, and your cooling breeze.

Oh why ! should death from out this peaceful spot,
 A victim claim so often and so soon ?
 Why, so many laid to their last quiet rest,
 To sleep for countless ages 'neath the silent moon.

Farewell ! dear comrades, whom we leave behind,
 In a memory fresh you ever will remain ;
 Till at the end of all we reach the promised land,
 And in that glorious haven, may we meet again.

6/12/00.

F.B.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO ADEN.

From the Times of India.

ADEN, APRIL 7.

When the progress of H.M.S. Ophir through the Suez Canal was reported to be blocked by the grounding of a dredger, pious Christians ventured to hope that the Royal visit to Aden might be postponed to the Saturday following Good Friday instead of taking place on the holiest and most solemn day of the whole Christian year, for which it had unaccountably been fixed. This pious hope was, however, not realized. A cablegram was received from Suakin announcing that their Royal Highnesses would arrive at Aden in the forenoon of Good Friday, and land at the Prince of Wales's Pier at 3.45 in the afternoon.

It had been arranged that their Royal Highnesses should receive an address at the Pier, drive to the Crater, and entertain the leading members of Aden society at dinner on board the Royal Yacht.

At 7.15 a.m. on Good Friday two signal guns fired from the lightship marking the entrance to the inner harbour, repeated from Shum Shum, the highest and most central peak of the rocky peninsula, and from the easternmost signal station at Marshag, announced to the expectant inhabitants that the Royal Yacht had been sighted.

The hour for landing was confirmed by the use of the signal for closing the mails, which, however, only marks half-hours. The troops lining the four miles of road from the Pier to the Crater were in position by 3.30 p.m. There are no trees at Aden, but strong cool breezes still prevail at this time of the year, and as the troops were in summer clothing no hardship was experienced. The British troops in white were allowed to wear their medals, but the native troops in khaki were not. In the case of officers the narrow strip of ribbon worn on the left breast to indicate the possession of a medal is completely hidden by the sash worn over the left shoulder. When medals are worn they are pinned on over the sash, and are a thing of joy to the wearer, who is proud of himself and his profession. If there is one occasion on which he would like to display his decorations more than on another it is in the presence of his King and the heir to the throne. But there is no getting over the dress regulations, which apparently also forbid the wearing of brass spikes and chains with khaki helmets, even in Review Order, as these showy ornaments were conspicuous by their absence.

Soon after 4 p.m. their Royal Highnesses landed at the beautifully decorated pier amid the booming of cannon, and were received with a Royal salute by a guard-of-honour furnished by that smart corps the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

Mr. Hormusjee Cowasjee, head of the old Aden firm of Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw and Brothers, then read an address which was enclosed in a beautiful silver casket of Bangalore workmanship. His Royal Highness replied.

Mrs. More Molyneux, the wife of the General Officer Commanding, and Political Resident, Aden, then read an address and presented a fine specimen of the feather boas for which Aden is famous, to the Duchess of York and Cornwall on behalf of the ladies present. Master Pilleau, a bonny little boy of four, the son of Captain Pilleau, who commanded the small cavalry escort furnished by the Aden troops, absent on service in Jubaland, came forward with a bouquet. The Princess captivated all hearts by the graciousness and unaffected dignity of her manner. The Prince was equally cordial and graciously disposed.

The Royal *cortege* drove off under a Royal salute, the Prince repeatedly moderating the pace both in order to see and to be seen by the troops lining the road and the people who had gathered by the roadside or perched themselves on the rocks overlooking the route.

The road was lined by soldiers placed at intervals of about 20 yards, the Royal Garrison Artillery taking the section from Prince of Wales' Pier to the small pass, the Steamer Point detachment of the Royal West Kent Regiment and the Bombay Sappers and Miners thence to the foot of the main pass, the 5th Bombay Light Infantry to the centre of the Crater and the West Kents the remainder of the route to the Tanks, where a guard-of-honour of the 5th Bombay Light Infantry was stationed.

As the Royal carriage entered the Crater a salute of 31 guns was fired from the Crater saluting battery at Sira Island, and again on the departure from the Crater.

The Royal party walked round all the Tawella Tanks, the "Lion" of Aden, reputed to have been constructed by the Persians about 600 A.D.

The town of Aden in the Crater was tastefully decorated with flags, bunting, arches, and loyal words of welcome, the principal arch over the bridge leading to the town constructed by men of the R.W. Kent Regiment under the direction of Mr. Barton, the Quarter-Master of the Regiment, being specially admired.

The Royal visitors re-embarked from the Prince of Wales' Pier at 6.15 p.m. under a Royal salute.

Just as we go to press we notice with regret the announcement of the death of Mrs. Bramfill-Harrison, mother of Lieut.-Colonel Harrison, to whom we express our deep sympathy.

DEATHS.

At Kroonstad, on the 3rd May, 1901, 1204 Sergt. G. Taylor, of dysentery

At Heilbron, on the 9th May, 5341 Pte. T. Matthews, of abscess on the liver.

At sea, on the 17th April, 6845 Pte. H. Twort, Vol. Service Co., of remittent fever.

At Heilbron, on the 11th May, 5059 Pte. S. Long, of enteric.

At Harrismith, on the 17th May, 5250 Pte. J. Daley, of enteric.

The Editor, in expressing regret at the delay in the publication of the paper, desires to point out that it is necessary for the early publication and the success of the "GAZETTE" that all news intended for insertion should reach him by the 25th of the month previous, otherwise delay and annoyance is caused both to those who look forward to receiving the monthly issue and to those on whom falls the duty of getting it out.

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION ARE AS FOLLOWS :

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

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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).

The latest date on which copy intended for insertion should reach the Editor is the 25th of the month previous to date of publication.

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. 314.

MAIDSTONE, JULY 1st, 1901.

[Vol. XIX, No. 7

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

LINE BATTALIONS.

Second-Lieut. G. E. W. Morris is seconded for service with Mounted Infantry in South Africa, dated 6th May.

Corpl. Bede Johnstone, Gloucestershire Regiment, to be Second-Lieut., dated 26th June.

2nd. BATTALION.

Promoted Sergeant—Lance-Sergt. A. Hayes, 30th April; Corpl. Parkes, 9th March; J. Lumsden, 18th April; A. Nevard, 3rd May.

Appointed Lance-Sergeant—Corpl. W. Ellis, 30th April; T. Connor, 3rd May.

Promoted Corporal—Lance-Corpl. G. Smith, 9th March; E. Harrison, 18th April.

Appointed Lance-Corporal—Ptes. Gadsdon, J. Hissey, E. Reynolds, 7th May; J. Pocock, D. Barton, 17th May; F. Fry, F. Goldsmith, 26th April.

DEPOT.

Promoted Corporal—Lance-Corpls., J. Kirby, C. Igglesden, A. Thompson, J. Hibbert, 1st May.

Appointed Lance-Corporal—Ptes. E. Chantler, C. Herrington, 25th April; Pte. A. Bellion, 22nd May; Ptes. H. Botting, R. Goodchild, 29th June.

3rd BATTALION.

Henry F. Faudel-Phillips, gentleman, to be Second-Lieutenant, 29th May.

1st VOL. BATTALION.

Lieut. J. D. Laurie to be Captain, 5th June.

2nd VOL. BATTALION.

Lieut.-Col. E. Latter is granted the honorary rank of Colonel, 19th June.

3rd VOL. BATTALION.

Capt. J. M. Franks to be Capt. 1st V. B. Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 12th June.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

It is with the object of justifying my existence alone that I take up the sub-editorial pen on this occasion. The past month has, I think, without exception, been the dullest and most uneventful of the many dull and uneventful ones which we have spent here, and yet it has not been altogether time wasted, for are we not a month nearer the time when we shall eventually shake the dust of Aden from off our feet for good and all. I am very glad to say that the health of this Battalion is decidedly good, in spite of the inconveniences of what is generally admitted to be an exceptionally hot weather. Those who were here this time last year will remember how very sick we were, and it will be gratifying to them to know that a comparison between the hospital rolls of May, 1900, and May, 1901, shows that this year the number of days in hospital is just half of what it was last year. Statistics are dry reading, but it may interest some of our readers to know that in May, 1900, 2,051 days' hospital stoppages were credited to Government. The strength of the battalion at that time was between 650 and 700, so that roughly speaking every man spent three days of the month in hospital. This May the figures show that each man spent about one-and-a-half days in hospital, or to put it into more familiar language, five per cent. were in hospital during the whole of May, 1901, and 11 per cent. during May, 1900. This improvement is so marked as to be highly satisfactory, though I fear that the reduction is somewhat due to about 50 men having been invalided to England since the former date.

We have not yet made acquaintance with the new "Table 'B,'" as our range at Steamer Point is still under repair, but the Sergeants had a small meeting on the Native Infantry Range, which was kindly lent them by the 5th Bombay Light Infantry (the regiment which shares our exile here), and they took the opportunity of practising the new practices. I think they arrived at the conclusion that 'marksmen' will take a bit of getting. Lance-Sergeant Suffield was the only one who could make anything of the snap-shooting from behind cover in three seconds, and there were some good shots down on the range that morning. However, with practice one can do most things, and we are all ready to admit that this sort of shooting is a great step in the right direction, besides adding both interest and excitement to what has hitherto been rather a prosaic duty. The season of shaves and rumours as to our possible move has commenced, and we have already been informed by one, who professes to be in the know, that we leave here in the "Dilwara" about 20th October. However, I do not think anyone pays much attention to the babblings of the busy-bodies who spread these reports, for were we not moved (in the imaginations of these same folk) to nearly every habitable portion of the British Empire, this time last year. "Once bit twice shy"—and I, for one, put no faith in rumours, and will only believe in our release from this exile when I see Aden from the deck of a trooper sinking below the horizon.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

On the 20th of May the Regimental Theatre was the scene of great doings on the part of the Rechabites; this being the fourth anniversary of "Invicta" Tent, No. 270. Tea was provided for the members of the Order, and for members of any other Temperance Society. No small number participated, and the amount of refreshments disposed of was wonderful. However, the great success of the evening was the smoking concert which followed, invitations for which were accepted by the G.O.C. and many others. Pte. McEnuff, who has just rejoined us from Colaba, was as good as we have seen for some time, and was well backed up by the other performers. However, if "Jane Shore" had been careful to look after her bashful (?) little children, there would have been no "Tear in Mother's Eye;" and although "The Boatman" knew how to love her "Just as the Sun went down," he did not speak as he should have done of "Matrimonial Bliss" in the "Mother Land," and we shall see that "When Daddy Returns" a "Lecture on Cats" will take place in "The Mother Tongue." "The Area Belle" crying out "Sing us one of your old songs, George," confesses that she still likes to "Have a game," but "She is never going to Bump any more" after having been mixed up in "The Gambler's End." The whole concert was excellent, and the Rechabites are to be warmly congratulated. The orchestra was up to its usual form and was ably led by Band-Sergt Sonnenberg.

PROGRAMME.

Part I.—Overture, Band; song (comic), "The Boatman," Bro. Harris; song (sentimental), "Just as the Sun went down," Bro. Fordham; song (comic), "Have a Game," Friend Brooker; song (sentimental), "Sing us one of your old songs, George," Friend Booker; song (comic), "What Ho! she's never going to bump any more," Bro. Cassidy; descriptive, "The Mother Tongue," Friend McCarthy; descriptive, "A Lecture on Cats," Bro. Klein; descriptive, "Mother Land," Friend James; song (comic), "Matrimonial Bliss," Friend McEnuff; comic, "Balancing Feat," Friend Aslett.

Part II.—Selection, Band; lecture, Bro. Mackintosh; stump speech, Bro. Klein; duet, "Jane Shore," Bro. Harris; song (sentimental), "When Daddy Returns," Bro. Fordham; song (comic), "Leave a little bit for your Tutor," Bro. Cassidy; song (sentimental), "A tear in Mother's Eye," Friend James; song (comic), "I've never lost the last train yet," Friend Brooker; song (sentimental), "Play that melody again," Friend McCarthy; song (comic), "How to Love," Friend McEnuff; descriptive, "The Gambler's End," Friend Booker.

Sketch, "The Area Belle." Characters: "Penelope," Pte. Brooker; "Mrs. Croaker," Lance-Corpl. Falshaw; "Pitcher," Sergt. Seaton; "Tasser," Sergt. Osborne; "Chalks," Pte. Jones. "God save the King."

The following subscriptions have been received on behalf of the late Drummer Webb, late of 1st. Battalion, and have been sent to Captain Pedley, Adjutant 3rd. Volunteer Battalion, Woolwich, to be given to his widow:—

Lieut.-Col. R. H. P. Doran (late 1st. Batt.)	£1	0	0
An Officer, Royal West Kent Regiment	£1	0	0
	£2	0	0

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I am afraid it is, sometime since I sent you my last letter, but in these days of semi-peace and absolute stagnation, as far as infantry is concerned, it is not easy to collect many items of interest. By this time the whole world knows of the rewards published in the *Gazette*, and it was with the greatest pleasure that we saw the names of Col. Grove, General Alderson, and Colour-Sergt. Grellier in the long list. We heartily congratulate them.

Major Western is now in command of Western's column, having relieved Colonel Williams (Buffs). I am exceedingly glad to be able to chronicle one of his successes in the capture of a laager on May 9th. He and his force arrived in Heilbron on May 8th, and having replenished his supply waggons, he started that night with all his mounted troops for a laager about 20 miles from here. He must have completely surprised the enemy. His bag consisted of 35 men, 39 rifles, 100 horses, 8 waggons, and 9 Cape carts. How much ammunition he collected, I know not. We, ourselves, have not been doing much. General Elliot's division worked round Heilbron during the beginning of this month, and on three occasions convoys of supplies were sent to him from here. On each of these little trips we sent a company of 100 rifles, but they were not exciting excursions, as no Boers were seen. On May 7th we had a pleasant little open-air gaff. As one of the performers remarked, "it was a bit parky," but some excellent songs were sung, and the choruses were heartily joined in.

On May 8th, Lieuts. Luard and Pullman, with G Company, proceeded to Brandfort to form part of the garrison at that town.

On May 9th, a cricket match was played between the officers and the N.C.O.'s and men. The latter won by 50 runs. The biggest scorers were Sergt. Minall and Captain Buckle. The latter made 46, and the former a good many more, but I really forget how many he made. I only know it was very fatiguing work getting the ball back from the various parts of the country to which he sent it. The ground would hardly do for first-class cricket, though it affords us a good deal of amusement. The ball sometimes seems to be searching for worms, and at other times it makes a direct attack at the batsman's head. It is almost more deadly than a Boer bullet.

Heilbron is terribly overcrowded with live stock. About 50,000 sheep roam round the town like a flight of locusts. There appears to be about enough grass for one active sheep. What the remaining 49,000 animals live on is hard to imagine. Some 2,000 horses and 5,000 cattle have also to find sustenance on the bare veldt. There will be a big undertaker's bill shortly. The Volunteer Company under Captain Latter is now quartered at Serfontein. Rumour hath it that this Company will shortly join headquarters, and will be relieved at Serfontein by D Company under Lieut. Tullock.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Heilbron, May 17th, 1901.

BRANDFORT, O.R.C.

"G" Company, under Lieut. E. D. Luard, received orders to proceed by rail from Heilbron to Brandfort on the 7th May, 1901, to relieve a company of Fusilier Volunteers, under orders for home on completion of their twelve months' service in South Africa. Brandfort was reached at 3 p.m., 10th ultimo. The town of Brandfort is the exact fac-simile of all the other towns to be met with in the Orange River Colony,

viz., in a hollow, and completely hidden from view by frowning kopjes, quite 1,800 feet high; the town could not possibly be held if once the enemy succeeded in dislodging our troops and mounting guns on either of the kopjes to the south-east, or the two to the north-west, as these hills completely menace the town, and which would be reduced to ashes by a two hours bombardment of a modern battery of Field Artillery. The town is at present garrisoned by four companies East Lancashire Regiment, one company Royal West Kent Regiment, two guns, 15 pounder breech-loading of the Armstrong type, manned by a contingent of the New Zealand Artillery, the whole under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Redhead, East Lancashire Regiment. The town, so far as I can see, is of no tactical or strategical importance, seemingly held for the purpose of railway communication from Bloemfontien in the south, and Kroonstad in the north, intersected by Karee Siding and Smalldeel respectively north and south, both places strongly held by the East Lancashire Regiment. Same as other towns we have occupied it boasts of one street only, the centre of attraction being the Brandfort Hotel; don't know much about its interior, not having myself the *entrée*.

The company, or rather three sections, under Lieut. Luard, hold a hill slightly south-east of the railway station, which is called Gun Hill, on account of the two field guns mentioned being mounted here, sunk in two cunning and elaborate gun epaulements, they threaten the north and south respectively. The other section, viz., No. 13, under Sergt. Smith, hold another small kop about 1,500 yards farther north, which we call Jacko kop, on account of a certain member of the canine tribe which is seen to reconnoitre the various sky lines morning and evening, undisturbed by the frequent challenging of the outposts.

We are certainly rather dull, being away from headquarters, the only break of the monotony being mail day, and that has gone astray this week. Just heard the countersign for tonight is "One in and one out;" on enquiring as to its authenticity, am told it is a joke, meaning all the nights in bed is one, and then out on outpost next night. Yes, duty is rather stiff; in or out it's stand to arms from 4.30 a.m. to 6 a.m. daily, waiting, oh so anxiously, for the attack that never comes. We hope the final is now in sight, and then it will be one out and fourteen in. We furnish a detachment for No. 2 armoured train, composed of one sergeant, one corporal, and fifteen men, who ply from Edenburg to Viljoen's Drift; they are, I am told, frequently engaged with two six-inch guns the armoured truck carries. Trust this may not unduly trespass on your space,

"F.G."

Serfontein, O.R.C.,
13th May, 1901.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

You must forgive the somewhat tardy execution of my promise to let you hear of the doings of the 2nd Volunteer Company in South Africa, but I have not had much leisure myself, and the "doings" until recently were scarcely sufficient to chronicle. But now that we have been fairly going for a month, I trust you and your readers at home may be interested to hear how we have fared since leaving the Depot.

Sailing from Southampton on 16th March, in that magnificent vessel "Kildonan Castle," we touched at Queenstown and Maderia on our outward voyage. Officers and N.C.O's, were allowed ashore, as far as duties permitted, and most of the officers "did" the celebrated Mount Elevation Railway at the latter island, descending by the regulation toboggan—a really enchanting experience. After leaving Maderia the

voyage was uneventful. A large number of the Company had a bad time of it from sea-sickness for the first few days at sea, our messes being in the worst position, viz.: on the lower troop deck, and furthest for'ard in the bows; but after a week this sickness disappeared, and the numbers on "running" or "gymnastic" parades increased to proper dimensions. Captain Latter had the misfortune to slip and break a tendon above the left ankle, an accident which kept him to a deck chair for a great part of the voyage, and from which he only just recovered in time to prevent his being sent to hospital on landing. Having reached Cape Town on Thursday, 4th April, the good ship was ordered to sail on Good Friday to East London with her living burden of nearly 2,000 troops, which included nine other Volunteer Companies, and five M.I. Companies of Regulars, our orders being to proceed to Heilbron to join the Regiment. On 7th April, Easter Sunday, we eventually landed at East London, and after waiting some hours we started at midnight on the long railway journey. As no trains run after dark north of Cape Colony, the progress was slow, and at Bloemfontein we had thirty-six hours to look about while our engine was being mended. Here also we were ordered to go to Pretoria instead of Heilbron, and on Sunday, 14th, after a whole week in trucks we reached the capital, and were promptly marched off in the dark to "Quagga Camp." During the rail journey several of the men developed tonsillitis and had to be dropped at various hospitals—though at the time of writing nearly all these have rejoined. We only were allowed to remain at Pretoria one day, and then just as we were settling down we were ordered to this station, 21 miles north of Kroonstadt, to relieve the Volunteer Co. Northumberland Fusiliers who were to go home. Two more days' wearisome and uncomfortable journey in open coal trucks brought us back on the same line as we had but just traversed, to Serfontein, which we reached on Tuesday, 17th April. This place is over 4,500 feet above sea level, with almost boundless veldt round us, and situated near the northern end of what was once De Wet's happiest hunting ground for the destruction and looting of mail and supply trains. Here we found that we had to be split up into three parts to occupy different blockhouses, the Captain with about fifty men being at the main blockhouse, Lt. Holcroft with thirty to forty at the south blockhouse two miles off, and Lt. McCracken at a smaller blockhouse half a mile to the north. Having made the best of the first night's squeeze into limited accommodation, and shared the duties with our friends the Northumberland Fusiliers, the next morning the "handing over" was completed, and we cheered them off as they joyfully took the train for "home, sweet home." Then looking around us we found plenty to keep us busy. The camp (for we live by day in what were once tents, but lower them at dusk to clear the field of fire from the trenches) wanted cleaning and moving; the defences required repairing, and the south blockhouse being doomed, two new ones had been ordered to be built. Each little garrison set to work under its own officer and begun to wipe off arrears. Then at nightfall our brother Boer, thinking presumably that he would see if the new garrison were alert, began sniping gaily, first on Lieut. McCracken's house and then on the main post. Both replied gently with a few rounds from rifle and Maxims—both these works having one of these useful weapons. Corporal Mins acted as gunner to the one, and Colour-Sergeant Cooper to the other—neither, if truth be told, knowing anything about the machine. However, after keeping the men up a good part of the night, the feeble effort died out, and the snipers adjourned, apparently *sine die*, at any rate they have not troubled our particular domain since that night. If they

return they will find six trained gunners to salute them, as after this experience the Captain borrowed a man from a neighbouring garrison to teach six of the Company all about the Maxim.

The three present blockhouses are built of earth, iron sleepers and rails, and sandbags, and all have formidable wire entanglements round them. At the main and north posts the men sleep under corrugated iron roofs in the trenches, but at the south post they are not so fortunate, and had not some of the men utilized their long railway experience by commandeering a huge tarpaulin to add to Company stores they would be still worse off, for that serves to cover some from the weather. However, as I write one of the two new block-houses which are to replace the south has been well and truly built by our men, under the indefatigable foremanship of Lieut. Holcroft, and will probably be occupied to-morrow. Here there will be an iron roof as in the others, and sorely is some shelter needed, for the nights are already most bitterly cold and even frosty. At first, besides the usual guard, each post had to furnish a patrol every night, which made at least two journeys from north to south between dusk and early morning. But now we have to furnish three piquets, for whom we have had to dig Boer trenches in ground as hard as rock; these stayed out all night with the special object of preventing damage to the line by small parties of the enemy. With the numbers at our disposal—even 'employed men,' officers' servants, etc., being pressed into the ranks—these duties take up half the Company, so that each man has an all-night job (and a very cold one, too) every other night, and has also to build or dig during the day-time. Some of us have been inclined to regard the "Lines of Communication" as a soft berth, but we find even here it is not all lavender. The telegrams and signal messages passing through the Captain as "O.C., Serfontein" keep him fairly busy, and tie him to camp a great part of his time, while ration indents, returns innumerable, and requisitions keep the Orderly Room going. The post of 'horseman,' held with distinction by Pte. Clayson, is no sinecure, as he has to look after the horses and carry rations, water, and all sorts of necessaries from the main blockhouse to the others every day. As for the rations, fresh, very fresh, mutton is our staple diet, and palls a bit after a time—but we get some beef occasionally, by hook or by crook, which makes a change, provided it is not so tough as to be uneatable. Jam is good and plentiful, and we manage to buy some eggs from a native kraal near us at 2s. a dozen, so on the whole we live happily, and should be happier still if we were not separated. Camp rumour has it that the Captain has applied to be sent to the Regiment, and that General W. Knox (who commands our section of the line, and who visited us yesterday to inspect us and our works) informed him that the application was likely to be granted; so in a few days we may receive orders to move.

Most of us—officers and men alike—have had an experience of the mild sort of dysentery which seems to attack all fresh troops in this variable climate, and six are now in Kroonstadt Hospital with this complaint, but we trust none of the cases are serious. The weather has been mostly gloriously fine—only one really wet day have we had; but to-day and yesterday we have had sand storms and a high wind—a most disagreeable experience, as those well know who have been through it.

How the war is going on we do not know. We hear very much less than you at home, and nine-tenths of what we do hear from passing trains, &c., is absolutely false.

We suppose that by this time the 1st Volunteer Company will have reached home; it was annoying that we apparently missed each other at Cape Town by so very little a margin.

We have, however, seen some few of them who are still out here in Military Police, &c.

And now, Mr. Editor, I find that my pen has run away with me, and that I have written probably more than you can find room for. The novelty of my position must be my excuse, and I only hope that what I have written will give some slight impression to our friends at home of our experiences since we left old England.

With sincere and respectful greetings to you, sir, and to all connected with the "Queen's Own,"

I am very truly your

VOLUNTEER CORRESPONDENT IN S. AFRICA.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

The wind is cold, and I am not as young as I used to be; the table is covered with dust, and life is not an altogether unmixed blessing; yet still, in spite of all discomforts I feel it my duty to give you my usual budget of Battalion doings.

This is, I believe, about the coldest spot in our new colonies; should there be any that are colder I hope that the fates will keep me from them. With a good stone house, a cheerful fire, and a comfortable chair, this town might be a passable place to spend a winter; but when living in tents, with an icy blast outside which penetrates to your very soul, I begin to wish that I had always been good, for the good die young. Add to this a dust storm (from the transport lines for choice), sentry go, and stand to arms and the cup is full. I am very glad to be able to inform you that Major Western has been given the local rank of Lieut.-Colonel. This local rank followed close on his success in surprising a laager as recorded in my last letter, and it is gratifying to see merit duly rewarded.

Of military operations I have little to tell. On the morning of May 25th Major Maunsell took command of a small column which included men of E, F, and H Companies. We left camp at 2 a.m. with a view of surrounding a farm some six miles from Heilbron, in which forty men were supposed to sleep each night. Everything was most successfully carried out with the exception of one little minor detail, *i.e.*, the house was drawn blank. We were in beautiful positions before dawn, but the first rays of the sun showed the farm to be deserted. No horses were to be seen, and the smoke which we expected to see rising from the morning fires was conspicuous by its absence. We went back to camp in a very disappointed frame of mind. From May 25th until May 31st a small column, which included 100 of our men, used to proceed daily to take up a position some five or six miles away, with a view of intercepting a draft of horses supposed to be en route to De La Rey in the Transvaal. It is needless to add that the horses were taken by another route. These trips were neither interesting nor exciting, and were chiefly remarkable for the large amount of dust from burnt grass which collected in our eyes. On May 31st a Yeomanry officer was unfortunate enough to stop a stray bullet, and I regret to say he died that night. On June 1st a number of Boers drove off about 200 head of our cattle. A column was sent after them but without success, but a detachment of our Mounted Infantry from Leeuwpoot managed to retake sixty of the beasts. These animals belonged to a loyal Britisher in the town, who tendered his thanks to the Corporal in charge of the Mounted Infantry, but his gratitude did not take a more substantial form. Loyalty is not always expensive.

On May 21st, we were joined by Captain Latter, Lieut. Holcroft, and 96 men of the 2nd Active Service Volunteer Company, and very glad we were to see them. This Company had already been some five or six weeks in the country, and

had been guarding the main line round about Serfontein. We have seldom seen a better looking or smarter lot of men, and everyone realizes that men who volunteer to come out at this stage of the war on the humble 'bob' a day, are stirred by no mercenary motives, but have come out purely for the sake of seeing active service. Of their keenness and anxiety to do their duty there can be no doubt. Major Maunsell met the Company at the station, and in a few chosen words thanked the men for coming out, and said he was sure that they would worthily uphold the good name which had already been gained by Volunteers from the County of Kent. On the same day that the Volunteers arrived, Lieut. Tulloch and D Company left for Wolvehoek to do garrison duty there. I have since heard that for a short time they were on trek with a small column under Colonel Pengree, and took part in the chase after Delarey's invisible draft of horses.

During the past month we played a football match against the Oxford Light Infantry, and I am sorry to say we lost by one goal to love.

I am informed that our team was not a very strong one, as our opponents had expressed a wish that we should not bring too formidable an array against them. We must go one better next time.

Africa, as everyone knows is a land of lies, and in this respect it beats even India. Of rumours and reports we have no end. The latest says that Botha has surrendered. Amongst other rumours, I might quote the following:—(1)—The Battalion will leave Heilbron for De Aar in the course of next week. (2)—The Battalion is under orders for India in September. (3)—The Battalion will return to England shortly. (4)—The Battalion will be stationed in South Africa for the next five years. (5)—The war will be over in a week. (6)—There is no reason why the war should not continue for the next ten years.

I am sorry to have to conclude my letter in recording that death has been very busy among us lately. Among those who have fallen during the past month were two good soldiers—Sergts. Taylor and Balding. Both had made their mark in the Battalion, and they can ill be spared. It is sad to think that some of the many who have died during the campaign might still have been with us if a little more care had been taken by the men in the matter of drinking water. Every endeavour is made to boil the drinking water, but with the perverseness of human nature many men will drink the first water at hand, to save themselves the little extra trouble involved, by going to the proper place for the boiled water.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Heilbron, June 4th.

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

To 31st December, 1901.—The Rev. A. Doolan.

To 31st December, 1902.—Lieut.-Col. H. D. Armstrong,
Mr. T. N. Hill.

To 30th April, 1905.—Mr. W. H. Whelan.

DEPOT CRICKET INTELLIGENCE.

—:o:—

June 5th—v. Rose and Thistle, Aylesford, won by 6 runs. Rose and Thistle, 57; Depot, 63. Sergt. O'Reilly, 14; Lieut. Phillips, 13; Sergt. Collyer, 13; Sergt. Gilbert, 10. Sergt. Stack took 3 wickets for 11 runs, Col.-Sergt. Colyer 3 for 2, Pte. Taylor 3 for 15.

June 1st—v. St. Phillip's, lost by 5 wickets and 37 runs. St. Phillip's, 127 for 5 wickets; Depot, 90. Sergt. Merrick, 37; Pte. Taylor, 14; Captain Pembroke, 11.

June 8th—v. Turkey Mill, drawn. Depot, 115; Turkey Mill, 71 for 4 wickets. Pte. Taylor, 18; Captain Umfreville, 15; Captain Pembroke, 16; Pte. Shaw, not out 20. Sergt. Stack took 4 wickets for 23 runs.

June 15th—v. East Farleigh, lost by 37 runs. Depot, 35; East Farleigh, 72. Pte. Taylor, 15; Sergt. Stack, not out 9. Captain Umfreville took 2 wickets for 7 runs, Sergt. Stack 2 for 14.

June 19th—v. Liberal Club, won by 16 runs. Depot, 80; Liberal Club, 64. Pte. Taylor, 11; Lieut. Phillips, 41; Sergt. Gilburd, 13. Pte. Taylor took 2 wickets for 6 runs, Pte. Ayres 6 for 21 runs.

June 26th—v. St. Phillip's, lost by 3 runs. St. Phillip's 55; Depot, 52. Sergt. Merrick, 10; Lieut. Lister, 8; Lieut. Phillips, 18. Sergt. Stack took 3 wickets for 12 runs, Pte. Ayres 6 for 29 runs.

June 29th—v. Eiffel Tower, lost by 59 runs. Depot 40; Eiffel Tower, 99, Sergt. Merrick 11. Ayres took 3 wickets for 20 runs.

Those of our readers who belonged to the "old 50th," will remember Sergeant P. Whelan, and will read with interest the following extract from a letter received from his son:—

"Auckland, New Zealand,

"The *Gazette* reaches us regularly, and is always read with interest. I question whether there are many with the regiment that remember us now. I will be glad if you will notify all old friends through the *Gazette*, that Sergeant Whelan, who left the regiment in 1882, is still in the land of the living, and in comfortable circumstances. We came to New Zealand in 1883, and have found the country and people so much to our liking that we have remained in Auckland during the whole period. My father retired from business about five years ago, and is living with me a few miles out of town. He is enjoying good health. Wishing the *Gazette* a long and prosperous life, and the regiment every success,

I remain, yours sincerely,

(Signed) W. H. WHELAN,

An old 50th boy."

3rd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

—o—

On passage to England on board H.M.T. "Formosa."

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Since writing you on the 23rd April the Regiment has been on the Malta manœuvres from 27th April till 4th May, and during the time we were away we camped at Duiera Lines and Ghain Tuffieha, two places probably unknown when the 1st Battalion was last in Malta. We had plenty of hard work nearly all over the island, going from both Ghain Tuffieha and Duiera Lines as far as Mellieha and back the same day. The Regiment got great "kudos" from his Excellency and the staff for its splendid marching and rock climbing. We worked as two battalions, the 1st Battalion under Lieut.-Col. Bailey, with Captain Venables as adjutant; the 2nd Battalion under Major Farquharson, with Captain Wakefield as adjutant.

Col. Bonhote was away from the regiment the whole of manœuvres as he was on the umpire staff.

On 7th May there was a dance at the Union Club.

On 10th and 11th, horse show at the Marsa, when the officers were at home to their friends.

From the 13th to 20th May the annual Malta Rifle Meeting took place at Pembroke Ranges. Several officers and men of the Regiment took prizes, the prizes being presented on 20th May by Lady Fisher.

The same evening His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of Malta, General Sir Francis Grenfell, dined with the officers. By this date we had got orders to hold ourselves in readiness to proceed to England.

On Tuesday, 21st May, Colonel J. Bonhote was entertained at a farewell dinner, on his retirement, by the officers.

On 23rd May there was a cricket match—3rd R.W.K. v. H.M.S. Vulcan. The Regiment had rather hard lines in having two prominent members of the eleven badly run out. Scores:—Vulcans, 192; 3rd R.W.K., 133.

We were to have "trooped the colour" on the 24th, but owing to showery weather this was postponed till 29th. The King's colour of the old 4th Battalion was trooped, a report of which I enclose from the *Malta Chronicle* of the 30th.

TROOPING THE COLOUR.

The colour was trooped by the 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment yesterday at 9 a.m., on Floriana parade ground. At the conclusion of the ceremony Colonel Spence, D.A.G., addressed the battalion as follows:—"Colonel Bailey, Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment. I am desired by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to express to you his great regret at not being able to be present to-day. He will be pleased to hear of your smart appearance, and of the precision of your movements in the ceremonial parade of Trooping the Colour just completed.

"His Excellency has already expressed himself in complimentary terms as to your good conduct, and your powers of marching tested in two sets of manœuvres in this Island.

The power of endurance shown by you would have proved of great value in South Africa, for which country you have volunteered twice, and after a short spell at home you will no doubt, if called upon by the authorities, volunteer again. You are represented there by some Mounted Infantry, and another section is now trained and ready to go. I feel sure, should it be the good fortune of the battalion to go there, you would exemplify the proud motto of your Regiment, "Unconquered." In the name of Sir F. Grenfell I bid you farewell, God speed, and a safe arrival to your friends at home.'

A large concourse of spectators witnessed the ceremony.

The Regiment paraded under Colonel Bailey in eight guards of 24 files each, and the following officers were on parade:—Capts. Burbury, Venables, Wilson, Neve, Pine, and Wakefield; Lieuts. Beeman, Stone, Irons, Case-Morris, and 2nd.-Lieut. Fenning.

DEPARTURE OF THE 3rd ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.

The 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment will embark for England to-day on the transport *Formosa*, and on arrival at Southampton will proceed to the Regimental Depot at Maidstone, there to be disembodied. It is hoped that the weather will be much better to-day than when the battalion arrived here in the *Golconda* in June, 1899, for many of our readers, and especially the regiment itself, will remember the perfect deluge of rain which fell on that day. It is hoped too, that the voyage to England will be more pleasant than their former voyage, when through stress of weather some of the officers' chargers were so badly injured that they had to be destroyed.

Since its arrival the regiment has taken part in two manœuvres, and almost all field day operations that have been held, besides doing its share in the ordinary garrison duties, and it is certain that the instruction gained in the various phases of a soldier's duties, will prove of immense value to all ranks in the future. It cannot be said that the regiment was not up to the usual standard, indeed, we were pleased to chronicle the smart appearance and deportment of the battalion on its arrival, even under the distressing weather conditions, but it can now most decidedly be said that the men are fit and capable to do anything or go anywhere, and have proved more than once their willingness by volunteering for active service in South Africa at a time when the outlook was not very bright.

All ranks of the battalion have made many friends in Malta by their good, amiable, social and many other qualities, and their departure will leave behind many well-wishers, who will keep a keen eye on the doings of the regiment in its future career. The battalion goes home under the command of Colonel Bailey, whom, we are sure, will prove a worthy successor to the late popular and much esteemed Commanding Officer, Colonel Bonhote, who brought the battalion to Malta, and recently retired under the age clause.

We wish all ranks a pleasant passage, God speed, and good luck in their future career, and add to this opportunity by bidding them "Farewell."

SPECIAL GENERAL ORDER.

Head Quarters, Valletta, Malta, Friday, May 31st, 1901.

Farewell order by H.E. the Commander-in Chief to the 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment.

On the departure of the 3rd R.W. Kent R. after 18 months embodiment and service in Malta, H.E. the Commander-in-Chief desires to put on record his appreciation of the interest all ranks of this Corps took in their Field Training. Their marching powers were admirable on all occasions. This was the first Militia Battalion to volunteer for service abroad, and although it was not their good fortune to go on active service, they can, on disembodiment, be proud of having done their duty well in the most important fortress of the Empire.

By Order,

J. SPENCE, Colonel, D.A.G.,

Chief Staff Officer.

On Friday, 31st May, after the arrival of the 1st Battalion Royal Garrison Regiment from England, 8½ companies with Head Quarters, embarked on H.M.T. "Formosa," leaving 2½ companies to follow on H.M.T. "Dilwara."

The "Formosa" steamed out of the Grand Harbour, Valetta, at 8 a.m., Saturday, 1st of June, with the band on deck, playing the usual marching-out tunes.

Up to the time of writing this we have had splendid weather, except a little misty fog last night and early this morning, 2nd June.

RUN OF SHIP.

12 noon	1st of June	44 miles.
"	2nd of June	264 "
"	3rd of June	295 "
"	4th of June	293 "
"	5th of June	297 "
"	6th of June	255 "
"	7th of June	269 "
"	8th of June	268 "

9th of June, arrived at Southampton, daylight.

On the evening of the 1st of June there was an amusing impromptu concert, got up on the after deck, when many members of the regiment distinguished themselves in their efforts to amuse those present.

During the voyage a manuscript journal, called "The Formosa and West Kent Gazette," was produced daily, and caused much amusement.

Head Quarters and those on board the "Formosa" entrained at 2 p.m. at Southampton for Maidstone, reaching there at 6.15 p.m. on Sunday, 9th of June, and were played up to the barracks by the bands of the 2nd Battalion and of the Maidstone detachment of the 1st Volunteer Battalion.

The men commenced handing in their equipment, and this was so rapidly proceeded with, that the North Kent special was able to depart at 10.45 p.m.

The "Dilwara" party marched in on Monday afternoon, in charge of Captain H. Neve, at 3.30 p.m., and were able to proceed to their homes the same evening.

Both vessels had a splendid voyage.

3RD BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

EARL ROBERTS' VISIT TO WESTERHAM.

It was not known until Monday, 16th June, that Earl Roberts would be in Westerham on Wednesday, 19th June, for the purpose, it was said, of inspecting the fort in course of erection on Westerham Hill, one of the range of forts for the defence of London. The Volunteer Reception Committee considered that it would be a splendid opportunity of presenting the watches to the active service volunteers, subscribed for by the inhabitants, and it was decided to ask Earl Roberts to pay them the honour of presenting the watches. Their wish was made known to Earl Roberts, and he immediately wired to say he should be pleased to do so.

Captain Watney issued orders for the volunteers to assemble, and the inhabitants set to work decorating, with the result that the town was quite gay with flags, and the town was crowded.

The Earl drove to the centre of the High Street, where a crowd of several hundreds of people had congregated, and he was enthusiastically cheered.

The Volunteers, about sixty strong, under Capt. Watney, formed a square in High Street.

Earl Roberts alighted, and Capt. Watney, who accompanied the active service volunteers to South Africa, and Mr. Maxwell DelaCombe, chairman of the reception committee, were introduced to him after he had made a brief inspection of the volunteers, and had spoken a few words to the active service volunteers, who were stationed in front of their comrades.

Mr. DelaCombe said, on behalf of the inhabitants of Westerham, he ventured to ask his Lordship to be so very kind as to present to the men of the H Company of the 1st Volunteer Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, who had recently returned from active service in South Africa, the souvenirs which they desired to give them as a small token of the great respect and admiration with which they regarded the way in which they had responded to their country's call, and as a slight recognition of their brave and gallant conduct. He would only add that the gifts in question consisted of silver watches bearing the following inscription:—

"Presented by the inhabitants of Westerham to
"Private _____ of the H Company, 1st Vol. Batt.
"R.W.K.R. on his return from active service in South
"Africa. April 30th, 1901."

He now begged his Lordship to do them the honour of presenting the watches.

Earl Roberts, in presenting the watches, and in briefly addressing Capt. Watney and the men of the H Company, said it was quite an unexpected pleasure for him to be there that day to present to the men who had been on active service, with the watches which had been subscribed for by their friends in Westerham, as a reward for their good and gallant conduct in going out to South Africa to fight for their Queen and Country (applause). He did not think that he met any of their Company when he was out there, but the volunteers had rendered most excellent service under General Rundle (applause). He also knew that they had had to do many long and difficult marches, and during which, he understood,

their behaviour had been excellent. He was very glad to see that these services were being so nicely acknowledged by the people of Westerham; their reception home must also have been equally gratifying. Should the occasion arise, and it became necessary for the volunteers to be again called up for active service, he hoped that there would be many more ready to volunteer their services. He briefly referred to the hardships of the campaign, in which the Westerham active service volunteers had taken part, and said the country was not—as the men would be able to tell them—one in which they had been able to get fat, but they might be thankful that they had been able to keep up their health, and to come back and find themselves so heartily received by their friends at Westerham (applause).

Earl Roberts then handed the watches, which were enclosed in green lined leather cases, to the men, the fortunate and honoured recipients being Privates G. Paige, A. J. Kimber, A. Terry, E. A. Woodhams, and J. Pickett.

At the conclusion of this interesting ceremony, Mr. DeLaCombe said it was his highly esteemed privilege to offer his Lordship, in the name of the people of Westerham, their most sincere thanks for the great honour he had conferred upon them by making the presentation.

In acknowledgment, Earl Roberts said he thanked them very much indeed. He was pleased to have done this little service for the men who had done so much for them.

Loud cheers were then given for Earl Roberts, and again for Lady Roberts, which the Earl graciously acknowledged. He then took his seat in the carriage and was driven to Squerryes Lodge, the residence of Mrs. Griffith and the Misses Warde.

A thanksgiving and memorial service was held on May 12th, 1901, at St. Alphege Parish Church, Greenwich, in connection with the return from South Africa of the members of the 2nd V.B. Royal West Kent Regiment, who last year volunteered for active service. Colonel Satterthwaite, commanding the battalion, and most of the officers were present, including Captain Morphew, who went out in command of the active service contingent. There were over 700 Volunteers on parade. There was a large congregation, which included the Mayors of Greenwich and Deptford and members of the Councils of both boroughs. On Saturday night the active service contingent were entertained to supper by the battalion at their headquarters, and on May 13th they were the guests of the Mayor of Greenwich, at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich.

Opportunity was taken of the Lifeboat Saturday Fund Fete at Holly Hedge House, Blackheath, on 29th May, to present to the Active Service Company of the 2nd Volunteer battalion tangible tokens of the public appreciation of their services for King and country in South Africa. The souvenir consisted of a framed photograph of the group of Active Service men and their hosts, taken on the occasion of their banquet at the Ship, Greenwich, on May 13th, and a "swagger" cane, silver mounted and engraved.

The Annual Inspection of and distribution of prizes to the boys of St. Paul's school by Colonel T. H. Brock, commanding 50th Regimental District, was held on the Barrack Square, Maidstone, on 21st of June, in the presence of a large concourse of people. The boys as usual showed proficiency in drill, and were complimented by the inspecting officer.

Major F. Wintour has been detailed for duty at the Depot, and will join on the 11th August.

BIRTHS.

At Maidstone, on 14th June, the wife of Sergt. C. Theobald, P.S. 3rd Battn., of a daughter.

DEATHS.

At Heilbron, 27th May, No. 2589 Pte. W. Kehone, 2nd Battn., of enteric.

At Bloemfontein, 23rd May, No. 5288 Pte. C. Rolfe, 2nd Battn., of enteric.

At Heilbron, 31st May, No. 5155, Pte. E. Roots, 2nd Battn., of enteric.

At Heilbron, 2nd June, No. 2567 Pte. W. Edwards, 2nd Battn., of enteric.

At Heilbron, 2nd June, No. 3006 Sergt. J. Balding, 2nd Battn., of enteric.

At Heilbron, 20th June, No. 2516 Pte. J. Fincham, 2nd Battn., of enteric,

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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. 315.

MAIDSTONE, AUGUST 1st, 1901.

[Vol. XIX, No. 8

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

LINE BATTALION.

Second-Lieut. F. C. Beamish is seconded for service with the South African Constabulary, dated 25th February.

The undermentioned Second-Lieutenants are seconded for service with the Indian Staff Corps, dated 18th June :—
K. D. M. Henderson, and T. E. Hulbert.

1st BATTALION.

Appointed Lance-Sergeant—Corpl. C. Seal, 19th June.

Appointed Lance-Corporal—Privates J. Moser, 10th June ;
H. Stevens, 1st June.

2nd BATTALION.

Promoted Sergeant—Lance-Sergt. W. Alderman, 3rd June.

Promoted Corporal—Lance-Corpl. G. French, 3rd June ;
H. Stanshall, 10th June.

Appointed Lance-Corpl.—Privates W. Mallon and C. Eley,
18th June ; J. Weedon, 25th June ; J. Crampton, 28th June.

3rd BATTALION.

Major C. H. Farquharson is granted the honorary rank of
Lieut.-Col., dated 20th July.

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

James Hamilton, gentlemen, to be Surgeon-Lieutenant,
dated 13th July.

3rd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Second-Lieut. and Instructor of Musketry A. J. Dodd to
be Captain, dated 20th July.

Second-Lieut. A. Harston to be Captain, dated 20th July.

The undermentioned Second-Lieutenants to be Lieuts. :—
C. I. Barlow, R. W. Borissow, T. G. Moll, H. C. L.
Bremmer, E. N. Mason, dated 20th July.

The Rev. H. J. Mercer, B.A., to be Acting Chaplain,
dated 3rd of August.

The following is taken from the "DAILY MAIL" of July 4th, 1901.

THE FORGOTTEN 100,000.

BY EDGAR WALLACE.

JOHANNESBURG, June 8, 1901.

Let us make holiday.

I am tired of the eternal trek, the everlasting veldt, where rotting carcasses of sheep and oxen putrefy the air. I am sick of the same hotels of corrugated iron and frowsy smoking-room ; the same broad, untidy streets, with the identical ugly church which I left in the monotonously same Town sixty miles away. Same talk—war, Boers, and settlement. Same dress—khaki, relieved now by the black armband in memory of the 22nd of January. The self-same dinner, with the self-same sweet—rice pudding. It all palls, it mostly sickens. Let us make holiday. Where shall we go ?

YOUR CHOICE OF CHANGE.

It really all depends on how your fancy runs. Some there are whose idea of holiday is very much that of the 'bus-driver who spent his day off on the box of a friend's vehicle. Perhaps your taste runs to industrial exhibitions. What shall it be ? Boots, Leicester ? You will find Leicester somewhere down the Delagoa Bay Line. It is guarding the rail in the vicinity of Middleberg, and lives in little tin block-houses. It was in Ladysmith during the siege, and as it had no false pride about taking cover when the enemy was unusually active and unusually accurate, it has not lost so many men as its brave but misguided fellows of the line, and in consequence it is not a Celebrated Regiment. And by Celebrated Regiment I mean one that has figured in a music-hall chorus.

Perhaps you would prefer to go farther north. Let us go to Carlisle. Carlisle is somewhere down by Klerksdorp, and Carlisle has just had rather a bad time, for was it not at Vlaakfontein ?

Possibly you have a penchant for the Highlands, and the Highlands are at Kroonstadt, and were at Modder River and Magerfontein — and at Balaklava, where the descriptive writer likened it to a thin red line.

Or Yorkshire ? You will find Huddersfield at Warm Baths, and it has not left its hospitality at home, for behind the barbed wire apron and the six-foot trench you will be asked to stay to lunch, and a very good lunch the West Ridings will give you.

As for me, I went to Kent, for it is my county. I wanted white chalk roads, and orchards, and strong-scented hop-fields, and gardens and the upstanding stretch of the rugged Rag. I wanted Kent, so I went there ; for Kent lies at the fag end of the Heilbron line, on the outskirts of the inevitable town from which I was fleeing. Kent was there—Maidstone, Tonbridge, Dartford, Chatham, Rochester, Gravesend, Paddock Wood, Woolwich—and Greenwich.

ALL KINDS OF KENT.

You don't hear much about Kent at home, or, as a matter of fact, about Yorkshire, or Carlisle, or Argyll, or Sutherland. In these days we are an Imperial people, and we think in Red. You hear of Canada, and of Australia, and of New Zealand, and of India; also you hear of China, but not of Kent.

Ottawa, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Auckland, Christchurch, are more often on your tongues than is Maidstone, or Canterbury, or Sevenoaks. Your new brooms are made of splendid material, but the old articles that swept Russia from Sebastopol, and France from Waterloo, they are wearing well. The men who had the science of war ground into them at the Regimental Depots have done well—never let that slip from your memory, for if you do you will be unjust—criminally unjust, and you are not unjust as a rule, only somewhat careless and forgetful.

So I have been to Kent—West Kent, Royal West Kent—. Nay, I will give them their full and honourable title. I have been to have a look at the Second Battalion of the 50th Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. They were very pleased to see me—the men—because we talked about Greenwich, and the twenty-four-hour clock on Observatory Hill, and of Blackheath in relation to Bank Holidays, and of Shooter's-hill Cemetery, and Woolwich Arsenal and the prospects of work thereat after the war. And of Deptford-broadway, and Mill-lane, and Church-street. Also of Bromley and blackberrying, and of public-houses in the New-cross-road and their relative excellencies. And we discussed the war, and Mr. Chamberlain and ex-President Kroojer, who excites the admiration of the Deptford section by reason of his close adherence to his millions. And of Ancient History we spoke. Prinsloo's surrender, and grass fires and wounded men perishing in the flames—and all in Cockney accents. The West Kents see the world across the well-filled bowl of a favourite pipe, and are philosophical. They talked football, and they reminded me that they had had the Army Cup once, and nearly had it twice—nor did I need reminding, since every good soldier knows that the men who wear the White Horse of Kent are good sportsmen par excellence.

Why have I brought you here, good reader of the "Daily Mail"? Why have I brought you to Kent via Heilbron when you might have got there via Cannon-street—in a day or two?

REMEMBER THOMAS ATKINS OF THE LINE!

It is to remind you that there are other soldiers in the field than the irregulars so well advertised because of the uniqueness of their entry into our rough Island Story. Patient, hard-working, hard-fighting men, capable now as they were a year ago of doing anything and at any time. The West Kents are not the only regiment serving in South Africa the presence of which the outside public would never suspect if it were not for that daily list on Page 2 of this journal. It is one of the many regiments which has passed through the campaign—or a portion of the campaign—without a display of fireworks or the possession of a pet correspondent; so let me for the day be that pet correspondent, and drag them from the seclusion into which they have retired through foolishly doing their duty without inserting a two-column advertisement on Page 1.

This may read as though I have a regiment or regiments in my eye which have adopted such a method—figuratively speaking, of course—but this is not so, though nobody who has campaigned in South Africa can be blind to the fact that not a little of the notoriety of men and brigades has been owing to the presence of a correspondent who has been so

comfortably quartered and so well treated that he has not had the slightest inclination to leave, and has in consequence dealt so frequently with the doings of some particular General or some Brigade that his repetitions have told, and the General or Brigade has become as famous as Beecham's Pills or Cuticura Soap. Then, again, some regiments are of themselves picturesque, and if I had to describe an action in which the Black Watch and the Somerset Light Infantry figured, I know which figure the special artist would choose to illustrate an incident.

This doesn't matter very much so long as you do not forget the existence of the regiments whose names do not recur. As a matter of fact, I don't believe that they care the proverbial tuppence whether you talk about them or not, only—well, they are human. Think of them not as on parade with a Colonel with a prancing horse and the band playing a march, but as little groups of silent, thoughtful, smoking men, dotted about all over the country, living in block-houses—men from Kent and men from Surrey, men from Hants and men from Durham. A hundred thousand unadvertised soldiers, whose claim to renown is that there are none better in the whole wide world.

EDGAR WALLACE.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

The L.T. referred to in your May number has been promoted Correspondent, as the former one has, in his turn, struck work. So be it, but do not expect anything very first class.

Life at Heilbron continued much as before. At 2 a.m. on May 25th, a force, in which F and H Companies were included, the whole under the command of Major Maunsell, proceeded about five miles S.E. with the intention of surrounding a farmhouse, in which some 40 Boers were reported to be in the habit of spending the night. The farm was surrounded, but, unluckily, the Intelligence Department was slightly at fault, as it was discovered that the Boers had moved elsewhere several nights previous, and our force returned to camp in a disappointed frame of mind about 9 a.m. That same morning another column, of which we found our share, proceeded N.W., with a view to co-operating with other forces, which were trying to prevent the Boers from driving north to Delarey a batch of some 300 horses. This turned out to be a daily occupation from sunrise to sunset for a portion of the garrison, but whether the object was achieved I cannot say (South Africa is such a very big country).

On the 27th and 28th, "The Snowdrop Minstrel Troup" of the Q.L.I. gave an excellent entertainment, and had a very full house both nights, so much so that they had to repeat their performance later in the week to give everyone a chance.

On the afternoon of the 30th, whilst a column was returning to camp, Lt. Bickford-Smith, Imperial Yeomany, whilst covering the retirement with his section, was mortally wounded by a chance shot, and died shortly after reaching hospital. He had only been in the country a short time, and was, indeed, a victim of ill-fate to lose his life in such a manner.

On June 7th, another little affair occurred by which another Sergeant of the regiment was called upon to show what stuff he was made of, and once more the result was thoroughly satisfactory.

About 9 p.m., Pte. Clarke, the sentry on the post at the 12th milestone, which was held by Sergt. Barden and 20 men of the C Co., thought he heard something moving to his left, and called a pal to come and have a look, but the only answer was four bullets fired at about 150 yards' range. Pte. Clarke got inside the fort and brisk firing was carried on from both sides for some time. The Boers then commenced shouting, and Sergt. Barden ordered the "Cease fire," to hear what was being said. The Boers called on him to surrender, as he was surrounded, but the Sergeant replied "Not much," or words to that effect, as they say elsewhere; probably it was less complimentary. Firing was then resumed till 10.30 p.m., when the moon rose and the Boers cleared. They are estimated to have been 70 strong, and were all round the post at a distance of 150 yards, as a ring of empty cartridge cases testified to the following morning. Our casualties were Lance-Corpl. Bucklow, slightly wounded, and three men had their faces cut by splinters. There were also several casualties among animals, and a good deal of damage done to water tanks, &c.

Two Boers are known to have been hit, one severely, as a pool of blood, a pair of spurs, and a sjambok, found the following morning, went to prove. We hope there were several more. I think your readers will agree that Sergt. Barden and his section are deserving of great praise.

On June 8th, after several rumours that we were going home, going to De Aar, and many other places, we heard definitely that we were to move at once to Vereeniging in relief of the North Corks (9th K.R.R.), who were for home. We got orders late the following night to be ready to entrain at 9 a.m. the following morning, but later on the order was cancelled. On the 10th, our last day in Heilbron, we managed just to work in a polo match with the Oxfords, which we succeeded in winning by seven goals to two. The Battalion was represented by Lieut. Isacke, No. 1; Lieut. Joslin, No. 2; Captain Buckle, No. 3; and Captain Pack-Beresford (back). In a football match the previous Saturday between the two Battalions, the result was a draw of one goal all.

The morning of the 11th was a busy one, as everybody and everything had to be at the station by 9 a.m., ready to entrain. This was accomplished, but the train did not arrive till 11 a.m. As far as we were concerned, we were ready to go at 1.30 p.m., though it was eventually 2.30 p.m. before we were off.

Vereeniging was reached about 7.15 p.m., but only by a few of us, as we were dropping detachments all along the line. The animals were detrained, and the train shunted into a siding, where we spent the night.

We detrained the following morning, and took over the various block houses, detachments, and guards found by our predecessors, the Head Quarters camp being pitched about 400 yards S.W. of the Railway Station, being the most central position.

The Battalion is now disposed as follows:—

At Head Quarters, Major Maunsell, Major Brock-Hollinshead, Captain Buckle, Lieut. Isacke, and Lieut. and Qr.-Master Couch, also E Company and a few details. On the S. bank of the river, Lieut. Kitson with half A Company,

the remainder being on this bank; at Viljoen's Drift, Captain Latter and Lieut. Holcroft with the Volunteer Company; at Taaibosch Kop, Captain Pack-Beresford and 40 men of H Company; at Taaibosch Bridge, Lieut. Joslin and 30 men of F Company; at Sower's Post, 2nd Lieut. Norman and 30 men of H Company; at Wolverhoek, Lieut. Tulloch and 2nd Lieut. Tugwell with D Company; at Brandfort, Lieut. Luard and 2nd Lieut. Pullman with G Company; at Gottenburg, Captain Moody and C Company; and at Riet River Bridge, 2nd Lieut. Fiennes and half F Company.

In addition to the posts I have mentioned, we find innumerable block houses along the line, consisting of a sergeant and 10 to 15 men. The bulk of our M.I. are still with Col. Western's column, though we have also 40 between Wolverhoek and Heilbron, and 50 odd under Lieut. Elgood with the 13th Batt. M.I. Altogether the Batt. is somewhat split up, but that is the work of the Infantry soldier at this period of the war, and so far they have done it well, as far as the Batt. is concerned. On the night of the 20th, Sergeant Jasper, in command of one of the numerous block houses I mentioned above, had a scrap with the enemy, who tried to cross the line with some wagons close to his post. He succeeded in turning them back, and the following morning 2nd Lieut. Norman captured fifteen horses, one of which was saddled. These had evidently stampeded from this party during the firing the previous night. Five more saddled, but riderless horses, were also seen. We had rather a lively night here on the 18th, as some warriors, who are just out from home, evidently mistook their rear for their front, and for about an hour made our camp and that of the 11th M.I. close by, rather unpleasant. The casualties were as follows: "Buller," the A Co's dog, who joined the Batt. when this company rejoined from Harrismith, killed, and also 3 sheep. We have had one or two alarms the last two days owing to a large commando being reported about 14 miles east. The 23rd M.I. went out to meet them yesterday, and were out till midnight, but without meeting a single Boer. We found Lieut. Hildyard here on our arrival, doing duty with the S.A.C., of which he is now a distinguished member. He has just been appointed adjutant of the Northern Division of this force, on which he is to be much congratulated.

I regret to report among other deaths, that of Sergeant Balding, which occurred at Heilbron, from enteric and pneumonia, shortly before we left. Your readers will remember how he distinguished himself, when his post was attacked on the night of March 14th.

We heard to-day that the mail train bearing the English mail of June 7th, was blown up last night, but small damage was done, and the mail has arrived all right.

I must now close, as the mail will not wait.
Vereeniging, June 28th, 1901.

2ND BATT. CORRESPONDENT.

G Company, Brandfort, Orange River Colony.

The doings of G Company this month I am afraid are scarcely worth writing about, but suppose we must keep up the credit of the Company. The dull routine of garrison outpost duty having set in, there has been one or two items of interest certainly. On the night of the 5th June it was reported that 600 Boers were making for Brandfort with the intention of crossing the line and wrecking it, no doubt between here and Smaldeal. The armoured train was rushed through from Bloemfontein at midnight, and we were all

very much on the *qui vive*, but as usual it turned out to be another myth. Our garrison friends, the 3rd East Lancs. Regiment, have left us to take up the very important siding of Virginia, where tons of supplies are stored, supplying the different columns operating in that district, also the huge iron railway bridge across the Vet river, which has twice been blown up by the Boers. We wish them good luck on their new station. They were relieved by 4 Companies of the 3rd Royal Lancaster Regiment, under Lieut-Colonel North, who takes up the duties of town commandant, Brandfort, from the 10th ultimo. Rumours are rife as usual, going, etc., to Aldershot to mobilize again, this time India being the objective, several other places being mentioned in the category. The following extracts from a five weeks' progress report appears to lend colour to a speedy demobilization of at least a portion of the South African Field Force as follows:—The number of Boers killed, wounded, made prisoners, or surrendered during last month (May) totalled 2,640. From 1st June to 9th we have killed 26, wounded 4, captured 429 prisoners, 651 rifles, 115,500 rounds small arm ammunition, 120 wagons, 4,000 horses, 33 have surrendered. In addition to this, Commandant Van Rensburg and 100 armed Boers have come in, and others are daily following. (Ends).

We have played a football match versus the Volunteer Company Worcesters, where we got decidedly the worst of it. The health of the Company is fair, considering we are now well into the winter season. Trust to have more interesting news next month.

We learn from private sources the following particulars from South Africa:—

19th July, 1901.

The Battalion seems split up all over the place; headquarters and 2 companies are at Verieniging; 1½ companies in blockhouses between Vilgeon's Drift and Wolvehok; 70 Volunteer company at Vilgeon's Drift; 1 company at Wolvehok; 1½ companies at Gottenberg; 1 company at Brandfort; all are at the same game, guarding the lines of communication; the 8 cases of comforts have arrived and are much appreciated; they were just what the men wanted; a case of comforts was received direct from Mrs. Guthrie, Tunbridge Wells.

FOOTBALL.

FOOTBALL AT BRANDFORT.

VOLUNTEER CO. WORCESTERS v. 'G.' Co. ROYAL WEST KENT.

A match was played between these teams last Wednesday on the Brandfort Football Ground. The weather was fine, the ground perfect, and the match resulted in a fine hard and fast game. The kick-off took place at 3 p.m., and immediately the game started each goal was in turn attacked. The Worcester forwards got a corner, and from this Munn headed a pretty goal. Again the Hop-pickers attacked, showing some fine combination, and Humphreys had the goal at his mercy, but failed to score. At half-time the score stood: Vol. Co. Worcesters, 1 goal; 'G.' Co. R.W. Kent, nil.

From the kick-off in the second half each team again shewed splendid form, the goals being in turn attacked. The Hop-pickers secured two very unsuccessful corners, and give-and-take play ensued. Eventually the Worcesters proved too strong, and, nearing time, they again pressed strongly, and got another goal, and on time being called, the game stood: Vol. Co. Worcesters, 2 goals; 'G' Co. Royal West Kent Regt., nil. Teams:—

Worcesters: Mousley, goal; McCan, Cutbourn. backs; Morris, Manson, Ampliss, halves; Munn, Amplett, Price, Duggan, Cusp, forwards.

'G' Co. Royal West Kent: Gurry, goal; Lieut. Luard and Lieut. Pullman, backs; Snaith, Sergt. Conner, Corpl. Smith, halves; Dr. Thompson, Gulliver, Horrocks, Humphries, F. Thompson, forwards.

Mentioned in General Tucker's special despatch, dated 29th March, 1901.—4721 Pte. J. Bowman, 2nd West Kent Regt. M.I., on 25th February, 1901, by plucky and prompt action enabled his company to cross a drift in the presence of the enemy. He has done throughout most useful work. For this he has been promoted corporal.

Major W. G. B. Western, the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), has been granted the local rank of Lieut.-Colonel in South Africa whilst commanding a column.

Colonel E. A. W. S. Grove, was among those invested by his Majesty the King, with the Order of the Bath (C.B.) Military Division.

Captain Long has been transferred to the 1st Irish Guards. Captain Long joined the Royal West Kent Regiment in 1889, and became captain in December, 1899.

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

To the Editor of the Kent Messenger.

SIR,—I trust you will permit me, through the medium of your paper, to thank all those who have contributed (through the Officer Commanding 50th Regimental District, Maidstone) towards the gifts of clothing, etc., for the men of the 2nd Batt. Royal West Kent Regiment, on service in this country.

These "comforts" have now arrived, in the shape of pipes, tobacco, and warm clothing, and have been distributed to the men of the Battalion. I need hardly tell you how greatly they are valued by the recipients, and how keenly all ranks of this Battalion appreciate the kindness and generosity of their friends in Kent in sending again this year such suitable and welcome presents to the N.C.O.'s and men of their county regiment now serving in South Africa.—

Believe me, yours faithfully,

GRO. W. MAUNSELL, Major,

Commanding 2nd Royal West Kent Regt.

Vereening, Transvaal,

26th June, 1901.

1st Battalion

Life at Aden is usually deadly monotonous, but the 1st Batt. Royal West Kent Regiment, who have had more than an ordinary share of duty on that arid station, have had a change in the routine by way of a spell of active service. A fort, originally built by the Turks in the Houshadi territory, some 70 miles inland, but abandoned by them, had become the stronghold of a gang of freebooters, and it became necessary to effect their dispersal. A column was formed for this purpose, consisting of 500 men of the 1st West Kent and detachments of Indian troops, and the command was given to Col. Harrison. He, however, was stricken down with the heat, as were others, two of whom died from sunstroke, and Major Rowe assumed command. The force left Aden on July 15th, and on the march the heat was found very trying. The object was not allowed to be carried out without opposition, and a smart action ensued, in which the enemy were driven off. The fort and adjacent position were abandoned under the cover of darkness, and the fort was blown up. Lieut. Hudson, of the West Kent Regiment, was slightly wounded, one private of the same regiment, two native officers, and one sepoy were killed, and four privates of the West Kent Regiment and two sepoys wounded. The force remained at Ad Dareja for some days before returning to Aden. The affair has no political significance.

Our congratulations to Company-Segeant-Major G. C. B. Farrell, The West India Regiment, gazetted to be second-lieutenant The Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment, in succession to Lieutenant R. St. J. Carmichael, resigned. He will be remembered as Corpl. Farrell and went from the Depot to West Africa—and was the son of the late Colonel Farrell, Commanding 3rd Volunteer Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment.

A fire of rather large dimensions recently occurred, and the following is the letter of thanks from the Town Clerk, which speaks for itself:—

“TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE,
“25th June, 1901.

“DEAR SIR,

“The Captain of the Corporation Fire Brigade in reporting to my Committee yesterday on the fire which recently occurred near Waterside, referred to the kind manner in which the Depot Brigade turned out to help in extinguishing same, and I am directed to express to you the thanks of my Committee, and to request you to be good enough to convey the same to the individual members of your Brigade.

“I am, dear Sir,

“Faithfully yours,

“HERBERT MONCKTON,
“pro. S.L.M.

“Col. Brock, The Barracks.”

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ARROYO DOS MOLINOS.—This battle took place on the 28th October, 1811, when a French force was surprised and over a thousand prisoners taken. The Border Regiment for some reason is the only regiment which bears the name of this battle on its colours, as the 1st Battalion (the old 34th) was present and captured the drums of the 34th French Regiment; but besides the 34th some half dozen other regiments were engaged and would seem to be equally entitled to this honour, notably the old 50th, 71st and 92nd Regiments, now the 1st Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, 1st Battalion Highland Light Infantry, and 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders respectively.—*Military Mail.*

MALTA NAVAL AND MILITARY RIFLE MEETING.

The Malta Naval and Military Rifle Meeting took place on the Pembroke Rifle Ranges, from Monday, May 13th, to the following Monday. The following is a full list of the winners of the 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment.

First day, Monday, May 13th.—200 YARDS.

No.	SOLDIERS AND SEAMEN.	pts.	£	s.	d.
91.	Pte. Coomber	26	0	2	6
ALL COMERS.					
21.	Capt. Neve	32	0	7	6
27.	Sergt. Dugay	31	0	5	0

MEDITERRANEAN SWEEP.

10.	Capt. Neve	31	0	5	0
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Second day, Wednesday, May 15th.

ALL COMERS—500 yards.

11.	Capt. Neve	31	0	15	0
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MILITIA SERGEANTS.—500 yards.

3.	Sergt. Hutchinson	25	0	15	0
7.	Sergt. Dugay	22	0	7	6
9.	Clr.-Sergt. Wise	21	0	5	0

MEDITERRANEAN SWEEP.—500 yards.

12.	Capt. Neve	28	0	2	6
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OFFICERS.—500 yards.

2.	Capt. Lamb	31	2	0	0
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SERGEANTS AND P.O.—500 yards.

5.	Sergt. Dugay	31	1	0	0
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NOTE.—Tuesday's shooting had to be abandoned owing to very rough weather.

Third day, Thursday, May 16th.

ALL COMERS—600 yards.

57.	Captain Neve	28	5	0	0
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Fourth day, Friday, May 17th.

COL. BULPETT'S PRIZE.

TEAM SHOOT.

3.	3rd Royal West Kent Regiment ...	51	3	0	0
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MORTIMER'S CUP.

2.	Captain Neve	92	3	0	0
12.	Captain Lamb	87	0	10	0

REVOLVER SWEEPSTAKES.

8.	Captain Neve	64	0	7	6
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Fifth day, Saturday.

BRITISH MILITIA. Seven shots at 200 and 500 yards.

	pts.	£	s.	d.
Pte. Corbett	51	1	5	0
Pte. Collacott	35	0	10	0
Pte. Phillips	32	0	5	0
Pte. Wells	31	0	5	0
Pte. Williams	27	0	2	6
Pte. Brenton	24	0	2	6
Pte. Driver	23	0	2	6

JUNIOR ARMY & NAVY STORES CUP. Seven shots at 200, 500, and 600 yards. Four officers from each ship or regiment. Won by 2nd Derbyshire Regiment with 323 points.

3RD ROYAL WEST KENT REGT.

	200	500	600	Total.
Capt. Neve	30	31	29	90
2nd-Lieut. Case Morris	24	22	27	73
Capt. Burbury	28	17	16	61
Capt. Pine	26	16	13	55

PEMBROKE CHALLENGE CUP. Team of eight from each ship or regiment. Distance 200, 500, and 600 yards. Seven shots at each range, standing, kneeling, and lying. Won by *Hibernia* with 684 points.

3RD ROYAL WEST KENT REGT.

	200	500	600	Total.
Capt. Neve	32	29	32	93
Sergt. Dugay	27	29	31	87
Or.-Mr.-Sergt. Bass	25	28	28	81
Sergt. Hutchison	20	20	27	67
Clr.-Sergt. Neighbour	25	18	22	65
Lieut. Case-Morris... ..	18	13	29	64
Sergt. Wimhurst	21	14	24	59
Clr.-Sergt. Wise	24	7	25	56
Total	188	162	218	568

H. & G. SIMONDS' CUP. Open to teams of eight from Sergeants' Messes. Distance 200 and 500 yards. Standing and kneeling. Seven shots at each range. Won by the R.E. with 454 points.

3RD ROYAL WEST KENT REGT.

	200	500	Total.
Sergt. Dugay	26	25	51
Clr.-Sergt. Neighbour	26	24	50
Or.-Mr.-Sergt. Bass	28	19	47
Clr.-Sergt. Wise	24	22	46
Sergt. Newbold	26	18	44
Sergt. Hutchison	17	25	42
Sergt. Wimhurst	24	9	33
Sergt. Coe	21	9	30
Total	192	151	343

Sixth day, Monday, May 20th.

IND, COOPE & Co.—10 shots at 800 yards.

9. Capt. Neve	46	0	10	0
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UNITED SERVICE CHALLENGE CUP.

NAVY 1ST.

Captain of Team—Commr. Hon. R. Boyle, R.N.

	200	500	600	Total.
R. Farley, C.P.O.	28	31	30	89
C. Sullivan, ,,	31	27	30	88
A. Inglis, ,,	29	29	30	88
Mr. Sanderson, Gr.	26	30	30	86
Mr. Brakespeare, Gr.	24	27	33	84
A. Raven, Gr.	23	29	30	82
G. Hazard, P.O., 1cl.	27	22	22	78
Lieut. F. Wray	23	24	30	77
Total	211	219	242	672

ARMY 2ND.

Captain of Team—Lieut.-Col. A. D. Bulpett.

	200	500	600	Total.
Lce.-Corpl. Kimber, R.E....	31	30	33	94
Sergt. Walker, R.E.	24	30	32	86
Lieut. Bonham, R.E.	25	28	32	85
Clr.-Sergt. Howarth, 3 L.F. ...	27	26	32	84
Q. M. Sergt. Noonan, R.E. ...	30	25	26	81
Capt. Mortimore, 2nd Derb. R. ...	25	27	29	81
Q. M. Sergt. Bird, R.W.R. ...	27	22	30	79
Sergt. Stevens, A.O.C.	31	23	25	79
Total	220	211	238	669

MILITIA 3RD.

Captain of Team—Capt. Neve, 3rd. R. W. Kent.

	200	500	600	Total.
Clr.-Sergt. Dimech, 2nd R.M.R....	27	33	32	92
Sergt.-Major Quinlan ,, ...	27	30	33	90
Cap. Neve, 3rd W. Kent	24	32	33	89
Sergt. Squires, R.E.	29	27	31	87
Sergt. Dugay, 3rd R.W.K.	28	30	24	82
Serg.-Major Morrison, 1st. R.M.R.	27	24	27	78
Q.M.S. Thorne, 1st R.M.R.	24	28	23	75
Clr.-Sergt. Nicholl, 2nd R.M.R. ...	32	19	16	67
Total	218	223	219	660

MARINES 4TH.

Captain of Team—Capt. Spurway, R.M.A.

	200	500	600	Total.
Sergt. Hayes, R.M.L.I.	29	27	33	89
Sergt. Locke, ,,	31	29	27	87
Pte. Bullard, ,,	28	23	34	85
Capt. Spurway, R.M.A.	27	21	33	81
Lieut. Woodcock, ,,	26	27	25	78
C. Sergt. Harrison, ,,	20	29	27	76
Sergt. Hale, ,,	22	28	23	73
Sergt. Symons, ,,	20	30	17	67
Total	203	214	219	636

GARDEN FETE AT HOLLY HEDGE HOUSE, BLACKHEATH.

By permission of Colonel E. Satterthwaite, V.D., commanding the 2nd Volunteer Battalion The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), a garden *fête* was held on the 13th July, 1901, at Holly Hedge House, Blackheath, the headquarters of the battalion, in aid of a fund for the erection of a memorial to the members of the Active Service Contingent who lost their lives in South Africa. Although threatening, the weather kept fine, and there was a large company, especially in the evening. The proceedings, which were under the direction of past members of the battalion, commenced at three o'clock. Various amusements were provided, including a series of short concerts and dancing, while the splendid band of the battalion, under the direction of Bandmaster Church, added to the enjoyment of the visitors. The Winchester Orchestra supplied the dance music in the drill hall. Sergeants Biggs and Amer were in charge of a war trophy tent, where there were on view relics brought from South Africa by members of the Active Service Contingent and others. These mementoes of the campaign included a Mauser rifle (minus its butt) and a bandolier found near Honingspruit, pom-pom shells, poisoned Mauser bullets, fuses, expanding bullets, a Boer pipe carved by Sergeant Wainscott, a pistol found in 1881 after Majuba, a number of cartridges found in Cronje's laager at Paardeberg, a watch pierced by a bullet, Kruger coins, &c. The exhibitors included Sergeant Biggs, Bombadier Lee, of Lewisham, Chapman (Scots Guards), also of Lewisham, Mr. E. Mayo, canteen steward, &c. Among those who contributed to the concerts were the Misses Gladys Makeham (of Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean Company), Rosalie Kaufmann, Lily Blacow, Flight, and E. B. Hansford, Messrs. Alf. Lewis, Clement Stewart, Fred Western, A. Wilson, Joe Levett, Will Spinks, the Bros. Moreso, and a glee party of boys under the direction of Bugler-Sergeant Greene. Mr. Charles Volcard

gave some clever sleight-of-hand tricks. A boxing bout between Bugler-Sergeant Greene (2nd West Kent) and Sergeant Windhurst (London Irish)—one disguised as a sweep and the other as a miller—caused much amusement. Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Fallows, and Miss Harris were in charge of a refreshment stall. Mr. George Stroud, of Lewisham, provided a stall heavily laden with earthenware, fancy articles, &c., and the profits will be devoted to the fund. Sergeant W. Gomer was hon. secretary of the committee, Mr. H. C. Leney (a past sergeant) hon. treasurer, Colour-Sergeants J. Maclean, J. Beardow, C. Allwood, and A. Wilson, Sergeants J. Ward and S. Fallows, and Private Slater were the Committee, and Mr. C. W. Grange and Sergeant S. Fallows were efficient M.C.'s.

STUDIES—A "SPORTSMAN."

I.

How much abused, in its misapplied use, is the fine old word nowadays! Most of the class of "sportsmen" on whom I propose to dilate are, indeed, self-named. The terms "sonny," "old chappie," having become threadbare, through frequent use, it probably occurred to the lethargic brain of some emasculated boy about town that the word "sportsman," conveying, as it does, in its proper sense some attribute of capacity for enduring the hardships and deprivations consequent on the following of sport, would dignify and therefore suit the class to which he and others of his kidney would fain belong.

When one sees just before lunch in Piccadilly—about Ascot time may-be—a couple of pink-eyed and shaky-legged young fellows—who would, in all probability, fall off *before* they came to the easiest of fences, by reason of their gruesome fear of riding over the same, and who would probably drop their guns in sheer nervousness when the whirring covey suddenly rises—it will be noticed that these same young fellows greet each other with the remark "Hullo, old sportsman, how goes it?" The intelligent subscribers to the *Q.O.G.* may wonder why I pursue such a study, for it is not an over-agreeable one. I have, however, a dual reason. First, although a moderately extensive reader, and although also blessed, or perhaps cursed, with a sufficiently retentive memory, I never recollect having seen the truly pernicious class, of which I write, analysed or criticised. Secondly, the courteous and obliging "editor" wants "copy!" To proceed then. Anybody who has had the misfortune at any time to be thrown in contact with any member or members of the delectable clique of which I write, must have been struck with the infallibility which they affect with regard to every subject, but their trump cards, in their own opinion, are horses and women, whereas, as a matter of fact, their ignorance of all matters connected with the former is only equalled by their want of chivalry toward the latter. Want of chivalry towards women, indeed, is perhaps their strongest characteristic. A true gentleman is polite to a demimondaine, your "sportsman," never; while his effrontery towards ladies—born of nervousness, and of the fact that he is totally unconscious, and knows it, of what he *ought* to say or do—makes one really wonder whether the penalty for killing a man is not, under certain circumstances, unduly severe. These "sportsmen," too, have a strange Shibboleth of their own—with which to draw attention to their own fancied infallibility. "Don't you make any error" is perhaps the favourite expression in use amongst them, when they seek to convince some doubtful

hearer on any point. Their outward appearance is modelled in that of the class of persons with those tastes and knowledge they seek to be identified—yet they assume a certain aloofness of demeanour in order to draw the attention of the unknowing public to the fact that they consider themselves gentlemen—and in this strain of gentility they are about as successful in carrying the thing off, as is a valet in his master's clothes when "walking out" with the lady of his choice! Their trump card, being as noticed above horses and women, their conversation naturally turns solely on those two subjects. Of ladies, *quâ* ladies, they know nothing, or next to nothing; a diligent study of the society papers however, coupled with a certain aptitude for availing themselves of the powers of imagination—for of such is the Kingdom of Knowledge with this ignoble clique—enables them to talk with a certain amount of second-hand assurance of their doings with well-known society women. To them, the acme of social distinction is embodied in the following situation. They *must* be seen, if possible, in a compromising situation, certainly in public, with some well-known pretty woman—so that the lurid nature of their private life may be guessed at, if not accurately known. As regards racing and horses generally, they mix as much as they can with trainers and the various hangers on of racing, and from them endue themselves, as they fondly imagine, perhaps as a result of mere association, with the genuine qualities of these really hard-working people. Your "sportsman" imagines that because he *affects*, as though clothed with a garment, a Don-Juanesque and horse-loving air, he is an individual who is therefore successful in both lines. Much indeed as some would-be army reformers think, *viz.*, that by keeping the soldier-officer perpetually in uniform, they will endue him with all the martial qualities by absorption—*i.e.* as if he—the soldier-officer—absorbed military qualities by simply wearing a red coat, and derived all the martial virtues by merely wearing it!

The subject is not, however, a pleasant one to follow up to its logical conclusion. The present war has furnished an opportunity to many of the class of which I am writing to prove whether they be men or not. Certain minor regrettable incidents have proved that *some* are not. It is unnecessary to specify which—the incidents are of too recent date to make the most indifferent memory fail to recall them. I would give much, looking to the future of the Empire, that such individuals did not exist at all, but an inscrutable Providence has decreed that they should, and since they must, let us pray Heaven that it be our fate to meet them as little as possible.

F.M.

5/8/01.

REMINISCENCES OF THE NEW ZEALAND WAR—1863-66.

From the *Military Mail*.

The visit of the Duke of Cornwall and York to New Zealand is a propitious occasion to recall the gallant feats of the small army engaged under Generals Sir Duncan Cameron and Sir Trevor Chute during the years 1863-66 in subjugating the warlike Maoris.

The fighting took place in the Waikato River District amongst dense forests and tracts of wild country covered with fern and tree scrub or swamps. The chiefs displayed considerable skill in fortifying their positions by earthworks constructed of light soil bound together by layers of green fern; irregular trenches enfiladed every approach, and

pallisading of supple-jack or rough logs and open ox-fences stopped our charges. Most remarkable field engineering for savages.

Our Infantry were armed with muzzle-loading Enfield rifles, and an assaulting party, when charging a Pah, having no time to reload after the first volley, were forced to continue the rush with empty rifles and fixed bayonets. The Maoris had better weapons in their shot guns, which they loaded rapidly with bullet cartridges made by their women to fit so exactly to the barrels, that striking the butt against the ground sufficed to send them home, and as they pulled both triggers together, their fire was deadly at short ranges. They also used tomahawks and spears with great dexterity.

The first severe engagement took place at Rangiriri, where the natives had built a strong redoubt and line of works connecting the Waikato with an impenetrable swamp.

General Cameron; following up his dearly-bought advantage, drove the Maoris by a series of minor engagements from the Waikato to the Waipa, a tributary of the former, and whilst pursuing them with his main body, left a strong detachment at Te Awamutu under General Carey.

In 1864 General Chute took over command of the forces in New Zealand, and transferred the scene of action to the Wanganni district. His six weeks' campaign was marked by continual and severe fighting, especially at Putaki, where the Maoris had built a pah on a range of hills they thought impregnable.

General Chute left his camp in the evening, and after a night march through a most difficult country, where the guns had to be mostly carried or hauled by manual labour, arrived at daybreak at the crest of a deep ravine opposite the Maoris' stronghold. It was a beautiful morning, the light of the rising sun flashed on the bayonets as the troops cautiously climbed the opposite hill. Not a sound was to be heard but the booming of the guns and the bursting of the shells. It seemed as if the enemy had evacuated their position, but as we came in contact with the first line of pallisading the whole line of works opened fire. From the guns we could just hear the shouts of our men and watch their attempt to clamber over the barriers. They were beaten back. A quiet interval. Again shouting and a charge. A second time beaten back. Another pause. A third charge, and then, came the welcome signal, by the flare up of the whare's (native huts), set on fire by our victorious troops, that we were in at last. It was a severe struggle, and our losses were heavy, including the Officer Commanding 57th Regiment.

General Chute's reply to an officer's congratulations on his success and his remark during the fight are characteristic of the man "Lost too many poor boys; lost too many poor boys; nearly lost myself," he said, showing, as he came toiling up the steep ascent towards the guns, a flap of the braid of his coat shot away from across his chest. When told that to take the place by assault was impossible unless the artillery could batter down the stockade, his answer was prompt, "If there is only one man left in the force to take it, and that one happens to be myself, he shall go at it, so the sooner it falls the better for us all." The Maoris, though turned out of their pahas, considered themselves safe in the dense forest surrounding Mount Egmont, but General Chute determined to follow them into their fastnesses, and executed an extraordinary forced march round the base of the mountain to Taranaki. A small picked force went in with five days' provisions, but were close upon a fortnight cutting their way through almost the thickest jungle ever penetrated by English troops. Though the fighting was not severe the men had to

undergo the hardship of marching in pouring rain on a diet of horseflesh and the pith of the Nikau fern tree palm. It was only the indomitable determination of the General and all under him that carried them through, and the pluck of Captain Leach, 50th Regiment, his staff officer, who, with a commissariat officer, volunteered to attempt to find their way out and send succour. They took with them one or two Maori guides and a couple of dogs for food. Luckily they were successful in finding their way to the coast, and sent a relieving party from Taranaki, who brought out biscuits carried in blankets. This expedition so disheartened the Maoris that though they refused to make peace, their fighting men returned dejected to their homes and the war gradually came to an end.

The sum of £9 18s. 1d. is awaiting the next of kin of John Meager, late 2nd Royal West Kent, as is also £33 9s. 11d. for the next of kin of Arthur Moss, 1st Battalion.

OBITUARY.

Lieut.-Colonel J. Hibbert, late Grenadier Guards, died on 18th July, at the Albany, Piccadilly, W., at the age of 75. He served in the 50th Regiment during the Campaign in 1854-5, was present at the Battles of Alma, Inkerman, and Siege and fall of Sebastopol, receiving the medal with three clasps; he also received the Sardinian and Turkish Medals, the Brevet rank of Major, and the 5th Class of the Order of the Medjidie.

MARRIAGE.

JAMES—FECHNEY.—On the 16th April, at Naawpoort Cape Colony, E. L. Haweis James, Royal West Kent Regt., eldest son of Capt. W. H. James, 18, West Cromwell-road, South Kensington, to Margaret, only daughter of the late David Fechny, of Paisley.

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No. 316.

MAIDSTONE, SEPTEMBER, 1901.

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PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

LINE BATTALION.

Malcolm James Dinwiddy, gentleman, to be Second Lieut.; dated 14th August.

Lieut.-Col. and Brevet-Col. E. A. W. S. Grove, C.B., on completion of his extended period of service in command of a battalion, is placed on half pay; dated 19th August.

Major W. G. B. Western to be lieut.-colonel, dated 19th August.

1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Second Lieutenant d'Avigdor Goldsmid resigns his commission, dated 10th August.

Quartermaster and Hon. Captain R. Stevenson resigns his commission, with permission to retain his rank and wear the uniform of the regiment on retirement; dated 10th August.

3rd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The Rev. H. H. Mercer, B.A., to be Acting Chaplain; dated 3rd August.

1st BATTALION.

Appointed Lance Corporal:—Pte. H. Carpenter, 1st July; Pte. W. McEuff, 3rd July.

2nd BATTALION.

Appointed Lance Corporal:—Pte. J. Plackett (Volunteer Company), 12th July; Ptes. F. Jeffrey and F. Job, 22nd July.

Promoted Sergeant:—Lance-Sergt. E. Boxell, 31st Jan., 1901.

DEPOT.

Appointed Lance Corporals:—Ptes. W. Cockle, F. E. Hare, H. Russell, and F. A. Hensley; 19th August.

THE ADEN EXPEDITION.

AD-DAREJA, JULY 29TH.

The heads of the Haushabi tribe, which is under British protection, reported to the Resident of Aden in March, 1900, that a man named Muhammad Bin Nasir Mukhbil had built a stone tower within the limits of their territory. This man is of low origin, but he was raised to the dignity of Sheikh by the Turks, and was made responsible to them for the collection of taxes in the district which lies around Mavia and below the main range of mountains. For this purpose he maintains a regiment of Zaidies—an Arab tribe—and keeps them well armed with Martini-Henry rifles. Adjoining the Haushabi territory is the country belonging to the Al Hamari, which extend to the north-west up to the foot of the main range of mountains of Southern Arabia. This tribe is under Turkish authority.

THE PORTE'S ORDERS.

On receipt of the report of the Haushabi Sultan correspondence took place between the Foreign Office and Constantinople, and in the end the Porte informed us that Muhammad Bin Nasir Mukhbil had been ordered to vacate the tower which he had built within the Haushabi limits. But this he refused to do, and at last, about the end of May of this year, orders were received from the Foreign Office by the Resident in Aden that the tower was to be knocked down. On this instructions were sent to the Haushabi Sultan to collect some men and to demolish the tower, and he was given a present of some ammunition, and told that when the tower was destroyed he would receive Rs. 1,000, and that he would protect him against any reprisals which Muhammad Bin Nasir Mukhbil might afterwards attempt. At this time there were only one old man, a woman, and a boy living in the tower. The Haushabis, however, instead of going quietly by night and turning the occupants out, thought they saw their way to making money out of the undertaking. They collected a large number of men, and advanced firing guns and beating toms-toms. The consequence was that when they reached the tower they found it held by five or six armed men, who began to fire on them. The Haushabis, after having a couple of men wounded, drew off, and sent in word to Aden to say that the tower must be surrounded and besieged, and asked for more ammunition and Rs. 2,000 for the purchase of food.

TOWER OCCUPIED IN FORCE.

When, on June 27, this demand was received by the Resident, he repeated his former instructions to the Sultan, and at the same time sent a party of twenty men of the Aden troop with two British officers out to Musemir, the residence of the Haushabi Sultan, about sixty miles distant from Aden, with orders to report what the Haushabis were really doing, and to support them by their presence if they demolished the tower. Strict orders were given to the party not to cross into Turkish territory. On arriving at Musemir, on the third morning after leaving Aden, the officer in command found that the Haushabis were no longer able to destroy the tower unaided, as, profiting by the delay, Muhammad Bin Nasir Mukhbil had strengthened his garrison and was in the tower himself with some of his Zaidies. A reconnaissance was made to the village of Ad-dareja, about a mile and a half due west of which place stands the tower on an isolated hill, completely commanding the surrounding country. When it approached the tower the reconnoitring party was fired on, and it had to withdraw.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COLUMN.

A full report of the state of affairs was immediately sent to the Resident at Aden. It was then decided to send out a force from Aden. This force, called the Ad-dareja Field Force, and consisting of two hundred men of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment under Major Rowe, two hundred of the 5th Bombay Light Infantry under Major A.

Beale, six seven-pounder mountain guns on camels under Major Carleton, R.G.A., and a company of Bombay Sappers and Miners under Captain Rundle, R.E., making five hundred and thirty fighting men in all, together with a section of a field hospital, left Aden on the 15th July. The heat at this season of the year in Aden is excessive, and marching over the sandy desert proved to be most trying. The whole force was under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. To the great regret of the whole force this officer was struck down by the sun and had to return to Aden. The command then devolved on Major Rowe. Owing to the great heat and the heavy sand the force made only short marches, but, in spite of all precautions, four British soldiers succumbed to heat apoplexy. Musemir was reached on the 23rd of July, where a halt was made for a day and a base depot was formed. A few days previous to the arrival of the force some of the Haushabis had begun a fight on their own account with Muhammad Bin Nazir Mukhbil's men, and had been driven out of their own village of Ad-dareja.

THE BRITISH ATTACK.

The force moved in light order half way to Ad-dareja on July 25th, and on the following morning started to retake the village. All reports received up to this time agreed that Muhammad Bin Nasir Mukhbil had some two thousand Arabs with him, of whom some four hundred were occupying the village of Ad-dareja and the rest were guarding the tower. On the afternoon of the 25th, Major Rowe had reconnoitred the position, so that on the next morning but little time was lost in preparing for action. After marching some five miles the force reached some water pools in the bed of a nullah, where a halt was made and everybody had a good meal. About a quarter of a mile beyond the pools was a ridge commanding all the ground over which the advance would have to be made. The village of Ad-dareja stands on a ridge on the left bank of the Wadi-Mileh, a small stream running through a narrow belt of cultivation, its banks rising steeply on each hand for eighty or one hundred feet. The ridge runs from south to north-west, leading up at its north-western end to a high hill overlooking the bed of the Wadi, and a small tower stands on a shoulder of the hill towards the north. On the right bank of the Wadi, which flows south, rises a long hog-backed ridge, on which could be seen a large sangar. The West Kent Regiment was detailed to attack first the Ad-dareja tower and then the heights above it, while the 5th Bombay Light Infantry was to attack and clear the village on the lower ridge and then swing round to the right and join in the attack on the heights.

THE ENGAGEMENT.

The seven-pounder mountain guns opened the fight with a shell beautifully placed within a few feet of the tower, and immediately afterwards numbers of men were seen to make off up the hill. The Infantry then advanced and soon came under a very severe fire, but they passed on without a check. Twenty men of the West Kents, splendidly led by Lieutenant Hastings, reached the tower and at once started to clear the men off the top of the hill. They advanced up a steep slope absolutely bare of cover and drove the enemy from sangar to sangar along the whole length of the ridge, the opposing sides being at times not fifteen yards apart. Meanwhile, the 5th Bombay Light Infantry had cleared the village and had proceeded to join the Royal West Kents on the hill. In clearing the village they were materially assisted by the Aden troop, under Captain Parsons, who, having been sent to the bed of the Wadi to watch and protect the left flank, soon detected and defeated an attempt of the enemy to reinforce the village from the right bank of the river. By two o'clock

in the afternoon we had gained the village and heights above. The Bombay Sappers, who had been in reserve at the beginning of the engagement, had also come up and joined the Queen's Own on the heights. Up to this time our casualties had been:—Royal West Kents, two wounded; Bombay Sappers and Miners, one native officer mortally wounded; 5th Bombay Light Infantry, one native officer and one man killed. The enemy had retired to some hills about a thousand or fifteen hundred yards distant, whence they kept up a very hot and accurate fire, completely sweeping the northern slope of the hill which we had gained. A heavy cross fire was also brought to bear from the sanger on the far bank of the Wadi. The Sappers and some men of the Queen's Own were now sent down from the big hill to another hill towards the north, whence they could bring a strong fire to bear on the enemy. Three guns were brought up from the village, while the other three shelled the sangar. This state of affairs went on until five o'clock during which time three more, casualties occurred—one man of the Queen's Own being killed, and two of the 5th Bombay Light Infantry wounded. At five o'clock a heavy thunderstorm came on—during which little or no firing took place—and lasted for an hour. When the storm ceased the guns again shelled the enemy on the distant hills. They replied but feebly, and by half-past six all firing had ceased. On going over the ground we had gained we found five dead bodies, all of Turkish soldiers in uniform. We also had two prisoners, who were likewise Turks.

DESTRUCTION OF THE TOWER.

We camped that night in the village. At daybreak an ultimatum was sent by Major Davies, the political officer with the force, to Muhammad Bin Nazir Mukhbil demanding the tower and an answer by eight o'clock. Shortly before this hour the messenger returned saying that the enemy had all made off in the night, and that there was no one in the vicinity. The force then marched out, and Captain Rundle got his men to work on the tower. In just two hours' time a bugle sounded the "Commence fire," and a few minutes later came the report of the first charge of gun-cotton. Others followed in quick succession, and soon nothing but a mound of stones with some smouldering rafters sticking up remained to mark the site of Muhammad Bin Nazir Mukhbil's tower. We then returned to camp at Ad-dareja. In the course of the previous night and that morning more prisoners had been brought in, some of whom were wounded. They were all Turks, and from them we learned that Muhammad Bin Nazir Mukhbil had, after many efforts succeeded in persuading the Turkish Basha at Taiz to send him two battalions, alleging that the British were attacking him in Turkish territory. Opposed to us in Friday's fight had been from seven hundred to eight hundred Turkish Regular troops, the whole of Muhammad Bin Nazir Mukhbil's force of eight hundred Zaidies, and about four hundred Hamiris. The prisoners also said that the Turks were bringing up some field guns from their reserve—some said two and some said five guns—when the thunder-storm broke and stopped them. Later in the day a party of Arab traders arrived from Mavia, about a dozen miles distant in Turkish territory, who said that the Turks were very angry with Muhammad Bin Nazir Mukhbil for having caused them very heavy loss—one hundred men of their force being, they said, missing—and for having misled them as to the territory in which they had fought. They had carried him off, the men added, to Taiz as a prisoner. The Turkish troops had only arrived at Muhammad Bin Nasir Mukhbil's tower on the night previous to the fight, and their movements and intentions had been kept absolutely secret. The first intimation we had of their presence beyond the unexpected and heavy opposition en-

countered, which led us to suspect something of the kind was the finding of a dead Turk when we first reached the hill. For days endeavours had been made to learn what the Turks were doing, but all information had been to the effect that the Turks would have nothing to do with Muhammad Bin Nasir Mukhbil, and that two or three Turks who had been in the tower with him had been peremptorily ordered back to Taiz.

The Hamaris are reported to have bolted at the first discharge from the guns. Our Haushabi allies mounted a hill and, instead of advancing with our men on the right as ordered, fired into our rear and were only stopped with difficulty.—*The Times*.

THE ADEN EXPEDITION.

Earl Spencer asked the Under Secretary for India whether he could give the House any information regarding recent military operations near Aden, their object, and results.

The Earl of Hardwicke—In March, 1900, a Turkish subject, Sheikh Muhammad Nasir Mukhbil, established himself in a small fortified post in the country of the Haushabis, one of nine tribes near Aden under a British Protectorate. The boundaries of the Protectorate were surveyed and mapped out by a British party in 1891. About the time to which I have referred, viz., March, 1900, a party of Turkish troops proceeded to garrison the post. A reference to the Porte was made by her late Majesty's Government, in the course of which the Turkish Minister of War expressed his disapproval of the Sheikh's action, and the fort was shortly afterwards evacuated. But after the withdrawal of the troops the Sheikh himself re-occupied the fort. The Haushabis protested against this intrusion, and further representations were made to the Porte, which in April last assured his Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that the commander of the Turkish troops in Yemen would make the Sheikh withdraw. But whatever orders may have been given, the Sheikh remained in possession, and the Turkish Government was informed that steps would be taken by the British to remove the intruder. A force of Haushabis accordingly proceeded, with the sanction of the Resident at Aden, on June 27, to clear their territory and to destroy the fort. Unfortunately, however, they met with strong and unexpected resistance from a large force, and were unable to effect their object without artillery. In consequence of these operations having been unsuccessful, on July 14 a mixed force of two hundred British troops and two hundred native Infantry with six mountain guns left Aden with strict orders not to cross the Turkish frontier, but to expel the occupants of the fort. The attack was delivered on July 26, and an obstinate resistance was encountered. By the evening the village and hills overlooking the fort were taken and on the following morning the position was found to be abandoned by the enemy. The fort was blown up and the troops were ordered to remain till all prospect of further attack was removed. They withdrew to Muremir on August 4, and returned to Aden quite recently. The Turkish frontier was not crossed, and strict orders have been given to the Haushabis to respect it. The Turkish soldiers who were taken prisoners and were able to leave when taken to the frontier were released as an act of courtesy to the Turkish Government, whose serious attention has been called to the improper conduct of their troops. The wounded are still in our hands. The matter is now forming the subject of inquiry by the Porte. I have only to add that his Excellency the Viceroy reports that Major Rowe, who was in command of the expedition, consisting of two hundred men of the 1st

Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, and two hundred men of the 5th Bombay Infantry and Bombay Sappers and Miners and officers, successfully coped with serious difficulties and deserved credit, and that the conduct of the troops throughout appeared to have been satisfactory.

We take the following from the *St. James's Gazette* of Aug. 14th:—"The little campaign lately fought by Major Rowe and two hundred men of the Royal West Kent Regiment, supported by some native Indian troops, has a distinctly *opera bouffe* side to it. An Arab scallywag, one Muhammad Bin Nasir Mukhbil, living beneath the Shadow of God upon Earth, in that region near the Aden Protectorate where the said shadow is more than usually shadowy, felt himself inspired to emulate the feats of the late lamented Balbus. Therefore it seemed good to him to cross into the territory of the Haushabis, a tribe living under British protection, and there build him a tower, which he garrisoned impregnably with a man, a woman, and a boy. 'Will anyone thread on the tail of me coat?' said Muhammad Bin Nazir Mukhbil. 'Begorra! we'll not do it ourselves, but we know a broth of a bhoys who will,' replied the valiant Haushabis, and hied them to Aden. 'We'll consider the matter. Go home and be good,' said the British authorities, and forthwith a polite request was forwarded to the Shadow that he would presently take order with his too ambitious feudatory. The Shadow would be pleased to do so—presently, and forwarded an order to Balbus to withdraw his garrison and go home. Balbus grinned—and remained. All this was in March, 1900. The Aden authorities tarried patiently the leisure of the Shadow and of Muhammad Bin, &c., until May of this year, and then, presenting the Haushabi Sultan with a box of matches and a stick of sulphur (in the shape of some cartridges and the promise of 1,000 rupees) bade him go and make a little hell for himself. Herein that potentate saw his chance of wealth. He determined to have a 'sumshous melly,' so, collecting a large number of men, he advanced, guns firing and tom-toms beating, to surprise the tower. Nasir Mukhbil, however (we must use his full title in instalments), was not to be caught napping. He had reinforced his tower with six men, and after a brisk skirmish, the Haushabi Sultan retired, overpowered by numbers. Balbus abode still in his breaches.

"Hence it came to pass that the Ad-dareja Field Force was formed: two companies of the 'Dirty Half-hundred,' under Major Rowe, two hundred of the 5th Bombay Light Infantry, under Major A. Beale, six screw-guns on camels, under Major Carleton, and a company of Bombay Sappers and Miners, under Captain Rundle, five hundred fighting men in all. Seeing that sixty miles of desert had to be crossed in the height of Arabian summer, it is not surprising that the little force found that 'the worst of its foes was the sun over'ead.' Their leader, Colonel Harrison, of the 'Queen's Own,' was struck down and had to return to Aden, the command of the whole force thus devolving on Major Rowe. On arriving at the scene of trouble, it was found that the valiant Haushabis had been indulging in a private attempt to oust Muhammad Bin, &c., with the result that Nazir Mukhbil had ousted them from their village of Ad-dareja. Thirsting for revenge they took station in rear of their British allies, and poured a hot fire into them as they advanced to the attack. No casualties are, however, reported from the desperate valour of the Haushabis. Meanwhile, the British force found itself hotly engaged with a numerous enemy, who seemed unaccountably 'sticky.' The West Kents and the Bombay Infantrymen would not be denied, however, and the enemy's position was carried with a loss of one British soldier and three natives killed, two British and two natives wounded.

An examination of the enemy's dead and of the prisoners explained the reason why the resistance was unexpectedly serious. The force opposed to us had included two battalions of the Shadow's regular troops. Our little force had lightly fought and whipped eight hundred Turkish soldiers, eight hundred Zaidies, and four hundred Hamaris. It appears that Balbus—wily man—had persuaded the Turkish Pasha at Taiz that the British were attacking him on Turkish territory, and his injured innocence procured him these reinforcements, along with five guns, which, however (to complete the merriment of the situation), were stopped by a thunderstorm. Matters being thus satisfactorily explained, Major Rowe proceeded to send the fruits of Balbus's labour skyward with gun-cotton, and returned the Shadow's absent-minded beggars to the Pasha of Taiz, with a polite message to the effect that there must be some mistake—the consignment was probably misdirected. The said Pasha was a wrathful man when he realized that Muhammad Bin's prevarication had cost him a hundred men. We know no more of the fate of Balbus than Henry knows of his great original. There should be scope for his energies in the service of the Shadow.

“Such is the plain unvarnished tale, and we suppose we ought to find a moral. Frankly, we don't believe there is one. We congratulate the Queen's Own on being rewarded for their unprecedented stay of over two years at Aden by having this little show ‘on their own,’ and we endorse emphatically the tribute which Lord Hardwicke paid in the House of Lords last night to the ability with which Major Rowe conducted the operations. That officer has not hitherto had the best of luck in the Service, having only attained to his majority when nearing the age-limit for captains. He is well known in the Service for a keen and capable soldier, and it is most gratifying that opportunity should have come to him to make his mark. Harsh things have been said of the training and capacity of our officers when tested by the entirely novel conditions of South African warfare, but it remains the fact that for adaptability as for courage no army in the world can show the like. That is proved time and again by these little expeditions in which an ordinary regimental officer, faced with unexpected difficulties, develops resource and tactical ability which would do no discredit to a Waldersee. As regards the diplomatic question—like the snakes in Ireland—there is no diplomatic question. Lord Lansdowne will wink at the Shadow down the road, and he will wink back, and murmur something about ‘over zealous, don't you know,’ or ‘extra stupid.’ Nobody will be any the worse, except the Pasha of Taiz, who will probably have to wait until the affair is blown over before he gets his Medjidie.

From our 1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

The object of the expedition was to obtain possession of, and destroy, a stone tower, which had been built by a man named Muhammad Bin Nasir Mukhbil (a tax collector under the Turkish government) on a hill, situated in the country of a tribe called the Haushabis, who are under British protection.

An expedition for this purpose was organised in Aden, and despatched from there on July 14th, 1901. Strength:— $\frac{1}{2}$ Co. Bombay Sappers and Miners, 69 men; $\frac{1}{2}$ No. 16 Co. Western R.G.A., with 67lb M.L. guns carried on camels, 81 men; 1st Royal West Kent Regt., 219 men; 5th Bombay Light Infantry, 216 men; total 585 men and 16 combatant officers.

O.C. the expedition, *i.e.* Lt.-Col. Harrison was informed before starting that the position of the tower was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Turkish border, and that if necessary he might take his troops into Turkish territory, to achieve the object of the expedition.

It was supposed (though we had not been informed officially) that the Turks had disclaimed any connection with Muhammad Nasir, and that they had agreed to allow us to destroy the tower without interfering.

THE MARCH.

The force marched from Aden July 14th, and arrived about 8 miles from the tower on July 25th. The heat was exceedingly trying, and 2 men R.W.K. and 1 gunner died on the road from sunstroke. Lt. Col. Harrison, 2nd. Lieut. Keenlyside, and about 20 men went back to Aden sick.

Major Rowe took over command of the expedition. As the force left Aden farther behind them the weather became cooler, and the men got very fit indeed. The sun by day, however, was always very trying under single fly tents, and the temperature was seldom under 100 degrees inside them during the day, and it was known sometimes to go as high as 110 degrees.

Setting aside the climate, the chief difficulties of the march were the exceedingly bad country which had to be traversed, and the bad transport available, *i.e.* camels. After leaving Aden 9 miles behind, the road ceases altogether, and becomes a bridle path over the desert. All water was carried for the first 30 miles of the march, and the country provided no grain or forage for the animals, consequently the string of camels numbered between 400 and 500.

During the march we received information that the enemy had advanced and seized the village of Ad-darega, which is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles S of the tower.

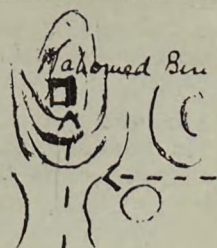
I should have mentioned before that about 20 days before this expedition started, Captain Pilleau, 5th Bombay Light Infantry, with 21 sowars of the Aden troop, had been sent from Aden to endeavour to come to a peaceable arrangement with the owner of the tower (Muhammad Nasir,) and that Muhammad's followers had fired on Captain Pilleau, who had approached the tower (accompanied by another officer and a small escort) for the purpose of getting a better idea of its situation and strength. It was this action on the part of Muhammad which caused the Indian Government to order the expedition, and that there was very little chance of a peaceable arrangement.

When the force arrived at a place called Mileh, which is situated about 8 miles from the tower, Major Rowe, with a few other officers and a small cavalry escort, proceeded to the spot shown on the map as (guns, 1st. position.)

From this spot the position of the enemy could be distinctly seen, and after examining it carefully Major Rowe returned to camp.

The following morning at 5.30 the whole force marched towards Ad-darega, and on arrival at the spot marked x on the map, breakfasts were cooked, and the men were rested and watered, and the baggage packed.

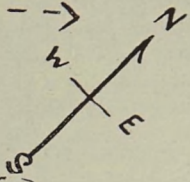
The enemy's position, though strong, had one great defect, *i.e.* it could be approached under cover of the wood, which is shewn in the map passing in front of the 1st position of the guns, and curving towards the left of the enemy's position. The course of a dry bed of a stream is shewn by a dotted blue line, the wood and the bed of the stream taking the same course.



Mahomed Ben Nasir's Tower

about 1 mile

about 2 miles



34 Mmes
and 4000 lbs
No 3 Coy R.W.K.

Tower marking left
of enemy's position
and objective of flank
attack -

Double
line shows
original position
held by enemy, with
retired to the banks
down to N 4 on the
other side of the stream

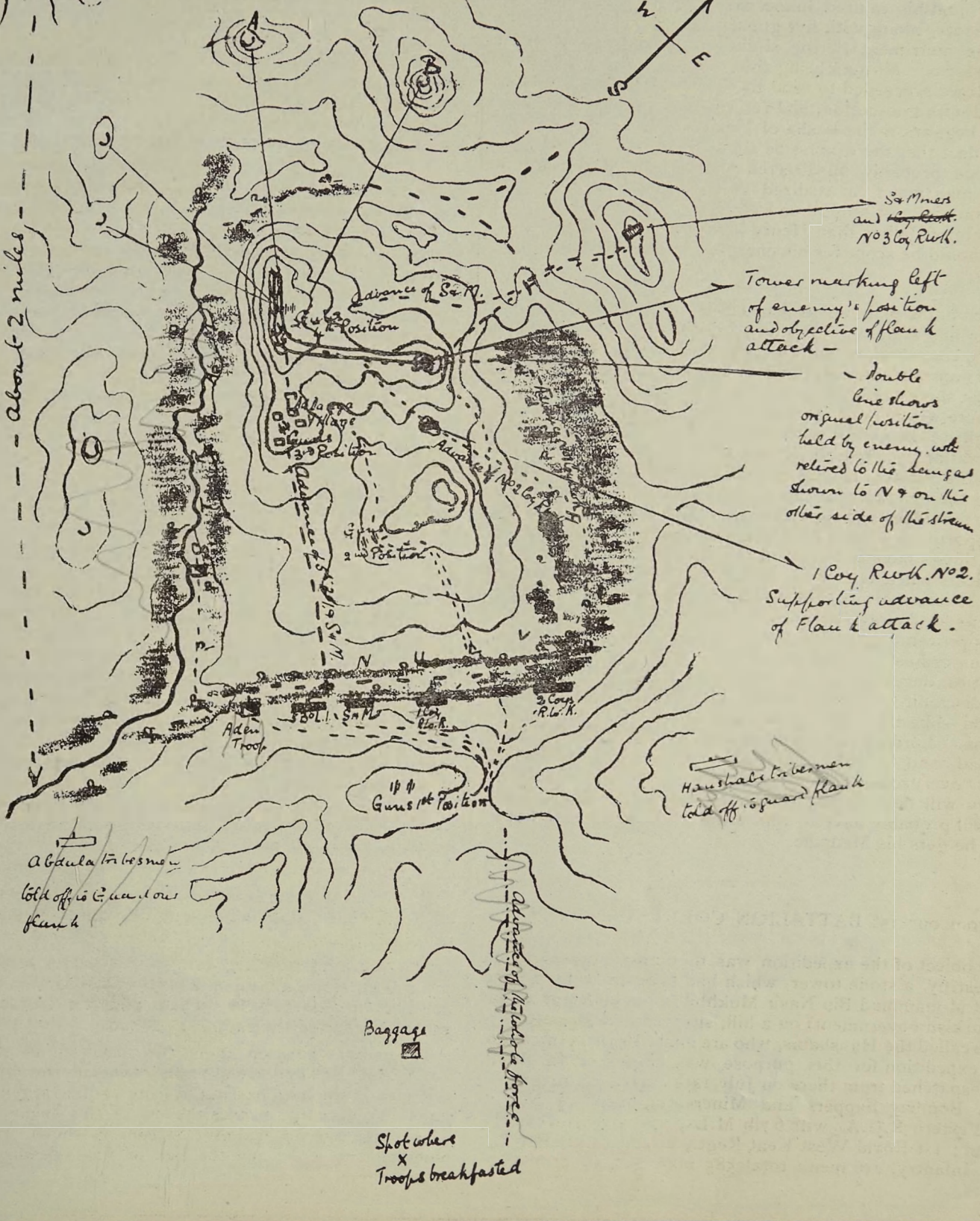
1 Coy R.W.K. No 2.
Supporting advance
of Flank attack.

Handshah tribesmen
told off to guard flank

Abdullah tribesmen
told off to guard
flank

Baggage

Spot where
Troops breakfasted



At about 11 Major Rowe ordered the dispositions which are shown. The routes taken by the different units are marked by the dotted lines, and their positions in the nullah were all taken up without exposing themselves to the view of the enemy.

The plan was that the 5th Bombay Light Infantry should make a frontal and containing attack on the Ad-darega village, so as to occupy the attention of the enemy, while Lieutenant Hastings, with 2 Cos. R.W.K. Regt. followed the shelter of the wood, and attempted to take the position in flank.

The Aden troop were ordered to move up the bed of the stream and cut off any of the enemy who tried to retire across the river, and at the same time to protect the flank. The Sappers and Miners followed and supported the advance of the 5th Bombay Light Infantry, and one Company Royal West Kent remained as escort to the guns.

The whole plan was successfully carried out, but when Lieut. Hastings obtained possession of the tower on the left of the enemy's position, he discovered that the position which had appeared from the gun's first position, to be a straight line, was in reality two sides of a right angle, and he came under heavy fire from the spot shown as fourth position of guns—a distance of about two hundred yards. He therefore collected as many men as he could under the shelter of the tower, and then rushed the whole of the position from end to end at the point of the bayonet. The enemy made a show at standing, but they broke and ran before the bayonets reached them. Heavy firing continued until 3.15, although the position was captured at 1. The enemy retired to the sangars shown in the map and kept up a hot fire on the position they had been occupying themselves, and 8 out of the 10 casualties occurred on the hill, shown as (4th position guns.)

At 3.15 a very heavy thunderstorm came on, and all firing ceased until it was over. The guns seized the opportunity to take up the 4th position, and when the storm was over they put a few shells into the sangars marked A and B. This brought the engagement to an end.

The force camped for the night in the Ad-darega village, fully expecting to fight again in the morning.

Information was, however, brought in at 7.30 a.m. to the effect that the whole valley had been deserted in the night.

The force, therefore, proceeded to Muhammad's tower, which was blown up at 1.30 p.m. on the 27th of July, 1901. The force remained at Ad-darega until August 3rd, and then returned to Aden, where they arrived on 12th. 100 men 5th Bombay L.I. and 21 Sowars Aden Troops were left at Museumir (a place 12 miles S.E. of Ad-darega) under Captain Pilleau 5th Bombay L.I.

The return march was much less trying than the advance, as the force only moved either in the cool of the early morning or in the evening.

The Abdalis and the Haushabis were entirely useless as allies; they would not advance with the remainder of the force, but let off their rifles into the air from the most secure positions they could discover. They are suspected of having shot two of the battery camels.

The undermentioned have been awarded Second Class Certificates for Education:—Lce.-Corpl. S. Kalland, Lce.-Corpl. E. Hatch. Third Class:—Lce.-Corpl. J. Haden, Lce.-Corpl. J. Blackall; Ptes. F. Piper, E. Igglesden, W. Peterson, T. Merrick, C. Stevens, J. Wellard.

Those who know Lieut.-Col. Harrison, Royal West Kent Regiment, says "The World," and are aware what a thoroughly capable commanding officer he is, and how much he is esteemed, will have learnt with regret that the "honors of war" have been denied him in the little expedition from Aden. Upon him devolved the duty of making the preliminary arrangements. He set out in command of the force, but after a trying march succumbed to sunstroke, and had to hand over charge to Major Rowe, the next senior officer. This was a piece of very bad luck indeed for the senior, who was promoted to his lieutenant-colonelcy in circumstances of exceptional difficulty, and has fully justified the confidence of the military authorities.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

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DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I am afraid I have but little news for you this month, as matters lately have been very quiet. I have asked our many detachments to send me their news, and I hope to receive their contributions before the end of the month. I shall forward them to you direct when received.

With the exception of an affair to the West of this place, on July 11th, when a S.A.C. post became heavily engaged, and a column went out from here to reinforce it, there has been little in the way of military operations from here.

The corps of "Scouts," which is the term applied to the mounted men of the Battalion stationed here, has now reached a strength of twenty-five, and is, I hear, to be augmented to fifty. They are rapidly becoming efficient M.I., and have already taken part in several expeditions with the other mounted troops which are stationed here.

Col. Garrett's column arrived here yesterday for supplies, after a successful "trek" through the district, S.W. of here. Among our many successes reported during the past month, that of General Broadwood at Reitz, may be said to have been the most cheering. Successes of this sort go a long way to keeping up one's hopes that the end may not be very far distant.

Captain Lowe has rejoined the Battalion, having been doing duty since September last as Intelligence officer to the 17th Brigade. He has taken over H Company at Taaibosch Kop from Captain Pack-Beresford, who has relieved Lieut. Bonham-Carter in command of our M.I. Company, which is still with Lieut.-Col. Western's column.

There have been other small changes in our posts down the line: Lieut. Kitson with A Company has taken over Somer's Post; Lieut. Norman with half H Company proceeding to Taaibosch Bridge; and Lieut. Joslin with half F Company replacing A Company here.

2nd-Lieut. B. Johnstone joined the Battalion yesterday.

My apologies for such a dull contribution, but I have great hopes that the Detachment Notes will be more lively.

Vereeniging, 25/7/01.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Vredefort Road,
31st July, 1901.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

It has been brought before my notice that, although we have been on the unattached list for such a very long period, we, the noted and much abused "D" company have been silent on the matter. Yet, I'm sure if our heroic and well-directed blows at the enemy had been emulated by all the forces under our noble Commander-in-Chief, the war had long since been over, and peace and prosperity restored to this unhappy colony.

In imitation of our worthy friend the correspondent of "G" company, I am now going to give you, in short detail, the blood-curdling and gallant deeds wrought by us.

First and foremost I may mention that the 2nd Battalion Correspondent was quite accurate in his letter published in the *Q.O.G.* for July. We did leave Heilbron the same day that the Volunteers arrived. This memorable day, when we were allowed out alone for the first time, was May 22nd, 1901. I am sure that the adjutant and our various other nurses had severe qualms as to whether we were old enough to be trusted out alone among such very bad company as is to be met with on the main line, but go we did, and I'm sure in my own mind that many of the Heilbron ladies must have wept. Even though we were not allowed in town, they must have seen us going to church, and to see us is to love us.

On our arrival at Wolvehoek we found flags displayed and bands playing; but I must say that on enquiry we found it was not in our honour as it was a daily occurrence. I found out that the flags were only to locate the hospital and the commandant's office, and the band was one of the Telegraph Department practising scales on the Euphonium.

We slept that night on the cold, cold ground—nothing new, by the way, to us.

No one seemed to want us or to know what we were there for, so next morning we pitched our tents and refused to go until we received definite orders.

On the 25th we received definite (?) orders that we had to take the first train and go to—somewhere. So we embarked, and everyone we saw to speak to we asked where we were wanted, but no one seemed to know what we were doing—in fact they did not seem to know exactly what they were doing themselves—so at last, after an hour's journey, we found ourselves at Vredefort Weg (bye-the-bye, "Weg" is Dutch for something, personally I can't enlighten you).

Here we bundled our baggage out and were told to take up our quarters, first on one side, then on the other of the railway. As a matter of fact we did both.

But we were not allowed to rest long, for no sooner did we settle down than the R.S.O. discovered we were soldiers, and although we weren't wanted, they found a job for most of the company relieving the Militia who garrisoned the place off their outposts and patrols.

Next day we were told that we were to garrison the station, but they didn't seem then to be correct, for at 10 o'clock a.m. we were ordered to be ready at 12 noon to go on a column with Colonel Pengree, R.A. We went! and this is the only bright spot on the canvas—a jolly time we had.

We went out to a place called Wood Kopje, and spent two or three days in peace.

This column was mostly cavalry, and during the day we looked after the convoy in camp, while the mounted men went hunting the wily Boer and chickens.

'Twas during this column that I have to record "a terrible night's work." Forty men of the company were required to go out with the mounted men in lieu of forty Yeomanry, and to attack a farm where there were a good many Boers. Our men had permission to use the Yeomanry's horses, which they did, and I can assure you that the way they took to mounted duties was a sight to see. Although I am grieved to say the words of command were not correct "per book," they managed to carry out the orders they received, yet some evil people said it took them too long to get on their horses. I'm sure, though, they could have had no cause to complain at the time it took them to come off.

I can only say that they managed to get to the farm with the remainder—mostly, I understand, because the horse refused to leave their comrades—but I was told that West Kents seemed to be fonder of riding with any corps rather than their own. Of course this was not through inability to manage the horses, but from preference. In proof of this a remark overheard by two officers will suffice:—One of our men rode up to the S. Staffords M.I. (on purpose of course) and as he seemed to want to get into the middle of a section of fours, one of the S. Staffords remarked, "Here, where are yer coming to, breaking up the blooming army! you clumsey——!" or words to that effect.

The "terrible" part was that, although the other corps managed to get plenty of "loot" in the shape of ducks, geese, &c., our men returned empty handed. Owing to their strict sense of propriety forbidding their moving their fiery steeds beyond a walking pace (No unkind deductions, please).

I may mention that no Boers were seen; in fact, I couldn't swear that there were any within 50 miles. However, if "Boers" can't be found, our fellows manage generally to find other "Boers"—(No remarks, please)—and ducks or chicken and this kind of sport seems to please them better, especially the ——(No I won't say who I mean because the I.Y's might take offence).

This event is considered a great performance by the men of the Company as they were all willing to go—and probably would have done so—if the supply of chargers had admitted of it. The party consisted of Lieut. Tulloch, Sergt. Payne (young Gussie) and various others.

On the 31st of the month we returned to Vredefort Road. At daybreak the camp was broken up, and the mounted troops went their various ways, leaving us and the South Staffords M.I. to act as a little surprise packet should any overbold Dutchmen take possession of the deserted camp, in quest of bread crumbs or what not. We had to hold the surrounding ridges and lie "doggo" (as our late colonel had it).

We remained in that position (whatever it is), and stayed till we started taking root (viz., 2 p.m.) when we retired, without having seen the slightest sign of any chicken—I mean Boers: (one is liable to get mixed up in these things as one never really knows which it should be).

On arrival at Vredefort we got orders to go to Wolvehoek once again.

By-the-bye, we don't get much money but we do see life. Our travelling is all done 1st Class, on a truck-load of coals as a rule—carefully white-washed, I suppose, to prevent our getting black.

At Wolvehoek we took over the garrison and furnished men for three block-houses. So we were at last apparently settled for a time. We stayed there till 1st July.

During our stay we had two or three little outings. We constantly had to escort the Heilbron train as there was not always an armoured train available. On these occasions fifty men had to go. On 11th June we did this, and brought back our noble corps on its way to Blighty, no it was'nt, it was Vereeniging. I'm afraid I'm anticipating.

On the 18th June a report reached us that C company at Gottenberg was attacked by a train raiding party. The Heilbron train having gone by that morning with supplies and the usual escort. I suppose that the wily Boers, having been repulsed from their expected prize, came to the conclusion that Captain Moody's blood was the only recompense available—so to the number of between 20 and 20,000, they attacked his post. They were slightly pushed however, as they forgot that D company was at Wolvehoek, and that C company didn't usually spend its time sleeping. (I'm doubtful about the Captain).

Well! we got a truck, and made it armour-plated by stacking iron sleepers up the sides, and taking a maxim gun and twelve men or so (in fact all we could muster), we commandeered an engine off a main line train and went to the "Relief of Gottenberg." At present the War Office has not awarded a "bar" for this. We went post-haste, and about six miles from C company's camp our maxim gun could be heard playing the march past on what we took to be a party of some hundred or so Boers (mounted). There was a peculiar mist, such as is often seen on these high veldts, hanging around, so our eyes were not so faulty as might be imagined, when I tell you that these terrible Boers turned out to be a large herd of buck. But if they had been Boers, damage would certainly have been done, as we knocked over at least six of these buck.

On reaching Gottenberg we found the attack had been repulsed before we arrived, so on our way back we vented our military ardour by firing at all the "koorhaans" we saw—(This is a specie of bustard, I think; the name implies "woodcock," but as they live on the bare veldt, I think the term a misnomer). We didn't hit any!—because of the cruelty!

On the 20th of June one of the blockhouses was awakened by one of Kenward's Patent Electro-Levero Guns, and found that a party of Boers were trying to cross the line. They managed to prevent this, and captured a large number of ponies. Sergt. Jasper, who was in charge of the hut, got commended by the G.O.C. for his promptitude.

These E.-L. Guns of Pte. Kenward's are worthy a remark in passing—Major Guinness, R.A., has frequently complimented him on them. They consist of a series of wires, which, when anything touches them, off goes a gun or a bell, or the sentry's leg is pulled, or else the sentry hears a gentle whispering in his ear, and all sorts of funny things happen. However, there's no denying that he is a very useful and ingenious man to have in a blockhouse. I should like to mention that this man can repair a watch with a bit of biscuit tin and barbed wire. N.B.—All orders executed promptly and as neatly as circumstances will allow.—(Advt.)

On our departure from Wolvehoek (1st July,) we came back—once again—to Vredefort, and here we are. There's little or nothing doing, except putting up barbed wire, etc.

There are a lot of rumours, as usual, about Boers and De Wet and others, and we have frequently had to "lie out" on the line to prevent a crossing. We are at the Railway Station; on a kopje, about a mile away is the main camp, (86 Batty. R.A., and 5th Royal Irish Rifles.)

We have charge of the line as far as Kromellenberg, in company with "C" company, who relieved "G" there. "G" have gone to Gottenberg, and 74 of my company go tomorrow to join them, but this place remains Company Head Quarters.

A lot of columns have gone through here lately, and a good number of prisoners. What they are now doing I have not heard.

However, there are great signs of "flagging" in the enemy's ranks. So I do hope that the end of this absurd farce is nearly here.

I trust I can obtain your kind indulgence for having sent so much interesting news at once, but in future I will only write a short report of our doings once a month.

I am, sir,

D COMPANY'S CORRESPONDENT.

Mr. Ingham, the Bandmaster of the 2nd Battn., has realized the importance of keeping together the band whilst the battalion is on active service, and is bringing to a state of perfection the boys enlisted during the last twenty months, which, with those under age who were kept at home, complete a band difficult to excel.

The following is taken from the "HERNE BAY GAZETTE AND WHITSTABLE POST":—"The inspiring effect produced in the human breast by the strains of a first-class military band are such as to cause one to pass through a state of the most transient bliss. The excellent band of the "Queen's Own" (Royal West Kent Regt.), under the able leadership of Bandmaster A. E. Ingham, who commenced a week's stay in our midst on Monday, August 4th, created such an impression which it was easy to realize whilst listening to the strains, as did some hundreds of visitors on Monday evening, when the band played in the Tower Gardens. The programme was as follows:—"Marcia Espaguola Sangre Forcia"; (song) "The Beggar's Dream"; (selection) "Deutch Volkalleder," (German folk song); (Russian Spur Dance) "Cracoviua."

The Thames District Rifle meeting was held at Gravesend on Wednesday and Thursday, 28 and 29 August. The programme issued was a very attractive one. On the first day there were the competitions for the Warren Rifle Challenge Shield, presented by Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Warren, the South Eastern Railway Company's Cup (won last year by the Depot), the Warde Challenge Shield, presented by Colonel Warde, M.P., commanding West Kent Yeomanry (also won by the Depot), Royal Artillery Challenge Shield, and Carbine Challenge Shield, both presented by Sir Charles Warren. On the second day the chief competitions were the Borough of Chatham Diamond Jubilee Challenge Cup, presented by the town of Chatham (won two years ago by Sergeant-Instructor McRedmond), and "Scouts competition" for a challenge cup presented by the School of Gunnery. Competitions open to all ranks of the Navy, Army, Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers; also special competitions open to members of civilian rifle clubs in the Thames and Woolwich Districts completed the list.

JOTTINGS.

Second Lieutenants Henderson and Hulbert have arrived in India from South Africa, and joined the Indian Staff Corps.

Second Lieutenant Dinwiddy, appointed to a commission in the Regiment, joins the details at Shorncliffe.

The undernamed passed Group 1, First Class Certificate of Education:—Sergt. W. Page, Band-Sergt. E. Sonnenberg, Ptes. G. Gladman, G. Sankey.

Lieutenant Riddle, 3rd V.B. Royal West Kent Regiment, who has been for several months attached to the details of the Royal West Kent Regiment, has resigned and terminated his employment with the 1st Provisional Battalion at Shorncliffe.

Lieut. C. Bonham-Carter is appointed to be adjutant of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), vice Captain M. P. Buckle, whose period of service in that appointment has expired.

Major C. H. Farquharson, second in command of the 3rd Battn., has been granted the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel, having seen over the qualifying period of 20 years' service, the greater part of which was however spent in the regular army, as he joined the West Kent Militia in 1899.

Captain Moore, A.S.C., reported killed in South Africa, was at one time an officer of the 2nd Battalion, which he joined from the Militia in 1893. In 1896 he was appointed Lieutenant in the Army Service Corps, and was promoted captain only a few months ago.

Major Western, second in command of the 2nd Royal West Kent Regiment, has been promoted Lieutenant-Colonel, and appointed to command that Battalion in succession to Colonel Grove, C.B. Lieutenant-Colonel Western joined the Royal West Kent Regiment in 1879, and was appointed second in command of the Battalion only last year.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Banks, who died on the 12th of August, in his eighty-fourth year, had an active and distinguished military career before he settled down, about twenty-five years ago, into private life at Ash Vale. It was during the Crimean War that young Banks first showed his aptitude for the profession of arms. He landed at Old Ford with the Expedition, and was engaged in the affair at the Bulganac. He was in the fighting line at Alma, at the Siege of Sebastopol, and again at Inkerman, and for distinguished conduct in the field in this latter battle received his commission. He was wounded in the leg, and had his horse shot under him. Subsequently Colonel Banks served in the Lands Transport Corps, the Military Trains, the 76th Regiment, the 3rd West India Regiment, and the 97th Regiment, from which he retired with the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel. This was the regiment in which, years before, he had enlisted as a private soldier. He leaves behind him four sons and a daughter. One of the former has followed in his father's footsteps, and is the general officer in charge of the organisation of troops in New Zealand. He and two sons were present in South Africa with the Colonial contingent.

BIRTH.

At Saltwood, Hythe, on August 14th, the wife Major W. E. Rowe, 1st Batt., of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On August 17th, at St. Barnabas's, Kensington, by the Rev. W. H. F. Edge, vicar of Tilford, Surrey, assisted by the Rev. G. Daubeney, vicar of Benenden, and the Rev. T. Hamilton, curate of St. Barnabas's, Captain Neve, 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment, of Pullington, Benenden, the eldest surviving son of Richard Neve, of Ash Lawn, Benenden, to Lilian, eldest daughter of the late Anthony Goldschmidt, of Kimberley.

DEATHS.

At Maidstone, on 26th July, Kate, the wife of Sergeant Instructor of Musketry Hurley, P.S. 3rd Batt., aged 37 years.

At Camp Wahat, on 16th July, 1901, No. 4377 Pte. C. P. Edwards, 1st Battn.

At Nobat Dakim, on 20th July, 1901, No. 4864 Lce.-Cpl. F. Wood, 1st Battn.

At Ad Dareja, on 26th July, 1901, No. 3765 Pte. G. Hoy, killed in action.

At Aden, on 30th July, 1901, William, son of Sergt.-Major W. J. Willis, 1st Battn.

At London, on 10th August, 1901, No. 3518 Pte. H. Randall, Depot (tubercle of lung).

At Shorncliffe, on 7th July, 1901, No. 2313 Lance-Sergeant McIntosh, Details.

At Shorncliffe, on 7th July, 1901, No. 5924 Pte. W. Gladman, Details.

At Heilbron, on 1st July, 1901, No. 3888 Pte. W. Hills, 2nd Battn. (enteric).

At Reitfontein, on the 15th July, 1901, No. 2586 Pte. R. Lawrence, 2nd Battn. (wounds received in action).

At Germiston, on 28th July, 1901, No. 1458 Sergt. W. Burgess, 2nd Battn. (pneumonia).

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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. 317.

MAIDSTONE, OCTOBER, 1901.

[Vol. XIX, No. 10

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

LINE BATTALION.

Lieut. Charles Bonham-Carter to be Adjutant, vice Captain M. P. Buckle, whose period of service in that appointment has expired, dated 21st Aug.

Alfred Scott Hewitt, gent., late Private Imperial Yeomanry, to be Second Lieut., dated 14th Sept.

1st BATTALION.

Promoted Sergeants: Lance-Sergt T. Crockett, 21st May; Lance-Corporal J. Mackintosh, 26th Aug., and appointed Orderly Room Sergeant.

Appointed Lance-Sergts: Corpl. J. McAnulty, 20th August; H. Terry and C. Naylor, 28th Aug.

Promoted Corporal: Lance-Corpl. J. Furby, 23rd May.

2nd BATTALION.

Promoted Sergeant-Major: Sergt.-Instructor in Musketry C. B. Mitchell, 29th Jan.

Promoted Color-Sergeant: Sergt. F. Grey, 17th July.

Promoted Sergeants: Lance-Sergt. E. Garrett, 3rd June; T. Rose, 17th July.

Appointed Lance-Sergeant: Corpls. W. Saunders, A. Chasteneuf, and F. Holden, 21st August.

Promoted Corporals: Lance-Corpl. J. Huntley, 3rd June; H. Godden, 5th June; W. Humphries, 10th June; F. Gould, 11th June; C. Smith, 17th July.

Appointed Lance-Corporals: Pte. D. Whitehead and R. Richman, 1st Aug.; Drummer F. English, 7th Aug.; Pte. H. Tickner, 31st Aug.

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Second Lieut.: S. G. Cooper to be Lieut., dated 31st Aug.

3rd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Lieut. E. V. Riddle resigns his commission, dated 7th Sept.

Private P. Thorington, 1st Batt., has been transferred to South Staffordshire Regiment.

Volunteers, together with a few Irregulars and civilians, who, with their various units, have rendered special and meritorious service. Then follow the names—the following of the Royal West Kent Regiment are mentioned:—

Staff:—Major F. Wintour.

2ND BATTALION.

Lieut.-Col. C. E. C. B. Harrison, Major W. G. B. Western, Major G. W. Maunsell, Captain A. W. Martyn, Captain F. C. Marsh (attached Protectorate Regt.), Captain M. P. Buckle, Captain R. J. Woulfe Flanagan, Captain C. G. Pack-Beresford, Lieut. H. Isacke, Lieut. E. L. H. James, Lieut. C. Druce, Qr.-Mstr. and Hon. Lieut. J. Crouch, Col.-Sergeant E. J. A. Bullock, Colour-Sergeant J. H. Outten, Col.-Sergt. L. F. A. Reddersen, Colour-Sergeant R. W. Silver, Sergt. F. W. Croucher, Sergt. T. C. Dorrell, Sergt. J. Halon, Sergt. H. Sheppard, Sergt. G. Taylor, Sergt. R. Thorne, Lce.-Sergt. E. Boxell, Lce.-Corpl. G. R. French, Lce.-Corpl. E. F. Humphries, Lce.-Corpl. G. J. Huntley, Pte. J. Allen, Pte. J. George, Pte. G. Hughes, Pte. F. W. Jupp.

The despatch continues:—

I trust the foregoing list of names will not be thought too long, when the numbers engaged (some 250,000), the length of time covered by the operations, the severe fighting (especially in the earlier stages of the war), and the very great hardships cheerfully borne by all ranks are taken into consideration.

I regret the delay which has occurred in preparing the list, but the number of officers, soldiers, and others whose services were brought to notice by general and commanding officers was very large, and in order that the claims of each individual might be correctly estimated, frequent references had to be made to South Africa.

As this despatch is in continuation of my despatch dated April 2nd, 1901, I would request that all the mentions herein made may be considered as bearing the same date—November 29th, 1900—as those in that despatch.

I have, etc.,

ROBERTS, F.M.

The following has been sent to us by a correspondent who vouches for its accuracy:—

TRUE STORY.

February Pay List shews Pte. O'Brien killed in action, February, 24th, 1901.

March Pay List shews Pte. O'Brien still drawing pay! Paymaster asks: "How can a man draw pay when he is dead?"

Colour Sergeant replies: "This man was killed in error, please note!"

Another objection by Paymaster was answered thus: "This error is no mistake!"

The long looked for despatch of Lord Roberts, which was to complete that issued at the beginning of April, has been published, and occupies forty-two pages of the "London Gazette." The despatch begins with the following letter:—

London, September 4th, 1901.

Sir.—In continuation of my despatch, dated London, April 2nd, 1901, in which I reported on the various departments of the army in South Africa, and brought to notice the names of certain staff and other officers, together with a number of Colonial officers and men, who have distinguished themselves, I now have the honour to further bring to your notice the names of the following regimental officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Regulars, Militia, Yeomanry, and

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

ADEN, AUGUST 29TH, 1901

DEAR MR EDITOR.

I must commence my letter by apologising for my shortcomings in not having written to you last month; my only excuse is the want of time and opportunity. You may remember that in my last I complained rather bitterly of the dulness of existence in Aden, and the difficulty of finding anything to write about which could reasonably be expected to interest the readers of your paper. A few days after my letter had gone to the post, a bolt from the blue was shot among us in the shape of a proposed expedition into the interior of Arabia. Wild rumours flew about of British Officers having been fired on by Arabs, of trouble on the Turkish frontier, and of a hundred and one other alarming incidents, the upshot of it all being that the Indian Government had asked permission from the English Government to send a small expedition into the interior of Arabia about 70 miles N.W. of Aden. No one could say how much of all this was true, and how much due to the fertile imaginations of excitable busy-bodies. The difficulties of everyone were increased a hundred fold owing to the cloak of secrecy which enveloped all the arrangements. No one was supposed to know that anything unusual was in the air, and the subject could not be openly discussed, everyone went about with a "heard any news?" expression on their faces, and the shops of the leading merchants were full of anxious inquirers all day. I must tell you in explanation that in this country news always arrives in the bazaars about 24 hours before it reaches the Clubs and messes, the reason of this is not known, but the truth of it is admitted.

On the 12th of July conjecture was given a holiday, and our imaginations set at rest, for official orders were issued for an expedition, under the command of Lieut.-Col. C. E. Harrison, to start on July 14th. The force was to consist of 200 men of ours, 200 of the 5th Bombay Light Infantry, $\frac{1}{2}$ Company of Sappers and Miners, and 6 Muzzle-loading 7lb. guns to be carried on camels.

With these orders, all secrecy of course came to an end, and the sleepy dead-alive crater in which most of us live, was transformed in the twinkling of an eye into the busy scene of shouting natives and grunting camels, which always represents the base of an Indian expedition.

This result was in this particular case all the more rapidly arrived at, as everything had been carefully arranged and cut and dried before the orders were issued. Most of those who were destined to form part of the expedition had been for some days on the tip-toe of expectation, awaiting the decision which was to arrive from India and set in motion the plans which had been already conceived. Private arrangements had in most cases been made, and complete field service kits were produced by people who had been more in the know than others.

On the 14th July most of the members of the Ad-Darega Field Force marched to Sheih-Ottiman a place about $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles N.W. of Aden, which had been appointed as the "rendezvous" of the Force.

Our own people, however, were unable to start until the following day, owing to the civil authorities having failed to collect a sufficient number of camels to carry the baggage of the whole force, but on the 15th inst. the whole force were assembled under canvas at the place I have already mentioned, namely Sheih-Ottiman. It was at this place that a grave misfortune overtook the force, for Lieut.-Col. Harrison, who had not been in the best of health for some days previous to the start, was prostrated by the heat and obliged to return to

Aden. It can easily be understood that the loss at the very start of the man, who had arranged all the details in connection with the organisation and equipment of the force, was a most serious disadvantage to have to contend with. However, it was a disadvantage which could not be helped, and more of our sympathy goes with Lieut.-Col. Harrison himself, who in addition to being prostrated by a serious attack of sun-stroke, missed the opportunity of commanding a successful expedition.

On July 16th, the Ad-Darega F.F. marched from Sheih-Ottiman and set out on their wanderings. I have left the story of their doings to a more able pen than mine, namely that of the 1st. Battalion War Correspondent, and I propose to meet them on their return.

What happened during their absence can be described in a very few words, the band did their musketry course, and the others did their guards, which were naturally very heavy, and everyone discussed at length the very scanty news which found its way into Aden over the desert from the Ad-Darega F.F.

With regard to the Band Musketry, they are the first to try the new course, and the result of their efforts confirms the prevalent idea that Marksman will in future take a bit of getting, Bandsman Stewart being the only one, out of the 36 who fired, who succeeded in obtaining the coveted cross rifles. H Co. are firing at the present time, and appear to have been slightly more successful than the band, as with two more individual practices to fire, they have already two marksmen. The reason why we are so backward in musketry this year is because at the beginning of the musketry year, *i.e.* April 1st, our range was condemned as unsafe by the musketry inspecting officer, and in consequence, we have been obliged to wait while the stop butt has been improved, and other alterations carried out, which were not completed until the beginning of July. We have got well to work now, however, and as we have only rather under 600 men to fire, I do not think there will be much difficulty in completing the course in good time.

Now Mr. Editor, if you will jump with me to August 11th, I propose to go to Sheih Ottiman with Brig.-General P. J. Maitland, C.B., and welcome the returning and successful Ad-Darega F.F. We arrived on the camping ground at 8.30 a.m., a few minutes before the advanced guard appeared, and very soon the column came swinging in after a ten mile march from a village in the desert called Fiyush. They all looked fit and well and cheerful as they filed past us into camp, and in a very few minutes tents were pitched, and rations drawn, in a regular and orderly manner, which testified to the benefit derived from a month's practice. When the men had eaten their breakfasts, Brig.-General Maitland went round the camp and addressed a few words of welcome to each unit. I will satisfy myself by repeating what he said to us, as nearly as I can in his own words:—"Men of the Royal West Kent Regiment, I am very glad to see you back again. When you left Aden, the first three or four marches were very trying, and I was very anxious about you, but you stuck to it pluckily, and your difficulties lessened as the distance from Aden increased, until now you are as fit as any body of men in Southern India, or in these hot climates.

"With regard to the very successful little action at Ad-Darega, I was extremely glad to hear such good accounts of your behaviour. In fact your conduct has been quite what one would have expected from the old fighting 50th. I shall have much pleasure in reporting your conduct to the Commander-in-Chief."

I seized this opportunity to have a good look at our men, and they certainly looked 200 of as workmanlike British Infantry as you could wish to see, brown, burnt and hard-bitten, perhaps a little fine drawn, and a little ragged, but very cheerful for all that.

The Ad-Darega F.F. was broken up on the same day, and the different units which composed it marched back to their quarters, and monotony, the next morning. I could say more about this little expedition, but I purposely refrain in order to leave an open field to the correspondent who has so kindly taken upon himself to chronicle its doings in the pages of the Q.O.G., and who will be readily recognised by your readers as the able historian who wrote such a good account of our doings on the N.W. Frontier in 1897-98. I will therefore confine myself to mentioning the following N.C.O.'s and men who were specially brought to notice by their company officers for good work while under fire:—

3089 Col. Sergt. Sillitoe.	2751 Col. Sergt. Seager.
2602 Sergt. Tapp.	1804 Sergt. Ashby.
3183 Sergt. Murphy.	2330 Lce.-Corpl. Osmond.
3441 Lce.-Corpl. Robinson.	3765 Pte. Hoy.
3628 Pte. Dixon.	3417 Pte. Thorrington.
3412 Pte. Rickman.	3674 Pte. Lemon.
3533 Pte. Wood.	4373 Pte. Gore.
	3720 Pte. Ryan.

Sergt. Kill, with a party of 12 men, selected by himself, performed most valuable and necessary service in connection with bringing up the water supply on camels from the base. It can easily be understood how very important a question is the water supply in a country like that in which the Ad-Darega F.F. had to move, and how much depended upon the work of Sergt. Kill and his party.

Another event of general interest which has occurred here lately was the presentation of a good conduct medal to Sergt. Feuillade by Brig.-General P. J. Maitland, C.B., on August 28th. All troops quartered at Crater Camp paraded in review order for the occasion, and after they had been inspected by the G.O.C., three sides of a square were formed. Sergt. Feuillade was then called into the centre, and the presentation ceremony was preformed. Before pinning the medal on to Sergt. Feuillade's breast, Brig.-General Maitland said:—"Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the 1st Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, we never meet each other on parade for the performance of a more pleasant duty than that which falls to our lot to-day, namely to present a good conduct medal to a brave and gallant soldier like Sergt. Feuillade.

"Sergt. Feuillade has seen 19 years service, and with the exception of the first fifteen months he has served all that time abroad. He has served in Cyprus, Egypt, Gibraltar, Malta, India, Burma, and Aden. He saw active service in Egypt in 1885, and he was present at the fighting at the Malakand in 1897. Sergt. Feuillade, I am much pleased that I am to have the honour of presenting this medal to you."

The General then added the new decoration to those already on Sergt. Feuillade's breast, and shook him warmly by the hand. The troops, which consisted of 5 companies and the band of ours, and the 5th Bombay Light Infantry, marched past, and then returned to their quarters.

I have only one more duty to perform before bringing this somewhat lengthy epistle to a close, it is to record the death of Orderly Room Sergt. James Howard, and in so doing to add another name to the long death roll of Aden. Sergt. Howard died at Steamer Point on the 25th August, after a very short illness. He contracted enteric fever, and being the reverse of a strong man he fell an easy victim to this virulent disease. He was a man who was always loth to give in, and I am inclined to think that had he in this case gone sick sooner, it might not have gone so bad with him. However, vain regrets cannot recall him, and "might have been's" are poor consolation; he has gone, and he leaves behind him an example of quiet and un-assuming devotion to duty, which all of us might follow.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

The corporals of the 1st Battalion had a very interesting evening on Thursday, 5th September. The corporals at headquarters challenged the Steamer Point Detachment to a game of football to be followed by a smoking concert.

The ball was kicked off at 5.30 p.m., and a fast game was played up till half-time, neither side scoring, thanks to the goalkeepers, who saved some very good shots. In the second half the Headquarter team pressed very hard, and after a lot of work Fordham netted the ball from a cross shot. The result of the game being Headquarters, 1 goal; Detachment, nil.

From 7 to 8, tippet, cards, dominoes, and draughts were played. Prominent amongst the tippet player were Corpls. Boldy, Lang, Rose, and Lce.-Corpl. Fordham

At 8 p.m. the chair was taken by Corpl. Holliday, and Lce.-Corpl. James opened the programme with a sentimental song.

The chief event of the evening was 3 rounds exhibition boxing between Lce.-Corpl. Keleher (heavy-weight champion of Aden) and Lce.-Corpl. James (the coming middle-weight champion).

The renowned Gibbo led off with a blow at Keleher's ribs, which was soon returned. James was very nimble, and continued so for the first two rounds. The third and last round was fast and furious, both opponents giving and taking. Keleher, however, proved the best man.

After a very amusing and interesting programme the concert ended with all singing "God save the King."

Programme: sentimental song, "By Order of the Czar," encore, "With His Majesty's Mail," Lce.-Corpl. James; sentimental song, "Mother Land," Lce.-Corpl. Keleher; sentimental song, "Up in London," Lce.-Corpl. Pelling; sentimental song, "The Cherry Pickers," Corpl. Bailey; comic song, "I wish there were no Prisons," Corporal Holliday; sentimental song, "Play that Melody Again," encore, "Just another Month or So," Lance-Corporal Gamblin; sentimental song, "Lulu," Lance-Corporal Sanger; 3 Rounds Exhibition Boxing, Lance-Corporal Keleher v. Lce.-Corpl. James (Gibbo); sentimental song, "Sentenced to Death," Lce.-Corpl. Brown; sentimental song, "Jenny Bell," Corpl. Blanchard; sentimental song, "Love or Gold," encore, "The Boers have got my Daddy," Lce.-Corpl. Fordham; sentimental song, "Three Little Nigger Boys," Lce.-Corpl. Bushell; sentimental song, "The Diver," Lce.-Corpl. Murphy. "God Save the King."

The football teams were composed as under: Headquarters—goal, Lce.-Corpl. Pearson; backs, Lce.-Corpl. Murphy and Corpl. Lush; half-backs, Lce.-Corpl. Falshaw, Lce.-Corpl. Keleher, Lce.-Corpl. Fordham; forwards, Lce.-Corpl. Stevens, Corpl. Rose, Corpl. Andrews, Corpl. Brown, Lce.-Corpl. Pelling. Steamer Point Detachment—goal, Lce.-Corpl. Osmond; backs, Corpl. Smith and Corpl. Lang; half-backs, Corpl. Blanchard, Lce.-Corpl. Brown, Corpl. Schmidt; forwards, Corpl. Bailey, Lce.-Corpl. Gillespie, Lce.-Corpl. Wood, Lce.-Corpl. Pellett, Lce.-Corpl. Payne.

Saturday, 24th August, was the occasion of a social gathering of the Sergeants and their friends, to celebrate both the safe return of those who had been fortunate enough to accompany the Ad-Dareja Expedition, and to give the new wing of the Sergeants' mess a good house warming.

The "powers that be" had for once kept their promise regarding the enlargement of the mess, but whether this was owing to the unflagging energy with which their noses were kept to the wheel by our C.O., or a sudden overwhelming addition to the friends of the M.W.D. "Quien Sabe?" but, be that as it may, the addition to the building is very much appreciated, and the evening of the day above referred to was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Whether the piano

or pianist was out of tune has not yet been decided, but it was a piano, and they are as scarce as trees in Aden.

The following was the programme: song, "Blue Bells," Sergt. Keen; song, "He never was there before," Sergt. Wren; song, "Soldier and a Man," Sergt.-Major Willis; song, "She was a Stranger in London," Sergt. Crockett; song, "Dreamland," Sergt. Tapp; song, "Mandalay," School Master Wrightman; song, "Hi-Ho" Col-Sergt. Sillitoe; song, "Fisherman and his Child," Sergt.-Drummer Budd; song, "Take me there," Sergt. Allen; song, "Give me back the one I Love," Sergt. Robertson, R.G.A.; song, "Over the Hills of Ireland," Sergt. Suffield; song, "While London Sleeps," Sergt. Wren; song, "Matrimonial Bliss," Col.-Sergt. Tench; song, "While the Wedding," Sergt. Daykin; song, "After the Squall," Sergt. Spencer, R.G.A.; song, "Too Late," Sergt. Pye. "God Save the King."

Where all were good, it was hard to particularise, but the information conveyed in "Hi Ho" was very interesting, as also was "Matrimonial Bliss," while our new School Master showed himself no mean exponent. Amongst the company we noticed Assistant Surgeon Moronha and Commst.-Sergt. Hoy, together with several Sergts. R.G.A. who accompanied the expedition. The Committee consisting of Col.-Sergt. Tench and Sergts. Allen, Ashby, Saunders, and Sergt.-Dr. Budd deserve a word of praise for the manner in which they carried out their duties.

"Grenadier."

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

AUGUST 26TH.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.

Since my last letter, I am afraid little of startling importance has occurred: as far as we have been concerned things are and have been much the same as they have been for months past. The usual occasional short treks have taken place, in which some part or other of the Battalion is always represented. On July 25th, the local M.I., and the majority of "E" Co., formed part of a column under Gen. Cunningham, which proceeded towards Lindejue on the south bank of the Vaal, with the object of blocking the drifts in that neighbourhood, and so assisting Colonels Rawlinson and Garrett to round up some 400 Boers reported to be on the north bank. "Our brother" was found however to be in position on the south bank, and a delay ensued whilst Col. Rawlinson's column crossed. On the morning of the 28th, Rawlinson's column attacked the position in front, whilst the mounted troops of Cunningham's column did a wide turning movement on the left. The Boers did not appear to think the situation a satisfactory one, so bolted, hotly pursued, the total bag for the day being the whole of their convoy, including wagons, cattle, sheep, etc., and 25 prisoners. Our column marched into Wolverhock next day, whence the infantry returned by train, and the guns and mounted troops by march route, reaching here about 5.30 p.m., having covered 30 miles.

On the 7th August, owing to the S.A.C. receiving orders to move their posts at Houtkop, further west, these positions were taken over by the local M.I., who were relieved early next morning by some of "E" Co. under 2nd Lieut. Johnstone, to enable the former to join a column of the local mounted troops under Major Brock-Hollinshead, which was to assist the S.A.C. to establish their new posts on the Riet Spruit. The usual snipers were in evidence, but no trouble was experienced in accomplishing the object, and the column returned here on August 11th. On the following day the same column went out again, camping for the night at the camp we had just returned from. On the 13th, the column proceeded in the direction of Lindejue, with the object of fishing out of the Vaal a gun which the enemy were reported

to have buried there. After going about 6 miles, the column came in contact with the enemy, who very soon turned out to be in superior force. As the country was very difficult, and the column was without guns, the object had to be abandoned. The column was attacked in the open at long range during the retirement by a large number of the enemy, a further proof that they were in some strength in the neighbourhood. The column returned here on the 15th. Since then our local M.I. have been employed for two days in conducting a convoy to a column in the neighbourhood, so on the whole, are kept fairly well employed. So much for the warlike operations we have been concerned in.

So far, I regret to say, my call for notes from our many detachments, has resulted in nothing, but these may possibly have been sent to you direct.

The usual camp "haves" have been rather few and far between lately, though there has been a very persistent rumour for some time that this Battalion is for India next month, and it even goes so far as to say that the station will be Lucknow! Some may find comfort in such rumours, though personally, I am more and more convinced, the longer I remain in this "land of lies," that it is better to believe nothing. I think the hope that the recent proclamation will have worked an impression on some of the more sensible of the Boer leaders, by September 15th, is shared by all ranks.

The English Mail received yesterday, brings news of the expedition from Aden, in which the 1st Battalion have been engaged; at present we have no particulars, but whilst deploring the casualties, congratulate all concerned most sincerely on the successful result attained. There are, I know, many here who will condole sincerely with Col. Harrison, on his cruel bad luck in being bowled over by the sun, early in the operations.

The health of the Battalion has been decidedly good during the past three months, the rains, however, are beginning, and from now onwards, that arch fiend, enteric, will have to be carefully guarded against. I regret to say that Lieut. Bonham-Carter was admitted to Elandsfontein Hospital last week, suffering from an attack of this disease, which we hope may prove a mild one. It is particularly unfortunate for him, as he was about to take over the duties of Adjutant from Capt. Buckle, who completed his two months extension on the 21st.

The Battalion has suffered a loss in the death of Pioneer Sergeant Burgess, which took place at Elandsfontein on July 28th, after quite a short illness.

Of Col. Western's column we have little news, except that they have done a long trek in a southerly direction.

August 30th. Since writing the foregoing, there have been developments as far as this Battalion is concerned. All our detachments between here and Wolverhock are to-day being relieved by the Volunteer Co.'s of the Queen's and King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. The detachments concerned are being brought in here to-day. There will thus be at Head Quarters, "A," "E," $\frac{1}{2}$ "F," "H," and Volunteer Co.'s. Of these, "A," "E," "H," and Volunteer Co.'s, under Major Brock-Hollinshead, are joining Col. Garrett's column in relief of a wing of the East Lancashire Regt., on the arrival of that column here, probably about the 2nd. The local M.I., after being threatened with disbandment, have been allowed to retain their horses, and remain here for the present. Head Quarters, and $\frac{1}{2}$ "F" Co. are also remaining here, pending further orders, though it is thought probable that eventually a move will be made further south, so as to be nearer the other scattered companies of the Battalion. All this of course means another thorough break-up, but we are all getting fairly used to that by now.

I must now close to ensure the mail being caught.

VEREENIGING, AUGUST 30TH, 1901.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Vredefort Road,
August 31st, 1901.

Dear Mr. Editor,

There is very little of interest that I can compose this journey, but I am giving you a brief outline of our doings since my last Edition.

On the 1st inst., as I think I was anticipating, "F" Co.'s contribution to our ranks arrived, numbering somewhat near fifty men. "D" Company is consequently split up, and although the Company Headquarter Staff is still here, the majority are on the Heilbron line, dwelling in Blockhouses.

On the 2nd, an event of great importance—in our eyes—took place, *viz.*, the hoisting of a Union Jack over the station. Lieut. Tulloch was determined that we should not be behind with this sort of thing, so he purchased one at Bloemfontein, and it now floats defiantly from morn till eve.

The defiance is rather unnecessary, as the objects of this estimable feeling are conspicuous by their absence.

We hear every now and then the war is not over, but for us it seems to be a thing of the past.

On the 7th, Mr. Piet De Wet put in an appearance here, and went to the Refuge Camp, which is here a very large one, and harangued them on the absurdity of the prolongation of the war, but what good that can possibly do I can't see, as the refugees have no communication with the outer world whatever.

De Wet, Piet, *not* Christi—an,
Said, "let's stop the war if we can,
He said "only 'flats' fight,"
They said, "no doubt that's right,
"But how can we tell the old man?"

On the 8th we played a great football match with the 5th Royal Irish Rifles Militia. The game was "great" for the onlookers. I think we must have been living too well lately, for assuredly the Royal Irish Rifles mistook our men for the ball, and much of the "swear-word" vocabulary came into use. The result was in favour of our "cussing," 1—0

A far better match came off on the R.A. ground on the 12th however, with the 86th Howitzer Battery, we won; but as I did not see this match I cannot comment on it. Result in favour of us, 1—0

Again on the 29th inst., we played the same team of R.A. on their ground, and an excellent and fast game was to be seen. The teams were:—R.A. Goal, Sergt. Moody; Backs, Bontdr. Doolan and Dr. Lawes; Half-backs, Dr. Smith, Dr. Lucas and Gnr. Todhunter; Forwards, Gnr. Donachie, Gnr. Lyness, Gnr. Butler, Gnr. Taylor and Gnr. Robertson.

West Kents:—Goal, Chapman, "F"; Backs, Lce.-Corpl. Stewart, "F" and Corpl. Harper, "D"; Half-backs, Stringer, "F," Nelson, "F" and Lce. Corpl. Penne, "F"; Forwards, Smith, "F," Colley, "D," Hills, "F," Calliean, "F" and Nicholson, "F."

The result of this match was as in the other two—we won by one goal to nil.

The best of good feeling appeared to exist throughout, and the goal scored was after a close pack round from a corner, when the ball took a dislike to the scrimmage and preferred to clear out, and leisurely rolled through the posts. Sergt. Moody was quite upset, as it was absurdly easy to stop, had he seen it; and after the excellent "saves" he had already made during the game, it really was hard luck to be bested by a paltry bit of wind and leather in such a soft manner.

The Sergeants were invited to dine with the R.A. afterwards, and a very pleasant "quiet evening" was spent. I had a look at the "kopje," on which the main camp is located, for the first time since our being here. I find it is a most excellently defended place—in fact, every living thing has a fort of its own, "laagers" we South Africans call them.

I also was surprised to see the great care with which every arrangement has been made for the convenience of trespassers. There is a lot of wire work laid out for tripping purposes, and "guides" are provided to shew you where you must trip. Also there are a lot of old jam tins, etc., lying about, and these "guides" are very useful to explain which ones are to be kicked and *vice versa*. This jam tin "alarm" invention was no doubt originated so that the refuse pits might get a chance, and by calling them "alarms" it saves a lot of cleaning up camp.

"The Colonel one day going round,
Empty jam tins in hundredweights found;
But some long-headed chap
Said, 'Let's call 'em a trap!'
So they're still lying loose on the ground."

Lately we have been busy building up targets, and the men have been doing a bit of firing—we have a small (4ft. by 4ft.) target, at which we fire at 500 and 800 yards, and a lot of small objects (made of scrap iron) on ridges, &c., at unknown distances.

We have done fairly good practice at them, and can assure you it's a grand variation from the usual monotony of the "Details, Guarding the Line!"

Mr. Tulloch very kindly gives small prizes for hits on the long distance objects, and these prizes are very keenly competed for.

I think this is quite enough news for this month. I only trust, my dear Mr. Editor, that this correspondence may not be superfluous,

D Co. CORRESPONDENT.

Gottenburg, Orange River Colony,

August 5th, 1901.

To the Editor of the Queen's Own Gazette.

SIR,

Just a month ago a change came o'er the spirit of our dreams at Brandfort; we received orders to trek (by train thank goodness) to occupy a place on the main line, by name Kromellenboog, midway between Vredefort and Wolvehoek, the former being garrisoned by D Company under Lieutenant Tulloch, and two guns of the Royal Field Artillery. We arrived safely at Kromellenboog about the 7th July to relieve a company of the Royal Irish Rifles, and settled down under Major Morrison, Royal Irish Rifles. As usual we were the same old thing, "only details guarding the line." By the way, there was a telephone tent here, and the astounding rumours that used to come through were really remarkable. A well known newsmonger of this company had daily all the latest from this really curious tent. De Wet on the sky line, and De La Ray and four hundred men quite close nightly used to be our portion. I think we are well out of it. The armoured train manned by this company frequently passes through at night time, and its brilliant searchlight can be seen for miles. What with rockets, searchlights, and star shells used by the Artillery, anyone coming upon the scene at night suddenly would fancy he had by chance dropped on the Crystal Palace on a firework night. But as per usual we were not destined to witness these performances long, the G.O.C. of the lines of communications evidently does not intend us to get fossilised—trek again was the order on August 2nd, this time to Gottenburg, the scene of C company's gallant exploits—Captain Moody relieving Lieutenant Luard at Kromellenboog and us here, Lieutenant Luard being at company headquarters, Gottenburg, and Lieutenant Pullman and one section here, three miles farther on.

The blockhouse system is now in vogue on this line owing to the still frequent depredations of Bro. Boer. They are man-

ned by one N.C.O. and nine men each, and the penalty of surrender is field general court martial, but I am glad to say there is no fear of one being needed in the case of the 2nd battalion, such a thing being unheard of since we have been on active service (surrender, of course, I mean), though there has been several blockhouses in this district completely surrounded by Boers, and who, owing to superior numbers, were forced to capitulate, but all being fair in love and war cannot be helped. We have on more than one occasion completely upset Bro. Boer's calculations, so up to date the balance is very even, anyway, as far as we are concerned, the unit amongst many. Hope to have more news next month. The health of the company is very fair, owing no doubt to the cold weather, which apparently suits us English.

F.G.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

The Depot brought their cricket season to a close on Sept. 4th, when they beat the Liberal Club by 136 runs, Sergeant Merrick playing an excellent innings of 68. Of the 28 matches played the Depot have won 16 and lost 12. The following are the best batting and bowling averages:—

BATTING.

Name.	Innings.	Times not out.	Most in innings.	Runs.	Average.
Lieut. Barrow.....	7	2	32*	115	23
Sergt. Merrick	28	2	68	421	16.1
Sergt. O'Reilly	24	1	39	317	13.3
Pte. Askew.....	6	0	28	75	12.5
Lieut. Lister	15	0	50	173	11.5
Lieut. W. C. O. Phillips...	21	1	41	170	8.5
Pte. Taylor.....	27	2	20	212	8.4

*Signifies not out.

BOWLING.

Name.	Innings.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
Col.-Sergt Bourne.....	4	60	13	4.8
Sergt. Stack	31	647	107	6.0
Sergt. O.Reilly	8	74	12	6.1
Pte. Ayres	23	515	73	7.0
Lieut. Barrow	6	156	17	9.1

The marriage of Colonel Brock, commander of the Depot at Maidstone, to Miss Irene Turnock, only daughter of the late Canon Turnock of Ipswich, took place very quietly in S.S. Philip and James' Church, Oxford on Thursday, 12th September. The officiating clergy were the Rev. W. Harrington (brother-in-law of the bridegroom) and the Rev. C. A. Ray (vicar of Bray). There were no bridesmaids. A reception was held after the ceremony at the bride's residence, and shortly after Colonel and Mrs. Brock left for London, where the first portion of the honeymoon was spent.

Sergeant Dark, Depot, and Second-Lieut. Waring and Col.-Sergeants Evenden and Moon, of the 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment joined for a course of instruction at the School of Musketry, Hythe, on 17th September.

Those who remember Colour-Sergeant R. Harmson, late of the permanent staff, 3rd Battalion, will be glad to hear that he, having rendered the police at Penge good service in time of need when they were being roughly handled, has recently had his services suitably acknowledged by the members of the force. Mr. Harmson had been asked to attend the Police Station at Penge, and there in the presence of a large muster of men was presented with a handsome malacca cane, silver mounted and suitably inscribed. Acting-Superintendent Jenkins who made the presentation remarked that he felt certain that if the need arose Mr. Harmson would

be prepared to use the stick in defence of the police; but whether such an occasion arose or not, he heartily hoped that he would be spared long to use it in a more peaceful direction, namely, the helping him along in the journey of life. Mr. Harrison very modestly but gratefully expressed his thanks. We hear that the Commissioner of Police warmly commended Mr. Harmson on his courage and conduct.

Once more our football season has started and there seems every prospect of a successful season. Even at this early stage the team seems to have got well together and our first two matches have both been won easily. Private Davis is a great acquisition among the forwards, and we hope that he will now join the line and be of service to the regiment for many years. The loss of Lieut. Nunn is much felt, as it was greatly due to his efforts in the last two seasons that the Depot football has come on in such great strides.

The Depot opened their football season with a visit from Malling. The visitors arrived two short, but good substitutes were found. Give and take play was the order, each goalkeeper being called upon to save his charge, then, after some play in midfield, Merrick got possession, and, dashing right through, drew first blood for the Depot, after about half an hour's play. There was no more scoring in the first half, and the Depot crossed over leading. After the usual rest play was for a time confined to the home quarters, but the visitors began to tire, and four more goals were put on in quick succession—two by Merrick and two by Davis. Depot team: Stack, Spearing, Fenny, Edwards, Savage, McGregor, Walker, Coyle, Davis, Mr. Phillips, and Merrick. Result: Depot..... 5 goals
Malling..... nil

THAMES DISTRICT RIFLE MEETING, 1901.

The following is the result of the Thames District Rifle Meeting, with the list of principal prize-winners belonging to the Regiment:—1st day, 28th August. Match 1.—Warren Rifle Challenge Shield. Depot Royal West Kent Regiment, 3rd, 396 points; Match 6.—All Comers—(200 Yards). 3rd, Sergt.-Instr. McRedmond, 1st V.B. R.W.K.R., 34 points, £1 1s.; 6th, Color-Sergt. Evenden, 3rd R.W.K.R., 33 points, 15s.; 7th, Col.-Sergt. Colyer, 3rd R.W.K.R., 33 points, 12s. 6d.; 12th, Corpl. Andrews, 1st V.B. R.W.K.R., 32 points, 5/-. Match 7. Officers, Warrant and Petty Officers, and Sergeants. 6th, Col.-Sergt. Hosmer, 1st V.B. R.W.K.R., 32 points, 6/-. Match 8.—Rank and File and Seamen. 2nd, Pte. Wells, R.W.K.R., 33 points, £1 10s.; 5th, Pte. Malt, R.W.K.R., 31 points, 10s.; 6th, Pte. J. Ellis, 1st V.B. R.W.K.R., 31 points, 5s.; 7th, Corpl. Andrews, 1st V.B. R.W.K.R., 31 points, 5s. Match 12.—All Ranks, Rifle & Carbine, Vanishing, Col.-Sergt. Osborne, R.W.K.R., who got 7 hits and a prize of 4s. 6d. Supplementary. All Comers (500 yards). 2nd, Pt. J. Ellis, R.W.K.R., 34 points, 10s.; 3rd, Sergt.-Instr. McRedmond, R.W.K.R., 31 points, 7s. 6d.; 5th, Col.-Sergt. Hosmer, 1st V.B. R.W.K.R., 29 points, 4s. 2nd Day, 29th August. Match 14.—Officers, Warrant and Petty Officers, and Sergeants. (500 Yards). 9th, Color-Sergt. Colyer, R.W.K.R., 29 points, 5s. Match 15.—Rank and File and Seamen (500 Yards). 10th, Pte. F. Malt, R.W.K.R., 28 points, 5/-. Match 19.—Officers, Warrant and Petty Officers, and Sergeants (600 Yds). 6th, Sergt.-Instr. McRedmond, 1st V.B. R.W.K.R., 26 points, 5s.; 10th, Sergt.-Instr. Bryne, 4th V.B. R.W.K.R., 25 points, 5s. Match 20.—Rank and File and Seamen (600 Yards). 6th, Corpl. Andrews, 1st V.B., R.W.K.R., 26 points, 5/-. Match 21.—The Borough of Chatham Diamond Jubilee Championship Challenge Cup.—2nd, Corpl. Andrews, 1st V.B. R.W.K.R., 122 points, £3.

3rd BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

The following letter received by Captain A. C. Pine, commanding H company 3rd battalion, from Private L. Saull, 3rd battalion, is sent to us for publication. We are glad to hear the detachment has done so well.—EDITOR.

No 15 Stationary Hospital,
Heidelberg,
August 22nd, 1901.

DEAR SIR,

I daresay you will be surprised at me writing to you, but I think you would like to know how we are going on. The last time I saw the chaps was last month, and then they were neither sick nor sorry. John Tyrell and myself are in one group, so are always together. I am at present the only one of H company that has been sick, and I am just getting over enteric fever, and am just starting on food. I expect to be out by the end of September, and to have joined my column. I have been under Colonel Bullock this last trek. His is the biggest column I have seen or been on up to now, it having fourteen guns, including a Long Tom, a pom-pom, and several galloping Colt guns, and there are about two thousand fighting men. We are treated a lot better with this lot, having our own officer, Mr. Elgood of the 2nd battalion, who took charge of us when we joined them. They seemed very surprised to see us, and thought we had just come out. We are the only militia with this column, but have proved ourselves as good as the line. We have heard about the battalion being disembodied, which was a surprise, having expected to come out here. I expect we shall see Christmas out here. Somehow I don't think the war will be over for a long while yet, as I think the majority do not know the true state of affairs, but I suppose we shall stop their game at last. Now, sir, I think this is all I have to tell you, so I now conclude with best respects to you and yours.

Yours, etc.,
SAULL.

VOLUNTEER INTELLIGENCE.

1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The annual rifle meeting of the A, B, F and L (Cyclist) Companies of the 1st Vol. Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. took place on Sept. 7th on Boarley Range. The officers present were Major F. Pine (commanding), Captains C. R. Smith and C. Tootell, and Lieutenants Lewis and A. E. Phillips, and the 88 competitors formed a number in excess of any previous year. The weather on the whole was favourable, although the light suddenly failed in the evening. The shooting was moderately good. The chief prize, the Leeds Castle Cup (£5) was carried off by Sergt. J. S. Welch with an aggregate of 95. Other principal prizes were won by the following: Sergt. Lockyer £4, Sergt.-Instructor McRedmond £3 3s., Corpl. F. Andrews £2 2s., Corpl. G. Lambden 30s., Pte J. Andrews 21s., and Pte. C. Walters 21s. Two range prizes for the best scores at each range, the first being a guinea and the second half that amount, were won as follows: 200 yards, 1 Sergt.-Instructor McRedmond, 2 Corpl. Haswell; 500 yards, 1 Pte. Measday, 2 Sergt. Lockyer; 600 yards, 1 Sergt. Welch, 2 Corpl. Andrews. The cup presented by the Mayor of Maidstone for the greatest number of bull's-eyes was secured by Sergeant Welch with 14 "bulls." A number of tradesmen's prizes were also fired for; to the donors of these the thanks of the Commanding Officer are tendered.

Kent Messenger, Sep. 14.

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The annual prize meeting of A and B Companies (the old Lee detachment) took place at the Milton Range on Sep. 9th in pleasant weather. Captain C. S. Marchant and Lieut. A. Powaall were the officers present, and there was a very fair attendance of non-coms. and men. Several prize donors and past members came down for the day, the latter including Col.-Sergt. Grellier, invalided home from South Africa, where he has been serving with the regular battalion of the regiment. It will be remembered that the gallant Col.-Sergt. was recently decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal—a highly prized honour—for meritorious conduct in the field. Lunch was provided for all present. In the afternoon the annual match between the past and serving members ended in a decided victory for the former, for the first time since the institution of the contest. Their team was a strong one, and old members of the corps will recognize the names of several who were "cracks" in their time. The opportunity must be taken to thank the donors of prizes for their generous support.

PAST v. PRESENT.

	PAST.	200	500	600	Total
Col -Sergt. R. W. Smith.....	30	24	31		85
Private P. Wilkes.....	29	30	26		85
Sergt. W. Gomer.....	29	27	25		81
Colour-Sergt. H. Grellier.....	28	29	23		80
Colour-Sergt. T. Hollis.....	27	30	21		78
Colour-Sergt. Barker.....	19	28	25		72
Asst. Sergt.-Instr. Trueman.....	18	24	23		65
Sergt. Barham.....	23	24	18		65
Grand Total... ..	...	...	...	...	611
	PRESENT.				
	200	500	600	Total	
Sergt. E Bryant.....	34	31	27		92
Pioneer-Sergt. R. A. Smith.....	30	29	21		80
Private Eyles.....	30	23	20		73
Corporal Clayton.....	27	20	22		69
Colour-Sergt. Harris.....	17	22	21		60
Private Colville.....	26	12	18		56
Sergeant G. Barnes.....	26	14	13		53
Corporal Clothier.....	14	19	17		50
Grand Total... ..	..	...	...	...	533

3RD VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The annual prize meeting took place on the Government Range at Milton on Sept. 7th. The whole of the ranges were allotted to the corps from 10 a.m., and it was not until just before dark that the last shot was fired. The competitions commenced with that for the Crosse Challenge Cup, which was presented for annual competition by Colonel Crosse, a late adjutant of the corps. The conditions were seven rounds at 200, 500, 700 and 800 yards, Bisley targets and scoring. The cup will become the property of any member of the corps who wins it three times; it has already been won twice by Sergeant Evans, who was a good second on this occasion. The competition for the Spiller Jewels followed, the conditions being ten rounds at 700 and ten rounds at 800 yards with no sighting shot. The jewels were presented in 1885 by Capt. Spiller, late of the Corps, and are competed for annually by marksmen of the battalion. They consist of the crest of the battalion in gold, silver, and bronze, and become the property of any member winning them three times. The battalion series commenced shortly after 11 o'clock, and was open to efficient members of the corps. The conditions were seven rounds at 200, 500 and 600 yards, one sighter at each distance,

targets and scoring as in first stage of the "King's." This competition occupied the whole of the range, as there were 138 entries. The recruits series was fired concurrently. The competition for the Beeching Cup presented by Capt. Beeching (a late adjutant of the corps) was the last to take place. This is open to sections, who appear in drill order, and are marched to the firing point by the section commander (who must be a sergeant) and fire seven volleys at sectional target at 500 yards; they then march to the 300 yards firing point and fire three volleys and four rounds independently. To the number of hits on the target points are added for smartness of turn-out, volleys and drill. The officers present during the meeting, who in most cases took part in the different competitions, were Colonel E. J. Moore (commanding), Majors Murphy and Swiss, Captains Christmas, A. V. Forsdyke, Norman and Dodd, Lieutenants Geddes and Jennings. The Musketry Depot at Gravesend furnished the register keepers and markers, Major Murphy superintending the whole of the arrangements, which were most successfully carried out. Below will be found the leading scores in the different competitions:—

BATTALION SERIES.—Sergt. Philpot 96, Staff-Sergt. Hessey 93, Pvte. Lowe 92, Staff-Sergt. Pratley 91, Pvte. Williamson 91, Sergt. Evans 87, Colour-Sergt. Gomm 86, Corpl. Finlayson 85, Pvte. Bremner 85, Lance-Corpl. Kirkpatrick 84, Sergt. Goodbody 83, Pvte. Gray 82, Sergt. Smedley 82, Corpl. Hiscock 80, Pvte. Evans 80, Lance-Corpl. Mayfield 80, Cyst.-Sergt. Smith 78, Sergt. Unsworth 78, Pvte. d'Egville 77, Q.-M.-Sergt. Webb 76, Colour-Sergt. Davies 75, Sergt. Payne 73, Colour-Sergt. Gibson 73, Pvte. Foster 72, Sergt. Chapman 71, Pvte. Underwood 71, Sergt. Price 70, Sergt. Tatham 70, Sergt. Beer 70.

RECRUITS' SERIES.—Pvte. Paice 72, Pvte. Chapman 69, Pvte. Thomas 60, Pvte. Wright 57, Pvte. Taylor 46, Cyclist Wood 46.

CROSSE CHALLENGE CUP.—Pvte. Lowe* 126 (cup), Sergt. Evans* 119, Corpl. Hiscock 119, Staff-Sergt. Hessey* 118, Pvte. Bremner 118, Sergt. Philpot* 115, Sergt. Goodbody 112, Pvte. d'Egville 110, Colour-Sergt. McLeod* 108, Pvte. Gray 106, Sergt. Aldridge 105, Corpl. Finlayson 105.
* Previous winners.

SPILLER JEWELS.—Staff-Sergt. Hessey 86 (gold), Pvte. Bremner 86 (silver), Sergt. Evans 82 (bronze), Pvte. Lowe 81, Sergt. Philpot 80, Sergt. Aldridge 77, Colour-Sergt. McLeod 74, Pvte. Gray 76, Sergt. Goodbody 72, Corpl. Finlayson 68, Corpl. Hiscock 62.

BEECHING CUP COMPETITION.

Company.	Rounds Fired.	Deductions.	Hits.	Per Centage.
1. F	112	7	71	79.4
2. B	168	7	56	44
3. Cyclist...	140	—	34	42.1
4. I	168	2	30	37.5

OBITUARY.—*The Times*, Aug. 15th, 1901.

The death occurred yesterday morning of CAPTAIN M.G. B. FITZGERALD, a Military Knight of Windsor, and late of the 72nd Foot. Captain FitzGerald served with the 97th Regiment at the siege and fall of Sevastopol from July 31, 1855, and was one of the ladder party at the assault on the Redan on September 8, being twice wounded on this occasion. He afterwards served in Bengal in suppressing the mutiny in 1857-58 with the Jounpore Field Force, and was one of the stormers at Fort Ohowrara. He was thanked in the despatches for his services in bringing out two guns under a close fire. Captain FitzGerald was afterwards at the siege and capture of Lucknow, and commanded a detachment of the 97th Regiment in the pursuit of Rummut Sing and Fuzand Ally in Bundelcund in March, 1859.

SOLDIERS' BALANCES UNCLAIMED.

The sum of £23 12s. od. awaits the next of kin of the late Philip Stockham, 1st Battalion.

SCENE.—A blockhouse not a hundred miles from Bloemfontein, manned by twelve men and a Sergeant of the very latest raw article from England.

SYNOPSIS.—A table made of bully beef boxes, and the raw article sitting round playing at Nap, and shall we say perchance—or mischance—the sentry on duty chancing just a small one proceeds to deal.

Raw Article. I'll try two.

Sergeant. I'll try three.

Sentry. I'll try four.

Bro Boer (suddenly at the door). I'll go Nap. Hands up! Saddles, blankets rifles, ammunition, etc., silently handed over. Bro. Boer says: "Good morning gents, keep a better look out next time. (*Exit.*)" (*Tableaux.*)

MARRIAGE.

On September 9th, at St Marks, Surbiton, by the Ven. Archdeacon Burney, Edgar Francis, eldest son of the late Major Edgar J. Robinson, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, to Emily, fourth daughter of Herbert Crosthwaite, of Surbiton.

DEATHS.

At Aden, on 25th August, No. 2965 O. R. Sergt. J. F. Howard, 1st Batt.

At Ventersdorp, S.A., No. 5705, Private A. Harmon, Mounted Infantry, 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Bowershook, Pte. H. L. Clifford, 9th Lancers, son of Qr.-Mr. and Hon. Capt. J. Clifford, retired, on September 5th, 1901, killed in action.

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).

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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. 318.

MAIDSTONE, NOVEMBER, 1901.

[Vol. XIX, No. 11

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

LINE BATTALIONS.

To be Brevet Lieut.-Colonels :—Major, now Lieut.-Colonel, W. G. B. Western, Major F. Wintour.

To be Brevet Majors :—Captain F. C. Marsh, Captain A. Martyn.

To have the honorary rank of Captain :—Quartermaster and Hon. Lieut. J. Couch.

The King has been graciously pleased to give orders for the promotion in the Army of the above-mentioned officers in recognition of their services during the operations in South Africa. The whole to bear date 29th Nov. 1900.

Captain A. Montgomery-Campbell retires on retired pay, dated 2nd October, 1901.

Captain and Brevet Major A. Martyn is seconded for service on the Staff, 22nd June, 1901.

Brevet Major F. C. Marsh from Supernumerary Captain to be Captain vice Brevet Major A. Martyn, 22nd June, 1901.

Major and Brevet Lieut.-Col. Wintour is appointed a D.A.A.G. (and also for instruction) Southern District, Sept. 24th, 1901.

Captain D. Caird to be Major, 19th August, 1901.

Captain J. P. Dalison to be Major, 19th August, 1901.

Second Lieut. G. F. H. Keenlyside to be Lieut. 21st Aug.

2nd BATTALION.

Promoted Colour-Sergt.—Sergt. J. Hanlon, 16th August.

Promoted Sergts.—Lce.-Sergt. W. Dadd, 17th July ; Lce.-Sergt. W. Saunders, 16th August ; Lce.-Sergt. W. Bailey, 27th July ; Lce.-Sergt. W. Ellis, 29th July.

Appointed Lce.-Sergts.—Corpl. W. Hamilton, 16th Aug. ; Corpl. J. Mills, 21st August ; Corpl. G. Guest, 21st August ; Corpl. W. Wood, 21st August.

Promoted Corpls.—Lance-Corpl. C. Pike, 17th July ; Lance-Corpl. W. Smith, 27th July ; Lance-Corpl. A. Summerhayes, 29th July ; Lance-Corpl. C. Ashby, 16th Aug.

3rd BATTALION.

Captain A. C. Edwards resigns his commission, 5th October, 1901.

Captain E. Fleming resigns his commission, and is granted the hon. rank of Major with permission to wear the uniform on retirement, 26th October, 1901.

Captain A. B. Pembroke from the 2nd Vol. Batt. to be Captain, 26th October, 1901.

4th VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

O. H. G. Browne, gent., to be Second Lieut., 12th October, 1901.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

My sub-editorial duties have been much lightened, and a burden of responsibility which I have at times found hard to bear, has suddenly and effectually been removed from my shoulders. The cause of this happy state of affairs is, that, in accordance with the spirit of decentralization which now-a-days sheds its soothing influence over all things military, company correspondents have been appointed, and the duty of the Battalion correspondent, in future, is simply to skim off the cream from the company literary efforts and forward it to the head quarters of the paper. This co-operation of labour seems to me to be a triumph of literary organisation, for instead of making my monthly round among the haunts where 'copy' is generally found, and where I have never met with a cordial reception, I now sit in sub-editorial dignity and await the advent of the 'office boy,' who enters staggering under the weight of 'correspondence.'

I take this opportunity of thanking all those who have thought it worth while to be the means of recording the doings of this Battalion in our Regimental paper, if there are any whose efforts do not find their way to the printer, I ask them to remember that the *Q.O.G.* is a small paper, and only a certain portion of its space is allotted to the doings of the 1st Battalion. At the same time I cordially invite everyone to make known to me anything which happens within his own immediate surroundings which can possibly be of interest to others, it is only by these means that a Battalion sub-editor can find out what is going on, and be the means of contributing to the success of the *Q.O.G.*

Yours truly,

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

[The heart of the Editor was made glad when the budget arrived. Owing to the amount already in type it has been found necessary to curtail the lengthened accounts of interesting items.—Ed.]

FOOTBALL.

The Football Season has started, and some very good matches have been played. On Thursday, the 12th September, the Corporals met the pick of A. and B. Coys. The Corporals had some very good chances, but failed to take them. The forwards of A. and B. Coys. played a very good game, and the goalkeeper (Hilton, A. Co.) saved some very good shots. The play all round was very good, although no goals were scored on either side.

CRICKET.

The following cricket matches have taken place on the Gymkhana Ground, at Steamer Point, on 28th September, 1901: B Co. v. 5th Co., S.D. R.G.A. The game ended in a victory for the R.G.A. by 69 runs.

No. 5 Co. S.D. R.G.A.	107
B. Company	38

Gr. Colwell 25, and Gr. Leeson 23, batted well for the winners, while Pte. G. Webb scored 15 for the losers. The bowling honours were divided between Ptes. Turner, Smith, and Lce.-Corpl. James.

I must say in this match our fielding was frightfully bad, but I think the heat had a lot to do with it. We shall have to buck up or we shall not have many wins to our credit.

We played the return match with precisely the same team, on the following Thursday. For B Co. Sergt. Naylor and Lce.-Corpl. James were the only two who made any sort of a stand, and both of them were rather lucky. Pte. Foord bowled very well, and took 7 wickets, 5 of which were cleaned bowled. Bmdr. Hotson and Gnr. Tickle both batted well, while Gnr. Colwell's bowling was very praiseworthy. In our fielding there was a very marked improvement.

BILLIARD HANDICAP.

The above has been occupying the attention of a number of our ardent "cuists" for the last few days, and caused a certain amount of excitement, besides providing something to pass away the dull evenings. The entries were not very numerous owing to several exponents being away on the "Sea Trip," but the games were all keenly contested, and, judging by the crowded state of the billiard room nightly, much appreciated.

In the first round the games Taylor v. McGee, Pinder v. Maslin, and Harris v. Bellinger were very evenly contested. The second round produced some surprises, and like other sport, it's not always a "dead cert," and the games Booker v. Davey and Pinder v. Barrow were perhaps, the best. In the third round Taylor v. Booker was good, but the winners of the semi-final ran clean away from their opponents. The final between Taylor and Harris was a real good game, but I think everyone will agree with me when I say the best player won. A word of praise is also due to the handicappers for the way in which they carried out their not always easy duties.

"GRENADIER."

ADEN,

September 29th, 1901.

To the Editor of the Queen's Own Gazette.

DEAR SIR,

In the September number of the *Q.O.G.*, on page 1688, will be found the following sentence:—"O.C. the expedition, *i.e.*, Lt.-Col. Harrison, was informed before starting that the position of the tower was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Turkish border, and that if necessary he might take his troops into Turkish territory to achieve the object of the expedition." This statement, as regards the taking troops into Turkish territory, is not in accordance with facts.

Please therefore publish this, my denial.

It will be seen on page 1687 that on behalf of the Government it was stated in the House of Lords that the force to the command of which I had been appointed, "left Aden with strict orders not to cross the Turkish frontier."

I am, &c.,

CHOLMELEY HARRISON, Lieut.-Col.,
Royal West Kent Regiment.

We have been favoured with a copy of a small Book entitled "A Souvenir of the Siege of Mafeking" and have much pleasure in publishing the following extract—

GENERAL ORDERS

By Colonel R. S. S. Baden-Powell,
Commander Frontier Force,
Mafeking,

Wednesday, May 16th, 1900.

I. GALLANTRY—2nd. Notice. In continuation of yesterday's orders, with reference to Saturday's action the Colonel Commanding has much pleasure in publishing the following additional report from Major Godley—"I wish to bring to the notice of the Colonel Commanding, the excellent services performed by the following Officers &c.

Captain F. C. Marsh, Protectorate Regiment, who by his promptitude in sending men at daybreak to guard the drifts and river banks, confined the Boers to the N. side of the Stadt and prevented them from obtaining water. He also displayed great personal gallantry in jumping into the Kraal where the first party of Boers was captured, while a heavy fire was going on, and interposing himself between the Boers who had raised a white flag and the Baralongs who wanted to kill them.

The way in which both these officers handled their squadrons in attacking the Kraal and Kopje was most skilful.

By Order, (Signed)

E. W. Cecil, Major.

Chief Staff Officer.

The following remarks, which were addressed by the Commander in Chief to the prize winners at Bisley this year, have been copied from the London press. They represent the opinion of a man who possibly of all men in the world is best qualified to give an opinion on a subject which cannot fail to be of the greatest interest to the readers of the *Q.O.G.*

"I trust the whole nation will take the dearly bought experience of the South African War to heart, and do all that is possible to encourage good shooting in the army. However brave our men may be, however well drilled and well set up, however well disciplined they may be, and however capable they may be of great endurance, or of riding across the most difficult country (admirable and desirable as all these qualifications are), the men will be valueless as soldiers if they are not experts in the use of the rifle. There are, I am aware, considerable difficulties in the way of musketry training in this country. It is only in a very few places that suitable ranges can be found near barracks, and still fewer where field firing can be carried on; but a great deal can be done by practising with Morris tubes, and the lately invented miniature ranges seem likely to prove a great success. But full-sized ranges are, of course, of far greater value; and I would appeal to the patriotism of the British people in imploring them to make no unreasonable opposition to the construction of full sized ranges, and to help by all means in their power to perfect our army in rifle shooting; for as I have endeavoured to point out, it is on skilful rifle shooting that the efficiency of our army absolutely depends.

Our congratulations to Captain M. P. Buckle, gazetted to a Companionship of the Distinguished Service Order. We are also pleased to record that the Distinguished Conduct Medal has been awarded to Col.-Sergts. E. Bullock and L. Reddersen, Sergt. T. Dorrell, Lce.-Corpls. E. Humphreys and G. Huntley, and Pte. F. Jupp, in recognition of their services in South Africa.

THE AD-DAREJA FIELD FORCE.

BY ONE OF THE PAWNS.

In setting forth the following account of the recent expedition into Arabia, the writer has had to depend a great deal upon outside information to make the account more concise, notably the political side of the affair, concerning which but little ever comes to the ken of those accompanying a Field Force.

The author, therefore, trusts that he may be excused for having borrowed some of the information, as it is his wish to give the readers of the *Q.O. Gazette* as full a narrative as possible for the special benefit of those who may be unaware of our doings out here.

That Great Britain is constantly engaged in petty wars, is a matter of small wonder, when one takes into consideration the almost illimitable extent of her frontier lines, and the semi-savage tribes with whom those who are destined to occupy her foreign possessions are living in close proximity, but that an expedition from Aden should ever be called upon to penetrate into the interior of Arabia, appeared one of the remotest possibilities of breaking the monotony of our existence in this dreary locality. However, it is the unexpected which generally does happen.

The heads of the Haushabi tribe, who occupy a district some distance inland, and who are under British protection, reported to the Political Resident, at Aden, in March, 1900, that an individual who figures under the title of Muhammed Bin Nasir Mukhbil, had built a tower within the limits of their territory.

This man is of low origin, but has been raised to the dignity of a Sheikh by the Turks, and was responsible to them for the collection of taxes in the district around Mavia. For this purpose he maintains a regiment of Zaidies—an Arab tribe—and keeps them well armed with Martini-Henri rifles.

Adjoining the Haushabi territory is the country belonging to the Al Hamari which tribe is under Turkish control. The country in which the dispute occurred is in the hills, and some six thousand feet above sea level.

On receipt of the Haushabi Sultan's report correspondence took place between the Foreign Office and Constantinople, and the Porte informed us that Muhammed Bin Nasir Mukhbil had been ordered to vacate the tower which he had built in the Haushabi limits. This he refused to do, and about the end of last May the Resident of Aden received orders from the Foreign Office that the tower was to be destroyed. On this instructions were sent to the Haushabi Sultan to collect some men and demolish the tower, and he was given a present of some ammunition, and was promised a thousand rupees when the tower was destroyed, and that he would be protected against any reprisals which Muhammed might afterwards attempt. At this time the tower was in the occupation of an old man, a woman, and a boy.

The Haushabis, instead of going quietly by night to accomplish their object, thought there might be a chance of making some money over the deal, for they collected a large number of men and proceeded to the tower amid a general discharge of their firearms and beating of tom-toms. The consequence was that when they arrived at the tower it was occupied by a few riflemen, who began to fire on them. After having a couple of men wounded the Haushabis retired, and sent word to Aden that the tower would have to be besieged, and asked for more ammunition and 2,000 rupees to purchase food.

The Resident of Aden did not see fit to comply with this demand without demur, for when on 27th of June of this year the request was received by the Resident, he repeated his previous instructions to the Sultan, and at the same time sent a party of twenty men of the Aden troop and two British officers out to Musemir, the headquarters of the Haushabi Sultan, some sixty miles from Aden, with orders to report what the Haushabis were really doing, and to support them by their presence if they demolished the tower.

Strict orders were given to the party not to cross into Turkish territory, which is only a matter of yards from the tower.

On arriving at Musemir, the officer in command of the Aden troop, Captain Pilleau, 5th Bombay Light Infantry, found that the Haushabis were no longer able to destroy the tower unaided, as, profiting by the delay, Muhammed had strengthened his garrison and was himself in occupation of the tower with some of his Zaidies.

A reconnaissance was made to Ad Darega, about two miles west of which stands the tower, on an isolated hill, and completely commanding the surrounding country.

On approaching the tower the reconnoitring party was fired on and had to withdraw.

A full report of the situation was immediately sent to the Resident of Aden, who then decided to send out a force.

The first rumours of the affair did not reach us until the 6th July, and on that day it went quietly round that 200 men of the Battalion were required for active service—destination unknown.

At that time the Company to which I belonged were engaged in their annual musketry course.

All thoughts however of accomplishing great things faded from our minds, and everyone was prepared to volunteer their services if only to demonstrate the utility of practices 8 and 10 in the new musketry course, which consists of bobbing up from behind a screen, letting off a round at hazard, and dropping down again, in the space of four and three seconds respectively.

One impression was that additional forces were required to hunt down that 'will-o'-the-wisp,' the Mad Mullah of Somaliland, and as many of the 1st Battalion had had previous experience in chasing Mad Mullahs, the anxiety to be included amongst the number furnished by the Battalion was very evident, and when the selection was made many disappointments were the result.

The other troops selected were, a 7-pounder camel battery manned by the Royal Garrison Artillery, 200 5th Bombay Light Infantry, and half a company of Bombay Sappers and Miners, in all about 600 fighting men, the whole commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison.

Definite orders for the advance were received on 12th July, and as only two days remained hasty preparations had to be made, the C.O. and his staff officer having quite a busy time of it, while 2nd-Lieut. Hudson, our transport officer, was not idle for he had to pitch a camp in readiness for the troops at Sheikh Othman, our first halting-place.

The representatives of the Battalion being selected from each company, they were divided into three provisional companies, No. 1 under the command of Lieut. Hastings, consisting of men of B, E, and H Companies; No. 2 Company was composed wholly of D Company, commanded by Lieut. Snow; and No. 3, men of F, A, C, and G Companies, commanded by 2nd-Lieut. Keenlyside.

Every man was fitted with a sola topee, a pair of goggles and spine pad, and I might gainsay the fact that no force ever started campaigning better prepared to resist the elements than the men of the Royal West Kent Regiment.

Transport difficulties delayed the start for one day, but this can readily be understood when the reader is informed that on such occasions as this all camel transport has to be commandeered, as camel owners are very adverse to hiring out their animals voluntarily.

The force concentrated at Sheikh Othman on 15th July, the march thither being a most trying one at this time of year. However, as one march so much resembled another, to recapitulate each in detail would deprive this article of any interest which it might convey to its readers. Much to everyone's regret Col. Harrison was stricken down with heat apoplexy at Sheikh Othman, and was sent back to Aden the same evening by order of the Medical Officer. The command of the force then devolved on Major Rowe.

Unfortunately we lost two men in crossing the desert, Pte. Edwards and Lance-Corpl. Wood, both of whom succumbed to the effects of heat apoplexy.

Of the places we encountered *en route* only one calls for special mention, viz. Lahej; the abode of the Sultan of the Abdali tribe of Arabs. His palace is a pleasant break in the monotony of desert marching, when viewed from a distance, as it can lay some claim to agricultural beauty, though it loses a deal of its lustre on a near approach, for there is evident signs of native labour in its construction.

Ere the hills were reached news came through from Capt. Pil'ea that the enemy were developing aggressive tactics, they having driven the Haushabis from the village of Ad-Dareja, and themselves occupied it, and the ridge commanding the same. This was good news to us as it held out prospects of a fight, when the troops were beginning to imagine that the affair would pan out bloodless.

On the 21st July we were joined by some 200 horse and camel men of the Abdali tribe, and they greeted their arrival in camp by a wild discharge of their firearms skywards, and a great beating of tom-toms. The Sultan's son accompanied this force which was under the command of an old jemadar mounted on a splendid grey arab charger, upon which many envious glances were bestowed, for it really was a superb animal of its kind.

(To be continued).

To the Editor of the Queen's Own Gazette.

1ST VOLUNTEER ACTIVE SERVICE COMPANY.

DEAR SIR,

In continuation of correspondence on pages 1664 and 1665 of your issue of June last I have just received the following letter from South Africa. Names are omitted for the present.

G. MORPHEW.

Blackheath, 27/9/01.

25/8/01.

“DEAR MORPHEW,

I have just received your letter forwarded to me by H.Q. referring to our adventure in the Orange River. I am bound to say that some of the correspondents seem to have formed a somewhat exaggerated idea of the affair.

“This is what actually happened. On the 19th February, D— and myself went down to the river to fish. The river was very low, and we got out along a ridge of rocks to a spot about the middle of the river. The river rose suddenly, and before we had time to collect our things we were cut off. We waited for a bit thinking that it probably would not rise any further, which it did. D— slipped off his rock and swam to a shallow place about half way to the shore, from which he signalled to me to come on, which I did, leaving most of my clothes behind, as I imagined they would be out of reach of the water. I left the rest on a still higher rock, close to where D— had stopped, and then went on. The current was running very strong close into the bank, and as soon as I got into my depth I kept losing my foothold. A— had waded out to meet me, and helped me ashore. I was pretty well done up.

“Seeing the men of your picquet waiting about on a level with the rocks, I had signalled to them to go further down the bank, so that A— was there ready to help me.

“My best thanks are due to A— for his help, and it is possible that without it I might have been carried away by the current. If anything can be done for him I shall be very glad to do anything further in my power.

“Yours very sincerely,
(signed) _____”

Viljoen's Drift,
Orange River Colony,
July 24th, 1901.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

It is somewhat difficult to give an account of our doings since “Your Volunteer Correspondent” last wrote to you from Serfontein, our history having been to a certain extent bound up with that of the Regular battalion since the 20th May. On that date, in reply to an application which had gone through to headquarters of the G.O.C. at Bloemfontein we received orders at 8 a.m. to move at 11 a.m. With detachments separated by over two miles, and very inadequate transport, this entailed some heavy work; but all was willingly done, and at length the train bringing our relief—a company of the 3rd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders—steamed in. The “handing over” was somewhat hurried, but in a short time the whole company was entrained *en route* for Heilbron to join the regiment. The “whole company” however is, I fear, an incorrect expression, for some sixteen of our number were then lying ill at Kroonstadt Hospital, some with enteric and some with lesser complaints, amongst the enterics being Lieut. McCracken, whom, to the great regret of all ranks, we had to send in on the 18th May. He has since been through a most dangerous illness, from which, I rejoice to say, he is now recovering, but I much fear that we shall “see his face no more” on this side of the ocean.

The company had done good work at Serfontein—monotonous though the life was. We had considerably improved the defences of two blockhouses, had entirely built and occupied one new one in place of a condemned work which we demolished, and had partly erected a fourth and fifth blockhouse. This work by day, combined with ceaseless picquet and patrol work by night had given all plenty to do.

We arrived at Heilbron on 22nd May, and were most kindly and cordially greeted by the O.C., Major Maunsell, and the battalion generally. We soon fell into line there, finding our full share of the outpost and fatigue work, besides guards, etc. How the work was done it is not for me to say; but it was undoubtedly lighter for all ranks than it had been in our previous quarters, and creature comforts were more easily obtainable. Our stay at Heilbron, however, was not destined to be a long one, for on June 10th orders were received for the battalion to move on the 12th, and to garrison various posts along the railway between Wolvehoek and Vereeniging, including this station of Viljoen's Drift. For this station two officers and seventy men were required, and the Volunteer company were ordered to remain here, sending on one section—No. 4, under Sergt. Spence—with headquarters to Vereeniging. This section was attached to A company under Lieut. Kitson for a month, and were posted on the south side of the Vaal bridge, but last week, upon orders being issued that Viljoen's Drift should furnish a night picquet of ten men and one N.C.O. near a spot two miles south of this where an attempt was made to blow up the line in broad daylight, our No. 4 section was restored to us, and the company is once more together. This place is a desolate waste of thick fine sand, most trying to walk on, and the men are distributed in six different posts round the wires, some in blockhouses, others in tents near trenches. Stores are fairly plentiful, and, chiefly owing to the energy of Lieut. Holcroft, a company canteen has been started and is flourishing gaily—even draught beer is at times supplied and duly appreciated, though the price is 5d. a pint now, having once been 6d.

The Captain acts as Commandant of the station, and seems to have a considerable amount of business of the most varied natures to transact in his office. Night guards and patrols and picquets are, of course, the chief features in the work of the men, and the sentry work is done now-a-days in a good deal smarter style than when we landed in South Africa. A great feature in our life here now is the gradual formation of a squad of Mounted Infantry. Having a few M.I. horses left here once by a passing column, various riders are put up, and career—some gaily, some sadly—over the veldt, some not even saddle-y on the veldt. Already they have been escorting wagons from post to post, and might at any moment become very useful. With the assistance of two or three residents the company gave a grand concert here on Saturday, 6th July, which was a great success, and quite surprised the locals, as well as some of ourselves, by the galaxy of talent displayed. On August 3rd (Boers permitting) we contemplate some Athletic Sports, with some of the events open to the whole station, and including two pony races, which should produce some fine sport.

The *Bloemfontein Post* of to-day publishes the correspondence captured at Reitz, and this, coming with rumours of other successes in the Cape Colony makes us think that there is at least some chance of an end to the war—but these hopes, like so many previous ones, may be doomed to disappointment. The weather, since we left Heilbron especially, has been grand—though very cold and frosty at night—the glorious and perpetual sunshine by day makes one forget many disagreeable points. It seems a long way to come to do garrison work, and every member of the company is “spoiling for a fight,” but even if we never have a chance of doing

anything in the field, we all hope that our presence here is not altogether useless to the country. I must not trespass further on your space with our small doings, indeed I shall feel agreeably surprised if you can find room for all that I have written. I will therefore end by expressing the most sincere congratulations on behalf of the Volunteer company to Col. Brock on his approaching marriage, and wishing him and his bride long life and happiness.

YOUR VOLUNTEER CORRESPONDENT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

P.S.—Since writing the above orders have been received for one N.C.O. and seven men to join headquarters for training as Mounted Infantry.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I think at the end of my last letter I informed you of the concentration here of A, E, H, and Volunteer Co.'s, preparatory to joining Col. Garratt's column in relief of a wing, 1st East Lancashire Regiment. These Companies arrived here on August 30th, having been relieved at the various posts down the line by the Volunteer Cos. of "The Queen's" and K.O.Y.L.I. They entrained here about 3 p.m. on Sept. 2nd, and proceeded to Meyerton, about six miles north of here, to join the column, the East Lancs. marching in here the same day. The officers with the wing were Major Brock-Hollinshead (in command), Captains Lowe and Latter, Lieuts. Kitson and Holcroft, and 2nd-Lieuts. Norman and Johnstone. About two days afterwards the whole column arrived here and entrained, and I believe they are now operating somewhere in the neighbourhood of Wakkerstroom. Doubtless, if they have time, they will send you a separate account of their doings. On September 16th a wire was received from Q.M.G., ordering the headquarters half-battalion to be in readiness to proceed by rail to Klerksdorp to join Br.-General Gilbert Hamilton's column immediately they were relieved by the headquarter's half battalion of the 1st East Lancs., who had been on trek with this column for three months. On its being discovered that we were only required to find, at the most, 350 men, it was decided that headquarters would remain here, with half F Co. details and the Local M.I. The East Lancs. went through to our relief on the night of the 17th, and about 6.30 p.m. on the 18th our Companies from down the line arrived here, where they picked up the maxim gun, 1st Line Transport and some details. They proceeded straight through to Klerksdorp, and must have had a very trying night in open trucks, as it rained heavily. They detrained here their unfit men, tents, and all unnecessary baggage. Since then they have been railed back to Elandsfontein with the column, and I hear rumours of their proceeding to Newcastle. This does not sound unlikely, as our friend Botha is reported to be trying a raid into Natal with a fairly large following. Should he succeed in his attempt, our half-battalion should have a chance of assisting to render his return, if not an impossibility, an exceedingly unpleasant one. Portions of the Battalion are therefore more scattered than ever, though not so split up. There remain here Major Maunsell, Lieut. Isacke, who is Acting Adjutant during Lieut. Bonham-Carter's absence in hospital, Lieut. Joslin, and Lieut. and Quartermaster Couch, with about 150 men. This number we expect to be largely augmented by a draft of 186 men, who should have landed by now.

The Local M.I. have not been idle, so far, this month. From the 3rd to the 10th they were on trek assisting to establish a new S.A.C. post, about 28 miles N.W. of here, being most hospitably entertained on their way back by No. 12 Troop, A Division, at their post at Farcosfontein.

From the 11th to the 16th, they were again on trek with a column from here under the G.O.C., with the object of establishing posts of the Railway Pioneer Regiment at Lindique and Viljoen's Drift, W., which is on the Vaal between Lindique and Parys. This was successfully accomplished, the force being engaged with a few of the enemy in the Bloemfontein Hills on the 13th. During the five days the column accounted for five Dutchmen, rather under the heading "of sorts," about 100 horses, 150 cattle, and 500 sheep and goats. Several Dutch families and many Kaffirs were found residing in these very secluded valleys along the Vaal, these being collected and brought into the Refugee Camp. It helps one to realize the vastness of the country, and the difficulty of our task, to come across these untouched spots when column after column has been sweeping through the country for months past.

Half F Company also formed part of the column, and were left behind at Viljoen's Drift on the 15th to assist in establishing the post there. I hear they distinguished themselves in the defence-building line, though they did not have a particularly rosy time, owing to the heavy rains. They only returned here on the 21st.

On the night of the 20th, Lieut. Isacke and 20 of the M.I. proceeded to watch a drift on the Vaal about 10 miles west of here, where the Boers are supposed to be crossing in small numbers. No Boers were, however, met with and they returned to Camp shortly after midnight, having spent a very cold night. Lieut. Joslin is now taking over command of the Local M.I. from Lieut. Isacke.

Our "pucca" M.I. are still in two hosts, part with Colonel Western's column in the south of the O.R.C., and part with the 13th M.I., who form part of General Spens' column, which passed through here, going north, two days ago. They are shortly all to be collected as one Company of the 13th M.I., which should be a more satisfactory arrangement. Life in Vereeniging itself cannot be said to be wildly exciting, but the recent rains have allayed the greatest evil, the dust. The East Lancs. have now their band here, which should help to liven up the station.

I have yet one more move on the part of the Battalion to chronicle. On Sept. 26th, headquarters and from 70 to 80 men move to Viljoen's Drift to garrison that place, leaving behind here Lieut. Joslin and the Local M.I., and on the south bank of the river 50 men of F Co. I fancy after this move has taken place it will be found difficult to further elongate the Battalion, at any rate until after the arrival of the draft.

In case of accidents I think it better to close this letter to night, for fear I should miss the mail if I leave it open until after the move is accomplished.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Vereeniging, Sept. 24th, 1901.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

On a kop, eight miles south of Vereeniging and about one and a half miles from and to the east of the railway which overlooks the line and surrounding country, is a small garrison consisting of some men from Kent, a detachment R.A., and two Companies M.I. Here there are three blockhouses, numerous schanzes, and miles of wire entanglements, a Krupp gun captured from the Boers, and a Maxim. It is so strong that we see no Boers, for they dare not attack it, especially as they have no artillery. Both this kopje and the railway bridge, which crosses a spruit, are named after the latter—"Taaibosch." The bridge, which is between four and five miles south of Viljoen's Drift, is held by more men from Kent under Lieut. Norman. It is, however, against rifle fire almost impregnable, for the bridge is guarded by two blockhouses, a Maxim gun, and wire entanglements galore.

The next post to the south is nearly two miles distant, and named "Platelayer's Cottage." This has a garrison which occupies three small round sand forts, which would give protection even against shell fire. Like all the blockhouses and posts it is greatly strengthened by wire. A little over a mile further south is a blockhouse called "Stienpan." The man who owns the land about there must have had a good deal of interest with the late O.F.S. Government, for here they made a station and siding. As far as one can see it was for the purpose of getting coal from a mine which they were starting under Taaibosch Kop. If this was so, why they did not have the station near the bridge, and to the north of it, only the owner of the land and the late government can know.

This is not a wheat growing country, and, except for about two thousand Kaffirs attracted to this delightful spot by the mines, there could be no traffic to or from the station. Further south are two more posts, one near milestone 649 on railway, and the other at Somer's Farm, which almost touches the railway. At 649 there is a blockhouse, the farm is fortified, and both held by us. The railway on each side of the farm is beloved by the Boers. If they cannot cross the line south of Somer's, they try to the north. Wherever they go they are met by the men from Maidstone, Chatham, Tonbridge, and Woolwich, who, up to date have quickly made them think better of it. It is my firm conviction that none have as yet succeeded, although many have tried, and my opinion is backed up by the evidence of two Kaffirs who have fled from the Boers. Both stated they had tried with the Boers to get across on two occasions and had failed.

The men have to be awake all night patrolling or on sentry-go. By day they may sleep, but woe-be-tide them if a cunning Boer, even if dressed as a Kaffir, blows up or tampers with the line. I believe the general impression is that the mines are often laid by Kaffirs, who are well paid by the Boers for doing so. It is such a cowardly act, that I do not think if caught in the act, a Boer or Kaffir would be made a prisoner.

Two miles south of Somer's Post come the R.I.R., that part of the line south of Wolvehock belonging to them. To the north of Taaibosch Bridge are the West Kent Volunteers. They have just built a new blockhouse about one and a half miles north of the bridge.

The 23rd M.I. are a great help at night, for they not only find intermediate posts between the blockhouses, but they also hold a farm one and a half miles west of Somer's Post, besides sending out frequent patrols in all directions. These men are under the command of Major Burnett-Ramsey, who has a mixture of twenty Regiments, all good men and true, in his M.I. Battalion.

Your readers may imagine how anxious all of us are to have a chance of catching some Boers. At each post you hear the same wail. "Why don't they try and cross here?" "Somer's Post and the R.I.R. (or South Down Militia), have all the luck." Perhaps luck may change, when we all hope we may do as well as Somer's Post did under Lieut. Norman with H Company, who has now been relieved there by Lieut. Kitson with A Company, and who was in command when the Boers attempted to cross on more than two occasions.

O.R.C.

A 2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

1/8/01.

DUNDEE,
NATAL, 24/9/01.

DEAR MISTER,

I am rather awkwardly situated for writing, but shall just send a short account of our movements. I was up to 31st August with my last, so I'll just mention September moves.

September 2nd.—We played or rather fought the 5th Royal Irish Rifles a football match. They seemed to have selected all their "bruisers" for the match, and curiously enough we did the same. Result—2 goals to us, and 1 black eye, against 0 goal, and 5 or 6 black eyes.

Bye the bye, a note in the *Bloemfontein Post* of about this date caught my eye. It stated that all down the main line the Kaffirs were to be allowed to grow their own corn. This seems very well, but here's my opinion of it:—

No doubt the scheme's a good one that they've got upon the sheet,
For blacks to grow the grub they'll have in future;
But it seems to me these fields will be a cover most complete,
Where Boers can lay in safety while they shoot yer.

We've filled the holes upon the veldt where our fellows seldom go,
And knocked down all their sangars near and far;
But they must'nt say we're 'funkey' of their ambush, Oh dear no!
For we're going to give them cover where we are.

Still, Brother Boer, you cannot say an Englishman's a dunce,
For we've shewn you that we know a thing or two;
And I think that when these mealie fields you've utilized just once,
It's about the last thing some of you will do.

September 3rd.—We had a bit of fun this day, or rather night. About 9 p.m. we heard firing, and a rush of something quite close to our outpost lines. This turned out to be a party of horses driven by some Boers, who had apparently lost their bearings, the night being very dark. Guns and rifles and maxims were soon at it hard, and the result was the capture of about 150 horses, some with bullet-holes in them, and some without. This was a great amusement, and varied the monotony a bit—a thing sadly needed on these lines of communication.

On the 12th we had a concert—very select—ladies were present, and the doctor (Mr. David) ran the show. Some good and amusing songs were sung, among the best being Mr. Rutter (Railway Staff), who sang "The Soldier's Song," and Corpl. Harper (of Pink Pills fame), who sang "Loves Old Sweet Song." Other songs were sung by Col. Sergt. Bullock, Lce. Corpl. Plume, who gave some excellent comics, Ptes. Urquhart and Paine, and Doctor David who gave us an excellent parody on "Don't know where 'E are," and Mr. Biddlecombe of the Railway Staff. Lce.-Corpl. Kane gave a recitation. The evening ended very pleasantly, and a vote of thanks was heartily accorded to the "show man."

On the 16th we got urgent orders to be ready to join Colonel Gilbert Hamilton's column at Klerksdorp, and on the 18th we "pushed." We picked up C, G, and the Gottenberg party at Wolvehock, and arrived at Klerksdorp only to hear that we were for somewhere else.

We found our old friends the 13th Hussars there, also the 5th Dragoons, who were with the 1st Battalion in India. Four guns and a pompom completed the column.

We left there on the 21st, and ran down via Johannesburg, Elandsfontein and Standerton to Dundee, where we arrived yesterday, after a very unpleasant journey; the trucks which were given for the Regiment being totally inadequate as regards accomodation. We had as many as 62 in 1 truck, and sleeping at night could not be carried out, unless by a man who had previously practiced tying himself in a bundle.

Well, here we are, and we start trekking to-morrow, I believe we have to go 15 miles.

Let's hope we shall see some fun and be able to make our name noised abroad.

Believe me to be, Sir, yours very truly,

"D" Co.'s Correspondent.

Jas. Bullock, Col. Sergt.

Gottenburg, O.R.C.,
August 24th, 1901.

SIR,

I am afraid the monthly record of the doings of our Company will be noted as stale by the readers of our *Gazette*, owing to the dull and extremely uninteresting routine of duty on the lines of communications, which, I am sorry to say, have befallen most all of our line régiments. We have all voted it, at the least, too monotonous. We would much rather be up and doing; we can only look with envy on the doings of our mounted comrades in Cape Colony and elsewhere.

Oh for the life of a mounted man. I can see we shall all look very small beer on our return home, not having entered for the long-faced stakes. Good luck to them. This is certainly the most delectable and salubrious spot that ever a Company could wish to be posted. A single metal line and an iron bridge—"that's us"—"*Riet Spruit section*." At sunrise one stretches himself and yawns and gazes at our landmark, the bridge, quite a common garden one; looks nice in the brilliant sunrise, that is if you see it no oftener. The falling rays of the setting sun silhouettes the bridge as on a dark background, and then as it falls amongst its embrasures it's positively ugly. To us it has grown hideous in its daily regularity. The sentries, too, can tell you the maker's name, its length and breadth, ah, even to how many bolts and nuts it took to build it. Strange, but true. In the silent hours of sentry go, one has nothing else to do but count the studs, with a frequent glimpse of the surrounding skylines in search of Bro. Boer on the prowl, and even he appears to have sunk his identity in nothingness and silence.

Yet withal we have our emancipation days, viz., train days. We have three a week, and perhaps a man goes into Heilbron for stores, and brings back the eagerly sought article, a week-old *Bloemfontein Post*. "What's the latest?" is the cry on all sides. "Is Botha captured? Is peace proclaimed, or De Wet gone mad?" We all wait with expectant faces to hear the old usual "Big capture of—'What?' we all say in a breath—why 800 trekk oxen, 25 mules, 40 waggons, 3,000 sheep, etc., etc." Then there's a howl, and frequent mutterings. I caught one; it sounded to me something like "D—m the cattle. "Well," says the reader of the *latest*, "what else do you want?" I have a slight idea it's something to do with a rumour afloat a month or so back that the regiment is to come home for three months prior to going to India. That's the news that is expected, or at least a confirmation. Whether it will appear one day in the columns of "Military Items" in this paper, I leave to the future. Everything comes to them that wait.

F.G.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

On behalf of the Regiment we express thanks to several Residents of Maidstone for the contributions which have enabled the new Regimental Institute to be comfortably fitted up. On Friday, 1st November, the Institute was opened for the first time, and it goes without saying that the change from the old buildings to the new is much appreciated.

We also thank Mrs. Tootell, wife of Captain Tootell, 1st Vol. Batt., for the gift of 100 Hymn Books for the use of the Troops attending All Saints' Church.

At Shoreham, Kent, there was a rifle match between teams representing the Royal West Kent Depot (Maidstone), the 1st V.B. Royal West Kent Sevenoaks and Orpington Companies), the Sevenoaks Rifle Club, and the 2nd V.B.

Royal West Kent (Bromley). The conditions were as in the 1st stage of the King's Prize, Bisley—7 shots at 200, 500, and 600 yards. Lance-sergeant R. C. Fawsitt, who has lately returned from the front, got the highest aggregate. After the match the Bromley men proceeded to Sevenoaks and dined with the Sevenoaks team in the Drill Hall. The following were the scores of the day:—

BROMLEY.

	200	500	600	Total
Lance-Sergt. R. C. Fawsitt.....	33	29	25	87
Sergt. H. Smith.....	34	27	25	86
Private J. Napier	32	23	23	78
Sergt. A. G. Wheller	30	28	20	78
Private H. Hunt	26	26	25	77
Col.-Sergt. W. Bulleid.....	28	24	23	75
Col.-Sergt. E. Towell	30	24	20	74
Sergt. Hanmore.....	25	23	21	69
	238	204	182	624

DEPOT (MAIDSTONE).

	200	500	600	Total
Col.-Sergt. Colyer.....	31	30	23	84
Col.-Sergt. Everden	31	26	24	81
Sergt. Dugay	27	24	26	77
Quartermaster-Sergt. Bass.....	25	22	28	75
Sergt. Murphy	27	26	21	74
Lance-Sergt. Selves	30	22	21	73
Sergt.-Major Sumner	30	19	18	67
Col.-Sergt. Osborne.. ..	20	30	12	62
	221	199	173	593

SEVENOAKS.

	200	500	600	Total
Sergt. H. Marchant	29	28	23	80
Private Langridge	29	29	22	80
Cyclist Bromley.....	25	32	22	79
Sergt. Hayward.....	29	28	21	78
Sergt.-Instructor J. Parry	23	28	23	74
Private Hodge	25	22	21	68
Sergt. Richards	21	21	23	65
Private Burgess.....	19	22	21	62
	200	210	176	586

SEVENOAKS RIFLE CLUB.

	200	500	600	Total
Mr. F. Ledger	28	27	21	76
Mr. B. W. Wild	20	25	26	71
Mr. R. M. Bishop.....	28	20	23	71
Mr. D. Pugh	19	20	16	66
Mr. R. B. Coupland	22	16	25	63
Mr. Rathbone.....	23	21	10	54
Mr. T. B. Ledger	16	16	18	50
Mr. Derrett.....	18	10	15	43
	174	164	154	492

ORPINGTON.

	200	500	600	Total
Sergt. Allen	24	23	22	76
Private Smith.....	21	22	23	66
Private E. Giles.....	23	24	18	65
Lieutenant Francis	29	19	16	64
Sergt. Lone	24	25	15	64
Private Sawers	26	15	17	58
Private Weedon.....	23	14	9	46
Sergeant Wilson	16	15	8	39
	186	157	135	478

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

The Depot are continuing the good form which they shewed at the beginning of the season, and have only once been defeated, and that by the strong Chatham Amateur team; and on the 26th inst. they played a most creditable draw with Tonbridge of 1 goal each. There is at present too great a tendency for selfish play among the forwards, and players would do well to remember that games are won by combination and not by individual efforts.

COMPANY FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

The formation of a Football League among the Companies at the Depot has created much enthusiasm and has been the means of discovering several good players among the recruits now present.

C Company takes pride of place and have prolific scores. The band were expected to make things lively, but scoring has been pretty level in their contests, and they stand second to A Company, D follows, and the wooden spoon is likely to be the lot of B Company. The competition is rather more than half way through.

MAIDSTONE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

DEPOT *v.* AYLESFORD.

The Depot played their first League match on the 19th inst., having Aylesford as their opponents. Aylesford won the toss, and play ruled even for the first twenty minutes, until a penalty against the visitors enabled the Depot to draw first blood. This reverse aroused Aylesford to greater efforts, and, playing up well, they forced a corner, from which they scored. The play became fast, each goal in turn being attacked, until at length, from a good centre by Sergt. Merrick, Col.-Sergt. Neighbour was able to register goal No. 2 for the Depot. In the second half the Depot added two more goals, thus winning by 4 goals to 1.

No. 1. VOLUNTEER ACTIVE SERVICE COMPANY.

PRESENTATION OF WAR MEDALS.

The officers and men of the above assembled at Maidstone Barracks on Saturday afternoon, October 5th, to receive their medals from the hands of Earl Stanhope, Lord-Lieutenant of the county, who arrived from Sevenoaks a few minutes after 3 p.m.

A guard of honour from the Maidstone companies, 1st. Vol. Batt. was in attendance under Captain Tootell. A large number of people assembled on the Barracks Square to witness the ceremony.

The Company was divided into two sections, according to the Volunteer Battalion they belonged.

Lord Stanhope, addressing the men, remarked that they had recently undergone great hardships and dangers, but by brilliant bearing, under every circumstance, they had reflected great honour on the county. Since the Crimean War the country had not been engaged in so large a war as the present. Might it please God soon to end it. The Volunteers must feel it a rare distinction and privilege that they had been able to join in defending their country in this war. Kentish men and men of Kent were proud of their bravery and doings. The medals he was about to distribute were tokens from the King, and he was sure it would be an honour to all of them to wear them and hand them down to their children's children as a well deserved mark of services to King and country.—There were over one hundred recipients, and the first medal was handed, amidst hearty applause, to Captain Mophew, who commanded the active service company. The other

officers who took medals were Captains C. S. Marchant and Watney, and Lieut. de Barry Barnett. The Lord-Lieutenant received each of the men with a hearty shake of the hand.

Among those officially present were the Mayor of Maidstone (Mr. F. J. Oliver), wearing his robes and chain, and several members of the Corporation, the Town Clerk (Mr. Herbert Monckton), the Chaplain (the Rev. C. G. Duffield), the Chief Constable (Mr. A. C. Mackintosh).

Major-General Sir Thomas Fraser, commanding Thames District, was also present.

The weather was threatening, but fortunately the rain held off.

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

To 31st December, 1901:—Mr. G. Stevens, Mrs. J. P. Dalison, Mrs. Dalison, Mr. R. Clayton-Browne, Mrs. D. B. Roffey, Capt. W. H. B. Long, General Luard, Miss Fletcher, Capt. B. H. Latter, Capt. C. Holcroft, Col. M. Wynyard, Mrs. Jameson, Col. W. Bradish-Ellames, Mrs. Graham-Wigan, Mrs. Simpson, Col. A. E. Fyler, Major A. T. Simpson, Mr. E. Rogers, Mrs. Fenning, E. C. Coupland, Col. J. E. Kitson, Mr. H. Bonham-Carter, Capt. R. J. Roche, Mrs. Rowe, the Sergeants' Mess 3rd Vol. B., Mr. Randall Mercer, Mr. G. H. Freeman, Mr. D. Harmson, Mr. W. O. F. Sergeant, Capt. H. Beeching, Capt. S. H. Pedley, Mr. E. Mayo, Mr. W. G. Morris, Col. J. L. Tweedie, Mr. A. Stewart, Mr. A. H. Pallett, The Officers' Mess 2nd Volunteer Battalion, Mr. W. C. Lewis, Col. E. Satterthwaite, Mr. A. Martin, Mr. R. Whitehead, Mr. D. R. Pack-Beresford, Mr. W. Locks, Mr. J. Tiley (who also sends 3s. "for the good of the Paper, and the Old Corps"), Mrs. Edwards.

To 31st December, 1902:—Lieut.-Col. C. R. Crosse, Major J. G. Smith, Mr. J. Judge, Lieut.-Col. F. Pine, Col. F. F. Johnson, Capt. J. D. Laurie, Surg. Lieut.-Col. C. Boyce, General E. Leach, C.B., Col. E. T. Luck, Capt. M. C. Matthews, Col. M. D. Treherne, Mr. J. Muddle, Mrs. Jury.

To 31st December, 1903:—Col. Knox, Mr. J. Malone, Q.M.S. Furey.

Also:—Col. E. A. Grove and Mr. P. Norman, to 31st March, 1902; Q.M.S. Newman to 31st August, 1902; and Pte. Crump (2nd Battalion), to 30th April, 1903.

BIRTH.

At Shorncliffe, on 23rd ult., the wife of Sergt. G. Rigglesford, Details, Royal West Kent Regiment, of a daughter.

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).

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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 319.

MAIDSTONE, DECEMBER, 1901.

[Vol. XIX, No. 12

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

1ST BATTALION.

Appointed Lance-Corporals, Privates G. Webb and A. McIntosh, 23rd October, 1901.

Appointed Bandsmen—Ptes. W. Grover and W. Scott, 28th October, 1901.

Appointed Drummer—Pte. A. Harris, 22nd October, 1901.

2ND BATTALION.

Appointed Lance-Corporals—Ptes. W. Palmer, G. Chatfield, and G. Pace, 3rd October, 1901; Ptes. H. Rutley, G. Brunger, C. Winter, R. Hazlett, R. Cairns, C. Argar, and C. Lovegrove, 7th October, 1901.

3RD BATTALION.

Capt. A. C. Pine is granted the hon. rank of Major, dated 2nd November.

Capt. H. Neve is granted the hon. rank of Major, dated 21st September.

Capt. and Bvt.-Major A. Martyn to be Adjutant, vice Capt. E. F. Venables, who vacates the appointment dated 14th October.

Capt. and Hon. Major H. Neve resigns his commission and is permitted to retain his rank and wear the uniform of the Corps on retirement, 23rd November.

2ND VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Lieut. A. Pownall to be Captain, dated 23rd November.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Can you prove that a cat has at least three tails? Its very easy. You see, a cat has more tails than no cat at all, hasn't it? And no cat has two tails, therefore a cat must have at least three tails.

Dear Mr. Editor, forgive me. I need hardly tell you now that your regular 1st Battalion Correspondent has left us for awhile, and his duties have fallen on other and less worthy shoulders. I am sure he would never ask you such frivolous conundrums. He is enjoying two months' rest in India, so you will only have to bear with me for another month, if you can. After that time I hope I shall have handed back to him those duties which he has proved are so essentially his.

I won't commence my letter by giving you a description of Aden, its places of interest, its pleasant drives, &c., &c. So many have done this before I believe, and it would not be news to readers of the *Q.O.G.* Of course you know Aden is

noted for its oysters. The season for them has just commenced. Talking of oysters, can you tell me, Mr. Editor—are you sure you don't mind being asked riddles?—"What noise annoys an oyster most?" "Why, a noisy noise annoys an oyster most. You will see now why I began to talk about oysters. I wanted to spring this riddle on you, and didn't quite know how to bring it in. But to be serious, and we are very serious in Aden, I will try and give you some of our news. All interested in the Regiment will be glad to hear of the following order which was published in connection with the Ad-Dareja Expedition:—

(1)—Extract of a letter from the Adjutant-General in India to the Lieut.-General commanding the Forces, Bombay:

"With reference to your letter, dated 29th August, 1901, forwarding a report on the operations of the force despatched from Aden for the reduction of the Ad-Dareja fort, I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief to convey His Excellency's appreciation of the manner in which the troops carried out the operations under grave climatic difficulties."

"His Excellency has also noted the satisfactory arrangements that were made locally for the well-being of the Force."

(2)—Extract from a letter from D.A.G., Bombay Command, to G.O.C. Aden District:—

"The Lieut.-General Commanding is very pleased to note His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's appreciating remarks."

The Government of India have made a very generous offer of bounty and furlough to England, or a gratuity in lieu thereof, to men who extend their service to complete 12 years with the Colours. The conditions are as follows:—Every N.C.O. or man under the rank of Sergeant who has not less than six years and three months' service, and has not entered upon his 12th year of service, will receive on extension of service to complete 12 years with the Colours, the sum of Rs150, and furlough to England for not less than two months, or if he does not desire furlough an additional gratuity of Rs247 8 0 in lieu of furlough. Thus a man not taking furlough receives the sum of Rs397 8 0, £26 10s. 0d. in English money. This offer was made on the 2nd Sept., and is to be kept open till 2nd December. Up to date, 170 N.C.O.'s and men of the Battalion have availed themselves of it.

There are rumours going abroad that some of us are shortly going out into the desert for a few days for manœuvres. It will be a very welcome change to the monotony of existence in Aden itself. I append an account of a sea trip a few of the Battalion were lucky enough to be able to take a short time ago. From all accounts it was a most enjoyable one. I also enclose accounts of billiard and football matches.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

G COMPANY.

On the 1st October, we played a football match against a team of the L.M.C., commencing at 5 p.m. Some good play ensued, Pte. Taylor and Lce.-Corpl. Harris for the Company and Dr. Collins and Pte. Lister for the Society being the most prominent. A corner against the Company just before half-time resulted in a goal for the L.M.C. On resuming play the Company attacked, but were not strong enough, and the game eventually finished L.M.C. 1 goal, Company nil.

The teams were as follows:—L.M.C., Ptes. Brill, Thorpe, Howard, Bench, Dr. Tinker, Ptes. Lister, Evans, Harding, Jones, Haycock, and Hilton. G Company, Corpl. Ball, Corpl. Lang, Ptes. Turner, Gore, Lce.-Corpl. Harris, Ptes. Milligan and Taylor, Lce.-Corpl. Collins, Ptes. Ellen, Gore, and Wood.

We hear that there is likely to be a slight muddle during the coming football tournament regarding the colours of different companies. "Does colours make any difference to play"? As the colours of a certain company seem to have been borrowed for the season.

Is it true that a man of a certain company on being told that his rifle wanted browning, frightened the "bawarchi" by taking it to the cook-house to be done?

LCE.-CORPL. RIOM.

B COMPANY.

The following is an account of a football match played on the 12th October, on the Gymkhana Ground, at Steamers Point, between B and E Companies combined and Royal Garrison Artillery.

Porter kicked off for the Kents and the R.A. at once attacked, but Thorp returned, and Ford got away on the left and passed to Brandon who shot and just missed. Each goal was visited in turn, and after a spell of mid-field play Ford, with a fine shot, scored first goal for the Kents. Soon after this Brill got injured, and had to leave the field, during which time Hartley equalized, and the score at half-time was one goal each. On resuming Brill again took his place, and Pelling got away, and with a well-judged pass to Harden enabled him to score with an oblique shot which completely non-plussed the R.A. custodian. The R.A. then pressed hard, but their attack was well met. The Kents then took up the running and the R.A. defence had an anxious time, their goal being repeatedly called upon to save, and Ford with a lightning shot notched the third goal for the Kents. The game then slowed down and when the whistle blew the game stood Kents, 3; R.G.A., 1.

Thorpe and Aggersberg played grandly at back, as did McCarthy and Falshaw at half, while Harden, Pilling, and Ford were the pick of a good set of forwards.

The teams were as follows: B & E Companies—Bridges, goal; Thorp and Aggersberg, backs; McCarthy, Brill, and Falshaw, halves; Pelling, Harden, Porter, Brandon, and Ford, forwards. R.G.A.—Ellison, goal; Byrne and Carruthers, backs; Connor, McKenzie, and Jones, halves; Carr, Garvey, Hartley, Gallagher, and Williams, forwards. Referee—Schoolmaster Taylor, R.G.A. Linesmen—Gunner McCarthy and Pte. Jones.

GIBBO.

Captain Lees, Adjutant of the Cambridge University R.V., has been granted a further extension of six months. He will then have been six years Adjutant of the corps.

Captain M. P. Buckle has been nominated for admission to the Staff College.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

The ill-luck of being stationed for a longer period than is generally the case in such a delightful spot (?) as Aden, where there is little or no news to chronicle, has been the cause of dearth of copy from the 1st Battalion, and has probably added to the cares and responsibility of yourself and the printer. How to overcome the difficulty was the question on the tapis not long ago, or, as a well-known member of our Sergeants' Mess has it, "discussion invited." The suggestion adopted was "Let us have a correspondent for each Company, who would forward the result of his literary labours to our battalion correspondent, who, in his turn, would be only too happy to forward a big budget of 1st Battalion news to you, thus gladdening your heart and providing the necessary sinews of war. One each for the Sergeants and Corporals were also nominated, and, as I was selected to bring to light some of the doings of my brother Sergeants, I am going to begin, not by forwarding copy, but by asking a few questions, the answers to which would be very welcome to us all.

1. Can you enlighten us as to the origin of the Drum and Fife being played at breakfast, dinner, and school calls? On referring to the valued copy of the *Q.O.G.*, so kindly presented to our Mess in April, 1889, the same question was asked, but no satisfactory answer given. Sec. XV., para. v., of our old Battalion Standing Orders also orders that the above should be done.

2. Some of us have been asked the meaning of the term "Kentish Fire." Although a Man of Kent myself, I have to confess I never heard the term used until I became a member of the Sergeants' Mess, and, please Mr. Editor, can you tell us what it is, means, and how to do it?

GRENADIER.

[No doubt "Grenadier" in asking these questions has in his mind the voluminous correspondence that may ensue, such as followed the query "What to do with our boys," "Is marriage a failure," &c., &c., in a London daily some years ago. We prefer Regimental Intelligence, and plenty of it.—EDITOR.]

A SEA TRIP.

Towards the end of September.

Some of the Battalion, about forty in number, with twenty of the R.G.A. have had the good luck to break the monotony of Aden by the way of a sea trip which lasted about fourteen days. The men picked out for this were those who had had more or less illness, and I, being one of the party, can safely say they benefited a great deal by it. We visited a few places which Europeans seldom have the opportunity of doing. The first part of the voyage consisted of a visit to Perim, a coaling station about 90 miles W. from Aden, but there was little or nothing to see at that place, with the exception of a cricket match which was played between some of the officers of the boat and the men, which was rather a novelty, in that we played in nothing more or less than a coal-yard. There is only one thing, so far as I could see, that Perim can boast of, and that is, it is by far a worse place than Aden. After having slung three camels on shore and taken three more on board, a kind of relief I believe, we started on our return journey to Aden to coal and get a fresh supply of rations. The G.O.C. and Capt. Burt, A.D.C., came on board, and Lieuts. Robinson and Hastings (who went with us to Perim) were landed. After having coaled, which did not take many

hours, away we went for a seven or ten days' trip. Thirty-six hours fine steaming brought us to a place called Makalla, rather a large town along the Arabian coast, built in a picturesque situation, backed up by a ridge of high, overhanging hills. Here it was that the Sultan of Makalla lived, who was one of the chiefs we were sent to visit. He came on board soon after our arrival, with some of his followers, all arrayed in black and gold lace, with their belts bristling with knives and swords. After having a long consultation with the G.O.C., he returned in one of the ship's boats. The same day the General and Staff returned his visit, and by all accounts there was a great fuss made when they landed. They have a few old guns here, given, no doubt by the Government for saluting purposes, but, by what I saw of them afterwards, I think it would be safer about 25 yards in front, than behind them. There are a few regular troops, but the majority of the villagers are armed. The best part of these troops was a band of about 14, with a fine goat, as large as a good sized donkey, but it would take a good musician to understand what the band were playing. We soon left this place, however, and proceeded down the coast to Asheir, some 60 or 70 miles farther on, a larger town than Makalla, with a fortified wall round it, excepting the side facing the sea, and a more strongly fortified place than most of the Regiment have seen before. At this place two or three chiefs came on board, and another consultation took place. Here we were to stay for a couple of days, so the next morning we were allowed to go on shore, 15 at a time, to have a look round, Capt. Burt and Lieut. Stigand going with the first party. We were rowed ashore in native flat-bottomed boats, as our own could not land us, owing to a heavy swell, and when within about 20 yards from the shore we had to be carried on the shoulders of natives. It was an amusing sight when two of them hoisted Lieut. Stigand. We were received by one of the headmen, with a large following as usual, and plenty of firing in the air, etc. They had horses waiting for the officers, and as soon as they had mounted, away we went, with hundreds of natives in front and around us, and had we felt inclined to kick up a row we should have fared very badly, but we did not let that enter our heads, the only thing most of us thinking about being our safe return. After roaming about with our escort for about an hour, we returned to the headman's house, where Capt. Burt and Lieut. Stigand were received by him. We were ushered into a kind of ante-room, and received a cup of tea from his men in waiting. We then all returned to the shore, guns going off, and swords and knives flying in all directions. Capt. Burt took a snapshot of a kind of war dance, which was very interesting, but I have not learned whether he was successful or not. Here it was that he suggested a Quoit Tournament, kindly promising to give two prizes. This game proved very exciting, and the final was left to Sergt. Davis and Pte. Andrews against Pte. Bridges and Gunner Saunders, R.G.A., the latter pair eventually proving the winners. We made several journeys from Makalla to Asheir and back again, but we did not mind that so much as things were very cheap; for instance, we could get eggs at three annas a dozen, and a seven pound fish at one anna, so you may guess we fared pretty well on board. The Sultan also presented the G.O.C. and officers with a lot of honey, of which we received six tins, quite a luxury for us in this country. The business of the G.O.C. being completed we prepared to start on our return voyage, but before we left the Sultan sent several other presents, and I have heard that he sent a present for the King, but I cannot vouch for this being correct. He had intended to entertain the whole of the ship's crew and troops, but as time did not admit of him carrying this out he sent us Rs500 instead. His

generosity took us all by surprise, and you may rest assured he received many hearty thanks for his acceptable gift. One thing I forgot to mention and that is we had a fine concert on board while staying at Makalla. The songs were well sung, especially those by Pte. Brooker and Corpl. Rose, who made it quite lively. The following day we had sports, but I am afraid the "Minto" is hardly large enough for such pastimes, for several were slightly injured, including my unlucky self, but they went off in grand style, the greasy pole and cock-fighting causing no end of fun. The prizes all fell to our men except the tug-of-war, which went to the R.G.A. After this Capt. Burt, assisted by Lieut. Douglas, R.I.M., and Lieut. Stigand, issued first the prizes for the sports and then the money sent by the Sultan. Soon after this we arrived in the same old Aden harbour, and were soon landed, having spent a most enjoyable trip, due in a great measure to the way in which we were looked after by the officers on board, who had taken so much trouble to make us feel at home, and thus ends an account of one of the pleasantest times a few of us have spent since our arrival in Aden.

Another account has been received, with thanks, from C.H.S., for which we are unable to find room.

ANGLING.

The Aden Skate season is drawing to a close. On the whole anglers have had good sport, and many good catches have been recorded. Not a few, however, have been disappointed on account of the non-appearance of this fish, which seems to have left our happy fishing grounds. We hear on good authority, however, that all the valuable "tails" which have been collected, are being kept until a future date for sale in Billingsgate market (the Aden market being somewhat irregular at present). With regard to other species of fish usually to be found in this vicinity, they are conspicuous by their absence. The "Gogle" fish, vide Virgil, book 5, line 407. *Monstrum honordum* etc., being almost extinct this season, owing, no doubt, to the proximity of Gulf shark, which devour all such reptiles. All our fishermen have "had it," and have gone in for astronomy, several having been seen flying kites? sending messages to regions above. The other evening one thought he could study the stars better by minutely studying the reflection in the puddles on the beach. He however, after half-an-hour, gave it up as a bad job.

BILLIARDS.

The result of the last Billiard Handicap was to produce several new claimants to cueist honours, and challenges to anyone and everyone were to be seen adorning the walls of the billiard room. Several matches were arranged, and four have been played, the first of which was between Pte. Taylor (the winner of the handicap) and Pte. Crampton, who conceded the former 30 points. It was a good game, with lots of hard luck on both sides, and the score concluded Taylor (receives 30), 200; Crampton (scratch), 171. The next game was between Pte. Smith and L.-Cpl. Baker, and ended as follows; Smith (scratch), 200; L.-Cpl. Baker (scratch), 149. Undoubtedly the best player won. Pte. Crampton was not to be denied however, and a game between him and L.-Cpl. Wood resulted in L.-Cpl. Wood (receives 20), 200; Pte. Crampton (scratch) 173. The fourth game was between Dr. Barrow and Pte. Smith, and resulted in the victory of the former by 15 points, as also did another game between the same pair, but this time by 31 points. The C.O. paid a visit to the billiard room while some of the games were in progress; and I must say I never saw a more attentive or crowded audience.

GRENADIER.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

At the end of my last letter, I mentioned an impending move to Viljoen's Drift of the headquarters of the battalion, which was duly carried out on the morning of September 26th. We settled down exceedingly comfortable, there being several houses available which were capable of being transformed into stores, offices, stables, etc., and I, for one, was congratulating myself that at last, for a short period at any rate, I should have a roof to sleep under. It was, however, to good to last, as many of us had thought, for at mid-day on the 27th a wire was received from Q.M.G., A.H.Q., directing headquarters and all details of the battalion not on trek to be held in readiness to proceed to Heilbron. We therefore packed up again, were joined at mid-day on the 28th by those who had been left at Vereeniging, and arrived here by special troop train at 5.30 p.m. This move necessitated the local M.I. being disbanded, as the G.O.C. would not part with the horses, which was a great blow to all ranks. The aspect of Heilbron, which we had all seen enough of during our previous stay, was not much altered, except for the appearance of a large refugee camp. On our arrival here we heard rumours that we were leaving at once to renew our acquaintance with a little place called Frankfort, which place, I am quite certain, no one in the battalion ever wished to see again. This rumour, I am glad to say, proved false, though others, less fortunate than ourselves, have since wended their way thither. The garrison of the place is much the same as when we were here last, with the exception of the 2nd Worcester Regiment having relieved the 1st Oxford Light Infantry. We immediately took over most of the surrounding forts, which constitute the defences of the place, and pitched our camp close to our old site. On October 1st we were joined by the draft (strength 169 all ranks), 4 men having been left down country, of whom 3 have since joined. This brought our numbers up to 350, but there was, and still is, a somewhat scarcity of officers and N.C.O.'s since our arrival here, the line of blockhouses to Frankfort has been completed, and we now occupy the first 8 at this end. We are also finding 6 blockhouses on the railway line between here and Wolvehoek, so that in all, out of our 350 men, 250 are away on duty in outlying forts and block-houses. The draft and old hands have been about equally divided up in these, by which arrangement, it is hoped, before very long the former will have picked up most of the active-service tips of the trade, and become as efficient and handy as the latter now are.

Both Damant's and Wilson's column's have called in here, and, from all accounts, have their work cut out in dealing with a large body of Boers between Frankfort and Reitz, who are not best pleased at being ejected from the former place.

Little of excitement has occurred during the present month, as far as this portion of the battalion has been concerned. On the night of the 20th inst. our most advanced blockhouse on the Frankfort Road, was attacked about 8.45 p.m. by Boers, estimated to have been between twenty-five and thirty strong. Firing continued for about half-an-hour, when the burghers withdrew, Sergt. Parker, who was in command, having "saved his goal" and sustained no casualties.

There have been occasional surrenders of two's, three's, and even five of the enemy at this station, which I trust tends to prove that those, who up to date have not felt it, are beginning to do so now. As I write, we are passing through the most terrific storm of rain that I have ever experienced, in which, I trust, many of our brother Poers have been caught in the open.

We still hear periodically that we are for India when the war is over, which would, I think, be a welcome change to all

of us, though, as a man said to me the other day, "We all want to see it out, sir," meaning, of course, the war.

Of our two wings "on trek" we hear but little; they are, however, doubtless actively engaged in the Eastern Transvaal, harassing the retrograde movements of General Botha. I trust, however, that they may each find time to send you a short account of their doings.

Lieut. Bonham-Carter is now rapidly becoming convalescent and will shortly leave for England to recruit after his serious illness.

Capt. Pack-Beresford is the latest hospital sufferer, but I trust his illness will not necessitate his being invalided, as his services would be a great loss to the M.I. Co., who have already had their share of bad luck in their losses of Officers and senior N.C.O.'s,

Col. Western's Column was last heard of in the neighbourhood of Aliwal North, where things seem to be fairly quiet just at present. The health of the men here is good, blockhouse life being a very healthy one, when combined with a certain amount of equestrian exercise on horses, donkeys, or any other animals that may happen to appear in the neighbourhood. A few days ago, a private soldier, superbly mounted on a donkey, was heard enquiring at one of the blockhouses whether they had had the hounds round that way lately! so you see there is lots of sport out here!

I heard to-day that the Provost Marshal had been somewhat exercised in his mind at the strange disappearance of the horses belonging to surrendered Boers, but on search being made, at least one was found at each of the West Kent blockhouses on the Frankfort Road, which really was very curious!

My stock of news, which was scanty to start with, is now exhausted, so I will conclude.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

Heilbron,

October 24th, 1901.

Pretoria,

November 8th, 1901,

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

On September 18th, C company, then stationed at Kromellenbosch and blockhouses near, D company at Vredefort Road, G company on the Heilbron Line, and half F company at Vereeniging were collected in one train at Vereeniging, and started under Captain Moody to join Gen. Gilbert Hamilton's column at Klerksdorp in S.W. Transvaal. The officers with the wing were: Captain Moody (in command); Captain Buckle (acting adjutant); Lieuts. Tulloch and Luard (acting Quarter-master and transport officer); 2nd-Lieuts. Fiennes, Pullman, and Tugwell, and Civil Surgeon Mulloch. Colr.-Sergt. Silver was acting sergt-major, and Sergt.-drummer Inglis acted quarter-master-sergeant to the wing.

After a very uncomfortable night in open trucks and pouring rain, we reached Klerksdorp the following morning and joined the column.

General G. Hamilton's column consisted of the 13th Hussars, 5th Dragoon Guards, sections of 64th and 66th Batteries, R.F.A., and one pom-pom, a mounted company of R.E., and 340 Royal West Kent Regiment.

On the 20th we again entrained, and after a three days' journey arrived at Dundee, Natal, where we had a day in camp. The next morning we started for our first trek with this column, and it being at the time fine weather, I think most of us were pleased to be on the tramp once more after our long spell of garrison duty.

We marched through the town of Dundee, past the foot of Talana Hill, and after a long march camped on the west bank of the Buffalo river at De Jager's Drift. Here the pleasures of trekking commenced as some of the wagons containing our

kits did not turn up in camp till past midnight. Crossing the drift next day, we arrived at Rooikopjes on the banks of the Blood river.

The column halted here for the day, whilst the 13th Hussars went on into Vryheid and brought out an empty convoy. On the 29th we treked south, and crossing the Blood river by a very bad drift, entered Zululand. Then on to Vant's Drift on the Buffalo, where we again crossed into Natal. The column halted at Vant's Drift for three days, G company going six miles south to hold Rorke's Drift of Zulu War fame. Again crossing Vant's Drift into Zululand, we trekked to Nqutu, where we arrived on October 4th. Here C and half F companys were left to do convoy duty, whilst the rest of the column pushed on that night to Nandweni, the site of the Prince Imperial's death, making twenty-three miles that day.

From there into the Transvaal to Bethel, where half D and half G companys with Captain Moody and the Doctor, distinguished themselves by climbing a high kopje covered with bush, and capturing a small laager, the men fled too soon to be caught, but received a pretty good peppering whilst they rode away.

The column sat here until the 9th, when C and half F rejoined. From Bethel we started to ride into Vryheid, but when only two miles from the town we turned back, Dr. Tulloch, I believe, being the only member of the wing who managed to enter the town. The rumour now afloat was that we were going to Dundee to entrain for the Orange River Colony, but when we had got as far as Rooikopjes, on the way to De Jaeger's Drift, we turned off towards Utrecht, passing the spot where Major Gough's disaster occurred.

On October 14th we passed through Utrecht, only halting for two hours outside the town, and then up a terrible hill to our camp, near a place called Knight's Farm. Then on to the Pivaan Waterfall where the column rested one day, but not the West Kent's, for they were told off to beat the bush on the side of a very high and steep hill. We started at 6.30 a.m., and after a two hours climb up the open part of the hill, we spread out along the top and came down through the bush, the cavalry waiting at the bottom to mop up anyone whom we might drive out. It was very hard work as the bush was so thick that the only way to get through it was in many places by crawling, and the hill was in some places almost precipitous. We found a women's laager, three Cape carts and five waggons, but unfortunately the men had got away, except two, one of whom was over ninety, and the other under nine years of age.

From the Pivaan river we marched down through Elandsburg Nek by a very rough road to the Pongola river, near Tambooskiesbult Farm, where we halted two days waiting for the cloud to lift from the top of Pongola Bush, into which Col. Pulteney had driven the Boers the day before, so as to allow us to beat it. When at last the clouds cleared off we found that the Boers had also cleared north into the very rough country on that side of the Pongola. All this time Gen. G. Hamilton's column was one of many executing a big driving movement under the direction of Gen. Walter Kitchener, among which columns were Pulteney's, Garrett's (with our other wing), Bruce Hamilton's, Spen's, Plumer's, Stewart's, Allenby's, W. Kitchener's, and Campbell's, but as I know practically nothing as to what they were all doing, I will refrain from attempting to write anything about the operations, excepting those in which we actually took part.

So north we hurried—along stony roads, up enormous hills, and through terrible drifts; one drift took a whole day to cross, and the hills were so steep that the wagons had often to be unloaded and the kits carried to the top by the men.

On the 21st we reached the Nek leading into the Groenhoek Basin, where we halted two days, and were joined by four companies of the Royal West Kent Regt., with Col. Garrett's column, under Major Brock-Hollinshead, who were to search the Basin with us. D and G companies were sent up into the clouds to do outpost duty the first night, a good two hours climb.

We were now on quarter rations.

On the 23rd, with only pack-mule transport, we crossed the South Nek into the Groenhoek Basin. This Basin is an extraordinary piece of country, with only two entrances, over two necks, both of which are impassable for waggons. The east side of the Basin is formed by the Hslangapies mountain, and the west by very high and perpendicular cliffs, the bottom of the Basin being a flat marshy meadow with a stream running through it, and the lower portion of the sides thickly wooded.

We beat the bush all day, capturing a large amount of stock and a few saddled horses, but the Boers had broken north through the line of block houses the night before, except a few, who, with the guns captured by the Boers from Geugh, Col. Campbell's men managed to secure. D and G held the North Nek that night, and the next morning retired back to the column, which had already started back to the Pongola. The other wing then re-joined Garrett, and a convoy having joined us we came once more on full rations.

We now trekked back without much incident to Wakkerstroom, where we arrived on October 28th.

The next day we marched through Volkrust to Charlestown, in Natal, and entrained to Standerton.

At Standerton we expected to have a week's rest, so having been served out with tents, turned in the first night to make ourselves thoroughly comfortable, but alas, the winds blew, and the rains came, and nearly all our tents were laid in the mud.

The following day, about noon, we received orders to be ready to march at once to the relief of Col. Benson's column which was in a tight place about 40 miles north of Standerton. The cavalry started at about 3 p.m., whilst we followed with the transport at 5.30 p.m. We marched till 1.30 a.m., when we halted three hours, and then on till about 4 p.m., two hours of which time we were fighting a rather feeble rearguard action, when we rejoined the column, having marched 37 miles in 22½ hours. We were pleased to hear that the cavalry had relieved Benson's column, although Col. Benson and many others had been killed. Our column lost three killed and five wounded, most of the casualties being with the cavalry.

After a day's rest we returned to Standerton from whence we trained to Pretoria, where we arrived on Nov. 7th, and here we hope, at last, to get our week's rest.

Since we left Dundee on the 25th September we have marched about 410 miles.

Wing, 2nd Battalion Correspondent.

"Klerksdorp,"

Western Transvaal,

Sept. 21st, 1901,

To the Editor Queen's Own Gazette.

G Company received orders to form part of a mobile column under Col. Gilbert Hamilton at Klerksdorp, Western Transvaal, the rendezvous of Gen. De la Ray. With heavy hearts we buckled on the armour of battle, after five weary months on the lines of communication. Lord Kitchener's

latest proclamation having taken no effect, the summer campaign commenced at midnight, the 15th ult. War was re-declared by General Botha to the effect that all Rooineks were outlawed from that date.

We left Gottenberg on the 18th ult. G, C, D, and half F Companies, under the command of Capt. H. Moody, entrained at Kromellenberg, Vrededorf, and Viljoen's Drift respectively. Headquarters at Vereeniging was reached at 7 p.m., where we were joined by Capt. P. Buckle, as Adjutant to the half battalion, Lt. Luard acting as Quartermaster. Elandsfontein was reached about 10 p.m. in a perfect deluge of rain, not at all a pleasant journey, being packed as we were in half companies in cattle trucks. Leaving Elandsfontein at midnight, the Golden City of Johannesburg, lit up by myriads of electric lights, burst upon our astonished gaze. What a sight, we said, after 16 months of light from the humble commissariat tallow candle. Frederickstad was reached at 6 a.m., where breakfast was served. Potchefstroom, of Cronje fame, was our next stopping place, and we finally landed at Klerksdorp at 2 p.m. on the 19th, only to hear we were not required in the western theatre of war, but probably in Northern Natal—Dundee the starting point. Col. Gough having been attacked by a superior force, was surrounded and compelled to surrender after a terrible casualty list, and losing three guns, which, by the way, were useless to brother Boer, the gunners having blown the breech blocks out. The Boers are supposed to be 2,000 strong, under Christian Botha, and are closely clutching the Zululand border, so no doubt our objective is to follow their spoor, but more of this anon. We are getting ready to entrain for destinations unknown.

F.G.

Dundee, Natal,
23rd Sept., 1901.

Klerksdorp to Dundee—Leaving Klerksdorp at 1 p.m., on the 21st, still 1st class saloon in coal trucks, Elandsfontein was again reached at midnight. We then branched on to the line leading into Natal, passing through Heildeborg, garrisoned by old Dublin friends of ours, the Durham Light Infantry. Greylingstad and Standerton were passed, when to our consternation we heard that the heavily laden train in front, conveying the 5th Dragoons, had been derailed owing to the line descending abruptly into a deep declivity, happily without serious mishap, three men only being slightly injured, belonging to the 5th Dragoon Guards. After a few hours' delay, the line again being clear, we reached Volkrust by daylight. Here, recollections of the famous ultimatum were vividly brought to mind, Volkrust being the Boer arsenal and supply depot during the gloomy Ladysmith days. Again a start was made. The famous Almond Nek hidden almost from view, one, looking even from a railway truck, could but imagine the gallant Devons and Rifles saying before they reached the summit "carve a little bit off the top for me." We were now nearing the Laings Nek tunnel, on the right being the dark and sombre Majuba Hill, its grim shadow falling aslant across the railway line, a formidable and sinister looking sentinel to the Transvaal frontier. As one gazed one thought of the dark and gloomy days of December, '99, when truck loads of jubilant Boers passed this same spot, marking also, as it were, the holocaust of the unhappy Colley. The tall and frowning kopjes raising their rocky peaks to the sky, one has but to see the nature of the country to appreciate the work done by Sir R. Buller and the magnificent troops he commanded. Passing through the tunnel we were now in Natal for the first time. At Newcastle we caught a brief glimpse of the other half battalion under Col. Garratt. Still travelling on, Glencoe Junction was reached. Rising up

majestically to the sky, and overlooking the station, are the Glencoe heights, of Dublin Fusiliers' fame. We now branched on to the Dundee line, which is about two miles only, that place being reached at 4 p.m. on the 23rd. We could see the Talana Hill in the distance. Camp was now reached. The rumour fiend, as usual, being busy, Christian Botha and Commandant Smuts are reported in laager on the Zululand border, which place we shall probably make for. So, gentle reader, G Company's address is now "On Trek, No. 7, Skyline, South Africa." No cards.

F.G.

Rorke's Drift,
Buffalo River,
Zululand,
October 3rd, 1901.

With Gen. Hamilton's Force.

Composition roughly as follows:—Cavalry, 13th Hussars, 5th Dragoon Guards, Johannesburg Mounted Rifles; Infantry, 3½ Companies Royal West Kent and a Maxim gun, under the command of Capt. H. Moody (Royal West Kent); Artillery, 2 guns (15 pounders) 64th Battery Royal Field Artillery, 1 pom-pom; Field Hospital, 1 section A.S.C., and 1 section Bearer Co. R.A.M.C., and 1 section Royal Engineers.

On September 25th, the necessary supplies being drawn, a start in the direction of Vryheid was made at 10.30 a.m. G Company and 1 gun forming the rear-guard to the column. Our objective I believe to be to try and co-operate with a force under General Walter Kitchener, advancing from the west, to corner, if possible, a force of Boers, under General C. Botha, estimated at 2,000 strong (probably exaggerated). Owing to heavy rains of late the roads are awful sticky; I thought that, being a flying column with all mule transports, a quick and easy progress would be made, but was speedily undeceived. I fancy we all would prefer the strong oxen, which, no matter how slow, is sure on his feet. The long waits of a rear-guard are very trying to one's temper, and the gentlemen of the cavalry have a knack of secreting heavy articles in their blankets, which made it warm work for the mules. However, we found ourselves in camp just before 12 midnight, and a welcome lot of rum was the right thing at the right time. Eighteen miles only were covered, well, I mean a cavalryman's 18, probably 25 to the men of the line. On the 26th we crossed the Buffalo River at De Jagaer's Drift. A floating pontoon raft was erected by the Engineers for the Infantry to cross. We camped on the other side, probably waiting for further instructions. General Clements' column was here also, holding the drift. At 6 a.m. on the 27th, a start was again made. The Boers were reported in force on our right front, 400 of whom were supposed to be on outpost on a large hill ten miles east. If they were, they scooted, not a shot being fired. After traversing about 12 miles we halted under Rooi Kop, where we saw the twinkling of the helio far away west from General Kitchener's column. On the 28th, G Company proceeded on top of Rooi Kop for outpost duty, which place, I might mention, is certainly famous for reptiles: snakes, scorpions, and lizards revel in the sun, not at all pleasant sleeping companions. A sick convoy passed here from Vryheid, with the sick, wounded, and prisoners who had been sent into Vryheid by the Boers. They belonged to Colonel Gough's column, and the prisoners were dressed in civilian clothes. We thought at first they were Boer prisoners, but the Boers had stolen their kharki, and the people of Vryheid had supplied them with clothing to hide their nakedness. Still no sign of brother Boer.

On the 29th we started off at 7 a.m. to cross the Blood River into Zululand, G Company this time, as of yore, well to

the front in hauling the waggons out of the mud. This part of the country is all drifts. We cross and recross the same river at different points, getting wet up to the knees on an average about five times a day. I am sadly afraid the days of the foot sloggers are over for the purpose of war; we simply being the human trek oxen for the purpose of hauling along any dilatory waggon. We reached Zululand about 4 p.m., and hordes of friendly Zulus came to visit us, and to tell us brother Boer had encamped here two days previous, and had stolen some of their cattle, so there may be a dim chance of glory for us in the near future.

On September 30th, we started at 5 a.m., the cavalry well in front, to seize a drift, called Vance Drift, the Natal side of the Buffalo River. We reached it at 7 p.m., where we received instructions that one gun and G Company would seize Rorkes Drift on the morrow, and remain there until further orders.

On October 1st we reached the renowned Rorkes Drift at noon, passing on our right a small graveyard. A very historical spot this; the fallen of the 24th Regiment being buried here in 1879. We crossed on to the Natal side, and now hold the drift from an eminence which commands the Zululand side, but up to the time of writing no Boers have appeared. They will get a warm reception if they do, no doubt. We are six miles from the main column, which is still holding Vance Drift, so we are all lying low to see if brother Boer will accept the bait offered, but am afraid he is like the wily pike—very careful.

I visited the spot the famous fight of Rorkes Drift was fought on. The spot is marked by a small stone chapel. A small graveyard marks the place where the Zulus rushed the hospital, and an obelisk has been erected to the memory of those who fell in action. Engraved thereon is a wreath of laurels, in the centre of which is the Roman letters "XXIV," and the words "Rorkes Drift, 22nd January, 1879." A spot indeed historical and well worth seeing. A bronze bell is also outside, bearing the words, "Wozani, Se, Kir, Sungile, Konke, Uluka, 14: 17: Dumisani, Ujehova, Nina, Zizive, Nonke, Jshlab, 117: 1, Oscarsberg."

October 2nd—Still on the *qui vive*, but alas, in vain, no Boers. The twinkling of the helios tell me the cordon is getting tighter. Will it be another Paardeberg, or Slaap Krantz? Events will tell. I am afraid the inevitable and ubiquitous scouting line is being greased by wily brother Boer. Still, we must hope ever.

F.G.

Vryheid, Eastern Transvaal,

October 11th, 1901.

We received orders to evacuate Rorkes Drift at 2.15 p.m. on the 3rd ult., which we did after strongly entrenching ourselves, rejoining the rest of the column at Vance Drift by 6 p.m. Trekked again at 4.45 a.m. on the 4th, into Zululand, again rear guard to the column. The Drifts being in some cases almost impassable, we having to drag the waggons through; the mules being heavily handicapped owing to the heavy rains. Reached camp at 5 p.m. Still no sign of brother Boer on his spoor. 5th.—Trek again at 5 a.m. Still spare oxen, this being evidently the Infantry's task. 6th.—Arrived in sight of Vryheid. G Co. proceeded on outpost duty on a lovely Kop, about 2,000 feet high. 7th.—Again rear guard. Arrived in camp early, 12 noon; evidently something on the tapis. At 6 p.m. volunteers called for; 40 men of D Co., and 40 men of G Co. proceeded at midnight to attack a Kop, called by us, "Apology Kop." Boers were reported there, arriving at about 3 a.m. A few shots fired. Several Boers and their families were found hiding in

caves covered by the bush veldt. The rest of D and G Cos. relieved this party, under Lieut. Luard and Lieut. Pullman, about 11 a.m., on the 8th; the top of the Kop being reached at dark, in a hailstorm; the fog was so thick, you could scarcely see a hand in front. Rained heavily all night. When morning broke we certainly looked a God-forsaken lot. Blankets and ourselves wet to the skin. "Apology Kop," eh; they should apologise for not calling it the "Matterhorn." Morning broke, fog, mist and rain in general. We had to stay till 1 p.m. On the morning of the 9th we got the welcome order to abandon the kop, which was held for signalling purposes. We, on our retirement, uttered a prayer of thankfulness, and hoped there would be no more "Apology Kops."

10th.—En route to Vryheid, having heard the Boers had scooted north.

11th.—We are now at Vryheid, after going north, south, east, and west of it. A lovely spot it is. So beautiful that it really wants submerging. But now, gentle reader, we are resting, for one night only.

F.G.

Tonbridge,
19/11/01.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

The following amounts have been subscribed in Tonbridge by a few friends of the Regiment, to help the Xmas Gift.

	£	s.	d.
Colonel Henderson	3	3	0
Lieut.-Colonel Williams	2	2	0
Alfred Beeching, Esq.	2	2	0
R. Maconachi, Esq.	1	0	0
Rate Payers' Association	3	0	0
The Misses Waddilow	5	0	0
Pupils Eton House	1	13	0
J. L. Fleming, Esq.	1	0	0

£14 5 0

and has been forwarded to Mrs. Luard.

I am sending this to you in case you might wish to allude to it in your next issue.

Yours truly,
PERCY UMFREVILLE.

The sum of £24 4s. 9d. has been received from South Africa, from the inhabitants of Heilbron; and the sum of £17 5s. 8d. has been contributed by the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men at the Depot, both of which has been sent to Mrs. Luard to provide comforts for the 2nd Battalion.

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

To 31st December, 1901—Captain O. B. Simpson, Mr. G. J. Rutledge, Captain W. V. Hopegood, Mrs. Safford, Miss Edmeades, Mr. J. F. Grellier, Mr. W. Locks, Mrs. Keeble, Lt.-Col. F. Wintour.

To 31st December, 1902—Pte. J. Weaver, Mr. S. Strode, Mr. W. C. Lewis, Mr. J. Brown, Captain A. Montgomery Campbell, Captain A. J. P. Annesley.

To 30th September, 1902—Sergt.-Inst. Evans.

We beg to thank Mr. James Judge, who very kindly sends us 4s. "for the good of the paper."

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

To the Editor of the Queen's Own Gazette.

SIR,

The new buildings of the Regimental Institute at the Depot were opened on November 1st, and I venture to think some of your readers would like to contribute towards the furnishing of them. £50 at least is required to provide floor covering, curtains, settees, table cloths, fenders, pictures, games, &c. I have already received the following amounts, which are gratefully acknowledged:—

F. S. W. Cornwallis, Esq.	...	..	5	0	0
F. Klenwort, Esq.	...	...	5	0	0
S. Faudel Phillips, Esq.	...	...	5	0	0
Col. T. H. Brock	...	...	5	0	0
T. Graham Wigan, Esq.	...	...	3	0	0
Major F. Pine	...	...	2	2	0
Rev. Canon Joy	...	...	0	10	6

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

T. H. BROCK, Colonel,

Commanding 50th Regimental District.

Maidstone, Nov. 30th, 1901.

By the kindness of Mr. George Marsham, J.P., who took the chair on the occasion, a large number of men were enabled to hear Mr. Winston Churchill give a lecture on "The War as I saw it," at the Corn Exchange, Maidstone. His gift of 50 tickets was much appreciated. Mr. G. Marsham, in introducing the lecturer, referred in complimentary terms to the men of Kent and the work done by the Royal West Kent Regiment throughout the present campaign.

FOOTBALL.

On the 19th Oct. Aylesford paid us a visit in search of Maidstone League points, but the Depot was too strong for them, and won handsomely by four goals to one.

On the 26th we received a visit from Tonbridge, and after a real good game the match was left drawn at one goal each.

On Nov. 2nd we paid a visit to Eccles to try conclusions with them in a Maidstone League fixture, but I have to tell you we lost, after one of the worst matches I have seen, by two goals to nothing.

On the 9th we journeyed to Penenden Heath in search of League points against the Invicta, and we were successful, as after a real good game the Depot were left the winners by two goals to *nil*.

On the 16th we played the Maidstone Rovers on our ground, and beat them by three goals to *nil*.

On the 23rd Malling paid us a visit in a Maidstone League fixture, but they were no match for the Depot, who won by two goals to *nil*.

GAMES COMPETITION.

On the 28th November the members of the Sergeants' Mess entertained the members of the Sergeants' Mess 1st Vol. Batt. R.W.K. Regt. in a games competition. A good number were present and a very enjoyable evening was spent; when time was called the Depot Mess were left the winners by nine games to six.

VOLUNTEER INTELLIGENCE.

1ST VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The result of the annual return shows that the Battalion has maintained its strength, notwithstanding the inducements offered for members to join the Imperial Yeomanry. During the year 327 men have joined, and 312 men left (including 36

to Regular Army and Militia, and 56 for service in South Africa.) The strength on 1st Nov. stood at 1,085, of whom 1,081 are efficient.

In musketry, a marked improvement is manifest. 901 of all ranks (trained volunteers) were trained, and 195 recruits.

At the six days' camp at Aldershot this year, 713 men attended, and the experience gained by this large muster will have a most favourable effect on the Battalion.

The Battalion is looking forward anxiously to the publication of the new condition of efficiency, and until these come out we cannot hope for many recruits to join.

1ST V. B. CORRESPONDENT.

On Thursday, October 31st, the annual smoking concert and distribution of prizes for shooting in connection with the four Maidstone Companies of the 1st V.B. Royal West Kent Regiment took place in the Corn Exchange, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion by Mr. Martin, of Middle Row, prominence being given to the sentiments "Success to the Volunteer Royal West Kent Regiment" and "For King and Empire." A splendid collection of palms, ferns, crotons, and other foliage plants was kindly lent by Messrs Harrison and Son and Messrs Frost and Co.

Major F. Pine occupied the chair, and was supported by the Mayor (Councillor F. J. Oliver), Col. Brock (commanding 50th Regimental District), Major F. S. W. Cornwallis, Lieut-Col. Boyce, Surgeon-Captain C. Pye Oliver, Captain Pine, and others. The band of the Regiment played a selection of music in the Concert Hall.

In the course of the evening the Chairman said as that was the last occasion upon which he would appear as officer in command of the Maidstone detachment, he desired to thank the men of all ranks for the loyal support they had always accorded him during the eleven years he had occupied that position (applause). It was with great regret that he had tendered his resignation, but he thought a change would probably be for the good of the corps (cries of "No, no"). After twenty-six years of service he was getting a little worn out, and he thought it would now be better for a younger and more able man to take up the command. He appealed to the members to give their hearty support to his successor, Captain Smith—(applause)—and urged them to make the corps as popular in the future as it had been in the past (cheers).

Apologies having been announced from Sir Francis Evans, M.P., Sir Marcus Samuel, Col. Henderson, Captain Umfreville, and Major Best, Colonel Brock, after a neat speech, distributed the prizes, and the Mayor presented cigarette cases to those of the 1st Volunteer Active Service Company from the Maidstone Detachment. The proceedings terminated shortly after 11 o'clock.

BIRTH.

At Maidstone, on 30th July, the wife of Sergt. W. Dark, Depot, of a son.

DEATHS.

At Cape Town Docks, on 4th October, No. 2418 Pte. W. Taylor, found drowned.

At Elandsfontein, on 4th November, No. 5648 Pte. G. Ansell, 2nd Battalion, of pneumonia.

At Johannesburg, on 15th November, No. 5637 Pte. T. Griffin, 2nd Battalion, of dysentery.

At Heilbron, on 18th November, No. 5913 Pte. E. Parker, 2nd Battalion, of enteric.

At Aden, on 23rd October, No. 3273 Pte. Stimson, 1st Battalion.

At Maidstone, on 26th October, Lilian Maud, the daughter of Col.-Sergeant F. Neighbour, P.S. 3rd battalion, aged 16 months.