No. 256. January, February and March, 1921.

# The Dragon

A PAPER OF THE MEN OF

FOR MEN BUFFS, AND KENT.

**THE BUFFS (EAST KENT REGIMENT).**

"Veteri Frondescit Honore."

"Blenheim," "Ramillies," "Oudenarde," "Malplaquet," "Dettingen," "Gualdaloupe, 1759," "Douro," "Talavera," "Albuhera," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Punniar," "Sevastopol," "Taku Forts," "South Africa, 1879," "Chitral," "South Africa, 1900-2," "Relief of Kimberley," "Paardeburg."

1st Battalion, 2nd Battalion } 3rd Foot { Fermoy. Mesopotamia.

Depot—Canterbury.

3rd Bn.—Canterbury. Record Office—Hounslow.

Territoral Force Battlns.—4th Bn., Canterbury: 5th Bn. Ashford.

Colonel-in-Chief: His Majesty King Christian X. of Denmark, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.V.O.

Hon. Colonel: Gen. Rt. Hon. Sir A. Paget, G.C.B., K.C.V.O.

## CONTENTS.


| | page |
|---|---|
| Between Ourselves | 1 |
| Regimental Notabilities | 2 |
| Personalia | 3 |
| With the 1st Battalion at Fermoy | 4 |
| Rest of the News | 4 |
| Company News and Notes | 4 |
| A and B Company | 4 |
| C and D " | 5 |
| Bayonet Fighting | 5 |
| Sports Fixtures | 5 |
| An Expression of Thanks | 5 |
| Advice for Officers | 5 |
| "Veteri Frondescit Honore" | 6 |
| The Buffs War Memorial | 7 |
| 2nd Battalion move to Mesopotamia | 8 |
| Hockey | 8 |
| Sergeants' Mess Notes | 8 |
| Coporals' Mess Notes | 9 |
| 2nd Batt.—Mesopotamia Quiet | 9 |
| En Route for Mespot | 9 |
| Sports at Multan | 9 |
| The Buffs' Employment Bureau | 10 |
| At your service | 10 |
| One Guinea | 10 |
| War History of the Buffs | 11 |
| A Sporting Company | 12 |
| The New World | 12 |
| Cartoon | 13 |
| Loot | 14 |
| How to write for The Dragon | 14 |
| The Fourth Battalion | 15 |
| First Fourth Buffs Association | 15 |
| Lines to a Dragon | 15 |
| The Problem of Mesopotamia | 16 |
| 5th Buffs make a good start | 17 |
| Tie in the Elliot Cup | 17 |
| 5th Buffs—Raising the Men | 17 |
| Boxing | 17 |
| By Phone, Wire and Cable | 17 |
| Putting out the Gunmen | 18 |
| Village War Memorials | 18 |
| Past and Present Association, The Buffs | 19 |
| Ex-Service Men's Adviser | 19 |
| Relatives Free Warrants | 19 |
| For the Limbless | 19 |
| The Depot | 21 |
| To Kent | 21 |
| Regimental Calendar for March | 21 |
| Extracts from a Bachelor's Diary | 22 |
| Boxing at Canterbury | 22 |
| Army Sport | 23 |
| Our Competitions | 23 |
| You to Us | 24 |
| Editorial | 24 |


## Between Ourselves.

IN presenting the first number of *The Dragon* published from "The Depot" we wish to convey our gratitude to the many who have assisted us.

On another page will be found some of the many messages we have received. A more encouraging and gratifying send-off it is impossible to conceive, yet we are fully apprehensive of the responsibility which, from now onwards, is to rest on our shoulders through being allowed to enjoy the privilege of recording from month to month the way in which the spirit and high ideals of those messages are being maintained.

In meeting this responsibility we earnestly invite the practical support of our readers. There will be no one who will not read the message of The Secretary of State for War without wishing to take an active interest in the territorial recruitirg campaign, which we

**Between Ourselves**—*continued.*

hope may result in the Fourth and Fifth Buffs being the first Territorial units in the United Kingdom to reach their full establishment.

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There will be no one who will not read the stirring words of the Minister of Labour, coupled with the appeal of Captain E. Strettell, without wishing that everything possible shall be done to help those ex-Buffs who are still unemployed.

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And there will be no one who will not read the human message of the Minister of Pensions without being filled with the desire that the County will render its utmost on behalf of the disabled, and the relatives of the fallen.

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Then there are the messages of the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Harris, Lord Northbourne, Dean Wace, and the Mayor of Canterbury, showing their readiness to support your paper. We are confident that the reading of these will lead to similar support being given to the paper by many thousands of others.

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And last but not least there are the messages received from officers and men of all ranks. We are equally confident that these will lead to a wide support being given to the paper, not only from those who are serving, but also those who have served in the Regiment.

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Then again, of talent of all kinds there must be an abundance amongst our readers. This we hope may reach us in the form of articles, personal experiences, and drawings, etc., for publication in our pages.

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Of enthusiasm also there must be an unlimited supply, and here our hope is that this also may be placed at the disposal of the paper, towards helping to make it widely known, thereby building up its circulation, by which alone it is possible to achieve any thing useful.

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In regard to the general contents of our first number, these we must leave to speak for themselves. We would, however, particularly draw attention to the articles dealing with The Past and Present Association, The War History, and the Regimental Memorial. We have no doubt that these only have to be read for the widest possible support to be given to these endeavours.

We would also refer to the brief articles entitled "At your Service," "How to write for *The Dragon*," and "Editorial." We hope that the many little points arising in these will receive every consideration resulting in suggestions, ideas, criticisms, and offers of support being freely sent to us.

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In regard to competitions there is nothing left to us but to be quite candid and admit to these having been a complete failure, except so far as Corporal Edgar Clifton is concerned, he having practically scooped the pool. That these can be made a success we are still convinced and we look forward to receiving a large number of entries in the future, together with original suggestions for their continuance.

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In conclusion, our intention is that subsequently the paper shall appear on the first of each month. Towards obtaining this end we again invite the co-operation of our readers to keep us well supplied with copy, not only by the date mentioned in our pages, but also at all times.

## Regimental Notabilities.

MAJOR E. F. GOULD. ["Golly."]

# Personalia.

CONGRATULATIONS to Major and Mrs. John Crookenden on the birth of their son at Canterbury, on December 11th, and also to C.S.M. and Mrs. P. Stroud on the birth of their son at Lydd on December 16th.

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And again to Major E. F. Gould on his engagement to Mademoiselle Jeanne Liaume, elder daughter of Monsieur and Madame A. Liaume, of 42 Avenue de Breteuil, Paris. This is indeed a happy "echo of war," the first meeting having taken place at Ault, where Major Gould commanded a rest camp in 1916.

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In December last a deputation composed of General Paget, Major Crookenden, Captain Thompson, Captain Strettell, Lieut. Maiden, Sergeant-Major Verlander, Sergeant-Drummer Clayton and Private Raines, waited on His Majesty the King of Denmark at Buckingham Palace. This was arranged, at the request of General Paget, by the Adjutant-General and the Lord Chamberlain. Rumour has it that the thing that impressed His Majesty to no small extent was the extremely youthful appearance of Captain Strettell.

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Major-General Sir Arthur Lynden-Bell has recently bought a house at Wrotham where he intends ultimately to settle down. Another old Buff to whom the call of Kent has proved irresistible is Brig-General E. H. Finch-Hatton who is shortly going into residence at Bishopsbourne. Others who are house hunting in the same direction are said to be Colonel R. McDouall and Major F. W. Tomlinson. Whilst in the subject of house hunting Major C. C. Cobbe is leaving Felixstowe, and is now trying to find a residence in Hampshire.

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Major-General Sir Guy Bainbridge is still in Belfast with the first division, and is one of those who will not be sorry to be back in England.

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Private S. Phillips at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, probably the oldest Buff living, is still going strong, and maintains his active interest in the Regiment. He is 85 years old, a Crimean Veteran, holds the medal and clasp "Sebastopol," and the Chinese medal and clasp "Taku Forts." Another old Buff at Chelsea is to be found in Private J. Holmes, who is 66 years of age. Both of these have been placed on the free list of *The Dragon*.

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In all probability the oldest Buff officer, is Colonel W. E. R. Kelly. Born on September 20th, 1844, he received his commission as Ensign on August 16th, 1864, He also keeps well, but writes to say that Mrs. Kelly's health is causing him a good deal of anxiety.

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Major Archer Houblon leaves for his farm in Rhodesia this month, whilst Captain S. L. P. Barker is still farming in Natal, some 18 miles from Nottingham Station. Polo and breeding cattle are his main recreations in his somewhat isolated existence. He hopes to come to England with his wife and two children at the end of the year.

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Major C. D. K. Greenway, who has never been fortunate with his amputation is now in hospital awaiting another operation. May everything go well with him this time will be the wish of every reader of *The Dragon*.

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Another Ex-Buff who has lost a leg is Major F. S. Reeves, who is now secretary of the Aberdovey Golf Club. He writes to say that his hybrid artificial limb, half metal and half wood, is going great guns.

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Whilst another is Captain H. H. C. Baird, who in addition to being editor of this paper is serving as a member of the Departmental Committee on Pensions Administration, and is writing weekly for the Army and Navy Gazette.

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Sergeant-Major Coveney is to be found in the Medal Department of the War Office (A.G.10).

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Amongst those who have recently joined the ranks of the Old Brigade are Colonel de la M. Hill and Major G. A. E. Chapman. Colonel Hill who has been compulsorily retired under the age clause, commanded the 1st Battalion at the outbreak of the War, and served with it in the trenches. Later he held several staff appointments and rendered valuable services in building up the "Machine Gun Corps." Ultimately he became commandant of the Duke of York's School at Dover, which post he has just vacated.

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Major G. A. E. Chapman in all served over 20 years in the Regiment. During the Great War he took up flying and also commanded the Bull Ring at Etaples. He now resides at Pluckley, near Ashford, and has become a deadly exponent of archery.

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Captain Mantle called at The Depot during the month, looking well. He is now at Maidstone having taken up farming.

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Captain A. J. Peareth has now been appointed as a Staff Captain in Mesopotamia, and writes as cheerfully as can be expected when it is remembered that Mespot is now bereft of all feminine society.

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Brevet-Major The Hon. P. G. Scarlett is now a student at the Staff College, and Major Henry Hardy is still an instructor at Sandhurst.

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Major F. W. Tomlinson is still with the Committee of Imperial Defence, helping to straighten out the four hundred odd tons of official records relating to The Great War. In addition he is devoting all his spare time to work connected with the War History of the Regiment. He has recently moved into a flat at 8a, Langham Mansions, and his collection of old Regimental prints is well worth seeing.

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Lieut. F. A. Frost is now on the Editorial Staff of one of the group of papers belonging to E. Hulton, Ltd., in Shoe Lane, and was a short time ago called upon to pay a visit to the underwold of the East End in connection with a recent murder trial.

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R.S.M. G. Holmes has just been discharged from the Eastern Command Trade School and is now to be found at 160 Northgate, Canterbury.

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Another who has recently left the Regiment is C.S.M. J. Saunders, D.C.M., who has completed his 21 years. The latter has been fixed up with a job in the Prison Service.

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[*Personal notes and news for this page from both officers and men are heartily invited. Ed.*]

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**WANTED.—The names and addresses of all ex-Buffs to enable us to communicate with them.**

# With the 1st Battalion at Fermoy.

JUST before the beginning of the New Year, Martial Law was proclaimed in the Southern counties of Ireland, and orders were issued that all arms were to be delivered by a certain date. We, whose business it is to endeavour to enforce peace in the land, feel that if only this had been done a year or even two years earlier, all would now be well; and we should be living a peaceful existence in what was, at one time considered, the best station in Ireland. But now we are at war—a pretty "cushy" war as wars go, but it is, at any rate, satisfactory to know that we are officially considered to be on active service. Now we can get on with the business.

On January 12th we "got on with the business" on a grand scale. At an early hour of the morning about half the battalion paraded in battle order and marched out near the village of Flanwort. Then, spreading out across country, everyone slowly advanced each side of the river Funchion and searched for arms or Shinner's "on the run." A few arms were found hidden in the ruins of Flanworth Castle but not a Shinner was to be seen.

The following week we started out in lorries and searched another area of country near Mitchelston, but nothing was found. However, just as we were returning, information was brought that an ambush had been prepared on the Tipperary road about four miles from Mitchelstown. So about we turned, and off we trundled to seek battle with the ambushers. But when we arrived all we found was an immense ditch dug right across the roadway. Scratched on the road were these amiable sentiments "To Hell—England." The countryside was scoured in search of the enemy, but evidently they thought "discretion the better part of valour," and made themselves scarce. A few farm labourers were rounded up and made to fill in the ditch. Did they know anything about the ambush? Ah! sure, sir, they did not. By all the saints they did not. So, with a caution, they were released, and we trundelled home without further adventure, except for one lorry catching on fire when about four miles from home.

The following Sunday we started out several hours before dawn in lorries and surrounded Flanworth village. No one was allowed to enter or leave, and everyone inside the village was searched for arms by the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment. Eventually we returned during the afternoon without any excitement.

### Rest of the News.

A great many men who were engaged for two years in 1919 have left the battalion or are about to leave. But unless they have got a good job to which they can go we would venture to strongly advise them to stop in the Army. Let them remember that never has there been a greater depression in trade and consequently in employment. Literally, there is nothing doing in England and a great many too many people to do it. Why not settle down to a quiet life in Fermoy and go on for a pension?

Ever since we have been here many rumours have been circulated that we are to be sent "almost immediately" to England. Quite a dozen different stations have been named. Perhaps one day a rumour will prove to be true and we shall go, but we can think of many worse places than Fermoy—even in England.

At the beginning of the month Colonel Power, Capt. Thomson, Lieut. Essell and Lieut. Tuke returned from leave. About the same time Capt. Morley, Lt. Marshall, Lt. Wale, Lt. Fenn and 2nd-Lt. Oliver started their leave.

Very little football was played during the month owing to much rain rendering the ground unfit for play.

Lieut. Essell, on his return, revived the interest in cross-country running. Several vacancies still remain open for the battalion running team. As we hope to win the Irish Cup and Army Cup again this year everyone who can run long distances should do his best to get into the team.

## Company News and Notes.

### A COMPANY.

WE start our notes this month in rather a depressed mood, as all our hopes for the football were dashed by our defeat at the hands of "C" Company to the tune of eight nil. Better luck next time.

The bayonet fighting however shows a brighter prospect. We have beaten "C" Company and with such stalwarts in our team as the Regimental Sergeant Major and C. Q.M.S. Cross our prospects for the final are good. A victory in that and the Cross Country running should see us on a useful stage towards the Harris Shield.

The young idea in the boxing seem a fairly likely lot. We hope we shall be lucky enough when the time comes to repeat our performance of last year.

We are unfortunate in having lost so many in the various drafts to India, and alas! March draws near when we shall lose many other old friends. However we must hope for the best from those we have left, and that those leaving will keep in touch with us.

Very little else seems to have happened during the month, and the Editor's request of "A" Company notes please," seems to come almost before the ink is dry on the last ones. No—Mr. Editor I know you have an unkind reply to that remark but be merciful!

[*Never. Your hand-writing alone makes you a friend for life. Another budget by the 18th of next month "please." Ed.*]

### B. COMPANY.

The "B"-ites hailed the New Year with some notable changes. Captain N. G. Vertue, M.C., assumed command of the Company vice Captain J. B. Sharp, who departed on 8th January to King George Hospital, Dublin and to whom we wish a speedy recovery. On the 14th January C.S.M. Adams proceeded to the 4th T.F. Battalion The Buffs, and Sergt. Goodwin now becomes C.S.-Major. Two other notables have also depleted the "B"-ites" ranks, Ptes. Frounce and Wells proceeded home for final discharge.

In the field of sport the "B-ites" have had varying luck winning two of the 4 matches played within the month. The results were as follows.

B *v.* A. Won. 5—0. Goal-scores Sgt. Russell 3, Sgt. Collins 1, Cpl. Rice 1.

B *v.* C. Won. 2—0. Goal-scores Pte. Tite 2.

B *v.* D. Lost. 4—0. League Match, "B" Company Runners-up.

B *v.* D. Lost. 4—1. Goal-scores, Pte. Pitt (Free-Kick). ("Harris" Shield.)

But the "B"-ites" never worry about their losses and in time others will be forced to accept us as the "King of the Ladder." A little patience will erase the hyphen in "B-ite" and leave "Bite," then you others, beware!!!.

At the beginning of the month about a hundred men arrived from the 2nd Battalion, but, as they were all time-expired, they did not stay with us long.

**With the 1st Buffs at Fermoy**—*Continued.*

C COMPANY.

FOOTBALL, HARRIS SHIELD LEAGUE, C *v.* D.

This proved a very good match resulting in a drawn game, the score being 1–1.. Unfortunately for us two of our players Hoppy the Goalie and Sgt. Denny being indisposed were unable to turn out, a fact which undoubtedly had a good deal to say in the match not going in our favour.

Football (Harris Shield Knock-out.) In our match against C, I am glad to say that for a change we were able to turn out at full strength. It was a very fast game throughout and we had our opponents beat in the first half, thanks to our team playing a grand game. The closing score was :—C 7, A Nil. The goal scorers were Pte. White (late of D Co.) 4, Sgt. Denny 1, Pte. Barton 1, Pte. Day 1. Hoppy, our goalie, at the end of play said that he only had one shot put to him. The winning of this match leaves us in the final with " D " Company.

BAYONET FIGHTING LEAGUE. In this event we were drawn against A who are regarded as pretty hot stuff. However, our fellows fought real well and only lost by 1 fight. Footcokus successfully defeated C.Q.M.S. Cross who is no recruit at the game. Although defeated as a team we are out for blood next time.

BOXING. A trip round No. 3 Hut between 6 and 8 p.m. will soon prove the keenness of several likely aspirants in the Company on this noble art of self defence. In addition Pte. Sheehan has now joined us having arrived back in the draft from the 2nd battalion. We are hopeful therefore of picking up some points for the Harris Shield.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING. In the weekly trial runs C Company usually manage to get a few home in the first 8 or 10, such as Sergt. Burt, Ptes. Harris, Hadlow, Maclaren, Mount and Bone. In the Company we also have a few men that ran for the Regimental Team last year, but they do not always turn out for the practice runs. In this particular event also we are looking forward to rendering a good account of ourselves and scoring a few ponits.

D COMPANY.

D Company are feeling rather pleased with themselves. In fact they consider they are rather fine fellows. The reason of this happy frame of mind is the fact that they have succeeded in winning the Inter-Company Football League, and have gained the two points allowed to the victors for the Harris Shield Football Competition.

When D met C in the inter-company league they found their opponents sturdier than they had been given credit for, and with our team not playing with its customary dash and combination, a disaster was nearly met with in consequence. Fortunately we bucked up in the Second half, and managed to make the game a draw, 1-1.

A few days later the Company met B Company. On the result of this match depended whether C or D should win the league. On this occasion D Company were taking no chances, and played a very excellent game throughout, winning by 4 goals to I, and thereby becoming the winners.

The following represented the Company in the League :—Goal—Cpl. Woodward, Backs—Pte. Shaw, Sgt. Wood, Half Backs—Pte. Ritchie, L/Cpl. Forster, Drm. Axten, Forwards—Pte. Monins, Cpl. Rye, Bdr. Lewis, Pte. Griffiths, Pte. Wright, L/Cpl. Creasey, and L/Cpl. Kent also played for the Company.

We are now very busy training for the coming events *i.e.*, bayonet fighting, cross-country, boxing, and hockey, especially for the first two, as in these we see that we are in for an uphill fight.

In our last month's notes we omitted to congratulate L/Cpl. Wood, Cpl. Watson, and Cpl. McNeir on their well deserved promotion and hasten to do so now.

## Bayonet Fighting.

ON 7th, 8th and 9th February a Bayonet Fencing Competition for men with under 2 years service was held in the New Barracks Gymnasium. There was a fair entry and several good bouts were seen, and some promising talent was found for the Regimental under 2 years' service Team. The fights were on the American pool system, and as a result of the first three pools on the 7th and 8th February, 8 men met for the Final Pool on 9th February.

Pte. Priday A Company was first having won six fights out of 7, Ptes. Huntley of C Company and Paul of A Company tied with 5 wins each. These two fought off for 2nd prize and after a most exciting bout Huntley won. Pte. Cribben of C and Pte. Rackliffe of D were runners up with 4 wins each.

## Sports Fixtures.

*March.* Inter-Company Hockey League for Battalion Hockey Shield.
March 5. Finals of Inter-company Hockey for Harris Shield.
,, 9. Inter Company Cross-Country Run for Harris Shield.
,, 24, 25. Irish Command Bronze Medal Tournament. Bayonet-Fighting, Tug - o' - War, etc. (Dublin).
,, 30. Irish Command Cross-Country Run (Curragh).

Referees for Harris Shield Hockey Mr. Elvin and one officer. In the event of teams scoring an equal number of goals, corners will be taken into consideration.

### An expression of Thanks.

Our thanks are due to the Mayor of Canterbury for his practical interest in our endeavours by defraying the cost of one of our competitions. We can but hope that this will set the ball rolling, and that entries on a large scale may reach us in the future.

### Advice for Officers.

Disabled officers and Nurses who served during the Great War, and widows and dependants of officers deceased can obtain helpful advice and information regarding their rights under the regulations of the Ministry of Pensions, by applying to the " Officers' Friend," Ministry of Pensions, Cromwell House, London, S.W.1., or the " Officers' Friend," at any of the Regional Offices of the Ministry—Burton Court, Chelsea, S.W.1, Newcastle-on-Tyne ; Manchester ; Bristol ; Leeds ; Nottingham ; Birmingham ; Edinburgh ; Dublin ; Belfast ; or Cardiff.

Mr. Lloyd George says that roughly there were 30,000,000 casualties in the Great War, including 9,000,000 deaths, and that the cost of the war was £50,000,000,000 direct, and £67,000,000,000 indirectly.

It is officially announced that all enquiries with reference to officers' casualties, reported between Aug. 4, 1914, and Nov. 11, 1920, should be made to the Secretary, War Office, (C. 2 casualties), while enquiries concerning similar casualties, reported subsequent to Nov. 11, 1920, should be addressed to the Secretary, War Office (M.S. 3 casualties).

# "Veteri Frondescit Honore."

The following are but a few of the messages which have been sent to the Paper. Our gratitude goes out to the senders, and we have no doubt of the fulfilment of the expressions which they contain.

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR.

I am glad to hear that you are taking such a special interest in *The Dragon*. A regimental paper conducted on up-to-date lines and informed by that spirit which your experience will enable you to infuse into it, should be of the utmost value to any Regiment, and I hope that the highest success will attend your efforts on behalf of The Buffs.

For the moment, as you know, I am very specially interested in the recruiting of the Territorial Army. Practically all the difficulties incidental to the reconstitution of the Force as a real second line of the Regular Army have been overcome, and as Mr. Churchill stated the other day, the corner has been turned. Our hope is that at least 100,000 officers and men will have been obtained by the end of March, but the realisation of this hope even in the most favourable circumstances will depend upon the constant and united efforts of all who are in a position to influence recruiting.

The Buffs with their fine traditions should have two Battalions, the 4th and 5th Battalions of the East Kent Regiment.

Last Autumn a special effort was made to awaken interest in the requirements of the fifteen units allotted to Kent. This effort was by no means fruitless, but much remains to be done, and I am confident that the strong loyal elements in the County on whom these historic Regiments have always been able to rely, will see to it that the Territorial Battalions of The Buffs are among the first in the whole Kingdom to achieve the honour of reaching full strength.

L. WORTHINGTON EVANS.

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FROM THE MINISTER OF PENSIONS.

I gladly assent to your wish that I should send a message to *The Dragon* which has been so fortunate as to secure your services. Under your Editorship I know that the object we both have at heart—interest in the welfare of the ex-service men and their dependants—will not be forgotten. No County in England can boast a greater or finer record than the County of Kent, ; nor need the Buffs fear comparison with any other regiment. It was the spirit of the Country which inspired them to do their great deeds ; and it is that spirit which they rely upon now to remind the men and women of Kent that their less fortunate fellows and their dependants are in their midst and need their friendly care and interest. The State should do, and is doing, its duty towards them. But duty of this kind is very often in the eyes of men a rugged and unattractive thing, never to be valued, but merely to be expected. What they do value and what they have every right to expect is the gratitude of their fellows. A kindly word and a happy deed ! What pleasure they can add to the drab existence of man !

IAN MACPHERSON.

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FROM THE MINISTER OF LABOUR.

THE Buffs ! Surely the heart of every "Man of Kent" will thrill with justifiable pride as he thinks of the glorious exploits of this great Old Regiment, from the day—348 years ago—when from the "appointed Pikemen and Shot" of the Trained Bands of the City of London the Regiment took its rise, down through the wars in the Low Countries, the campaigns of Marlborough, the stirring Battles of the Peninsula, the storming of the Redan and the trenches before Sebastopol (which brought the Regiment two of the earliest V.C.'s), right down until the Great War, for which the Regiment raised no fewer than 28,000 men and in which it won close on 800 honours, Splendidly in the Great War have The Buffs of the present generation upheld the traditions of their race—in the Salient : on the Somme : at Arras : at Cambrai : in the Great German Offensive : and the greater Allied drive of the last year in France.

I ask myself how those brave fellows, of whom we asked so much, are faring now that they are restored to the ways of peace ? I find that at the end of January in the County of Kent (excluding the Kent portions of London) 7,210 ex-Service men were registered as unemployed, 180 of these being disabled. These large numbers have probably an explanation in the fact that so large a percentage of the population of Kent went to the War. I mention them simply to show how hardly the burden of the present unemployment is liable to press upon the very men who most deserve our consideration.

With regard to the disabled ex-Service men, your readers will be familiar with the King's Proclamation on their behalf, and with the arrangements whereby firms and Local Authorities, whose staffs contain not less than 5% of disabled men, can make application to be put upon the King's National Roll of Honour. In the County of Kent, I am glad to say no less than 775 firms and 37 Local Authorities have been enrolled under this scheme, and the number of disabled men employed in this way is approximately 4,000. There are, however, still 207 firms who might be expected to be on the Roll (having regard to the number of their employees and the non-specialised character of their work) but who are not ; while there are 55 Local Authorities still not enrolled.

I have said there are 180 disabled ex-Service men in the County still looking for work, and I only wish the 207 firms and the 55 Local Authorities could make a special effort to absorb at least those men who have been maimed in their country's service.

I know how difficult it is for firms and for Local Authorities to provide facilities for absorbing ex-Service men just now. But I am sure the tasks which faced those men in War must have seemed to them much more insurmountable than anything we know in ordinary life. In one attack alone on the Somme the first battalion lost 308 men in facing the insurmountable, and in another, ten days later, they lost similarly 101 men. At Guedecourt in 1916 another battalion of the Regiment suffered 367 casualties in one day, and at Cambrai in 1917 the same battalion lost 441 men during our attack and the enemy counter-attack. That was how these men faced the seemingly impossible. Surely those who can help them now ought to accept even some sacrifice in doing so ? They fought our battles ! We must fight theirs !

F. MACNAMARA.

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FROM THE LORD LIEUTENANT.

I write these few lines to offer you my best wishes with the hope that you may be successful in obtaining support in the County for *The Dragon*.

CAMDEN.

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FROM THE DEAN OF CANTERBURY.

Accept the expression of my good wishes for the success and usefulness of *The Dragon*. May St. George be its Patron Saint !

H. WACE.

**"Veteri Frondescit Honore"**—*continued.*

FROM LORD NORTHBOURNE.

The Buffs are through the Empire historic and in this county a household word. It is incumbent that both outside, as well as within its limits all should be familiar with its honourable and glorious records.

NORTHBOURNE.

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FROM THE MAYOR OF CANTERBURY.

*The Dragon* will serve a most useful purpose in stimulating and maintaining interest in our County Regiment. I wish it a successful career.

WRIGHT HUNT.

May I be allowed to show my practical interest by defraying the cost of Competition A.

[*This kind offer has been gratefully accepted. Ed.*]

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FROM PAST AND PRESENT BUFFS.

It is hardly necessary to wish success to *The Dragon*. It is practically certain of enthusiastic and sustained support within the Regiment of which we all who have any connection with it are so justly proud. To those who are detached from it *The Dragon* will afford a most interesting means of keeping touch.

HARRIS,
Honorary Colonel 4th Battalion.

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Best luck to *The Dragon*, which has done such immense services for the Regiment. Every Buff should order a copy.

A. LYNDEN-BELL, Lieut.-General.

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Your idea of using *The Dragon* to keep the County and the Regiment in closer touch is excellent. Good though understanding is between the two at present your scheme must be mutually advantageous.

GUY BAINBRIDGE, Major-General.

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Wishing "The Dragon" every success under Capt. H. Baird's management, he is a game old bird, and sure to do well, if he is well treated.

R. MCDOUALL, Colonel.

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May every success attend your effort to reach a circulation of 5,000. Will you please send me a few more leaflets, as I have given mine away, and I know several who would like to know all about it.

J. E. MARCHANT.

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As an old friend and Sub-Editor, greetings, and assurance that the Depot is the only home for *The Dragon*.

A. H. BAKER.

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I am very pleased to learn that *The Dragon* is again to come into being. The choice of the Depot as its headquarters is, I think, a good one. I am sure *The Dragon* will prove a source of inspiration to the young Buffs and a solace to the old. Perhaps the most valuable service *The Dragon* will render will be as a "connecting file" between past and present Buffs of all Battalions. With all good wishes for the success of the new (Old) paper. ERN. SMITH, Captain R.

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Here's luck to "The Duck" and may it Quack loud and long to some purpose.

W. A. EATON, Lt.-Col.

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All efforts to keep alive splendid spirit of comradeship between all battalions, which existed through the war, much appreciated.

JOHN BODY, Lt.-Col.

# The Buffs War Memorial.

FOR some time past the question has been under discussion as to the most suitable memorial to the officers and men of "The Buffs" who laid down their lives in the war. It was felt that the county regiment could commemorate its dead in a no more beautiful or appropriate spot than Canterbury Cathedral; but the form the memorial should take, its design and exact position in the Cathedral, were all questions requiring careful thought. The Dean and Chapter have, throughout, given the matter their sympathetic consideration and have now signified their approval and consent to the proposals described below.

The memorial will be placed in the Chapel of Saint Michael, better known as the Warriors' Chapel. This Chapel, with its romantic name and historic associations, has a special appeal for The Buffs, for it already shelters many old regimental colours; the East window is in memory of those of the Regiment who fell in the Crimean War; the South windows commemorate two officers; and on its walls are tablets dedicated to many others.

The Chapel was built early in the fifteenth century to receive the tomb which Lady Margaret Holland, daughter of the Earl of Kent, erected for herself and her two husbands: John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset; and Thomas, Duke of Clarence, son of Henry IV. It contains also the tomb of Cardinal Stephen Langton, Archbishop from 1207 to 1229. This was placed in the peculiar position it now occupies when the Chapel was built: the eastern wall is built over the foot of it. The blank space of the wall above this tomb, and under the East window, has been chosen for the memorial.

The Colours carried by the Regiment in the Crimea and Zulu War hang in the Chapel, and several others of more recent date, as also those of the Canadian Buffs. The Colours of the 6th, 7th, 8th and 10th Battalions have been placed in the Chapel since the War.

The design, a reproduction of which is presented as a supplement to our readers, has been executed by MR. W. D. CAROE, F.S.A., Architect to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury. It is in the form of a reredos, and will be made of solid oak at a cost of from £500 to £700. The three figures represent: Saint Michael, the leader of the Heavenly Host and patron Saint of the Chapel; Saint George, the patron Saint of England; and Saint Paul, the patron Saint of London, the birthplace of The Buffs. Above the figures will be the arms of the Saints. The regimental battle-honours will be shown on the scrolls.

The inscriptions on the panels will be:—"Their reward is also with the Lord, and the care of them is with the Most High," *Book of Wisdom, v.* 15., and "To the Glory of God and to the enduring memory of the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of The Buffs who gave their lives for their country and for Humanity in the Great War, 1914—1919. This memorial is erected by their comrades and kinsfolk." The names of the fallen will be inscribed in an illuminated vellum book which will be placed on a small lectern near by.

Subscriptions are invited and should be sent to—The Officer Commanding, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.

**Help bring up the circulation of your paper by bringing it before your friends.**

# 2nd Battalion move to Mesopotamia.

BRIEFLY the following contains the story of the 2nd Battalion during their last days at Multan and up to their arrival in Mesopotamia.

Dec. 1st and onwards. Packing, packing, and more packing.

Dec. 2nd. Farewell concert by B Co.

Dec. 4th. Supper and concert by C. Coy. Married families entrained under Lieut. A. C. G. Stainforth, Colour-Sergt. Sayer and Sergt. Williams for Kurachi, en route to Cannonore. The Multan Races were also held on this day. Entries were made by Lt.-Colonel Potter, Captain Howe, Captain Hamilton, and Captain Haymen, and the following officers rode :—Lieutenants Hoare, Cartwright, Lister, Backhouse, Chester, and Captain Haymen, who won a race. The totalisator was excellently run by Captains Jackson and Hamilton, and Lieutenant Foster Hall ably assisted by Sergeants Howard, Shoobridge and George.

Dec. 7th. Barracks handed over to the Dublin Fusiliers. In the evening the battalion entrained and were escorted to the station by every band in Multan and a Cavalry escort of the Xth Lancers. All the British officers in the Garrison were present on the platform.

Dec. 11th. Went into rest camp at Karachi, where the arrangements were excellent.

Dec. 12th. Embarked on R.I.M.S. "Hardinge" which proved to be a very comfortable ship.

Dec. 19th. Disembarked at Basra after a very pleasant voyage, during which a concert was held, embracing a singing competition judged by the three talented musicians, Captain Rice, Bandmaster Hewitt and R.S.M. Andrews. The first prize was won by a Private in the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. During the voyage the massed bands of the Buffs and K.O.Y.L.I. playing twice daily. The battalion changed into khaki serge two days before landing.

Dec. 20-21st. Two nights spent in camp at Basra, lying next to the Manchesters who were recently engaged on several occasions against the Arabs.

Dec. 21st. Embarked on P.S. 55, a river boat.

Dec. 25th. Arrived at Kut-al-Amara after a cold journey. The boat was held up on two occasions to allow the men to go ashore and get exercise.

Dec. 26th. Battalion H.Q., C and D Companies entrained for Kingrabah, arriving there in the 31st, after one or two breakdowns. The engines in Mesopotamia are thirsty, and continually have to stop to take in water. At Bagdad we met Captain Peareth who is on the staff at G.H.Q.

Jan. 6th. A and B Companies arrived at Kingrabah which is the rail head for our future station over 70 miles away.

At the time of writing these notes the conditions are wet, windy and cold, and a number of tents have been blown down. Incidentally also owing to the state of the rivers between here and Kirkuk, our ultimate destination, we are hung up and unable to proceed on our journey.

### Hockey.

On December 27th, at Kut, the battalion played against the 83rd Wallajabad Light Infantry. The score was 1 goal all when time was called. Captain Hamilton shooting our goal half a minute previously. It was agreed to play an extra five minutes each way and we eventually lost 3—1. Our team was :—Goal: Corporal Kemp. Backs: Sgt.-Major Cook, Webb and L/Corpl. Pack. Halves: Pte. Coomber, Lieut. Chester, L/Corpl. Marshall. Forwards: Lieut. Hoare, L/Corpl. Ward, Captain Hamilton, Dr. Stevens, and Lieut. Foster Hall.

### Sergeants' Mess Notes.

Prior to our departure for the Mespot, a most successful farewell Whist Drive and Dance was held in the Sergeants' Mess on Wednesday, 24th November. The Mess had been very tastefully decorated by the Committee, and tents had also been erected outside to supplement the accommodation. Invitations had been sent out to all Officers, W.O.'s and Sergts. of the Garrison, and a very large attendance was the result. The Drums furnished the music, which was excellent. Army Staff-Sergt. F. Jackson officiated as M.C. assisted by Pioneer Sergt. Goldfinch.

Fourteen tables were filled for Whist. Mrs. Petley took the first Prize, Mrs. Sayers the second, and Mrs. Howard the booby. The whole of the men's prizes were won by friends of the Artillery. Dancing commenced at 10.15 and was kept up until the small hours of the morning. These functions have been much more largely attended than they were last season, and it is a great pity that the Battalion has to move to Mespot, just as we have got things going on a firm basis. Still duty is duty and off we must go, and leave all these good things behind.

We had a strenuous time packing up, and trying to squeeze two cwt. into a one maund capacity. Before leaving we drank to the health of the Regiment, not forgetting all subscribers to *The Dragon*, and expressed the hope that Xmas was finding them in the best of spirits, and that the New Year will bring them prosperity, happiness, and in fact all that they may wish for themselves.

Our voyage on the "Hardinge" has been most successful and pleasant. The Sergeants' Mess was situated in the bows, and very pleasant evenings were spent especially when we stuck on the bar at the mouth of the Tigris and were there for 36 hours or more.

Micky Dowse was christened the do-anna-piece. He had a crack on the head previous to embarkation and had a round piece of plaster over the wound, this plaster was discernable at quite a distance hence the appelation.

One morning as Deeks was peacefully slumbering, a bag of sugar, weight about 80 lbs., which had been placed in the kit rack over his bed, broke loose, and a cascade of sugar commenced to pour on to his head, filling hair, eyes, and ears. The mess orderly jumped to save the situation but only succeeded in making matters worse by forcing more out, causing a very caustic remark from Deeko on account of his laughter in which the adjective "soft roed" was heard although almost choked by sugar.

Snowey Mannering was having a comfortable seat somewhere between decks in the bows when the anchor was let go. The rattling of the chain through the pipe created such an unaccustomed roar that he thought we had been torpedoed and he rushed into the messdock in quite a state of consternation. He told us afterwards that he was under the impression that the bottom of the ship had fallen out.

We lost two of our members to Hospital. Tots Ambrose with Malaria, and Splinter Treleaven with double pneumonia. We hope that ere these lines reach you they will have sufficiently recovered to be enabled to rejoin the battalion.

Band-Sergt. Herbert and Sgt. Deeks caused much amusement on deck by their robust appearance and jovial mood on all occasions. The witticisms of Sergt. Herbert kept the messdock in roars of laughter at all times.

**ONE GUINEA——see page 10.**

**2nd Battalion move to Mesopotamia**—*continued.*

Is Mespot a health station is a question some are asking? Well, Multan was hot, and the Battalion being a bit run down needed a change. Well, we've got it!

CORPORALS' MESS NOTES.

Our last letter concluded with a hope that we should have a pleasant time in Mespot, but so far this has not been realised. We are not yet even settled and our Mess still remains unopened.

While on board the R.I.N.S. "Hardinge" several of our members were promoted. None were promoted to the Sergeants' Mess, but we must congratulate L/C. Locke, L/C. Bartholomew, L/C. Green, L/C. Rattenbury, L/C. Faulkner, L/C. Palmer, L/C. Barsotti on being promoted to the rank of Corporal. Several of our unpaid Lance-Corporals were made paid Lance-Corporals and to them our congratulations are also extended.

This last month has been a test to our N.C.O.'s, and we are pleased to be able to say that the majority of them have proved their worth.

The most worried of our members at the present time is the Post Corporal. Every time he leaves his tent he is bombarded on all sides with the question, "When will the next mail arrive?" He is now able to report that one is expected on Tuesday, which will be the first we have had since leaving Multan. Everyone hopes his word will prove true. With one accord we arise and say "Roll on Kirkuk."

## Mesopotamia Quiet.

AS we go to press the following official news has reached us from the War Office relating to Mesopotamia. General quiet throughout Mesopotamia is being maintained and there are no immediate signs of further trouble. The transport of troops back to India is proceeding according to programme. The collection of rifles is still being carried out. 63,500 rifles (of which 20,000 are modern) and 2,900,000 rounds of small-arm ammunition had been handed in up to 12th February. The repair of the Bagdad—Basra railway was completed on 6th February, but the line is not yet open for traffic.

The movement of small columns throughout the disaffected area continues. In the Lower Euphrates Valley the column sent from Nasiriyeh to Suqesh Shuyukh returned to its base on 8th February. In the middle Euphrates Valley columns have been active in the Shamiyah area, visiting the country north and north-west of that place and extending the zone of their operations to the south of Ja'arah (11 miles S.S.E. of Kufah). The troops are now being drawn in from this area to Hillah and from the area north of Hillah to Baghdad, and some have already started on their return journey.

## En Route for Mespot.

A DRAFT of 52 other ranks left Canterbury on 22nd February for embarkation on S.S. "Main" at Southampton to join 2nd Battalion in Mesopotamia. Lt. D. W. Macintyre, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, took the draft out. Sergt. Geard was called over from Ireland at the eleventh hour to take the place of Sergt. Acres who was admitted to hospital. Cpl. L. Polten was the only other N.C.O.

The draft left in great spirits and were nearly all very keen on tasting the pleasures of the shiny East. They had been waiting at the Depot for over a month and their behaviour at the Depot was a credit to the Regiment. They are mostly quite young soldiers and the 2nd Battalion are lucky to be reinforced by such a good lot of fellows. We wish them all good luck.

## 2nd Batt. Sports at Multan.

PRIOR to leaving Multan for Mesopotamia, Trial Athletic Sports were held on the Battalion Sports Ground with a view to picking a team to represent the Battalion in the all India Amateur Athletic Sports Meeting at Bombay this year. This was rather an ambitious step on our part, but the times in the various events and the distances jumped, thoroughly justified our hope, and had we not been compelled to withdraw from the Sports, owing to our impending move we might well have had at least one Amateur Champion in the Battalion. R.S.M. Andrews—we are glad to say—was as brilliant as ever, and his effort in the Quarter-mile surprised even his greatest admirers.

RESULTS.

100 YARDS.

Lieut. W. R. Rowe 1st. Capt. N. D. Rice 2nd. Pte. Underwood 3rd.
Time: 10⅘ secs.

220 YARDS.

R.S.M. Andrews 1st. Lt. Rowe 2nd. Pte. Underwood 3rd.
A splendid race.
Time: 23⅘ secs.

QUARTER MILE.

1. R.S.M. Andrews. 2. Pte. Rowley. 3. L/Sergt. Cornwall.
R.S.M. Andrews took the lead at once and won easily by twenty yards.
Time: 50⅘ secs.

HALF MILE.

1. R.S.M. Andrews. 2. Sergt. Cornwall. 3. Capt. Phebey
Two hundred yards from home, R.S.M. Andrews who was running last—took the lead by a great burst of speed and won easily.

ONE MILE.

1. L/C. Kimber. 2. Pte. Smith, W. H. 3. Sgt. Ongley.
A comfortable win for L/C. Kimber.
Time: 4.56⅘.

TWO MILES.

1. Pte. Richards. 2. L/C. Holmes. 3. Pte. Game.
Richards lead all the way.
Time: 11.45⅘.

HIGH JUMP.

1. L/C. Lockwood. 2. Pte. Goldsack. 3. C/Sergt. Sayer.
Height: 5 feet 3½ in.
Won by an inch.

LONG JUMP.

1. C.S.M. Cook. 2. Capt. Rice. 3. L/C. Cook.
Distance 19 feet 4 in.
Won by four inches.

ROAD RACE.

1. Pte. Hoy. 2. Pte. Smith. 3. L/C. Hart.
Won by 300 yards.

HURDLE RACE.

1. L/C. Lockwood. 2. C.M.S. Cook. 3. Pte. Amos.
A very close race.

TUG-OF-WAR. *Final.*

C Co. beat B Co. by two pulls to nil. Although the lighter team they pulled better together.

RELAY RACE.

1. A Co. 2. B Co. 3. C Co.
An easy win for A Co.

PUTTING THE SHOT.

1. Pte. Furner. 2. Pte. Tanton. 3. Pte. Kramer.
Distance: 28½ feet.

## The Buffs' Employment Bureau.

By Capt. E. F. D. Stretteli.

THE Employment Bureau can be divided into two sections—(*a*) The East Kent Branch of the National Association for Employment of Discharged soldiers and sailors, (*b*) The unofficial bureau which registers names of Ex-Buffs for Employment and seeks to obtain for them suitable jobs.

The "*a*" branch is an official concern. Any ex-soldier or sailor who wishes to be registered for employment in any government employ such as postman, etc., can write for a Registration Form. When he has completed and returned this form his name and particulars are entered in a book kept for this purpose. Subsequently when a man is required for any of these posts the Local Labour Exchange notifies the Hon. Secretary of the National Association for Employment of Discharged Soldiers and Sailors, Depot, The Buffs.

The following is a list of those on the register :—

*Post Office*—1 R.S.M., 2 Sergts., 3 Ptes. One Pte. has been placed in the last six months.

*Any Position of Trust*—1 Colour Sergt., *Caretaker*—1 R.S.M. *Steward and Caretaker*—1 Private.

The "*b*" section is entirely a Regimental concern. Its origin is as follows. After the Armistice the number of Ex-Buffs out of employment was very large. Consequently the number of applications to the Benevolent Fund for relief was so great that only the most deserving cases could be dealt with. It was decided therefore to register all those who did not obtain relief, and to find employment for them as best one could. Unfortunately advertisements in the Local papers to Employers asking them to apply to the Depot for labour, met with small response.

In regard to finding employment it has been observed that the largest demand is either for unmarried men or for married men with no children, both of whom are rare nowadays. The most difficult men to place are those who in reality are the most deserving, *i.e.*, those who gave about 20 years of the best part of their lives to the service and obtained a very small pension—quite insufficient in itself but useful only as a supplement to other wages.

One Employer remarked when asked if he could find employment for one of these, who by the way was an ex-R.S.M., "These men are of no business value."

This is undoubtedly a wrong impression. These are the very men in whom one can put one's trust,—good, honest, reliable and intelligent,—and it is on the face of it unjust that they should find themselves practically outcasts after so many years devoted service to the country.

The following are a few typical examples of those on our lists :—

| Rank. | Trade. | No. of Children. | Service. |
|---|---|---|---|
| R.S.M. | Rivetter | 4 | 26 years. |
| Pte. | Chef. (v. good) | 7 | 26 ,, |
| Pte. | Labourer | nil. | 21 ,, |
| Cpl. | Labourer | — | 12 ,, |
| Pte. | Labourer | 3 | 17 ,, |
| Pte. | Clerk | 3 | 21 ,, |

There are altogether 89 names on this list of Ex-Buffs out of employment who have been registered within the last 6 months, but alas, during that period *only* 6 *have been placed.*

I earnestly appeal to all Employers in East Kent to send their vacancies to the Depot. I would also ask anyone who reads this and knows of any Ex-Buff who is out of a job—to send me his name and address to enable me to obtain from him full particulars of his qualification and desires.

## At your Service,

### Free, Gratis and for nothing.

HOW *The Dragon* can best serve the interests of its readers is the only thing that matters in the Editorial office. In this respect we invite suggestions. We would welcome, for instance, particulars of any features which our readers would like to see introduced, and we would equally welcome criticism in regard to any for which we are responsible.

Pending feeling the pulse in this direction we have decided to strike out on our own, and we have arranged for a Buffs Enquiry Bureau to be run from our office. If there in any ex-Buff in doubt or difficulty in regard to his pension or resettlement in general; or if there be any relative of a fallen comrade who would like advice on similar lines, we invite him or her to communicate with us.

Then again, there will probably be a number of our readers who would like to regain touch with one or more of their old pals, but who are without the necessary address or addresses to which to communicate. What about a "Lost Trail" feature? If particulars of this kind were sent to us we might have the necessary addresses in our possession, or we could give publication to the information wanted.

Another suggestion. What about a "Buffs Exchange and Mart!" There must be many of our readers who are on the look out for something, whilst an equal number no doubt have something they are anxious to get rid of. How about a column, or a page if you like, for small adverts., at 6d. a line, minimum a bob! If anything of this kind reaches us, in time for our next number, in it goes,

And still another. In addition to being gluttons for criticism we are never happier than we are trying to find things out. What about a "Live and Learn" feature? As to how far we are of any use in this respect remains to be seen, All we can say is that we are ready to be given a trial. If there is a point or subject of any kind upon which our readers would like information we invite particulars. If the question is an unfair one, it will go west. If we are unable to discover the answer ourselves we could call in the assistance of our readers, and when we get hold of anything of general interest out of this proposition, as we certainly should, we could publish it in our pages.

Now as to conditions. Free, gratis, and for nothing is the keynote of our service, with two qualifications. Firstly, any letter or query submitted to us which needs an answer through the post must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. Secondly, a charge must be made for the Exchange and Mart. The point to be remembered is that, so long as our circulation remains below 5,000 we are providing our readers with something, the production of which costs more than they actually pay, but once our circulation is 5,000 and upwards, then we can begin to talk.

In conclusion, all we ask is, tell us what you want us to do: then see that we do it.

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## One Guinea.

A MINIMUM of 5,000 copies per month is the circulation we are aiming for. A prize of one guinea will be given for the nearest estimate of the number of copies sold of *this* issue prior to the date of publication of the next. This number, together with the name and address of the winner of this competition, will be published in our April edition.

Entries should be made by postcard and be addressed to the Editor. The competition will remain open until the day of printing the next issue. Post cards containing more than one estimate will be disqualified.

# War History of The Buffs.

By Colonel R. S. H. Moody, C.B.

YOUR editor has suggested to me that I should write an article in *The Dragon* on the subject of "The Buffs War History" and how it is being compiled. Recognising the authority and supreme right of that Magnate and what he represents, I hasten to comply.

About the middle of last November I undertook the task of piecing together many scattered stories on this great subject and placing on permanent record as one whole, the various doings of our regiment from August, 1914 till the commencement of 1919. This I find no easy job as, though I lack material on certain interesting points, still the number of narratives, notes, war diaries and personal papers I have to consult is very considerable.

The collection of the necessary information however proceeds apace thanks chiefly to good friends who are cordial and fairly prompt in sending me such notes and short accounts of separate incidents that come within their own knowledge. For instance Colonel Hulke has provided me with a large collection of papers, copies of letters, and so on, which refer to the earlier war history of our Second Battalion; and Captain J. Campbell Page has furnished an excellent short summary of the doings of the Sixth battalion for the whole war period. I give these two cases merely as examples, for it is not in this brief article that I can render my thanks for all the help that comrades are rendering.

The most suitable Scheme of placing the combined history of ten separate battalions (to say nothing of the affiliated Canadian one) before the reader is not yet quite clear to me. It can easily be understood that the historian could either relate the acts of each battalion one by one throughout the entire period and begin at the date August 1914 all over again ten several times, or he could work in the history of all, from the commencement of the war up to a certain date and then on again to a later one, giving the regimental history in chunks, so to speak. Or again he could exhaust the description of the war in France and Flanders and then switch on to Egypt, Palestine, Salonica and Mesopotamia each in its turn. One thing is certain that he must first learn a lot of recent history himself before he can reduce it to writing for the use of others.

Up to the present our record is prepared up to the end of the year 1915, or very nearly so, but in such form that no one would probably understand it but the writer. A few hours copying work would however complete this portion. This has meant about two dozen visits each of five hours duration to the Historical section of the War Office besides calls at other public places in London, it being necessary to read all war diaries bearing on the regiment for fear of skipping out some interesting or important item.

The idea I am keeping in view is to avoid any attempt to write a history of the war as a whole but only to allude to such political, historical, or military events that would seem necessary to understand, in order to explain why any particular battalion of The Buffs should be fighting at such and such a place on such and such a date. Again I am endeavouring to write quite honestly and have determined not to allow the natural pride I have always felt in being a Buff of many years standing myself to induce me to hide or slur over any error or regretable incident which may come to my notice during my researches.

Up till the end of 1915, which is as far as I have yet gone, I am thrilled with the official story of the magnificent behaviour of all ranks.

My work should undoubtedly be illustrated by maps and I have already prepared some, but I am not yet quite clear as to what the cost of re-producing these would be or what funds will be available for this purpose.

The original Buff soldiers who were serving in 1914 were very soon swept away, but others took their places and inherited their courage. Why should there be any difference between these others and the swarms of new soldiers who at the time flocked overseas from our home land? It would seem that what is termed esprit de corps is a very real, recognisable and solid asset to our regiment and that all who join readily imbibe the idea that anything that is not quite soldierlike is out of place in it.

That gallant old officer Colonel Romer, C.B., C.M.G., who was not a Buff at all when he won his decorations, shouted to his 8th Battalion of "Ours" before leading them into action in September, 1915 "Remember that you are the Buffs." This is an example of regimental spirit and it lives, though men may die.

I may add that the 8th Battalion remembered alright.

As an example of what I allude to regarding the disappearance of the original soldier 101 Officers and 3,738 other ranks served at one time or another in the Second Buffs during its nine months turn of service in France and Flanders.

I wish before concluding to warn friends that I find it will be almost if not quite impossible to record in the coming history all the individual acts of gallantry performed by officers and men, which is a great pity. Some battalion commanders have put there details on record while others have sternly confined themselves in bald and tense history and written no more than they could help.

As far as actual progress in my work goes I have recorded the splendid achievement of the 1st Battalion at Redinghem; the gallant and unsupported capture of a trench in February by the second, and its subsequent glorious share in the second battle of Ypres; the departure of the fourth and fifth for India from where they proceeded to Aden and Mesopotamia respectively; the raising and start of the Kitchener battalions; and the great fights of the 8th on September 26th and the 6th on October 13th. These so far have been the leading events I have been able to chronicle, but of course many other incidents have been noticed.

I take this opportunity of stating that if any past or present soldier of The Buffs has information to impart which he deems would be of interest to his country, his county or his late or present comrades, I hope he will be kind enough to send it to Major F. W. Tomlinson. Should it so happen that room in the book could not conveniently be made for it, it shall be returned with many thanks and in any case any private diary or document would be treated with respect and care and duly returned later on to the sender.

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[*Although the History can not be completed for some months yet, those desirous of obtaining a copy are invited to register their names with Major F. W. Tomlinson, 1 Cavendish Square, W. 1., as early as possible.* Ed.]

*If it's Advertised in*
THE DRAGON
SEE OUR ADVERT. PAGES. *it's Guaranteed!*

# A Sporting Company.

By The Veteran.

PERCIVAL did'nt know anything about the British Army when he joined. But the British Army told him that the regiment he had joined was the best there was. Also it appeared that he had been sent to the most sporting company and to the best-drilled platoon and to the smartest section. And it wanted to know why he was called Percival, and it called him Ginger.

Ginger learnt that it was before all things necessary that the points of the puttees should be on the inside of the leg and should point to the rear. This was exceedingly annoying when you tried to put them on in a hurry—in fact, in many other sections they just let them end anywhere; you cannot think how sloppy this made the other sections look. Ginger was glad he had'nt been put into a section which could'nt put its puttees on. After that he learnt that still more important was fixing bayonets. He himself saw a chap looking down when he fixed—actually looking right down, mind you—and no one said a word. Of course, when they tried to do the third movement he was late—and, of course, it was another platoon! Ginger felt that if that man had been in his platoon it would have been more than mortal man could bear.

The next thing that he learnt was that "the company" did'nt mind being a bit short-handed when it came to playing another company—of course, when you come to think of it, it sort of levelled things up and made things fairer. So when Burkins—who had been in the regimental team before the war—hurt his knee in the final for the Battalion League, they just carried on one short. Now the game stood 2-1 and the other side was the 2, and it was only just after half-time. But someone yelled: "Play up the ten men," and when they had finished and played five minutes extra time, the score was 3-2, and again it was the other side that was the 2.

When he'd learnt as much as this, the battalion went to France. As they marched to the station a complete and fervid and bonneted stranger expressed her belief that Percival or Ginger or both would do his or their bit.

Ginger got to France all right, and so, naturally, did the smartest section and the best-drilled platoon and the most sporting company and all the rest of the battalion. Nobody seemed to be surprised to see them, but everyone was kindly and said: "The ablution benches is just round the back of the Maisie," or "I am convinced that this battalion also will uphold the honour of the grand old regiment," according to their taste, office and custom.

The result of all this was that Ginger began to recall Percival's ideas about England and Germany, and to think that Percival had been a far-seeing and clear-headed person. And he would doubtless have continued in this contented frame of mind if a dreadful thing had not occurred—Percival got into battle!

It happened this way. Ginger started for it, taking with him the section, platoon, company and battalion as before detailed. They got to the right place where you start battles from, and in another three minutes the whole lot would have been off, when suddenly Ginger felt that there was nothing whatever inside him, and what there was would prefer to go sick than to go over the top. And then—there was Percival! Percival in the smartest section of the best-drilled platoon, quite sure, mind you, that Germany was in the wrong, but equally sure that the most satisfactory way for him to do his bit was by loading ration lorries at railhead.

The rest of the story is quite short and almost uninteresting as the first part. His section-commander said: "Binge"—did I tell you his name was Binge?—"Your right puttee's on wrong!"

And Ginger came back with a jump and started into that puttee and led it into the right path, for as the next man said: "You'd look a silly fool if your leg was shot off and they went and buried it with Number Seven section." (Have you ever seen the way they wear their puttees in Seven?)

He got it on just in time, just ready for "Platoon, Fix—B'ts." Of course, they were in a trench and you couldn't really see the right hand man—in fact many still hold that if they'd been the officer they'd never have tried it, but for all that, every survivor said: "That was the best bit o' drill the old platoon ever done."

Then the company commander took them over the top. He didn't do much more, for with many others of the most sporting company, he fell before he'd gone ten paces. But he did one thing, he cried, so that many heard him: "Play up the ten men!"

And Ginger, carrying his rifle at the high-port, as a representative of a sporting company should do, walked swiftly, but not over-swiftly, up to the German who was trying to shoot him, and killed him very quietly and very thoroughly with the long point at the throat.

Other matters, such as Percy or Ginger would be super-annoyed with me for writing, happened, and Percy (or was it really Ginger?) got the M.M.—which they used to say in those days was "dished out with the rations."

*Apropos* of this, some said that were this method of distribution applied to higher decorations, Percy should have found a V.C. bung in the middle of his next bit of bully-beef.

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## The New World.

THIS was sent to a banker in explanation of why the writer could not reduce his overdraft:

I have been held up, held down and bagged, walked on, sat upon, flattened out, and squeezed. First by our Income Tax, the Super Tax, the Excess Profits Tax, War Loans, War Bonds, War Savings Certificates, the Automobile Tax, and by every Society and Organisation that the inventive mind of man has conceived to extract what I may or may not have in my possession. Next by the Red Cross, St. Dunstan's, and Children's Homes, Y.M.C.A., and Y.W.C.A., the Salvation Army, the Belgian Relief, the Austrian Relief, the Black Cross and the Double Cross, and every Hospital in the town and country. The Government has governed my business so that I don't know who owns it, I am inspected, suspected, examined, and re-examined, informed, required, and commanded, so that I don't know who I am, where I am, or why I am here at all. All that I am aware of is that I am supposed to be an inexhaustible source of money for every known need, desire, or hope of the human race: and because I will not sell all I have, and go out and beg, borrow, or steal money to give away, I am cussed, discussed, boycotted, talked to, talked about, lied to, lied about, held up, hung up, robbed, and near ruined, and the only reason why I am clinging to life now is to see what the hell happens next. *The Morning Post.*

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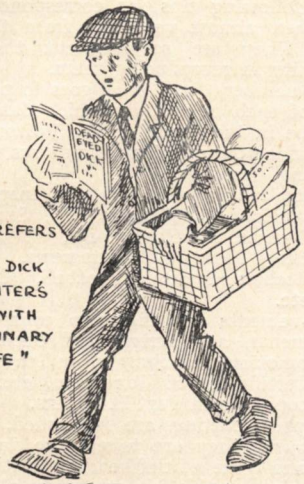
**ONE GUINEA——see page 10.**

# THE FEW PEOPLE WHO DO NOT READ "THE DRAGON".



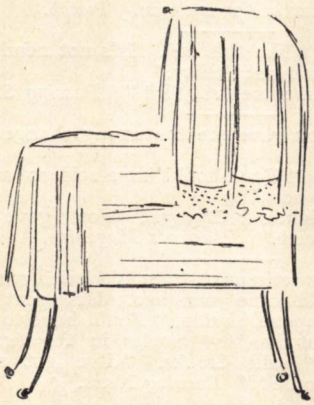

'ERB, WHO PREFERS "DEAD-EYED DICK, OR THE PAINTER'S REVENGE WITH THE SANGUINARY PUTTY-KNIFE"

THE DEPRESSING GENTLEMAN WHO PREACHES "FIRE INSURANCE".

THE YOUNG PERSON WHO SITS UP VERY LATE READING "ALL FOR LOVE".

RAH-ZAN THE BIG CHIEF. BECAUSE "THE DRAGON" HAS NOT YET BEEN TRANSLATED FOR HIM.

HERR PRIVATE OTTO VON TRAUZER — BECAUSE HE DIDN'T LIKE IT COMING TOWARDS HIM ON A CAP



THE GENTLEMAN WHO LIVES HERE. BUT HE SOON WILL.

## Loot.

IT was a hot morning and the country parson in making his round had looked in on the country squire. "Can I offer you a small drink?" said the squire. "No thanks very much," said the parson. "That I refuse for three reasons. Firstly I am a teetotaler, secondly it is too early, and thirdly because I have had two already.

---

"Number" roared the drill instructor to a squad of new recruits in the barrack square, "One, two, three, f-f-f-fo-fou---f---"

"Good Heavens man do you always do that?" interjected the instructor to the stammering youth.

"N-n-No Sarjint. On-only w-when, I'm sp-sp-spoken to" was the reply.

---

Another recruiting story. The monthly test of general knowledge was taking place.

"What's an ambush?" asked the company officer of the recruit who had not yet connected with the Educational Scheme.

"One of them there prickly kind" said the lad not without a touch of pride.

---

A tall recruit being drilled by a small sergeant.

Small Sergeant to tall recruit: Throw your head back—go on—farther back.

Tall Recruit (with head strained up): What! like this?

Small Sergeant: Yuss! Like that.

Tall Recruit: Well, I'd better say good-bye to you now. I don't suppose I shall be seeing you again.—*Miss Violet Loraine in the "Daily Sketch."*

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Some authorities are of the opinion that the bag pipes were an Irish invention. An Irishman, discussing the matter with a Scotchman, added insult to injury by saying: "Yes, the Irish invented the instrument and sold it to the Scotch as a joke three hundred years ago. The latest information shows they haven't seen the joke yet." *The Morning Post.*

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According to a Motor Journal, a patent contrivance has just been invented to be fixed under the chassis of a car and prevent skidding. It is hoped that those pedestrians who make a point of lying face-upwards whilst being run over will be sporting enough not to reveal the secret. *Passing Show.*

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For the third time a Surrey Clergyman has had his bicycle stolen and his congregation have presented him with another. This means, of course, that the thief will have to start all over again. *Punch.*

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"Waiter, I don't like this cod. It's not nearly so nice as the piece I had last Friday."

"Well its' off the same fish, Sir!" *Passing Show.*

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Traveller: "You gave me the wrong change just now."

Booking Clerk: "You should have said so at the time. It's too late now."

Traveller: "Right-o! By-bye! You gave me a half-crown too much" *Pearson's Magazine.*

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Mr. Will Crook's retirement from Woolwich reminds one of a tale he told some years ago. His agent rang him up on the telehpone, saying, "You'll have to look out—your opponent has five uncles in the Army."

"Never mind," said Crooks. "I've got seven aunts in the workhouse!" *Evening News.*

[*It is hoped that our readers will do the scrounging for this column in the future.* ED.]

## How to write for the Dragon.

THE following tips for correspondents have been taken almost verbatim from the pages of the Q.O.G. They are so excellent that we lose no opportunity in reproducing them.

(1) Remember *The Dragon* goes to press on the 18th of each month, by which date all copy must be in the hands of the Editor at Canterbury.

(2) Divide your own Battalion news under the following headings:—
Battalion Service news, *i.e.*, Inspections, etc.
Battalion Social news, *i.e.*, Smoking Concerts, Dances, At Homes, etc.
Officers' Mess and Sports news.
Battalion Sports, Football, Cricket, Boxing, etc.
Movements of Officers to courses and appointments, and arrival and departure of drafts.
Promotions, Discharges, or Transfers to Reserve, Certificates of Education, etc., which can be copied from Part II Orders.

(3) If press cuttings are forwarded, state from what paper they are taken, the date of the issue, and write a brief heading, stating to what they refer, as this is not always plain. This is an act of courtesy to the paper concerned.

(4) When any particular event is coming off arrange beforehand with some expert, if you don't happen to be one yourself, to write you an account of that event. If possible obtain the help of a shorthand writer to take down speeches.

(5) Try and get an influential N.C.O. or man in each Company to boom the *Dragon*, when it is on sale.

(6) Photographs, and snapshots of all kinds depicting life in the Regiment are welcomed.

COMPANY CORRESPONDENTS.

(1) Keep a notebook for news, and make short entries whenever anything of interest takes place, so that you can revive your memory, when you sit down to write your letter.

(2) Divide your correspondence under the headings given in (2) above, only write Company news instead of Battalion.

(3) Mention the names of any men in your Company who have distinguished themselves in sport, shooting, etc., during the month.

(4) Remember the date fixed for sending in your copy—*vide* (1) above, so that you don't have to write against time, or miss the post altogether.

(5) If you know of any man in the Company who can write an interesting story, quack a good yarn, or turn out a good drawing, try and get these for the Paper.

(6) Try and get your Company to buy more copies than any other Company.

(7) Try and persuade the men in your Company to enter for our Competitions.

TELEPHONE 81

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LARGE HALL

SUITABLE for DANCES, DINNERS, Etc

# The Fourth Battalion.

THE Military Policy for the reconstructed Territorial Army sets forth that it should form the second line Army, maintained on a peace footing of approximately 209,000 men capable of expansion by one third on Mobilization.

In short the Territorial of the present day is just a part time regular soldier with the same privileges and Recognition as the Regular Army. With this plan before them the Territorial Force Association set out to build the New Army, and how the 4th Battalion has played its share is the subject of this article.

Many have been the criticisms on the slow progress made in the beginning by this battalion, but those who knew East Kent realized that the summer time was not the moment to appeal to the Men of Kent to join the Colours. After a weary struggle permission was ultimately given by the authorities to postpone our great efforts to the late autumn.

It was then that ex-Service men's organizations were asked for their support, which was everywhere liberally accorded. Employers of labour were appealed to since without their ready co-operation and assistance a Citizen Army on the volunteer basis could never be a success. The County generally was circularized, and posters setting forth the needs and advantages of the Territorial Army were widely distributed. Now arose the vital question as to who should undertake the task of making the personal appeal. At a General Meeting of the members of the Association in London this was handed over to the commanding officers with some financial support to defray expenses. This the responsibility for the great recruiting effort was accepted by the Commanding Officer, the Association undertaking to advertise the movement throughout Kent.

The 4th Buffs Recruiting opened with a smoking concert at Ramsgate Drill Hall, on September 28th. On October 2nd at Dover a mass meeting was held and on October 22nd a recruiting week was started at Canterbury. These meetings were followed by similar meetings at Whitstable, Sittingbourne, Margate and Wingham. It was not anticipated that numbers of recruits would be brought in on these nights but the meetings served as excellent advertisements and by Christmas the Battalion had risen in strength from a few men to three hundred and more, ninety of whom had served during the War.

In this way a nucleus has been obtained to what is hoped will be the finest Battalion in the Territorial Army. The men obtained to date have joined in response to the efforts of individual officers, out of a sense of duty and comradeship and by the offers of support received from employers of labour.

The Battalion is not yet so strong as might have been hoped for, but it cannot be denied that the appeals have received response and that the results are fairly satisfactory. The 4th Buffs to-day stands 3rd in order of merit in the 44th Home County Division.

But the trials and troubles of territorial recruiting are many. They may be grouped under three headings. (1) Lack of Adequate Government Assistance, (2) Industrial Difficulties, (3) Individual indifference.

It is true that conditions of service and remuneration have been vastly improved, but there is no doubt that the machinery set up in counties is out of date. The men who accept the task of helping reconstruction and they show commendable public spirit and patriotism in their work, are, nevertheless not quite in touch with the present situation. A complete reorganization of these bodies and of the methods of utilising their power and the funds at their disposal would surely lighten the task and accelerate the progress, at present so slow.

Again the uncertainty of our industrial outlook and the natural desire of every man to settle his private affairs and secure his future in civil life before he will consider any military obligation has made the task of recruiting a real difficulty.

Still time goes on and the tangle straightens out. Light breaks through the clouds, and with the growing support of the younger men it is to be hoped that success will crown our efforts if for no other reason that our cause is one which the country must support in its own interests. Employers and employed, young and old, can all help in some way, have they but the spirit and the *will* to do so.

## First Fourth Buffs Association.

WITH Colonel Graham Gosling, O.B.E., T.D., as President and with Captain F. H. Keeler as Hon. Secretary a Regimental Association of the First Fourth Buffs has been formed with the following objects :

**A.**—To arrange an Annual Re-union at some suitable centre for all members of the First Fourth Battalion, The Buffs.

**B.**—To assist members in distress and in obtaining employment.

RULES.

I—All Officers and other ranks who have served at any time in the First Fourth Battalion are eligible for membership.

II—The Annual Subscription to be : Officers, 2/6 : other ranks, 1/- to cover expenses in Stationery, Stamps, Printing, &c.

III—Sub-Committees, consisting of One Officer, One N.C.O. and One Pricate to be formed at Canterbury, Folkestone, Dover, Ramsgate, Margate, Herne Bay, Whitstable and Sittingbourne.

IV—The duties of the Sub-Committee will be to keep in touch with members, reports cases requiring assistance to the Head-Quarters Committee and endeavour to find employment.

Late members of this Battalion can obtain full particulars of this movement and enrol as members at any of the following addresses :—

Canterbury, Wingham, Chartham : C.S.M. Baker, Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury.

Folkestone, Hythe, &c. : C.S.M. Adams, Drill Hall, Shellons St. Folkestone.

Dover, &c : C.M.S. Gregg, Drill Hall, Northampton St., Dover.

Ramsgate, Deal, Sandwich &c : C.S.M. Graham, Drill Hall, Wilson's Road, Ramsgate.

Margate, Westgate, Birchington, &c : Sgt. Ins. Holness, Drill Hall, Hawley Square, Margate.

Herne Bay and Whitstable : C.S.M. Baker, Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury.

Sittingbourne, Faversham, Milton Sheppey, &c : C.S.M. Taylor, Drill Hall, High St. Sittingbourne.

All others not living in the East Kent Area to Secretary, Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury.

## Lines to a Dragon.

O FEARSOME Beast, that through the storied age
Gave Knights and Men-at-arms a raison d'être
To sally forth tin-cased against your rage
To win a smile and then perchance a mate.
You lurked a menace in the darksome wood,
Spouting red flames from nostrils much dilated
Seizing a hapless damsel when you could
For sustenance, or sport when you were sated.
But now no longer do you linger in the backwoods
—Nor knights ride forth to seek you out and slay—
But rather strive to reach and out do " Blackwoods "
And seize on Men-at-arms who gladly pay. S.J.F.M.

# The Problem of Mesopotamia.

By The Hon. W. Ormsby Gore, M.P.

THERE are three possible courses open to us in Mesopotamia. First, we could establish a British administration by force of arms and impose a British rajh similar to that which we imposed upon British India a century ago. Second, we could build up an Arab national government remaining in Mesopotamia until such time as the Mesopotamians are capable of providing for their own external and internal defence. Third, we could clear out altogether and let the Turks come back and rule the country. There are no practical or possible alternatives to any of these three policies and it is impossible to combine any two of them. In the present state of public feeling both in England and in the East, the first alternative is no longer possible as it could only be carried out by the retention in Mesopotamia of a very large force of British Troops and British administrators at a cost of many millions.

We have, therefore, to consider whether we are to bring the Turks back or whether we are to go on with our present endeavour so as to establish in the shortest possible time an Arab State. Some people seem to think that we could retire to Basra and leave Mosul and Bagdad to take care of themselves. Such a policy is quite unsound from a military as well as from a political point of view. It would be like attempting to hold London while the whole of the rest of England was in the possession of some other power.

The Mesopotamian campaign during the War proved that there is no strategic line either as Basra or Kurna or Kut or even Bagdad, which could be held as a military frontier for any length of time. Politically and economically Mesopotamia is one country from Mosul to Basra.

The world requires the economic development of Mesopotamia. Before the destruction of the irrigation system of Mesopotamia by Hulagu in 1258 A.D. Mesopotamia had for centuries been one of the richest corn producing countries of the world. The return of the Turk to Mesopotamia would prevent economic development taking place. The countries of Europe and Asia cannot afford to see ten or more million acres capable of producing cotton, wheat, and oil, left derelict and uncultivated. Further, we are morally bound after having gone into the country and driven out the Turk, to give the inhabitants a reasonable chance to make good. The Turk has proved himself incapable of governing subject races with anything like decency. There is more to be said too, than is often said nowadays for the argument that having spent thousands of lives and much treasure in freeing the country from a blighting yoke, you cannot throw up the sponge without loss of honour.

The problem, therefore, resolves itself into how best to secure the economic development of the vast potential resources of Mesopotamia and secure the establishment of a tolerable government with the least possible expenditure of life and money. The problem is not easy, as for four hundred years the population has been subject to alien rule of a most demoralizing character and we cannot expect such a population to provide suddenly an administration comparable in efficiency or technical capacity with your western standards. It will mean taking big risks and imposing responsibilities upon, and trust in, men who have been deprived, as have been their fathers for a good many generations, of the possible exercise of such responsibilities in the past.

The Turks held the country by a combination of military force and political intrigue and above all by preventing all forms of moral, political or material development; by playing off town against town, townsman against countryman, tribe against tribe, cultivator against nomad, and nomad against cultivator, and sunni against shiah, they succeeded in maintaining a condition of permanently unstable equilibrium which enabled the higher officials sent from Constantinople to pose as the only indispensable alternatives to a condition of anarchy which their policy had largely served to produce. "Divide et Impera" was the Turkish motto.

If we tried to do the same thing we should fail even more lamentably than the Turk has failed. For at least this is to be said for the Turk that he is much better at political intrigue than we are, and that he can resort to methods which we could not, even if we tried to imitate him. The surprising thing about the present situation is, that there is any cohesion, any corporate feeling, any political consciousness at all among the inhabitants of Mesopotamia. That there is any such feeling is due to the fact that for good or evil something in the nature of what we know in the west as "nationalism" is beginning to be felt among the peoples of the Middle East. The educated Arab, a townsman, for the most part, is beginning to think of a possible revival or renaissance of his former civilisation.

Were the British to evacuate Mesopotamia before a sufficiently stable Arab Government with an Arab force at its command to enforce its authority, had been established, there is no doubt that the Turks would return to Mesopotamia and restore their dominion over the country. In this connection we must remember that to all intents and purposes political power in Turkey is still in the hands of the Committee of Union and Progress, who, for the moment, tolerate Mustapha Kemal and his military government in Angora, but in reality they are still under the control and direction of Talaat and the other leaders of the revolutionary regime. Talaat is now in Moscow and if the Turks were to come back to Mesopotamia they would come back as Agents at Moscow. It is idle to pretend that the policy of the Moscow Government in regard to Asia is not anti-British.

The Russian Government is fundamentally opposed to British influence in Asia because Britain in Asia stands for that western civilisation which Moscow hopes to destroy. Moscow may talk about self-determination, but it is perfectly clear that in reality its aim is to impose a particular form of government and a particular form of society and an oriental dictatorship upon all countries of the world. We have given solemn undertakings to our Allies and to the Arabs that we will secure the integrity, independence and development of Mesopotamia. To seek to shirk this obligation in a fit of fatigue would be a tragic landmark in the history of the Empire—it would constitute a great refusal and be a symbol of decline which might very well prove the turning point in our history.

We gave most solemn undertakings to the Arabs before they entered the War as our Allies on the Syrian front and subsequently in a series of proclamations at Bagdad and elsewhere, and unless we keep faith with these obligations it will be a bad day for England. Although the burden may prove heavy and the difficulties great, and although we may be falsely accused of self-interest, we are bound on the very highest grounds of principle to go forward and carry out our undertakings.

When replying to Advertisements kindly mention
THE DRAGON.

# 5th Buffs make a good start.

THE task of reconstructing any Territorial unit must of necessity be a slow one, but the 5th battalion has every cause to congratulate itself upon the real headway achieved, considering the difficulties to be overcome.

On February 16th, 1920, the Colonel, Quartermaster, and three permanent-staff instructors were appointed, and the adjutant exactly a month later. On the 1st of April recruiting was officially opened in the County by the Territorial Association. On the 24th of April, 1920 a large and most successful re-union dinner of all ranks was held in the Drill Hall at Ashford, and recruiting for the battalion started two days later.

The headquarters of companies are situated as follows :—

A Company—Ashford. B Company—Tenterden. C Company—Cranbrook. D Company—Horsmonden.

All officers wishing to continue serving in the battalion had to be re-appointed, and, we are glad to say, many old 5th Buffs officers rejoined.

Local recruiting Committees have been formed with three presidents in the different areas, namely : Mr. C. Igglesden, Ashford; Mr. J. A. Druce, Goudhurst, Mr. Arthur Finn, Lydd.

The difficulty in starting recruiting was, as may be imagined, a very great one. The drawback to an agricultural area such as the Weald of Kent is the immense difficulty in fitting in the claims of the Territorial Army with the claims of agriculture. Men feel, naturally, that they have earned the right to spend their spare time in recreation, after the years they have spent in defence of their country. And the utmost difficulty has been encountered in housing the permanent staff instructors. In only one case have County Association Quarters been available. Still, everything considered, we have good cause to feel satisfied at the response that has already been made.

The Territorial Army, as now constituted, offers many real advantages to a young man. To the brothers and sons of those that have fought, and of those that will never return, it offers a chance to carry on the job they began so splendidly. To those that feel that they do not want their sons to suffer on the battlefields as they suffered, we say again, a strong and living Territorial Army is the last security that what happened in 1914 can never be repeated.

An efficient citizen army in a country like ours, whose policy is for peace, is the last guarantee of peace the world can have. We honour the memory of the men of the Weald, who fought and fell, and their work stands to-day, a monument they would have wished for in the 5th Buffs, The Weald of Kent battalion, growing slowly but surely a worthy successor to the old 5th Battalion, which fought so bravely and wrought so well.

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### Tie in The Elliott Cup.

The musketry course for 1920 was fired under battalion arrangements on the Brewers Wood Range. The Elliott Cup, for the best individual scorer, providing that he has put in the maximum number of drills, was fired for. This resulted in a tie between Private Heathfield, of A Company and Private Leaver of C Company with the very creditable score of 181 out of a possible 230 points.

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### Raising the Men.

The following recruiting meetings were held during the autumn and winter :—

October 6th—Goudhurst. October 16th—Hawkhurst. October 27th—Yalding. November 5th—Tenterden. November 10th—Horsmonden. November 26th—Wittersham. December 10th—Ashford. January 25th—Sutton Valence. January 26th—Lydd.

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### Boxing.

A most successful boxing tournament was held at Cranbrook on January 14th, the winners in the various weights being as follows :—

Flyweight :—Pte. Stevens, " A " Coy. Bantam :—Pte. Hadlum, " A " Coy. Featherweight :—Pte. Brown, " A " Coy. Lightweight :—Pte. Rossiter, " A " Coy. Middle-weight :—Pte. Head, " C " Coy. Welter-weight :—Pte. S. Hickmott, " C " Coy.

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### By Phone, Wire and Cable.

That Capt. A. E. Loyd Hardcastle is going to be married in June.

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That Leiut. J. A. Pittock has joined the 37th Indian Cavalry in Mesopotamia.

---

That the C.O. told us a new story at a recent recruiting meeting.

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That Captain Filmer is box-wallahing in Calcutta.

---

That Major Bell-Kingsley, late Brigade-Major 35th Indian Brigade, was a guest at the 37th Dogras and 5th Buffs dinner on the 15th February.

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That Captain T. B. Cheesman hit the floor quite hard when hunting with the Mid Kent Staghounds recently.

---

That the War Office has acknowledged the claim of Pte. A. Paine to the T.F. efficiency medal.

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That the few hours he is off duty Captain Hawkins may be found cultivating his garden and that he expects to grow quite as many potatoes as the Battalion grew on ten acres in Mesopot.

---

That Lieut. U. R. Scarr is in Chile, collecting nitrate of soda.

---

That Lieut. W. A. Macfadge is prospecting for oil on behalf of the Anglo-Egyptian oil company in Egypt.

---

That Mr. F. R. St. John, late R.S.M., is coming home on leave in March or April and wants to see as many of his old friends as possible.

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That C. Q.M.S. Perry is in Bombay.

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That C.S.M. Johnnings has returned to Canterbury after many travels with the " Toofers " (2/4th Gurkha Rifles.)

---

That the little hill men loved their *Jora* Sergt.-Major-Sahib.

---

That Captain F. O. Marchant is doing architectural work in China.

---

That C.S.M. Whaley and C.Q.M.S. Cooper have rejoined the battalion.

---

That Captain E. B. Burns, having taken a toss over the rail himself, declined to pull it down for the secretary of a well-known local hunt.

# Putting out the Gunmen.

By I. O.

SERVICE in Ireland just now is arduous, as every one will agree, but, worse than this, it is depressing. English troops find a depressing country, depressing surroundings, and over it all a curious intangible cloud, which seems somehow to be the spirit of Ireland.

It is neither war nor peace. It is not war, for there is no visible enemy from whom one can get one's own back, no enemy that puts up a sporting fight in the open. It is not peace, for lurking behind any hedge may be a hired assassin, normally disguised as a peaceful civilian, ready to murder British soldiers at the first opportunity which will give him a chance to run away afterwards. So that one lives in an irritating atmosphere of suspicion, wondering the whole time what it is all about.

And it is not a very easy matter to explain, for the root of the whole trouble goes back a good many years. Briefly it may be said that Ireland, though on the whole a peaceful and contented country, has always held a number of half-crazy visionaries, who have believed a heaven could be created for Irishmen by the setting up of an Irish Republic. It is useless to point out to them that small Republics never do achieve a state of heavenly blessedness, even when the whole country desires it. In Ireland, where the greater part of the country does not desire it, an Irish Republic would result in a state of affairs more nearly approaching hell than heaven. However, the visionaries are only just beginning to realize this, and meanwhile the mischief is done.

This particular mischief lies not so much with the visionaries, who are harmless enough cranks themselves, but with the men they employ. In Ireland, beyond all other countries, there have always been a number of ruffians looking out for the chance of earning a profitable living out of the troubles of their native land. These men, backed by a powerful secret society, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, are now known as the Irish Republican Army. They are precisely the same type of men who were once known as Fenians and later as Invincibles. They care not a button for Ireland or for a Republic, they were originally out to keep the country in a state of turmoil for their own purposes—they would have to work if it were peaceful—and now they know that when peace comes they will have to answer for their crimes.

We have then a country longing for peace, but overrun and terrorised by desperate bands of gunmen. That the country does really long for peace, is shown by the eagerness with which Ulster, where the gunmen have no power, has accepted the Home Rule Act, and by the rapidity with which she has set to work to put it into force. Once put the gunmen out of action, and the South of Ireland would follow the example of Ulster and become peaceful and law-abiding. And it is in putting out the gunmen that the troops come in.

It is a thankless sort of job, for one never sees any definite results from a long round of anxious days and sleepless nights. The gunmen seem to have everything in their favour; a country they know by heart, a population utterly intimidated and horror-struck by the fear of brutal murder if they so much as speak to the troops. Besides, the gunmen, in spite of the high ideals expressed for them by their apologists, do not worry about the rules of civilised warfare. They are nothing but savages, using every weapon of savage warfare. The hope of their leaders seems to be to frighten England by the brutal murder of Englishmen. But the rest of the world learnt long ago that England has a habit of refusing to be frightened.

The troops, on the other hand, have every possible difficulty to contend with. The brave soldiers of the Irish Republican Army are in fact cowards of the first water. When they are not actually hiding behind a hedge with a gun in their hands they are apparently innocent Irishmen, and the hysterical press of the whole country shrieks up to heaven if a hair of their heads is injured. A massacre of troops by overwhelming numbers of hired assassins is regarded with complacency, almost with approval. But a sound hiding given to the men who watched the assassins at their work is acclaimed as a brutal example of English tyranny towards an oppressed people. No wonder one gets " fed up " at times !

But as a matter of fact, the troops have done magnificent work in the face of every difficulty. Altogether, apart from their successes in fighting the gunmen, they have proved to the people of Ireland that the Englishman is not the brutal tyrant they have been led to imagine, but a gentleman who loves peace and does his duty, however hard and distasteful. And so they have estranged the rest of the country from the gunmen and are steadily bringing them on their side in the struggle. They have but to continue to harass the murderer by every means in their power, to give them no rest, day or night, and at the same time to protect the loyal population from danger and injury. And by this means British soldiers will once more win the greatest victory of all, and bring peace to a corner of the Empire which so greatly needs it.

## Village War Memorials.

THEY are such simple little ceremonies that are being enacted, week in and week out, in the fair villages and hamlets scattered over the length and breadth of England. I mean, the unveiling and dedicating of the countless War Memorials, that are being erected to the memory of our gallant dead.

We must leave the crowded towns to get to the heart of it all. I have witnessed so many of these ceremonies and they are all strangely familiar. Everything is so primitively simple—so infinitely real and sad.

The little white stone cross, with the names of the ten or twenty village lads, who fell in the Great Conflict, inscribed on the sides. They cost a great deal those crosses and the tiny communities that pay for them are more than often poor. Scorning help from the neighbouring towns, the money is raised, sacrifices have to be made, the savings of thrifty years broken into, and at last the great day arrives.

It is usually a Sunday afternoon. The procession of white robed priests and choir boys file slowly out of the aged old church to the cross erected in the yard beyond. The knots of awed country folk stand round in silence and solemn faced ex-service men of the village follow to the cross.

The Union Jack that has shrouded the Memorial is pulled aside by a local officer who reads the names of the fallen. The rector puts forth his hand, a prayer, and the cross stands, for all time, " to the glory of God."

Little toil worn women, in neat black, step forward and deposit beautiful wreaths. Slowly the knots of men and women disperse and the cross is left alone. The fresh wind from the hills blows upon it, passes over it, and the sun sinks with all the glory of a winter afternoon.

Yes: these crosses are befitting to the memory of gallant men.

C. H. Fox.

# Past and Present Association, The Buffs.

By R.Q.M.S. A. Andrews.

WHEN the Past and Present Association The Buffs was formed some thirteen years ago, its primary objects were to endeavour to keep in touch with all "Old Buffs" who had left or were leaving the Regiment; to perpetuate the bonds of friendship formed whilst serving together; and to provide those who had left the Regiment with something tangible by which their affection and regard for the Regiment might be maintained.

In furtherance of this object endeavours have been made. Re-unions have been held. And in connection with the Benevolent Fund and the Employment Association, assistance has been rendered to those in urgent need, whilst others have been found employment whenever possible. It can be said in fact, that to some extent our efforts have been successful.

Times however have changed during the last few years. Tho' the old saying "Once a Buff always a Buff" still holds good, one cannot help feeling that since the outbreak of the War the Association has lost touch, to a very large extent, with the many thousands who served in the Regiment during the War; and especially is this the case in regard to those residing in and around Kent.

To overcome this and to make the Association better known and more useful, it has been suggested that those interested should submit any ideas they may have for the development of the Association, and that these shall, if found suitable, be published in the *Dragon* for general consideration.

An Annual Dinner was held up to the outbreak of the War. This was renewed last year under the Presidency of our Colonel, General the Right Hon. Sir A. H. Paget, G.C.B., supported by General Sir A. L. Lynden Bell, K.C.B., Colonel R. McDouall, C.B., D.S.O., Colonel W. A. Eaton, O.B.E., and many other old and distinguished Buffs. Some 190 sat down to dinner, (which was held in the Cannon Street Hotel). These were gathered from many climes. India sent her representative in "Snowball" Hoare; the F. Malay States in Inspector Dowling, F.M.S. Police (late 2nd Battalion); the Channel Islands in "Rusty" Lambert. Gus. Baker, and Don Graham represented the Small Arms Factory, Enfield, whilst Charlie Kimber could be heard extolling the praises of "His Master's Voice;" and Holmes and Phillips told us how they were treated in Chelsea Hospital. Verily it was a great gathering of Old and Young Buffs, from R.S. Major J. W. Cook, Or. Sergt. Dowling and the aforesaid Pensioners, to men with but a few months Service.

Many a good yarn was heard that night; but that's another story. [*Why not send us some. Ed.*]

It has often been said that many can help the few, and this is certainly the case with this Association. All Past and Present Buffs can help us. In the pre-war days it was a point of honour with all W.O.'s and N.C.O.'s to become members of the Association and a very large percentage of the men also joined. Now we do not number 20 per cent. of W.O. or N.C.O.'s who are serving in the Regiment among our members. Why? One cannot say. Surely it is not, that the honour and Esprit de Corps of the Regiment has passed away and all interest in Regimental Associations become a thing of the past. It may interest the 1st and 2nd Battalions to know there are more members of the P. & P. in the Depot than in the whole of the two battalions. That is, amongst the other Ranks. The Officers out-number we "O.R." by about 8 to 1.

When you realise that any money over and above that required for actual working expenses is passed on to the Benevolent Fund, and that money is badly needed to relieve your comrades who have suffered from the war, I firmly believe that you will join the Association and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you are assisting an old Buff.

Last year a cricket match was played on the St. Lawrence Ground by teams representing The Past and The Present Buffs. The cricket was delightful, but I cannot say the same about the "social" part of the programme, at least so far as the "old W.O.'s and N.C.O.'s went." This year we hope to have another match, but it will be played on The Depot Ground, and the "Old Boys" will be well catered for. There will be no repetition of last year. Due notice will be given. In fact you will find everything worth knowing in the "Old Duck." Sure thing.

The Balance Sheet for the past year will be published at an early date and it is hoped that room may be found for it in *The Dragon*.

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due for 1921. 2/6 for NEW MEMBERS, 1/- for OLD MEMBERS of the "Other Ranks."

It is hoped that a very large increase of membership will take place during the ensuing year, and that we shall have a far greater gathering at this year's dinner than we had last. By then perhaps, "the powers that be" will have removed some of the restrictions preventing one from being able to purchase a smoke after 8 p.m., or to get a drink until say 11 p.m. Eh, What?

### Ex-Service Men's Adviser.

Ex-officers and men who experience difficulty in connection with any Department of the Ministry of Labour should write to the Ex-Service Men's Adviser, Montagu House, Whitehall, S.W.1. Letters need not be stamped but marked on "O.H.M.S."

### Relatives Free Warrants.

The Army Council has issued an instruction under which 3rd class warrants will be provided free of charge to relatives unable to pay railway fares who desire to visit soldiers reported dangerously ill in military hospitals in the United Kingdom. A similar privilege will be extended to not more than two relatives for attendance at the funeral of an officer or soldier in the United Kingdom when the burial is arranged by the Military Authorities, and the body is not conveyed to the deceased's home for burial.

### For the Limbless.

All who have lost a leg or an arm should get into touch with The Disabled Society, 48 Grosvenor Square, S.W.1.

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## The Depot.

By The Man with the Squeegee.

THERE is a demand for originality. Let me say that at once in order that I may not be accused of levity in approaching the task of chronicling the doings of those of us whose days are spent under the Shadow of the Great Edifice.

Since *The Dragon* last published notes about us many things have happened. First of all, the Commanding Officer has become the proud possessor of a son whose addiction to the habit of accumulating avoirdupois has exceeded all records of infantile obesity. The congratulations of all ranks have been humbly presented to the C.O. on this great event which occurred, by a happy dispensation of Providence, a few hours before the Great Draft left for Mespot.

Christmas and Furlough came next and the great Festival of Squandermania was once again observed with all the enforced hilarity and grumbling apathy of our race. [*Get on with the news. Ed.*] Talking of Furlough recalls the fact that Major Gould left us disconsolate whilst he honoured the French Capital for some twenty-eight days in December. The object of his mission is no doubt fittingly dealt with elsewhere. May we here add our small voices to the general chorus of astonished pleasure?

The Regimental Creche (adolescent not infantile. Or, in other words, the Recruits), has grown in numbers too and the necessity for "visualising" (Hythe visitors please note) armies where only one anaemic youth stood shivering on the threshold of his career is happily removed. Some forty growing lads are daily "driving the gravel deeper in the Square" (quotation from a poem by the writer).

There is a rumour that the Sergeants' Mess has decided to start a Shakesperean Circle, and that ere long they will produce "The Taming of the "Shrew" with Company Sergeant Major Pigott in one of the leading roles.

In the Realm of Sport we have continued energetically. The Football Team has not maintained the extraordinary match-winning standard of the beginning of the Season, but none the less they have shewn excellent form. The Hockey Team, on the other hand, has ridden rough-shod over most of the sides it has met, and more than one ground in Kent can be reasonably called "a devastated area" in consequence. The complete defeat of "the Jollies" at Deal was a particularly satisfactory result, and one which would rejoice the revengeful hearts of more than one German who was at Zeebrugge.

Education proceeds apace and it is anticipated that very shortly only the necessity for severe economy in the use of paper will prevent every one in the Depot from possessing a Certificate of some sort.

That, Mr. Editor, is what I think you would call a brief resumé of our doings. And beyond the fact that the Cricket Ground has a new Protector there is nothing more that I can irreverently tell you. In view of the almost Arctic weather my wish that your circulation may easily reach 5,000 is not, I hope, out of place.

## To Kent.

OH! what is the county I love so,
Where would I wish to be,
Where the cherries blow, and the hop bines grow,
And the marshes stretch to the sea.

Oh! Kent where my heart is clinging,
Oh! land of my hearth and my home,
Your praises I'll always be singing,
Forever, wherever I roam.

Nancy Robertson.

## Regimental Calendar for March.

1st.
2nd. Engagement at AIRE, 1814. 1st Battalion engaged.
3rd.
4th.
5th.
6th. Cpl. Cotter 6th Battalion gained Victoria Cross at Hohenzollen Redoubt, 1916.
7th. Action at POPLAR GROVE, 1900. 2nd Battalion engaged.
8th.
9th. Successful raid on German trenches East of YPRES, 1916.
10th. Action at DRIEFONTEIN, SOUTH AFRICA, 1900. 2nd Battalion engaged.
11th.
12th.
13th.
14th. 6th Division, of which 2nd Battalion formed part, entered BLOEMFONTEIN, 1900.
15th. 1st Battalion moved from VETTWEISS, Germany to SENZENICH, 1919.
16th. 1st Battalion left YPRES, and moved to CALAIS 1916.
17th. Battalion's trenches raided by Germans, 1917. Enemy ejected leaving 7 killed.
18th. 1st Battalion inspected by General Sir H. Smith-Dorrien, ARMENTIERES, 1915.
19th. Tercentenary of the Regiment observed at SEETAPORE, 1872.
20th.
21st. Capture of St. Bartholomew Island from the Swedes, 1901. Regiment engaged.
Attack by Germans, 1918. Battalion in position on VAULX-MORCHIES Line.
22nd. 1st Battalion withdrawn from the line and moved back by 'bus to ACHIET-LE-GRAND, 1918.
23rd. Battalion took up outpost position East of ACHIET-LE-GRAND, 1918.
24th. Battle near PORT ROYAL, West Indies, 1796. Regiment engaged. Battalion moved from PUISIEUX to DOULLENS, 1918.
25th. Action at LAMPO MAYOR, Peninsula, 1811. French defeated. Regiment engaged.
Battalion moved from DOULLENS, to ROUSBRUGGE in Belgium, 1918.
26th. 1st Battalion left JULLUNDAR in 1895, to join 3rd Brigade, Chitral Relief Force.
27th.
28th.
29th.
30th. German trenches successfully raided by 1st Battalion, 1917.
31st. Battalion in line at ZONNEBEKE, 1918.

[*The co-operation of our readers is invited towards completing and adding to the above. Suggested anniversaries for the following days in April would also be welcomed*:—4*th*, 5*th*, 6*th*, 7*th*, 8*th*, 12*th*, 17*th*, 18*th*, 19*th*, 26*th*, 27*th*, and 29*th*. *Ed.*]

## NET SALES.

**This space will be reserved each month for the publication of Net Sales of the preceeding issue. The number purchased by each unit, and subscribers will be shown separately.**

**See page 10.**

# Extracts from a Bachelor's Diary.

**JAN. 1st.** These New Year festivities are a mistake! Who wants to see the old year out I should like to know, and why should that idiot Green want to open the door to let it go out? Old fashioned custom forsooth! The sooner such customs are done away with the better. Punch! Never again will I partake of punch that has been brewed by Harry. I wonder how he feels this morning——bad, I trust.

Note from Aunt Jane:—"Will I come over and join in a romp this evening?" Dislike romps intensely but cannot afford to offend Aunt Jane. Write and explain that I shall be delighted. What mockery.

LATER.—Went to Aunt Jane's romp: wish I hadn't. Her idea of a romp seems to consist of asking in shoals of children for the express purpose of indulging in an extremely mediocre game called Cat and Mouse.

To play the game properly it seems that you must first extinguish all lights. Risk of damage to life and limb is apparently the principal charm of this game. Several grown-up people were present and the game started soon after my arrival, the role of cat being unwillingly accepted by me. The locality of the mice was clearly defined by their laboured breathing and on my approach they stampeded in a shrieking mass, the opposition offered by my person proving totally inadequate. Caught somebody by the ankle as they passed over my prostrate form and brought them down. Subsequent investigation proved my captive to be a distinctly pretty girl of some twenty summers. My apologies received in chilly silence—awkward very. Confound Aunt Jane. Wish I had gone abroad last week. Altogether a most depressing day.

**JAN. 2nd.** Woke up with a sore throat and a tingling sensation in the roof of my mourh. This comes of opening doors to allow old years to pass out. Stomach also out of order due, most probably to Harry's punch. Send for doctor. Letter from brother who appears to be suffering from a chill on the liver and general internal disorganisation.

Doctor seems inclined to take a gloomy view of my case and suggests a change of climate. Before leaving he comments on the prevalence of consumption in the district. Shall go abroad next week: the question is who with and where? Nice or Monte Carlo I think. Possibly old Bob would come.

**JAN. 3rd.** Feeling very depressed. Old Bob calls round and expresses his willingness to proceed to Monte Carlo to-morrow if necessary. Deprecate undue haste—so many things to be arranged. Bob says:—"Rot! take your ticket, put a few things in a bag and there you are." There is, he adds, plenty of gay society in Monte Carlo. I explain that I am going for a complete rest and change. Bob guffaws and remarks in explanation that "he knows me." There are times when I quite fail to understand Bob. Finally I agree to start on the 12th, Bob to take the tickets and arrange about the rooms.

**JAN. 4th.** Much worse. Charlie Simmonds calls at 8 a.m. and wants me to come out for a run with the beagles. I ask him—"do I look like running?" He admits that I don't, but adds that it will buck me up like anything. I decline to discuss the matter and he departs after drinking a glass of beer; a revolting habit which would kill me I know. Doctor takes a rather more hopeful view of my case and thinks it may be only a cold after all. I with difficulty refrain from enquiring what he originally supposed it was. Recollect later his remark re consumption and wonder if it was intended for a hint. Perfectly wretched day.

**JAN. 5th.** Much better. Old Bob, smoking a pipe, comes in while I am at breakfast and tells me a piece of news which, together with the pipe, completely takes away what little appetite I possess. According to Bob there is a rumour afloat to the effect that while playing Cat and Mouse at Aunt Jane's the other night I took advantage of the darkness to kiss one of the mice, a lady by name Phyllis Grant. Old Grant, he says, is furious and is coming round to see me about it. His daughter, it appears, has not been interviewed on the subject as he (Old Grant) wants to hear my version of the story first. Most awkward. I wonder how these stories get about? Explain all the facts of the case to Bob. He remarks that it is worse than he supposed and wants to know why I caught hold of her ankle.

Explain again—self preservation; inpulse of the moment. Bob says he will call round after the interview and pick up the pieces.

Bob is useless in an emergency. Wonder if old Grant will be violent? Have a good mind to go to London for a few days better not perhaps. Have seldom spent a more upsetting day.

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[*The remainder of the Diary is fortunately lost.* Ed.]

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## Boxing at Canterbury.

A GOOD START to the Army Sports Central Board's Scheme of developing sport in The Territorial Army was made in the Canterbury Garrison Gymnasium on Thursday, 3rd February. This took the form of the preliminaries of the Kent Brigade Boxing Tournament. Although perhaps scientific exhibitions were not very prevalent, that is the last thing to bother about. The whole idea of sport in the Army is that it shall be made to cater for all and not merely for the Gladiators. Some promising talent showed itself at this Meeting in both the 4th and 5th Buffs, and no doubt this is only the forerunner of much more to come when our Territorials get into their stride, as they are rapidly doing, and are better able to develop the sporting side of their programme.

Ex-C.S.M. Warr (The Buffs) was Master of the Ceremonies and Sergt.-Major Warner, Timekeeper. The following give the results in which the 4th and 5th Buffs were engaged.

Feather weight—Pvt. Brown, 5th Buffs, beat Corpl. Horn, 5th Buffs.

Welter weight——Hickmott, 5th Buffs, beat Pvt. Legust, R.W.K.

Bantam—Pvt. Hadlum, 5th Buffs, beat Tptr. Simpson, R.G.A.

Fly weight—Pvt. Stevens, 5th Buffs, beat Pvt. Bennett, R.W.K.

Feather weight—Gunner Erskine beat Pvt. Foad, 4th Buffs.

Welter weight (final)— — Hickmott, 5th Buffs, scratched to Corporal Taylor.

Feathers (final)—Pvt. Brown, 5th Buffs, scratched to Gunner Erskine, R.G.A.

Sergt.-Major Warner's "midgets" also gave an interesting exhibition bout, while Corporal Corrigan, 4th Buffs, and Corporal Taylor gave sparring exhibitions.

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The Army and Royal Air Force Association football match is fixed for March 10. It will probably take place at Stamford Bridge.

# Army Sport.

THE following gives the revised list of fixtures arranged by the Army Sport Control Board up to the end of April.

A. (ARMY TEAMS.)

| *Date.* | *Opponents.* | *Game.* | *Venue.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| March 3rd | Cambridge University. | Fencing. | Aldershot. |
| ,, 4th | Royal Navy and Marines. | Fencing. | London. |
| ,, 5th | Royal Air Force. | Rugby. | Queen's Club. |
| ,, 10th | Royal Air Force. | Association. | Stamford Bridge. |
| ,, 11th | Oxford University. | Fencing. | Aldershot. |
| ,, 18th | Bertrands | Fencing. | Aldershot. |
| ,, 19th | R.M.C. | Hockey. | Camberley. |
| April 6th | French Army. | Association. | Aldershot. |
| ,, 16th | French Army. | Rugby. | Twickenham. |
| ,, 13th | Royal Navy. | Association. | Portsmouth. |
| ,, 15th | Sabre Club. | Fencing. | Bertrands. |
| ,, 16th | French Army | Rubgy. | Twickenham. |
| ,, 20th | Navy Cup Winners *v.* Army Cup Winners. | (Association) | |
| ,, 24th | Belgium Army. | Association. | Brussels. |

(B) ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| March 7th | Army Rackets (Single). | Championships. | Prince's Club. |
| ,, 22nd | Semi-final Army Sockey Cup. | | Aldershot. |
| ,, 23rd | FINAL—ARMY RUGBY CUP. | | Aldershot. |
| ,, 25th | FINAL—ARMY HOCKEY CUP. | | Aldershot. |
| ,, 28th | FINAL—ARMY (ASSOCIATION) CUP. | | Aldershot. |
| April 12th | ARMY CROSS COUNTRY RUN. | | Aldershot. |
| ,, | 22nd & 23rd ARMY TEAM BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS. | | |
| ,, | 25, 26 & 27. ARMY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS. | | Sunningdale. |

## Our Competitions.

CORP. CLIFFORD SCOOPS THE POOL.

AS flat as a pancake. Two entries! Ex-Corpl. Clifford for A, B, and C., Ex-Sergt. Elvey for Competition B. What's to be done? The only answer is to award Corpl. Clifford *all* the prizes allotted for A and C, together with one of those for B. Money for nothing with a vengeance! Two and a half guineas for a guess 26,000 wide of the actual number of leaflets relating to the paper sent out! And a guinea for suggesting that a prize be offered for the best amateur photograph sent in to the paper! If you think there's a catch in this drop Corpl. Clifford a line and ask him to share the cheque for four guineas we have sent him, telling him you unfortunately forgot to send in your solution. His address is Mr. E. Clifford, "Oboe and Cor Anglais" orchestra, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

The winner of competition B. for the best suggestion for increasing the circulation of the paper is Ex-Sergt. W. Elvey, Empire House, Piccadilly whose suggestion, which only very slightly differed from that of Corpl. Clifford, we give in his own words:—

1. Request all subscribers to forward addresses, which they have, or come into their possession of men who have served in the Regiment. Late Rank and No. in each case to be given.
2. Offer prize. [*Suggestion adopted, one Guinea offered. Ed.*]
3. Give points as follows:—
   (*a*) One point for an address sent in, already on your Subscription List.
   (*b*) Two points for every new address.
   (*c*) Three points for every new subscriber you obtain from addresses sent in.
4. Highest number of points obtained by any subscriber at the end of each month to be the winner.

"This would interest time-serving and ex-service men alike, as no doubt in town or village where the majority of the time-serving men hail from there is one or more (old Buff) who is known to them. The same applies to the ex-service men, and by this means you could get into touch with more of the old Regiment than by advertisements in the Newspapers."

The Competitions for this month therefore are—

**A.**

One Guinea see page 10.

**B.**

Half a Guinea for the best and most interesting photograph or snapshot.

**C.**

One Guinea for the largest number of addresses submitted and points to be awarded vide Sergt. Elvey's suggestion.

**Conditions.**

All entries must reach the Editor not later than the 20th inst. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence can be entered into. Each competition is open to any officer or man who is serving or who ever has served in The Regiment.

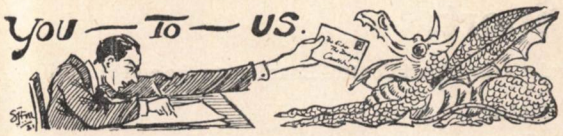

**ON PULLING TOGETHER.**

We would appeal to all readers to back, whenever and wherever they can, the firms which are backing our venture with their advertisements. These houses are all of high reputation and they display sound commodities which are at all times in greater or less request. And please mention the *Dragon* when giving your order.

If you are able to secure other advertisements from firms of good repute, we will gladly send you particulars of terms and allow you a commission.

*All communications regarding advertisements should be addressed—*

*The Editor, The Dragon,*
*Depot, The Buffs, Canterbury.*




TONIC.

Sir,

As an old Sub-Editor of *The Dragon* may I ask whether I may have the privilege of contributing some of my drawings for the paper, also a little written matter. In fact, I will do *anything* to help you realise the 5,000 circulation you are endeavouring to get, as I am still a Buff, although held to serve here for a time, and have a Buff's pride in the Journal.

Yours etc., O. MASON.
Sub-Editor, *The Machine Gunner.*

*(Only too glad to accept your offer, and to regain touch with one who did so much for the paper in pre-war days. Ed.)*

---

A SUGGESTION.

Sir,

May I make a suggestion re the Competitions. Why not make it a condition that each competitor must be the purchaser of a copy. This can be done as is done in so many other papers by insisting that a coupon must be cut out.

Yours, etc.,
F. S. REEVES, Major.

*[Our reasons for not adopting this suggestion are firstly to save those of our readers who wish to bind their copies from having to spoil them, and secondly because we hope that every Serving Buff will help us by taking the paper in. Ed.]*

---

AN OMISSION AND AN APOLOGY.

Sir,

I am only too delighted to become a Subscriber, and I will certainly do all I can to obtain others. But may I be allowed to refer to the omission of mentioning the 3rd Battalion under the title in The Leaflets as I am sure that its members would like to see a definite reference to their branch of the Forces included in the heading and might think it strange that such an ancient formation should have no place therein? I trust that you will forgive me for taking this liberty, but think that the adoption of my suggestion is worth consideration, as it might perhaps have the effect of obtaining more earnest support from past and present members of the 3rd Battalion, who might otherwise feel that their own unit had received less attention than the others, whereas it can't do any harm. Wishing *The Dragon* every success and as large a circulation as possible.

Yours etc., V. S. SINCLAIR.

*(We hasten to apologise to the 3rd Battalion for this omission which needless to say was quite unintentional. The necessary alteration is being made in all our propaganda, etc., and we thank our correspondent for drawing our attention to this matter. Ed.)*

*Depot, The Buffs,*
*Canterbury.*

*The Annual Subscription to The Dragon is 8/- (post free) to any address in Great Britain and Ireland or abroad. Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Major W. A. Eaton, O.B.E., at the above address.*

*For those serving, copies of the paper can be obtained through officers commanding companies of all Regular and Territorial Units. The price per copy is 6d.*

*As the number of copies of each issue printed over and above the number actually ordered prior to the date of publication must be strictly limited, regular orders should be placed without delay.*

*The desire is that every town and village throughout the recruiting district of the Regiment will be served by one or more agents. who will help to push the Sale of the Paper. Ex-Buffs, or others interested in the Regiment who are willing to participate in this campaign, the progress of which will be published from time to time are invited to communicate with the Editor.*

*News, personal notes, sketches, short stories, drawings, criticisms and suggestions, etc., are earnestly invited. Copy should be kept as brief as possible and be written on one side of the paper only. Artists are asked to study the make-up of the paper towards ensuring that their contributions are drawn to a suitable size for reproduction.*

*News matter intended for publication in the coming issue should reach the Editor not later than the 18th of the current month. The Editor cannot hold himself responsible for the loss of any manuscript, but every care will be taken of the same, and a stamped addressed envelope should be sent for the return of contributions which may prove unsuitable.*

*Arrangements have been made by which readers desirous of preserving their copies in convenient and permanent form can have same bound in substantial cloth in the Editorial office. To help the serving man in this respect, the Editor will be pleased to receive any copies of the paper that may be submitted to him, and to retain these in safe keeping until required. The cost of binding must be dependent on the demand, and readers desirous of taking advantage of this arrangement are invited to register their names with the Editor. A further announcement as to cost of binding will be made in a later issue.*

*All communications relating to the Paper should be addressed to The Editor, The Dragon, Depot, The Buffs, Canterbury.*

---

**The Regimental Calendar.**

The Regimental Calendar for 1921, issued by the First Battalion, can be obtained on application to the Editor of *The Dragon*. This is printed in three colours and contains, in addition to a number of photographs of the First Battalion in Ireland, a comprehensive list of Regimental anniversaries. Price 2/– (postage 2d.).

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PRINTED BY GIBBS & SONS, PALACE STREET, CANTERBURY.

No. 257. April, 1921.

# The Dragon

A PAPER OF THE MEN OF

FOR MEN BUFFS, AND KENT.

THE BUFFS (EAST KENT REGIMENT).

"Veteri Frondescit Honore."

"Blenheim." "Ramillies," "Oudenarde," "Malplaquet," "Dettingen," "Gualdaloupe, 1759," "Douro," "Talavera," "Albuhera," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Punniar," "Sevastopol," "Taku Forts," "South Africa, 1879," "Chitral," "South Africa, 1900-2," "Relief of Kimberley," "Paardeburg."

1st Battalion, 2nd Battalion } 3rd Foot { Fermoy. Mesopotamia.

Depot—Canterbury.

3rd Bn.—Canterbury. Record Office—Hounslow.

Territoral Force Battlns.—4th Bn., Canterbury: 5th Bn. Ashford.

Colonel-in-Chief: His Majesty King Christian X. of Denmark, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.V.O.

Colonel: Gen. Rt. Hon. Sir A. Paget, G.C.B., K.C.V.O.

Hon. Colonel, 3rd Battn.: Colonel Sir Theodore Brinckman, Bart., C.B.

Hon. Colonel, 4th Battn.: Colonel The Right Hon. Lord Harris, G.C.S.I.

Hon. Colonel, 5th Battn.: Colonel E. W. Hussey, V.D.

## CONTENTS.


| | page |
|---|---|
| Personalia | 25 |
| Regimental Notabilities | 27 |
| Le Boeufs and Morval | 27 |
| Regimental Calendar | 27 |
| With the 1st Battalion at Fermoy | 28 |
| Wanted—A Slogan | 31 |
| Kent Cricket Prospects | 31 |
| On Column Duty in Mesopotamia | 32 |
| Reminiscences | 33 |
| Colours Carried through Dover | 33 |
| Another Great Recruiting Effort | 34 & 47 |
| Handicaps | 35 |
| An Auction of Kit | 35 |
| Kirkuk Barracks, Mesopotamia | 35 |
| The Mug | 36 |
| Stirring Events in Ireland | 36 |
| Cartoon | 37 |
| 1st Battn. Boxing Tournay | 38 |
| My First Job | 38 |
| Round and About | 39 |
| Editorial Note | 39 |
| 16th Brigade Boxing Tournament | 40 |
| Harrisonisms | 40 |
| Buffs War Memorial | 41 |
| All Records Broken | 41 |
| The Regimental Badge | 42 |
| The Fifth Battalion | 43 |
| The Depot | 45 |
| The Buffs Benevolent Fund | 46 |
| The Boxing Referee | 47 |
| You to Us | 48 |
| Our Competitions | 48 |
| To Our Readers | 48 |
| A War Memorial | 48 |


## Personalia.

IT is our privilege this month to publish the following telegram received from H.M. the King of Denmark, Colonel-in-Chief of The Buffs, on the occasion of *The Dragon* being published from the Depot :—

"I send the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Men of The Buffs my best greetings.

CHRISTIAN R.
Colonel-in-Chief of The Buffs."

This telegram was unfortunately received after our last number had gone to press. We feel sure that the gratitude of all ranks will go out to His Majesty for this renewed evidence of the deep interest which he takes in his Regiment.

Lieut. H. T. Brady was seen at The Depot for a few minutes the other day on short leave from Dublin. He was looking in excellent fettle.

Lieut.-Col. Mainwaring Dunstan of the 4th Battalion recently made a most successful appearance as "Ko-Ko" in the production of "The Mikado" by the Margate Amateur Dramatic Society.

Major Groves Raines who has been on Leave in France is back with the 1st Battalion. We hope to publish in an early issue the account of his visit to The Battlefields.

Likewise Lt.-Colonel Lucas who has been in Italy. We hope to hear from him also telling us his news.

**Personalia**—*continued.*

Ex-Corporal Campbell, well known to those who served with the 2nd Battalion in Salonika as a trusty henchman of Captain Hamilton, R.A.M.C., is employed in the R.E. Yard at Canterbury and is often seen in The Depot.

---

We were glad to see " Kelly " (late Lance-Corporal Holness) in Canterbury the other day. He has a billet in the town house of Sir Theodore Brinckman, Hon. Colonel of the 3rd Battalion, and is doing well.

---

We offer our warmest congratulations to Lieut. J. Chester of the 2nd Battalion on his engagement to Miss Patricia Elnor, daughter of Canon and Mrs. Elnor of Dover and late of Chilham. We believe that Lieut. Chester is on his way home now.

---

R.S.M. Dare, until recently attached to the M.G.C. at Shorncliffe has arrived at The Depot to take up the duties of Regimental Serjeant Major.

---

Major J. V. R. Jackson's second child, a daughter, was christened on Monday, March 14th, at Hythe Parish Church.

---

Captain R. P. S. Elderton hopes to be home from the Soudan on leave about April.

---

Sergeant Bartlett well known in the playing fields of the Regiment is now commissionaire at Finnigans in Bond Street, and at night he is to be seen at the Ambassadors' Theatre, Incidentally Drummer Warner has a similar job at the New Gallery Cinema in Regent Street. Spud Austen is also close by.

---

Major W. A. Eaton is at Sondes House, Bekesbourne, where he spends much of his time gardening, and in his carpenter's shop. Lt.-Colonel R. S. Friend, is near by at Bramling, and is not far distant from being the most enthusiastic and successful market gardener in East Kent.

---

In Lord Harris *The Dragon* has found a brother editor. His Lordship has edited no less than three papers, viz :—*The Eton College Chronicle, The Kent Yeomanry Paper,* and *The Kent Volunteer Paper.* To him *The Dragon* also wishes the best of luck, and may we see him in the cricket field again this year.

---

Good news is to hand of Capt. G. Boon, who is now residing in Guernsey. All will be sorry to hear that his second son, who was badly wounded at Loos is again in hospital. May he have a speedy recovery.

---

Major Guy Lee has recently appeared before a Medical Board and was granted a further period of two months sick-leave.

---

We are glad to hear that Colonel L. I. B. Hulke, who recently underwent an operation for Glaucoma, is getting on well.

---

" Drummy " Dixon, is to be seen at the Depot, busy at recruiting. He is fit and well and looking forward to wielding the " Willow " during the coming season. He played for a club in Deal last year.

---

Jack Quinn recently retired from business in the " City " and is now resident in Co. Cork, down Youghall way.

---

All are glad to hear that S.M. Cheal is progressing favourably after his very serious illness. He has we understand given up his job at the King's School.

Brig.-General and Mrs. R. A. Hickson are now at Bayonne after a pleasant stay of some months at Pau.

---

Major R. G. Marriott finds that Torquay suits him well. " Not quite so wheezy " is the way he puts it, and then he adds he sadly misses his country life. He has been enjoying " air and exercise " with the local Harriers and the South Devon Foxhounds.

---

Congratulations to Major and Brevet-Lieut.-Col. H. Findlay and Mrs. Findlay in the birth of their son, and also to the former on his appointment as A.A. and Q.M.G. on the staff in Ireland.

---

Captain V. T. D. Palmer, late of the 3rd Battalion, has been appointed High Sheriff of Kent.

---

A cheery letter has been received from Major C. D. K. Greenway. On coming to after his operation he received the welcome news that a grateful Government had made good the outstanding balance of his War Gratuity and that a skilled surgeon had successfully removed several inches of his lesser sciatic nerve. There is now every hope that the latter will mean the absence of the incessant pain he has endured for so long.

---

In our last issue we erroneously described C.S.M. Holness of the Margate detachment of the 4th Battalion as Sergeant-Instructor. He holds the local rank of C.S.M.

---

We hear that there are 26 Buffs, past and present, employed at the Small Arms School at Hythe ; and in addition to these there are. living in the town, over 40 old Buffs. A correspondent has supplied us with these details, together with names and addresses, and hopes to send us several more before our next issue. This is a very fine record for a small town like Hythe, and also incidentally for our correspondent.

---

One of those at Hythe is F. S. Boorman (9763, Corporal), who had the unenviable distinction of being wounded six times during the war and the good luck to survive them all. He was wounded in the shoulder with a bullet at Ypres, Rejoining he was hit by a bomb at Loos on September 28th, 1915 and covered with wounds from head to foot, having no less than 40 punctures. In March 1916, he was again wounded in the head with shrapnel, and once again he received a bullet wound, this time in the shoulder on the Somme on July 3rd. His fifth wound was in the left leg by a bullet on Whitmonday, 1917 on Vimy Ridge, and the 6th was in the hand and side in September 1917. After this he was transferred to the Royal Air Force as a Corporal Mechanic in May 1918.

---

Another at Hythe is J. T. Goldup (No. 9854), who was wounded in both legs in a forward trench in the Ypres salient on July 19th, 1915. He could not be got away for over 36 hours and there was no iodine available. Consequently both his legs had to be amputated above the knee the moment he got to Hospital at Bailleul. He gets about wonderfully well in his little shop on his artificial limbs and is extraordinarily cheerful. He began, at first, making and selling baskets, but found increasing difficulty in procuring rushes ; so then he learnt boot-making and that is what he is doing now. He is naturally easily tired and would very much like to return to the easier work of basket-making, if he were not afraid of taking trade away from the blind.

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[*Personal notes for this page are invited from all ranks. Ed.*]

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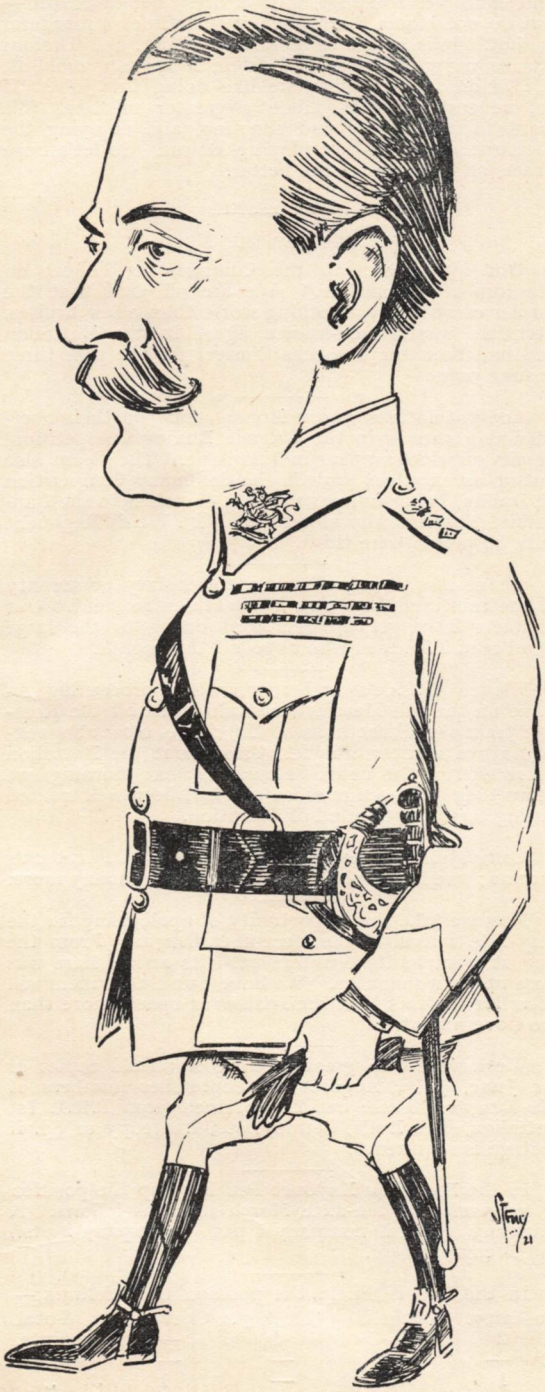
**A special notice to our Readers will be found on page 48.**

## Regimental Notabilities.



GEN. RT. HON. SIR A. PAGET, G.C.B., K.C.V.O.

## Les Boeufs and Morval.

PROPOSED ADOPTION BY CITY OF CANTERBURY.

AT a meeting held at the Guildhall, Canterbury on February 23rd, under the auspices of The British League of Help, the Mayor of Canterbury presiding, it was unanimously decided to recommend that the City of Canterbury should adopt the village of Les Boeufs, or the two villages of Les Boeufs and Morval combined. At the close of the meeting a provisional committee was formed with a view to arrangements being made for the holding of a public meeting on the 13th April, at which it is hoped the citizens of Canterbury will accept one or other of the above alternatives. Readers of *The Dragon* will be interested to know that prior to the above meeting, the following information, obtained from the official War Diaries, was supplied to the British League of Help by Col. Moody, who is writing The War History of The Buffs.

"The villages of Les Boeufs and Morval are about half a mile apart, on high ground north of the river Somme. They formed the main object of attack to our Fourth Army during the long operations known as the Battle of the Somme. For several weeks the fighting was all leading up to their ultimate capture and in this fighting the 1st, 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions all took part. The 25th September 1916, was one of the most successful days of the whole war. A general attack along our whole Somme front took place and these two villages fell to our arms. The 1st Battalion took a very important part in their capture. The English casualties on this day were comparatively slight, but The Buffs had 3 officers and 102 other ranks killed, wounded, or missing."

## Regimental Calendar for April.

2nd. Battle of GINGHLOVO, 1879. Zulus defeated. 2nd Battalion engaged.
3rd. Relief of EKOWE, 1879 by The Buffs.
9th. Battle of Arras commenced, 1917. 6th Battalion engaged.
10th. Battle of Toulouse, 1814. 1st Battalion engaged.
2nd Battalion relieved 153rd French Regiment near ZONNEBEKE, 1915.
11th. General Sir J. A. R. Raines, Colonel of The Buffs, died 1909.
13th. Unsuccessful assault on OSTEND, 1603. Regiment engaged.
14th. 1st Battalion left MALTA for the CRIMEA, 1855.
15th. Advance made by 1st Battalion at LOOS, 1917.
16th. Battle of Culloden Moor, 1746. Regiment engaged.
20th. 1st Battalion wrecked near DUNGENESS, 1795.
21st. 1st Battalion first issued with Breech Loading Riffes, 1871.
22nd. Formation of the Depot at Canterbury, 1873. 2nd Battle of YPRES began. Gas attack. 2nd Battalion engaged, 1915.
23rd. Buff Facings restored to the Regiment, 1887.
24th. GRAVE relieved, 1586. Regiment engaged.
25th. 1st Battalion crossed LOWARAI PASS (10,450 feet high) 1895.
28th. 1st Battalion arrived at BALACLAVA, CRIMEA, 1855.
30th. Captain Lathom (of Albuhera fame) retired on Half-pay, 1820.

**WANTED.—The names and addresses of all ex-Buffs to enable us to communicate with them.**

# With the 1st Battalion at Fermoy.

RECENTLY a number of our most stalwart lads were sent out to look after a certain village and the surrounding countryside. Previous to their arrival the village had been reconnoitred for suitable accommodation. After much seeking, the very place was found. True there certainly were a few pigs and fowls in occupation. But they don't count in this country. They are privileged beings, and live in every house. These, however, with much gruntings and cluckings of protest, were ejected—another Irish injustice—and the ex-fowl-house-pig-sty was put in a state of defence.

Then the hunting began. Real live man-hunting. All the local chief gun-men and Sinn Fein organisers were given a hint that their presence in these parts was superfluous, and it is hardly necessary to say that they all took the hint. Now they are mostly on the run, or interned, and they trouble us no more.

" Despise not your enemy " is a maxim of war, and we hope we take heed of this wise platitude. Although our special local gun-men have not given trouble in the precincts of this village, their presence is often felt in outlying districts, and so the hunting still goes on. Nowadays we hunt on foot in parties, that patrol the country. But they are mighty slippery fellows, these Shinners, and take a deal of catching. Here is the story of how one " officer of the I.R.A." was laid by the heels.

One day a patrol after a march of several miles surrounded a farm. About a dozen young men were rounded up, searched, and asked their business. All could give an account of themselves, and none were wanted men. Then the house, haystacks, and outbuildings were searched. This was done in no " brutal and licentious " spirit, as many English as well as Irish papers have often endeavoured to make the public believe, but in a perfectly quiet, polite, and business-like manner.

" Good day, Missis ! " said the officer, as he entered the house. " Do you mind if I look round a bit ? "

" Good day, sorr," she replied," 'tis a saaft day for ye to be out, now. Ah, sure, will ye look where ye plaze. Bedad, there's nothin' here, at all."

Methodically the officer searched the house. At length he came to a bedroom, and after searching in all the cupboards, made for the bed—a big low, four-poster.

" Och, bedad, but there's nothin' there, at all, sir " said the woman. " Sure, an' why would Oi be wantin' to hide anything from ye ? "

But one by one each blanket was pulled off, until only the mattress remained. Back rolled one mattress, back rolled another, and then a third.

As the third rolled back it revealed the bare boards of the floor, and on which lay the object of the search, a real live Shinner !

Slowly he crawled out and was escorted down below. When he had filled himself up with tea, and bread and butter, and procured a good supply of cigarettes, the patrol fell in and marched him off to durance vile.

On the way back, what do you think was the chief topic of conversation ? Politics ? Good Heavens, No. Why ! hunting of course. For isn't that the most important matter in times of peace ?

Space will not allow of further discourse, but there is one point which needs to be emphasized.

Many newspapers in England—not to mention Ireland—pour forth all manner of abuse on the manner in which the forces of the Crown conduct themselves. Doubtless, isolated cases of indiscipline have taken place. But let our critics remember this. Duty in this Country to-day is neither pleasant nor easy, although with his usual adaptability Tommy Atkins manages to enjoy himself. The present lamentable situation has been brought about entirely by the crass stupidity and hopeless idealism of a number of extreme fanatics who have endeavoured to obtain their ends by murdering British soldiers and police. If Ireland has suffered, and continues to suffer, it is entirely her own fault—but do not blame the soldier, if sometimes a murderer is shot. It is a case of he or the soldier, and Thomas Atkins never plays second fiddle if he can avoid it.

Do our critics think we like doing this job ? If so, never have they made a greater mistake. We want to be hunting and shooting, and enjoying the pleasures of peace—not playing at war. So let's have peace, and the sooner the better.

R. T.

---

THE REST OF THE NEWS.

Our sympathies to the Commanding Officer on the loss of " Lonsdale." We are all glad that the former escaped, with nothing worse than a few bruises. Lonsdale was a well-known figure in the Battalion and had been the Colonel's Charger for the past three or four years.

---

Congratulations to our Boxing team on their overwhelming success in the Brigade Boxing Competition, details of which appear in this issue. The Team also put up an excellent show in the Command Competition at Dublin, being runners up with 47 points to the Lancashire Fusiliers who scored 69. The Welsh Regiment with 39 points were third.

---

Leave is still going strong, some sixty or seventy of the rank and file being away at the moment. Our numbers have greatly decreased owing to the large number of T.X. men who have left this month.

---

Eleven N.C.O.'s and men, when proceeding on leave on the 5th March, were kidnapped off the Rosslave train at Killmacthomas. In view of recent happenings grave anxiety was felt throughout the Battalion on receipt of the news. However, next morning, we heard they had been released and had been well treated during their short period of detention.

---

Congratulations to Col. McDouall on St. Farnham's success ; we hope this is the fore-runner of many more.

---

May we take this opportunity of apologising for the very late arrival of the December *Dragon*. From the time it went to the Printers until its arrival here was close upon two months. We hope our Subscribers will allow for the fact that the Irish War upsets more than the Government.

---

We have still a great number of unsold copies of the June, July, August and September numbers of *The Dragon*. These can be obtained from P.R.I. 1st Battalion, The Buffs, Fermoy, at 6d. a copy or 8d. if postage is required.

---

In the Battalion Bayonet Fencing Cup the position of companies on the 12th March stood as follows. A Company 8 pts., D company 4 pts., C company 2 pts., and B company nil.

---

In the Harris Shield the position is as follows:—

| | Musketry. | Football. | Hockey. | Cricket. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. | 2 | — | 1 | — | 3 points. |
| B. | — | — | — | — | 0 ,, |
| C. | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 3 ,, |
| D. | — | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 ,, |

*(Continued on next page.)*

**With the 1st Battalion at Fermoy**—*Continued.*

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING.

DURING the month of February quite a lot of cross country running took place over various courses, about four miles in length. Some very amusing paper chases, in which Sgt. Cross, L/Cpl. Meakin, Pte. Paul and Dr. Baker were hares, were held, and only on one occasion were the hares caught. During one of these runs the hares laid up in a wood and watched all the field go by. However, two of the runners spotted them, and laid an ambush for them, but they were not caught, and got away. On return to Barracks there was a certain amount of consternation as rumour had it that the hares were ambushed; everyone thinking that it was by our friends the Sein Feiners, but instead it only turned out to be part of the field. The field on all the runs was good. During some of them the starters numbered at least 40 or 50.

---

On March 9th another attempt to get the Regimental running team together was made, but with the usual result that only half could turn out, owing to the state of affairs in Ireland. It is really a hopeless task trying to get any team going, especially in running, where the numbers are rather large, and training must be done as a team as well as individually. Over a dozen attempts have been made to get the whole team out, but not on one single occasion have we been successful. However, it is up to every man to try and keep fit, and turn out as often as possible, so that we may prove to be the winners again this year.

The run was over a fairly easy course of about 6 miles, but a bitterly cold strong wind was blowing at the time, which did not help runners.

The following is a list of the first 20 home :—

1. Sgt. Ravenscroft. 2. Dr. Baker. 3. Pte. Hadlow. 4. Pte. Hogben. 5. Lt. Essell. 6. Pte. Cornwall. 7. Dmr. Harris. 8. L/Cpl. Coleman. 9. Pte. Mallon. 10. L/Cpl. Meakin. 11. Pte. Porter. 12. Sgt. Burt. 13. Pte. Manning. 14. L/Cpl. Mardell. 15. Lt. Oliver. 16. Pte. McLaren. 17. Bdr. Standen. 18. Dmr. Cahill. 19. L/Cpl. Mantle. 20. Pte. Taylor.

We have suddenly heard that the Brigade and Irish Command run will not be taking place this year, owing to the state of the Country, but we are sending a team to Aldershot in April.

---

HOCKEY.

THE hockey ground has been much in use lately, chiefly owing to glorious weather and energy of Company Committees. On one day it was noticed that all four Company's had teams playing. The Harris Shield Matches were played during the month of February. On February 23rd A Company beat B and on February 25th, D beat C.

The finals took place on Friday, March 4th, when A and D Company met, the first half of the game was closely contested, and when the whistle blew the score was 2-1 in favour of D Company. During the second half D Company, however, scored twice more, leaving them the winners with 2 points towards the Harris Shield and A Company 1 point.

---

SERGEANTS' MESS.

OUR "Notes and News" have been conspicuous by their absence for the last couple of months, To bring things up to date I give a short account of the happenings in the Mess since December. First, as to Christmas. Our official dinner was held on Boxing Day and about 36 dining members sat down at a splendidly decorated table, to an excellent dinner. After dinner an impromptu was arranged which carried on without break until closing time Among the items was a splendid exhibition of "bomb throwing" by Gibbo and Bob. The following afternoon the married members' wives and children were entertained to tea, and an enjoyable concert followed in the evening, break-up with "Auld Lang Syne" about 1 a.m.

---

Our New Year's Eve Dance was ably carried out under the supervision of C.S.M. Birrel, D.C.M. and Committee. The Gym. was very tastefully decorated and seldom, if ever, has the stage looked as well as on this occasion. The floor was in excellent condition, but a few more male dancers would have been welcome. We were pleased to note the large percentage of our officers present.

---

Our weekly practice "Jazzes" are carrying on very well, but we should like to see a few more of the single members lose their bashfulness and have a try. Our Whist Drives in the Mess are also well attended, and are looked forward to very much by the non-dancers.

---

The return billiard match with the Corporals was played in the Library. The Corporals put up a better show this time, but were beaten on the aggregate by 110 points. Appended are the scores.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C.S.M. Follett | ... | 232 | Cpl. Cornwall | ... | 250 |
| Sgt. Collins | ... | 249 | L/C. White ... | ... | 250 |
| R.S.M. Martin | ... | 194 | L/C. Meakin | ... | 250 |
| C. Q.M.S. Croucher | | 231 | L/C. Batson | ... | 250 |
| Sgt. Denny | ... | 250 | L/C. Waller ... | ... | 177 |
| Sgt. Mullen | ... | 250 | L/C. Easton | ... | 189 |
| R. Q.M.S. Martin | ... | 250 | Cpl. Edwards | ... | 211 |
| C. Q.M.S. Kelly | ... | 250 | L/C. Gurton | ... | 219 |

Grand Totals—Sergeants, 1906. Corporals, 1796.

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During January we had about 8 W.O.'s and Sgts. of the A.S.C. attached to us, jolly good fellows too. We regret that they are leaving us to open their own Mess, but look forward to some happy times with them in the future. Their places have been partially filled by our new "Chips," Sgt. South from the R.E.'s, Sgt. Ludeman from Dover, and Sgt. Acres from The Depot.

We soon got Chips to work on a "wooden spoon" for our shoots, the first of these being held during February. Grouping, Application, Snap-shooting, and kneeling were the four practices. The winner of the silver spoon was R.S.M. Martin with a score of 62, and the winner of the wooden ditto Sgt. Wilson with a score of 10. Other scores were as follows :—C.S.M. McWacter 59, Sgt. Mullen 55, Sgt. Collins and C. Q.M.S. Croucher 50, C.S.M. Follett, 48, C. Q.M.S. Kelly 40, Sgt. Hills 39, Sgt. McNew 36, Sgt. Clarke 35, C.S.M. Goodwin 34, C.S.M. Dixon 33, Q.M.S. Evans 32, Sgt. Parks 30, Sgt. Real 29, C. Q.M.S. Cross 21, Sgt. Grainger 16.

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Congratulations to Sgt. Truly (Charlie) on his marriage; to Waxy on the birth of a son and heir; and to Jack Cross on his addition to the Cross Country Running Team!

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COMPANY NEWS AND NOTES.

A COMPANY.

DURING this month we have played much hockey. Our first match for the Harris Shield was against "B" Company; this ended in a win for us by 4-0. Our next match, unfortunately was not so successful as we were beaten by "D" Company. The following played :—

Lieut. Essell, QM.S. Martin, Q.M.S. Evans, C.S.M.I. Dixon, Sergt. Burville, L/Cpl. Meakin, Pte. Urry, Pte. Wellard, Pte. Perry, Bdr. Fox and Bdr. Collins.

*(Continued on next page.)*

**With the 1st Battalion ut Fermoy**—*Continued.*

In the Bayonet Fencing League we have played three matches and won all—an excellent start which we hope will continue. The following have fought :— Lieut. Spear, R.S.M. Martin, C.S.M.I. Dixon, C. Q.M.S. Cross, Sergt. Amos, Cpl. Taylor, Cpl. Bell, L/Cpl. Meakin, Pte. Paul, Pte. Baldwin and Pte. Friday.

In the Brigade Boxing Competition held during this month the Company was well represented by Lieut. Case, Cpl. Bell, Dr. Clements, Pte. Freedman, Pte. Woolhead, Pte. Simons, Pte. Enington, Pte. Solly and Boy Hardy ; all of whom fought exceedingly well. We must not forget a coming champion Boy Martin, the son of R. Q.M.S.

Our congratulations to C. Q.M.S. Cross, on being presented with a son, who, we hear rumours, has already commenced training for the Cross Country run in 1940.

We welcome Colonel Lucas who has once more returned and taken over command of the Company.

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B COMPANY.

The task of a company correspondent is not very easy at the moment. The old *Dragon* seems to have got a month or two ahead of us and one is left rather in a quandary as to how much to record of our doings of the last three months. The start, however, is easy as it takes the form of extending our best congratulations to Pte. and Mrs. Emery on the birth of their daughter on the 25th February.

On the 16th February we of the Mitchelstown detachment arrived back in Fermoy. A few days later we lost 13 two-year enlisted men, and in addition L/C's Howe, Holmes, and Thompson, and Ptes. Routh, Revell, Cox, Hamence and Mulley. To all of these the best of luck, and may we all foregather some day at one of the Regimental Annual re-unions.

Captain J. B. Sharp has returned to us from Hospital, and Sergts. Ludeman and Acres have joined us from the Depot. In regard to promotions, congratulations to Sgt. Collins, promoted to Warrant rank, Corp. Bennett to L/Sgt., and Pte. Bradbury and Bandsmen Wyles to L/Cpls.

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In hockey we are suffering from many of our best players having left us. Capt. Sharp's return to the side is a great asset, and Bandsman Marshall is playing a brilliant game. We lost to A Company in the Harris Shield, love 4. In the friendly games we lost to C, but avenged ourselves later by defeating them by 3-1, Lieut. Webster scoring all three goals.

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We congratulate Bdn. Fearon, Dmr. Baker, and Boy Wylie on their displays in the recent Battalion " Boxing Contest, and Bdn. Fearon, Pte. Orslet and Bdr. Butler on their inclusion in the Battalion Boxing team for the All-Ireland Championships.

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It is with deep regret that we announce the accidental death of one of our youngest members, Dmr. J. Pettman, at Castletown-roche on the 15th February. At the time of his death he was acting as Drummer to the " D " Company detachment.

The body of the deceased was escorted to Fermoy Military Hospital, and conducted by a firing party supplied by B Company to Fermoy Station, where the Buglers sounded " The Last Post " and " The Reveille." The body was conducted to the home of his parents and floral tributes were sent by " B " Company, all ranks " the Band and Drums," and by " D " Company detachment at Castletown-roche.

Drummer Pettman was born at Margate on the 16th May, 1904, enlisted at Canterbury for training as Drummer for the 1st Battalion on 28th February, 1919, being posted to the 3rd Battalion at Cork on 2nd April, 1919.

He was the son of Mr. A. E. Pettman, Amhurst, New Romney, Kent.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his parents and relatives in their sad loss.

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C COMPANY.

Since my last notes Boxing has been uppermost in the field of Sport. In the Regimental Tournament, as will be seen from the results published on another page, C Company's representatives rendered an excellent account of themselves.

This tournament gave us a good chance of picking the Regimental team for the 16th Infantry Brigade Tournament, a full report of which you no doubt have.

In this tournament we were well represented as we had Sgt. Gibson who met and defeated Corpl. Hexton of the Lincolns in one round. Gibson was our only representative in the Regimental team, but we had several others in the individual competitions. Corpl. Revington in the " Middles " put up a good fight with Pte. Clements, but was beaten on points after 3 rounds. The fight between Sgt. Foote and Pte. Sheehan in the " Feathers " proved to be rather disappointing. This was won by the latter on points. This left Sheehan in the final with Pte. Woolhead of A Company. This proved to be a very good contest. Sheehan was giving away a lot of weight and lost after 3 rounds on points.

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D COMPANY.

The beginning of February saw our football victory against C Company in the final match for the Harris Shield. It was a great and furious match, and the furious side of it remained unabated for some time after the whistle had gone. Pte. Minns scored the only goal of the match thereby bringing to us the two points towards the Shield. Our football record for the season for inter-company League and Harris Shield matches was Matches played 8, won 6, Drawn 2, Lost nil., Goals for 26 ; goals against 7.

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In the Inter-Company Bayonet Fighting League we have taken up our arms, masks, and gadgets and sallied forth to meet C whom we defeated by 5 fights to 3, B whom we disposed of in the same manner, and lastly A who seeing the nasty look in our faces, immediately proceeded to chase us off the field by a well-earned victory.

No sooner had this happened when one of the " Angels of Mons " breathed the word Hockey in our midst, whereupon we rolled up our sleeves and armed ourselves with more " gadgets " and entered upon a practice game resembling an all night sitting in an Irish House of Parliament. Our sticks, shins, and gadgets having stood the test we lined up against C in the inter-company knock out for the Harris Shield, and, after an excellent game defeated them 7 love. Ultimately we met A in the final and had our revenge for the way they put it across us in the Bayonet Fencing. After a great game we beat them 3-1, thereby gaining another two points for the Harris Shield.

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In the Regimental Boxing show we had a few entries from this Company. Sgt. Real and Pte. Griffiths gave us a fine exhibition of " Dungarven " fighting. Ptes. Woollard and Waghorn, through an error, had to fight in the open contest instead of in the novices, but they put up a very good fight. Cpl. Cornwall and Pte. Gowan also made a good show. Sgt. Real was one of the Battalion Boxing Team in the Brigade Boxing Tournament. He gave an excellent performance on both nights, and greatly assisted our success.

# Kent Cricket Prospects.

By Col. The Right Hon. Lord Harris (late Captain of the Kent XI.)

I AM sure that Buffs wherever quartered keep an eye on the doings of the "Kent Eleven," and they may like to know what the prospects of the coming Season are; "fur in Kent as you know dere be many a lad as is famous for Bat, Ball or Wicket," and the Regiment is still, I hope, as it was when I studied recruiting systems more closely than I do now, mainly dependent on the County and especially East Kent for its Recruits.

Of this I once had a most vivid and gratifying proof. When I was Governor of Bombay, I went in 1894 to Lahore to The Viceroy, The Earl of Elgin's Durbar. One Battalion of The Buffs was there. I was invited to dine in Mess one night, and when the carriage arrived at the entrance to their camp the men were there in their shirt sleeves; had the horses out and ran me up to the Mess Tent with a most cordial and neighbourly welcome. There was hardly a Kent man amongst the officers, but 80% of the men were from East Kent, and knew me by reputation, such as it was, as a cricketer.

But to our prospects. We have the same men as last year; all a year older, which tells both ways. The older ones will not be more active; the younger will have more experience; and we may get some help from the nursery. But it would be unreasonable to expect the pupils to develop into County players, in the second year after their selection. It takes some years to make players of the first class; or rather players who are capable of becoming first class after a little experience of the tricks of the best County bowlers. Occasionally you drop on a genius; poor Charley Blythe was one; He was a first class bowler from the start, but as a rule cricket pupils take several years coaching. Fielder for instance, developed into a fast bowler of very high class, but it took some years of assiduous practice.

Our bowling is excellent on slow wickets, but we need someone with more pace than Collins, and rather more accuracy than Mr. Stanley Cornwallis to help us along in the good and fast wickets. The latter seemed to me in 1920 to have improved in accuracy since the previous year, and he may go further yet, but it is very difficult for a soldier to play first class cricket, because the active soldiering season is the same as the Cricket Season. Although an officer may be able to get leave for one or two days matches, it is very difficult for him to do so for many County Matches. We are compelled therefore to look about for some one on whom we can depend with regularity, and it is too soon to say that we have as yet anyone coming on to take Fielder's place. Fairservice we may be sure will bowl as steadily as ever, but on the easy wickets, clever as he is in variation of pace, he has not pace enough. Freeman has improved enormously. In 1919 he was depending too much on the break, and not enough on pitch, consequently the batsman could place the bad pitched balls either side of the wicket, to the despair of the Captain. But in 1920 he developed great accuracy in the pitch, and even on the easiest wickets the best batsman had to be most cautious in playing him.

I doubt if we shall have a stronger bowling side in '21 than in '20, and though the above two and Woolley are a splendid stand by for the Captain, I fear we cannot expect, if we have a majority of dry wicket matches, to do much better than in 1920. But we ought to be well satisfied with that, for we did very well, and if the running between wickets had been of the trained order, which it ought to be in a County Eleven, instead of an almost elementary character, we should have been very high up in the Championship list.

There is no need to say anything about the batting. We have in Kent a plethora of good bats, amateur and professional. The difficulty is which to choose. I don't envy Colonel Troughton in his difficult task, and he will probably have to be guided by public performance, which means, not merely brilliance, but nerve and consistency. Of two things we may be quite sure, even in this most uncertain of all games. One that our Eleven will play a good game, of which their supporters will not be ashamed and two, that they will play it in the best traditions of the game.

## Wanted—A Slogan.

COLONEL John Body, D.S.O., commanding the 5th Battalion, is a staunch supporter of *The Dragon*. He sent in a request for no less than a hundred copies of our last issue, each to be supplied with an order form. These he has circulated in this district in the hope of obtaining another hundred subscribers. There are perhaps others who might see their way to helping on similar lines.

"A" Company, The Depot, unanimously decided last month that every men in the company would purchase a copy of the paper.

A reader suggests that we should bring out show cards and a double crown poster for display in ship windows, drill halls, village club rooms and notice boards, etc. His belief is that many of our supporters would give us a hand in getting these shown in prominent places.

Now we are on to this like a knife, but our trouble is what to put on the poster? Can anyone help us with a striking slogan or catch phrase? "The Buffs own paper"; "Every Buff should have a copy," are a couple of suggestions put to us, but we want something with more grip in it, and more orginal. We invite our readers. (a) To help us with a good catch phrase, (b) To tell us how many posters or show cards they can arrange to have displayed in their village, town, or district. A prize of one guinea is offered for the best suggestion for the former.

All this of course opens up endless possibilities of increasing our circulation. Probably there are quite a number of old Buffs or others who might like to act as agents for the paper. The names and addresses of these could be stated on the poster or show cards appearing in their village, town or district, and a supply of the paper could be sent to them on sale or return. We invite those interested to drop us a line.

Any other suggestions towards increasing our circulation would be welcome. We want to add another four pages, have at least a page of photographs, and give our advertisers a return for their money. Until we reach the 5,000 mark, which is by no means the case yet, this simply can not be done.

**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
**High Class Photograghers,**
**Canterbury.**
**Tel. 21 X.**

# On Column Duty in Mesopotamia.

IT is February 6th, and the 2nd Btn. is more or less settled down at Kirkuk. The fact that "education" begins again next week is a sure sign. We actually arrived here on January 30th after seven weeks wandering in the Wilderness.

Kirkuk from a distance looks quite picturesque. The town is on a fairly high mound with a low range of hills round it, over which one catches glimpses of big snow clad peaks. The Fort, an old Turkish Barrack, and now ours, is imposing from the outside but somewhat terrible within. It forms a most quaint form of residence built in a square with a Mosque in the centre, with arches all over the place. The rooms on the ground floor are not too well ventilated, and rather dark; the upper floor is better lighted and more airy. The whole place in fact reminds one very much of the lower casemates in Dover Citadel, though much dirtier and lower.

Investment in carpets seems to be the correct thing to do. The leaders of this movement are Major Norman and Bandmaster Hewitt. If one wants to be looked up to, you must first inspect the carpets and rub them over with the flat of the hand, then turn them over and then repeat these movements several times with an occasional shake of the head.

Before our arrival a column under command of Col. Trevor, consisting of A C and D Companies, The Buffs under Col. Potter, two troops 32nd Lancers, one section Mountain Battery, detachments of Sappers and Miners and Supply and Transport Corps was sent out from Headquarters. All transport consisted of pack animals. The weather luckily kept fine. And there was no fighting though we were well prepared. Two shots were in fact fired, one hero letting off his rifle whilst loading, another shooting a dog which barked at him, whereas a well-aimed stone would have driven him off howling.

The operations consisted of visiting certain villages which had not paid their fines. The local Sheikhs had fled, so we contented ourselves by searching for arms, ammunition, and Government property, and destroying the local Sheikhs dwellings. C Company were well to the fore in this destruction and became quite adept at knocking down houses some of which were found to be strongly built.

The last house destroyed consisted of the owner's living room, guest chamber, mosque, gate-house, servants quarters, and cattle sheds all of which were surrounded by a high wall. There were five places in the middle of the room with a hole in the roof for the smoke, somewhat similar though on a smaller scale to the castle of mediaeval times.

At the end of the operations we struck bad weather, and our march from Tuz to Kirkuk, a distance of 60 miles was very trying.

It feels bitterly cold here to us, though really the weather is lovely; (except of course when it chooses to misbehave); real bright sunshine, and one wears a cap all day long. At night there being no fireplaces, and fuel of all descriptions, except oil, being very scarce it is difficult with a smelling oil stove to warm the room.

Our actual destination is in Kurdistan, 23 miles from the Turkish border as the crow flies. With us at the moment are the 33rd Lancers on their way to India, 15th Sikhs, detachments of the 113th Infantry and a Mountain Battery. Daniel's tomb is supposed to be close by, also those of Shedrach and Meschach. The Fiery Furnace is also only five miles away. This takes the form of a natural oil well which if a match be dropped into it will burn for days and days.

There is a great variety of bird life to keep us company—the robin, starling, sparrow, stork, red-start, water wagtail, and the ordinary hawks and crows which we get in India all being plentiful.

A description of Mespot as given by one of the rank and file is as follows: "Miles, and miles, and miles, and miles—and then damn all," and it is one perhaps which with many will agree.

We hear rumours that the draft has arrived in Basra. We can do with more men as the strength of the Battalion is gradually diminishing with the calls made upon it from outside.

### Major Norman and a Ford Car.

Our news would not be complete without the story of Major Norman who, on his way to rejoin us, volunteered whilst at Baghdad to bring up with him two lakhs of rupees. The beginning of his journey was made by train accompanied by an escort of one Havildar and six men. At Kinjubah, the rail head, a Ford car was provided him. His description of his trip was something as follows:—

"The behaviour of the old car was like something gone mad. It suffered from every known complaint from burst tyres, choked carburetter, cracked cylinders, and gastric flu. Time after time we were hung up, and you can imagine my feeling stranded on the veldt of an enemy country for a night with no escort and a couple of lakhs of rupees as a pillow. The limit arrived when we struck a river, in the middle of which we were stuck for a couple of hours until we obtained a couple of mules to drag us out. Yes, I agree with the description of Mespot given in our Battalion News."

### Sergeants' Mess in a Dungeon.

The story of the 2nd Battalion up to January 6th was told in your last issue. To continue, our train journey from Kut to Kingerban via Bagdad was a very monotonous affair. Had it not been for one of our members missing the train at Sumar and causing some amusement by his endeavours to catch it, it would have passed without event. The scenery was rotten and the accommodation worse. At Kingerban we again went into Camp.

It was first intended that the Battalion should move up to Kirkuk in echelons, a distance of 85 miles, a part of the way by motor lorry and the remainder by march route. The rains however set in and made the drifts unfordable by cars, and eventually Head Quarters and A C and D Companies were detailed to join a column operating in the Daudi territory north of Kifri.

This column started on 19th January leaving about 50 men under the command of Captain Jackson to take the remains of the Battalion's baggage by march route to Kirkuk. This latter party left Kingerban on 23rd January and arrived at Kirkuk on 29th, having been delayed by rain (roads impassable) at Tazah for three days.

Now we have a Mess again, and Oh! What a Mess! We heard good accounts of this place while we were at Multan, but never expected to find it as we did. A veritable dungeon it is, and must at one time have been used for the confinement of prisoners. Still we hope ere these lines reach you to have made vast improvements, and that the next account of our doings will be more favourable.

### Corporals and A Bath-House.

The poltical expedition referred to in our Battalion news, in which six villages were raided and the houses of the head-men of each village burned, was by no means a picnic, and we were all glad when on January 23rd we

*Continued on next Page.*

**On Column Duty in Mesopotamia**—*continued.*

reached Tuz, the first rest camp on the Kingerban—Kirkuk road.

Even then our trials and tribulations were not ended as owing to the inclemency of the weather it took us seven days to make the ordinarily three days journey to Kirkuk.

The first thing on arrival was to look for the Corporals' Mess. We are still looking and have not found it yet. The Battalion whom we have relieved had a Corporals' Room over the bath house. At least we thought it was a bath-house but afterwards found out that it was a place of worship for the Turks who at one time occupied this Fort. It is quite possible that we shall monoplise this room for our own use ; but in our next issue we shall probably be able to give an idea and an impression of our " Den."

B COMPANY ESCORT HEAVY BAGGAGE.

It was the lot of B Company to escort the heavy baggage straight to Kirkuk whilst the remainder of the Battalion were on column duty. We had a bit of a moan at being left out of the latter stunt, but smiled when we discovered that practically all that happened was a lot of extra marching, getting wet through two or three times, in as many days, fording rivers, and marching in rain, on ground that was nothing but mud.

On our march up with the baggage we did 24 miles the 1st day, 21 the second, 16 the 3rd, and 13 the 4th, staying at a rest camp each night. The march became very monotonous, as there was not a tree or blade of grass to be seen, except when we came to a village, —just barren waste with hills in the distance. The leading two platoons were fortunate in having fine weather, but 5 and 8 platoons were held up two days by rain, the rivers being in flood.

The Company has now settled down in their old Turkish fort, which is something like the Citadel at Dover, only much worse.

There being no newspapers the deficiency is made up by numerous rumours such as " Evacuation of Mesopotamia in three months' time," " Mespot to be a two year station ; " " Bolsheviks arriving in the summer ; " " Going to Mosul in a few months' time ; " and a whole host of others which provide topics of conversation, to say nothing of much amusement and endless argument.

As a final note there is a certain amount of debility and loss of appetite in the company, owing to the almost complete absence of " Good old British Bitter."

C COMPANY AS ADVANCE GUARD.

On January 19th we left Kingirban with a column which was on a political expedition. " C " Company acted as Advance Guard which was commanded by our own Company Commander, Capt. G. F. Hamilton. Throughout the five days operations " C " Company was very hard worked. It was our duty to raid the various villages and search them, and generally assist the Sappers and Miners in their work of destruction of the houses of the head men of each village. It was amusing to see our men lined up against walls, and pushing heartily to the time given by Cpl. Kemp. Needless to say they were successful every time, in turning these walls into masses of debris.

On Sunday, January 23rd our work of demolition being completed we marched into Tuz, and headed for Kirkuk the following day and owing to the weather found ourselves let in for a seven days' march which should only have been three. Our Platoon again caught it hot, or rather cold, in having to cross a river waist deep whilst on baggage guard. The short men got their neck's washed, but such men as L/C. Vale and L/C. Wilson informed us that it did not reach their knees. The remainder of the Company were more fortunate, for in order to avoid what well might have become a tragedy, they were brought over on carts. Now we are at Kirkuk and stationed in an old Turkish Fort. We are sanguine enough to hope that our stay in Mesopotamia will not be of long duration. But whatever the period our readers can be sure, that C Company will retain the finest and best of its old traditions.

DRAFT TO MESOPOTAMIA.

News has been received of the draft which left Canterbury on the 22nd February to join the 2nd Battalion. S.S. " Main " in which they sailed from Southampton was carrying a large number of Troops. In consequence the deck space for games was somewhat limited. However, Boxing and Tug-of-War helped to beguile the monotony of the voyage.

The following entered for the Boxing Bantams : L/Cpl. Letts, Pte. Coxhall, Pte. Dunk and Pte. Galpin. Feathers : Pte. Norris, Pte. Lee and Pte. Watts. Lightweights : Pte. Terry and Pte. Bones. Cruiserweights : Pte. Hazell.

Pte. Hazell was in the Final. His first fight was full of incident. He slipped in the second round and fell on his head upon the deck. He was very nearly up when his opponent struck him again. The offence was repeated after a caution and the fight was awarded to Hazell. Norris and Watts also shaped well.

In the Tug-of-war the Draft team was outweighed although Acting C.S.M. Geard proved a tower of strength as " Anchor-Man." The " Main " called at Gibraltar and later at Malta where some had an opportunity of visiting Valetta.

**Colours carried through Dover.**

The 4th Battalion of the Buffs' colours were brought to Dover the first week in March, when a recruiting march was held round the town by " D " Company. This Company is already the strongest in the battalion and one of, if not the strongest in Kent. With it are the drums and machine gun detachment of the Battalion. The parade was under the command of Captain L. Smith ; other officers present being Lieut. G. D. Bacon, M.C., Lieut. Berrett and Lieut. J. Sherwood. The colours were carried by Lieut. Sherwood and Lieut. Bacon, the colour escort being C.S.M. Barron, Sergeant Pott and Sergeant March. The Company were splendidly turned out. On the following day the colours were taken to Folkestone.

## REMINISCENCES.

IN the mind of each of those who have ever served in Regiment, there must be some incident of regimental life which stands out above all others.

THAT these reminiscences would make striking, interesting, and no doubt in many instances amusing reading for *The Dragon* there can be no possible doubt, and we invite the co-operation of our readers of all ranks towards setting this feature going.

MANUSCRIPT should not exceed 600 words in length, and should be written or typed, on one side of the paper only. Photographs or sketches to accompany same will be welcomed. Every care will be taken of the latter, and in each instance they will be safely returned.

# Another Great Recruiting Effort.

## 4th Battalion take the Lead.

ANOTHER strenuous recruiting effort. Though at the moment results seem poor we are hopeful that the good seed sown during the week will yield a satisfactory crop of recruits in the near future. We have been most generously supported by the Depot staff and band, The Mayor and Dr. Bremner (Territorial Representative for Canterbury), and a strong local recruiting committee, whilst the untiring efforts of Major Howard Smith, Captain H. G. James, and Capt. Keeler have added to the success of the scheme.

The week opened with a dance at which nearly four hundred dancers took the floor.

On Tuesday evening, headed by the Depot Band, the three Territorial Units paraded the City, halting at the Butter Market, Cattle Market, Broad Street, and Wincheap Green. Excellent stirring appeals were made at each of these stations by Major Kingsford, late 4th Buffs, and Corpl., but now, Sergt. Taylor.

Thursday evening was marked by a Grand Bohemian Concert, kindly arranged by Mr. Elam under the chairmanship of Dr. Bremner, and supported by Lt.-Col. Dunstan, Commanding 4th Buffs; Major Howard Smith, Adjutant, and the officers of the Canterbury Territorial units. A large audience testified its appreciation of the excellent talent provided, and the powerful recruiting speech delivered by Capt. King of the British Empire Union.

On Saturday evening the units again paraded with the Depot Band and marched through the main streets of the city. At each halt eloquent appeals were made to large crowds by the Mayor, Dr. Bremner, and other members of the Recruiting Committee.

The final demonstration took place on Sunday afternoon, when the combined units with the colours and Band of the Buffs marched to the Cathedral. The Dean inspected at the conclusion of the service and warmly congratulated all ranks on the results so far attained in the reconstruction of the second line in Canterbury.

So far, so good. But we have as yet succeeded in nothing more than the foundation upon which we must raise the superstructure of devoted service. These are difficult days, but we dare to look ahead with courage and confidence, believing that a sustained and continuous effort will revive that old true spirit of patriotism, and devotion, which seems for the moment dormant, and educate our younger generation in the first principles of Citizenship and Imperialism. Our men are true at heart and will respond, as the appeal reaches them individually. This is the task which we must now set ourselves to accomplish, and is the key to that success which we desire to achieve.

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### The Lighter Side.

A small boy, watching one of the marches, being puzzled at the unusual spectacle, was heard to observe to a friend.

"Look! We have won the war in Ireland." What hopes!!!

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Who was it that asserted in the Butter Market, that the first Military Crime on record occurred through a private of the Buffs appearing on parade before Agincourt with a rusty bow?

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Who says the 4th Buffs cannot play football after last Thursday's match. Result—Buffs Depot 14, Territorials Nil.

### The Leading Figures.

As already stated the 4th Battalion recruiting results are the best in their Division. Appended below are their leading figures which have been considerably added to since their receipt.

| "A" Company. Hd. Qrs. Margate. | |
|---|---|
| Margate ... ... ... ... ... ... | 44 |
| Ramsgate ... ... ... ... ... ... | 36 |
| Birchington ... ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Total ... | 83 |

| "B" Company. Hd. Qrs. Canterbury. | |
|---|---|
| Canterbury ... ... ... ... ... ... | 84 |
| Herne Bay ... ... ... ... ... ... | 27 |
| Chartham ... ... ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| Wingham ... ... ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| Total | 125 |

| "C" Company. Hd. Qrs. Sittingbourne. | |
|---|---|
| Sittingbourne ... ... ... ... ... | 19 |
| Whitstable ... ... ... ... ... ... | 25 |
| Total | 44 |

| "D" Company. Hd. Qrs. Dover. | |
|---|---|
| Dover ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 125 |
| Folkestone ... ... ... ... ... ... | 25 |
| Total | 150 |
| Total strength of Battalion ... ... ... | 402 |

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### Fine Response at Folkestone.

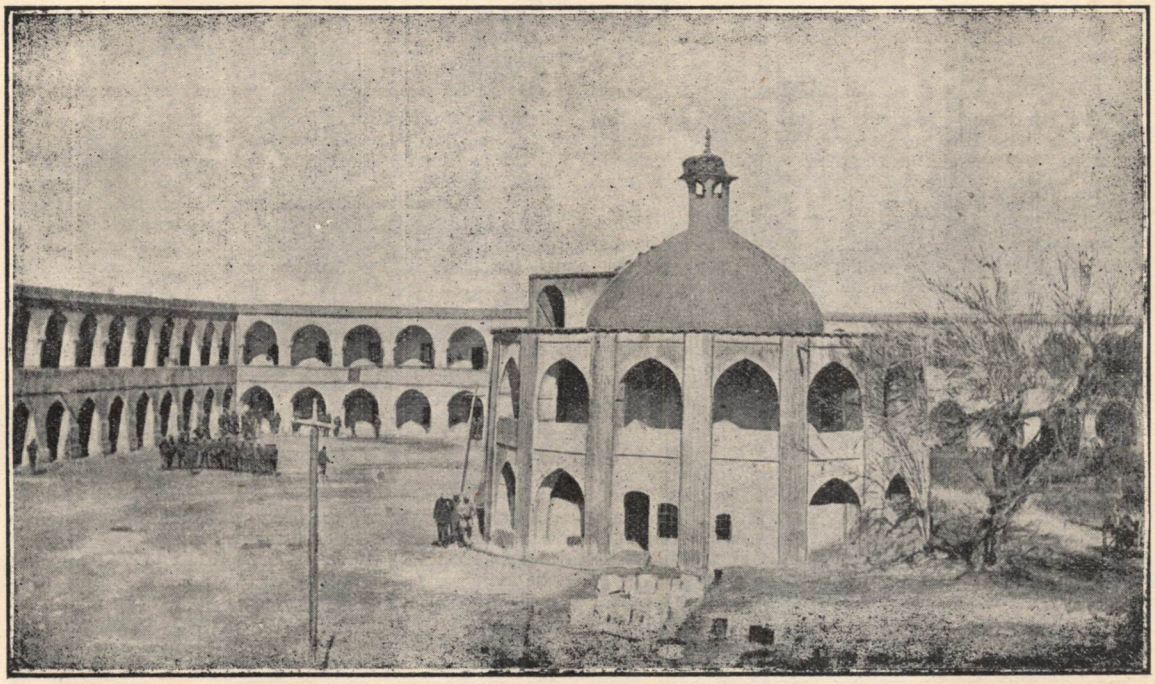
Folkestone was the last important town in which recruiting began and, although no start was made until February 14th, the local Detachment of "D" Company is now nearly fifty strong. Sec.-Lieut. John Moss is in command and he is ably supported by Coy. Sgt.-Major Adams who recently came from the 1st Battalion.

A Re-union Smoking Concert and Recruiting Rally has been held in the Drill Hall at which the old Commanding Officer, Col. Graham Gosling, O.B.E., T.D., presided. Thanks to the generosity of a number of friends ample refreshment was provided for the 300 to 400 men who were present. An excellent musical programme had been arranged and was greatly appreciated. When Col. Gosling appealed for recruits there was an immediate response and over thirty came forward.

There were several speeches which were strictly rationed to five minutes each. Alderman F. Hall, J.P., expressed the regret of Sir Philip Sassoon, Bart., C.M.G., M.P., and of the Mayor of Folkestone at their inability to be present and spoke as a member of the Folkestone Corporation. Major-General Sir Herbert Raitt, K.I.E., who formerly commanded a Territorial Division, presented the 1914 Star to C.S.M. Adams. In an interesting speech he recalled that his earliest days in the Service were associated with the 2nd Battalion "The Buffs" when that Battalion was commanded by Sir Charles Pearson. He appealed particularly to the old members of the Company to come back for a time to give their valuable services in teaching the young soldiers their duty.

Lieut.-Col. F. Mainwaring Dunstan, Commanding 4th Battalion "The Buffs" said that as a result of this effort at Folkestone the 4th Battalion was at the head of the Division in recruiting.

*(Continued on page 47).*



KIRKUK BARRACKS, MESOPOTAMIA.

## An Auction of Kit.

BY PRIVATE J. B. SPICER, 1ST BATT. THE BUFFS.

AN Auction Sale of a dead comrade's Kit is one of the most interesting, pathetic, and sometimes amusing events that occur occasionally in the Army.

The President of the Sale has many ingenious methods of increasing the bidding when it appears to flag, and he and the company Quarter-Master Sergeant generally have the pleasure of announcing the sale a success.

The sale usually takes place in a barrack room or, if the weather is fine, on the barrack square.

The articles for sale are arrayed in front of the table at which the President and Members are seated.

Everything in order, the sale then commences. A pair of Trousers are the object of much discussion.

"Ten Shillings!" bids one Tommy.

"Fifteen!" bids another.

"Seventeen!" yet another.

"Twenty!" comes a voice from the rear.

"Twenty-five!" says one in front.

"Going! Going! G——."

"Twenty-six!"

"That's right, you would interrupt!" remarks the President. This remark has the desired effect, and at forty nine shillings the President completes the Sale and the Quartermaster Serjeant enters the buyer's name and Company.

In a recent Sale in a Battalion abroad, the President asked the bidders to bid sixpence more each time, and thus, a tooth brush valued at sixpence fell to the hammer at fourteen shillings and sixpence.

A set of brushes realised forty-seven shillings after the bidding had waned considerably at nine shillings and sixpence through the President remarking that he was certain he could see three bristles in one of them.

In some cases articles are returned to the President with the remark that they may be offered again for auction.

Through the large heartedness of the British Tommy his comrade's kit, nominally worth ten to fifteen pounds, sometimes realises thirty-five to forty pounds. The purchasers have the satisfaction of possessing articles which recall memories of their late comrades.

## Handicaps.

[*At a recent Trades Exhibition of men's wear it was observed that golfing attire for the forthcoming season was to be vivid in colouring and design.*]

PHYLLIS, when soon in mortal combat we engage
Upon the stricken links next Summer,
I shall discard the simple tweeds of Harris
And wear a new *confection* straight from Paris.
Feeling quite fit to tackle any comer
Even the longest driver from The Stage.

Too long have I in heather mixtures strutted
Hitting short balls, with clothes of quiet hue,
While you in mirthful scorn cried out to Heaven
To witness that I did the hole in seven
Because my dazzled gaze had strayed towards you
Enraptured by your jumper as I putted.

But now my sporting coats will be of yellows,
With stripes of mauve and green to give them tone.
And just to lend distinction to my figure
I think I'll have my old plus fours dyed nigger.
Nor think in these departures I'M alone;
They're contemplated now by other fellows.

So, when you find the strokes I always give you
Are more than counterbalanced by my kit,
Perhaps you'll feel disposed to scoff much less
At least you'll find some interest in my dress.
And talk shall be of matching as we sit
After the round, sipping the homely brew.

S. J. F. M.

# The Mug.

By A. A. Thomson.

[*With acknowledgements to the Ex-Service Man.*]

NOW that the great Peace has killed and eaten the Press Bureau, I may tell you where I bought the mug. You remember the Mesopotamian scandals? Well, I was one of them. About a week before I came home my sister wrote to me.

"I am directed to inform you that you are detailed as god-father (acting unpaid) to my youngest son, Rosslyn Douglas. You will report with christening mug to this office forthwith. For your information and aggravation, please."

That was the main idea of the letter, so I bought a mug in Bagdad. It was a delicate little piece of china with Arabs and jackals chasing each other round the handle. Of course, it had been made on Mr. Arnold Bennett's estate, but one doesn't worry about a thing like that. It was *boughê* in Bagdad.

I put it in my *dispatche* case, and carrying it at the short, short trail, set out on the long, long trail for home. On the boat, it never went into the hold with the rest of my kit. I have my own ideas as to what happens to officers' kit on board a troopship. I believe that gangs of coolies work in shifts day and night hammering it with axes and mallets. A smaller gang play upon it with a hose to soak it thoroughly, and a ripping and tearing section—armed, apparently, with bill-hooks—pay special attention to kit-bags and valises. I cannot otherwise account for the state of my belongings when I reached Egypt. Everything seemed to have been put through a succession of mangles. But the mug was not broken.

We were hung up for a few days in an Egyptian rest camp among the flies and pyramids and things, and to this rest camp a couple of camels were attached for rations and discipline. It appears that they were not getting plenty of rations and did not see why they should have any discipline. So they mutinied, threw their drivers across the Suez Canal, and made for my tent. I escaped with my life, but the camels evidently intended to make a night of it. They fox-trotted on the tent till it ceased tabernacularly to exist and jazzed a camelious jazz upon its contents. Every article bore the marks of their hooves or paws or whatever you call the funny things at the outside end of camels' legs. When they had been arrested by the authorities, I hurried back to the ruins. My *dispatche* case resembled a concertina of the later Byzantine period, but the mug was not broken.

There were very few cabins on the Mediterranean boat, and everyone below the rank of Major-general had to set up his bed on deck, piling his wordly goods around him. This was satisfactory until the ship began to go through the more advanced tables of the Physical Training Course. I don't mind pitching; I don't mind rolling, but this ship had a complicated corkscrew combination of the two that brought (say) one's heart into one's mouth. I awoke one morning to find the ship attempting to sit on its propeller and to see my *dispatche* case sliding towards the rail. With a loud plop it fell overboard.

"Dispatches!" I shouted.

"I'll get 'em, sir," said a brawny sailor-man who was polishing a capstan or something near by. He dived straight in, and swam after the floating case. But the rescue was not to be so easy, for a gigantic dog-fish rose to the surface and raced for the prize, the dog-fish won by a short fin, but the gallant seaman seized the case with one hand, drew his jack-knife with the other, and with the other he—— No, I'm getting mixed. Anyhow, he brought it—the case I mean, not his third hand—safely on board amid the cheers of the ship's company. He probably felt that in saving my "dispatches" he had averted a European catastrophe. I wrote a letter recommending him for the O.B.E., which was rather a dirty trick, for, after all, the poor fellow was only doing his duty. I threw the mangled remains of the case to the disappointed dog-fish, but the mug was not broken. I found a new resting-place for it in my steel helmet.

I arrived safely in Italy and started on the long railway journey across Europe. At a small wayside station I got down to bargain with the natives for some wine and eggs. (Italian is a very easy language. All you have to do is to talk English and put *onio* at the end of each word.) As I descended from the carriage, my helmet with its precious contents fell through the doorway on to the line. Immediately, the train began to shunt and passed straight over it. I rushed to gather up the fragments. The helmet was rolled out like a strip of dough, but the mug was not broken. I stroked it reverently and packed it in the inmost recesses of my valise.

The French coast was reached at last, and all luggage was stacked in a shed on the pier. When I went to see about getting my things on to the Channel boat, I found the man whose valise was next to mine fumbling feverishly among the baggage.

"I hope you don't mind," he said apologetically, "but there's a Hun bomb in my valise and I've got to give it up to the Ordnance. I don't quite understand the mechanism, and perhaps—— Look out! It' fizzing!"

We were out of that shed before you could say Heath Robinson. A blinding roar went up behind us. Later on we found the dismal wreck of two valises, tattered and burnt to cinders, but the mug was not broken.

I crossed the Channel without mishap, South Westerned up to London and presented myself at my sister's house, "Sans Six Sous," in Highstead. I was ushered into the nursery and formally introduced to my fat nephew.

"Goo!" said Rosslyn Douglas, which (as his fond mother explained) meant "Good evening, uncle. I trust you have had a pleasant journey and are refreshed after your arduous campaigns."

"Goo!" I returned, which of course meant "Here's your christening mug, you little monkey. and a deuce of a bother I've had, bringing it six thousand miles."

I formally handed him the trophy. He turned it round in his tiny paw and hurled it on the floor. It disseminated into a million fragments. The mug (so to speak) was broken.

I said—I said—well, what would you have said?

### Stirring Events in Ireland.

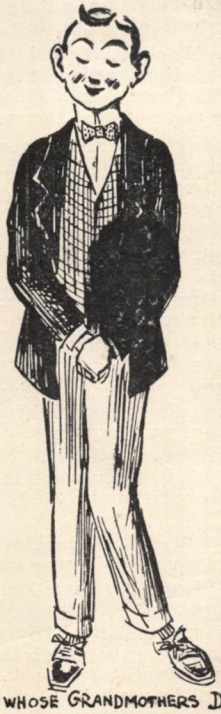
Saturday, March 18th brought stirring news to the 1st Battalion. At a fair held the previous evening rebels had opened fire on the unarmed soldiers present. The casualties were Boy Wylie wounded in the head, one gunner and a girl since dead. On that evening also Capt. Thomas returning with his men in two cars to Dungarven had been ambushed, resulting in a fight until the ammunition of our men had been expended. One constable R.I.C. was wounded (since dead), and Capt. Thomas and Pte. Collier captured. The constable was ultimately murdered, and it is believed that Capt. Thomas and Pte. Collier only escaped a similar fate owing to the arrival of reinforcements leading to the flight of their captors who incidentally left one of their dead behind. News also came through that day of our Castletown roche detachment being called out in aid of an ambushed police patrol, but that on their arrival the rebels had fled.

# People we don't believe in.

THE "MOVIE STAR" WHO WAS SHY.

THE SUBALTERN WHO REFUSED LEAVE.

THE LITTLE DEAR WHO DETESTS CHOCOLATES.



THE OFFICE-BOY WHOSE GRANDMOTHERS DIDN'T DIE ON DERBY DAY.

## 1st Battalion Boxing Tournay.

A BATTALION Boxing Competition was held in the Garrison Gymnasium, New Barracks, Fermoy, on Friday, 18th February, 1921. A good exhibition of boxing was provided, and great credit is due to all concerned. The following is a brief account of each fight :—

Cpl. Cornwall *v.* Pte. Goodrich. 1st round Novices Middle Weight. Cornwall who put up a very game fight was outclassed but was awarded a much deserved " Good Losers " prize.

Cpl. Wilcox *v.* Boy Cadman. 1st round Welters (Novices). Wilcox won on points.

Cpl. Bell *v.* Pte. Freedman. 1st round Novices Welters. A very even fight with Bell forcing the pace. Bell won on points.

Pte. Errington *v.* Boy Moore. Semi-Final Bantam (Novices). Very little hitting until the 2nd round when the Referee ordered them to fight. Errington had a great advantage in reach and knocked out his opponent in the last round.

Pte. Woolhead *v.* Boy Fearon. 1st round. Open Feathers. A good bout, both being fine clean fighters. In all three rounds a good display of hitting and footwork, and little to choose between the two. In the last round Fearon won on points. Woolhead was awarded a " Good Losers " prize.

Cpl. Revington *v.* Pte. Wallis. 1st round Novices Middles. An even fight, Revington winning on points.

Pte. Goodrich *v.* Pte. Cribben. Semi-final Novices Middles. Cribben was outpointed from the start.

Cpl. Bell *v.* Cpl. Wilcox. Semi-final Novices Welters. Opened with a very erratic display of hitting by Bell. Wilcox fought very well and was unfortunate in being knocked out in the last round by a lucky blow.

Sgt. Real *v.* Pte. Griffith. Final. Open Welter Weight. This fight went in favour of Real, who displayed good footwork and very fine fighting, but in the 2nd round he was disqualified for hitting low.

Sgt. Foote *v.* Pte. Woolard. Final Open Light Weight. Woolard knocked out in the 1st round.

Boy Fearon *v.* Pte. Waghorn. Final Open Feathers. Fearon forced the pace and obtained the verdict.

Pte. Baker *v.* Pte. Sheehan. Final Open Bantams. A good even fight with hard hitting by both. Sheehan took lead until the 3rd round when Baker rallied and after an extra round obtained the verdict.

Cpl. Revington *v.* Pte. Goodrich. Final Novices Middles. With Revington absent on duty, Goodrich was declared winner.

Pte. Gowen *v.* Pte. Green. Final Novices Feathers. Gowen knocked out in 1st round.

Dmr. Evans *v.* Pte. Errington. Final Novices Bantams. A clean fight. Errington won on points.

Pte. Symons *v.* Pte. Edmunds. Final Novices Light Weights. An exceedingly good fight with plenty of hard slogging. Symons won on points.

Pte. Solly *v.* Boy Andrews. Final. Novices Fly Weights. A one-sided affair, Solly being more experienced, but Andrews proved that he could take some punishment.

Boy Hardy *v.* Boy Wylie. Final Novices Paper Weight. After an extra round Wylie won on points.

Sgt. Gibson *v.* Dmr. Clements. Final Middle Weight Open. Gibson won on points.

Billie Martin (11 years) *v.* Eric Kelly (11 years). Special Contest. These boys gave an exceedingly fine display of good boxing and neat footwork. After an extra round Kelly gained the verdict.

## My First Job.

BY AN OLD BUFF.

IT is just over a year since I left the 1st Battalion and the happy times spent with it—Sergeants' Mess dances, snacks at " The Hole in the Wall," stolen half-hours at Thompson's, boating on the Blackwater, the Female and Male Prison Guards—and other things—all so dear to the heart of a " Buff " subaltern in 1919.

London gave me a chilly reception—not that I expected the Lord Mayor, complete with Sheriffs and City Marshal, to meet me at Euston, accompanied by the pipers of the Irish Guards—or in other words, I couldn't get a job. Nobody wanted me. *The Daily* ——, on whose editorial staff I had served my apprenticeship during the first year of war, was too busy finding billets for its pre-war men who had joined up ; and despite the many introductions I obtained to well-known publishing firms, no managing director discerned in me a coming W. T. Stead or J. L. Garvin.

A month went by, my gratuity was going fast and I was just about to report at the local postal sorting office as a temporary Xmas postman—having in desperation signed on for that superior post—when an old brother-officer offered to take me on temporarily to help him with some literary work. I accepted joyfully, and for three months worked with him on a technical handbook he was compiling.

The work involved frequent goings to London—my employer lived in the country—and many interesting interviews with prominent people. Incidentally, my first interview (a week after I started) stands out in my memory very vividly for two reasons—firstly, the short time in which I had to do my task, and secondly the magnificence of the people I had to see.

At *two o'clock* on this particular day, my chief decided to present a memorandum to an important committee ; sitting in London at 3 p.m. ; at *two fifteen* he commenced to dictate (he was rather impulsive, was my chief) and finished in time for me to dash to the station for the 3.40 train. My journey (one hour) I spent in transcribing my shorthand notes—about 20 pages—and finished as the train pulled in at the terminus. Five minutes in a cab, and I reached the house where the committee were sitting.

I entered the room—and I felt my knees quivering as I surveyed my " inquisitors "—three generals, a late Governor of an Australian State, and a " gunner " colonel. Four pairs of pince-nez were adjusted on four noses, one monocle was placed in one critical eye ; and a kindly voice said " Ah ! Mr..... so you have come at last ! We have been waiting for you for the last hour " (or words to that effect). A good start that—my nervousness increased. I bit my lips to stop my teeth chattering.

However, the same speaker—a general, and now a member of the Army Council—soon put an end to my dental activities, by asking me to sit down and read the memorandum.

I sat, and, remembering the days when I used to recite " Horatius " and Little Arthur's pleadings to Herbert in " King John," I began.

As I read on, I gained confidence, but all the time inwardly dreading the questions which I knew must be asked sooner or later. They came—in showers, and I answered them to the best of my knowledge.

In due course, I finished ; and bade them adieu, but not before " my friend the general " had expressed his keenest satisfaction on the way I had read the memorandum, and that he *hoped he would have the pleasure of meeting me again.*

Ye Gods ! I felt my head protruding through the sides of my hat ; and it was a proud youth who marched boldly into the station buffet and ordered a double..... soda and milk !

A GREAT IDEA. The suggestion of Major Tomlinson that a Buffs exhibition in aid of the War Memorial, War History, and other Regimental Institutions should be held in August Cricket Week, strikes a very happy note. Major Tomlinson's collection of old Regimental prints in themselves provide the nucleus of an interesting exhibit and if to these was added a selection of Regimental trophies gathered from the officers' and sergeants' messes, to say nothing of the many proud possessions of other old Buffs, a fine exhibition would certainly be provided. And what a fillip to recruiting too !

THAT REMINDS ME. The story of Major Norman and his Ford car in Mespot reminds me of another motoring incident in which, with Brev.-Lt.-Col. H. Findlay, that worthy *largely* figured. Lt.-Col. Findlay who incidentally was the first to introduce the free wheel bicycle into the Regiment—sounds as if we all ought to have wrinkly knees, rheumatics, and goatee beards, this—had now gone one better by enlivening us with a first model motor bicycle and side car. On one of his first trips, with Eric Norman as passenger, and when going down the worst and most dangerous hill near Salisbury Plain, in the middle of which a pair of great iron gates stood frowning at the hair pin bend, Harold Findlay (eyes big) informed his passenger he had lost control. " Well for——sake go hell for leather, and let's die properly " was the placid reply. History does not relate the remark dropped when the Ford was stuck up in the spate in Mespot. " Damn, we've forgotten the fishing rods " would probably be near the mark.

A GILBERT STORY. Talking of fishing recalls a good story of the late W. S. Gilbert. Whilst sitting in the office of his newly acquired theatre which was being reconstructed his manager rushed in upon him with the following words. " Good Heavens, they've just discovered a—river surging through the very foundations of our theatre " " Good " replied the inimicable W.S. " Just find out if my purchase contract includes the fishing rights. Any other news ? "

PLUCK. On page 36 is told the story of the wounding of Boy Wylie of the 1st Battalion. In regard to this incident Captain J. B. Sharp writes to me as follows:—" It was my lot to conduct Wylie, one of the smartest and smallest boys of the British Army to hospital. He had bled a lot, was very cold and had lost his cap, but what disturbed him most was that this affair should have happened on a Pay day, when he actually drew 5/–, instead of the 6d. he had drawn for weeks, owing to the claims of his wardrobe on his salary. On picking himself up, his first thought was lest his lady friend might be frightened. In Hospital, after having a little hair cut away by a sympathetic V.A.D. and some burning carbolic applied to his slight wound, he deigned to confess to a little bodily weariness. Yet at 6 a.m. the next morning, he was found cleaning the more fearsome instruments in the operating theatre. Nor could he be kept in Hospital, though the doctor both ordered and besought him to stay. No, Sir ! he was back in Barracks by 11 a.m. next day. If the rebels had a bit of his pluck..... well, he's some Buff and some Kid."

NOTHING DOING. Tramped into the printers the other morning to find that neither carriers, railway companies steamships, aeroplanes, or Ford cars would have anything to do with shifting the parcel containing our last issue to the 2nd Battalion in Mespot. Why? Insufficient address. Mespot alone was not good enough. All whom our printers had approached demanded the actual place of destination. The words " Near Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego " having been added, up went our Net Sales Certificate.

AT THE DEPOT. Somebody appears to have been playing "last and foose" somewhere. Here is the wording of a telegram recently received at the Depot addressed to Captain F—, Ward Adjutant, 5th Battalion The Buffs, West Kent Regiment, Canterbury. " Unless settlement is forthcoming other steps will be taken. This is final. Police will be informed." What a splash it all must have been, but why the sender of the telegram failed to add " Near Maidstone " to his address to make quite certain of its delivery into the right hands is just one of those things " no fellah can understand."

THANKS. General Neil Haig did a kindly turn to *The Dragon* by giving us a free advertisement on the programme of his recent concert at Canterbury. This is the sort of thing that helps enormously. A big advertisement campaign is completely out of court owing to the expense. Reliance on our friends is our only salvation. Perhaps the organizers of other entertainments throughout the County will help nourish the Old Duck in this and other ways. The greedy old thing says she can do with any amount, and more.

PLEASE. Sir Laming Worthington Evans states that if every territorial enlisted up-to-date would persuade just one other to join him, the full establishment would be reached. Jusso, and if on the top of all this every purchaser of *The Dragon* would rope in at least another couple—a five or ten minute job and no more—what a pompous, fat, and happy old Duck we should see waddling throughout East Kent. *Please.*

**Editorial Note.**

*The annual subscription to The Dragon is 8/– (post free). In addition the Paper is obtainable, price 6d., in all units through company commanders; and also at all Territorial Drill Halls. News, personal notes, short stories, sketches and drawings are invited. All communications and MSS. should be sent to the Editor, Depot, The Buffs, Canterbury. The Paper is published on the 1st of each month, and copy for insertion in the coming issue should reach the Editor not later than the 18th of the current month.*

## 16th Brigade Boxing Tournament.

ON 22nd and 23rd February a Brigade Tournament was held in the Gymnasium. There were 47 entries which included four officers.

Corporal Harvey, encountering no opposition, won the Heavy Weights.

In the Light weights Sgt. Gibson of the Buffs eliminated Pte. Haw of the Lincolns in the first round.

In the Middleweights contests Pte. Clements, the Buffs, knocked out Sgt. Rennie of the Lincolns in the first round and then fought Cpl. Rivington of the Buffs. Clements won on points and then met Dvr. Carroll of the R.F.A. We expected to see a good fight here but Carroll gave in very tamely leaving Clements winner.

In the first fight of the Welterweights Sgt. Reae the Buffs met Sgt. Davies of the Lincolns. It was most unfortunate that the latter sprained his thumb as a good fight was expected. Cpl. Bell, the Buffs beat Pte. Cole, Gloucesters on points. After an extra round a serio-comic fight between Gunner Hall, R.F.A. and Sgt. Thomson, R.F.A. went to the former on points. A very punishing contest between Sgt. Reae and Cpl. Bell followed. The latter was floored three times in succession but very pluckily came up to scratch each time. This contest was stopped with Reae winner.

Sgt. Reae then met Gunner Hall. After receiving some punishment the latter, in a strong Lancashire accent, poured anathema upon boxing in general and boxers in particular and retired gracefully from the contest with Sgt. Reae pounding away at his face.

In the Lightweights Pte. Symons, the Buffs knocked out L/C Bett, the Lincolns in the first round and then met L/C Brazington of the Gloucesters. Brazington hit Symons on the ground and was disqualified.

The Featherweights provided some very good contests. Boy Fearon the Buffs defeated Pte. Kirk Lincolns on points. Pte. Woolhead the Buffs defeated Pte. Silver, the Lincolns on points, and Sgt. Foote had to retire with a sprained thumb, leaving Pte. Sheehan winner. Woolhead and Sheehan then fought an exceedingly good three rounds and Sheehan was declared winner on points. Sheehan and Fearon then met but were so equally matched that they had to fight an extra round. The fight began tamely but after being warned they warmed up and " set about " each other in a laudable manner. Fearon won on points.

The Bantam weights provided only one fight, a very tame one, between Pte. Errington, the Buffs and Pte. Rollett the Lincolns, which the former won on points.

The flyweights provided the best show of the whole tournament. Pte. Solly the Buffs met Pte. Blendell, Lincolns. Reminiscences of the Beckett-Carpentier match floated across our minds. On the word " Go " Blendell and Solly met in the middle of the ring, and the former knocked Solly on to the ropes, through the ropes, then held him on the ropes and battered him. We all expected Solly to go under. But he stood up to his punishment very gamely and finished off his man in the second round with a thoroughly efficient knock-out. He then met Pte. Hamblin of the Gloucesters, who had an uncanny knack of falling just before being struck. After lying down, on an average about eight times in each round Pte. Hamblin was " blown out." Solly is to be complimented upon his plucky show.

In the Officers' Middleweight Lt. Cass knocked out Lt. Ormrod the Lincs. in the first 20 seconds.

Colonel Commandant N. J. G. Cameron, A.D.C., C.B., C.M.G. in distributing the prizes to the winners called attention to the splendid display of the Buffs who won every contest for which they entered. In addition to the winners as already stated the following were awarded good losers' prizes:—Sgt. Foote, The Buffs, Pte. Sheehan, The Buffs, Cpl. Bell, The Buffs.

## "Harrisonisms."

LOTS of years have slipped by and many changes have taken place since Lieut.-Colonel Henry Drinkrow Harrison (Joey) commanded our 1st Battalion.

Punch would have been delighted with him. His " Suggestion Book " which he had placed in the Library was not quite a success. The one and only suggestion it contained, was " Wanted a new C.O." and it then promptly vanished. How many of us remember the episode of the five men run in by the Provost Sergt. for gambling in the barrack room at Calcutta.

The men were wheeled before him in the orthodox manner—" Hol - frut - Rydress " — the crimes read out, defaulters' sheets paraded, the evidence of their guilt established, and the money, eleven pence halfpenny, found on the table produced as further proof. Anyhow the Colonel proceeded to lecture them on the heinousness and enormity of the offence of gambling, and what it would eventually lead them to, if they continued this evil habit. He even went so far as to relate a case of a gambler finishing up on the scaffold. After a lengthy dissertation in this similar strain, he admonished them and expressed the hope that they would never sin again.

Before being marched out however, the Provost Sergt. asked " What will I do with the eleven pence halfpenny. Sir please ? " " Oh " said Joey " Divide it up between them, give them twopence each, and let them toss up for the odd three-halfpence," and this in all seriousness, without the ghost of a smile, but the Officers present smiled, and very broadly too. Justice Darling's court was not in it with that Orderly Room when H.D.H. occupied the chair.

* * * * *

And talking about Colonel Harrison reminds me that —Some 310 years after the raising of the Old Corps, the 1st Battalion was afflicted with a Quartermaster (many old Buffs will remember him too, John William Coombes) who had an extraordinary gift of exaggeration, and a very elastic memory, especially when detailing his fishing experiences.

He is in my mind's eye at this moment, on his bamboo pier in the Dhobie Tank in Dum Dum, a patient familiar figure, his Khitmitgar at elbow ready to attend to his immediate needs. He really did try to catch fish sometimes. He was particularly fond of button-holeing young Subalterns when they attended the issue of rations as Orderly Officers. One his of pet ditties, he had spun so frequently, was like to a snowball, it increased in magnitude at every recount. Colonel Bryan Holme was his victim on one occasion, and this time the fish caught was so enormous, that, after being landed the water in the Tank dropped quite a foot. This must have impressed him, for some years afterwards, I met him again, and after greetings he remarked " You remember, no doubt, a great fishing yarn told by your old friend Mr. Coombes some years ago " (Did I remember ? Could I ever forget it ? It haunts me still—that's one reason I am giving it away now. I want to get rid of it and cast it from me for ever). " Well, I happened to have by me the exact dimensions and cubic capacity of the Dhobie Tank, and, in an idle half-hour, went into figures to discover the size of that fish, and do you know, it worked out to be just about as big as" (pointing to a huge bungalow in the distance) " that bungalow over there ! "

I wish J. W. Cook ; W. H. Cooke ; Snowball Hoare ; Larry Johns ; Winstanley ; Hildebrand ; Oswald Kendall ; Don Graham ; and a host of other veterans could be persuaded to send you some of the tales they are fondest of narrating. They would fill a volume of very interesting stories. Perhaps this little effort will tempt them.

A. H. B.

## The Buffs War Memorial.

### Dragon opens Shilling Fund.

IT has occurred to us that many of our readers would desire to contribute to the Regimental War Memorial, which is to be erected in the Warriors' Chapel, in the Canterbury Cathedral. On this account we have decided to open a Shilling Fund so that all may be able to participate in perpetuating the memory of their gallant comrades. Donations, which will be acknowledged in the *Dragon*, should be addressed to the Hon. Treasurer, The Dragon, Depot, The Buffs, Canterbury.

It is expected that a sum of £1,000 will be required to see the completion of The Memorial, and the illuminated vellum book which is to contain the names of approximately eight thousand names of all ranks who made the supreme sacrifice.

Towards this amount the following donations had been received up to the 17th March, 1921 :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gen. Rt. Hon. Sir A. Paget, G.C.B. ... | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| 6th Battalion Memorial Fund ... ... | 58 | 16 | 8 |
| Major Parry ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Miss Baly ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Capt. T. Wheler ... ... ... ... | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| S. W. Penn Earnshaw, Esq. ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| C. E. Wilson, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| J. W. Simmons, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Capt. W. S. Stewart-Savile ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| S. W. Marchant, Esq. ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| In Memoriam T.A.B. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| W. Bone, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Margaret McDougall ... ... ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| T. Roberts-Taylor, Esq. ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Capt. W. N. James ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Major W. H. Booth, D.S.O. ... ... ... | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| F. W. Watson, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. H. D. Hirst ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Ellen J. Nesbitt ... ... ... ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Major A. E. Colley ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lieut.-Col. John Body ... ... ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Stephen W. Cattley, Esq. ... ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| W. C. N. Chapman, Esq. ... ... ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Lieut.-Col. L. Knight ... ... ... | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Lord Harris ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| John Druce, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| P. R. Asprey, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| L. Gordon Skey, Esq. ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. L. Nortt ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| C. H. Rainey, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| J. L. Anderson, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Walter Furley, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Edith McDougall ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Major H. S. Hardy ... ... ... ... | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Major F. W. Tomlinson ... ... ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Major S. Kelsey-Burge ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Kate Greig ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. M. E. Davis ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss Anthony Brown ... ... ... ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Capt. Bernard S. Collard ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Bernard S. Collard ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| F. Evelyn Thornhill ... ... ... ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Lieut.-Col. G. M. Kingsford ... ... ... | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Lieut.-Col. C. Stanley Williams ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Major H. L. Acher Houblon ... ... ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Egerton Hammond, Esq. ... ... ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Major L. T. Spens ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Major A. C. Grigg ... ... ... ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Col. Arthur Barham ... ... ... ... | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| W. Wyld, Esq.... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Major C. P. Kingsland ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Col. The Rev. S. G. H. Sargent, T.D., C.F. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| C. D. Twopenny, Esq. ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |

*Continued at foot of next column.*

## All Records Broken.

IT was one of those priceless Spring mornings, which even Lord Northcliffe and his *Times* could not make overcast. The run into Canterbury on the motor bicycle had filled me with enthusiasm and energy, and although not altogether unexpectant of something abnormal happening on this perfect day, I had never hoped for the record-breaking news and results that were to greet me on arrival at the offices of *The Dragon*.

"Anything much in the post ?" I asked carelessly as I entered the office.

"Never has the old Duck quacked louder than to-day" replied the assistant editor.

"Good" I replied, "What is she wagging her old tail about most ? Susbcriptions, advertisements, manuscripts, offers of help, or what ?"

"Everything. I've arranged all the letters for you. The best thing is for you to run through them and see for yourself."

This I immediately did. First were the names and addresses of over 100 ex-Buffs living in Margate, with a covering letter from the sender asking for 100 copies of the paper, saying each on the list wanted to buy a copy. Then came letters from readers in Folkestone, Hawkhurst, Ashford and Deal, each asking for some two or three dozen copies of the paper. Then came repeat orders from Tenterden, Dover and Cranbrook. Then came no less than fifty 8/- postal orders from County and other subscribers, quickly followed up by three fresh ¼-page advertisements obtained by readers, And lastly, in addition to a batch of well written copy on one side of the paper only from all units, there were a couple of excellent short stories, four or five short 500 word sketches, a number of short news and personal paragraphs and one or two well executed drawings.

"Ye Gods, we shall have to become a weekly" I said purring with pleasure, and then my eyes fell upon a pile of some seventy or eighty other letters and post cards in the far corner of my table.

"Hulloa, what's that lot ?" I asked.

"Competitions" came back the reply. "And several of them contain some really good suggestions for next month."

At this stage I sat back in my chair. Yes after all the world was really worth living in. The old Dragon had indeed broken all records. I took a cigarette from my case, but in the lighting of it the head of the match stuck on the end of my fore-finger. With a curse I jumped up, and it was then that I woke, back to the 'flu' and a temperature of 102°. Moving my head to a cooler spot on my pillow I wondered whether my dream would ever come true.

H. H. C. B.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mrs. G. E. M. Norrie, C.B.E. ... ... | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Major L. Howard Smith ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| D. J. Dean, Esq., V.C. ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| G. W. Stevens, Esq., M.C. ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Alice Stibbard ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lieut.-Col. E. W. Hussey ... ... ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| R. C. Bettington, Esq. ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| | £283 | 6 | 2 |

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# The Regimental Badge.

By Colonel G. V. Dauglish.

THE origin of the badge is thus authoritatively given in Cannon's "Historical Records of the Third Regiment of Foot :—

"About 1707 Prince George of Denmark's Regiment was permitted to display a Dragon on its colours as a regimental badge as a reward for its gallant conduct on all occasions. The Dragon, being one of the supporters to the royal arms in the time of Queen Elizabeth, also indicated the origin of the corps in Her Majesty's reign."

Cannon's statement was copied into the records of the 1st Battalion about 80 years ago, and it will be found inscribed on the back of a painting of The Dragon executed by the Herald's College for the 1st Battalion about 40 years later. Authority and regimental tradition thus agree.

Owing perhaps to the authoritative character of Cannon's history not being sufficiently understood, other origins have been suggested for the badge; in particular, that it is the same as the City of London Dragon. It is sufficient to say that all these different ideas are out of harmony with the custom under which badges were borne in the old days. Also the City Dragon is a white one, and although colour itself is of no particular importance, the white dragon of the City has a red cross on the wings. This happens to be a special emblematic device, and one which The Buffs would surely be using now, were their badge really derived from the City Dragon. We have therefore to rely on what Cannon says.

In 1665, The Buffs at that time, called the Holland Regiment, passed from the Dutch service into the service of King Charles II., under the very honourable circumstances so ably set forth in Captain Knight's History of The Buffs, and which can be read in the October-November number of The Dragon, in a letter of the Hon. J. W. Fortescue,

The early Standing Army, into which The Buffs were thus incorporated, was apparently a personal establishment of the Sovereign. The regiments composing it, whether Guards or the older regiments of the Line, were apparently also personal regiments of His Majesty.

Some explanation is here needed. Later on regiments came to be raised by important noblemen or soldiers, but these would not be called "His Majesty's" regiments, but would be called by the names of the men who raised them. For instance, "The Earl of Bath's Regiment." Regiments in fact were regarded as feudal organisations, and took the name of their Chief and displayed his badge. Thus the latter regiment bore Lord Bath's badge.

Official documents of the period often called all regiments alike by the name of the officer who commanded them, as a matter of convenience. Thus the Holland Regiment, though frequently described as such, is also written of as "Lord Mulgraves'," or again, as "Oglethorpe's" Regiment. It's more complete title is however sometimes given, "His Majesty's Holland Regiment." In a list of the reign of King James II. it appears as "His Majesty's Holland Regiment of Foot, commanded by Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe." Since His Majesty was thus it's titular Chief it bore one of the Royal Badges; though in the time of Charles II., to be quite correct, the Colours are recorded as being green with the red cross, without mention of any badge; but quite possibly it had one. In the reign of James II., it bore the Royal Badge of the Sun in Splendour, on a black flag.

In 1707, in Queen Anne's reign, it is named "Prince George of Demnark's Regiment," after the Queen's husband, and is granted the Royal Badge of The Dragon.

In 1751, an important Royal Warrant speaks of The Buffs as being one of "The Six Old Corps," and confirms to them The Dragon, as "being their ancient badge," and grants them another Royal Badge, "The Rose and Crown," which they still use.

A few words as to the actual badge. It is a green Dragon, pink underneath, and stands on a "mount," or strip of grass. The Herald's College states that this is a Royal Badge, and that to grant a device of Queen Elizabeth, as appropriately recalling the origin of the Regiment, conformed to heraldic rules. Also that though Queen Elizabeth's dragon was a gold one, yet that colour was her personal choice; and that other Sovereigns had similarly used the same device in various colours; but that normally this Royal Badge would be in its "proper" colours, like the Buffs Dragon, or The Dragon of the badge of the Order of The Garter.

Present authority then bears out what Cannon wrote nearly a hundred years ago. The histories of all regiments were at that time written by the Adjutant-General's Department, under the special authority of the King, and Mr. Richard Cannon was the official who was charged with the work. The King commanded the badges should be recorded and the reasons for which they were granted. It is not necessary therefore to labour the point that The Buffs would not have been given a badge to which they were not entitled.

The above notes are the attempt of one who is not an expert, and who has had only the ordinary sources of information open to him, to suggest the more apparent reason why The Buffs now bear a Royal Badge, or rather two Royal Badges, namely because the Regiment acquired a Royal Status by being incorporated into the personal military establishment of King Charles II., such status being recognised from time to time by the Grant of Royal Badges. One obvious difficulty is that they have not now also a Royal title; though it used to be said that the reason was that that would involve the loss of the buff facings. But this and other interesting points must remain matters of conjecture till some future regimental historian makes research into forgotten records.

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# The Fifth Battalion.

SINCE our last contribution to *The Dragon* recruiting has been slow, but it is satisfactory to learn that the battalion will go to camp at South Dibgate, near Shorncliffe, from May 14th-28th with the remainder of the Kent Infantry Brigade. It is hoped that employers will grant every facility for their men to attend the first camp of the reconstructed battalion.

### News in Brief.

A staff ride, under Brigade direction, was held near Sandling Junction, on Sunday, March 6th. The C.O. was present, and the following officers, in addition to the adjutant :—Captain E. B. Burns, Capt. T. B. Cheesman, Lieut. F. S. Fleuret, Lieut. E. Boulding, 2nd Lieut. H. F. Reeves.

The Battalion was represented in the Home Counties Divisional Boxing Tournament in London, on Saturday, February 26th, by Pte. Hadlum of " A " Company, but he unfortunately met a better man.

The second annual re-union dinner of the officers of the Battalion and of the 37th Dogras was held at the Café Royal on Tuesday, February 15th, and proved a great success. The Commanding Officer and 25 past and present officers of the battalion were present, and Lieut.-Col. C. W. G. Walker, D.S.O. and Captain C. Weatherley of the 37th Dogras, Major H. W. Bell-Kingsley, D.S.O., late Bde. Major, 35th Indian Brigade, were guests.

The Commanding Officer presented the " Elliott " Cup to L/Cpl. E. Heathfield of " A " Company at Battalion Headquarters on Friday, February 25th.

Lieut. H. Alexander, Wilsley Place, Cranbrook, has been appointed to a commission in the battalion.

Captain H. Massie Blomfield has been transferred to the 15th Battalion, London Regt., (Civil Service Rifles).

C. Q.M.S. C. Bishop has rejoined the battalion.

### 2/5th Buffs Annual Dinner.

The Second Annual Dinner of 2/5 Battalion The Buffs Old Comrades Association will take place on Saturday, 2nd April, 1921, at The Holborn Restaurant, London, W.C., the Chair being taken by The Rt. Hon. Viscount Goschen, V.D. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. Frank I. Stevens of 41 Lothbury, London, E.C., will be glad to receive the names and addresses of any old members of 2/5, and forward any further information.

### Dance at Lydd.

On the 16th March the Lydd detachment B Company held a most successful dance in the Drill Hall. No less than 120 took the floor and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Much credit is due to C.S.M. Stroud for the admirable way in which he carried out the arrangements.

### Cranbrook News.

Two most enjoyable entertainments have been held by C Company during the month. The first of these was a whist drive and dance in aid of our unemployed, which I am glad to say number four only. Lieut. H. Alexander helped considerably and kindly presented the prizes. Much amusement was caused by a novel steeplechase in which two men blindfolded had to step over a row of books without knocking any over. Ptes. Maddocks and Streeter trying to step over books which had been removed caused endless laughter. Mr. Alexander kindly presented the winner with 100 cigarettes, and the loser with 50 cigarettes.

The second entertainment was a visit from the Minstrel Troupe of the Depot Royal West Kent Regt. and a jolly fine entertainment they gave us consisting of 13 items and a Boxing sketch entitled " Hello Dempsey." In this one of the fighters put everybody to sleep with his mesmeric powers. Captain Bredon deserves great credit for the capital show in which he derives great assistance from Captain Palmer and Lieut. Hilder.

There was also a competition in guessing popular airs played by the band, and the winners were Mrs. John Body wife of the C.O., and Lieut. H. Alexander. Incidentally our dancing lessons in the Drill Hall are being much appreciated..

### Colonel Body's Speech.

During the evening Col. John Body, commanding the Battalion, made an impressive speech in which he appealed to every section of the community to help us in the reconstruction of the Territorial Army.

He referred to the fact that the war was much prolonged owing to the lack of trained men in England which led to a fight for time whilst new material was being trained. " This must never happen again," he said amidst much applause. Our young men must see to it that they acquired some military knowledge in the Territorial Force. He also referred to the sport and recreation available in the force and the fact that the annual seaside training was something which one could look forward to with pleasure.

A successful Territorial Army, he pointed out, would save the Country millions of pounds, because whereas the Regular soldier cost £234 a year the Territorial soldier cost only £35. Ex-Service men, and those who had never had the opportunity of serving, would always find something of interest in the Territorial Army. They would have the great opportunity of proving that the young men of to-day were the equal of their forefathers.

### Benenden War Memorial.

C Company, 5th Battalion assisted in unveiling the Memorial erected to the Benenden men who fell in the great War. The Company assembled at Cranbrook Drill Hall, many members coming in from a distance of five miles, and then marched to Benenden, (some five miles away) under Captain Cheesman and Lieut. H. Alexander. Strict march discipline was kept and, as it was our first march, the men did exceedingly well. On our return Captain Cheesman thanked the Company for the way they had turned out and for the splendid manner in which they had upheld the credit of the Battalion.

### Football at Horsmenden.

Owing to scattered area of D Company consisting of Headquarters and nine drill stations, considerable difficulty is experienced in arranging games and in putting our full strength in the field. In spite of this, two football matches have been played during the past month. The first we lost 3-1 and the second 4-2. But as the latter was against the full strength of the Horsmonden league team the performance was creditable. Our forward line gave a good display, our weakness being in defence, which we hope to remedy in future matches. The star performers were G and B. Couchman and A. E. Barham.

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# The Depot.

By The Man with the Squeegee.

THERE is no question of the passage of Time. No sooner had the January-February-March Number been given to an eager public than the Editor called upon me to give him tidings of the recent past.

The other day whilst considering what had happened with a view to these notes I wondered how "Beneath Bell Harry" would sound as a title. For those who do not wake every morning to see the "Angel steeple, noblest of its kind" rising out of the lazy mist of Canterbury, I must explain that the reference is to the Great Tower of the Cathedral. Although all soldiers are considered godless folk, there is no question of the influence of that tower upon our life. While it inspires, it weighs us down, and so nothing much seems ever to happen here. And yet life goes on busily.

Part 1 Orders are becoming weightier daily. The monthly inspection of Barrack Furniture was not missed in March, and we have had a christening. The Commanding Officer's heir was duly named in the Garrison Church on the 25th of February, Captain Strettell, chastely gowned in grey herringbone, sustained the difficult role of Godfather by proxy, and gave his answers to the challenging questions with a firm voice.

Some one with a strange notion of humour evolved a scheme for the discomfort of the sedentary last week. It took the form of six-a-side Football for everyone in the Depot. The players were drawn out of a hat and some are believed to have wished that they had been left in it. Keen football was witnessed and of a large number of those whose breath was lost and who distinguished themselves, Pte. Manders and Recruit Gates were prominent. The Depot representatives played as eagerly and efficiently as one would have expected. Lieut. Maiden, who appeared garbed in virginal white was occasionally to be seen pirouetting, but he is reported to have said that the thought of the Coming Cricket Season is all that took him to the Ground.

The encounters were admirably refereed by our new R.S.M., Sergeant-Major Dare.

Field Firing was indulged in early in the month, and fine weather made a delight of the bleak steppes of Blean. The preliminary "Bullet and Bayonet" practices were fired nearer home, on the 30 yards Range, and here again it was proved that one's respiratory system does not improve with an almost uninterrupted course of filling-in returns.

The Bacillus Flu has been with us, hitherto fortunately in a mild form.

The Band has been busy. In addition to its usual duties it has been helping the 4th Battalion to swell its ranks.

Signs of Spring are everywhere. Crocuses and daffodils are raising their surprised heads in the most unexpected places, and "young mens' fancies" are as usual "lightly turning," The winter of our discontent is past and "Retreat" is sounded nearer to midnight. And now you know all about us.

---

### Sport.

The first inter-company football match was won by B Company 4-1, and as A Company thought this rather flattered B Company another challenge was sent and a return match, played on the 12th, was again won by B Company 4-3. The second match was most exciting and the cheering terrific. It was good "communication drill" for the recruits, who are strong partisans of their respective companies. All of "A" company are now waiting for the next match, when they hope to reverse the past results.

The Cross Country run was a contest between the recruits of A and B company—distance four to five miles. For recruits the course was done in splendid time and we certainly have a few good youngsters, who with a little training will turn out good runners, although the Sgt.-Major cannot always be on the course to push them along.

The run was won by A Company with the order of finishing as follows :—1. Pte. Ayliffe. 2. Pte.Manders (B Coy.) 3. Pte. Moore (A Coy.) 4. Pte. Redman (B Coy.) 5. Pte. Connor (A Coy.) 6. Pte. Humbles (A Coy.) 7. Pte. McNally (A Coy.) 8. Pte. Hughes (A Coy).

The following were the teams on the occasion of the return inter-Company Football match, played on 12th March, 1921, when B Company won 4-3.

"A" Company :—Goal : Dmr. Collier. Backs : L/Cpl. Aldridge and Pte. Crawley. Half Backs : Sgt.-Dmr. Clayton, Capt. Strettell and L/Cpl. Adams. Forwards : Pte. Woods, L/Cpl. Smith, Sgt. Maillard, Cpl. Dennis and Pte. Hughes.

"B" Company. Goal :—Pte. Ayliffe. Backs :—L/Cpls. Middleton and Parry. Half Backs :—Pte. Bowman, L/Cpl. Crump and Sgt. Wren. Forwards ;—Pte. Drumgold, Pte. Lewry, Recruit Tutt, Pte. Cranmer and Pte. Manders.

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### Sergeants' Mess News.

During the month the Mess has had its fair share of dances and tournaments, and the Sports and Dance Committees have had a fairly strenuous time. C.S.M. Pigott, our most efficient M.C. at our dances who has had a most wonderful time, has acquitted himself splendidly. R.Q.M.S. Andrews and Sgt. Maillard have caused us great excitement and amusement with their crib and billiard tournaments. After many exciting and close games the crib tournament was won by S.-Sgt. Lee, A.P.C. and Sgt. Algar, our many sided Master Tailor—his jacket had to be refitted on the following day ; success increases girth.

The billiards tournament caused great interest as every member of the Mess played. The tournament was eventually won by L'Sgt. Beasly with C.S.M. Pigott as the other finalist. We hope in the near future to have other tournaments on weird and wonderful lines ; all members of the Mess having noted the look of battle in Sgt. Maillard's eyes.

We also look forward to a successful tennis year, as our new tennis court is growing wonderfully, and nearly every member knows how many blades of grass there are on it. Many anxious moments have been suffered owing to some blades growing too quickly, and one member suggested standing a scarecrow on it because the birds will settle on it. Everyone loves the court except the men who pull the roller. One bright individual being responsible for the following "grouse" :

"Picking up stones all day yesterday.
Chopping wood in the coal yard to-day.
Cutting turf to-morrow.
Roll on Armistice Day and we shall get two minutes' rest."

We have had a new addition to our Mess during the month as R.S.M. Dare has joined us from the Machine Gun Corps. As the Machine Gun Corps is soon ceasing to exist in England we shall probably have some more of them joining us, as C.S.Ms. Boarer, Knight, Mason and Mould are known to be with the Gunners at Shorncliffe.

Many ex-members of the Regiment look us up occasionally and it is delightful to compare our present day methods with the methods of 1572 and onwards.

# The Buffs Benevolent Fund.

By Major E. F. Gould, Hon. Secretary.

PREVIOUS to the War, this Fund was supported by Subscriptions from Past and serving Officers and from donations from Other Ranks and from friends interested in the Regiment. Since the War, owing to generous donations from Individuals, and from Balances of Funds left over at the conclusion of the War and kindly presented to this Fund, the Credit of the Fund has risen from £789 5s. 7d. on the 31st March, 1915 to the amount shown in the Balance Sheet appended.

The Fund is not bound by any hard and fast rules but is administered by a Committee, formed from Officers and Warrant Officers at the Depot, to assist, as far as practicable, the needs of Old Buffs of all Battalions who may be in serious want. Unfortunately it is only the most serious cases that can be assisted owing to limited funds available, and then only on a moderate scale. But it is satisfactory to know that, even with moderate grants, several Old Buffs have been able to procure the necessities of life and sometimes a small outfit towards stock in trade.

The Fund works in close connection with The Regimental Agency, The Soldiers and Sailors Families Association, The Soldiers Help Society and other Societies of a similar nature; the Committee being specially indebted to the two organisations first named for the very valuable assistance rendered by them in the cases referred by us to them for investigation.

Pensions, the most useful and lasting form of relief, can only be very sparsely undertaken; but it is very satisfactory to announce that we are paying pensions to eight Pensioners, the pensions ranging from £3 to £1 10s. 0d. a quarter. Some of the Pensioners are widows of Old Buffs and others are occupants of the Regimental Cottage Homes who are unable to live without small extra assistance.

Applications for employment are dealt with by the Regimental Employment Bureau recently formed at the Depot, and described by Captain Strettell in the last issue of *The Dragon*.

It is with the greatest regret that, in many cases, the Committee are reluctantly compelled to refuse help as it is only too clear to them that small assistance rendered can only mean a very short postponement of the evil day. Assistance must usually be restricted with limited funds, to cases where there is a prospect that the grant made may be of real assistance towards helping the applicant to start again better equipped. What is usually required, and so hard to obtain, is employment.

That those who have supported the fund may see that their kindness has been appreciated, I would like to record one acknowledgement which is only one of many similar. The occasion in question was a grant of £5 made to the daughter of an old soldier, who had served in the Regiment before most of the present generation were born, and the cost of his funeral was a source of great anxiety to her:—"Dear Sir, I beg leave to offer my sincere thanks to you for your kindness to me and mine during my troubles. I will never forget it and the good old Regiment from which it comes. Your £5 has cleared all. Again thanking you, I beg leave to remain, Your Servant ....."

As will be seen from the appended Balance Sheet of the Fund on the 31st December, 1920, the policy pursued has been to build up Invested Funds rather than to make grants from Capital.

Cash Account for Period, 1st Sept., 1919 to 31st Dec., 1920.

| | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Balance Brought forward ... ... ... | 201 | 9 | 0 | To assistance to Buffs and their families ... | 224 | 14 | 4 |
| Subscriptions ... ... ... ... ... | 199 | 5 | 6 | Annual Donation Regimental Agency ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| *Donations*— | | | | Annual Donation Soldiers and Sailors Families' | | | |
| Sergts. Mess Depot ... ... ... | 10 | 10 | 0 | Association ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Sergts. Mess 1st Bn. ... ... ... | 10 | 10 | 0 | Bank Charges ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Kent Soldiers' Fund per Colonel Cornwallis, | | | | Postage, etc. ... ... ... ... ... | 4 | 18 | 9 |
| C.B.E. ... ... ... ... ... | 30 | 0 | 0 | Sundries ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| St. Andrew's Canteen ... ... ... | 52 | 10 | 0 | Printing and Stationery ... ... ... | 6 | 12 | 1 |
| Executor late Major Furley ... ... | 1 | 9 | 7 | Investment £300 5% Nat. War Bonds ... | 287 | 18 | 6 |
| 1st. Bn. The Buffs ... ... ... ... | 57 | 11 | 3 | Balance ... ... ... ... ... | 179 | 18 | 2 |
| *Dividends*— | | | | | | | |
| Midland Railway Stock ... ... ... | 3 | 17 | 6 | | | | |
| City of Quebec Consols ... ... ... | 11 | 9 | 4 | | | | |
| War Bonds ... ... ... ... ... | 139 | 6 | 9 | | | | |
| Interest from Bank ... ... ... | 0 | 12 | 4 | | | | |
| | £718 | 11 | 3 | | £718 | 11 | 3 |

Balance Sheet on 31st December, 1920.

| | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Investments at Cost:— | | | | By Investment % at credit ... ... | 3193 | 7 | 10 |
| £221 7s. 7d. Midland Rly. 2½% ... | 150 | 0 | 0 | By Cash % Balance at credit ... | 179 | 18 | 2 |
| £468 0s. 0d. City of Quebec 3½% ... | 410 | 17 | 11 | | | | |
| £2,750 0s. 0d. Nat. War Bonds 5% | 2632 | 9 | 11 | | | | |
| Cash at Bank ... ... ... ... | 179 | 14 | 2 | | | | |
| Cash in hand ... ... ... ... | 0 | 4 | 0 | | | | |
| | £3373 | 6 | 0 | | £3373 | 6 | 0 |

# The Boxing Referee.

By Major Guy Lee, D.S.O., M.C.

THE duty of a Referee is at any time a thankless task, and it is impossible for him to please everyone. There are always a few "know all's" who, in their own opinion, would have done the job so much better. Be that as it may.

A Referee must have a thorough knowledge of the game, and be up to all the tricks of the trade. He must be firm and quick to decide; he must not be swayed by the remarks of the spectators; for remember that he has watched every blow during each round of the bout, whilst the onlooker generally judges by the last few rounds, and is apt to be prejudiced.

The success or failure of a Boxing Tournament largely depends on him. A weak Referee will invariably be taken advantage of by the boxers, and no one appreciates a good referee more than the competitors themselves. How often has one seen two lads, both of whom have a fair knowledge of boxing, but through over keenness lapse into irregularities, and fail to keep within the law, due entirely to a weak or bad Referee. The chief duty of a Referee is to watch the bout carefully, see that the rules and fair play are strictly enforced, and to decide on the winner.

In professional boxing a Referee only is appointed, and his place should be inside the ring as it is impossible for him to see clearly when sitting outside the ropes. Under the Imperial Services Boxing Association, and the Amateur Boxing Association, a Referee is appointed with two judges to assist him. The advantages of this method of judging a fight are obvious. If one of the judges notices any unfair tactics on the part of a boxer, he should advise the Referee at the end of a round.

In selecting a winner, if the judges agree the referee must abide by this verdict, but in the case of the judges disagreeing he should give the casting vote. In the case of a contest he may declare a draw if he is unable to separate them on points. In the case of a competition he may order an extra round of 2 minutes only, on which one of the contestants must be declared the winner. The Referee controls the conduct of the boxing entirely; that is to say it is his duty to caution a boxer when necessary and not the duty of the judges. He should never let his voice be heard unless absolutely necessary, and the less he speaks the better. Should he find it necessary to check either or both boxers, he should call out "STOP" in a loud voice, caution the offender firmly and quickly as possible, and on his word "BOX ON" the bout will be resumed. For any deliberate foul the offender should be disqualified at once. A Referee should as a rule only give one caution for a foul even though unintentional, as a boxer may become seriously injured through carelessness of his opponent.

The following constitute some of the chief tricks and fouls:—

(1) Holding:—Holding with one hand and hitting with the other.
(2) Hitting with the wrist.
(3) Flicking with open glove.
(4) Using the lock to prevent an opponent hitting.
(5) Hitting below the belt.
(6) Hitting an opponent when down.
(7) Holding the ropes with one hand and hitting with the other.
(8) Pushing and boring.
(9) Going down without being hit.
(10) Unfair use of the elbow.
(11) Butting with the head.
(12) Raising the knees to give a blow.
(13) Use of the "Rabbit" blow *i.e.*, (a chop down behind the opponent's neck).
(14) Pivot blow.
(15) Kidney punch.

There are a few others such as talking in the ring, etc. All these fouls should be carefully studied by the Referee, so that he has practical illustration of each before he takes up his office as Referee. A deliberate foul is practically unknown in the Services. and there is no finer or cleaner sport than boxing in the Army and Navy, where such chivalrous feeling and good sportsmanship prevail.

With regard to the marking of points for about, this has been the subject for much controversy. The rules of the I.S.B.A. direct that a maximum of 15 marks be allotted for each round of a contest, with 20 marks for the last round of a competition which is of longer duration. It is almost impossible to give marks to *each* opponent, and I think the best method is to allot marks to one man and deduct from his score any points scored by his opponent, and so on. In a good rally of in-fighting it is often impossible to score each point, In this case it is best to allot a mark to the man who in the referee's opinion seems to have come out of the rally the best. One point should be given for each clean hit. In the event of the contestants scoring an equal number of points the verdict should be given to the boxer who has displayed the best generalship in the ring.

In the case of novices, it is often impossible to mark accurately the number of points scored, but the referee should watch closely and keep a rough estimate in his head, and give the award to the one who has shewn the most promising form.

All boxing in the Army and Navy must be carried out under the rules of the I.S.B.A., and it is the duty of the promoters to ensure that these rules are strictly enforced. The chief object of the Association is to encourage and control boxing in the Services and to improve the standard as far as possible.

---

**Another Great Recruiting Effort**—*continued.*

The following are brief extracts from the speeches of Col. Osborn, C.M.G., D.S.O., and Alderman J. Hall, J.P., respectively.

"The Territorials are part of the Army and I don't like to hear them talked of separately. With regard to recruits for the Territorial Army they are not coming forward in the way they should. I know men are rather fed up with soldiering and it will take a little time for them to come back. The younger ones, who owe a duty to the State, should come forward and offer their services to the State. You can all help in the Territorial movement personally. If you cannot take part as an Officer or soldier when you hear the matter discussed give it a boost up in any way you can and help it. The Territorials are your insurance policy against Conscription and it is your one hope and salvation and a very easy way to help the State."

---

"Business men insured against burglary, and theft; the burning of their house and property and effects; and they had insured against aircraft. Was it not a very little thing to ask them to effect an insurance for the safety of this great Empire? The little premium they were asked, to give up the services of their staff for a fortnight in a year was trifling."

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PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION.

Sir,

Having read the article on the Past and Present Association in your last issue, may I express the hope that a really concentrated effort may be made both inside and outside the Regiment towards placing this Association on a firm and definite footing.

The suggestion I am inclined to make is that the Past and Present Association, The Benevolent Fund, and the Employment Bureau be amalgamated; and that a definite constitution, with clearly defined aims and objects, and rules for membership be drawn up for the whole, and then circulated amongst past and present Buffs without delay. I go further in fact, and suggest that a series of meetings throughout our recruiting district should be arranged, next winter—summer meetings are of little use—with a view to infusing a little life and enthusiasm into this Association, which appears to be gradually sinking. With a large membership—and surely there is no reason why we should not obtain this as easily as have most other regiments—there is no limit to the excellent work the Association could well do.

We could help in the Territorial Recruiting Campaign.

We could help make *The Dragon* the succeess we should all like it to be, and we could no doubt help in disposing of copies of the Regimental History.

We could no doubt obtain a special discount from a number of East Kent Tradesmen in the same way as several Old Comrades Associations in Yorkshire have arranged for with their local tradesmen.

We could certainly do more in regard to finding employment. Our re-unions could be much better attended than they are at present.

And no doubt others have a number of other suggestions. I hope, Sir, that if you publish this letter it may encourage others to express their views.

Yours etc.,

" Once a Buff, always a Buff."

[*On making enquiries as we go to press, we find that the total membership of the Association is Officers 118 Other Ranks 221. Ed.*]

---

OUR COMPETITIONS.

Sir,

Now I have got over the shock of winning the competition, the first in my life, I wish to thank you for the Regimental Paper, and to send you 10/- for the Benevolent Fund. It is very interesting and helps me to know where lots of the old boys are. I was glad to see several mentioned whom I thought had been taken, but " old soldiers never die." Is it not possible to amend Major Reeves' suggestion, by having the competition coupons detachable, and one placed in every copy of the paper together with an offer of an extra coupon for, say 3d. extra?

Am forwarding some jokes, which I hope you can make something out of. If any of the Battalions are running a " Dramatic Club," I should be pleased to send them along lines of patter, cross-talks, sketches, etc., being well in the midst of this business, and theatrical stunts. Hoping *The Dragon* will soon be a huge success.

Yours etc., EDGAR G. CLIFTON.

Rotunda Theatre,
Liverpool.

## Our Competitions.

CLIFTON WINS AGAIN.

We're getting on. Last month we had *two* entries for our three competitions. They were Mr. E. Clifton and Mr. W. Elvey. This month we have had *four*; Mrs. Clifton having joined her husband, and Mr. E. W. Lamb having linked up with Mr. Elvey. A letter from Mr. Clifton appears in our correspondence page thanking us for the 4 guineas sent to him last month. This month we have the pleasure of sending Mrs. Clifton a guinea for having guessed that 1,572 represented the Net Sales of our last issue, the figure suggested by her husband being 3,210, a figure which we are sorry to relate we are a very long way from reaching at present. But this is not to say that with the co-operation of our readers we do not hope ultimately to reach and exceed it—in fact we must if the paper is to be continued.

To Mr. E. W. Lamb we have also had much pleasure in sending a guinea. From him we have received the names and addresses of no less than 45 old Buffs. To each of them a copy of The Dragon is being sent in the hope they will become regular subsribers. Mr. Elvey has sent us in 10 names and addresses, and as a small reward for the trouble he has taken we have sent him as a consolation prize a copy of the Regimental Calendar for 1921; incidentally now reduced in price from 3/- to 1/6, and obtainable on application to our office.

This lack of entries for our competitions presumably means that this feature in this paper does not interest our readers to the extent we hoped it might. It is for this reason that this month we are running one competition only. A guinea is offered for the most striking and convincing Slogan to help sell the Paper, *vide* page 31. The importance of this needs no comment, and we earnestly invite our readers to send us a P.C. with their suggestion. We also invite the views of all our readers in regard to competitions in general.

---

### To our Readers.

May we send you a supply of the Poster which accompanies this issue of The Dragon.

The Display of these in Drill Halls; Barracks; village and other Clubs; shop windows; inns and public houses; and on Village and other Notice Boards would be of the utmost assistance.

Should you be able to help in this way, perhaps you will drop us a line.

---

### A War Memorial.

The Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company Ltd., have been entrusted with the design and execution of the Memorial to the Officers and other ranks of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers who fell in the Great War.

## NET SALES.

**The publication of the Net Sales of our last issue is unavoidably held over, owing to the difficulty in obtaining returns from our scattered units.**

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No. 258. May, 1921.

# The Dragon

A PAPER OF THE MEN OF

FOR MEN BUFFS, AND KENT.

THE BUFFS (EAST KENT REGIMENT).

"Veteri Frondescit Honore."

"Blenheim," "Ramillies," "Oudenarde," "Malplaquet," "Dettingen," "Gualdaloupe, 1759," "Douro," "Talavera," "Albuhera," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Punniar," "Sevastopol," "Taku Forts," "South Africa, 1879," "Chitral," "South Africa, 1900-2," "Relief of Kimberley," "Paardeburg."

1st Battalion, 2nd Battalion } 3rd Foot { Fermoy. Mesopotamia.

Depot—Canterbury.

3rd Bn.—Canterbury. Record Office—Hounslow

Territoral Force Battlns.—4th Bn., Canterbury: 5th Bn. Ashford.

Colonel-in-Chief: His Majesty King Christian X. of Denmark, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.V.O.

Colonel: Gen. Rt. Hon. Sir A. Paget, G.C.B., K.C.V.O.

Hon. Colonel, 3rd Battn.: Colonel Sir Theodore Brinckman, Bart., C.B.

Hon. Colonel, 4th Battn.: Colonel The Right Hon. Lord Harris, G.C.S.I.

Hon. Colonel, 5th Battn.: Colonel E. W. Hussey, V.D.

## CONTENTS.


| | page |
|---|---|
| Our Net Sales | 51 & 52 |
| Regimental Notabilities | 52 |
| Personalia | 53 |
| The Days we Live in | 54 |
| Buffs War Memorial | 54 |
| With the 1st Battalion in Ireland | 55 |
| Irish Command Boxing | 56 |
| With the 2nd Battalion at Kirkuk | 57 & 58 |
| Thalatta, Thalatta | 58 |
| House to Let | 58 |
| Reminiscences | 59 |
| Dragon Club Dinner | 59 |
| Albuera, May 16th, 1811 | 60, 61 & 62 |
| Lamentations of a C.Q.M.S. | 63 |
| The Sign of Peace | 63 |
| The Reservist | 63 |
| Civil Occupations | 63 |
| Solving the Food Question in Mespot. | 64 |
| For Next of Kin | 64 |
| Beneath Bell Harry | 65 & 66 |
| Baghdad Commemoration Week | 66 |
| Regimental Calendar for May | 66 |
| 4th Buffs Defence Force | 67 |
| Kent Inf. Bde. Defence Force | 68 |
| Extract from Depot Orders | 68 |
| Our Competitions | 68 |
| 5th Buffs Defence Force | 69 |
| You to Us | 70 |
| Between Wickets | 71 |
| A False Spring | 71 |
| Recruits' Boxing Tournament | 72 |


## Our Net Sales.

THOUGH we are not yet able to give a definite declaration of our up-to-date Net Sales, we are anxious to fulfil our obligation in this respect, both to our readers and our advertisers, as soon as, and as far as it is within our power to do so. It is on this account that we publish below the detailed distribution of our last two issues as obtaining on the 16th April, together with a few brief remarks relating to same.

PRINTING ORDER.

No. Printed Jan. Feb. March issue, 2,500.
No. Printed April issue, 2,500.

DISTRIBUTION.

| | Jan., Feb., Mar., Issue. | April Issue. |
|---|---|---|
| 1st Battalion, Fermoy | 600 | 500 |
| 2nd Battalion, Kirkuk | 600 | 500 |
| Depot, Canterbury | 160 | 150 |
| A Coy., 4th Buffs, Ramsgate | 30 | 30 |
| do Margate | 40 | 30 |
| B do Canterbury | 100 | 80 |
| do Herne Bay | 25 | 10 |
| C do Whitstable | 25 | 20 |
| do Sittingbourne | 20 | 20 |
| D do Dover | 100 | 30 |
| do Folkestone | 80 | 30 |
| A Coy., 5th Buffs, Ashford | 20 | 25 |

**Our Net Sales**—*continued.*

| | Jan., Feb., Mar., Issue. | April Issue. |
|---|---|---|
| B Coy., 4th Buffs, Tenterden ... ... | 18 | 25 |
| C do Cranbrook ... ... | 25 | 25 |
| D do Horsmonden ... | 20 | 25 |
| Direct Subscribers ... ... ... | 201 | 243 |
| Orderly Room, Depot ... ... ... | 12 | — |
| Contributors ... ... ... ... | 12 | 12 |
| Advertisers ... ... ... ... | 18 | 17 |
| Press for review ... ... ... ... | 46 | 6 |
| Propoganda— | | |
| (*a*) Potential Advertisers ... ... | 106 | 20 |
| (*b*) Col. F. Body, D.S.O. ... ... | 100 | — |
| (*c*) Exchange List (other Regt. Papers, etc. ... ... ... | 25 | 30 |
| (*d*) London Press for Review ... | 7 | 2 |
| (*e*) Potential Subscribers ... ... | 110 | — |
| (*f*) Recruiting Agents ... ... | — | 20 |
| (*g*) Old Comrades ... ... ... | — | 276 |
| (*h*) Rejoined Reservists ... ... | — | 60 |
| (*i*) For General Purposes and Office | 110 | 314* |
| Totals ... ... ... ... | 2500 | 2500 |

*Two hundred of these are being sent out to potential subscribers.

Now for a few remarks. First in regard to the drop in the supply of the April issue to units as compared to that of January, February and March issue. The numbers shewn against the territorial units are those submitted to us by O.C. Companies after our first issue had been put to the test. We are hopeful as the paper gets more widely known, and as the number of recruits increases, these orders will shew a considerable increase, and that the majority of unsold copies of our first issue at our Territorial Drill Halls may still be disposed of.

The drop in the supply to the Regular units is caused by our purposely, keeping down our printing until the paper has found its level and definite orders placed. In fact our natural anxiety throughout is to save unnecessary expense by keeping unsold copies down to a minimum.

Now it will be of interest to our readers to mention at this stage, that we hear from the Editor of *The Queen's Own Gazette* that every serving Officer, W.O., N.C.O., and man in the Royal West Kent Regiment purchases each month a copy of their Regimental Paper; and that our contemporary has enjoyed an unbroken period of publication since 1878, no doubt thanks to this generous and whole-hearted assistance.

We are not without hope that we ultimately may find ourselves in the same secure and happy position. The Depot to a man has decided to take *The Dragon*, as also have A Company, 4th Buffs, at Margate. Whilst news is also to hand that two companies of the 2nd Battalion have given a similar undertaking; and that it is expected that the remaining two will shortly do likewise. For all of which encouragement we offer our best thanks.

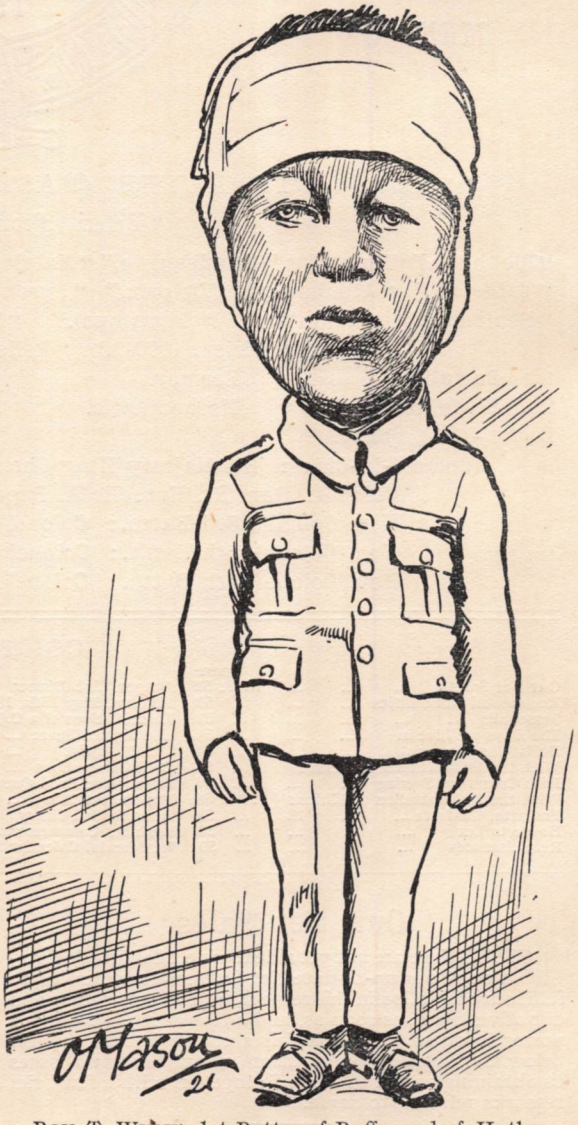
In regard to the number of our direct subscribers, we prefer to be quite frank, and confess to some disappointment. We have sent out several thousands of circulars, to say nothing of some hundreds of specimen copies of the paper, to old Buffs of all ranks, and to residents in the County. But the response as will be seen from the above figures has not been very great.

But the giving of this, the other side of our story, is not to say that we are in any way disappointed. Little offers of help creep into our office daily, as do letters of thanks and encouragement. And we are the first to realize that nothing in this world worth having can be obtained without a struggle; and that there is nothing more enjoyable in life than surmounting obstacles.

Criticisms and suggestions of all kinds towards improving the paper are welcomed, as also are offers of assistance, whether this be in the form of copy to reach us not later than the 18th of each month; helping in the display of our posters; or in the distribution of our leaflets as occasion offers.

A minimum circulation of 5,000 is our aim. The attainment of this not only means placing the paper on a sure financial basis, but the adding of four, if indeed not eight more additional pages.

## Regimental Notabilities.




Boy T. Wylie, 1st Battn. of Buffs, and of Hythe.

[*It will be remembered that the story of the wounding in the head of Boy Wylie by an Irish Rebel was told in our April edition. Ed.*]

# Personalia.

CONGRATULATIONS to The 2nd Battalion on their many successes during The Baghdad Week.

*The Dragon* has become a member of The Association of Regimental Newspapers, in regard to which more in our June issue.

Sergeant Dearing, on furlough from Sierra Leone, was, during the National Emergency, recalled to the Depot.

Congratulations to Cpl. C. Dennis and Mrs. Dennis on the birth of their daughter at Canterbury on the 19th April.

And to Captain (Temp. Lieut.-Col.) H. de R. Morgan, D.S.O. and Mrs. Morgan on the birth of their son at Oxford.

Mr. E. Clifton, who plays the oboe and wins all our prizes, was recently selected with 11 other Ex-Service men to play in an orchestra before Her Majesty The Queen and Princess Mary.

His latest, however, is that we should have a lantern slide prepared advertising *The Dragon*, and for display in every Cinema throughout East Kent.

Mr. Eaton, whose reminiscence is published in this number, served for 25 years continuously with C. Company, 1st Battalion. His son born in the 1st Battalion at Kamptee is now a Sergt. in the Army Educational Corps in India.

Captain H. O. C. Morley has reported for duty at The Depot.

Major A. F. Campbell-Johnston has just returned from Monte Carlo and gone back to live at Ascot.

Major Campbell-Johnston has had the unusual experience of having served in 5 battalions of the Buffs; joining the regiment in 1879 he served in both the 1st and 2nd battalions, whilst during the Great War he served with the 3rd, 7th and Garrison battalions.

S. Phillips, our Crimean pensioner at Chelsea Hospital took part in an interesting ceremony recently when a Roumanian flag was taken over by the Governor to be lodged in the Hospital. Phillips was one of an escort of 7 pensioners whose combined ages totalled 615.

Captain R. K. Price has entered for the Amateur Tennis Championship.

Major George Porter has been in London for a week during April: he is looking very fit. He spends most of his time fishing—near Malvern Wells where he lives.

Many of our readers will hear with regret of the death of Pte. Millen (Tubby) late of the 2nd Battalion.

Mr. G. Barton, also late of the 2nd Battalion is living at Broughton. There are three other old Buffs in this little village and all four take in *The Dragon*.

The following compose the members of the 1st Battalion Cross Country running team. In each instance the place of birth is shown :—

Lt. Essell (Worcester), Q.M.S. Cross (Ashford), Sgt. Ravenscroft (Stoke-on-Trent), Sgt. Burt (Seaford), Cpl. Bell (Camberwell), Cpl. Cornwell (Letchworth), L/Cpl. Meakin (Dover), L/Cpl. Ballard (Wadhurst), L/Cpl. Mallion (Wadhurst), Dr. Baker (North Lopham), Dr. Harris (Teynham), Pte. Hogbin (Shorncliffe), Pte. Martin (Lydd), Pte. Paul (Canterbury), Pte. Hadlow (Faversham), Pte. Taylor (Ramsgate), Cpl. Read (Sittingbourne.

News has just reached us that Col. Bright is on his way home from Mespot.

And that Major Gould's wedding is to take place on the 1st June, with Major F. W. Tomlinson as "best man."

Brig.-General Finch Hatton hopes very shortly to be settled in his house at Bishopsbourne.

Major W. H. Booth is at Brynmelyn, Hay, Herefordshire, and writes to say he has recently landed a 41 lb. salmon, and that he hopes to be present at *The Dragon* Club Dinner on the 15th June, as he is making a special effort to overcome the difficulties now standing in his way. All will hope to see him as well as a whole host of others at this Annual gathering.

Jimmy Reynolds is out Harlesden way, making a living out of smoke. He keeps a cigar shop in Craven Park Road.

"Rusty" Lambert is still going strong in Jersey.

R. J. Green, a well known runner in the 1st Battalion some years ago is still to be seen in veterans' races. He's in the building line down Walworth way, and doing well.

Bert Port is thriving in the vicinity of Thornton Heath.

Old "Jarge" Gammon, can be found out Wilmington way, busy teaching the young 'uns how to play cricket. He still keeps a wicket well for an old un.

E. A. Beilby is a B.W. down Millbank. Some yarns from him would be interesting.

J. W. Cook (late Sergt.-Major) is to be found at Plumstead. He has Dowling, Braham and Dick Kesby to keep him warm.

"Pincher" Edwards, late of the 1st Battalion Band is one of the Professors at Kneller Hall. He is looking quite fit.

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of No. 518 Private T. Coles, 6th Battalion The Buffs. He was formerly in the 2nd Battalion and served with that Battalion in South Africa. He was present at the Past and Present Dinner last year and was known to many.

Congratulations to L/Sgt. and Mrs. F. Fox on the birth of their daughter at Canterbury on the 16th April.

Major H. E. Ward, Sec. of the Ashdown Forest Golf Club, was one of those called up at the Depot during the Emergency. Lt.-Col. Lionel Knight was also recalled, to Ashford.

[*Personal notes for this page are invited from all ranks*].

## The days we live in.

THE Pessimist is with us to-day, in many shapes and forms. His Voice is never silent for long. Old England overcomes one danger, which was bound to destroy her, skates successfully over a thin stretch of ice, weathers a terrible storm and comes out on the top after a World War. But the pessimist nothing daunted continues to foretell ruin and desolation. He has his uses, as most things have in this world. He makes brave men and good women determine, that these things shall *not* be. Not on commerce alone, not even on coal does the strength of England rest. The nation and the Empire are built on character and as that force founded, so that force must maintain our People.

This constant prophecy of impending ruin is no new thing. Ever since one can remember the same gloomy forecasts have been dinned into our ears. When the Great War broke out in 1914, it did seem at last as if the most dismal vision had been realised but, with the danger, the qualities necessary for meeting it were called out. The men of our time who defended Europe from the Prussians were not unworthy of their forefathers who stood across the path of Phillip II., Louis XIV. or Napoleon.

Our people during the Great War broke down the most tremendous attempt yet been made to impose the tyranny of one race on the rest of mankind. Few yet realize how vast that conspiracy was, nor how very near it came to success. Fewer still realise that that conspiracy is "scotched but not killed." The war indeed has been won at frightful cost. The Peace is not yet won by any means. These things are often said, and they can not be repeated too often until we realize that each one of us must resolve that we will win the Peace.

The Coal strike shows that all through the dangerous and delicate negotiations which might so easily have degenerated into spite and fury our People have kept their heads, and have tried hard to understand the rights of the case and to see that justice was done.

Political economy is a difficult and a dismal science, and few of us care to study its intricate laws. But some of them by these very strikes and troubles are being forced upon us. We cannot help realising that a business whether run by Government or Private persons must somehow or other be a paying concern. If it is run at a loss, some other business must support it and this is a process that will ruin the richest country, as surely as the poorest. That is not the way in which we can reach that better state, to which we all aspire. The only way we can do that is for all to put their shoulders to the wheel each in his own circle, by making the best of himself and developing himself in body, mind and heart, to the utmost.

There never have been such opportunities as there are now in this country for men to make the best of themselves. If only the "wild" men would give their fellow citizens a chance, to rebuild and re-develope on immensely improved lines, there would be the most brilliant prospects for our Country.

Through all the sorrow and loss and suffering of this strike, this consolation emerges. The great danger, has been met calmly, courageously, temperately. The destiny of our Country rests in the hands of its people. It looks as if they would worthily respond. Not from the theories or the comradeship of foreign revolutionaries, but from the Union of the English Nation, will prosperity and happiness be derived.

MOHUN ASHFORDBY TRENCHARD.

When replying to Advertisements kindly mention
THE DRAGON.

## The Buffs War Memorial.

IT will be remembered that the Regimental War Memorial is to be erected in the Warriors Chapel in the Canterbury Cathedral; and that a sum of £1,000 will be needed to see the completion of the work together with the illuminated vellum book which is to contain the names of approximately 8,000 of all ranks of the Regiment who made the supreme sacrifice. Towards this amount the following donations had been received up to the 16th April, 1921. Donations can either be made direct to The Hon. Sec., The Buffs Memorial Fund, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury, or through the *Dragon* Shilling Fund, the opening up of which was announced in our last issue. All donations received from either source will be acknowledged in our columns.

LIST OF DONATIONS.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Previously acknowledged ... ... ... | 283 | 11 | 2 |
| Major G. A. E. Chapman ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Lady Eliza C. Mitchell ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Julian Pearse, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mary A. Arnold ... ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Lieut.-Col. F. W. Dunstan, T.D. ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. F. J. Baly ... ... ... ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Major J. V. R. Jackson ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Laura Shervington ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Major Anthony G. Hamilton ... ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Major C. D. K. Greenway ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Major J. Crookenden, D.S.O. ... ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| G. W. Rivaz, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. G. W. Rivaz ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. R. S. Goff ... ... ... ... | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| William W. Gascoigne, Esq. ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| W. H. Crisp, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| Mrs. W. H. Crisp, ... ... ... ... | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| H. D. Oxley, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| H. J. Skelton, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| S. N. Harvey, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Captain W. Orwin ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Major C. C. Cobbe ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| The Ramsgate Advancement Association and Chamber of Commerce ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| J. B. Beall, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Major A. Stuart Elmslie ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| C. F. Ashton, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. McNeir ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| H. G. Clarshut, Esq. ... ... ... | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| R. Guilton, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Bertha M. Money ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Major H. J. Gullick ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| A. S. Bartter, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| M. A. Burridge ... ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Pettifer ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 2/5 The Buffs per Viscount Goschen ... | 14 | 3 | 0 |
| J. R. Reeve, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| H. Tupper, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Major Hon. P. G. Scarlett ... ... ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Major R. P. Elderton ... ... ... | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Frank M. Furley, Esq. ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| W. Taylor, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| E. W. Newnham, Esq. ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Colonel R. S. H. Moody, C.B. ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Arthur Neame, Esq. ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Captain G. F. Jeanes ... ... ... | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Captain H. H. C. Baird, D.S.O. ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Clifton ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Lieut.-Col. A. W. Eaton ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 8th Battalion The Buffs ... ... ... | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total ... | 425 | 14 | 2 |

**WANTED.—The names and addresses of all old Buffs to enable us to send them a Dragon.**

# With the 1st Battalion in Ireland.

APRIL has been a quiet month, with nothing doing in the way of sports.

The strike has brought us all back from leave, and the Officers' mess is full to overflowing once again. (Take your leave in Constantinople, those of you who were recalled, if, in future, you wish to avoid its being rudely broken.)

The Boxing Team are safely back from Dublin and, through being second in the Irish Command Tournament, have become eligible to compete at the forthcoming Tounnament at Aldershot. The Team presented Coy. Quarter-Master-Sergt. Manning with a silver cigarette case, suitably inscribed, as a token of their gratitude for the services he rendered them.

### News in Brief.

Our congratulations to all those who helped to turn out such an excellent April number of *The Dragon*.

And to Captain R. A. Pinkey on the birth of a son.

And again to Captain D. V. Thomas on his recent narrow escape, the account of which appeared in the April number of *The Dragon*. We did not realise at first how near he had gone to the frontier. It was a great fight that he put up; and, once having got away from the hands of the rebels, he organised another party and went off to meet them again. In all they were scrapping on and off for seven hours.

Boy Wylie has recovered from his adventure and is back to duty none the worse. We hear that the girl who was shot and eventually died, had actually been warned that this would be her fate, if she continued to be friendly to soldiers.

Lieut.-Col. G. B. de M. Mairis, D.S.O., Commanding the Green Howards is in our neighbourhood. At the present time he is stationed near Tipperary. We have only seen him once, but he never forgets to send messages to us, when chance brings any of his officers to Fermoy on escort.

Another Buff in the neighbourhood is Captain Forward, O.B.E., D.C.M., Machine Gun Corps.

Lieut.-Col. H. Findlay, C.B.E., turned up here on a flying visit from Cork, little changed from what we remember of him twenty-three years ago in Kilkenny. Seeing him cross the Barrack square brought back the times we used to have playing bicycle polo on the parade ground there.

Captain F. Whittaker, R.C. we hear is holding H.F.'s hand in Cork, the state of the country, however, prevents much foregathering and we therefore see very little of the derelict Buffs scattered around.

### Sergeants' Mess News.

Our first item of interest this month was the Dance held in the Gymnasium on March 10th. This was very well attended, and proved a great success. A touch of brilliancy was lent to the occasion by the appearance of our "Colour Guard" in all the glory of Peace Time "Reds." Evidently someone had had a busy time "scrounging."

Our second monthly spoon shoot was successfully carried out in our new Miniature Range, and resulted in C.S.M. I. Dixon winning the Silver spoon and Kelly the "Wooden Un."

An enjoyable Whist Drive was held in the Mess on Wednesday, 6th inst. and twelve tables were occupied. The prize winners were:—Ladies:—(1) Mrs. Lane, (2) Mrs. Hills (Booby) Mrs. Souter. Men:—(1) Sgt. Pickard, A.S.C., (2) R.S.M. Boon, A.S.C., (Booby) S/S.M. Bird, A.S.C.

### B Company's Roving Commission.

The month has seen a few changes. Ptes. Etherington, Severn, Codrai Hughes, Ackling, and another notable namely Pte. H. Cox, have been discharged. L/C. Grubb completed his engagement of seven years with the Buffs and has proceeded home pending transfer to Army Reserve.

Captain Morley has proceeded to The Depot prior to departure for the "Far East," taking with him our best wishes. Lieut. Gem has returned from leave, and we shall miss the banjo and piano duets that he and Captain Morley often gave us on detachment and in the Battalion Concert programmes. And our company mascot, "Boy Wylie" has recovered.

A large portion of the Company under our Company Commander, formed themselves into a Cycle Corps and, in the second week of April, were sent off on a roving commission in the Ardmore district, With the exception of a little sniping from some wandering Shinner, nothing of importance occurred. It was a pleasant change from the monotonous routine of Barrack Life and we returned after a week's outing, tired but fit.

After a couple of days' rest some of us were once more on the move to Castletown rocce, where we took over a new and larger Billet for the detachment there. On the return journey we met with the usual adventures of roads cut and trees blocking the way. Scouting round however, we soon roped in enough countrymen to fill up the trench and saw through the obstructions.

### D Company Quell a Fire.

A quiet month and even our pastime of "shinny" hunting has been denied us, for the Company at Fermoy is only a few employed men.

During the month we had thirty-one men discharged on the termination of their two years re-engagement. Amongst them are a few well-known men in sporting circles. "Darky" Minns, our outside left; L/Cpl. Kent one of our footballers and short distance runners. L/Cpl. Gurton of Hockey fame and Gunnis. We wish them the best of luck in civilian life and only hope that they keep in touch with us through *The Dragon*.

Lieut. H. F. G. D'Arcy Symonds has been transferred to "A" Coy., we wish him success in his new company.

Even when the company turn out for parade it causes no excitement, for HE is sure to be put on fatigues or told to go away.

Much excitement was caused at Dungarven on the 13th, when many fires broke out at Abbeyside across the river and opposite the Billet. The detachment turned out and after four hours strenuous work managed to quell the fire.

At Castletownroche, where the detachment has moved into a new Billet the Shinners took it into their head to come and snipe the windows, no damage was done owing to their hurry to get away before any chance of danger cropped up.

# Irish Command Boxing.

## Boy Fearon's Four Fights.

IN our last issue a brief announcement was made that the 1st Battalion Boxing team with 47 points were second to the Lancashire Fusiliers who scored 69, in the Irish Command Boxing Tournay in which the following Regiments were represented.

10th Royal Hussars, 12th Royal Lancers, 1st Battalion The Buffs, 1st Bn. Somerset L.I., 1st. Bn. Lancs. Fusiliers, 2nd Bn. R. W. Fusiliers, 1st. Bn. Cameronians, 1st Bn. Dorsetshire Regt., 2nd Bn. Border Regt. 1st Bn. P. of W. Volunteers (S. Lancs), 2nd Bn. East Lancs. Regt.

And the 1st Battalion team was as follows :—

Officers. Middle weight : 2/Lt. W. Cass. Welter : Lt. L. S. Symons. Light : Lt. H. Milton.

Other Ranks. Heavy : Pte. Orsler. Lt. Heavy : Sgt. Gibson. Middle : Dmr. Clements. Welter : Sgt. Real. Light : Pte. Symons. Feather : Boy Fearon. Bantam : Pte. Errington. Fly : Pte. Solly.

Trainer and second C.Q.M.S. H. Manning. The following gives a brief account of each of our fights.

### Officers' Middle Weights.

2/Lt. Cass beat Lt. Browning, S. L.I. on points.

Lt. Cass next met 2/Lt Southwell, R.W. Fus., whom he knocked out early in the first round.

In the final 2/Lt. Cass met 2/Lt. Stewart, Cameronians, in a very stubborn fight. Being old rivals and contemporaries at R.M.C. Sandhurst, both were very keen on winning. Lt. Cass tried his utmost to get in a knock out but to no purpose, and Lt. Stewart was awarded the decision on points.

### Officers' Welter Weights.

Lt. Symons met Lt. Derry, E. Lancs. Regt. in a stubborn fight of three rounds and gained the decision on points.

### Officers' Light Weights.

Lt. Milton met Lt. Dobson, Lancs. Fus. in a grand bout, throughout which Lt. Milton fought extremely well both giving and receiving plenty of good punishment in each round, but the pace at last told and he went to the boards down and out.

### O. R. Heavy Weights.

Pte. Orsler, practically a novice met S.S.M. Young, 12th R. Lancers, a pre-war Champion. This fight was a foregone conclusion, but great credit is due to Orsler, who until knocked out put up a very game fight.

### O. R. Light Heavy Weights.

Sgt. Gibson beat Cpl. Carruthers, P. of W. Vols. on points. This was Sgt. Gibson's fight throughout with perhaps one exception in the second round when he stopped a nasty one on the point. In the next round Cpl. Herbert, Cameronians, failed to appear and Sgt. Gibson qualified to meet C.S.M. Spalding, R.W. Fus. in the semi-final. Spalding is another pre-war Army and Navy Champion, with plenty of experience in the ring and with a big reputation. Gibson fought very gamely, but was knocked out in the first round.

### O.R. Middle Weights.

In a quick fight Dmr. Clements, a bye in the 1st round, knocked out Sgt. McDermott. P. of W. Vols. with a splendid right.

Clements next met Cpl. Godliman, 12th R. Lancers, and after forcing the fighting all through won comfortably on points.

In the final Clements met L/Cpl. Worten, Lancs. Fus. and a very good fight ensued although Worten often looked " very windy " at Clements' threatening right. He just managed to avoid it each time and let Clements win on points by his forcing tactics.

### O.R. Welter Weights.

Sgt. Real *v.* S.S. Atkin, 10th R. Hussars. This was a great and sad surprise, as we had entertained great hopes of Sgt. Real being at least in the final of his weight. He did not, however, seem to get going at all and allowed himself to be forced a lot in both 1st and 2nd rounds. Improving a lot in the third round, and shewing some of his undoubted skill, he did good work but was too far behind on points to get the decision.

### O.R. Light Weights.

Pte. Symons a bye in the first series quickly knocked out Pte. Raggett, S.L.I. with as fine a punch as any seen at the meeting. In the next round after a very interesting full time bout, in which excellent form was shown, Symons defeated Pte. Gilletely, Cameronians on points.

In the final, Symons met a very doughty and tough opponent in Pte. McKay, Border Regt. Symons tried hard for a knock out and forced the fighting in both first and second rounds. He then seemed to tire a little and slow down and at the final bell only lost by a very narrow margin on points.

### O.R. Feather Weights.

In this weight, we were represented by Boy Fearon, a very promising lad with a great future in the boxing line. He is scientific, can give a take some hard knocks, and was the only member of the team to have four fights at this tournament.

Fearon first met Pte. Strickland, 10th R. Hrs., a man who had previously won over twenty fights. This was a very good fight, but Fearon was undoubtedly a better boxer and won on points.

Fearon's next victim was Cpl. Cromin, Border Regt., In this fight he again proved his superiority, outclassed his opponent, and easily won on points.

His next opponent was Pte. Clancy, P. of W. Vols., and although Fearon won, he was badly shaken by this bout and perceptibly tired at the end.

This was unfortunate because in the final he had to meet Pte. Hallwell, Lancs. Fus. who besides being a stronger man than Fearon, had not been extended to anything like the extent Fearon had. Fearon entered the ring however, bright, merry and confident only to get quickly in a mix up during which Hallwell put over a nice one to the jaw and Fearon went down for the count.

### O.R. Bantam Weights.

Pte. Errington, a bye in the first series, lost to Pte. Fenn, 12th Lancers, but this need not discourage him. If he sticks to boxing and trains hard nothing can stop him becoming a very fair boxer.

### O.R. Fly Weights.

Pte. Solly, a bye in first series, knocked out Puncheon, S.L.I., in under half a round. Solly then met Pte. Dunlop, Cameronians, in what was perhaps the most unsatisfactory fight of the whole tournament. At the end of the three rounds a decision was given against Solly, who, had he fought up to his known standard could have won easily.

Dmr. Clements has been the recipient of a signal honour in being selected as reserve middle weight for the Army *v.* Metro. Police Tournament.

Great credit is due to C.Q.M.Sgt. Manning for the trouble and care he has, and is taking, in training the team, each one of whom have received handsome bronze and enamel medals for their success, in addition to the three individual Cups won by Dmr. Clements, Pte. Symons and Boy Fearon respectively.

# With the 2nd Battalion at Kirkuk.

IT is March 4th, and the battalion is now settled down in Kirkuk. Men of the Regiment are dotted between here and Basra, on outside jobs such as Graves Registration, Fire Brigade, Clerks, Supplies and Ordnance. The draft is expected at any moment and already several of them have been earmarked for outside employments. Our boxing, Athletic and football teams have gone to Bagdad to take part in the " Bagdad Week " to commemorate the 4th anniversary of its capture by General Maude. Football and hockey are now in full swing when the weather is fine, and not a day passes that a match of some kind is not played. There is also a certain amount of rough shooting in the vicinity, and on Thursdays and Sundays the country is dotted with guns for miles round. Also a local sheikh produces some grey hounds for hunting hares and good fields are obtained owing to the several officers and transport on mules who turn out.

The Corporals have now been successful in obtaining quite a cosy room for their mess, and Corporal Coleman, their president, is to be congratulated on the attractive way in which it has been got up.

The following are the results of the first class certificate examination which has been held since we last sent you our news.

Complete certificate: L/C. Bristow, L/C. Allen, Pte. Coles, all of C. Coy. Group I.: R.S.M. Andrews, Sgt. (O.R.C.) Ricketts (D. Coy.), L/C. Gwinnell (A Coy.), L/C. Diamond (band), and L/C. Wilson (C Coy).

Altogether there is rather a dearth of interesting news this month, but shortly we shall be sending you the news of Baghdad Week which should make interesting reading.

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COMPETITION FOR THE C.O.'S BUGLE.

In addition to the bugle presented by Major Scarlett some years ago to the Drums of the 2nd Battalion, the Colonel presented a silver bugle soon after the Battalion reformed.

The best bugler is decided by competition, and the winner is known as the C.O.'s bugler, carries the silver bugle on special occasions, gains certain small privileges, and has his name entered on a shield. He is open to challenge at any time, and, in consequence, has to keep well above standard to maintain a keenly desired position.

The first competition held at Multan was won by Drummer Johnny Stevens, who has reduced bugling to a fine art as the number of times his name appears on the shield will testify. Unfortunately he has left us owing to illness (only for a short time we hope). So the C.O. decided to hold another competition on Saturday, February 19th. The large number of entries kept the judging Committee consisting of the C.O., 2nd in command, Adjutant, Bandmaster and R.S.M. hard at it for well over an hour. The competitors had to sound five calls each out of sight of the committee, the members of which entered up their marks against the index numbers of the drummer as each thought fit; a maximum of 20 points being given for each call.

The result of this competition was as follows:—

Winner: Dmr. Pleasants. 2nd: L/C. Fuggle. 3rd: L/C. Whittington, 4th: Dmr. Pilcher. 5th: Dmrs. Fifield and Kille a tie. 7th: Boy Sifflet. 8th: Dmr. Walters. 9th: Dmr. Woods. 10th: Dmr. Murdock. 11th: Dmr. Taylor: 12th: Dmr. Rolfe. 13th: Pett. 14th: Dmr. Atkinson. 15th: Dmr. Tomkins.

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FOOTBALL.

The arrival of the news that an Army Football Championship was to be held during " Baghdad Week " only gave us a fortnight in which to make ready. This was devoted to four days' trials and the remainder for the training of the selected team which was as follows:—

Cpl. Gower (C); Cpl. Cloke (B); Pte. Meddle (Band); Pte. Manning (A), Pte. Cooper (B), Pte. Fenn (A); Pte. Reid (A), Pte. Solomon (B), Pte. Shelton (Band), Pte. Everest (D), Col. Rodder (C). And the following accompanied the team as reserves. Pte. Hawkins (C), L/Cpl. Dray (D), Pte. Day (Band), L/Cpl. Searle (A), L/Cpl. Robertson (B).

The XI. cannot be said to be up to our usual standard. It is on the light side and not fast enough; and the whole of the back division will not keep the ball low when passing. The forwards can shoot well but passing is slightly erratic. We are good in defence but our attack is weak.

Anyhow the XI. prior to their departure showed signs of settling down; and as it contains a lot of new blood it may do well though several of the new hands have had no experience of Army Championships. They left for Baghdad fit and well and determined to win, and we wish them the best of luck, to say nothing of a nice march down—a matter of about 90 miles!

On February 20th the Regimental team defeated Lieut. Cartwright's team by three goals to one. Shelton opened the scoring in the first ten minutes. Then after a lot of give and take in mid-field, Shelton scored again with a beautiful low drive, leaving the score at half-time 2-0 in our favour. On resuming the Regimental forwards pressed hard and Everest scored with a terrific shot from a centre from Reid. Capt. Markham scored the only goal made against us. It was a very good game and Lieut. Chester, at outside left, played brilliantly. The following were the teams:—

THE BUFFS.—Cpl. Gower, Bdm. Meddle, Cpl. Cloke, Pte. Manning, Pte. Cooper, Pte. Fenn, Pte. Reid, Pte. Hawkins, Bdm. Shelton, Pte. Everest, Cpl. Rodda.

LT. CARTWRIGHT'S XI.—Capt. Duke, Pte. Solomon, Pte. Godden, Lt. Russell, L/Cpl. Searle, Capt. Rice, Lt. Penlington, Capt. Markham, Lt. Cartwright, Bdm. Day, Lt. Chester.

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HOCKEY.

Up to the time of writing we have only been able to arrange three matches. Lack of opponents is the chief cause of this; and we sadly miss the innumerable good matches and good grounds at Multan.

In the first match, officers *v.* officers of Rest of Station we went down 4-1. In this the following played, and Lt. Penlington, as usual, was the stamina of the side at centre-half.

Goal: Lt. G. H. Mitchell. Backs: Lt. E. R. Backhouse, Lt. A. A. T. Fearnside —Speed. Halves: Capt. N. W. Rice, Lt. T. N. Penlington, Capt. G. F. Hamilton. Forwards: Lt. C. H. M. Brooke, Capt. G. R. Howe, Lieut. J. Cartwright, Lt. J. Chester, Lt. W. H. Rowe.

In our next match *v.* the 15th Sikhs we again went down 4-2. This was a splendid and very evenly contested game, in which the Sikh centre forward played brilliantly. Capt. Howe, Lt. Cartwright, L/Cpl. Pack, and Pte. Lee all played a sterling game, but taken as a whole there was a lack of combination throughout the side. *(Continued on next page. Ed.)*

**With the 2nd Battalion at Kirkuk**—*Continued.*

The team was as follows :—

Goal : L/Cpl. Lawry, " D " Coy. Backs : L/Cpl. Pack " D " Pte. Lee " D." Halves : Capt. N. D. Rice, Lieut. T. N. Penlington, Pte. Comber " D " Coy. Forwards : Lieut. W. H. Rowe, Capt. G. R. Howe, Lieut. J. Cartwright, L/Cpl. Ward, Lt. J. Chester " A " Company.

By the time our third match took place *v.* The Hospital, our team had found its true level, and after a good clean game we came out victors 3-0. It was a pleasure to see our side back to its old Multan form, and our two backs L/Cpl. Pack and Lee as reliable and skilful as ever. Lt. Cartwright, Capt. Howe, and L/Cpl. Ward, the three inside forwards combined well, being well fed by the halves.

The team in this match was as follows :—

Goal : L/Cpl. Lawry, D Coy. Backs : L/Cpl. Pack, D Coy., Pte. Lee, D Coy. Halves : Capt. Hamilton, Lt. Penlington, Lt. Chester. Forwards : Sgt. Coaster, Capt. Howe, Lt. Cartwright, L/Cpl. Ward, A Coy., L/Cpl. Murray, A Coy.

[*The news received from the Sergeants' Mess of the 2nd Battalion will be found on page 64. Ed.*]

C Company well represented.

Our news this month is rather limited, due to the quiet state in which we have been living in since we reached Kirkuk. Our efforts have been centred chiefly in getting fit for the Baghdad Sports' Meeting which is to be held during March.

The Battalion has sent a very large number of conpetitors and, needless to say, C Company is well represented. Among the runners is L/C. Player, whom we hope will be up to his best form. Ptes. Petford, Prince and Simpson are conspicuous among the boxers, while Cpl. Rodder, Pte. Shelton and Pte. Hawkins figure prominently in the Football Team. Capt. N. D. Rice, Lt. Wooldridge, Cpl. Kemp and Pte. Statham, as well as many others are also taking part in various events to uphold the honour and reputation of C Company.

The long expected draft is still " en route." One blew through the door the other morning but that was spelt differently. Rumour has it that they are not far off, but we fear that their ranks have been severely depleted. The greater number of them are " on the staff " somewhere between Kirkuk and Basrah, so when it does arrive we hope that the C.S.M.'s will not fight to decide who shall have him.

### The Mespot Draft.

WE are glad to be able to give news of the draft whilst en route for Mespot. This has reached us in the form of a letter from India dated 28th March, from which the following are extracts :—

"On arrival at Bombay the draft was handed over to an officer of The Queen's Bays who took them up to Delhi, where the whole ship load were put in quarantine, flu, hun measles and mumps having broken out on board.

Well, I must say that it was really a pleasure travelling with that draft. They made a great impression on board and no crime at all except for one who got eight days for smoking between decks.

Of course the draft was lucky in having two such darned good N.C.O.'s with pre-war experience, but be it remembered that even the likes of these can not make bricks without straw. Geard was made ship's R.S.M. for the last week of the voyage and did remarkably well, and the O.C. Troops and Adjutant made many congratulatory remarks about him. For Corporal Potter there are no words good enough. He seemed untirable—always on the spot under very cramped and pretty miserable conditions. And the old " Main " was a 23 year older and entirely unsuited for Eastern trooping.

Some forty of the men were employed by the 2nd Class Chief Steward the whole voyage. They liked the job as they got better food than otherwise, and it was a blessing for them to have something to do.

Watts got into the final of the Lightweights but was beaten by a Pte. Brooks of the R.W.F. Geard thought he should have been given the verdict but he really was beaten—though only just. Hazel was in the finals of the Cruiserweights and put up a pretty good show against a far superior lad. He took a lot of punishment but was entirely outclassed. Incidentally the draft had ten entries all told.

## Thalatta, Thalatta.

DEAR friend, if ever poet raves,
About the " wondrous sheen,
Of moonlight dancing on the waves,"
Be sure that had he been
With those same moonbeams, dancing too,
He would not praise the scene.

If he should sing of " white foam flowers
That wreath the vessel's prow,"
Ask if he ever saw the same,
And when, and where, and how :
Perhaps he hung as blossom hangs,
Head downward from the bow.

If he should praise the " smooth, green depths
Beneath the sliding keel,"
He has not slid above the same
Or else he cannot feel ;
He has not yearned in memory
Towards an absent meal.

If he should sing of " sweet salt winds
That spur the sense of smell,"
Ask if he loves the reek of oil
Mixed with a Biscay swell.
Filling an airless smoking room,
Ask if he still feels well.

Farewell, farewell, the sirens call,
Across the heaving blue,
And I must go reluctantly,
With anxious heart to view,
The Bay of Trafalgar, and face,
The foe that Nelson knew.

H. H.

EVERY

HOUSE

which is occupied by an old Buff, should have

" THE DRAGON,"

The Buff's own Regimental Paper, sent at once.

TO

enable him to keep in touch with his old pals, who are serving or who have left, also to

LET

him have the opportunity of reading of the life, and places in which his old pals abide, and the movements of his late Battalion, every old Buff should

APPLY—

at once to Editor, "The Dragon," Depot, Canterbury, for Particulars.

# Reminiscencies.

BY PAST AND PRESENT BUFFS.

## How I became a Buff.

FORTY years have elapsed since I enlisted at The Depot of The R.W. Kents, Maidstone, and made a fair shape at most things that I was put to. I found it all very pleasant except for one very unpopular fatigue, namely, Coal Carrying on Fridays after dinner.

I only had about three of these delightful games when I got " fed up " Whilst wondering one Friday, after being at it from 2 till 4.30 in the rain, how I could dodge the next, the Company Orderly Sergeant came into the barrack room and said " Any men who would like to volunteer for The Buffs. A draft is to be sent the next week." Those willing were invited to give him their names at 9.30 Roll Call.

This set me thinking. I knew nothing of Regimental titles at the time, but did not like to expose my ignorance. I had however picked up enough to learn that the " Blues " " The Bays," The " Black Horse " and The " Greys " were all Cavalry Regiments and that their Depot was at Canterbury. I concluded therefore that as " The Buffs " Depot was also at that place they were likewise Cavalry and no doubt had a better method of carrying coal with the horses assisting in this sport. So down went my name for The Buffs.

You may judge my surprise when I landed on The Citadel parade ground a week later on a very cold windy afternoon to be inspected and then marched off to the " regions below." Next day was Friday. Coal carrying once more. No horses. And to impress it well on my mind my first 2 journeys with another draft chum were to the Schoolmaster's Quarters near the Church. So much for coal carrying in The Buffs. I might add I eventually got 2 horses to look after and groom. They were white metal collar badges though and of no appreciable assistance on " Coal Fatigue."

O. EATON.

## My first Offence. *(Detected.)*

ABOUT the middle of September, 1899, a draft—strength 174 plus 2 Boys—joined the 1st Battalion at Kamptee (Central India). On the voyage out one boy was inoculated. About a pint of fluid was injected into his side; I think through a cycle pump, but that's getting away from the yarn; and he, poor chap is dead. The other boy has managed to survive, thanks to Glaxo and chemical foods.

Now the boys of this draft were anxiously waited for by the boys of the Band, who held in their possession, a " muzzle, loading, had been a sporting gun." But the wire binding holding the barrel to the stock, a bent nail for a trigger, the barrel half full of goodness knows what, had so far not been conducive to the thing being let off, and the arrival of two new boys seemed to offer a chance. At last the draft arrived and by the time we got to bed I had been told three times " We've got a gun." "'ave yer, where ? " I replied. " In the wash-house. Coming out parrot shooting in the morning ? " was the reply.

The next morning the shoot took place. On arriving at the cemetery my search for knowledge and my queries met with the following replies. " Where was the powder and shot ? " " In the gun." " Got any caps ? " " We use matches; heads off wax-uns." " What was in the gun ? " " Oh, only a little bit of powder and a few small pieces of lead. We did'nt fire yesterday, as we thought we'd give you the chance."

At last we got the head of a match balanced on the nipple, and after four attempts managed to get it into the shoulder without falling off. It was at this stage that the others of the shooting party seemed to have had something to do in other parts of the Cemetery. One looked for a nest, Another investigated how his young birds were getting on, etc., and at the same time took cover behind head stones. At last the match balanced. I fired the gun. Though the Parrot tired of waiting had flown away.

Teddy Campbell was the hospital Orderly, and a nice kind chap was he. When I was well enough to hear the worst, he told me they had found the butt of the gun, and then added " you're for the clink." But instead of landing there I went straight in front of the Adjutant, still in my sea kit, khaki very dirty, and helmet about 4 sizes too large as I had lost mine and had borrowed another one. For this I had two copies of the Times of India, stuffed inside and little spy holes cut in front to see through.

The Provost Sergeant was evidence against me, and I nearly fainted again what with the pain in my shoulder and the charge :—" You are charged with :— (1) Being in possession of a sporting gun without a licence, (2) shooting parrots in the Cemetery.

Evidence finished, " What have *you* got to say ? " In a little weak, piping voice, " Well sir, I....." Referred to C.O.

I had no idea what that meant, but found out about ten minutes later. I had not been introduced to Colonel Ommanney before, and he did not seem at all pleased to see me. After telling me I had disgraced the Regt. and that nothing so henious as my behaviour had taken place in India since the Mutiny he threatened to send me to the Native prison for fifteen years. After many more " Chewings up " from every Officer, W.O. and N.C.O.'s, black looks from older Soldiers than myself (I was the youngest soldier in the Battalion for two years) I eventually landed up in the Band Sergeant's bunk, when " Fall in the Boys " rang out. One of the shooting party offered me a folded towel, and told me to put it in my trousers (in case I sat down).

Billy Tozer administered one dozen with a specially selected cane, and quite unnecessarily ordered me to stand, at meals for seven days.

TACET.

*(Reminiscences for this page are invited from all ranks. Ed.)*


# THE DRAGON CLUB.

## The ANNUAL DINNER

OF

## THE DRAGON CLUB

WILL TAKE PLACE ON

## Wednesday, 15th June

AT THE

## Trocadero Restaurant

**At 7.45 p.m.**

# Albuera, May 16th, 1811.

"THERE is no battle in which the fighting qualities of British Infantry and their ability to pull their General out of a hole, is better shown than that of Albuera, and there is none which has been described in more glowing and soul-stirring language."[1] That is certainly the impression gained from the numerous accounts of the battle; but, as is often the case, the glowing and soul-stirring quality of the descriptions leaves the reader somewhat doubtful as to who was actually to blame—who, in fact, got the British Infantry into the hole which will presently be described.

Wellington visited the battlefield a few days later and thought that the Allies ought to have gained a complete victory if the Spaniards, whose bearing and conduct were excellent, had been able to manoeuvre. As it was they remained immovable, even when, having for some time stood firm under heavy fire from the French, they were suddenly subjected to a brisk fire from the rear by our advancing reinforcements.

Napier, who also was not present at the battle, blames Beresford, the Commander of the Allied Force. But it is doubtful whether this can be regarded as an unprejudiced judgement.

Beresford himself states that Colbourne, recognising the desperately precarious position of the extreme right of his brigade (the Buffs), asked General Stewart, the Divisional commander, whether he might take steps to protect his right flank by altering the formation of two companies of the Buffs; but the request was refused.

The idea of a battalion, on the outer flank of an attacking brigade, being unable on its own or even its Brigadier's initiative to protect its exposed flank and being actually forbidden to do so by the Divisional Commander, is of course unthinkable to a modern soldier. It must be remembered however that in those days, so complicated was the drill that once a force was deployed and set in motion, a commander would hesitate to order any change of formation for fear of the units concerned being thrown into complete disorder. And it must be remembered too that Stewart, the Divisional commander, could himself see the battle going on before his eyes; he saw that the French left was exposed and, although he had only been ordered to support Zayas Spaniards, he was tempted to push through their ranks and assault the position at the point of the bayonet. But he was ignorant of the presence behind the French line of a body of cavalry, skilfully hidden. Colbourne's brigade, with the Buffs far on the right flank, attacked with the most magnificent courage; they advanced under a withering fire, to within fifty yards of the French infantry which now showed signs of wavering; the moment had come for the final assault, when suddenly from their right the Buffs were assailed by a shattering charge of cavalry which had been able to approach unseen under cover of a sudden hailstorm. In the space of five minutes the Buffs were almost annihilated; their ranks already thinned by the fire of the French infantry, they were now absolutely overwhelmed; and after the cavalry had swept through them practically ceased to exist as a fighting unit. Out of total strength of 755 officers and men the Buffs suffered 643 casualties, nearly 200 more than any other regiment.[2] "This ghastly slaughter is said to have been due to the fact that the savage Polish Lancers not only refused surrender from the unhappy infantry but deliberately speared the wounded as they lay. Peninsular tradition tells that the 2nd Division, after Albuera, swore to give no quarter to Poles."[3]

This incident is graphically depicted in the accompanying illustration, a reproduction of a contemporary "broadsheet" which was probably sold in the streets for one penny or twopence. Here also we find Beresford—in the middle of the battle—shooting down a Polish Lancer who attacked him.

Beresford, whatever his qualities as a general, was a man of great bravery as well as great physical strength. At one time he is said to have lifted a Spanish ensign up by the chest, together with his colour, and carried him forward bodily. This ensign, however, was not so immobile as his comrades, for he at once ran back to rejoin them. Ensign Walsh is seen lying quietly on one side of the picture, "concealing the colours of his regiment in his bosom." His conduct is thus described: "The three regiments of Colbourne's Brigade lost their colours at this time; those of the Buffs were recovered, after signal heroism had been displayed in their defence. Ensign Thomas, who bore one of the Flags, was surrounded, and asked to give it up. Not but with my life! was his answer, and his life was the instant forfeit; but his standard thus taken was regained and the manner in which it had been defended will not be forgotten when it shall be borne again to battle. Ensign Walsh, who carried the other colours, had his staff broken in his hand by a cannon ball, and fell severely wounded; but more anxious about his precious charge than himself, he separated his flag from the shattered staff, and secured it in his bosom, from which it was taken when his wounds were dressed after the battle."[4]

This bloodiest of battles was full of the noblest examples of courage and devotion, and, as Oman says "truly Albuera is the most honourable of all Peninsular blazons on a Regimental flag." F.W.T.

1 *Lieut.-Col. E. M. Lloyd, R.E., R.U.S.I. Journal. September*, 1895.
2 *A History of the Peninsular War, by Professor Oman, Vol. IV., Appendix XV.*
3 *Ibid.*
4 *History of the Peninsular War, by Robert Southey.*

## Lieut. Latham's Gallant Act.

AT the Battle of Albuera, while the Buffs were engaged with the French Infantry in front, they were attacked in rear by a large force of French and Polish Cavalry. Ensign Thomas who was carrying the "second or Regimental Colours" was killed and the colour was captured. The "First or King's Colour" was carried by Ensign Walsh. The sergeants who protected it had fallen in its defence and Ensign Walsh was surrounded, wounded and taken prisoner, but not before Lt. Latham, alive to the honour of his corps, had run forward and seized the colour, which he defended with heroic gallantry.

At one time a French Hussar seized the flag staff and aimed a blow at the head of the gallant Latham, severing one side of the face and nose. Struggling with the French horseman he exclaimed:—

"I will surrender it only with my life."

A second blow severed his left arm and hand in which he held the staff. He then dropped his sword and, seizing the staff with his right hand, continued to struggle with his opponents, until he was thrown down, trampled upon, and pierced with lances. But the number of his adversaries impeded their efforts to destroy him and at that moment the British cavalry came up, and the French troopers fled.

Lt. Latham was so intent upon preserving the colour that he exerted the little strength he had left to remove it from the staff and conceal it under him. The Fusilier Brigade by a gallant effort advanced and Sergeant Gough, of the 7th Royal Fusiliers found Latham apparently dead. The Colour was restored to the Buffs.

After lying insensible for some time, Latham revived and crawled to a river, where he was found endeavour-

*(Continued on page 62).*

# THE BATTLE OF ALBUERA.

A | The British troops driving the enemy from the hill.

B | The enemy routed and hastily retreating.

C | Marshal Beresford attacked by a Polish lancer who he knock'd of his horse and despatch'd while endeavouring to pierce him.

D | Genl Hoghton slain while cheering his men.

Marshal Beresford with the British and Allied Forces under his command gained a glorious Victory over the French Army commanded by Marshal Soult on May 16, 1811 near Albuera in Spain it was a bloody conflict & lasted six hours during which time the French had two Generals killed and three wounded and 2000 dead on the field the loss of the British and Allies was very severe.

Published July 4. 1811 by G Thompson No. 43 Long Lane West Smithfield.

E | Buonapartes polish lancers charging & cruelly killing our wounded as they pass'd.

F | The attack on the bridge. [G] The village of Albuera

H | Ensign Walsh tho severely wounded concealing the colors of his Regiment in his bosom. [I] Spanish Horse and Foot.

K | The British Army. [L] The Portugues ditto.

M | The French Army [N] The town of Badajos.

**Lieut. Latham's Gallant Act**—*Continued.*

ing to quench his thirst. He was taken to a convent, his wounds dressed, the stump of his arm amputated, and he ultimately recovered. Ensign Walsh escaped shortly after being made prisoner and it was mainly through him that Latham's gallantry came to be known.

The officers of the Buffs subscribed one hundred guineas for the purchase of a gold medal on which the preservation of the Colour by Lt. Latham was depicted with the motto :—

" I will surrender it only with my life."

Sanction was obtained from the Duke of York for Lt. Latham to wear the medal and, in addition, he was rewarded with a commission of Captain in the Canadian Fencible Infantry on 11th February, 1813. from which he exchanged to the Buffs on the 13th May following.

In 1815, when the 2nd Battalion of the Buffs was stationed at Brighton, Captain Latham was presented by his Colonel to the Prince Regent, afterwards King George IV. His Royal Highness, after expressing admiration for Latham's bravery added that the mutilation of Captain Latham's face admitted of alleviation, and that " if he should feel disposed to avail himself of the aid of a celebrated surgeon, Mr. Carpue, who had succeeded, by an improved operation, in repairing mutilations of the face to an astonishing extent, he would feel happy in being permitted to pay the expense of the operation and cure."

Captain Latham assented to this kind proposition, and the operation was performed by Mr. Carpue aided by Assistant Surgeon John Morrison, M.D. of the Buffs.

Captain Latham received a pension of one hundred pounds a year in consequence of the loss of his left arm and a pension of seventy pounds a year on account of other severe wounds. He continued to serve in the Buffs until the 20th April, 1820, when he was permitted to exchange to the half pay, receiving the regulated difference. E. F. D. S.

[*Note* :—*It is curious to note that Lt. Walsh has been credited with the honour of saving the colour, not only in most histories, but also in the official history of the Buffs published in* 1839. *The War Office however published an official Memorandum to the History in* 1841 *in which they apologise for their previous error. The confusion was probably due to the fact that Latham was found insensible and was mistaken in his mutilated condition for Walsh, who was the official colour bearer. E.F.D.S.*]

## The Latham Monument and Medal.

ON his retirement on April 30th, 1820, Latham settled down at a small hamlet named Blingel, in the Pas de Calais, France, when he became the hero of the village as well as that of The Buffs. Shortly afterwards he married a French lady. Strange as it may seem, it was by no means uncommon for a British Officer to marry one of his late adversaries after the Napoleonic Wars.

On his death Officers of the Regiment erected a monument over his grave bearing a replica of the medal and this inscription ; " Captain Latham, 3rd Foot or Buffs, as a testimonial from his Brother Officers of their high opinion of his distinguished conduct in defending the colors of the regiment in the Battle of Albuera in which he lost an arm and part of his face. A la memoire de ce brave militaire decede dans sa 79e anne le 27 Avril, 1865. Priez Dieu pour lui."

In May, 1916 Major The Hon. P. G. Scarlett made certain enquiries and ascertained that the Monument was in sad need of repair, and while negotiations were being carried on Brigadier General E. Ellis, Commanding The Tank Corps, came across it and immediately took up the matter, with the result that the Regiment made the necessary grant to cover the cost of renovations. It has been suggested that a sum of money be granted yearly by the Regiment to The Mayor of Blingel for the upkeep of The Monument.

Great credit it due to Major Hon. P. G. Scarlett, Brig.-General Ellis and the Tank Corps for their help tracing the whereabouts of the Monument and their active help in the renovation.

Now in Blingel, in 1916, lived Mademoiselle Pauline Latham, a granddaughter of Lt. Latham. She was asked by an officer of the Buffs if she would honour the Regiment by selling them the Medal, if it were in her possession. She replied that this heirloom had descended to her cousin M. Georges Latham, Le Hautrell, a Verneuil sur Aore (Eure), and that she and her sister would put no obstacle in the way of its disposal. M. Georges Latham was then approached and the following reply received.

" Sir,

" The words with which you praise the gallant deed of my grandfather greatly honour our family.

" A soldier as unassuming as he was brave, my grandfather was respected by his children, esteemed by his friends, and has bequeathed to his grandchildren the memory of a noble and dignified character.

" Several times previously our family has received the same request as mentioned in your letter ; but different opinions arose, the Law stepped in and my father was made the legal holder of the medal with the proviso, that the medal could not be disposed of without the consent of all the members of our family.

" There are at present four families holding this right. Two Misses Latham who reside in Alsace, which must now be conquered territory and it would hardly be possible to obtain their consent until after the war.

" This is my opinion, shared by my two sisters—

" Conscious that the reward of my grandfather's bravery cannot be turned into cash, we have decided to give the medal to the Buffs. For, surely, it is in the living-room of his brothers-in-arms that my grandfather's memory would find the most admiration ; and after the war, where heroes are innumerable, he will find himself in good company.

" I ask only one thing, that reproductions should be made to give to each of the eight grandchildren alive, so that they remember the brave soldier.

Accept, Sir,

The expression of the admiration and gratitude I feel for the English Army, enduring the cruel burden of the day, GEORGES LATHAM."

Later an agreement was drawn up whereby M. Georges Latham would hand the medal to the Regiment on the following conditions—

(1) That the medal be kept in the " Hall of Honour of the Regiment."

(2) That each member of the family receive a bronze replica of the medal.

(3) That the medal be handed over to the Colonel of the Regiment or to an Officer deputed by him to receive the medal.

Enquiries are now being made as to whether M. Georges Latham still lives at Verneuil, and is still in possession of the medal ; and we all look forward to an early fulfilment of the negotiations already carried out and so near completion. E.F.D.S.

REPRODUCTIONS on fine art paper, and suitable for hanging in Messes, Barrack Rooms, etc., of our illustration of the Battle of Albuera can be had on application to the Editor, price 6d., post free.

## Lamentations of a C.Q.M.S.

BY A COMPANY CLERK.

WHO hath woes? Who hath lamentations? Who hath corns on the bosom of his pants? Verily the Company Quartermaster-Sergeant!

He ariseth in the morning at Reveille (?) and, if none of the previous day's work worrieth him, he is certain that something will torment his mind during the coming day. He proceedeth to the scene of his labours, and, woe betide his clerk if that individual be sleepy or otherwise indisposed for work.

The day's routine beginneth with a complaint by the men, through the Orderly officer, about the breakfasts; either it is "too much" milk in the tea or "too much" sugar in the porridge. For an hour he trotteth in the rear of his company Commander on his daily tour of inspection. Can he say "As you were" or "Carry on Sergeant-Major" if he maketh a mistake? Not he!

During the course of the day he is bombarded with numerous chits, conveying to him that he will render this return, or that return, or draw this or that from stores, *at once*. By the time that he retires for dinner, his table, which his thoughtful clerk tidied so neatly in the morning, is one mass of papers, and only instinct denotes the position of his inkwell.

His men often, very often, turn his hair grey. He parades men for fitting of clothing. "Jones, what do you want?" "A mess tin, sir." "Go and - - -" is the C.Q.M.S.'s reply. Immediately after pay parade his den is assailed by individuals who want to know why they draw short pay. If they do not get thrown out of the office they are lucky. If they do, who can blame the man of three and a crown?

Towards the end of the month, no one dare go near his office. If by chance any one gets near they will see his head bent over books and papers and his pen flashing from page to page in double-quick time. The monotony is broken occasionally by an order given to his clerk or a shout for the runner, who must instantly appear at his side.

Who can wonder therefore why the C.Q.M.S. suffers from a "liver," or why his replies are often, to put it mildly, rude. After such a life it is a wonder why they live to reap the benefit of their labours, when they are able to ask a friend to come and dine in *their* houses.

F.A.B.

## The Sign of Peace.

PEACE? Alas, not yet. Although it is two and a half years ago since Mr. Bottomley finished his gigantic task and uttered those famous words, "I declare this War well and truly laid," not yet has the stately edifice of Peace been raised.

The sign—the chief sign—of this desirable state has not yet made its appearance. That sign, so prevalent in the pre-war days of Peace, together with the well-being of these small Islands, and of the mighty Empire which clusters around them, was to be found in every Regiment in the Service. But to-day a weary search only discloses its absence.

And not only in the Army of *this* Empire, but in the Armies of all Countries—except, perhaps, Germany—this certain sign of "All's Well" is, to-day, missing. That it will soon make its welcome re-appearance must be the devout wish of all right-thinking people.

Where—and I ask this question fervently hoping that someone can disclose the answer—where is there to be found, to-day, that sure sign of Peace—A FAT SERGEANT? H

**WANTED—A LIMERICK—see page 68.**

## "The Reservist."

OF course, that is the part he is called upon to be ready to play—to rejoin for Colour service at very short notice. It is, we note, in the majority of instances, a somewhat annoying business for a Reservist to be suddenly taken away from his civil occupation, and the surroundings of his happy home in order to act his role as a soldier against enemies of his Country. But, in very truth, it must be annoying in a far greater degree to be ordered to do so not against a Foreign enemy, but against his OWN COUNTRYMEN.

Still, as a soldier, the Political Affairs of State are not his business.

So, all "gay and hearty," up rolled the Reservists of The Buffs. Sunday, April 10th, saw 73 of them answer the call; Monday, 83; Tuesday, 82; and Wednesday a few more. Some of them, however, have been authorised to remain at their Civil posts—mainly "coppers," who, of course, cannot be "spared." All have very readily adapted themselves to their old calling, appear contented and happy, and are quite reconciled to their new membership. Not the slightest hitch occurred in connection with their assembly here, and every credit is due to them as a whole for occasioning not one iota of trouble or apprehension to the Depot Officers or any other ranks. Indeed we are beginning to like them, and shall be sorry to lose them, but all such regrets would be instantly waived by the knowledge that they could again return to civil life as a result of the satisfactory termination of this industrial crisis.

Who, pray, was it that said:—"Hope on, Hope ever, yet a time shall come when Man to Man shall be a Friend and Brother, and all Earth's Family love one another?"

We wonder, with an intense wonderment, whenever SUCH TIMES will come to pass. WALLIE.

## Civil Occupations.

ON STRIKE.

*Drawn by Pte. H. Sick.*

# Solving the Food Problem in Mespot.

SINCE our last notes many things have happened in the Sergeants' Mess of the 2nd Battalion, some for our good and some otherwise. A Committee was formed to enquire into and report upon the question of providing the Members with food at the low rate of Annas eight per day. The scheme as approved was tried for a fortnight, but on the discovery that, from the highest to the low, both in stature and status, waistbelts had to be taken up two holes,—and in the case of Turner and Douse even three,—it was pronounced a failure, and the more substantial sum of Annas twelve a day was decided upon.

Now that the ration scale is good nobody can question but, articles to scale are not always available from "Supplies" nor are substitutes forthcoming. Thus when you look at the scale, and then try to question why we do not all grow as fat as Deeke or Herbert were on the Hardinge, you are being entirely misled. Being over 80 miles from Kingirbah (the railhead) and some 200 from Baghdad, supplies are a trifle difficult to get up, but why such a staple article of food as cheese cannot be obtained in Kirkuk, while at Tarza, only 13 miles away, plenty can be had, cannot but fail to make one think. Looks like a leakage somewhere but then the query immediately presents its "Can Cheese Leek?"

OUR BILL OF FARE.

Turning to the bill of fare side of the business Coaster has volunteered to give a demonstration in the art of making "20 minute floaters," and Bob Mercer (late Sgt. 2nd Battalion) offered a recipe for Mrs. Drysdale's "Duff" which was a well known and substantial article of diet when we were in Wellington. And "Skipper" Webb, our Master Cook volunteered to assist in the culinary art just to set us going. I may here mention that previous to being employed here, one of our cooks was a cold shoer and the other an Orderly Room Runner. So you will admit that a little tuition was necessary. "Skipper," however after having been seen flying about with a dixey in one hand and a sheep's head in the other on more than one occasion, vanished into one of his smoky dungeons known as a cookhouse, and has not been seen since.

Then our R.S.M. gets some lovely cake but the receipt of, and recipe for, are as yet a mystery, And Mac has been known to indulge surreptitiously with Whittingham and Coaster in a mysterious article of diet known to himself as "Ghoolies," This he swears cannot be obtained either from trek Oxen or corned beef. In any case his messmates declare them delicious when cooked a la mode, and the R.S.M. has even been known to barter a piece of his cake for a taste of one of them.

Cook, Shoobridge and Simon (not the Cellarer) go out to shoot game for the mess but still the larder is empty. We feel they would be nobly assisted by O'Dell, Webb, and Deeko, who were renowned for their big bags in Multan.

Coaster on giving a demonstration later of how to fry eggs "pukka" dropped the fat among the coals so has been relieved from further employment of this kind. Hook's endeavour at the production of what he himself termed a Chocolate Blanc Mange, did not appear to carry much favour with the members. On its entry, almost as one man, the mess rose in silence and left the table; also the Chocolate Blanc Mange. Stewart our "Sherlock Holmes" and Johnson however dived in and asked for a second helping which proved that, if not absolutely delicious, it was fit for human consumption, but then everyone knows what voracious beings they are. In this episode Fawcett was conspicious by his absence but the belief is that he came back after all the other members had retired and took the remains home to his bunk.

A VISIT FROM THE POLICE.

O'Dell attempted to supplement his fare on "Bully Beef Monday" with a couple of pigeons that he had begged, borrowed, or stolen from someone or somewhere. But the fear of Old Nick was visited upon him. A jealous person, who had heard of his capture, caused his bunk to be visited by the Police who informed him that he was liable to be shot if found in the possession of carrier pigeons. He nearly shook himself to death in his endeavours to pluck them and remove all traces of their identity.

An attempt to make coffee by the No. 1 Cook who had taken Goldfinch's tip to put a bit of salt in to draw out the flavour, met with disaster. You see the only salt we get is that which comes from the bacon when unpacked. The flavour of the coffee may have been enhanced, but the flavour of bacon was certainly more pronounced. The history of the bread pudding that made two attempts to come to the table and finally succeeded at the third will not bear repeating.

Another attempt on the part of No. 1 Cook to make salmon rissoles came near to choking some of our lads. He must have forgotten the salmon or flogged it. There certainly were the rissoles, but the salmon had evidently fled to fields afresh and pastures new. We've got a new No. 1 Cook now and the late No. 1 becomes No. 2 so things should improve, we're living in hopes if we die in despair.

THE GENERAL'S TYPEWRITER.

Our worthy and ever jocose Armourer Sergt. was busy putting the General's "Blickendersfer" typewriter in order one day. It was rather a delicate job for as one knows who has ever had anything to do with one of these little machines, its innards consist of a regular web of small springs. One of these had become misplaced hence it's visit to the Armourer.

On one of our member's paying a visit to the shop, the Armourer explained the points of beauty of the machine whilst attempting to place the spring in position. He related in his charming manner that there was a "Gaw-darned Amurrican" who stood on the top of the Himalayas and threw these tiny springs into place in a "Blick" machine in Philadelphia, And all the time he was talking he was poking at the little spring to get it in place, when, lo and behold, Spring No. 2, then No. 3 and finally No. 4, flew out of place. The air went blue and our member departed hurriedly before it turned green. We hear that after about four hours diligent search and another four hours work that the springs were finally placed in position. But Gee! I guess that was some Amurrican!

BARGAINS.

By the way Sandy, our pianist and tailor, has been seen patching daily, for quite a week, a number of small holes in the beautiful Persian rugs and carpets bought by our Bandmaster and others. We are wondering if *all* these purchases are proving to be quite the wonderful bargains they have been represented to be.

## For Next of Kin.

The following balances of deceased soldiers of the Buffs are available for distribution. Applications from persons entitled as next-of-kin should be sent to the Secretary, War Office, London, S.W.1., marked outside "Effects":—

Evans, H., Pte., £34 18s. 1d.; Hall, A. J., Pte., £99 5s. 8d.; Jackson, J., Pte., £6 18s. 1s.; Sedgwick, C. F., Pte., £12; Sedgwick, E. C., Pte., £6; Shaill, A., Pte., £1 8s. 1d.; Styles, W. R., Pte., £7 19s. 6d.; White, N. E., Pte., £5; Willis, J., C.S.M., £8 19s. 1d.

# "Beneath Bell Harry."

BY THE MAN WITH THE SQUEEGEE.

## Mobilization and Sport at the Depot.

AS the very minor poet sang

"It is the Spring! Now Nature modestly emerges.
From her enfolding Widow-Winter's Weeds.
This is no time for us to chorus dirges
Nor scowl at lambkins frisking in the meads."

But little did he realise what a phantasmagoria of coal and other troubles would put into the coldest of shade the budding life of the year. One's brain surges with it all and as I write I hear the sound of many entrenching tools upon the Square digging—no, not trenches, but flower beds. But my pen outruns me.

Before all this came there was Peace in the land and sun to warm the peeping Sweet-peas in the trim little plots outside the Mess. The Solar Eclipse started all the trouble and for an hour on an early April day the Barrack Square was bathed in a dim purple light and a cold wind like dawn made us realise that King Sol was a factor every bit as important as his terrestial counterpart, Old King Coal. It had been like Summer; the tennis Court was cut and marked and one's white flannels were removed from cupboards where moth and rust corrupt.

Then came the day of excitement and the legions swarmed in upon us and all was martial. Winter thought it a fitting moment to return and back went the white flannels to their cupboards and moth-ball. When memories of Armageddon had been revived and the precise location of the "sear" and "the feed-Arm-Pawl-Spring" had been ascertained once more thoughts were turned to Sport and Music.

A Concert was held upon the Barrack Square before the snow fell and an audience that was thin at first grew larger as each "turn" struck answering chords. It was a great success. The Depot Band played in excellent form and gave us "The Motor Ride," a descriptive fragment that might easily displace "1812" in popular esteem. Some old friends, including Sergeant Glover, with a gorgeous Bolshevik ditty and C.S.M. Boarer with a pathetic appeal on behalf of the winkle which never winks helped us to forget the several degrees of frost. A Jazz Band, hurriedly composed and consisting of Officers, restored the circulation completely, and everybody enjoyed themselves.

Hockey and Football were not neglected. The Depot Side played the Reservists. In the latter team Lieuts. Reay, Harrison, Blake Holder and Welldon and several stalwarts of old Battalion teams including just failed to defeat the Serving Soldiers.

It has been good to have old comrades filling the Messes and the Barrack Rooms, to hear familiar voices barking out on the Square and to march two hundred and fifty strong to the Garrison Church on Sunday.

While the "Crisis" has its dangers and difficulties it also has its advantages, not least among which is the livening up of us who live so quiet and sequestered a life beneath Bell Harry.

### CROSS COUNTRY RUN.

To give the 1st Battalion cross-country team a good start, a run of about 5 miles was held on 4th April. The Depot ran 20 and the 1st Battalion 16—the first 12 to count. As was to be expected the first 12 of the 1st Battalion were in before the first Depot man, but it did the youngsters good to run against such men, and no doubt the experience gained will be invaluable.

The order of finishing for 1st Battalion was:—
1st—Cpl. Bell, 2nd—Mr. Essell, 3rd—C.Q.M.S. Cross.

Pte. Carpenter was the first Depot man in finishing 13th closely followed by L/Cpl. Ayliffe and Pte. Phillips.

There was 3 minutes between the first man of the 1st Battalion and the first man of the Depot, which under the circumstances points to the fact that some of the youngsters will be good in the near future.

Should the 1st Battalion team go to Aldershot they will carry with them our best wishes for a repitition of last year's success.

### THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

The salient feature of the past month in the Sergeants' Mess has been the resurrection of outdoor Sport which, unfortunately, for some months past has been allowed to "go to the wall."

With summer almost upon us arrangements are in hand to supplement the indoor pastimes of the past with good programmes for those of outdoor life. At cricket we hope to get together a rattling good side, ready to take in all comers in a similar class. Squash rackets and tennis are also to come into our reckoning; and in these many of our members are showing themselves to be by no means simpletons–tennis, in particular in which many of the members' wives are well above the ordinary.

Incidentally, we have discarded the notion of getting together a Polo Team, although, bear in mind, we have a magnificent thoroughbred here. But, unfortunately, its time is fully occupied in pulling the Sports ground roller.

During the past month our spare evening hours have been devoted to short games such as Crib Tournaments and Billiard Handicaps for the provision of which we have to thank R.Q.M.S. Andrews who initiated them, and O.R. Sgt. Maillard who has carried them on. A billiard handicap, known as "25 up," which gives inferior players as good a chance of winning as the "cracks," was won by our Sgt. Mr. Cook, Sgt. Marchant.

This "Spirit of Sport" is essential to us all, not only from a health point of view, but to create and foster true companionship amongst us, has been infused into the Mess by our Sports Committee.

The outstanding feature of the month has of course been the calling up of The Reserves. The crowding in the mess vividly recalled to mind those anxious days in 1914 when seating accommodation had to be arranged in relays. Those to whom we extended a welcome were as follows:—C.S.M. Gibson, C.Q.M.S. Marshall, Sergt. Simmons, Sergt. Bridgland, Sergt. Bloxham, Sergt. Trigg, Sergt. Coley, Sergt. Hyland, Sergt. Barker, Sergt. Buss, Sergt. Pattenden, Sergt. Long, Sergt. Dennis Sergt. King, Sergt. Payne, Sergt. West, Sergt. Towner, Sergt. Conway, Sergt. Hubbard, Sergt. Farnol, Sergt. Balcombe, L/Sgt. Glover, L/Sgt. Birchall, L/Sgt. Davison L/Sgt. Keeley.

We can only say how glad we were to see them again, and how much we shall miss them when they have gone.

*(Continued on next page.)*

**Beneath Bell Harry**—*Continued.*

FOOTBALL.

Two matches, both on the Depot Ground, have been played during the last month. The first *v.* the 2nd Battalion Connaught Rangers in which after an evenly contested game we went down 2-1, L/C. Smith scoring for the Depot. The second *v.* the Herne Bay Coasters F.C. whom we defeated 3-0. In the latter match our team was strengthened by the return of R.S.M. Dare who showed good form at back as also did Sgt. Morgan. Our goal scorers in this match were Pte. Cramer, Sgt. Maillard, and L/C. Middleton.

SERGEANTS' MESS DANCE.

The Sergeants held one of their usual dances in the Garrison Gymnasium on Friday when some 120 couples partitcipated in the dancing. Major and Mrs. Crookenden and all of our Officers attended and a large number of civilian friends. Amongst the latter we were glad to see Mr. Jabez Walter, and Mr. and Mrs. C. Barrows this being their first appearance since the War. We hope it won't be the last.

C.S.M. Pigott carried out the duties of M.C. in that inimitable style of his, whilst Sgt. Dr. Clayton looked after the music. R.S.M. Dare received all the guests, whilst Sergt. Fred Potter looked after the comfort of the "inner man," as only he can. (He must have learnt a few wrinkles when Messing Sergt. in Dover).

Dancing was kept up until 2 a.m. when our guests reluctantly left having spent a most enjoyable evening. Many were the enquiries as to when the next would be.

Hearty thanks are due to C.S.M. Pigott, Sergt. Potter and the Committee who worked so hard for the enjoyment of the Members and their friends. May they flourish long in the land to run many more similar shows.

### In a Few Lines.

The month's query—the number of officers' wives who are searching for a servant, domestic, one ?

With the arrival of the Gunners at Canterbury it is hoped to resucitate polo on the Old Park Ground.

Past and Present officers should mark up in their diaries the 15th June, this being the date of *The Dragon* Club Dinner for Regulars.

Thanks to the kindness of the Canterbury News-agents *Dragon* leaflets have been sent to 500 residents with their morning papers.

The Boy Scout Master at Sturry very kindly distributed one of our leaflets to each of those who attended his two recent concerts at Sturry.

We have been taken to task for not publishing the Regimental Gazette in full. To do this means the elimination of at least four of our present pages devoted to such things as Short Story, news, reminiscences, sports article, short sketches, etc. Perhaps some of our other readers will send us their views.

The City of Canterbury has adopted the villages of Les Boeufs and Morval in the devastated area of France. It will be remembered that in the capture of these villages the 1st, 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions The Buffs took a prominent part.

Ex-Service N.C.O.'s and men who have not yet received their 1914 star, the 1914-15 star and Distinguished Conduct, Military Meritorious and Long Service Medals, should apply in writing to their Record offices giving their former Regimental numbers, units and corps.

## Baghdad Commemoration Week.

2ND BATTALION WIN SPORTS' CUP.

WE are indebted to Lt.-Col. R. E. Power for providing us, just as we go to press, with the following extracts from a letter received by him from Lieut. E. Foster Hall relating to the notable successes gained by the 2nd Battalion teams during Baghdad Week.

"March 13th. I am down here with a big party for the Baghdad Commemoration week which has just finished. We have been quite successful.

Our Football Team was beaten in the Semi-Finals by the R. Ulster Rifles, and our Tug-of-War team was beaten by the ultimate winners, M.F.P. However we were the only team to pull them over at all and only failed by a few inches from doing it twice.

In the Sports we won the Championship Cup. We were first in the 100 yards, Long Jump, and Team 2 mile Race, Second in the Mile, and Third in the High Jump, ½ Mile, and Relay. I was running in the Team Race and we got all our twelve men in in the first Sixteen. We got a beautiful Cup for the Championship, and if we can get it next year we have it "for keeps." There is another cup for the Team Race.

In the Boxing, Lister won the Catch Weight Officers Championship after three fights (1st two Knock-outs), and Hamill Stewart the Officers Welter Weight after two fights (the first was a knock-out). L/Cpl. Martin of the band won the Welter Weight Belt and Pte. Petford was runner up in the Light Weight.

We are now waiting to go back to Kirkuk, which is 80 miles from the Rail head and we do it in four stages.

## Regimental Calendar for May.

1st. 348th Anniversary of the founding of the Regiment. Regiment first mustered and exercised in the presence of Queen Elizabeth, 1572.
3rd. 2nd Battalion suffered heavily in German attack East of ZONNEBEKE, 1915.
5th. French attacked near TOURNAY, 1745.
6th. Relief of COVERDEN, 1594. Regiment engaged 10th Battalion landed in France from ALEXANDRIA, 1918.
8th. 1st Battalion joined the Siege of SEBASTOPOL, 1855.
11th. Battle of FONTENOY, 1745.
12th. Passage of the DOURO by the Regiment, 1809. King Christian X. of Denmark appointed Colonel-in-Chief, 1914.
13th. 1st Battalion Cadre left SINZENICH, Germany to return home, 1919.
14th. King Frederick VII. of Denmark, Colonel-in-Chief died, 1912.
15th. Successful attack by 2nd Battalion near NAZATAR, 1917.
16th. Battle of ALBUHERA, 1811.
17th. Battle of TERHEYDEN, 1625.
20th. Capture of CADIZ, 1596. Regiment engaged.
22nd. 1st Battalion returned to England after an absence of 4 years and 6 months fighting in France and Flanders, during war, 1914-1918.
23rd. Battle of RAMILLIES, 1706.
25th. Capture of St. LUCIA, West Indies, 1796.
28th. Two Companies of Regiment acting as Marines against Dutch, 1672.
30th. Capture of ZUTPHEN, 1591.
31st. Holland Regiment formed from Trained Bands, (Veterans) 1665.

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# 4th Buffs Defence Force.

ON the evening of April 9th, instructions were brought to the Head Quarters of the 4th Battalion "The Buffs" that a Battalion of the Defence Force to be known as the "4th Buffs Defence Force," was to be raised by Tuesday, 12th with a strength of 30 Officers and 680 other ranks. The nucleus was to be the Permanent Staff of the 4th Battalion "The Buffs." The command was offered to and accepted by Lt.-Col. Mainwaring Dunstan, T.D., Brigadier-General Capel Brunker, C.M.G., D.S.O., being 2nd in Command; Major L. Howard Smith, Adjutant, and Captain F. H. Keeler, Quartermaster.

Recruiting was started on Sunday the 10th in Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone, Ramsgate, Margate, Sittingbourne, Herne Bay and Whitstable. By Wednesday 13th the Battalion had been raised, "tin hats," arms, equipment and transport drawn; and on Thursday 14th the "4th Buffs Defence Force" with 30 Officers and 688 other ranks was concentrated at the Cavalry Barracks, Canterbury. The Battalion has been inspected and complimented by the Divisional General and the Brigade Commander. Training is in full swing. The Battalion is composed entirely of ex-service men and serving Territorials.

### Raising the Men at Margate.

In response to the appeal for men for the Defence Force men were soon offering their services at the Drill Hall, Margate, quite a good number having registered by Saturday evening (9th April) and the Hall quickly resembled the busy days of August, 1914.

During the following days Attestations were being pushed thro' in good numbers, but the uncertainty as to the seriousness of the situation seemed to deter an immediate response in large numbers; notwithstanding this Margate has the spirit as was proved by the war.

Our own men came up well, and were indispensable, as the backbone of the Detachment. As soon as we had a couple of our own N.C.O.'s attested, recruits were getting accustomed to their little ways on parade, in some cases, less than a hour after they had been attested, having in that time been medically examined and fully equipped.

C.S.H. Holness got down to the business with a will and seemed to be at it day and night. Corpls. Emptage and Bennell also shewed their work and the fact that all recruits would handle a rifle sufficiently well to make a real good show when we marched off for Canterbury reflects great credit upon them.

### And at Ramsgate.

The Territorial Detachment at Ramsgate at the beginning of April was still increasing in numbers and any little congestion which was caused by the invasion of the Willsons Road Drill Hall by the Royal Garrison Artillery was quite unnoticed in the complete harmony which existed between Buffs and Gunners.

Captain F. A. Brisley of the Queen's whom we welcomed to the command of "A" Company soon found plenty to do in raising a Thanet Company for the Defence Force, which was quickly brought up to strength. Ramsgate alone providing 80 men within the first few days of Mobilisation. In view of the fact that practically all the Territorials were men with jobs of their own requiring most of their time and attention, a very creditably large number of them at once re-enlisted in the new emergency force. C.S.M. Graham fell to with a will, quite gleeful to have once again a parade of respectable proportions to drill.

A word of thanks also is due to C.Q.M.S. Farrow and the Orderly Room Staff for their indefatiguable labours and the energy with which they attacked their arduous work.

The detachment entrained for Canterbury on the 14th in the best of spirits where it is still trying to preserve them under the somewhat difficult conditions of barrack life in a typical English springtime.

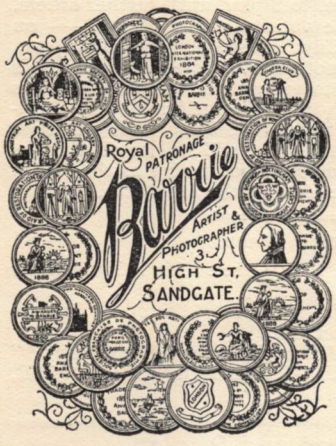
### Immediate Response at Folkestone.

The first men to register their names for the 4th Buffs Defence Force at Folkestone reported at the Drill Hall before 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 9th, on which morning the Prime Minister's announcement appeared in the daily Press. Before evening over 70 names had been registered.

On the following morning Lieut. J. Moss, Commanding the Folkestone Detachment 4th Buffs, telephoned to the Adjutant and received authority to enlist a platoon of 30. He immediately called for volunteers from serving Territorials. On the same evening 30 men were attested, every one of whom was either a Territorial soldier or a man who served in an Infantry Battalion during the War. Authority was received later to attest another 20 men and there was no difficulty in securing this number. No special advertising methods were adopted as this was not considered necessary the requisite number being forthcoming without effort. Only trained men were accepted. It would have been quite easy to raise treble the number if this had been authorised.

### An Expression of Thanks.

Major-General P. J. Miles, C.B., D.S.O., has received from India the thanks of the Government of India and the Secretary of State for his "valuable services in connection with the maintenance of order in 1919." He wishes to tell those who served in the 1/4th Battalion The Buffs that he feels that any credit he may have gained is greatly due to the splendid way in which the Battalion played up.

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**NEAREST STUDIO TO CAMP.**

## Kent Inf. Bde. Defence Force.

BRIGADE COMMANDER EXPRESSES ADMIRATION.

THE following is an extract from Brigade orders, dated 17/4/21, of the Kent Infantry Brigade Defence Force. This speaks for itself, and shows the fine response made throughout Kent during the National Emergency.

"The formation of the Kent Infantry Brigade Defence Force commenced on the afternoon of the 9th inst., and it is encouraging to take stock of the results achieved in the past eight days. All Battalions are up to their establishment in Officers, The 4th Battalion The Buffs Defence Force are over establishment in Other Ranks. The 5th Royal West Kent Regiment Defence Force have a strength of 415 Other Ranks, The 4th Royal West Kent Regiment Defence Force 311. The 5th Battalion The Buffs Defence Force 173.

All Battalions have assembled and are in Camp or Barracks and the business-like and orderly manner in which training and organisation is proceeding clearly shows that a surprising standard of discipline has already been reached. The Brigade Commander attributes these results primarily to the hard work, resource and experience of Commanding Officers, but, he realises that without the loyal support and ungrudging assistance of their Staff, together with the energy and devotion shown by Company Commanders, such results would not have been possible.

All Ranks who have voluntarily joined the Defence Force have shewn a public spirit, patriotism and disregard of self-interest, which does them the greatest credit and proves them to be loyal and law-abiding citizens.

The Brigade Commander wishes to take this opportunity to express his admiration of the conduct of these the men, and to offer his congratulations to All Ranks of Kent Infantry Brigade Defence Force on the astonishing results which have been achieved by the past eight days' work. He feels sure that however unpleasant the duty which may face the Brigade in the near future, they will be discharged in the cheerful and unselfish spirit which has already shewn itself amongst All Ranks.

### Extract from Depot Orders, No. 80. d. 11-4-21.

*Garrison Baby Clinic.* Owing to the illness of the Garrison Nurse, the Garrison Baby Clinic will be held in the Commanding Officer's House, Depot The Buffs, on Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. until further orders. Glaxo and Virol can be obtained from Mrs. S—— on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

It is gratifying to note that Master Crookenden is not allowing the grass to grow under his feet, but has entered whole heartedly into the welfare of The Regiment, without loss of time. We trust, that when we join the Depot, Glaxo and Virol will still be obtainable, as we hear that it is almost as nourishing as the "Milk Punch" supplied in the Mess of the 1st Battn.

### And a Yarn.

(1) SCENE: Company Office. Coy. Commander in the chair.

C.S.M. (marches in Private Atkins). "Private Atkins wishes to see you, Sir."

Coy. Commdr. "Well my lad, what do you want?"

Recruit. "I wish to GIVE A MONTH'S NOTICE, SIR."

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## Our Competitions.

WANTED—A LIMERICK.

MORE progress. *Five* entries this month as compared to *four* last, and *two* the month before. But the winner remains the same. The Sergeants at The Depot, to whose mess all entries for the April competition were passed, have unanimously plumped for Mr. Clifton as the winner. To him a cheque for one guinea has been sent, making the sixth guinea that has reached this household.

All of which brings us to explain the "House to Let" advertisement which appears on page 58. This is Mr. Clifton's original and winning suggestion for a poster to help sell *The Dragon.*

Some other suggestions are as follows:—

"The Dragon of Virtue."
"The Bugle of The Buffs."

"If the badge of the Buffs you have worn, or are wearing,
Read "The Dragon" to keep you in touch with the daring."

"The Dragon's Blood is up:
Help to increase it's circulation."
"The Dragon's tail is wagging!
Buy a copy and keep it up."

Whilst *The Kent Herald* in their very generous notice of our last issue put up the following:—

"Why Drag on without your Dragon?"

Encouraged by the arrival of another entry, one, we have decided to run yet another competition. "Wanted A Limerick" is our cry this month. The Limerick must rhyme with

BUFF,

and either the first or second line can end with that word. As a guide as to the sort of thing we are after, Lieut. Maiden has thrown at us the following:—

"In the strike a reservist called Tuff
When called up to his wife said "Enough.
To a star hitch my wagon
But forward my "Dragon"
*verb. sap.* Once and always a Buff."

Now for a few remarks:—

(1) Any subject can be chosen for the Limerick. There is no necessity for it to have anything to do with *The Dragon.*

(2) Entries from all ranks can be made direct to the Editor. There is no necessity for these (nor, incidentally, letters, articles, drawings, etc.) to go through "recognized or official channels." This is mentioned as it has been suggested to us that the "Other Ranks" in the Regiment are not aware of this.

(3) The decision of the Editor will be final, and the competition will be kept open until the 18th of next month, the day on which our next number goes to press. (Battalion, Company, and other correspondents please note).

(4) A prize of one guinea will be given to the winner; and there will be four consolation prizes which will take the form of a copy of The Regimental Diary for 1921, the price of which, by the way, is now reduced to one shilling, and which (the diary not the shilling) is obtainable on application to our office.

So That's That, unless it be that a wireless has just come to hand that someone down Liverpool way, who plays the oboe, is singing:—

"Now Clifton was a Jolly Old Buff
Who of Prizes can not win enough"

But that is as far as he's got, *at the moment,* and we leave it to you to be up and doing and *beat him.*

# Fifth Buffs Defence Force.

RECRUITING has proceeded very slowly during the past month and though the present crisis and the subsequent formation of the Defence Force, the position has been literally turned upside down. The spirit however, which was so prevalent amongst the members of the battalion, has prompted most of them to offer their services for the new Force and it is very creditable to know that over fifty per cent. have joined its ranks.

---

Many old Buffs will be pleased to hear that Sergeant Gardner of flag-wagging fame is still enjoying good health; and with his many years of experience in our Canteen we quite expect to see him as a flourshing publican ere long

---

THE DEFENCE FORCE.

TAKE a few Bowler hats and Army breeches, add an equal number of assorted boots and great coats, stir gently with a seasoning of tact, over a large flame of patriotism for 90 days (or such less period.....), and a very formidable body is formed to defend anybody and anything against anybody or anything else that oughtn't to do it. Such is the Defence Force—or approximately so. "Why it is" nobody knows, but with the same childish faith as in 1914 in the "Generals and officers set over them" the mind of everyone is set on "doing something" and apparently enjoying it.

Livery old grey heads in oversize armchairs can talk about the Country "going Red" and the horrors of revolution till they are redder—in the face—than any "Bolshie" ever dreamed of, but they forget that every Englishman is still an Englishman at heart, though he may go mad at times.

It was a form of madness, though never tell him so, that made Corporal Smith, D.S.O., M.C. (and bar) give up his hunting and assume control of his Company Messing. But he is perfectly happy and quite at a loss to explain WHY he did it.

Private Johnson, late "The Buffs," swore that he would never go near the Army again after 1918 and that he would like to meet the Minister of Pensions all by himself in a dark lane, but he is "up" again and "grousing more than ever.

In the same way that in 1914 it was quite sufficient reason for the average man to enlist because he had heard that Germany had "done the dirty" on the Belgians, so now if by joining the D.F. is going to help the Country settle down and be sensible again no one cares WHY—and why should they?

A. E. L. H.

---

COMPANY NEWS AND NOTES.

A.

On Monday night, the 11th inst., the picturesque market-place of Cranbrook saw a large gathering of the citizens who answered an urgent appeal given out the previous day in church and chapels, "to give citizens an opportunity of volunteering their services to the State in the present grave national crisis." Several interesting and effective speeches were made, and the Meeting which had been organized by Lieut. Alexander ended up in the singing of the National Anthem and Three Cheers for the King. Recruiting at once became brisk and 65 men marched from Cranbrook last Friday to join the 5th Buffs Defence Force at Ashford.

B.

B Company though weak in numbers is strong in enterprise, and had it not been for the untimely advent of the Defence Force, a most excellent Whist Drive would have been held in the Drill Hall at Tenterden. However this is only postponed, and as soon as the sanity of the Country is re-instated another date will be fixed.

Marriage fever is somewhat rampant in the District, and two ex-members of the Company, Tom Payne and Tom Burt have already fallen victims. The O.C. Company is about to succumb.

After the present "devarsion" is over it is hoped that the Company will become more formidable and before very long catch up the other Companies in the number of recruits.

---

C.

The Headquarter Company were going along extraordinarily well in the way of sport, before April when they were temporarily disbanded. In fact so keen were they on being represented in the "soccer" eleven that the selection committee experienced great difficulty in finding a representative eleven. Suffice to know they have won two and loss two, and, incidentally they have always "clicked" for a good "blow-out" as the guests of their opponents. Every facility is placed in the way of the Company, and "the Skipper" is optimistically looking forward to next season when the team hopes to have a shot at the shield in the local league.

---

D.

Recruiting still keeps steadily on, and we are now in the proud position of being the strongest Company in the Battalion.

Horsmonden heads the list of our 10 Drill Stations with 39 men, which is a creditable achievement for a small village, and it would be interesting to know if any village in Kent can show a better record—we doubt it. A good start has recently been made in Yalding and 10 men have already been recruited for the Signal Section under 2/Lt. G. F. Reeves.

We are pleased to welcome several old members back into the Company, including Ptes. Hooker and Watson. Ex-Company-Sergt.-Major Relf has joined and has been a tower of strength in training many young fellows in the district. Coy.-Sergt.-Major Potter of the permanent Staff has now procured a house in Staplehurst and we confidentally expect with his energy he will soon make his mark on his side of our Coy-Area.

We suffer from being so widely scattered and without a Drill Hall, nevertheless, thanks to the enthusiasm of all ranks, we expect to have our Coy. up to strength by the end of the year.

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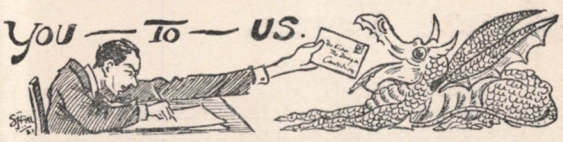


THE WAR HISTORY.

Sir.

I think it may interest your readers to hear what response I have had to the circulars which you were so good as to send out with the March edition of *The Dragon* and those which I had already sent out.

From 71 subscribers I have received £293. Of these 50 are entitled to a complimentary copy of the history by virtue of having subscribed two guineas or more, and as a result of the circulars distributed by you I have received 27 further orders for the history when ready.

This may not sound very satisfactory but, frankly, subscriptions interest me more than orders for the moment. Because I am quite sure that out of the large number of old Buffs (of whom I calculate there must be many thousands living in East Kent) we shall ultimately find at least 2,000 buyers—and 2,000 is, so to speak, my economic minimum : if we can sell 2,000 copies we can sell them for 7/6 each, If, on the other hand, we can only sell 1,000 copies, they will cost 11/6 each. But I am quite confident that, if I can only obtain names and addresses of old Buffs, we shall sell far more than 2,000 and in that case the price will be proportionately lower—perhaps even 5/-. The difficulty, at present, is to get names and addresses, but, if the suggestion of a census on the lines of your Hythe correspondent is followed up, that may be solved.

But to return to the question of money : I want at least £300 more—I want a total of at least £600 to cover the cost of writing the history, of research, of compiling casualty lists, lists of honours and awards, of typewriting and travelling ; so that, one day, when the history is ready, the Committee can say to the Publisher : " Here is a history of 100,000 words, properly typewritten, here are lists, here are photographs and maps ; We shall want 1,000 (or 2,000) copies ; what will you print it for, on such and such paper and with such and such binding and type ? " Then the price that the selected publisher quotes will be the price that the purchaser will pay, and there will be no middleman's profits. If we collect £600 and do not spend it all on the expenses of writing the history, the balance will go to reduce still further the cost of the published book.

Yours etc., F. W. TOMLINSON, Major,
Hon. Sec., The Buffs History Fund.

2 Cavendish Square,
London, W.1.,

---

OUR COMPETITIONS.

Sir,

In response to your request for suggestions for competitions, could you not have a monthly shooting competition (miniature), sixpence a target—targets to be certified by an officer. This competition to be open to regulars and territorials. Prizes quarterly.

Cork, Yours etc.,
9.4.21. HAROLD FINDLAY, Lt.-Col.

[*We can only repeat that once the desire is shown by our readers for this or any other competition, we are ready to go right ahead with the same. Ed.*]

---

TO THE POINT.

Sir,

For the love of Mike get your contributors to write legibly and on one side of the paper only !

Yours etc.,
Canterbury. " THE BLOKE WOT PRINTS IT."

THE WAR MEMORIAL.

Sir,

Received cheque for one guinea with thanks, and now enclose 5/- towards the Memorial Fund.

Yours etc.,
Liverpool. JESSIE A. CLIFTON.

---

FROM THE FAR EAST.

Sir,

Enclosed please find P.O. for 8/- being a year's subscription to *The Dragon*. I am an old Buff, though my number is'nt too old, 8010. I am in the Police here with Dowling and Mantle. All were full Sergeants and left Singapore 1912. I am sure if a card was sent to Dowling, Benting, F.M.S., and to Mantle, Kuala Lumper you would get new subscribers. Also to J. Webb, Railway Storekeeper, F.M.S. Railways, Kuala Lumper. This man is " Skipper Webb " who went out in 1908 with a draft to the 2nd Battalion, and left them to become S.M. of the Penang Volunteers.

Yours etc.,
TOM BURKE,
Port Dickson, Federated Malay States.

---

GOOD WORK.

Sir,

The following curious coincidence will, I think, interest the 5th Battalion. Two old members of the 35th (Indian) Brigade, namely G. D. Wheway (Machine Gun Officer) and J. W. Davies (Signalling Officer) appear respectively first and second in the results of the Easter Bar Final Exam. published in the *Times* 7th April 1921. Though not a Buff, Mr. Wheway, is quite an old friend of the 5th Battalion and all will heartily congratulate him on this brilliant success. Mr. Davies was Signalling Officer to the Battalion before he went to the Brigade.

Yours truly,
" THE DRAGON IN THE TEMPLE."

---

FEATURE WANTED.

Sir,

WHERE IS YOUR column of HATCHES, MATCHES and DISPATCHES ! Don't you know that this is a page we all look for, we all like to know who comes into the world, who are joined together and who depart.

Yours etc.,
AN OLD HEN.

[*No one hopes more than we do that our readers will help us to start this feature. Ed.*]

---

# DROP US A LINE

IF you have any News

IF you have any old Buffs' addresses

IF you have a good Reminiscence

IF you have a good short story or sketch

# DROP HIM A LINE

IF you think he has not yet heard of the Dragon

AND

REMEMBER OUR ADVERTISERS.

# Between Wickets.

SOME HINTS ON RUN-GETTING.

IT will be remembered that Lord Harris in his article on "Kent Cricket prospects" published in our last issue made a very strong point of the importance of "running between the wickets." This, as he pointed out, being a very vital factor in the winning or losing matches.

This word of advice, given from one who is known all over the world as one of the best authorities of the game, is well worthy of consideration in detail by the captains of regimental, company, and other club sides; even more so perhaps than by the first class player whom Lord Harris had in his mind.

Suppose we take an average inter-company match. In this, more often than not, scores are comparatively low, and the margin of victory small; and undoubtedly in many cases, if every possible run had been taken advantage of by the losers the tide of victory would have been turned. So perhaps the following tips may prove useful:—

(1) Not a ball should be bowled without the non-striker following up, namely, leaving his crease in anticipation of a possible run. Failure to do this may easily incur just that loss of distance which leads to the loss of a wicket.

(2) Not a ball should be bowled without a clear and definite call being made by one or other of the batsmen, whether to run or not.

(3) On every occasion when a ball is returned by the fieldsmen to the wicket each batsman should be alert as to the possibility of obtaining an overthrow. This is best done by the batsman at the end of the wicket, to which the fieldsman does *not* return the ball, following up as in (1).

(4) Each batsman before going in to bat should make a careful study, not only of the placing of the opposing field, but also of the skill of each individual fieldsman. A few minutes devoted to this will soon show the bad throwers amongst his opponents, together with those who are "danger men" requiring particular attention.

(5) The conditions of the outfield should also be carefully watched. On many grounds, where these minor matches are played, the wicket only is shaved, leaving the outfield a regular trap. For instance, a really good smack which goes off the bat like a shot from a gun, and which feels like a certain three or a possible four is apt to get held up in the long grass, with the result that unless care be taken the ball may be whipped back to the wicket with disastrous results a great deal quicker than one bargained for.

Now for a few hints with regard to calling for a run. The one thing above all others to be avoided is a misunderstanding which leaves the two batsmen meeting in the middle of the pitch, one shouting "come" and the other "go back." I am reminded here of an amusing incident of this kind which happened with the side I took from Hong Kong to Shanghai and Japan some years ago. At a critical stage of one of our games such a misunderstanding occurred, resulting in a lost wicket, and, as is so often the case a severely tried temper. The latter took the form of the suffering batsman going up to the one responsible for the loss of his wicket when they met in the pavilion later, with the following remark "By the way what was it you wanted to discuss with me when you stopped me in the middle of the wicket."

The best method of calling for a run is, I think, for the striker to call for every ball struck by him in front of the wicket, and for the non-striker to call every time the ball, whether struck or not goes behind the wicket. True there are some batsmen who prefer to make the call every time they strike the ball, quite regardless of the direction in which it goes, but for the average club side uniformity is the thing to aim for. Misunderstanding should then not arise. "Run-outs" together with the great annoyance and disappointment attached to them will become less frequent. And a very considerable number of runs will be gained.

I honestly believe that other things being equal, the company cricket side, which is a good "between wicket side" will in nine cases out of ten win the majority of their matches, thereby gaining two points for the Harris Shield or any other trophy that may be available.

H. H. C. B.

## A False Spring.

IT is the Spring! Now Nature modestly emerges
From her enfolding widow-winter's weeds.
This is no time for us to chorus dirges
Nor scowl at lambkins frisking in the meads.

So in the roseate dawn do I quit slumber
And gaily wield the blade of my Gilette
Because no gloomy presages encumber
My vainly optimistic soul as yet.

Clothed, shaven, sleek, impatient for my Porridge
I take my seat at my sun-spattered board
And in my "Mail," what time I keenly forage
Seek printed word to strike an answering chord.

First to my gaze leaps news of "Sinn Fein Arson"
Then "grave unprecedented lack of coal."
"Reported offer by Sir Edward Carson
And "Coalition bottom of the Poll."

But lest I stand aloof from each new Crisis
"Much higher rates at Mudcombe" where I dwell
And "Public will resent the soaring prices."
"Dean Inge's pronouncement on the Better Hell."

And even in the pages given to Pastime
The carping critic as he weeps and gnashes
With gloom declares that for the very last time
Have we been guardians of the famous "Ashes."

This is not all. For as I reach the station
I find that there has been a lightning strike,
Imperilling the transport of the Nation
And forcing me to London on a "bike."

S. J. F. M.

### Editorial Note.

*The annual subscription to the Dragon is 8/– (post free. In addition the Paper is obtainable, price 6d., in all units through company commanders; and also at all Territorial Drill Halls. News, personal notes, short stories, sketches and drawings are invited. All communications and MSS. should be sent to the Editor, Depot, The Buffs, Canterbury. The Paper is published on the 1st of each month, and copy for insertion in the coming issue should reach the Editor not later than the 18th of the current month.*

**WANTED.—The names and addresses of all old Buffs to enable us to send them a Dragon.**

## Recruits' Boxing Tournament.

A VOLUNTARY boxing competition for recruits was held on the 6th April, in which there were no less than 32 entries from about 50 available. All of which is as encouraging as the many good fights, and the promising material discovered. Each fight was of two rounds of two minutes duration, and the following are the results :—

Bantam weights: 1st round. Pte. Wolfe beat Pte. Norton, and Pte. Williams beat L/Cpl. Tutt, on points. Remainder Byes.

Semi-finals Pte. Williams beat Pte. Wolfe, and Pte. Manders beat Pte. Connors who, owing to the plucky fight he put up, came in for a good round of applause.

Finals. Pte. Manders beat Pte. Williams. (The early departure of Pte. Manders for the 1st Battalion means the loss to us and the gain to them of a good all round sportsman).

Feathers. 1st Round. Pte. Hughes beat Pte. Swinbourne K.O. in 1st round; and L/Cpl. White beat Pte. Lawrence on points.

Semi-finals. Pte. Hyliffe beat Pte. Hughes who unfortunately in the midst of an exceptionally good fight had to retire with a damaged hand in the 1st round. Pte. Sinclair beat L/C. White on points.

Final. Pte. Ayliffe beat Pte. Sinclair on points after a good fight.

Light Weights: 1st Round. Pte. Holliday beat Pte. Law (K.O.). Remainder byes.

2nd Round. Pte. Holliday beat Pte. Phillips; Pte. Richards beat Pte. Deane (K.O.); Pte. Humbles beat Pte. Emery; and Pte. Chapman had a walk over, his opponent Wilson being in hospital.

Semi-finals. Pte. Holliday beat Pte. Richards, and Pte. Humbles beat Pte. Chapman who put up a very game fight.

Final. Pte. Holliday beat Pte. Humbles.

Welter weights. 1st Round. Pte. Perry beat Pte. Sandwell. Remainder byes.

2nd Round. Ptes. Penny and Pickard walk overs. Pte. Smith beat Pte. Bassett (K.O.); and Pte. Keeler beat Pte. Gibbs after an extra round.

Semi-final. Pte. Smith beat Pte. Perry on points, and Pte. Keeler beat Pte. Pickard.

Final. Pte. Smith beat Pte. Keeler (K.O.) This fight was strenuous rather than scientific, hard blows being the outstanding feature.

The winners of each weight are to receive a medal suitably inscribed presented by Capt. Strettell, and a medal suitably inscribed is to be presented to the best losers by the Sergeants' Mess.

The whole show, which ended with three cheers for the C.O., was a great success; and is to be repeated at an early date.

The officials were as follows:—Referee: Major J. Crookenden, D.S.O.; Judges: Capt. Smith, R.A.S.C. and Lt. S. F. J. Maiden; Time-Keeper: R.S.M. Dare; M.C.: L.-Sgt. Osborne; Register Keeper: R.Q.M.S. Andrews.

## ON PULLING TOGETHER.

We would appeal to all readers to back, whenever and wherever they can, the firms which are backing our venture with their advertisements. These houses are all of high reputation and they display sound commodities which are at all times in greater or less request. And please mention the *Dragon* when giving your order.

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No. 259. June, 1921.

# The Dragon

A PAPER OF THE MEN OF

FOR MEN BUFFS, AND KENT.

## CONTENTS.


| | page |
|---|---|
| Personalia ... ... ... ... | 75 & 76 |
| Stop Press ... ... ... ... | 76 |
| Regimental Notabilities ... ... ... | 77 |
| Regimental Calendar ... ... ... | 77 |
| Canadian Buffs ... ... ... | 77 |
| Battles of the Great War ... | 78 & 79 |
| War Casualties ... ... ... | 79 |
| Buffs War Memorial ... ... ... | 79 |
| Albuera Day at Fermoy... ... | 80 & 81 |
| Births, Deaths and Marriages ... ... | 81 |
| Beneath Bell Harry ... ... | 82 & 83 |
| Depot Cricket Fixtures ... ... ... | 83 |
| Snifter ... ... ... ... ... | 83 |
| Limericktitus ... ... ... | 84 & 85 |
| Cartoon ... ... ... ... ... | 85 |
| A Love Story ... ... ... ... | 85 |
| Baghdad Commemoration Week ... | 86—88 |
| Kill that Fly ... ... ... ... | 88 |
| Past and Present Association ... ... | 89 |
| The Buffs ... ... ... ... ... | 89 |
| The Reservists ... ... ... ... | 89 |
| Obituary ... ... ... ... ... | 89 |
| 4th Buffs Defence Force ... ... | 90 & 91 |
| Why Bolshevism must fail ... ... | 91 |
| 5th Buffs Defence Force ... ... ... | 92 |
| Our Competitions ... ... ... ... | 93 |
| Association of Regimental Newspapers | 93 |
| You to Us ... ... ... ... ... | 94 |
| Shooting a Shikharee ... ... ... | 95 |


## Personalia.

GENERAL Rt. Hon. Sir A. Paget visited The Depot on the 20th of last month, and we were glad to see him looking so much better, and to hear that he has been able to throw on one side the insomnia which has been troubling him for some time.

During his visit, and at his own suggestion, we partook with him in a little gamble over his life membership to *The Dragon*. This we opened with the remark "You're looking pretty fit, Sir!" But of course what we really meant was that, whatever the amount agreed upon between us, our earnest hope is that we may be privileged to send *The Dragon* to him, as our Colonel, for a period far and away beyond that covered by his generous subscription—a hope that will be endorsed by each of our readers.

Incidentally General Paget will be staying at the Depot during the Canterbury Cricket Week.

We take this opportunity of thanking the Commanding Officer and Officers of the 4th and 5th Buffs for kindly allowing us to have a heart-to-heart talk with them over the affairs of *The Dragon*, and for the assurance given to us that nothing would be left undone by them towards helping to make the paper a big success.

One of these days we will perhaps take our readers into our confidence in regard to the business side and general running of a newspaper. At the moment we will not say more than that, fascinating as it all is, it is a difficult and responsible job, and that nothing consumes a bank balance quicker than unsold copies; which best explains our again expressing in this number the hope that each and all of our readers will mention *The Dragon* to every past and present Buff, and everyone interested in the Regiment whom they may meet. And also that they will not forget our Advertisers.

Arising out of this we have to thank Major E. B. Burns and Capt. T. B. Cheesman commanding D and C Companies of the 5th Buffs respectively for their assurance that we may rely upon their companies supporting the paper to a man in the future.

On Sunday, 22nd May, General Sir Charles Monro unveiled the Bridge War Memorial. Amongst the thirteen of the village who laid down their lives were the following who served in the Regiment:—Captain D. K. Anderson, Sgt. F. J. Ford, Pte. F. C. Jones, and L/Cpl. C. H. Peirce.

The sympathy of the whole Regiment will go out to Colonel F. S. W. and Mrs. Cornwallis in the death of their eldest son Captain F. W. M. Cornwallis, M.C., 17th Lancers, who was murdered by Sinn Feiners on Sunday, 15th May.

Colonel Lord Harris with his three score years and ten, is we are glad to see, again making "A few Short Runs" in the cricket field itself this year, as well as in the pages of his excellent book published under that title. His scores up-to-date have been 19, 13, and 7 not out.

Captain R. K. Price recently won the tennis challenge cup at Pau, but was beaten in the finals of the French Championship by E. M. Baerlein.

We hear that Major H. G. James of the 4th Battalion and ex-Mayor of Canterbury, has generously

**Personalia**—*continued.*

placed the historic " Greyfriars " at the disposal of the Regiment in the event of it being found practicable to hold the exhibition of Buffs trophies, etc., suggested in our April number.

---

We take this opportunity of thanking the following for their kind offer to help make *The Dragon* better known by arranging for the display of our posters and sending out our propaganda to their friends :—

Captain L. A. Firmin (Baghdad) ; A. Howard Reed (Garlinge) ; J. E. Marchant (Dover) ; H. G. Austin (Westminster) ; C. Crane (St. Mary Cray) ; A. H. Baker (Enfield Lock) ; H. G. Clarabut (Lower Eythorne) ; A. Barton (Gillingham) ; G. Eaton (Leytonstone) ; J. Scrace (Chatham) : J. H. Jane (Broadstairs) ; and F. C. Hilderbrand (Walbrook). Perhaps others of our readers who may be able to help us in this way will drop us a line.

---

Lt-.Col. F. Bradley Dyne is now quite settled down at Sevenoaks, and tells us he hopes to be present at The Dragon Club Dinner on the 15th.

---

Lieut.-Colonel W. G. F. Barnard, D.S.O. is home from South Africa ; he hopes to be at the Regimental (Dragon Club) Dinner, at the Trocadero Restaurant on June 15th. He will probably be in England until September.

---

Lieut. P. R. H. Fox, M.C., is home on leave from Northern Nigeria, as also is Captain E. H. Allen ; they will both be in England three or four months.

---

Mr. J. E. Wilson who served in the regiment from 1888 to 1909, is working in St. James's Street. Many of our readers will remember him as Major Greenway's servant, and later as Waiter in the Officers' Mess at Canterbury. We offer him our deep sympathy in his recent bereavement.

---

Brevet-Major W. R. Corrall, M.C. is home on leave from Egypt, He has been with the Western Arab Corps during his last tour, far away in the Soudan.

---

Mr. William Jaques, who was taken prisoner in Major Tomlinson's company, is working in Maddox Street, London. He has never completely recovered from the privations which he suffered in Germany, where for a long time he was compelled to work in a mine without any boots. He has recently been granted an extension of his pension.

---

We hear that Mr. A. G. Swain who, if we remember rightly, was one of the " Crippen " draft, has started a motor garage at North Finchley and has one or two cars for hire. We hope our readers should they want a car whilst staying in London will remember him.

---

Captain W. T. Johnston seems fairly contented in Dublin where he is doing Income Tax work at the Castle. If he can fit in his leave he hopes to get across for the Cricket Week.

---

Lieut. H. T. Brady, D.C.M. has been granted an extension of 3 months to enable him to find other employment ; otherwise he was due to retire on May 27th.

---

Major and Brevet-Lieut.-Colonel L. C. E. Knight and Major H. A. P. Ternan were during the month posted to No. 1 Composite Reserve Battalion at Colchester.

Captain H. H. C. Baird with his light artificial leg weighing under 5 lbs. is playing cricket, tennis, and golf this summer. He is hopeful, that as a result of an impartial committee to be set up to investigate the question of artificial limbs, all others will ultimately be able to obtain as satisfactory a limb as he has.

---

Mr. E. F. France, late E. Coy., 2nd Battalion, who was born in the 1st Buffs in 1885, and who purchased his discharge when the 2nd Battalion were in South Africa in 1906 is now working at the Premier Mine in the Transvaal. He has become a subscriber to the paper and has written to us asking us the news of many of his old officers which we are glad to have been able to send to him.

---

Another overseas subscriber is Lieut. Godfrey Lushington, late of the 5th Battalion, who writes to us from Oita Ratmalie, Haputale, Ceylon.

---

C. A. Newport, late 1/5 Buffs is now employed in the Labour Office, Hillah, Mesopotamia, and has written to us asking that the paper may be sent to him regularly in the future.

---

Whilst still another overseas subscriber is Mr. A. G. Nugent who is now employed in the Secretariat, Municipal Council, Shanghai.

---

Captain Stone who served for four years continuously in the front line during the war has now taken over the duties of recruiting at The Depot.

---

Mrs. Burt writes that her son Sergt. F. Burt of the 1st Battalion running team was born at Benenden, and not Seaford as announced in our last number. We apologise for the error which crept into our office and are glad to be able to make the correction.

---

Major Guy Lee has reported at the Depot for duty. He celebrated his arrival by giving us a bad loser for the Jubilee, and knocking up 68 in the St. Lawrence Ground at Cricket.

---

We hear that Major R. Groves Raines is about to join the ranks of the Old Brigade. As a late Editor of *The Dragon* we still look for his co-operation in the future and in the meantime wish him the best of luck.

---

Lt. Sharland, who will be remembered as Demobilisation Officer of the 1st Battalion at Cork and Fermoy, has joined the Volunteer Defence Corps, being given the rank of Captain and the command of a company. He is in camp near Bromley, Kent.

---

Lt. Dixon, the " sapper " motor-bike enthusiast at Cork, who, while on special intelligence work, was attached to the 1st Battalion mess for some time, is in London, and is soon off to Spain, where he hopes to sell all sorts of things for English firms—from toy soldiers to cinema films. Here's wishing him all success.

---

**Stop Press.**

Whilst actually in the midst of giving the world " Go " to our printers the following telegram reached us from the 1st Battalion :—

" Fermoy.

To Capt. Baird, The Buffs Depot, Canterbury.

We guarantee one copy each man in 1st Battalion,

Col. McDouall."

In these few lines we wish to offer our wholehearted appreciation and thanks to every officer, W.O., N.C.O., and man of the 1st Battn. for their generous support.

## Regimental Notabilities.

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR P. DARE, Depot The Buffs.

Born September 29th, 1886. Joined the Regiment 29th September, 1903.

Promoted L/Cpl. 1905; Corporal 1910; Sergeant 1914; C.S.M., 1917; R.S.M., 2nd August, 1917.

Served with 2nd Battalion 1904—1910. Went to Canada in 1910, joined Canadian Militia and became Colour Sergeant. Returned to England August 1914; joined 3rd Battalion and latter 8th Battalion in France. Compulsorily transferred to 24 Battalion M.G.C. in 1917. Appointed R.S.M. of the Depot, 21st February, 1921. Awarded the Merritorious Service Medal in 1918.

## Regimental Calendar for June.

1st End of Boer War, 1902. Proclamation of Peace.
2nd. 2nd Battalion marched to WITTEHOER, Belgium, and visited 1st Battalion, 1915. 6th Battalion landed in France, 1915.
3rd. 1st Battalion arrived at CHARLESTOWN, South Carolina, 1781.
4th. 1st Battalion embarked from QUEBEC for Europe, 1815.
5th. 1st Battalion moved from KHAR to MALAKAND, N.W. Frontier, 1897.
6th. Belle Isle surrendered 1761. Regiment engaged in siege.
7th. Sebastopol Quarries stormed and taken. Then Garrisoned by 1st Battalion, 1855.
Battle of MESSINES, 1917. 8th Battalion engaged.
8th. Regiment reviewed by Duke of Marlborough, 1711.
9th. Attack on Fortress of KENOQUE, N. Flanders, 1695. Regiment engaged.
10th. Attack on NEW Viga, Island of St. Vincent, 1796. Regiment engaged.
17th. Ineffectual assault on the REDAN, 1855. 1st Battalion engaged.
21st. 1st Battalion arrived at "Ninety-six" America, 1781.
22nd. Regiment marched through Forest of SOIGNE to Protect BRUSSELS, 1697.
24th. "C" and "D" Companies successfully raided German trenches at HULLUCH, 1917.
26th. Battalion relieved 23rd Battalion Chasseurs Alpins (French Army) DICKEBUSCH, 1918.
27th. Battle of DETTINGEN, 1743. Regiment engaged.
Douay surrendered 1710. Regiment engaged.
29th. Regiment reviewed by King William III., near Waterloo, 1692.

## The Canadian Buffs.

THE unveiling of the Tablet in honour of General M. S. Mercer, C.B., officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, who fell in the Great War took place at The Armouries, Toronto, on April 16th. The ceremony which was most impressive was performed by the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, the Premier of Canada, who, in his eulogy of those who had laid down their lives, quoting from Pericles said :—

"They gave their bodies to the commonwealth, and received, each for his own memory, praise that will never die, and with it the grandest of all sepulchres: not that in which their mortal bones are laid, but a home in the minds of men, where their glory remains fresh to stir to speech and action as the occasion comes by. For the whole earth is the sepulchre of famous men; and their story is not graven only in stone over their native earth, but lives on far away, without visible symbol, woven into the stuff of other men's lives."

The great record of our Canadian Comrades is best shown by quoting the following statistics :—

The total enlistment for overseas service were 9,104 of whom 1,485 were killed or died of wounds, Wounded numbered 3,198; there were 208 officers who served overseas, 47 of whom were killed or died and 257 Q.O.R. men obtained commissions in the field.

The individual honours gained irrespective of "mentioned in dispatches" were 353, which included 1 V.C., 12 D.S.O.'s, 51 Military Cross, and 175 Military Medals.

**WANTED.—The names and addresses of all old Buffs to enable us to send them a Dragon.**

# Battles of the Great War.

WE give below a full list of the engagements of The Great War which have been classified as battles by the Nomenclature Committee set up by the Army Council 1919. The chronological headings under which they are included are also given. We regret that this list has reached us too late to enable us to obtain, and thus shew in detail those battles and engagements in which The Buffs were actually engaged. But we would take this opportunity of pointing out that this information will be fully given in the War History of the Regiment in the course of preparation by Colonel R. S. H. Moody, and copies of which can be reserved by writing to Major F. W. Tomlinson, Hon. Sec., The Buffs History Fund, 2 Cavendish Square, London, W. 1.

## FRANCE AND FLANDERS.

### I.—THE GERMAN INVASION, 1914.

THE RETREAT FROM MONS (August 23-September 5, 1914).
Battle of Mons.
Battle of Le Cateau.
THE ADVANCE TO THE AISNE (September 6-October 1, 1914).
Battle of the Marne, 1914.†
Battle of the Aisne, 1914.†
THE DEFENCE OF ANTWERP (October 4-10, 1914).
OPERATIONS IN FLANDERS, 1914 (October 10-November 22).
Battle of La Bassée.
Battle of Messines, 1914.
Battle of Armentiéres.
THE BATTLES OF YPRES, 1914.
(i.) Battle of Langemarck, 1914.
(ii.) Battle of Gheluvelt.
(iii.) Battle of Nonne Bosschen.

### II.—TRENCH WARFARE, 1914-16.

WINTER OPERATIONS, 1914-15 (November-February).
SUMMER OPERATIONS, 1915 (March-October.)
Battle of Neuve Chapelle.
THE BATTLES OF YPRES, 1915.
(i.) Battle of Gravenstafel Ridge (the Gas Attack).
(ii.) Battle of St. Julien.
(iii.) Battle of Frezenberg Ridge.
(iv.) Battle of Bellewaerde Ridge.
Battle of Aubers Ridge.
Battle of Festubert.
THE BATTLE OF LOOS.
LOCAL OPERATIONS, 1916.
Battle of Mount Sorrell (June 2-13).

### III.—THE ALLIED OFFENSIVE, 1916.

OPERATIONS ON THE SOMME (July 1-November 18, 1916).
THE BATTLES OF THE SOMME, 1916.
(i.) Battle of Albert, 1916 (July 1-13).
(ii.) Battle of Bazentin Ridge (July 14-17).
(iii.) Battle of Delville Wood (July 15-September 3).
(iv.) Battle of Poziéres Ridge (July 23-September 3).
(v.) Battle of Guillemont (September 3-6).
(vi.) Battle of Ginchy (September 9).
(vii.) Battle of Flers-Courcelette (September 15-22).
(viii). Battle of Morval (September 25-28).
(ix.) Battle of Thiepval Ridge (September 26-28).
(x.) Battle of the Transloy Ridges (October 1-18).
(xi.) Battle of the Ancre Heights (October 1-November 11).
(xii.) Battle of the Ancre, 1916 (November 13-18).

### IV.—THE ADVANCE TO THE HINDENBURG LINE, 1917.

OPERATIONS ON THE ANCRE (January 11-March 13, 1917).
GERMAN RETREAT TO THE HINDENBURG LINE (March 14-April 5, 1917).

### V.—THE ALLIED OFFENSIVES. 1917.

THE ARRAS OFFENSIVE (April 9-May 15, 1917).
THE BATTLES OF ARRAS, 1917.
(i.) { Battle of Vimy Ridge.
{ First Battle of the Scarpe, 1917 (April 9-14).
(ii.) Second Battle of the Scarpe, 1917 (April 23-24).
(iii.) Battle of Arleux (April 28-29).
(iv.) Third Battle of the Scarpe, 1917 (May 3-4).
—*with flanking operations*
(*a*) *round Bullecourt* (*April* 11-*June* 16).
Battle of Bullecourt (May 3-17).
(*b*) *towards Lens* (*June* 3-*August* 26).
Battle of Hill 70 (August 15-25).
THE FLANDERS OFFENSIVE (June 7-November 10, 1917).
THE BATTLE OF MESSINES, 1917.
THE BATTLES OF YPRES, 1917.
(i.) Battle of Pilckem Ridge.
(ii.) Battle of Langemarck, 1917.
(iii.) Battle of the Menin Road Ridge.
(iv.) Battle of Oolygon Wood.
(v.) Battle 'f Broodseinde.
(vi.) Battle of Poelcappelle.
(vii.) Battle of Passchendaele.
(viii.) Second Battle of Passchendaele.
THE CAMBRAI OPERATIONS (November 20-December 7, 1917).
Battle of Cambrai, 1917.

### VI.—THE GERMAN OFFENSIVES. 1918.

THE OFFENSIVE IN PICARDY (March 21-April 5, 1918).
THE FIRST BATTLES OF THE SOMME, 1918.
(i.) Battle of St. Quentin.
(ii.) First Battle of Bapaume. (The name "Bapaume" has been adopted for this battle in the German official lists).
(iii.) Battle of Rosieres.
(iv.) First Battle of Arras, 1918.
(v.) Battle of the Avre.
(vi.) Battle of the Ancre, 1918.
THE OFFENSIVE IN FLANDERS (April 9-29, 1918).
THE BATTLES OF THE LYS.
(i.) Battle of Estaires.
(ii.) Battle of Messines, 1918.
(iii.) Battle of Hazebrouck.
(iv.) Battle of Bailleul.
(v.) First Battle of Kemmel Ridge.
(vi.) Battle of Béthune.
(vii.) Second Battle of Kemmel Ridge.
(viii.) Battle of the Scherpenberg.
THE OFFENSIVE IN CHAMPAGNE (May 27-June 6, 1918).
Battle of the Aisne 1918.†

### VII.—THE ADVANCE TO VICTORY, 1918.

THE COUNTER-ATTACK IN CHAMPAGNE (July 20-August 2, 1918).
THE BATTLES OF THE MARNE, 1918.†
(i.) Battle of the Soissonnais and of the Ourcq.†
(ii.) Battle of Tardenois.†
[†The French names for these battles have been adopted, but the tactical incidents and limits refer only to the operations of the British troops which formed part of the French Armies.]
THE ADVANCE IN PICARDY (August 8-September 3, 1918).
THE BATTLE OF AMIENS.
THE ADVANCE IN PICARDY (continued) (August 21-September 3)
THE SECOND BATTLES OF THE SOMME, 1918.
(i.) Battle of Albert, 1918.
(ii.) Second Battle of Bapaume.
THE BREAKING OF THE HINDENBURG LINE (August 26-October 12, 1918)—*including the Pursuit to the Selle* (*October* 9-12).
THE SECOND BATTLES OF ARRAS, 1918.
(i.) Battle of the Scarpe, 1918.
(ii.) Battle of the Drocourt-Quéant Line
THE BATTLES OF THE HINDENBURG LINE.
(i.) Battle of Havrincourt.
(ii.) Battle of Epéhy.
(iii.) Battle of the Canal du Nord.
(iv.) Battle of the St. Quentin Canal.
(v.) Battle of the Beaurevoir Line.
(vi.) Battle of Cambrai, 1918.
THE FINAL ADVANCE :—
† *Flanders* (*September* 28-*November* 11)
Battle of Ypres, 1918.
Battle of Courtrai.
† *Artois* (*October* 2-*November* 11).
† *Picardy* (*October* 17-*November* 11).
Battle of the Selle.
Battle of Valenciennes.
Battle of the Sambre.

## EGYPT AND PALESTINE.

### EASTERN FRONTIER AND PALESTINE.

### I.—DEFENCE OF EGYPT.

DEFENCE OF THE SUEZ CANAL (January 26, 1915-August 12, 1916).
Battle of Rumani (August 4-5, 1916).

### II.—INVASION OF PALESTINE.

THE FIRST OFFENSIVE (March 24-April 19, 1917).
First Battle of Gaza (March 26-27).
Second Battle of Gaza (April 17-19).
THE SECOND OFFENSIVE (October 27-November 16, 1917).
Third Battle of Gaza (October 27-November 7).
JERUSALEM OPERATIONS (November 17-December 30, 1917).
Battle of Nebi Samwil.
Defence of Jerusalem (December 27-30).
—*with subsidiary.*
Battle of Jaffa (December 21-22).
THE FINAL OFFENSIVE (September 18-October 31, 1918).
THE BATTLES OF MEGIDDO.
(i.) Battle of Sharon.
(ii.) Battle of Nablus.

**Battles of the Great War**—*Continued.*

## MESOPOTAMIA.

### I.—CAMPAIGN IN LOWER MESOPOTAMIA.

BASRA OPERATIONS (November 6, 1914-April 14, 1915).
Battle of Shaiba.
ADVANCE UP THE TIGRIS, 1915 (May 31-October 5).
Battle of Kut, 1915 (September 28).
ADVANCE UP THE EUPHRATES, 1915 (June 26-July 25).

### II.—FIRST CAMPAIGN FOR BAGHDAD.

ADVANCE ON BAGHDAD 1915 (November 11-December 6, 1915).
Battle of Ctesiphon.
—*with subsequent*
Defence of Kut (December 7, 1915-April 28, 1916).

### III.—CAPTURE AND CONSOLIDATION OF BAGHDAD.

OPERATIONS FOR THE CAPTURE OF KUT, 1917 (December 13, 1916-February 25, 1917).
Battle of Kut, 1917 (January 9-February 24).

### IV.—CAMPAIGN IN UPPER MESOPOTAMIA.

ADVANCE ON MOSUL (October 23-November 5, 1918).
Battle of Sharqat.

## RUSSIA.

### ARCHANGEL.

OPERATIONS TO COVER WITHDRAWAL (August-September, 1919).
Battle of Troitsa (August 10).

### SIBERIA.

USSURI OPERATIONS (August 8-28, 1918).
Battle of Dukhovskaya.

## ITALY.

THE ITALIAN OFFENSIVES, 1917.
Tenth Battle of the Isonzo (May 12-June 8).
Eleventh Battle of the Isonzo (Aug. 17-Sept. 12).
THE AUSTRIAN OFFENSIVE, 1917.
—*including*
*The Retreat to the Piave.*
Twelfth Battle of the Isonzo (Oct. 24-Nov. 18).
THE AUSTRIAN OFFENSIVE, 1918.
THE BATTLE OF THE PIAVE.
THE ITALIAN OFFENSIVE, 1918.
THE BATTLE OF VITTORIO VENETO.
Note.—The Italian names for these battles have been adopted.

## MACEDONIA.

1917 OFFENSIVE (April-May).
Battle of Doiran, 1917.
1918 OFFENSIVE (Sept. 1-30).
—*including*
*The Pursuit to the Strunitsa Valley* (*Sept.* 22-30).
Battle of Doiran, 1918 (Sept. 18-19).

## DARDANELLES.

HELLES OPERATIONS (April 25, 1915-Jan., 8, 1916).
THE BATTLES OF HELLES :—
(i.) The Landing at Cape Helles.
(ii.) First Battle of Krithia (April 28).
(iii.) Second Battle of Krithia (May 6-8).
(iv.) Third Battle of Krithia (June 4).
ANZAC AND SUVLA OPERATIONS (April 25-Dec. 20, 1915).
THE BATTLES OF ANZAC :—
(i.) The Landing at Anzac.
(ii.) The Defence of Anzac (May 18-21).
THE BATTLES OF SUVLA :—
(i.) Battle of Sari Bair.
(ii.) The Landing at Suvla.
(iii.) Battle of Scimitar Hill.

† Compare Chaucer :—
" With him ther was his sonne a yong Sqyer
" . . . . . .
" Of twenty yeer he was of age, I gesse,
" And he has been some tyme in chivalrye
" In Flaundres, in Artoys, and in Picardie."

### Editorial Note.

*The Annual Subscription to The Dragon is 8/- (post free). In addition the Paper is obtainable, price 6d., in all units through company commanders; and also at all Territorial Drill Halls. News, personal notes, short stories, sketches and drawings are invited. All communications and MSS. should be sent to the Editor, Depot, The Buffs, Canterbury. The Paper is published on the 1st of each month, and copy for insertion in the coming issue should reach the Editor not later than the 18th of the current month,*

## War Casualities.

The following is an official return showing the approximate number of casualties suffered by the Allies and Germany during the late War. It is estimated that approximately 28000 officers and men passed through the ranks of The Buffs, and that of these 5,600 laid down their lives.

The honours gained by the rank and file were : V.C. 1 ; D.C.M. 101 ; M.M. 491 ; thirty-eight of whom gained bars ; and M.S.M 79 ; whilst in addition twenty-eight Foreign Decorations were also won.

| Country. | Deaths from all causes. | Wounded. | Total Deaths and Wounded. |
|---|---|---|---|
| British Empire | 946,023 | 2,121,906 | 3,067,929 |
| France ... | 1,385,300 | — | — |
| Belgium ... | 38,172 | 44,686 | 82,858 |
| Italy ... | 460,000 | 947,000 | 1,407,000 |
| Portugal ... | 7,222 | 13,751 | 20,973 |
| Roumania | 335,706 | — | 335,706 |
| Serbia ... | 127,535 | 133,148 | 260,683 |
| Greece ... ... | 5,000 | 21,000 | 26,000 |
| United States of America ... | 115,660 | 205,690 | 321,350 |
| Germany ... | 2,050,466 | 4,202,028 | 6,252,494 |
| Austria ... | | | |
| Hungary ... | 1,200,000 | 3,620,000 | 4,820,000 |
| Bulgaria ... | 101,224 | 152,400 | 253,624 |
| Turkey ... | 303,000 | 570,000 | 870,000 |

## The Buffs War Memorial.

THE following further donations have been received towards The Buffs War Memorial. It is estimated that the sum of £1,000 will be required to complete the oak reredos to be erected in the Warriors' Chapel of the Canterbury Cathedral, and the illuminated vellum book which is to contain the names of all those of the Regiment who made the supreme sacrifice. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Buffs Memorial Fund, Canterbury.

THIRD LIST OF DONATIONS.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Previously acknowledged ... ... ... | 425 | 14 | 2 |
| H. L. Milles, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| F. W. Lovell, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Rev. W. F. Burnside ... ... ... | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Capt. S. L. P. Barker ... ... ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| E. W. Lamb, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Lt.-Col. L. C. R. Messel, O.B.E., T.D. ... | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Godfrey Lushington, Esq. ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| W. J. Dixon, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Major R. G. A. Marriott, D.S.O. ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Capt. Stone ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| C. C. Falk, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. and J. F. Honalin, Esq. ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. Carles ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Lt. P. R. H. Fox ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Capt. E. F. D. Strettell ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Major Foster ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Proceeds of Depot Concert ... ... ... | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| L. H. Evans, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| R. M. Webster, Esq. ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Major-General Sir A. Lynden Bell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G. ... ... ... ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total ... | £482 | 0 | 8 |

**Picture Framing and Art Depot.**
**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
**Canterbury.**
**Tel. 21 X.**

# Albuera Day at Fermoy.

THE 349th Anniversary of the Battle of Albuera was celebrated by the 1st Battalion at Fermoy by the holding of the Regimental Sports. Unfortunately the weather was dull and cold, with an occasional drizzle which somewhat damped the ardour of the spectators. But the warmth of one kind or another in the tents, the close contests, and the amusement of the mule Derby organised by Lieut. Brown kept all smiling. The following is a complete list of the winners.

BEST ATHLETE.

1. Sergt. Ravencroft C Company.
2. Sergt. Burville A Company.
3. Cpl. Bell A Company.

BEST ATHLETIC COMPANY.

1. A Company 25 points.
2. C Company 17 points.
3. D Company 15 points.

440 yds :—(1) Cpl. Bell (A), (2) Cpl. Jones (C), (3) Sgt. Burt (D). Time : 58⅘ secs.

Hurdles :—(1) Bdn. Marshall (B), (2) Cpl. Cornwell (D), (3) Sgt. Read (D).

1 Mile :—(1) Sgt. Ravencroft (C), (2) Lt. Essell (A), (3) L/C. Meakin (A), (4) Cpl. Bell, (A). Time 5 min. 4⅘ secs.

Children's Race :—Boys :—(1) Eric Kelly, (2) Billy Martin, (3) Joe Manahan. Girls :—(1) Lily Bourne, (2) Vera Horsfield, (3) Sybil Bird.

Veterans' Race :—(1) C.Q.M.S. Martin (A), (2) C.Q.M.S. Kelly (D), (3) Sgt. Denny (C).

Ladies Race :—(1) Mrs. Denny, (C), (2) Mrs. Truby (A), (3) Mrs. Read (C).

880 Yds. :—(1) Sgt. Ravencroft (C), (2) Cpl. Bell (A), (3) Sgt. Cross (A). Time :—2 min., 15⅕ sec.

Sgts. Race :—(1) Sgt. Burt (D), (2) Sgt. Clarke (D), (3) Sgt. Martin (D).

Enlisted Boys :—(1) Boy Spice (A), (2) Boy Wingfield (B), (3) Boy Holness (D).

Cpls 220 Yds. :—(1) Cpl. Cornwall (D), (2) L/C. Meakin (A), (3) Cpl. Jones.

220 yds. (under 2 yrs.) :—(1) Boy Spice (A), (2) Bdn. Marshall (B), (3) Pte. Beck (B).

Boat Race :—(1) C Coy., (2) B Coy.

High Jump :—(1) Lt. Wale (C) 5ft. 1 in., (2) Sgt. Burville (A), 5 ft. 0in., (3) Sgt. Gibson (C).

Bumping Melee :—(1) B Coy.

100 Yds :—(1) C.S.M. McWalter (D), (2) Sgt. Burville (A), (3) Pte. Wiltshire (A), Time 11 secs.

3 Miles :—(1) Sgt. Ravencroft (C), (2) Cpl. Bell (A), (3) Lt. Essell (A), (4) Pte. Paul (A). Time 16 min.

Long Jump :—(1) Sgt. Burville (A), 18 ft. 5 in., (2) C.Q.M.S. Martin (A), (3) Pte. Perry.

Obstacle Race :—(1) Dr. Baker (B), (2) Pte. White (3) L/C. Thurlo.

Open Mile :—(1) Sgt. Ravencroft (C), (2) Pte. Holding (B), (3) Pte. Brenchley. Time :—5 min. 5⅜ secs.

Sack Race :—(1) Lt. Milton (D), (2) Pte. Carpenter (C), (3) Pte. McCarthy (A), (4) Boy Degville (A).

220 Yds. :—(1) C.S.M. McWalter (D), (2) Cpl. Cornwall (D), (3) Pte. Wiltshire (A). Time :—26⅘ secs.

Tug-o-War :—(1) B Coy., (2) A Coy., This was a terrific struggle, Also the Sgts. beat the officers.

Inter-Coy. Relay :—(1) D, (2) C, (3) A.

Consolation Race :—(1) Bartlett (C), (2) Hogben (B), (3) Manning (A).

Fancy Dress :—(1) Bdn. Moss, (2) Cpl. Taylor, (3) L/C. Wright.

Coy. Relay (All Ranks) :—(1) D, (2) A, (3) C.

Officers' Race :—(1) Maj. Groves Raines, (2) Lt. L. S. Symons, (3) 2/Lt. H. Spear.

Donkey Race :—Officers :—(1) Lt. Browne's Prairie Oyster, (Lt. Stump), (2) Lt.-Col. Lucas' Yes Old Boy (Lt. Gem), Sergeants :—(1) Q.M.S. Collin's Intelligence (Sadler), (2) C.Q.M.S. Croucher's Windy (Purfit), (3) C.S.M. McWalter's Sprinter (Watson).

THE REST OF THE NEWS.

Universal disappointment was felt at the cancellation of the Army Cross Country Run. Our team was both confident and in fine fettle and though retaining the Cup for another year, we would have much preferred a run for our money.

Congratulations to the Boxing Team on their plucky display at Aldershot and to Sgt. Gibson in particular.

A neck and neck struggle between A and D Coy. is taking place for the Harris Shield.

We tender our heartfelt sympathies to Captain R. A. Pinkey on his recent bereavement.

Our congratulations to Captain Thomas, Lieut. Marshall, L/Cpl. Sawkins and Private L. Wright on the receipt of their Certificates for gallant conduct which they so richly deserve.

Also to Lieut. Keble on his recent marriage.

Lieut.-Col. McDouall's St. Fanahan brought off another success recently; taking 2nd place in the Gone away Open Hunters Steeplechase Handicap on May 2nd.

A D-Company detachment had a small success early in the month. When on patrol they surprised a Sinn Fein Meeting and wounded and captured one rebel together with an unwounded one. [*Seems to have the making of a good story this. Ed.*]

Congratulations to Sgt. Ravencroft on winning the Paget Gold Medal for the best Athlete in the Battalion.

BAYONET FIGHTING.

The Bayonet Fighting Competition for the Harris Shield was held on 13th May. In the 1st round A beat B by 6 wins to 2; and D beat C by 8 wins to 0.

In the final A beat D by 5 wins to 3 in a stubborn struggle. Not until the last point had been scored could it be decided whether, owing to a tie, the leaders might have to fight.

HOCKEY.

On April 16th the Battalion team beat No. 2 Squad R.A.F. in a very good and fast game by 4-1. Goal scorers :—Lt. Webster (1), Lt. D'Arcy Symonds (2), and 2/Lt. Kimin (1). In the game Pte. Perry, outside left, and Q.M.S. Evans were very conspicuous.

BOXING.

The Battalion team arrived at Aldershot on the 30th April, very late and tired, and started finishing their training the next day. Fighting five short, the team deserves every credit for the 33 pts. gained. The trophy was brought back to Ireland by our old opponents in

**Albuera Day at Fermoy**—*continued.*

Dublin the 1st Lancs. Fusiliers with 60 points. Other team scores were :—2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers 52 pts., 4th Dragoon Guards 45 pts., 4th Hussars 39 pts., 1st Buffs 33 pts., 1st W. Yorks 15 pts.

The following gives a brief account of each contest in which our Team was engaged :—

Officers' Middles :—Lt. Cass, bye in 1st series, was beaten by Lt. de Pass, 4th D.G. on points after some very hard rounds.

Officers' Lights :—Lt. Milton, showing improvement in his Dublin form, beat Lt. Howard, 4th Hussars on points, but lost to the ultimate winner Lt. Solly of the R.I. Fusiliers in his next fight.

Officers' Feathers :—After a game struggle Capt. Morley, a surprise entry from The Depot lost to Lt. Cronyn, R.I. Fus. in a bout of 2 rounds.

Other Ranks Heavies :—Pte. Orsler (B), bye in first series, was beaten by Pte. Battersly, 1st Lancs. Fus. on points in the second. This was a very close and gruelling bout and one of the best in the Tournament. Both competitors received great applause.

SGT. GIBSON'S SUCCESSES.

Other Ranks Light Heavies :—In the 1st series Sgt. Gibson (C) easily disposed of Pte. Herberts, 1st W. Yorks in the 2nd round. He then beat Pte. Welham, 4th Hussars in a fight which went to the full limit, and in which both gave and received heavy punishment. The victory brought him to the final of the Team competition in which he knocked out L/Cpl. Daisley, 4th D.G. in the 2nd round. Having now qualified to meet the winner of the All Army Individual Championship he met Sgt. Pape, R.A.S.C. last year's champion, who proved too good for him ; and the referee stopped the fight at the end of the 1st round. Gibson received a silver cup for his fine performance.

Other Ranks Middles :—Dr. Clements, bye in 1st series, quickly knocked out Sgt. Clifton, R.I. Fus. in the second. He then had to meet Smith Davies of the 4th D.G., a coming middle weight champion of England who dropped Clements for a count in the 1st round.

Other Ranks Welters :—Sgt. Real (D) was defeated by Sgt. Brain, 1st Lancs. Fus. on points by a narrow margin.

Other Ranks Lights :—Pte. Symons, bye in 1st series, was beaten by C.S.M., 1st Lancs. Fus., the Irish Army Champion in the 2nd series, the referee stopped the fight in the 2nd round.

Other Ranks Feathers :—Bd. Fearon, the Boy of Dublin fame lost to Sgt. Patterson, 4th D.G. on points after a very close contest.

Other Ranks Flys :—Pte. Solly (A), bye in 1st series, beat Sweeney, 4th D.G., easily in the 2nd round, but after a close and hard contest lost to Sgt. Boyd, 2nd R.I.F. in the 3rd round of the finals.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

This month we have again been successful in beating the corporals at billiards in a match of 12 aside. The margin of victory this time was 426.

In a shooting match against the Corporals the spoils were also ours by 93 points. In this event Sgt. Denny 69 and L/C. Batson 54 were the top scorers.

In our own billiard handicap R.Q.M.S. Martin proved to be the winner, with C.Q.M.S. Croucher runner up ; the other semi-finalists being W.O' Instr. Collins, and Sergt. Perry, A.S.C., The feature of the handicap was a fine break of 50 by Sergt. Truby.

A very pleasant Social Evening, the forerunner we hope of many others, was held on the 8th. Songs were given by R.Q.M.S. Pierce, R.E., Sgt. Foote, the inimitable Mocky, and many others.

On Wednesday the 11th, a Whist Drive and Dance was held, and fourteen tables occupied. The winners were :—Ladies 1st Mrs. McWalter, 2nd Mrs. Watson, Booby Mrs. Broadhead. Men :—1st Sgt. Ludeman, 2nd W.O. Instr. Collins, Booby R.S.M. Patterson., R.A.S.C.

Our members are evidently waking up to the fact that we hold a Monthly Spoon Shoot, as our last was very well attended. Some very close shooting was witnessed. Q.M.S. Evans (O.R.S.) eventually winning the Silver Spoon and Sgt. Acres the " Wooden Un."

Our heartiest congratulations to Sgt. Gibson on his fine show at Aldershot, and indeed to the whole of the team and trainer. And a cordial welcome to C.S.M.'s Mould and Boarer and Sgt. Jones, the two former from the M.G.C. and the latter from the Depot.

*[We much regret that, owing to the news of the 1st Battalion reaching us on the morning of the 25th instead of the 18th May, and at a time when this number had already gone to press, we have had to hold over B and D Coy. notes, and abbreviate the rest. No doubt the irregularity of the Postal Service in Ireland is responsible for this, but we would again earnestly remind all our correspondents, upon whose assistance the success of the paper is entirely dependant, of the vital importance of remembering that all copy for the following month's issue must reach our office by the 18th of each month. Unless we are served in this way, the whole of the administration and organisation of the paper is thrown out of gear, and we also become involved in unnecessary expense. Ed.]*

## Births, Deaths and Marriages.

*[Notices of Births, Engagements, Marriages and Deaths will be inserted in The Dragon free to all Past and Present Buffs on request.]*

BIRTHS.

**Thompson.**—On Feb. 2nd, at Devlali, the wife of No. 6279453 Pte. Thompson, 2nd Battalion The Buffs, of a daughter.

**Yates.**—On July 7th, 1920 at Faversham, the wife of No. 6279424 L/Corpl. Yates, of a son.

**Vaughan.**—On the 2nd May, at Cliffside, Cliftonville, to Dulcie, the wife of Major J. Vaughan (late The Buffs)—a son.

DEATHS.

**Pinhey.**—On May 4th at Hastings, Mabel Valérie, wife of Captain R. A. Pinhey, 1st Buffs.

**Spens.**—On May 2nd, at Hargate Lodge, Tunbridge Wells, Major Lionel Thomas Spens (late the Buffs).

**Dennis.**—On 19th April, Elizabeth Patricia, daughter of No. 6278366 Cpl. C. Dennis, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.

MARRIAGES.

**Gamble.**—On the 23rd April at Edmonton No. 6278637 Pte. W. Gamble (Reservist) to Hilda May Eason.

**Knight.**—On the 23rd April, at Elham, No. 7808460 C.S.N. W. Knight M.M., to Annie Charlotte Barnes.

**Trosh.**—On the 30th April, at Preston, near Faversham No. 6278340 Pte. E. Trosh to Lilian Elizabeth Beatrice Jarrett.

The marriage arranged between Major Edmund Francis Gould, The Buffs, and Mademoiselle Jeanne Liaume will take place at the Chapelle de Saint Louis des Invalides, Paris, on Thursday, June 2nd, at 11.45 a.m.

**Films Developed and Printed.**
**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
**Canterbury.**
**Kodaks.** **Tel. 21 X.**

# "Beneath Bell Harry."

BY THE MAN WITH THE SQUEEGEE.

JUST as in the Autumn of 1914 one settled down easily to the novel conditions and accepted The War as a perfectly natural fact, even so have we here come to regard the now protracted Crisis as something quite original. While our Reservists were here we felt a little unusual but since they have been wafted elsewhere by the magic pen of "Practician" the atmosphere is much as it was in pre-strike days.

In a period of the year which should properly be devoted to Cricket there have been other activities of a light nature. A Garrison Athletic Sports Meeting occupied some of us for a full week during which a Committee, presided over by the most energetic Chairman, evolved a Scheme for the Entertainment of the citizens of Canterbury and for the exercise of the Athletes of the Station. The City Recreation Ground, festooned with bunting and dotted with side-shows and booths, looked gay on a sunny twelfth of May, and the "patrons of Sport" flocked through the gates betimes, unhampered by irritating requests for "Admission Money." There was excitement and interest even for the most exacting and it was a pleasure to see Recruits of the Depot extending some of the more experienced prize-lifters of our friends the 4th Battalion. The inevitable and welcome comic relief was admirably supplied by Sergeant Beasley, Cpl. Woods and Pte. Wood in the respective roles of Jockey Trainer and Owner of an Ass which the Biblical Balaam would have found more amenable than his historic mount. From 2.30 until nigh upon 7 p.m., the Olympia lasted, and it is to be hoped that Earl Haig's Fund and the Lord Roberts' Memorial Workshops are richer by the Box Collection made around the Stadium.

Cricket has started in earnest. By way of a beginning an Officers versus Sergeants Match was played before C Company marched away, and after a pleasant game the former were victorious.

The Royal Army Pay Corps has been met by the Depot and a few runs difference shewed the Depot that they must devote a little more attention to the run-getting side of the game. It is evident that unless the batsmen exercise a little more patience and avoid attempting to hook straight good length balls the Season will not materially differ from 1920 as far as results are concerned. There is bowling enough, and the fielding in the first match was incomparably better than anything last year, but it is necessary to make at least one hundred runs in an innings in order to give the attack some scope. The Depot Wicket is going to be really good and the play must be a little more worthy of it. We welcome Major Guy Lee, who has been posted to us, not least because of his good straight bat, and it is to be hoped that imitators will not be lacking.

### THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

A busy month indeed, but now that the Reservists have left us for Colchester things have again become normal. Prior to their departure we had many opportunities of enjoying ourselves together, amusement being arranged for daily after the hours for work had gone by.

Our Cricket Team has so far played three matches. In these we were successful against the Corporals and Canterbury Police, but lost against The Officers. Tennis will shortly be in full swing, the lawn, laid down by a professional, being in perfect condition and ready for playing on.

Sergeant Arthur Gibson (Gibbo) called to see us before returning to Ireland after winning his boxing competition at Aldershot. He is looking the picture of health and we were highly delighted to see his cheerful old clock again.

A Whist Drive, splendidly arranged by R.Q.M.S. Andrews, with tip-top prizes, took place in the Mess on May 29th. It was, of course, thoroughly enjoyed by a bumper assembly of members and friends, as was also the Dance which followed it and which lasted till midnight. The arrangements for the latter had been left in the able hands of C.S.M. Pigott assisted by a small Committee.

As we said in the last issue we should, we now greatly miss the companionship of the good old Reservists who left us on May 10th with very little warning. Full of good feeling and good meaning they had very readily fallen into our ways and doings at the Depot, and joined in our Merriments in no stinted fashion; as a matter of fact they were instrumental in many ways of increasing our happy little side functions in the Mess.

Though not exactly known to us officially, it is conjectured that they will return to the Depot for demobilization, so that we shall have one more chance of gripping their honest hands in a final "So Long," and wishing them an undisturbed and very happy future in their Civil careers.

### FOOTBALL.

The last of the fixtures of the Depot were played on the Depot Ground, 23rd April and 28th April, both matches being against the R.H.A. "F" Battery, recently returned from Mesopotamia.

In the first match, played in a steady drizzle, The Depot had the best of exchanges, and ran out winners by 2 Goals to Nil. Goal Scorers: L/C. Smith, Cpl. Williams.

In the return the weather was fine and a good display of football was seen, but The Depot forwards failed to take advantage of the many opportunities that were afforded them and we lost 1-0.

### MEMORIAL FUND CONCERT.

On May 5th The "Entertainers" talented Concert Party very kindly gave a concert in the Prince of Wales Institute in aid of The Buffs Memorial Fund. This was a huge success and the proceeds reached about £19. Mr. Humphreys was heard to great advantage in "Until" and "Ninette." Mr. Records with "Do I—Yes I do" and "The Railway Porter," was deservedly encored, whilst others who added to the enjoyment of the evening and each of whom was encored were Mr. Hipkins, Miss Culver, Bert Halliday, Mr. Barrow, and last but not least "Little Babs Sinclair" who delighted the crowded house with her dancing.

The Band of The Buffs Depot under Sgt. Drummer Clayton was in great form and caused great fun and laughter with their Comedy Sketches, "The Trumpeter" and "Playelski's Mad Band," both of which are absolutely funny. The performers in "The Trumpeter" were Bandsmen Woods, Collier and Simpson, and in "Playelski's Mad Band":—

| | |
|---|---|
| Bandsman Collier | Mad Conductor. |
| ,, Richards | Mad Drummer. |

**"Beneath Bell Harry."**—*Continued.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sgt.-Dmr. Clayton and Bandsman | Douglas | Cornet and Piccolo. |
| ,, | Woods | Trombone. |
| ,, | Philpott | Clarionette. |
| ,, | Troughton | Cornet. |
| ,, | Pike and Wise | "Old Bills." |
| ,, | Baker | Opposition Bandmaster. |

CRICKET.

On May 5th the officers of The Depot beat the Sergts. by 48 runs. Scores:—Officers 132 (Major Ward 61, Major Lee 22). Sergeants 84 (C.S.M. Bennett 25, C.M.M.S. Marshall 11, R.S.M. Dare 10, Sgt. Maillard 10). C.S.M. Bennet took 6 wickets for the losers.

On May 7th the Sergeants beat the Canterbury Police by 96 runs. Scores:—Sgts. 143 (R.S.M. Dare 44 not out; C.S.M. Couchman 33, C.S.M. Bennett 25), For the Police P.C. Petts was top scorer with 16. C.S.M. Bennett was the most successful bowler for the winners taking 7 wickets.

On May 11th the Sergeants beat the Corporals by 38 runs. Scores:—Sergeants 100 (C.S.M. Couchman 25, Sgt. Maillard 23, R.S.M. Dare 18. Corporals—62 (L/C. Alldridge 17, L/C. Middleton 12, L/C. Parry 11). Sgt. Maillard and C.S.M. Bennett bowled well for the winners taking 5 and 4 wickets respectively. For the losers L/C Parry and L/C. Williams took 4 wickets apiece.

On May 14th the Royal Army Pay Corps beat the Depot by 23 runs. Scores:—R.A.P.C. 97. For the Depot the top scorers were L/C. Maiden 22, Lt. Wellins 15, S.M. Dare 14, C.S.M. Bennett took 5 wickets for 37 runs, and Lt. Maiden 3 for 31.

SPORTS WINNERS.

At the Garrison Sports held on the Canterbury Recreation Ground on the 13th May the following successes were gained by those serving at The Depot.

120 yds. hurdle Race:—(1) Pte. Manders, (2) L/Cpl. Tutt, (3) Pte. Downs.

High Jump:—(1) L/Cpl. Middleton, (2) Pte. Humphreys.

Tilting the Bucket:—Pte. Chapman.

220 yds. Open:—(2) Pte. Wadelin.

Sack Race:—(1) L/Cpl. Tutt, (2) Pte. Richards.

440 yds. Open:—(1) Pte. Wadelin, (2) L/Cpl. Middleton.

Bumping Melee:—(1) Pte. Richards, (2) Pte. Smith.

Long Jump:—(2) Dt. Lamming, (3) L/Cpl. Tutt.

Blindfold Squad Drill:—(2) Depot The Buffs. In this D and A Company 4th Buffs were 1st and 3rd respectively.

Wheelbarrow Race:—(2) Ptes. Thornby and Lawrence.

Half Mile Open:—(1) L/Cpl. Middleton (2) Pte. Phillips.

1 Mile Open:—(1) Pte. Manders.

3-legged Race:—(1) Sgt. Morgan and Pte. Ayliffe, (2) Ptes. Simpson and Lamming.

1 Mile Walk:—(1) L/Cpl. Middleton, (2) L/Cpl. Read, (3) Pte. Smith.

Obstacle Race:—(2) Pte. Richards.

Veterans' Race:—(1) Sgt.-Dmr. Clayton, (3) Pte. Woods.

Wrestling on Horseback:—(1) L/Cpl. Ayliffe, and Pte. Chapman, (2) L/Cpl. Tutt and Pte. Bassett.

Relay Race:—(1) B Coy. Depot, (2) A Coy., Depot.

Band Race:—(1) Bdsm. Douglas, (2) Bdsm. Woods.

**Mention THE DRAGON.**

DEPOT CRICKET FIXTURES (1921).

| *Date.* | *Opponents.* | *Ground.* |
|---|---|---|
| May 14th. | Royal Army Pay Corps. | Depot. |
| May 26th. | St. Lawrence "A." | Depot. |
| May 28th. | Littlebourne C.C. | Away. |
| May 31st. | King's School. | Away. |
| June 11th. | Connaught Rangers. | Depot. |
| June 18th. | Bekesbourne C.C. | Away. |
| June 21st. | Wye College. | Depot. |
| June 25th. | Littlebourne C.C. | Depot. |
| July 2nd. | Depot R. W. Kent Regt. | Maidstone. |
| July 6th | Wingham C.C. | Depot. |
| July 7th. | St. Lawrence "A" | Away. |
| July 16th. | Herne Bay C.C. | Depot. |
| July 20th. | Connaught Rangers. | Dover. |
| July 28th. | Wye College. | Wye. |
| Aug. 13th. | Royal Army Pay Corps. | Depot. |
| *Aug. 15th & 16th. | Capt. H. H. C. Baird's XI. | Depot. |
| *Aug. 17th. & 18th. | Small Arms School C.C. | Depot. |
| *Aug. 19th. | Past versus Present. | Depot. |
| Aug. 20th. | Herne Bay C.C. | Away. |
| Aug. 27h. | Depot R.W. Kent Regt. | Canterbury. |
| Sept. 3rd. | Wingham C.C. | Away. |
| Sept. 10th. | Bekesbourne C.C. | Depot. |

**Regimental Cricket Week.*

## "Snifter."

[*The following reminiscence is taken from the copy sent us by the Sergeants' Mess of the 2nd Battalion in Mesopotamia. Ed.*]

HARPING back on old times reminds us of a yarn about poor old Stringey Rope, one of our late members,, now alas! gone to join the great majority. (R.I.P.) T'was in Singapore, and Stringey had been to one of the Corporals' Dances on Wednesday night. Thursday being a holiday he had helped to clear up the débris of the night before. There was some big function on at Government House, and a quantity of tables and forms had been requisitioned from the barracks.

Poor old Stringey was detailed to conduct a fatigue party with these, a matter of some three miles, to Government House. On arrival he was met by a person in a bobtailed coat whom he at once took to be the butler or some such individual of the category. Stringey addressed the chap something after this style. "I say governor, where do you want these blinking things dropped?" "Oh, place them over Heah, please Corporal" was the reply. Stringey got to work with his party and off loaded the tables, etc., from the carts. T'was a hot job and the poor chaps were exceedingly dry, especially so Stringey, and when the task was finished he again addressed the flunkey. "All finished, Governor, nah what abaat a snifter?"

The individual pulled a monocle from his vest pocket, placed it in position and eyeing Stringey remarked, "A sniftah, and pray my man what may a SNIFTAH be?" Why a blooming drink of course" was the quick response. "Certainly, my man" said the butler and away he went and returned in a few moments with enough bottles of beer in his arms for one a piece all round.

A few days later poor old Stringey nearly had a fit when he found out that the "butler" was no other than the A.D.C. to the Governor of Singapore. We believe that it was the joke of the evening when related at dinner that night by the said A.D.C. Anyway, since that time the word "Snifter" has been well known to mean a drink in the Battalion and especially in the Mess.

**WANTED.—The names and addresses of all old Buffs to enable us to send them a Dragon.**

# Limericktitus.

MR. EDITOR, I little thought you could be so cruel.

Why, oh! why did you do it? And who was the friend that suggested it? May I say, Sir, that until the issue of May's *Dragon* I was, to all intents and purpose a fairly sane man, but now.—Oh! 'erb..... The fact is that page 68 of the May *Dragon* has given me "Limericktitus." And I've got it bad. You'd hardly think, Sir, that your innocent (?) suggestion on page 68 could cause any being so very much unhappiness. But to proceed.

In the cool of one evening with a flagon of ale I sat me down to devour the Duck's glad contents. Thus began my fall. Until page 68 I was delighted. It was all so simple, so easy, so entertaining, and I smiled to myself and thought, "Money for dirt," etc., But have you, Mr. Editor, ever tried Limericks? If so I extend a sympathising hand. I did not mention that the hour was the bewitching one of 00·18, when the bar opens and all begin to make merry.

At 11 o'clock, or to be correct 23.00 hours, I was still at trying to get something to go with "UFF." Believe me, I tried buff, bluff, gruff, tough, stuff, fluff, enough, luff, cuff, but not one could I set to a sensible "Lim." That fatal night I was absent from Staff Parade.

In the morn the usual thing happened. Coy. Officer–Beak, I mean C.O. with the usual number to take away my life. Before he opened his mouth I felt that I had lost much favour in his eyes. And it was so. He commenced "Sgt., Of this thing I've had enough," and believe me instead of holding my stupid tongue I blurted out :—

"I am in front of you, Sir—a bad Buff,
Quite ready and willing to Bluff—
O'er the bloomer I've made—
In missing Staff Parade—
Though I feel I shall "click" well enough."

Can you believe me Sir, he got quite cross, but I hoped a few more kind lines would ease the situation, so tried the following as a charm.

"May I ask of you, Sir, the "head" Buff.
Why this display of excitement and huff?
Come! agree Sir...and more,
Shew esprit de corps,—
By applause please—and treatment less rough."

I leave you, Sir, to picture the scene for words of mine cannot describe it. My exit was what would be termed undignified and the last words I remember were "M.O.....special sick report.....mental exam..... and "severe."" Truly this is an unkind world.

Well...you'd had thought that I'd let "Lims" alone after *that* but No! I had it too bad. Woe is me. That evening I wandered over the Old Park to seek peace of mind, and more inspirations. Oh, why Sir, Why did I do it? In my pursuit for limericks I had forgotten that I was to meet her on the park that eve. She was there, all smiles. I smiled (as a Buff should do) and said "Good evening, dearheart." But I suppose she was in one of her nasty moods because I was a couple of hours late, for she said. "Freddy dear you *are* gruff," and instead of trying to humour her, I burst into this spasmodic song.....

"Whilst roaming the Park—in a huff.
Met me donnah... a smart bit of fluff
She said "Freddy dear—
You are sickly I fear,
Or are you perchance in a huff."

Can you believe it? She actually did not appreciate my effort. She gazed at me, gave one screech, and fled into the night. I got the ring back in the morn with a note to the effect that she had not time for mad poets." Mr. Editor, I ask you, 'aint women funny?

You'd have guessed that that would cure anyone. But not me. I blundered on, and ever on, to my doom.

It was while having my tub that the next attack came on. I was using one of those post-war towels. You know, Sir, vocab; price 3/9, pre-war price 2¾d., all cotton and fluff. It was the "fluff" that did it. I began to dry myself, and then it just came.

"In days of pre-war to a Buff,
They gave towels made of linen—not fluff.
But in these post-war days,—
Extra shillings he pays—
For towels made of commonest stuff."

I repeated it over and over again. I liked it. It was so true. It caught on. I put it to music. You know the tune. "There was a young lady of Clewer" (a la Robey). Surely the guinea was mine.

But now for a secret. I am not guilty of rising too early (don't tell the S.M.) and time flies so very quickly when you are mentally engaged. Suddenly without knocking, mark you, my bunk door was opened, and there stood—holy mike—the Q.M., R.Q. M.Sgt., C.Q.M.S. and storemen. I had forgotten it was bedding inspection day. You'll agree with me, when I say one cannot very well explain in a hurry why at 09.15 hrs. one is sitting in their birthday dress chanting limericks of towels and fluff when one ought to be at work. I thought the Major was most unkind. In fact he said "Why the blankerty blank, don't you get on with the towel and the fluff? Mr. Editor, I again ask you. Ain't life a gamble? As he made his exit he muttered something about the present generation of soldiers, and moral degenerates. I feel I shall never like him again. In fact I felt a kind of sad feeling.

However, to continue my sordid story. I got on the company parade ground and naturally I was dreaming. So the S.M. did it again and again. What a life! He got cross with me. He, the last one I hoped to vex. In fact he chewed me up horribly. But believe me, or believe me not I found myself chanting to the S.M. this ditty.—

Said he with the "Arms" on his cuff—
"Come Sergeant—drill like a real Buff"—
But I said I'm afraid—
That you've come on parade,
Not to drill—but to fume in a "Huff."

When I came to, the parade had marched off. In fact I stood alone, and "for" it. The Sergeant put in charge of me wasn't the kind I would have selected had I been S.M. He was one of those poor unfortunates who had no soul for poems. But as he bathed my forehead I found he had a kind sympathetic heart, and I exuded at him the following :—

When they made me in naught eight—a Buff,
Five feet eight was not height enough,
Now—its one of the tricks,
To take men four feet six,
To make into soldiers—*What bluff.*"

I cannot yet quite understand why he got vexed. I really did'nt mean him, though he was a short 'un. Nor can I follow why he took away my razor, bayonet and gun, and slept cold and uncomfortably outside the bunk door. Some people *are* strange in their habits, ain't they Sir?

I found the old man a trifle kinder in the morning. Perhaps it was because I had *two* Sergeants to take me in? Any how he said in a fatherly manner that he had heard of cases of delayed shell shock, and he suggested a few days leave to help the cure. As great minds think alike, I agreed. And off I went. Yes, I got to

*By kind permission of Mr. Geo. Morrow.*

**THE EDITOR LECTURES TO HIS CONTRIBUTORS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DRAGON.**

*Names reading from left to right.*

Tacet, 1st Bn. Correspondent, Depot do, 4th and 5th Bn. do., Mr. Clifton, Inky, Sgt. Mess Correspondent 2nd Bn., Ditto Depot, Treadmill, The Man with the Squeegee, O. Mason. Looking through the door are to be seen Inky and other Limerick Competitors.

**Limericktitus**—*continued.*

the station, settled down to wait the arrival of the train, again fell into muse, and as a goods train passed, let off as follows :—

" When my train leaves the station t'will puff—
As it takes to his home a poor Buff—
With his brain in a maze—
Through the Limerick craze—
And the winning of guineas by—Bluff."

Oh ! 'Orace, I am nearing the end. Bear with me yet a little longer, and you shall know all. By the time I'd weighed my chances of that prize, the one and only train had gone, and a crowd of gaping porters stood looking with pity and horror upon me.

I staggered from the station, and made my way to the local library where I spent the remainder of the day looking up all kinds of editions and prints of dictionaries — cyclopeadias — rhymsters — and heavens knows what, while the caretaker stood trying to decide whether to fetch the police or the doctor. Up to date I have not given up hope of that prize. I am just beginning the 29 volumes of the Cyclopedia Britannica. Should I not then be successful in finding something to rhyme with " Uff," I am lost.

So, dear Mr. Editor, should there be a sharp report, and a dull thud from the direction of N.C.O. Bunk No. umpteen, you, of all men will know the worst has happened.

INKY.

## A Love Story.

WE had started off in the taxi together on a beautiful Spring morning. How I had thrilled as I felt Dot nestling against my side. How adorable were the dimples on her fair white cheeks. Life indeed was sweet.

On our arrival at the village green we got out of the taxi together and strolled across the heath. There we stopped a while ; she reclining sweetly on a heap of sand, while I stood and braced my shoulders breathing in the fresh air. Then I turned, gazed at her with longing eyes ; and, invigorated by the sea breezes wafting across the marshes, I ardently addressed her as only a lover can. It was then that the trouble began, for she immediately took fright and ran down the hill tripping over the tussocks of grass in the direction of the stream. With an agility that made me hold my breath, she leapt up over the bank and vanished from my gaze. I ran with feverish haste in the direction in which I had seen her go and began a systematic search. " Oh ! Dot my only Dot where have you gone ! " I cried out in my anguish, But no answer came. Yes, there was no doubt that my one and only Red Dot was irretreivably lost and there was nothing left to me but to return to the Golf Club House and expend three bob on another new ball.

TREADMILL.

# Baghdad Commemoration Week.

DURING the last week of February a team of six officers and about sixty men of the Battalion set off from Kirkuk to Baghdad—a distance of over 200 miles—to compete in the Army Championships which were being held there during the week. This entailed a march of over eighty miles followed by a train journey of 120 miles. However after a few days rest in Camp at Baghdad the effects of the march soon wore off. The Sports took place first, and after a neck and neck struggle with the 8th Hussars throughout the day we managed to win the points Cup for the Champion limit in Mesopotamia. It was not until the last two events of the day, The Long Jump and the One Mile Race that the fate of the Cup was decided.

In the Long Jump Capt. Haymen—who won—beat the 8th Hussars representative by 1½ inches with 19 ft. 1½ inches and gave us the lead in points. And in the last race—the Mile—L-Cpl. Kimber, The Buffs—was second and the 8th Hussars representative 3rd. Thus we won by the narrow margin of two points. Our successes were :—

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st in 100 Yards | Lieut. W. H. Rowe. |
| 1st in Long Jump | Capt. E. W. P. Haymen. |
| 1st in Veterans' Race | Corpl. Cloke. |
| 2nd in 100 Yards (Boys) | Bandsman Hewitt. |
| 2nd in One Mile | L/Cpl. Kimber. |
| 3rd in High Jump | Capt. E. W. P. Haymen. |
| 3rd in Half Mile | Pte. Rowley. |
| 3rd in Relay Race | Capt. A. D. Rice. |
| | Lieut. W. H. Rowe. |
| | Pte. Rowley. |
| | L/Cpl. Player. |

In addition to this A Company won the two mile Team Race open to any Company or its equivalent in Mesopotamia. The team to get nine men home first won. A Company actually got the first five men home in the race, and their whole team of twelve home in the first sixteen. L/Cpl. Kimber won followed very closely by Sergt. Ongley and Pte. Harlow.

We were unfortunately beaten in the first round of the Tug-of-War by 2 pulls to 1 by the ultimate winners—The Military Police, but had the satisfaction of being the only people to pull them over throughout the Competition.

In the Football—after beating G.H.Q. in the 2nd round by 1-0 after two lots of extra time, we were beaten in the Semi-final 1-0 by the R. Ulster Rifles. Corpl. Cloke at back and Corpl. Gover in goal were superb, and had our own forwards taken advantage of the numerous opportunities given to them to shoot, the score might have been very different. Our Regimental Team was as follows :—

Goal :—Corpl. Gover. Backs :—Corpl. Cloke, Pte. Solomon. Halves :—Pte. Fenn, Pte. Cooper, Pte. Manning. Forwards :—Pte. Reid, L/C. Searle, Bdm. Skelton, Pte. Hawkins, Corpl. Rodda.

### Three Boxing Championships.

In the Boxing we won three Championships. The Officers' Heavyweights—Lieut. Lister; The Officers' Welter weights—Lt. Hamill Stewart,; The Men's Welterweights—L/Cpl. Martin.

We were runners up in The Men's Light Weights in addition. Pte. Petford might have won in the Final, as he had been boxing well, but he had a very gruelling fight in the Semi-final which went an extra round, and the doctor would not allow him to fight in the Final. Unfortunately L/Cpl. Beale the Winner of the All India Featherweights is still in India with the Married Families or we might well have won another Belt.

We quote from the *Baghdad Times* of the day after the Boxing which said " in our opinion the best boxer throughout the whole competition was Lieut. Lister, the Winner of the Officers' Heavyweights."

Lieut. Hamill Stewart after knocking his man out in Semi Final, had a very hard fight in the Final and only got the decision after an extra round had been fought. L/Cpl. Martin knocked his first two opponents out in 30 seconds—won on points in the Semi Final—and then in the 1st round of the final had the misfortune to bump his head against that of his opponent and cut his eye badly. He just survived the round. In the second round he immediately knocked his opponent out and then collapsed himself and had to be helped out of the ring. A very plucky fight. Of the losers Pte. Bowen, Pte. Cleek and Bdm. Brookman showed excellent form and should develope into really fine boxers.

### The Rest of the News.

Lieut. A. G. C. Stainforth has proceeded to Baghdad to be attached to G.H.Q., and Lieuts. Wooldridge and Brooke are due to go to the same place later.

Col. Bright and Lt. Mitchell continue to bring in good bags of game.

Lieut. Backhouse, the well-known Secretary of the Regimental Kennel Club, has lost his fat dog, but has returned from Baghdad with a greyhound. He has also cut off the ends of his moustache.

Lieut. Foster-Hall proceeded on the 26th March to Brigade H.Q. to act as Assistant Staff Captain.

Lieut. Knight has left India to join the Battalion.

The Machine Gun Platoon, accompanied by numerous dogs, arrived back from their course at Baghdad under Capt. Haymen, Lieuts. Lister and Hoare and on April 1st become " E " Coy.

The Sports party arrived back the same day bringing their Cup, our only piece of silver at present

The summer camp is in the process of construction and we expect to move out by the end of April. All sports grounds will have to be made as it is too far away from those existing. The weather is getting warmer and topees are now worn between 0900 hours and 1700.

The Band and Drums marches up and down outside barracks every Saturday morning causing untold delight to the numerous Arabs, Kurds, Jews, Chaldeans, and Turks who inhabit Kirkuk.

Easter Monday was a holiday, a paper chase being held at 0830 hours and football sixes later on in the day. The next sporting events are the Mosul meeting for Company hockey, football, and cross country running teams. After that the Regimental Sports will be held.

The second draft of 52 other ranks has arrived in India and is, at present, at Deolali.

**Baghdad Commemoration Week**—*continued*

FOOTBALL.

The following are the results of the Football matches played since last writing, other than those played at Baghdad recorded elsewhere.

March 7th : C Coy. beat A Coy. 3-0. Goal scorers : L/Cpl. Holmden, L/C. Blunt, Pte. Crouch.

March 8th : C Coy. beat Draft 3-1. Goal Scorers : for C Coy. L/Cpl. Blunt, L/Cpl. Cordoza, L/Cpl. Holmden.

March 10th : C Coy. beat Draft 4-1. Goal scorers for C Coy. : L/Cpl. Cardoza, (3) and Bandsman Harper. Draft, Pte. Lidwell.

March 11th : D Coy. beat the Sappers and Miners 14-0. In this match our opponents were utterly fearless in the way in which they played without either boots or stockings. They were also unfortunate in the British officer who was captaining their side being badly injured early in the game.

March 14th. C Coy. beat the Drums 1-0. Goal scorer, Pte. Edwards who has constantly shown great form since he has arrived with the draft.

March 16th : D Coy. beat B Coy. 2-1. Goal scorers for D. : Cpl. Sidwell and Cpl. Falkner.

March 20th : C Coy. beat The Drums 1-0. Goal Scorer, Pte. Quick.

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HOCKEY.

And the following give the results of the Hockey matches, in which game we have the making of a really good team.

March 4th. The Buffs beat Remainder of Garrison 3-1. Goal Scorers, Lt. Cartwright, and L/Cpl. Ward.

March 11th : C Coy. beat 64th Q.V.O. Sappers and Miners 7-3.

March 15th : The Buffs beat The Hospital 2-1.

March 16th : D Coy. beat the Sappers and Miners 4-1.

March 29th : The Buffs beat the 15th Sikhs by 4-2. Goal scorers, L/C. Ward and Lt. Cartwright.

In this match the following represented the Regiment. Goal : L/C. Lawry. Backs : Pte. Lee, L/C. Pack. Halves : Capt. Rice, Lt. Pentington, Lt. Chester. Forwards : Lt. Hoare, Lt. Cartwright, L/C. Ward, L/C. Murray.

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THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

Since our last notes things have steadily improved in the messing, and have now reached a point where there's little to be desired taking into consideration the small variety of articles available from which to choose. Shooting, golfing, fishing and running are now the things which are keeping us amused. All our members are taking part in one or other of the above.

Walking around the barracks the other day we noticed Coaster perched upon a stone with a shoemaker's set of tools distributed all about him on the floor repairing his own boots. When he has finished his job as Drill Instructor to the Draft he swears he's taking over Master Shoemaker.

We next visited Simon. He had procured the Officers' Mess stove, rescued from the perils of the river by " Old Bill," and was doing a bit of tinkering with the said article. We also noticed that he is " some " carpenter. He has made a beautiful artistic chair for his bunk from butter boxes and old broom handles. 'Tis a thing of beauty, and no doubt to him, a joy for ever, and he's certainly very proud of his handicraft. But Simon does not finish at tinkering and chipping. He is a regular sport, and we hear that the R.Q.M.S. and he are going fishing, but on the Q.T. We heard the word " Bombs " mentioned,—they mean to have a catch, even if they blow 'em out of the water.

Dick Whittingham and the Armourer Sergeant have taken to Golf, and they're a picture to watch. George Coaster was practising for the Garrison Half Inch,—or was it the Half Mile ? Anyway it was on the Golf Course, and Dick was teeing off when George was well within reach of making a record. His hopes were however frustrated by his having to pull up at Dick's stentorian bellow " Fore ! "

Stewart, our Provost, went shooting early morning and wondered why he did not get a bag, when carrying a lighted hurricane lantern. He told us afterwards he wanted a light to enable him to dodge the numerous pitfalls that abound over the shooting area.

" Tubby " Herbert was seen with his new brown belt on Church Parade. He does not care for it so much as the nice white one which Mac had called into stores. He swears that he looks like a fireman. Be that as it may it does not deter him from conducting the " Church Call " charmingly.

Micky Dowse has got a platoon of long eared individuals to drill now. He has assumed the duties of Transport Sergeant and is to be seen " mucking out " and " Water and Feeding " with strict regularity. We wonder if he's tried any of the " Stimulating Balls " from the Veterinary Chest, he certainly has looked very sprightly lately.

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A COMPANY'S SUCCESSES.

A Company correspondent has been unearthed and in future *The Dragon* will be regularly served with our news. To make up for the past we should like to record that we scored most points in the last Battalion Sports at Multan, and also won the road race held just before leaving India, L/C. Kimber being first man home, thereby adding another victory to his already splendid list of wins. Another victory scored was that of No. 2 Platoon in the R.A.T.A. cross country Shield. The company in fact never lost a cross-country run during their whole stay in India. To revert to the present we lost no time in getting into training for the Baghdad Week, and proved Victors in the Two Mile Coy. Team Championship. Lieut. Foster Hall was in charge of our Baghdad Party which was also accompanied by the C.S.M., and we are lucky in having two such excellent leaders.

In the company event each team had to consist of 1 Officer, 1 Sgt., and 11 Other Ranks. The first nine men home to count for winning team. Our team provided the first five, and nine in the first eleven. We also had the whole of our team in the first sixteen. No wonder we are proud of them. The following was the order finishing. 1, L/C. Kimber ; 2, Sgt. Ongley ; 3, Pte. Harlow ; 4, Sgt. Hodges, D.C.M. ; 5, Pte. Smith, J. ; 7, Pte. Parker ; 9, Pte. Hughes ; 10, Pte. Hedges ; 11, Mr. Foster-Hall, M.C.

During our stay at Baghdad the Royal Ulster Rifles held their Regimental Sports. The Mile was open to the 17th Division and our thanks are due to the O.C. Ulster Rifles for allowing our representatives to compete, the Battalion being in the 19th Division. L/C. Kimber and Sgt. Ongley entered for this and went straight ahead at the start ; finishing first and second respectively.

The men of the Company had quite a good time at Baghdad, altogether 2 Officers, 25 Other Ranks spent their holidays there.

The party arrived back in time for the Easter-sports, these consisted of six a side football which is still in progress, ; also a hare and hounds paper-chase. Three hares (Officers) went out, the first two of these being caught by " A " Company. This was a very hard run, and numerous false trails were laid by the hares. Only a very few of the starters stuck the full course. Sgt. Ongley and Pte. Parker finishing 1st and 2nd. Several of our best did not turn out for this.

The 36th C.F. Ambulance held their sports at Kirkuk, in which there was an 100 yards Open to British Troops. " A " Company were the first and second in this with Pte. Rowley and Pte. Burns respectively.

**Baghdad Commemoration Week**—*continued.*

The Company is fortunate in obtaining Ptes. Marsh and Ringe both 1st Bn. runners. These should take their place in the Company team with a little training.

C COMPANY'S NOTES.

March is usually a month full of exciting adventures. Poets say it comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. To us out in the wilds of Mesopotamia it has been very uneventful ; our daily routine has been as usual.

Before breakfast each morning we see ourselves performing weird contortions in the vicinity of the football ground. First we see a squad of men trying in turn to throw a lump of lead about. Then we come across another group running to see who can reach the other end first. Others can be seen performing numerous other antics. This is not called Physical Training but has been superceded by the title " Athletics."

Other parades are the scene of humorous episodes. We often wonder what were the feelings of our platoon sergeant when he realised that he had twice saluted an officer without his topi on.

Every morning our band indulges in a little practice. We have heard rumours that we are shortly going home, but it was with very mixed feelings that we listened to their rendering of " There's no place like Home," a few days ago. We hear, too, that the Ordnance Depot are likely to move their headquarters at short notice, which, in itself, is a compliment to our Band Master.

One Wednesday, about the luncheon hour, a great crowd stood on the roof of the Fort gazing at a speck in the distance grow larger and larger as it neared the Fort. Then at last it reached the " Gates of Paradise," a small body of troops came marching in. This was the triumphant return of our sports party from Baghdad where they had won almost every trophy. Everyone was looking for the band, and a few minutes later it came in, preceding a train of mules, bearing machine guns, to the strains of the Regimental March. The unfortunate part was that the mules did not keep in step. That is how our machine gun platoon reached us. With a graceful bow the curtain falls upon us.

D COMPANY.

The only news there is from the Company is in the Sports line and in that we have been doing very well, and hope to do well in the Harris Shield Competition this year.

At Hockey the Company has improved by leaps and bounds, since we have been here, chiefly owing to the tuition of L/Cpl. Pack and Pte. Lee., and the improvement is shown in the match 16 Plattoon *v.* " B " Coy. which 16 Platoon won 10-nil.

At Football though there have been no regular matches since the Regimental Team left for Baghdad Tournament, we are improving steadily and have got a great acquisition in Cpl. Sidwell who came in with the Draft.

The following represented the Company at Baghdad during the Commemoration Week :—

Football :—Cpl. Gover, L/Cpl. Dray, Pte. Everest.
Running :—Lt. W. H. Rowe and L/Sgt. Cornwell.
Boxing :—L/Cpl. Martin, and Bandsman Brookman.

We welcomed 24 men of the Draft last Sunday and we sincerely hope that their sojourn here will be a happy one. They seemed a bit weary after their lengthy travels but are settling down now.

**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
**High Class Photograghers,**
**Canterbury.**
**Tel. 21 X.**

# Kill that Fly.

WE are indebted to Colonel John Body for being able to publish the following memorandum issued in Mesopotamia during the war. Much has been written of " Where the flies go in the winter time ? " but the real trouble of course has always been " Wot the—to do with them in the summer time ? " Now we know, and being of a generous and unselfish turn of mind we pass on this welcome information to our readers.

**Flies Extermination of.**

**(No. 1. D, 10T).**

**For Information and report at the end of the month please.**

Owing to the prevalence of flies (aphis vulgaria) due partly to the insanitary condition of this country and partly to the abnormally amorous nature of the Mesopotamian species life is becoming intolerable outside the trenches.

It is therefore considered desirable to endeavour in every way to exterminate the pests as far as possible. To this end it was suggested some time back that fly papers should be issued to the troops, but difficulty was experienced in deciding on the scale of issue through one Division suggesting a scale of papers, fly, per man per day, while another suggested papers, fly, per fly, per day, one. Whilst the difficulty of taking census of the flies on any particular day is obviously as impossible as it is to estimate from the returns sent in by the units, the number of men on any one day. This suggestion has therefore died a natural death while flies cotninue to prosper.

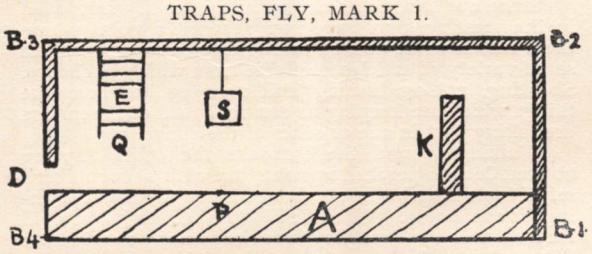
In the absence of any centralised system of dealing with this important subject, units and formations must make every endeavour to compete with the fly question, and must use their own discretion as to the best method of doing so. In the meantime the following suggestions are put forward for the benefit of all concerned.

WHAT CAN BE DONE.

(*a*) Flies can be rendered comparatively inocuous by keeping them buttoned up.

(*b*) The accompanying sketch gives an idea of what can be done in the way of improvising traps for the vermin.

TRAPS, FLY, MARK 1.




BBBB is a hollow box with a door D. A is a slab of marble. Q is a ladder, and S a piece of sugar suspended by a string.

The fly enters at D, and feeling the marble cold to it's feet, hurries across to B, and takes refuge on the wall. On looking round, it fails to see the ladder Q owing to the screen K, but on climbing a little higher it sees the suspended sugar S. It now forgets it's cold feet, climbs the wall and crosses the roof, struggling to reach the succulent morsel, Presently it reaches the ladder, and, with a shout of delight, commences a hurried descent, keeping it's eye fixed on the sugar.

At the point E *there is a rung missing*, and the fly in it's hurry misses it's footing and falls to the ground, where it breaks it's neck on the marble slab at the point P.

## Past and Present Association
## The Buffs.

BY R.Q.M.S. A. ANDREWS, HON. SEC.

THE year is advancing and through the columns of your valuable paper I would like to remind Members that subscriptions for the year 1921 are due. The yearly subscription for Members is only one shilling, and I should be very pleased to receive the same.

The Association is increasing its membership slowly but surely. The slowness is, I think, partly due to the industrial unrest, and when things are more settled membership will, no doubt increase. I would however like to see a greater interest taken in the Battalions. No new members from the 2nd BATTALION, who's proud boast used to be " that they led the way, others followed" and only a few from the 1st. Now then 2nd.

I feel sure that if the Sergt.-Majors realised that in securing members to join the Association they are helping the Regiment not only to render more assistance to Old Buffs, but in many other ways, they would endeavour to secure more members.

The entrance fee is only 2/6 and yearly subscription 1/-. It is not much, and I think that every one in the Regiment can afford to join, in fact ought to feel it a point of honour to do so.

August is drawing near, and no doubt many are looking forward to coming to the Depot for the Past *v.* Present cricket match fixed for Aug. 19th. The Depot ground will be much more suitable for such an occasion and it is hoped that everyone who possibly can will turn up. The arrangements this year will be far better than last year, and everything done to make your visit an enjoyable one. Forget all the little discomforts of last year and turn up this. You will be sorry if you don't, and we will be sorry not to see you. I shall be glad to hear from any who are hoping to be present.

Remember the Annual Dinner. The date will be announced shortly and due notice sent you all. We had nearly two hundred last year. How many this ?

The Association owes much to *The Dragon* for its very valuable service in bringing it so prominently before All Buffs Past and Present.

## The Reservists.

THE Reservists, having received various orders and counter orders as to their movements for several days, suddenly received orders at 9 p.m. on Monday, May 9th, to move to Colchester to form a Composite Battalion in conjunction with the Reservists of the Queen's, and East Surrey Regiment.

The Company moved off from Canterbury in two parties at 8.30 a.m., one from the West and one from the East Stations. The first party, on arrival at Charing Cross under Lieut. N. G. Blake marched off for Liverpool Street. On reaching Temple Bar the party were halted, and bayonets fixed. And under caustic remarks from busmen and taxi drivers they marched through the city of London.

The other party arrived at London Bridge and formed up in the square before the station. The officer in charge not being sure of his bearings asked them from an old postman, who replied " Half-way across you are in the City limits, and I hope, sir, the Buffs are going to fix Bayonets." " Why," replied the officer " what do you know of the Buffs privileges ? " " Well, sir, I happened to serve in the 1st Bn. under Col. Kekewich."

Bayonets were fixed and the party marched over London Bridge to Bishopsgate ; and the very steady marching and fine appearance and bearing of the Reservists caused a large amount of attention, especially as it was the luncheon hour and the streets were crowded. The two parties met again at Liverpool Street, where the East Surrey's and Queen's also were met. A special train left at 15.15 p.m. which took them to Colchester arriving at 16.45. The band of the Leinster Regt. with pipes met us at the station and we marched off in pouring rain, which fortunately cleared. The Battalion looked splendid and were led by The Buffs Company.

Since arrival things have been going on quietly. Major Ternan, late 1st Battalion and Adjutant of the 3rd Battalion, has taken over the Adjutancy. Captain Mantle, the Quartermaster duties. Sgt. Trigg, late 1st Battalion is in charge of the transport with 25 other Buffs. The time is spent in route marching and digging parades making a new sports ground.

Sports were held at Whitsuntide in which The Buffs held their own well. During these in the Officers *v.* Sergeants Tug-of-War event an unfortunate " accident " took place ; the rope breaking and the officers falling in a heap on the ground, the weight of some field officers apparently being too much !

The Battalion was inspected on the 17th instant by Colonel Commandant Lucas of Sinn Fein fame, and he complimented the Buffs Company on their smart appearance on parade and on their Barrack Rooms. So far the Buffs are finding most of the Battalion staff jobs, and well upholding the old regiment.

The No. 1 Composite Battalion played a cricket match against the Royal Engineers and beat them badly. Major and Brevet Lt.-Col. Knight made 42 ; and Lieut. Blake bowling well taking several wickets.

Private R. Walton and Private Stoneham have received the silver medals presented by Officer Commanding, The Depot, for being the best shots of the Lewis Gun team.

## Obituary.

### Major L. T. Spens.

THE sudden death of Lionel Spens at the age of 71 years on May 2nd, at Tonbridge, is a sad loss to all who knew him, and an equally sad loss to the Regiment. Born in 1850, he was the elder son of the late Captain James Spens of the Royal Engineers Bengal, and was educated at Rugby and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He joined the Buffs in 1869 and saw service in India, the Strait Settlements and at Home. He was Captain of the 1st Battalion cricket team for many years and will be remembered as a tremendous hitter. In addition he was a first rate shot, and a brother officer writes recalling the many happy days spent with him after snipe at Bullivant in the winter of 84. On his retirement he became a Justice of the Peace for Sussex and continued to take an active interest in the Regiment and sport of all kinds. He became a prominent member of the Band of Brothers, I. Zingari, Free Foresters, and Bluemantles, a member of the Kent County Cricket Club Committee, and was one of the inaugurators of the Cricket Week in Tunbridge Wells. To us, however, of the younger generation he was best known as a regular attendant at The Buffs Enclosure during the Cricket Week and also at the annual Regimental Dinner. These he never missed, if for no other reason that he loved his old Regiment. That he is not to be with us this year will be deeply regretted by all of us.


# The ANNUAL DINNER
OF
# THE DRAGON CLUB
WILL TAKE PLACE ON
## WEDNESDAY, 15th JUNE
AT THE
## Trocadero Restaurant
**At 7.45 p.m.**

# 4th Buffs Defence Force.

A MORE cheery unit that than the 4th Battalion in the Cavalry Barracks, Canterbury is not to be found. The month has provided us with plenty of work and plenty of recreation of all kinds; and wherever these are to be found both pulling their weight, there is never anything real to grouse about. The Battalion, well up to strength almost within a few hours of its establishment, has rendered effective service in all fields both on parade and off, as is best proved from the company news published below.

### A COMPANY.

"A" Company has nobly upheld its position, and right through its 124 rudders have been in an elevated position—the rightful one when one reviews the work accomplished, and their prowess in Sport.

Under the eagle eye of C.S.M. G. G. Graham, the instruction given has not fallen in stony places; and the harvest, though perhaps not up to the standard of a Guardsman, is nevertheless very satisfactory.

The Company was well represented at the Garrison Sports where talent was discovered in L/C. Helms, a coming Champion, who carried off the firsts and a "hard luck" second. Perhaps it was modesty or lack of avoirdupois that lost the Company the Tug-of-War. Yet they have nothing to grouse about when reckoning up the scalps which have fallen to them since their arrival.

What more can be said of a Company than—"They sold out of *Dragons*—"A" Company finds Duties"—"Have no use for A.F.B. 252s; and the reason "S'easy" as Sgt. Omar of No. 4 Platoon says:—

The Fourth has struck a Fibre which about,
If clings my Being—let the Bolshie flout:
Of my base metal may be filed a Key
That shall unlock the Door he howls without.

---

And this I know—whether the "Buffs" Spirit
Kindle to Citizenship—or "Jankers" consume me quite
One glimpse of it within the Depot caught
Better than in Indifference—lost outright.

UNCLE TOM.

### B COMPANY.

We of "B" Company were reported absent from the last issue of *The Dragon*. The official correspondent was duly warned for office, but enquiries elicited the fact, that extenuating circumstances existed consequent in the raising of the Defence Force Company. The crime was washed out, subject to its non-recurrence.

For the moment "B" Company of the 4th Buffs Defence Force takes the place of the Territorial Company, although the two Companies exist. It happens thus. On the 9th April orders were received for the superimposition of the Defence Force on the Territorial System; "B" Company of the Territorials Battalion becoming B Company of the Defence Force Battalion.

The Territorials were invited to enlist for a short term of service, and sixty-two immediately responded, the vacancies being filled by Ex-Service Volunteers. By Tuesday, the 19th April the Company was practically complete, and, on the following day, marched into comfortable quarters at the Cavalry Barracks. Everyone soon settled down, drew equipment, and thanks to the generosity of the authorities. clothing, small kit, and necessaries, (which were not included in the terms of enlistment). The weather was bitterly cold, and this consideration was received by the troops with feelings of deep gratitude.

To say that we are happy is a misnomer. With such a C.O., as we are privileged to serve under, it could not be otherwise. We feel that our lot has indeed been cast in pleasant lines. We appreciate his keen anxiety for our welfare, and seriously endeavour to live up, as nearly as our frail flesh will allow, to that high standard of efficiency and service, which he has a right to expect in return. There will be mutinous feelings only when the time comes to separate, for as one N.C.O. observed, and his expression is typical—"He would'nt be kicked out of the Battalion." It is firmly believed that when the inevitable day of demobilisation arrives, the troops will have to be driven forth at the point of the bayonet.

We have pledged ourselves to rally round our Commanding Officer, whenever he sets out to re-constitute the Territorial Battalion and to support his efforts to the utmost of our ability. We ask no better Regimental Association than this. That we may continue to serve together in the same spirit of real comradeship which binds us to-day.

We are delighted to learn that Lt.-Col. Allen of "B" Company has consented to join us in Territorial Service.

---

Our heartiest wishes for full and complete recovery go out to Brig.-Gen. Capel Brunker, C.B., C.M.G., second in the command of the Battalion.

And the best of congratulations to the promotion of Capt. H. G. James to Major.

### C COMPANY NOTES.

The immediate response at Sittingbourne to the Government's call for patriotic service gave our Company Commander, Capt. A. J. Bedelle, plenty to do. He was ably assisted by Lieut. D. J. Dean, the popular Sittingbourne V.C., Lt. F. Banwell, who commands the Whitstable Platoon, and Lt. A. D. Ritchie, late of the Canadian Army. Our 2nd in command is Capt. J. S. I. McGregor, of Canterbury, and the roll of Company officers was completed by Lt. (Hon. Capt.) L. E. Falcy, of the Tank Corps,

Invaluable service was rendered by C.S.M. W. Taylor, late of the 2nd Buffs, who is attached to the Permanent Staff of the 4th (T) Battalion The Buffs, as Instructor; and by C.S.M. F. C. S. Wood ("Lackcy") who has seen 12 years service in the Buffs, and who like C.S.M. Taylor, served with the 4th Buffs in India and Mesopotamia, as well as in France. C.Q.M.S. C. P. Stagg, late London Scottish, undertook the thankless duties of company Q.M.S.

During the four busy days at Sittingbourne communications were maintained with Headquarters by motor dispatch rider, thanks Lt. Col. J. H. Allen, of Bridge, who on the first day of mobilization sportingly offered his motor cycle and his services in any capacity and rank whatever. We entrained for Canterbury 120 strong.

The discomforts of the first few days in the Cavalry Barracks, Canterbury which had been unoccupied for many months soon gave place to better conditions; and the excellence of the feeding arrangements has been a matter of universal comment. In addition each man was issued with "biscuits" and extra blankets.

As soon as clothing and equipment had been issued the smartness of the Company and the whole Battalion showed up to advantage and was very favourably

**4th Buffs Defence Force**—*continued.*

commented upon by General Lord Horne at the time of his inspection, when he stated that this Battalion was the strongest he had yet inspected.

The thanks of the Company are due to our C.O., Lt.-Col. Manwaring-Dunstan, T.D., for the energy and initiative displayed by him in tackling the higher authorities on the question of the £5 Bounty now to be paid to those Territorials who volunteered for Service in the Defence Force and came up in their own kit. It is entirely due to his efforts that this concession was granted and it will be much appreciated by all concerned.

Plenty of time has been found for Sports and the Battalion Sports officer, Lt. Banwell of this Company, has been indefatigable in arranging Football, Boxing Athletics, and Cricket Matches.

We congratulate L/C. Russell heartily on his three successes at the Garrison Sports.

The Boxing Displays afforded considerable amusement to the Battalion, and we hope to have another opportunity of seeing Pte. Wells, who knocked out his opponent in the first round and was thus deprived of giving an exhibition of his prowess. Pte. Foad was an easy winner on points and his scientific boxing leads us to hope for another display of his skill in the future. Though beaten on points Pte. Scott put up a plucky show and with proper training should make a useful man to support the Company.

D COMPANY.

" D " Company under Captain H. Lionel Smith, is drawn from the neighbouring towns of Dover and Folkestone, three platoons from Dover and one platoon from Folkestone. Recruiting started on Sunday, the 10th April, and by Thursday the 14th 175 men were attested at Dover and 50 men at Folkestone, completing the establishment of the Company, every man being either an Ex-Service man or a serving Territorial. In addition to those actually attested at least another 100 men were enrolled for service if required. Another very useful addition from Dover to the Battalion was the services of Dr. E. E. Elliott as Battalion Medical Officer. The Company concentrated at the Cavalry Barracks, Canterbury on the morning of the 14th April, 1921 when training began. In the afternoon of the same day, Captain Smith proceeded to Dover returning on Saturday with an additional 56 men for the Battalion.

Apart from the ordinary routine of training the Company have been very successful in Sports, winning all Football matches against the other Companies. At the Garrison Sports in aid of Earl Haig's Fund, " D " Company was particularly successful, winning the 100 yds. (Lance-Corporal Woods), Obstacle Race (Lance-Corporal Woods), Tug-of-War Blindfold Squad Drill (under Lance-Sergeant Rontree); and obtaining 2nd place in the half-mile (Pte. Phillips), Relay Race (Lance-Corporals Woods and Read, Ptes. Sharp and Coshall) and One Mile Walking Race (Lance-Corporal Read). Now that the Cricket Season has begun the Company has also great hopes in this direction.

**And a Yarn.**

A man after being discharged from the army wrote to his late Commanding Officer as follows :—

" After what I have seen of your regiment they can go to HELL."

In the course of a few days he received a polite letter saying :—

" It is notified for your information that any suggested movement of the troops should be forwarded on A.F.O'1921 B. copy attached."

[*Short stories, sketches, and yarns of all kinds are always welcome. Ed.*]

## Why Bolshevism must fail.

WE nowadays hear a great deal of Communism, and those who preach its doctrines point out with untiring energy the faults of the state of things under which we live. They promise with admirable faith, that we can become prosperous and happy, put an end to war and to most of the troubles which afflict, and always have afflicted, mankind, and realise an ideal and perfect society by following out the principles laid down by the German thinker Karl Marx, and carried into execution under our own observation in Russia by his great disciple Lenin. As we are asked to take enormous risks and to make immense sacrifices for the purpose of carrying out this experiment, common sense demands of us that we should examine very carefully whether after staking everything we now possess on the results of the experiment, there is a fair chance that it might succeed.

In the first place what should we have to do, in order to clear the way for Communism ? We must begin by clearing away all the Institutions of the Country, Crown, Parliament, Church, Commerce, Army, Navy, Private Property, Marriage, Family Rights, Privacy of the Home, Pensions, Rank of every Kind, Liberty of any sort. A body of men elected by revolutionary committees would take the place of a Government such as we know it, and would possess absolute power over every man and every woman, over their lives and their belongings. These men need not necessarily be Englishmen, nor would the " Army " through which they exercised their power be composed chiefly of Englishmen. The theory is that this Government would take over all the property of the Nation and out of this and the proceeds of the work of the people would feed and clothe everybody.

It is supposed, and this is where the theory is liable to break down as we see in Russia, that everyone would work harder than ever because they wished to make Bolshevism a success, and because if they did not work a great number of people would die of starvation. As Lenin has repeatedly told the Russians " In order to preserve the blessings of Bolshevist rule and Keep your Freedom you must work harder and fight better than ever before, or else you will go under." This is perfectly true, but it does not appeal to the Russians and certainly would not appeal to the British.

The fatal weakness of the scheme is that it is against human nature. On paper and in speeches, such theories can be made watertight. But in real life men want to possess the results of their own work and to have a certain amount of liberty. They are not noble enough to become slaves for the benefit of the world at large. Consequently, many are shot, many are imprisoned and many more die of starvation. And this must go on, as we see and shall see yet more clearly in Russia, until the attempt to act in defiance of facts and commonsense and human nature is abandoned, until some military genius masters the Country and pulls Russia together by leading her people against other nations, as Napoleon did with France; or until the Country splits up into States of various sizes, in which something like practical conditions are allowed to exist.

Meanwhile Russia furnishes a ghastly object lesson to those who play with dreams and words and insist on ignoring the facts of human nature and the realities of human life. Famine, hunger, typhus, massacre, torture, bankruptcy, the ruin of a once mighty Nation, and after Millions have perished, the admission by the most able leader that Communism has ever produced, that he must compromise with the old methods, and that Russia must have capital and goods manufactured in non-Bolshevist countries or perish. While men require food, shelter and clothing, while Nations need commerce defence, liberty, law, Bolshevism must fail and the penalties of its failures are ghastly indeed.

MOHUN ASHFORDBY-TRENCHARD.

# 5th Buffs Defence Force.

### 5th Buffs Defence Force.

JUST over a month has elapsed since the Defence Force, or the White Force, as some "Dailies" crudely term it, sprang into being and now bowlers and mufti have again disappeared to be replaced by Khaki. Despite the "part worn" appearance of most of the uniforms and the very conspicuous odd boots that were issued, the 5th Battalion now look a smart body of men.

The strength of the battalion does not permit much time off duty, but this does not deter the men participating in sport; For instance, as a result of a brain wave, Capt. P. Roscorla, M.C., arranged a tip-top concert at the Drill Hall a few days ago. Several old regimental notabilities figured very prominently on the programme including Capt. Cremer and Lieut. Loyd, and, with the welcome addition of several lady friends, a ratling entertainment was the result.

Later, Algy and a few of his conferes arranged one from the Troops and despite the slight preparation, it went down O.K. Digger Rose blossomed forth as a theatrical genius, whilst "Jinks" rendered admirable assistance.

With the advent of the Cricket Season, the 5th have taken steps to form a pretty strong eleven. The C.O., Lt.-Col. Body, D.S.O., a keen and ardent cricketer himself, has been appointed President, and the playing members include Capt. Cremer, Lieuts. Coote, Winch and Reeves, C.S.M. Potter and C.Q.M.S. Nash. With Lieut. Coote pulling the string a good side is inevitable.

Accompanied by ideal weather, the Battalion had some most successful sports at Ashford on the 16th inst. All the Companies were well represented in the events and some keen contests were the result. The tradesmen in the district gave all their support and provided some excellent prizes.

Tim Rylott still keeps in excellent health, and is now acting R.Q.M.S. for the Battalion.

#### A Company.

The headquarters company at Ashford whose unfortunate position it is to be always under the keen eye of the regimental orderly room naturally must be the "posh" company of the battalion. "A" Company during this period of ninety days have endeavoured to do the needful and have so far succeeded. Indeed they possess a full blown transport sergeant who although he has only aspired to a mount with pedals as yet, he hopes to deal with a couple of mules ere long.

It was a fine sight to see ex-officers and prospective agriculturists peeling "spuds," but, alas; the men of Wye College who comprised a prosperous and efficient platoon have now departed to the soil and their studies. Notwithstanding the men who are left to carry on with the good work, and despite a few hobblers (apologies to Roddy) who somehow manage to work into the first section of fours they form a fine body of men on parade.

"Hookie" still remains a personality in the regiment, although his exhibition of weight lifting proved rather a farce the other day.

#### A Note from B Company.

The War continues and so does the efficiency of the Company: Tin Hats have replaced the more domestic bowler and most of the Company can pile arms with appreciable skill.

Rumour has it that the Coy. storeman is in love—The O.C. Company certainly is, and is getting very worried about June 2nd. Sgt. Hobbs (Titch) looks fierce every day, and is in much request from other Companies to teach them to Bayonet fight with as great skill as "B" Coy. They are rather jealous in fact. If the War goes on much longer we shall all be terribly near being perfect Soldiers. *Very formidable.*

#### C Company's Sports Successes.

We are now making great progress in all branches of a soldiers training, and the Cranbrook Boys" are making their presence felt in many directions. At shooting they have so far proved their superiority to other Companies. To Cranbrook has fallen the honour of having the best shot in the person of Lce.-Corporal R. Barden with a score of 129 out of a possible 150. L/Cpl. W. D. Golding (Hawkhurst) was 2nd with 128, C.Q.M.Sgt. W. Nash (Cranbrook) 3rd, with 127, Pte. W. G. Hickmott (Frittenden) 6th with 121. So the Company did extremely well, considering there had been practically no elementary training. And we are hoping to see these men win more laurels on other ranges in the future when the "Terriers" are again re-organised.

Our men are naturally very keen on all kinds of sport, and were extremely pleased when the C.O. arranged that the "Whitsuntide Holiday should be spent on the sports ground at Bybrook. Many interesting events took place under the supervision of our Adjutant Major B. Birley, D.S.O.; and we had the pleasure of seeing one of our men Pte. Williams, who hails from Knoxbridge, win the 100 yds. race and also run 2nd in the Hurdle Race.

In the inter-company tug-of-war we again saw the good stuff the Cranbrook Boys are made of. Seven times they pulled without once losing; and then a fine team of ex-service men among the Civilian spectators challenged the sturdy boys from the Weald of Kent's Capital but without avail, and so they stand unbeaten.

We have lost a few men who have proceeded on indefinite leave for business and other reasons. Rumour says we *may* go to Shorncliffe and do the journey on Shank's pony. Some of us are not in love with this mode of travelliug, but I am sure all our boys will answer to the roll call when the Battalion arrives at its destination, because we shall be proud to have all this to tell the lads and lassies of the village when we return, and to the children when they say "What did you do in the Great Strike, Daddy?"

#### Cricket.

On 11th May, Ashford beat the 5th Buffs by an innings and 5 runs. Scores:—Ashford 253 for 8 wickets (innings declared closed). 5th Buffs 49 and 149. In the 5th Buffs 2nd innings Capt. Cremer made 44 not out and C.Q.M.S. Nash 45.

**PERSONALIA**

*We would like you to*

**SHORT SKETCHES**

*help us develop these features*

**REMINISCENCES**

# Our Competitions.

## "Kent Herald" Judges Limerick Competition.

THE Limerick idea seems to have caught on; and we have decided to "Carry on."

Another Limerick Competition will be held this month; and the word we have selected to rhyme with is:—

KENT.

Either the first or second line must end with that word.

In regard to prizes, we shall put up our usual guinea for the winner. And we propose to adopt Sgt. Sedgwick's suggestion for the remainder. On that account *each* entry for this month's competition must be accompanied by threepence in stamps. Any reader may send in as many Limericks as he or she (by the way, what about a Ladies page in *The Dragon*? Ed.) likes, provided that each is accompanied by the threepenny entrance fee. The total pool received without any reduction whatsoever, will be divided equally amongst those, whose Limericks the Judges of the competition decide to publish—exclusive of course of the winner who will receive our guinea.

The system we propose to work on is:—the greater the number of entries the more the amusement, the larger the pool, the more the number of prizes, and the greater the likelihood of getting your tickey entry fee back with interest, as, in addition to our guinea, we will guarantee 4 consolation prizes of half-a-crown.

So that's that, except that entries (which must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender, not necessarily for publication) and which can be sent direct to the Editor will close on the 18th June, and that the result of this competition in detail will be published in our next issue.

In regard to Mr. Clifton's challenge (see page 94) we are prepared to act as stake-holders, and to publish the result in our next issue. But we must make it quite clear to those concerned that, if they wish their entries for this special competition also to be considered for the one thrown open to all, each of the entries must be accompanied by three penny stamps in addition to the shilling for their own sweepstake.

All of which brings us to the prize winner of last month. This time we have submitted the fifteen entries received to the Proprietors of *The Kent Herald* who have very kindly offered to do the judging for us. The winning Limerick selected by them is the one submitted by Sgt. W. M. Sedgewick, Depot The Buffs, who sent in the following and to whom we have sent a cheque for one guinea.

If at times things may seem somewhat rough,
And your share of World's Goods not enough,
To the very last ember
Keep smiling, remember
You're *A MAN* if you've once been a BUFF.

The other prize winning Limerick, in order of merit as selected by *The Kent Herald* are as follows. To each of these a copy of *The Regimental Calendar* for 1921 has been sent.

I once said to a grey-haired old Buff,
"Don't you think that you've served time enough?
"You've served years thirty-four—
"Stopped promotion galore,"
He said "Bah!—I'll serve on till I snuff."

J. W. POTTER, SERGT.

For eight shillings a year any Buff
Gets *The Dragon*: Now give it a puff.
Spread its fame far and near
Din it into his ear.
The Buffs "Hymn of Eight": That's the Stuff.

O. MASON, C.S.M.

A hirsute old man named MacDuff,
Whose kilt and hosetops left enough
Bare knees to the view
One wondered how grew
Such tough-looking Buff-coloured fluff.

E. H. DIXON,

There once was a very young Buff,
Who on "pay-day" ate a Jam puff,
Six cakes, eggs and ham,
Chocolates, fruit bread and jam.
And some say that their pay ain't enough!

TREADMILL.

A blithering, blighted old Buff
Grew glummer and grimmer and gruff
But a Dragon, breathed fire
"Come write, 'phone or wire"
"Or else you'll have Hume in a huff."

C.D.K.G.

Now we come to poor old Inky, We've seen a pyscho-analyist about him but his case is quite hopeless. In our desire to help him, as he has so nobly helped us, we have sent him a good loser's prize in the form of a cheque for half a guinea.

## Association of Regimental Newspapers.

WITH Colonel Sir Arthur Leetham, Knt., C.M.G., as President, an Association of Regimental Newspapers has been formed. This, *The Dragon* has already joined with some eighteen others; and it is expected that the membership of the Association will rapidly increase, since the number of Regimental Journals actually published to-day is in the neighbourhood of half a century.

The following suggestions have been put forward by the Editor of *The Tank Corps Journal*, the Hon. Secretary of the Association, for the general development of this new movement, and on June 3rd, these proposals are to be discussed in detail at a further meeting to be held at The Royal United Services Institution.

PERIOD ONE.

(*a*) A yearly meeting at the R.U.S.I. for discussion.

(*b*) An interchange of copy and blocks to be arranged for, somewhat as follows:—
All matter after use by the original paper becomes at the service of the Association who might perhaps pay for this right. The Association would then charge a small fee for all matter reproduced (say at the rate of 10/- a page.)

(*c*) Each paper to allot a certain number of pages to "Central Advertisements," the collection being arranged for by a selected Agent.

(*d*) The War Office, Ministries of Pensions and Labour Officers' Association, Army Sports Control Board, British Legion, etc., to be asked to put Association on its Publicity list.

PERIOD TWO.

(*a*) All Regimental Papers to be of a standard size.

(*b*) An Agent in London to deal with "Central Advertisements," for incorporation in the individual journals.

(*c*) The Agent also to arrange for four pages of matter of general matter and Army news for incorporation in the same way, without impairing with the individual character of any Journal.

TONIC.

Sir,

Many thanks for sending *Dragon*; its a perfect Godsend to any one away from the Regiment.

Yours etc.,

Sevenoaks. F. BRADLEY DYNE, LT.-COL.

OUR COMPETITIONS.

Sir,

Received my usual *Dragon* and *prize*, with many thanks. I intend to enter again, and I should like to challenge the undermentioned names, to enter against me specially, all being old comrades and friends of mine, during my services with the Regiment.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. Percy Stroude, | Lydd. |
| C.S.M. Clifton, | Tenterden. |
| Donald Meaden, | 2nd Battalion. |
| A. Clifton, | 2nd Battalion. |
| Oboe players, | 1st and 2nd Batt. and Depot. |
| C.S.M. Boarer, | Depot. |
| C.S.M. Piggott, | Depot. |
| Dan Rootes, | Goudhurst. |

Yours etc.,

Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool. EDGAR G. CLIFTON.

[*This is a challenge which we hope to see accepted. We suggest a shilling entry from all those mentioned, that we hold the stakes, judge the competition, and hand over the pool to the winner. The competition to be the same as the one open to all and described on page 93, and that the entrance for this individual challenge be allowed to count also for the open competition. Ed.*]

AND A SUGGESTION.

Sir,

May I suggest that a Limerick Competition be made a monthly feature in *The Dragon*, and that a premier prize (£1 1s. 0d.) be offered as is the case this month.

In addition to this, a few consolation prizes might be added (say 2/6 each), and to this end an entrance fee of, say, 2d. be asked for for each attempt sent in. Thus, if I submitted six shots I could enclose a 1/- P.O. or 6 twopenny stamps, which would go towards finding the cash for these consolation awards. Surely no one would cavil at having to spend 2d. to win a Guinea or Half-a-Crown.

I consider that " Limericks " is the one competition that would take on with the troops, and the more the consolation awards the more the incentive to Tommy to endeavour to go one better next time in his effort to collar the premier prize.

Yours etc.,

The Depot, Canterbury, W. M. SEDGWICK, Sgt.

[*We deal with this suggestion under " Our Competitions " on page* 93. *Ed.*]

THE CANADIAN BUFFS.

Sir,

Your communication of March 5th has been passed to me for reply, and I hasten to thank you for the copy of your regimental papers and the spirit shown in your communication.

It is the intention of the Officers of our regiment to keep in close touch with our comrades of former days and as matters of interest arise I will see that you are informed. At the present time our regiment is undergoing a complete re-organization and our attentions are centred on that point.

There is one matter of interest which you may be pleased to hear of and that is, on the 16th inst. we are unveiling a tablet in honour of Major-General M. S. Mercer, C.B., Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Men of the Regiment who fell in the Great War. Major General Mercer left the Armouries in August, 1914, to command the 3rd Canadian Battalion and was killed, June 2nd, 1916, at Sanctuary Wood.

As another point of interest you may be advised that Brigadier-General J. A. Gunn, originally commanding the 24th Canadian Battalion, has been appointed to the command of our Regiment and also the 6th Infantry Brigade, Non-permanent Active Militia, located in Toronto.

Yours faithfully,

H. J. CLEVERLEY,

Captain, Acting Regtl. Adjutant,

Toronto. Queen's Own Rifles.

PAST AND PRESENT CRICKET MATCH.

Sir,

May I suggest that arrangements be made for this match to be held under much more congenial conditions than last year; that provision be made for luncheon to be obtained in the Drill shed, just by the Depot Cricket Ground, and that the Sergeants be given permission to have a " den " of their own on the ground to entertain their old comrades.

I would like to add, if I may, that whereas some come to watch cricket, many come for an " Indaba " with old pals, for the telling of tales, and for the renewal of old times with their old officers. It is these " old Buffs " that we want to attract and cater for.

Last year many were disgruntled at the arrangements made and swore not to come again, but that they will roll up when they hear that it will be under more congenial conditions, at The Depot where they spent so many happy days is a certainty, for is not " esprit de corps " the slogan of every old Buff !

Perhaps the C.O. will give the Depot a holiday on that day ?

Yours etc., SOJOURNER.

[*We are glad to be able to clear up, we hope for good, any misunderstandings that may exist in regard to this match. It is to be held on August* 19*th, during the Regimental Cricket Week, vide the Depot Fixture List on page 83/-. Every provision is being made for the comfort and pleasures of all those present, (spectators and players alike and all are looking forward to a bumper attendance and the re-union of many old friends. Ed.*]

*Telegrams :* " NINNES, HYTHE " *Telephone* 26 HYTHE

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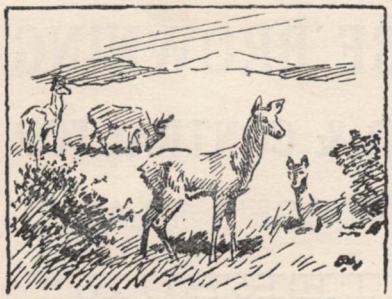
# Shooting a Shikaree.



IT was in the Naini Tal District, where I had the sensational shooting experience, which was known for years afterwards in the Battalion as "Shooting a Shikaree." It was here that the late and deeply lamented Captain H. C. Cumber (a keen sportsman, a splendid shot, and an ardent supporter of *The Dragon*) and myself, frequently went Jungling together, just "pot luck," taking out our guns and a few cartridges, and bringing back something, it didn't matter what. But this was an extra special occasion, specially arranged for an adventurous trip into the gooral feeding grounds, in blissful ignorance of the dangers ahead, anticipating, like true sportsmen, a record bag; and we got it!

The gooral is the chamois of the Himalayas, quite a small buck about 24 inches at the shoulder, very difficult to see on account of his colour—a dark grey—darker on the legs—with a black stripe along the spine, and a sort of a white bulls-eye on the throat which assists in spotting him. His greatest enemy is the Hill Panther. Other sportsmen don't trouble him much, because the only time to look for him is at daybreak when he visits his grazing grounds. During the day he sleeps in a cave, or some most inaccessible spot.

The fateful morning arrived and at about 1 a.m. we went forth, accompanied by a shikaree. The journey from the Dak Bungalow in pitch darkness along the beaten tracks, was, pleasant enough, but when we struck off into the rough goat tracks, up what seemed impossible precipices, it was an entirely different thing. Strict silence was necessary, and rigidly enforced; gooral being very shy timid creatures; and it is impossible to describe how we succeeded in following our dusky guide, stumbling at every pace. That we did not break our necks as will be described later a miracle alone, prevented.

We were not out to enthuse over the scenery, or the magnificence of the sunrise. We were out dead serious after game, but the sight that met our gaze as the sun burst over the hill-tops was wonderful and grand. Immediately beneath us, in a deep ravine, our shikaree pointed out what proved to be a herd of gooral, just commencing the ascent of an opposite slope. And it was here that we found ourselves lying on the brink of a sheer precipice, a step or two forward and we were over the top, into eternity. But the miracle had saved us.

In breathless awe, we watched and waited. We knew something of the habits of gooral, and that they fed upwards on the grassy slopes, and if we only contained ourselves in patience, and nothing interfered, we could get an easy shot in half an hour or so.

If we could only get along the southern ridge—then over the top and down on to another rock, it would give us a better range. So we quietly slid off our crag and started on our way towards that spot. Twice during the journey our shikaree peered cautiously over the crest, and reported that the gooral were still below, slowly feeding upwards. About 80 yards of lovely open country lay between us and the sheltering rock, which had to be crossed without our disclosing our presence. Very stealthily we moved like snakes through the long grass, and were soon under cover of the big flat rock. And there before us, for about 50 yards, and stretching far away to our right, was an ideal grazing ground for gooral. If they grazed up as far as the grass just below us, we ought to get an easy shot, either to the front, or to a flank. It was well worth waiting where we were for a while, as the day was yet young.

Very carefully and quietly we arranged some grass near the summit of the rock to conceal our heads. We lay prone, with ears and eyes on the qui vive, but never a whisper between us. Thus we waited! Luck was evidently on our side, for the excitement now began. First we saw the head of a gooral over the top of the grass, then another, then, butting at one of the does we saw a beautiful little buck settle himself to graze. The grass was so long, that it hid all but his head and the dark stripe along his spine. I was just on the point of firing, when the shikaree stayed my hand with a signal not to shoot, and called our attention to a much finer buck moving up to our left. Just then we heard a hissing noise, the gooral's warning note of danger,—and saw one of the bucks nosing the air. Had they seen us? Would he bolt? I decided to have a shot and chance it, but to do this I found I had to raise myself, a few inches higher up on the ledge, and in moving, I shifted a stone or something on the top, which fell over the far side.

Something happened then, but so suddenly I find it hard to describe. As the stone fell beneath our overhanging rock, a panther sprang out into the air, almost touching the muzzles of our rifles, and we both let go, taking no aim. What actually happened to the panther we didn't know. He just vanished. The shikaree, in spite of the excitement, didn't lose *his* head; he was lying beside me on my right, and he shook me pointing to my left and saying "Gooral sahib! Maro maro!!" (kill). There they streamed across the open, a dozen of them at least. The panther had quite driven gooral out of our minds, Meanwhile away sped the quarry. The leading buck, however, stopped and stood stock still for about five seconds, giving me an easy shot at not more than 150 yards—I missed him! I felt, when I pressed the trigger, not over steady, but then one does not put up a live panther every day so there was some excuse. We got up and ran across the open in the direction the gooral had gone, hoping for another shot on reaching the next ridge, but no more gooral that day. They had clean disappeared.

We walked back then to have a look at the ground over which our panther had bounded, and right enough there he lay in the grass, not dead, but badly wounded. He raised himself at our approach, gave an angry growl and tried to drag his body down the hill. A well-aimed shot soon despatched him, and put an end to his hunting, Our shikaree, remarked, with a pleased smile on his face, "He too got up before the rising sun to hunt gooral, but the 'Laga-baga's hunting days are now over."

Little did we think that another shikaree was out hunting in this valley, for the golden and honoured rule, hundreds of years old, among hunters in the Himalayas is, "One shikaree one valley," for the rifle shot of one far down the valley, reverberating from rock to rock, from ravine to ravine, will destroy the best day's stalk of another shikaree higher up the same valley. The panther knew, as we did, the possibility of the gooral grazing up towards the rock which provided such good cover for man and beast. He was a fine specimen of a hunter, this panther, whom another hunter had deprived of his breakfast and his life, for he measured over six and a half feet—not bad for a hill panther.

A.H.B.

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No. 260. July, 1921.

# The Dragon

A PAPER OF THE MEN OF

FOR MEN BUFFS, AND KENT.

## CONTENTS.


| | page |
|---|---|
| Personalia ... ... ... ... | 99 & 100 |
| 4th Buffs ... ... ... ... | ... 100 |
| July 14th ... ... ... ... | ... 100 |
| Unveiling of the War Memorial ... | ... 101 |
| Past and Present Association ... | ... 101 |
| A visit to the Battlefields ... | ... 102 |
| Ypres League ... ... ... | ... 102 |
| 1914–1915 Stars ... ... ... | ... 102 |
| Soldiers' Marriage Allowance ... | ... 102 |
| The First Battalion ... | ... 103 & 104 |
| Dragon Club Dinner ... ... | ... 104 |
| 2nd Battalion Sports at Kirkuk ... | 105 & 106 |
| Corps of Commissionaires ... ... | ... 107 |
| The Quarter-Master Sergeant ... | ... 107 |
| The Mark of Retreat ... ... | ... 108 |
| Mutt and Jeff ... ... ... | ... 109 |
| "Nancy" ... ... ... | ... 109 |
| "The Private of The Buffs" ... | ... 109 |
| Stop Press ... ... ... ... | ... 109 |
| You to Us ... ... ... ... | ... 110 |
| The Latham Medal... ... ... | ... 110 |
| The Final ... ... ... ... | ... 110 |
| Beneath Bell Harry ... | ... 111 & 112 |
| Regimental Dictionary ... ... | ... 112 |
| Forthcoming Events at the Depot | ... 112 |
| Births, Deaths and Marriages ... | ... 112 |
| Major Gould's Wedding ... ... | ... 113 |
| A Novice in Fleet Street ... ... | ... 113 |
| Concerning Ourselves ... ... | ... 114 |
| The British Soldier and the Empire | ... 114 |
| 5th Buffs at Dover ... ... ... | ... 115 |
| Our Competitions ... ... ... | ... 116 |
| Ditchwater Stakes ... ... ... | ... 116 |
| Swimming in the Army ... ... | ... 117 |
| S. Africa to Kirkuk ... ... | ... 118 |
| Defence Force and Territorial Bounties ... | 118 |
| Skill at Arms Badge ... ... | ... 118 |
| Rifle Shooting ... ... ... | ... 118 |
| Stirrup Cup Memories ... ... | ... 119 |
| Territorial Officers and Promotion | ... 119 |


## Personalia.

OUR readers will regret to hear of the recent illness of Captain Baird, which necessitated his removal to Brighton early last month in order to undergo an operation. His welcome recovery, is, we think, best guaged by the relentness with which, after coming to, he daily bombarded us, (and we hear a good many others) with letters relating to this and future issues of *The Dragon*. We now look forward to his early return to The Depot not only completely recovered but, may we add, a little wiser than he has been in the past in regard to the absolute necessity in his case of not persistently overtaxing his strength.

---

The above paragraph will explain the late arrival of this issue of *The Dragon*, for which we offer our apologies both to our readers and advertisers. Next month we look forward to being well up to time, and we would take this opportunity of drawing attention to the notice at the foot of the second column of the next page.

---

Another to whom we offer our congratulations on his equally good recovery after an operation is Brig.-General C. Brunker whom it will be remembered, until his illness prevented him, served as 2nd in Command of the 4th Buffs Defence Corps.

---

We are glad to hear that Major J. V. R. Jackson is progressing favourably after his extremely bad bicycle accident at Hythe. His indeed was a miraculous escape.

Major W. A. Eaton has let his house at Bekesbourne for the summer, and with Mrs. Eaton is visiting Norway for some months.

---

Like many others, Captain N. S. Hart was unable to get up from Durham to the Dragon Club dinner, owing to the exigencies of the service.

---

We hear that both Captain A. B. Thomson and Captain H. de R. Morgan have failed to qualify for the Staff College.

---

Mr. W. J. Abbott (late Pte. No. 8020) is working on the Admiralty Pier at Dover. He was one of the Crippen draft and no doubt some of our readers will remember how he nearly died of heat apoplexy after a tug-of-war all-over pull which lasted 14 minutes, on the hottest day we had in the Red Sea, on the way out to Singapore in 1910.

---

We regret to hear that Mrs. Hickson, who, with General R. A. Hickson, has recently returned from a long stay in Spain, has been seriously ill and had to undergo an operation. We are glad to learn that she is now progressing favourably.

---

Major-General Sir E. G. T. Bainbridge rode on the right of their Majesties carriage on the occasion of the royal opening of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

**Personalia**—*continued.*

We have had a cheery letter from Mr. A. Massie Blomfield who was in the 5th Battalion and who now lives at The Haven, Hilltop Road, Oxford. In his letter was enclosed a cheque for the Memorial, which, as he put it, was a token of respect for his brother officers who fell in Mesopotamia.

Mr. Massie Blomfield discovered at 79 St. John's Road, Oxford, F. Quartermain who served with the 1st Battalion in India between 1882 and 1887. Quartermain was a noted marksman in his day and shews great interest in his old regiment and in recent copies of *The Dragon* which were lent to him.

The list of 36 Old Buffs residing at Hythe which was completed by Major F. W. Tomlinson a month or two ago, has now been brought up to 84 by the good offices of Mr. C. Molyneux, the School House, Hythe, to whom we offer our sincerest congratulations and thanks.

Mr. A. W. Smith, of 6 Sunnyside, Lydd, Kent, who is a Cinematograph Operator, late No. 5814 L/Cpl. Smith, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Battalions, has helped *The Dragon* by means of supplying the Editor with addresses of some 20 old Buffs in Lydd, and by exhibiting on the Cinematograph Screen a splendid poster of *The Dragon* which he has designed.

Needless to say assistance of this kind is invaluable, and we are wondering whether this good work, coupled with that of Mr. Molyneux at Hythe, could not be developed in other towns and villages throughout the the county. Should any of our readers care to lend a hand in this respect we shall only be too glad to hear from them.

Our illustrated feature entitled " Regimental Notabilities " is unavoidably held over this month.

Corporal Harvey has left the 1st Battalion after many years service and everyone will wish him the best of luck in civil life.

Our Congratulations to Captain D. V. Thomas on being awarded the O.B.E.

Mr. F. Cowell who served for 12 years in the Regiment in the name of Homewood (3806) is now to be found in Ashford, whilst ex-C.S.M. R. Relf has always something good to dispose of at The Engineers Inn, Yalding, Kent.

Mr. C. H. Saunders, late 6th Buffs paid a visit to The Depot recently. He is in the Cinema trade and has promised to help *The Dragon* if he can by sending any photos of interest he may have. He is keen on taking a cinema of the unveiling of the Buffs Memorial on July 31st.

C Company, Depot, The Buffs, comprised of the Reservists, seemed to have nearly run the First Composite Reserve Battalion at Colchester. They provided the Adjt., Ass. Adjt., 2nd in Command, P.M.C., Sports Officer, Messing Officer, Q.M., Q.M.S., and R.S.M.

Cr. Sergt. F. L. Jeffery, 2nd Battalion is now flourishing as G.Q.Mr.-Sergt. at Madras.

Jack Leaver we are sorry to say is still on two sticks, but keeps wonderfully cheerful. He is living in Silvertown and would be pleased to hear from any old pals of the 2nd Battalion.

Has any reader " Chippy " Norton's address. The Secretary P. and P. Association would be pleased to have it.

The Secretary P. and P. Association would like the addresses of the Old Brigade of Buffs residing in Canterbury. Perhaps our old friends Philpot and Templeton will help send these along.

When Lt. Frank Plummer of the 1st was last heard of, he was busily studying for the Bar, and was frequently to be seen in the Temple.

Capt. T. H. Hamilton writes to us from Newfoundland where he is A.D.C. to the Governor. Last time we saw him was in Jamaica just a year ago. He was then fit, well and robust, but still very lame from the effects of his wound. Incidentally, at that time we were glad to be able to give him a helping hand in regard to his disability pension, an offer we extend to any of our readers who may be in doubt or difficulty in that respect.

Mr. H. Adams (late No. 3105 Sgt. 2nd Battalion) is now a Member of the Corps of Commissionaires and is working in the city. We are asking him to tell us about other old Buffs with the Corps.

Captain L. A. Finnis, who is at the Headquarters of the Directorate of Labour at Baghdad writes that there are several old Buff officers in his district, and that he is approaching each with a view to their becoming subscribers to the paper.

Lieut. R. M. Watson, is now in Paris serving with The British Section of the Allied Military Committee of Versailles, and has promised to send us from time to time the news from Paris.

R.S.M. Andrews, Sergt. Ricketts, and L/Cpls. Gwinnick, Diamond, and Wilson, all of the 2nd Battalion, have qualified in Group I. for 1st Class Certificates.

Capt. H. Graystone who was so well known in the 3rd Battalion in the eighties is a near neighbour of Major W. H. Booth, and is, we hear, going as strong as ever in Herefordshire.

Lt. " Bill " Barclay, who was with the 1st Battalion at Cork and Fermoy, is assistant adjutant of the 19th London Regt. (St. Pancras) and is also providing excellent refreshment at "The Red Bull," Grays Inn Road.

**4th BUFFS.**

*It is much regretted that owing to no copy having been received from the 4th Battalion, it has not been found possible to publish their news in this issue.*

**JULY 14th.**

*All copy for insertion in the August Dragon must reach the Editor not later than the 14th inst.*

*The reason for this earlier date is to ensure publication prior to the August Bank Holiday which naturally if allowed to intervene would considerably delay it.*

*Battalion, Company, and other correspondents will materially assist us by making a careful note of this announcement.*

# The Unveiling of the War Memorial.

AT the request of General the Right Hon. Sir A. Paget, G.C.B., General Lord Horne, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., A.D.C., has kindly consented to unveil the Buffs War Memorial on Sunday, July 31st at 2 p.m., in the Warriors Chapel. There is certain to be a big demand for seats at this ceremony and admission will only be by ticket. All those who wish to attend must obtain tickets from the O.C., Depot, The Buffs; stating on their application their connection with the Regiment, as it is wished that all bereaved should have first consideration.

In connection with the unveiling on the 31st July lunch for officers will be provided at 6/- per head. Applications for lunch tickets should be made to the P.M.C. Depot, The Buffs by the 19th July. Lunch for other ranks will be provided ar 2/- per head, if notice is given by the 19th to the Hon. Secretary, Association Past and Present Buffs at The Depot.

THE DONATION LIST.

THE 4th list of subscriptions is published herewith. It will be seen that £554 17s. 2d. has been subscribed, which is not so unsatisfactory as it would seem at first sight, although the expenses of the Memorial complete with Roll of Honour and lectern is estimated at not far short of £800 0s. 0d.

Already £60 has been spent in propaganda, etc., so that we have something just under £500 in hand.

On the 31st July the Reredos is promised to be ready for unveiling and £530 must be available on that day.

Surveying the position, generally, we have in hand £500. Now £100 was set aside by the 2nd Battalion during the War and is now in Lloyds Bank. General Sir. A. Paget has written to Lt. Col. Trevor asking him to authorise the transfer of this sum to the Fund.

Lt.-Col. McDouall has promised a sum of £100 from the 1st Battalion and the Depot will if necessary provide £50. There is thus a clear £750 in sight. We have yet to hear from the Canadian Buffs and our own Territorial Battalions.

Contributions continue to be received as will be seen by the lists so that there would seem little doubt that the amount will be reached.

The appeal being followed so closely by the industrial crisis no doubt affected the flow of subscriptions.

The Roll of Honour is not yet completed by the Record Office, so there is no chance of the Book of Life being completed by the time of the unveiling of the Memorial.

LIST OF DONATIONS.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Previously Acknowledged ... ... ... | 481 | 19 | 3 |
| Paris F. Drake Brockman, Esq. ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
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| Captain L. Walsh ... ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Major D. Campbell-Johnson ... ... | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Colonel A. H. Coles, C.M.G., D.S.O. ... | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Norman ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Captain L. A. Ramsey ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| C. Laing ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| Major-General Sir E. G. T. Bainbridge, K.C.B. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| G. K. Anderson, Esq. ... ... ... | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Lieut.-Col. R. E. Power, D.S.O. ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Captain Vere Mockett ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Major H. A. B. Ternan, O.B.E. ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| R. M. Watson, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Lieut.-Col. L. W. Lucas, D.S.O., M.C. ... | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Lieut.-Col. F. W. Bradley Dyne, ... ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Brigadier-General H. C. de la M. Hill, C.B. C.M.G. ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. E. McWilliams ... ... ... ... | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Stevens ... ... ... | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| G. E. Stevens, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
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| F. Chapman, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Colonel J. F. Honeyball, T.D., J.P. ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| H. Milton, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | £554 | 17 | 2 |

Canterbury,
17-6-21.

J. CROOKENDEN, Major,
*Hon. Secretary*,
The Buffs Memorial Fund.

## Past and Present Association.

OWING to the many enquiries we receive asking for full information relating to the Past and Present Association, we give below the rules of the Association together with the rates of membership. At the same time we express the hope that news of the Association will be sent to us for publication regularly each month in the future, if for no other reason that we feel very strongly that no issue of the *Dragon* can be complete without news of our old comrades.

RULES.

1. TITLE.—The Association of Past and Present Buffs.
2. OBJECT.—To foster and maintain intercourse between Past and Present Members of the Regiment.
   (*a*) By Annual Dinner.
   NOTE:—Dinner to be held at a place and date to be arranged by the Committee. Price of dinner not to exceed 7/6. This amount to be forwarded to the Secretary at any time during the year, but NOT LATER THAN ONE MONTH BEFORE THE DATE OF THE DINNER.
   (*b*) By general acts at the discretion of the Committee towards the promotion of "Esprit de Corps."
   (*c*) By an Annual Cricket Match.
3. MEMBERSHIP.—The Association is open to all those who are serving or have served in a Regular Battalion of The Buffs, and to all those who served with a Service, Territorial or Special Reserve Battalion in the Great War.
4. SUBSCRIPTIONS.—To be paid in January each year.
   (*A*) Officers – – – 2/6 per annum.
   (*B*) W.O., N.C.O.'s and Men – 3/6 first year. 1/- subsequent years.

   LIFE MEMBERSHIP.—
   (*A*) Officers – – – – – £2 2 0
   (*B*) W.O., N.C.O.'s and Men – – £1 1 0
   Badges are issued free. Silver and enamel to Life Members, and a brass button to annual subscribers.
5. CASH.—All cash received to be handed to the Hon. Treasurer, who shall be an Officer at the Depot.
6. POSTAGE.—All expenses for postage to be refunded to the Secretary from the funds of the Association.

The address of the Hon. Sec. of the Association is Depot, The Buffs, Canterbury.

# A Visit to the Battlefields of France.

IN the early hours of the morning, about one hour before dawn, on the 12th September, 1914, saw the 1st Battalion filing across a temporary footbridge into the village of Vailly, on the R. Aisne. Those of us who were there, will call back that morning. The noise made by the adjutant as we first entered the village, he called it ptomaine poisoning; the tattered and black faced warriors we relieved in the front line; the tumbling into the shelters on the roadside dug by our predecessors; and last but by no means least, our first real proximity to the Bosche.

Early in January, 1921, on a cold bleak morning, a member of the same battalion passed into the village. The signs of ruin were still apparent, only one half of the village having been rebuilt. The bridge had been replaced and the Railway was open from Soissons to Rheims. The woods where we had dug our trenches were not so badly knocked about as one would have expected after nearly six years of war.

The people of Vailly and Soupier remembered well the arrival of the 6th Division, and were unanimous in their praises of it; many saying that of all the troops that came that way, before or after, none came up to the standard of those in the 6th Division (Tips plentifully bestowed.)

Almost as quick a journey as we made North in the first week of October, 1914, planted us in the world famous town of Ypres. Here could be seen a town of wood and tin rising up among the ruins. What remained of the Cloth Hall was being strengthened with cement, and an iron railing was being erected round the building,—a lasting memorial to the crushed ambitions of a once mighty nation. Many red brick houses have appeared outside the walls on the road to St. Jean, but forward of this the ground remains much as the War left it. At St. Julien, where so many of our brave comrades rest, the Buffs cemetery was found in good repair.

Old Armentieres, where the Battalion spent so many months, showed very few additional scars; it was much as we left it in May 1915, the houses on the canal bank were mostly destroyed, and in the centre of the town several of the warehouses had collapsed and fallen into the backwaters, completely filling them in. Enquiries for Josephine met with disappointment and no news of Vaseline or Glycerine, of 4th Division Follies fame, could be obtained.

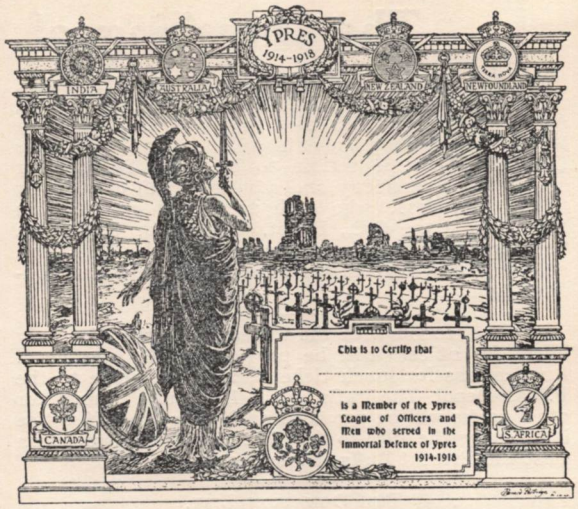
On the way to Armentieres, the little town of Bailleul was passed, It was here we spent two very comfortable nights in billets in May 1915 on our way to the salient. The town has practically vanished, a few of the stronger built houses, having been repaired, are still standing, a sign that once there had been a town.

The Ruz de Biez was much as we had left it, the farms, etc., where we billeted, either being replaced by wooden hutments or the remains of the old farmsteads being repaired with the inevitable corrugated iron.

Bois Grenier showed signs of habitation and like Ypres, wooden and tin houses were gradually appearing. It was in front of this village where our first heavy casualties took place and where the Battalion almost created a record by being in the fighting line, without relief, from the 18th October to the 26th November, 1914. Many of the old Regimental names can be found on the tiny crosses dotted around.

What could be more fitting, than that East Kent, should also adopt Bois Grenier as a tribute to those gallant fellows who lie buried there? Will not the mothers of Kent wish to know that once again the scarred ground flourishes and that the green grass and waving cornfields form a coverlet for their dear departed ones.

M. & R.




**The Certificate issued to Members of the Ypres League.**

From a design by Mr. Bernard Partridge.

## The Ypres League.

THE Ypres Salient is the Holy Ground of British arms. To defend Ypres cost the lives of over 250,000 soldiers; and of all the towns along the old British front this was the best known and most fiercely held. The Ypres League has been founded with a six-fold object, the chief of which are to preserve at Ypres a Roll of the Glorious Dead and to secure the erection of an outstanding Memorial of the Defence. In order to secure these objects all who served in the Salient, or who lost a relative there, are invited to send in their names to the Secretary at 23, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, W., to be enrolled as members. The annual subscription is 5s. for ordinary membership and £2 10s. for life membership. The president of the League is Lord French.

## The 1914 and 1914-1915 Stars.

The War Office states that officers and soldiers serving with the colours who are entitled to and who have not received either the 1914 Star or the 1914-15 Star, should apply for them forthwith. Application should be made through their present commanding officers.

In the case of officers, applications should be addressed direct to the Secretary, War Office (A.G. 10). 27 Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4., and in the case of other ranks to the Officer i/c Records concerned, quoting both former regimental numbers and present Army numbers and the corps in which the applicants were serving when they earned the Stars.

## Soldiers' Marriage Allowance.

An Army Order, amending the regulation issued in April last, provides that all children of whatever age for whom pension is being drawn by a soldier's widow married to a serving soldier will be counted in the family for the purpose of determining the rate of marriage allowance to be issued in respect of any other children of the soldier. Where, for example, pension is issuable for the two older of a family of three children, the rate of marriage allowance issuable during the year 1921-1922 for the remaining child will be 5s. a week instead of 9s. 6d.

# The 1st Battalion.

THERE is little to record this month as we all now seem in a state of flux and sports and cricket have hardly got going. The Tennis Courts have been rolled and should soon be in fine condition.

A flying Column of ours operating down on the Coast surprised a Sinn Fein Ambush and scattered them, killing one and wounding about six—our casualties being nil. A train escort of ours was also fired at but the attackers did not even wait to observe the effects of their fire.

A very successful inter-Company boxing tournament was run on 25th May, brief results of which appear in this issue. Lieut. Milton is to be congratulated for organising it and carrying it through so successfully.

### A Coy. wins Harris Shield again.

We are very pleased to record that "A" Company has won the Harris Shield once more, and this time by a large margin of points. The two last contests to count points towards the Championship being the cross country run and the boxing, both of which we won. Our congratulations are due to all those who have shown such keenness and energy in bringing about this result.

The cross country run was a very good performance as also was the boxing, though perhaps we are unusually lucky in having rather more than our share of regimental representatives in both games.

In the boxing we had two who very sportingly came in to make up a full team at the last moment, C.Q.M.S Cross and Pte. McCarthy, both of whom put up a most plucky show, Pte. McCarthy indeed won his weight in spite of being entirely untrained.

At the moment we look like having a very useful cricket team, although it is probable that some of our most useful exponents will be unable to play in the first inter-Company match.

We hope also soon to go to Kilworth for the musketry course, which will ensure a period of comparative peace and quiet, with immunity from Curfew!

### B Company Notes.

In our last notes we mentioned that the sports were about to take place. We are now able to say that the Company won the Tug O' War by beating C Company in the Semi-final by 2 pulls to 1 and A Company in the final by 3 pulls to 1. One win was most gratifying to us especially as the last occasion on which we won was in 1892. Our only other success of note in the Sports was Bdsm. Marshall's fine win in the hurdles. Other events which we won were the obstacle race in which we gained the 1st 3 places (1st Dr. Baker, 2nd Pte. White, 3rd L/C. Thurlow) and the Bumping Melee. We were also runners up in the Boat Race Lt. Gem after a very fine race was 2nd in the officers' mule Derby by a short head to Lt. Stemp. Lt. Webster met with a nasty fall a few yards from the start and we trust that he is none the worse for his experience. In the Boxing Competition for the Harris Shield the Company were runners up with 19 points to A Company who gained 26 points. Pte. Osler fought extremely well and won the Heavyweight, while Ptes. Andrews, Dalby and Goodwin also put up splendid fights. Our heartiest congratulations go to C.Q.M.S. Croucher on his being awarded the Silver Medal for Long Service and Good Conduct with gratuity.

We are very sorry indeed to lose Capt. Vertue who has taken over Command of D Company. We wish him luck in his new Company. Pte. Gardner has been transferred to the M.T.R.A.S.C. and Pte. Mumford has been discharged as being under age. Our best wishes go out to them in their new spheres of life.

Cricket is now in full swing and we hope to distinguish ourselves in the Harris Shield and Cricket Shield matches which by the way are running concurrently this year and which commence very shortly.

### C Company.

Captain J. F. W. Allen, M.C., proceeded to England on a few days' leave on June 3rd, being relieved by Captain D. V. Thomas, O.B.E. who was recently decorated for his good work at Dungarvan.

The Company did very well in the Annual Sports held on May 16th. The following are some of the results:—

Quarter Mile:—Cpl. Jones, 2nd; Sgt. Burt, 3rd. One Mile:—Sgt. Ravenscroft, 1st. Veterans:—Sgt. Denny, 3rd. Ladies:—Mrs. Denny, 1st; Mrs. Read, 2nd. Half Mile:—Sgt. Ravenscroft, 1st. Sgts. Race:—Sgt. Burt, 1st. Cpls. Race:—Cpl. Jones, 3rd. Boat Race:—"C "Coy., 1st. Bumping Melee "C" Coy., 2nd. High Jump:—Lt. Wale, 1st; Sgt. Gibson 3rd. 3 Miles:—Sgt. Ravenscroft, 1st. Open Mile:—Sgt. Ravenscroft, 1st. Inter-Coy. Relay:—"C" Coy., 2nd. Consolation:—Boy Bartlett, 1st. Fancy Dress:—Bandsman Moss, 1st.

Sgt. Ravenscroft succeeded in winning the Gold Medal for the Best Athlete in the Battalion for the year.

In the Harris Shield the Inter-Coy. Cross Country Run which took place on May 18th, Distance about 5 Miles, we had 16 starters. This race was looked upon to lie between A and C. Sgt. Ravenscroft was first in, but A Company secured 89 Points against our 110.

We next had the Inter-Company Team Boxing Tournament which took place on May 25th when we provided a complete team and fully expected to do very well, but again we were unsuccessful as we only got 3rd Place.

In Cricket we have been quite successful. Our victories to date being over A Company on May 1st by 14 runs (Bandsman Pearsall 32, Sergt. Denny 28); B Company on June 1st by 153 runs (Lieut. Kimm 72 and Pte. Shaw 45. Sergt. Denny 6 wickets for 33 runs); D Company by 25 runs (Lt. Kimm 28, Sergt. Denny 7 wickets for 45).

On June 8th we defeated No. 2 Squadron R.A.F. on a poor wicket by 17 runs.

### D Company Notes.

Major Groves Raines has left the Battalion and we can only say how sorry we all are to lose him. The good wishes of the Company go with him. Somehow or other we feel that he has not really gone and that someday we shall have him with us again.

Captain N. G. Vertue has taken over command and to him we extend a very hearty welcome.

We congratulate our Company Boxers on the show they put up, but we must find more aspirants for Boxing honours in the Company and ensure that next year we have a really good team.

### Sergeants' Mess Notes.

We have had rather a busy month, with our Annual Sports, cricket, tennis, shooting, etc. We had our usual marquee on Sports' day, and it was well patronised. We were very pleased to see the Gold Medal for the best athlete come into the Mess again this year, and must

*(continued on next page).*

**The 1st Battalion**—*continued.*

offer our congratulations to "Ravo" on winning it. Our "Donkey Derby" proved very exciting and was won by W. O. Collins', "Intelligence" List "Education" out of "Book" which was just as it should be. Appended is a list of Horses, Owners and Riders. The day was concluded by a dance in the Mess which was well attended.

Our Monthly Spoon Shoot was again very well attended. The silver spoon was won by C.S.M.I. McWalter, and the Wooden Spoon by C.S.M. Goodwin. It is hoped to hold our next shoot on the 30 yards range with ball ammunition.

We had a cricket match with the Officers (not our annual) which proved a good afternoon's sport, and resulted in a victory for us. A billiard match was also played between teams of eight from the Officers and Sergeants, which proved an easy win for us, Captain Sharp being the only officer to win his game.

Our weekly "jazzes" and concerts are still proving successfull, a very valuable asset being found in C.S.M. Boarer, who in conjunction with a few "erbs" keeps the show well alive, and the ladies in roars of laughter. It is rumoured that we are losing our pianist Sgt. Harding, C.M.A. and if this is true, it will be a very great loss to us. It will be a long time before we can get another with so much adaptability and tact. We have got together a really strong cricket team and are looking forward to some very pleasant games. Tennis is also in full swing and already fresh faces have been seen on the excellent court which has been prepared by a few energetic members. We are sorry to say that Waxy is in Hospital with a poisoned hand, and someone was heard to remark that it is the first time for 30 years.

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HARRIS SHIELD CROSS-COUNTRY RUN.

Run on 18th May. Course about 4½ miles.

1st: Sergt. Ravenscroft, C Coy.; 2nd: Pte. Paul, A Coy; 3rd: Lt. Essell, A Coy.; 4th: Corpl. Bell, A Coy.; 5th: Drummer Baker, D Coy.; 6th: Pte. Hogben, B Coy.; 7th: C.Q.M.S. Cross, A Coy.

A Coy. scored 89 points; B Coy. 176, C Coy. 110 and D Coy. 175.

BOXING TOURNAMENT RESULTS.

*Fly Weight.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| " Pte. Hunter.<br>" D " Pte. Westcott.<br>" A " Pte. McCarthy<br>" C " L/C. McLaren. | Pte. Hunter.<br>Pte. McCarthy | Pte. McCarthy. |

*Bantam Weight.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| " C " Pte. Green.<br>" B " Pte. White.<br>" A " Pte. Solly.<br>" D " Pte. Berry. | Pte. Green.<br>Pte. Solly. | Pte. Solly. |

*Feather Weight.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| " A " L/C West.<br>" C " Pte. Sheehan.<br>" B " Pte. Fane. Bye | Pte. Sheehan.<br>Pte. Fane. | Pte. Sheehan. |

*Lightweight.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| " A " Pte. Symons.<br>" C " Sgt. Foote.<br>" D " Pte. Priest.<br>" B " Pte. Moore. | Pte. Symons.<br>Pte. Priest. | Pte. Symons. |

*Welter Weight.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| " A " Cpl. Bell<br>" B " Pte. Goodwin.<br>" C " Sgt. Louth.<br>" D " Pte. Griffiths. | Pte. Goodwin.<br>Pte. Griffiths. | Pte. Griffiths. |

*Middle Wieght.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| " B " Pte. Dalby.<br>" C " Sgt. Ravenscroft.<br>" A " Dmr. Clements.<br>" D " Pte. Mills. | Pte. Dalby.<br>Dr. Clements. | Dr. Clements. |

*(Continued at foot of next column.)*

# Dragon Club Dinner.

THE 48th Dinner of the Officers, Retired and Serving, of the 1st and 2nd Battalions took place as usual on Wednesday, 15th June, of Ascot Week.

Thirty-two officers were present to enjoy a very good dinner. General Sir Arthur Paget, in a short speech, referred to the present activities regarding the Memorial Fund, the Regimental History of the Great War and the publication of *The Dragon*.

As regards the first, he said he hoped efforts could be made to complete the fund so as to enable the Memorial to be paid for by the time of the unveiling. He was averse to such a Memorial being unveiled with a debt hanging over it. As regards the History, he understood from Major Tomlinson, that the funds though not abundant, were so far satisfactory, but a considerable amount remained to be realised.

The publication of *The Dragon* was a matter which he thought could best be investigated by a Committee as the details of it would have to be gone into.

Major-General Sir A. Lynden Bell proposed the Toast of our Colonel in warm terms, which was heartily honoured.

After dinner conversation became general, and was maintained until the lights were gradually but firmly turned off, until one could only grope one's way to the door.

The following is a complete list of those present:—

General Rt. Hon. Sir A. H. Paget, G.C.B., K.C.V.O.
Major-General Sir A. Lynden-Bell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.
Brig.-General A. J. W. Allen, C.B.
Brig.-General E. H. Finch Hatton, C.M.G., D.S.O.
Colonel D. F. Lewis, C.B.
Lieut.-Colonel R. Bright.
Lieut.-Colonel R. McDouall, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O.
Lieut.-Colonel R. S. I. Friend, D.S.O.
Lieut.-Colonel L. W. Lucas, D.S.O., M.C.
Lieut.-Colonel L. C. E. Knight.
Lieut.-Colonel B. R. K. Tarte.
Major W. G. F. Barnard, D.S.O.
Major W. H. Booth, D.S.O.
Major F. W. Bradley Dyne.
Major G. A. E. Chapman, D.S.O.
Major J. Crookenden, D.S.O.
Major H. S. Hardy, M.B.E., M.C.
Major G. Lee, D.S.O., M.C.
Major F. W. Tomlinson,
Major H. A. B. Ternan, O.B.E.
Captain E. H. Allen.
Captain J. F. W. Allen, M.C.
Captain and Bt.-Major Corrall, M.C.
Captain P. Green.
Captain H. de R. Morgan, D.S.O.
Captain H. C. C. Morley.
Captain T. Wheler.
Captain D. A. Wilkins, M.B.E.
Lieut. P. R. H. Fox, M.C.
Lieut. J. R. Willows,
Lieut. R. M. Webster.
Lieut. W. B. Griffiths.

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**The 1st Battalion**—*continued.*

*Light Heavyweights.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| " B " Pte. Andrews.<br>" C " Sgt. Gibson.<br>" A " Pte. Wallis.<br>" D " Pte. May. | Sgt. Gibson.<br>Pte. Wallis. | Sgt. Gibson. |

*Heavyweight (catchweight).*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| " A " C.Q.M.S. Cross. Bye<br>" D "<br>" C " C.Q.M.S.Manning<br>" B " Pte. Orsler. | C.M.S. Cross.<br>Pte. Orsler. | Pte. Orsler. |

# 2nd Battalion Sports at Kirkuk.

THE finals of the Regimental Sports took place on April 30th and May 1st. The winning company was A Coy. with 38 points, D Coy. being runners up with 36. The Meeting was a grest success, thanks to the admirable organization of the committee of management, composed of Lt.-Col. Potter, Capt. Rice, and Lt. Cartwright; and also the numerous fatigue parties who effected such wonderful improvements on a very rough track. Throughout the meeting men of the newly formed E Company competed for their old companies in the championship events. The best race of the meeting proved to be the half-mile final in which R. S. M. Andrews, a hot favourite, was beaten by Capt. Rice by 2 yards. In the long jump, Capt. Heyman, whose foot was damaged, jumped over only. This was quite sufficient. He was within an ace of jumping beyond the pit! In this competition there was a tremendous struggle for third place between C.S.M. Cook and his brother L/C Cook. The C.S.M. eventually beat his younger brother, which is as it should be in a well brought up family.

Another fine race was the quarter mile final in which Lt. Rowley drew level with the R.S.M. within 5 yards of the tape and won by inches. In the mile, L/C Kimber had it all his own way, which accounts for the poor time of 5 mins. 14¼ secs.

SOME POPULAR EVENTS.

A popular event was the Officers and Guests Handicap. This was open to all officers not competing in other events. Handicap by service—one yard per year up to 20 and 2 yards per year in addition for every year over 20. Distance 100 yards, the officer with the highest handicap being scr. The C.O. in spite of the presence of some almost professional runners got off well with the pistol and running a fine race broke the tape a few yards in front of Major MacBrayne 15th Sikhs with Major Wilson I.M.S. a good 3rd. Time about 14 secs.

The mule race, open to grooms and men of the transport riding bare-back, provided plenty of amusement and excitement. There were 40 entries. The course was 500 yds., and included a stream which many found great difficulty in negotiating. The result was a dead heat between Pte. Boyden and L/C Munn.

The Tug-of-War on the whole was rather disappointing. Teams consisted of 10 men and the Competition was for the best of 3 twelve-foot pulls.

In the old days the coach invariably wore a mufti cap—some old soldier probably knows why—the writer doesn't, and his words of encouragement "eave, you... eave" always had a tremendous effect and when the said mufti cap was waved a still more vigorous pull resulted. On this occasion this time honoured custom was absent. In the Officers v. Sergeants pull, the former team introduced the same old ruse which has been in existence in gaff tugs-of-war between officers and sergeants since the Crimean War—or is it Albuera? This takes the form of taking two steps forward on the "heave" being given. However when the effects of this had died away, both teams got seriously to work, and after a pull of 3 min. 20 secs., which seemed like three-quarters of an hour, the officers proved successful.

The full results are given below, and nothing remains but to record that the Commanding Officer distributed a most excellent lot of prizes; that the band-master under Mr. Hewitt did noble work with a much appreciated programme; that the display of figure marching by the Band and Drums was much appreciated; that a truly successful day ended with three hearty and well deserved cheers being given for Lt.-Col. Potter and the rest of the commmittee for the valuable services they rendered. And of course in conclusion "Well done A."

RESULTS IN DETAIL.

*Cross Country*—distance betwwen 2 and 3 miles—(1) A, (2) C, (3) D. Time 16 min. 30 secs. A Coy. team in order of arrival were:—L/C. Kimber, Pte. Harlow, Pte. Marsh, L/C. Hodges, D.C.M., Sgt. Ongley, D.C.M., Pte. Parker, Pte. Ringe, Sgt. Shoobridge, Lt. Foster-Hall, Pte. Smith, Pte. Hedges, Pte. Game, Pte. Hughes, Pte. Hobbs.

*Putting the Shot*—(1) Lt. Rowe, (2) Pte. Furner, (3) Pte. Burnes. Distance 33 ft. 1 in.

100 *yds, final*—(1) Lt. Rowe (D), (2) R.S.M. Andrews (B), (3) Pte. Rowley (A), Time 10⅕ secs. Lt. Rowe led the whole way and won by 2 yds.

220 *yds. (Privates)*—Open only to men not competin the championship events—(1) Pte. Middleton (A), (2) Pte. Munday (A), (3) Pte. Warde (D). Time 28⅘ secs.

*Half Mile Final*—(1) Capt. Rice (D), (2) R.S.M. Andrews (B), (3) L/C Kimber (A). Time 2 min. 15⅘ secs.

120 *yds., 3 ft. Hurdles*—(1) Lt. Cartwright (D), (2) L/C Lockwood (B), (3) Lt. Penlington (D). Time 18⅕ secs.

*Long Jump*—(1) Capt. Heyman, (2) Pte. Burnes, (3) C.S.M. Cook. There were 9 competitors who had passed the qualifying test of 15 ft.

*Quarter Mile Final*—(1) Pte. Rowley (A), (2) R.S.M. Andrews (B), (3) Lt. Lloyd.

220 *yds. Sergeants Handicap*—(1) R.Q.M.S. Edwards (25 yds.), (2) Sgt. Dennis (scr), (3) Sgt. Howard (10 yds.) Time 27⅕ secs.

*Mule Race*—(1) Pte. Boyden (C), and L/C Munn (E) dead heat, (3) Pte. Reed (E).

*Two Mile Race*—(1) Sgt. Ongley (A), (1) Pte. Marsh (A), (3) Lt. Foster Hall (A). Time 11 min. 19 secs.

*Band Race*—(1) Bds. Harvey, (2) L/C Martin, (3) Bds. Day.

*Company Relay Race.* The teams were as under:—

| A. | B. | C. | D. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 220 yds. | |
| Lt. Lloyd | Cpl. Cloke | L/C. Hart | Cpt. Heyman |
| | | 220 yds. | |
| Lt. Chester | L/C. Lockwood | L/C. Blunt | L/C. Cook |
| | | 440 yds. | |
| Pte. Rowley | Cpl. Moore | Pte. Slatter | Lt. Rowe |
| | | 880 yds. | |
| L/C. Kimber | R.S.M. Andrews | L/C. Player | Capt. Rice. |

Capt. Heyman (D) at once took the lead and handed over to L/C. Cook but Lt. Chester (A) running with a beautiful stride caught up and handed his flag over first to Pte. Rowley. Lt. Rowe (D) quickly regained the lead but was overtaken by Rowley before the end of the quarter. Capt. Rice (D) made short work of L/C. Kimber (A) in the half mile and won by about 20 yds. L/C. Kimber (A) was 2nd but was rapidly being overtaken by the R.S.M. who was running out well, but took over his flag too late to be able to make up the handicap. Result: (1) D, (2) A. (3) B.

*Consolation Race*—(1) Cpl. Moore, (2) Sgt. Joy, (3) L/C. Pennell.

*Tug of War*—In the first round A beat C by 2 pulls to 1. D beat B by 2 pulls to nil.

[*Continued on next page.*]

**2nd Battalion Sports at Kirkuk.**—*Continued.*

For 3rd place C beat B by 2 pulls to 1. In the final D beat A by 2 pulls to nil.

D Coy. team.—Lt. W. H. Rowe, Lt. T. N. Penlington, Lt. J. Cartwright, Pte. Trice, Pte. Holman, Pte. J. Smith, Pte. Butler, L/C. Burgess, L/C. Lawrie, Pte. Lee.

A Coy. team.—Sgt. Dr. o'Dell, Cpl. Liston, L/C. Crouch, L/C. Murray, Pte. Smith, Pte. Knight, Pte. Laughton, Pte. Gibbons, Pte. Scott, Pte. Fielder.

As already announced the Officers pulled over the Sergeants in a pull of 3 min. 20 sec.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The 1st Batt'n draft arrived at Kirkuk on March 6.

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B Company won the two open events at the 15th Sikhs sports held on March 22nd. These were the company relay races in which Pte. Powell, Cpl. Moore, Bdn. Cary and R.S.M.Andrews comprised the winning team, and the open half-mile which was won by R.S.M. Andrews. Entries were confined to those who had not competed at Baghdad.

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Easter Monday, a whole holiday, was devoted to a paper chase and football sixes. In the former prizes for catching a hare were won by Sgt. Ongly (A), L/C. Player (C), and Pte. Parker (A). The hares, Lieuts. Chester, Rowe, and Penlington provided a hunt of close on 7 miles. Several cunning false trails were laid, one of which trapped R.S.M.Andrews and Sgt. Ongley, who took with them the whole of the 100 hounds with the exception of two. The finish to a most successful run took place within 100 yards of Barracks.

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The football sixes which began on Easter Monday lasted a week, owing to there being no less than 252 entries. All entries were thrown into a hat and the teams drawn. Twenty minutes was devoted to each match. There was no off-side, and every contest was watched by a large number of spectators. In the semi-finals, Cpl. Rodda's six beat Capt. Moore's six by 3 goals and 2 minors to 1 goal and 1 minor, and Bdmn. Shelton's six beat L/C. Fuggle's team by 3 points in the last 2 minutes.

This left Moore's team favourites in the finals, but they went down to Shelton's combination mainly owing to the fine play of Bdmn. Day who scord 3 goals.

The winners received a prize of 10 Rs. each, and the runners up 5 Rs. each. Here are the winning teams :—

*Winners*—Shelton, Hewitt, Day, (Band), Dupre(B), Sgt. George (E), L/C. Holmden (C).

*Runners up*—Cpl. Moore (B), Sgt.-Dr. O'Dell (Dr.), Medhurst, Bailey (A), L/C. Whittington (Dr.), L/C. Giles (C).

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The greater portion of the 3 mile cross country run in the Regtl. Sports took place over ploughed fields, and one or two streams had to be crossed.

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The Corporals Mess have put up a silver cup for the winner of the Corporals 220 yds. handicap. This is supplementary to the ordinary prize and will be competed for again next year.

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At the time of writing Lt.-Col. Trevor is commanding the Brigade, Lt.-Col. Bright is on his way to the Senior Officers course, and Major Norman is commanding the Battalion.

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On April 20th, the Battalion was inspected by the Divisional Commander, Major General Fraser, C.B., C.S.I., C.M.G., who will be remembered as C.R.E. at Wellington. And on May 3rd, we underwent another inspection this time at the hands of our Commander-in-Chief, Lt.-General Sir Alymer Haldane, K.C.B., D.S.O. On each occasion an address to the troops was made, but only in the case of the former was there a march past.

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News is to hand that at the Multan Garrison Sports Sgt. Freeman (Knocks) won the silver cup for the best sportsman, also gold medals for the 100 and 440 yds. We congratulate him.

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Our Summer camp is situated on the top of a hill about a mile and a half from barracks. The scheme of fitting it up with electric light and fans has fallen through owing to lack of funds.

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FOOTBALL RESULTS.

| | |
|---|---|
| April 12th. | Buffs officers beat officers of the station by 2—1. Goal scorers : Lt. Cartwright and King. |
| April 14th | C coy. beat the Band and Drums by 4—2. In the game L/C. Giles at outside right played a brilliant game. |
| April 16th. | C coy. met D coy. in a drawn game 2—2. Goal scorers : for C, Ptes. Shelton and Hawkins. |
| April —. | A coy. drew with the Band and Drums 2—2. |
| April —. | A coy. beat C coy. 2—1. |
| May 2nd. | The Buffs Regtl. XI. beat the officers of the station. |

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HOCKEY.

| | |
|---|---|
| March 25th. | The officers beat the sergeants by 6—3. |
| April 8th. | The corporals beat the officers by 5—1. |
| May 6th. | The Buffs beat the 15th Sikhs by 4—3. |

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THE SERGEANTS MESS.

The Mess has bucked up a great deal lately. On Thursday 7th April, all of the members turned out for a Six of a side Football Contest. Seven teams in all were mustered. the only non-players being C.Q.M.S Blackman and Sergt. Hook, both of whom were unwell and the Commander of the Quarter Guard. A very fine evening's sport was the result. R.Q.M.S. Edwards refereed. The winning team was made up of Snowey Mannering (the old War Horse), Swede Johnson, Jack Simon, Badger Cook, Admiral Ross and Ricketts.

The weather is just beginning to get a bit hot during the day but the nights are deliciously cool, in fact the " Dry Season " has set in, and the great struggle is to obtain liquid refreshment. Bottled beer can only be obtained in small quantities which usually lasts about three days, then a dry fortnight or so until the next convoy arrives. It makes one smile to see members who like a " long drink " quaffing " Idris " Ginger Ale at 8 annas a bottle.

There is some talk in the Mess that our Adjutant suffers from insomnia or at least that he never sleeps. Some swear he has a dual personality, be that as it may, it matters not at what hour one rises or where one goes, he is bound to meet the Adjutant, and rarely in any other dress than " Regimentals."

We hear that certain short service men were given a paper whereon to set forth their reasons for not extending their service. One reply we are informed was rather short, sweet and to the point, " Education and Bad Station," not too bad, eh !

Sergt. Holness (the Baron) has departed from our midst to have a try at civil life, the dear old chap was fed up with Mesopotamia. Sergt. Deeks has also gone to Baghdad to take up the post of Mess Sergt. to the Commander-in-Chief. We wish them both the best of luck.

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*(Owing to three mails having reached us from the 2nd Battalion, and to the call on our space, the 2nd Battalion news has had to be abbreviated. A pamphlet embracing the whole is being sent with each copy of this issue sent to the 2nd Battalion. Home readers desirous of a copy should send 2d. in stamps to the Editor).*

## Corps of Commissionaires.

FORTY SEVEN PAST BUFFS EMPLOYED.

IN June 18th the annual inspection of the Corps of Commissionaires took place in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Some 700 men were on parade and amongst them were many old Buffs. In addressing the corps General Sir G. M. Macdonogh, Adjutant-General, War Office, said :—

"It would be difficult to find anywhere a smarter set of veterams."

The total membership of the corps is 4,790, made up of 2,980 in London and 1,810 in the provinces. From enquiries we have made the total number of old Buffs in the Corps is forty seven, and the following is a complete list of those to be found in London, together with the nature of the jobs they hold.

| NAME. | HOW EMPLOYED. |
|---|---|
| Mr. Frank Williams. | I/c of Exchange Telegraph Co. |
| ,, Edwin H. Appleton. | Clerk and Messenger, Edward Moore and Sons. |
| ,, Harry Goodwin. | Messenger and Housekeeper, H. Vigne and Sons. |
| ,, William H. Unwin. | Attendant, Surrey Masonic Hall. |
| ,, William M. Winstanley. | Timekeeper, R. Gay and Co., Ltd. |
| ,, William Elvey. | Caretaker, Rowland Ward and Co. |
| ,, Fred Hilderbrand. | Housekeeper, Debenture Corporation. |
| ,, Harry Seal. | Linksman, Playhouse Theatre. |
| ,, John E. Wilson. | Handyman, Berry Bros. and Co. |
| ,, James Cox. | Messenger, Farrows Bank, Ltd. |
| ,, Alexander Laing. | Caretaker, Beaufort Mansions, Chelsea. |
| ,, John Kennedy. | Office and Telephone Attendant, McIntyre, Hogg, Marsh, and Co., Ltd. |
| ,, Robert Austin. | Clerk and Messenger, Simon Smits and Co. |
| ,, Albert. Geo. Bangor. | Post Clerk, Boving and Co., Ltd. |
| ,, Chas. F. Catt. | Messenger, Royal Bank of Australia, Ltd. |
| ,, Walter Hy. Tapsell. | Clerk and Messenger, Churchill and Sims. |
| , Alfred Geo. Rothwell. | Night Watchman, Commercial Cable Co. |
| ,, William Wackrill. | Messenger, Bayley, Wood and Co. |
| ,, Geo. Hy. Austin. | Hall Porter, Preece Cardew and Rider. |
| ,, Chas. Jas. George. | Clerk and Messenger, Debenture Corporation, Ltd. |
| ,, Wm. McGrigor Innes. | Messenger, Forestal Land Timber and Rail Co. |
| ,, Fred Hollingsworth. | Messenger, Constitutional Club, W.C.2. |
| ,, Albert E. Collins. | Clerk and Messenger, Guedalla Jacobson and Spyer. |
| ,, Henry Adams. | Clerk and Messenger, Barber and D'Ambrumenil, Ltd. |
| ,, Frank Bartlett. | Door and Carriage Attendant, Finnigans, Ltd. |
| Mr. Harry Jacobs | Hall Porter, Madame Handley Seymour. |
| ,, James Smith, V.C. | Clerk and Messenger, Shaw, Savill, and Albion Co., Ltd. |
| ,, Herbert Lansdell. | Messenger, United Service Club. |
| ,, Ethelbert Nicholls. | Office Attendant, Products Corporation, Ltd. |
| ,, Arthur Hy. Charlton. | Night Watchman, H.M. Office of Works. |
| ,, Benjamin S. Chesson. | Porter and Caretaker, The Sanctuary, Westminster. |
| ,, Joseph Comerford. | Night Watchman, H.M. Office of Works. |
| ,, James Wm. Ledger. | Post Clerk, Grahams and Co. |
| ,, John Joseph Hillier. | Post Clerk, A. W. Broad and Co. |
| ,, Albert E. Cornford. | Cyclist, West Strand, Telegraph Office. |
| ,, William H. Redman. | Porter and Messenger, H. Stokes and Sons. |
| ,, Sidney Arthur Cottle. | Messenger, Samuel Sanday and Co. |
| ,, John Hill. | Caretaker, Rye and Eyre. |
| ,, Alfred Gunston. | Timekeeper, W. Clowes and Son, Ltd. |
| ,, George F. Chapman. | Liftman, Thames Paper Co. |
| ,, Thomas Gambell. | Enquiry and Post Clerk, Harris Cheetham and Cohen. |

The names of old Buffs in the Corps employed in the Provinces will be published in our next number.

### The Quarter-Master Sergeant.

BY PTE. J. SPICER.

OF the variety of esteemed personages existing in an Infantry Battalion it is doubtful if you will find a more varied individual than the Quarter-Master Sergeant. Somehow he ascends and descends more frequently in the estimation of the men in his Company than any N.C.O. or higher rank in the same command. If you have ever summarised one week's work that this individual is called upon to perform you will have found that it is proportioned into four distinct parts.

On Monday and Tuesday, he becomes,—An Encyclopedia—A Personal Adviser—Fortune Teller, —Solicitor, and many other aliases.

Wednesday and Thursday, he can, with utmost certainty predict :—

Who or how many men are behind with the rent.
How many expect to hear of a death in the family.
How many doctors bills are still outstanding.
How many would like to buy a pair of civilian boots.

How many birth-days are to fall (coincidently) on that day of all days, "Pay-Day."

On Friday, he becomes the shining light of two-hundred or more men—a hero—saint and good samaritan according to their expectations when, two salutes and a tender smile, places them in possession of a much needed requisite.

But on Saturday, oh !

He becomes an ordinary human being, once more existing as Auditor of Accounts, receiver of Domestic, Financial, and Personal worries.

There is no Sunday off for him, he must always be near in case a problem arises, fortune plays fickle with this individual, for, when he is on the spot he is never in demand, but should he stray to the Sergeants' Mess for a few minutes it is—"Has anybody seen the Quarter-Master Sergeant ? Now ! Who would like to be a Quarter-Master Sergeant ? Not me thank-you. I've had some !

# The Mark of Retreat.

*Our Short Story.*

By Cecil Dye.

THE colonel of the 10th Camelfords was an irascible gentleman with a reputation gained in the past. Unkind critics said he distinguished himself in the Wars of the Roses. The length of his record was only equalled by the shortness of his temper, and a nice new subaltern was always apt to be offered up as a sacrifice on the altar of the old warrior's irritability. Lieut. Smith arrived with a reputation; he was heralded, not exactly by a blast of the trumpet of fame, but more, by the insidious insistency of newspaper notoriety. Lieut. Smith had won £1,000 in a newspaper competition. He was an inveterate gambler, and appeared to be the adopted son of the goddess of Luck. Making a bet with Smith and cherishing any hopes of winning showed as much optimism as would be displayed by a hopeful ostrich sitting on a milestone in the hope of hatching a cathedral. At least the 1st Battalion said so, and the O.C. commanding that battalion wrote to his friend to that effect.

Therefore, developments were not unreasonably expected when Smith was transferred to the 10th.

For a week the mess was disappointed, the presence of the newcomer was hardly noticed. He showed what many junior officers would consider a deplorable lack of originality and was content to wear a uniform as laid down in the King's regulations; brick-dust ties and earth of Egypt socks found no place in his wardrobe. He did not wear a bangle, neither did his hair give one the impression of having been anointed with boot polish. Furthermore, he was a hog for work, and he knew his job.

The colonel felt he had a grievance, he was inclined to growl at having nothing to growl at.

Smith had been with the 10th a week when the colonel got his opportunity. As things went in those days, the 10th were justified in being proud of their mess. A large old-fashioned commercial room of a country hostelry had been converted for their use, and on this particular occasion the tables had been cleaned and the colonel was talking of his apprenticeship soldiering in South Africa.

"Do you remember that night at Offburg," remarked the major, "when Galloway emptied his revolver into the side of an inoffensive cow and, incidentally gave the Boers a clue and led to the hottest night we had in the whole campaign?"

"Do I remember?" echoed the red-faced old autocrat, carefully removing the ash from his cigar and pushing the tray further from him in a manner suggesting voluminious memories. "Why, I got something that night sufficient to keep *that* scramble fixed in my mind until my dying day. Why I——"

And here Lieut. Smith launched his little verbal torpedo which, metaphorically, caught the colonel square in the engine room.

"Was that when you got wounded in the back, sir?" Lieut. Smith queried mildly. Every eye was immediately turned towards the audacious questioner. Had the colonel exploded on the spot I don't think any man present would have been at all surprised. Sorry, perhaps—but surprised—no! It was well known that "The Old Man" had as many scars on his body as a music hall star has on her reputation, but on the *back*—it was unheard of!

"What the deuce do you mean, sir? Why I—confound you, sir—er, I—" And so he continued like a machine gun working over-time.

Lieut. Smith remained calm and, sad to relate, smirked—there is no other word for it, obviously, blatantly smirked.

"I am sorry, sir," he remarked in his blandest tones. "Of course, I ought not to have mentioned it. I do not suggest for one moment you turned your back to the enemy. Somebody said that among countless scars you had got one plumb between the shoulder blades, that's all. I'm sorry."

"Look here, Mr. Smith," said the colonel ominously. "I understand you rather fancy your luck as a gambler. You've made an impossible suggestion here this evening, and I'll bet you £5 I can satisfactorily prove—here and now—that I have *not* been wounded in the back."

The colonel paused, Lieut. Smith smiled ruefully.

"I'm very sorry sir," he repeated. "I ought not to have referred to it."

"Sorry be hanged!" yelled the colonel planking a £5 note on the table. "Will you bet?"

Lieut. Smith looked sadly at his superior officer and, with the air of one who does something very much against his will, placed another note on top of the colonel's. by this time, the colonel had his tunic unfastened, his braces flung from his shoulders, his shirt pulled over his head, and was busily engaged in divesting himself of his vest. The major lent his assistance in the latter operation and thus, stripped to the waist, the angry officer exhibited himself to his subordinates.

Scars of various shapes and sizes marked the old warrior's chest and arms—but his back was destitute of anything suggesting a possible trace of a scar.

A murmur of approval went round the mess.

"You lose, Smith," said the colonel severely.

"Yes, I lose," said the young man desolately. "I also apologise, sir, very heartily, if you will accept it?"

"Ha—hum—well—well—" grunted the colonel. But his face relaxed a little as he picked up the two £5 notes.

The next day the officer commanding the 9th received a communication from his friend the colonel of the 10th, in which the incident recorded above was related with considerable glee.

In his letter the Colonel suggested that Lieut. Smith had found the 10th rather more than his match, and, incidentally, paid for his education.

In due course, the colonel received an acknowledgement, the concluding passage of which read as follows:—

"……I sincerely congratulate you on getting anything in this world, let alone money, out of the ubiquitous Smith. Nevertheless, you can keep him, and I wish you joy in your acquisition. He's a jolly good chap, but we can manage very comfortably without him. It may interest you to know that before he left us he made seven bets of a level fiver each, backing himself to make you take your shirt off before the mess. Seems he's £30 in, isn't he, plus a rather good joke?"

And the colonel's face matched the new terra cotta wall-paper in the mess as he tore the document up and dropped it into the waste paper basket.

[*Short stories of about* 1,000 *words are invited for this page. Ed.*]

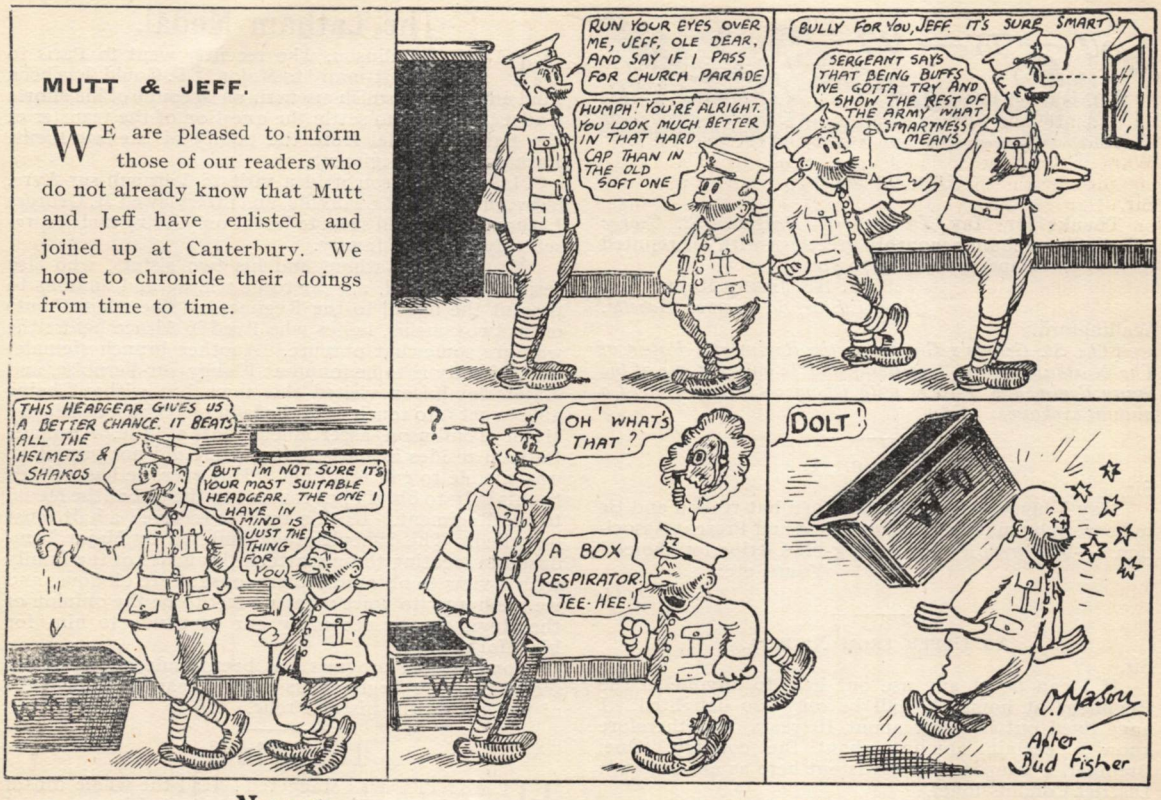
**August 19th.**

*Past Buffs wishing to play in the Past v. Present Cricket Match which is to take place at the Depot, Canterbury on August 19th should communicate with Lt. Col. R. S. I. Friend, Bramling, Nr. Canterbury.*

*For further particulars see page 112.*

**MUTT & JEFF.**

WE are pleased to inform those of our readers who do not already know that Mutt and Jeff have enlisted and joined up at Canterbury. We hope to chronicle their doings from time to time.




## Nancy.

THE Poets sing of love divine, of flames of fire unending,
Of burning thoughts, of fevered brows, of sighs and kisses blending.
But all this warmth leaves me quite cold, for such I have no fancy;
Be it sunny day or chilly eve,—why, I just sing of Nancy.

The poets sing of starry orbs, of limpid depths and well-pools,
But all such stuff—'twist you and me—is only meant to tell fools;
And I can't draw my love from these, just eyes take most my fancy,
And when I see these facing me,—why, I just sing to Nancy.

The poets sing of magic forms, of eth'real shapes and mystic,
Of swanlike necks and slender hands, and other things artistic;
But I can't grasp such phantasies, more earthly things I fancy;
When round her waist my arm I place—why, I just sing to Nancy.

Though poets rave and loudly sing, I think 'tis only dreaming,
Just dreams of love that have no warmth-like moonbeams coldly gleaming.
But Nancy's all the world to me, she's all that poets fancy;
But best of all she's solid fact—she's sixteen stone, is Nancy.

H.

**The Editorial Office of *The Dragon* has been removed to Sefton, Bridge, Nr. Canterbury, to which address all Subscriptions, Correspondence, and Mss. should be sent in the future.**

## "The Private of the Buffs."

IN an article in the *Times* of June 21st referring to the beauty of the old farmhouses and cottages of Kent occurred the following:—

"Sir Francis Hastings Doyle, who succeeded Matthew Arnold as Professor of Poetry at Oxford, founded on the following extract from *The Times* of 1860 one of the most touching of all allusions to Kentish scenery:—

"Some Sikhs and a private of the Buffs..... fell into the hands of the Chinese. .....They were commanded to perform the "Kotow." The Sikhs obeyed; but Moyse, the English soldier, declaring that he would not prostrate himself before any Chinaman alive, was immediately knocked upon the head, and his body thrown on a dunghill.

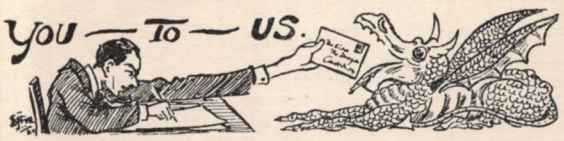
Far Kentish hop-fields round him seem'd,
Like dreams to come and go;
Bright leagues of cherry-blossom gleam'd,
One sheet of living snow;
The smoke above his father's door,
In grey soft eddyings hung:
Must he then watch it rise no more,
Doom'd by himself so young?

There, in a few words, in "The Private of the Buffs," is a picture of the Weald and its people."

**STOP PRESS.**

As we go to press the following good news has reached us from a correspondent in Mespot:—

"The running team under Mr. Foster Hall, M.C., managed to win the three-mile race held by the 18th Division at Mosul, on 14th May. In this event Mr. Foster Hall, although indisposed by a touch of the sun, ran, and though last in his team managed a win for the Buffs.




ONE OF MANY.

Sir,

Thanks for May Number of *Dragon*. *St. George* will gladly exchange monthly greetings with his reputed foe ! ! Luck and prosperity to you.

B. F. ST. JOHN, Major,
*Hon. Editor, St. George's Gazette.*

Wallingford.

[*The St. George's Gazette is the Regimental Paper of The Northumberland Fusiliers, and is only but one of the many Regimental Papers with whom we have arranged a mutual exchange. Ed.*]

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WHAT ABOUT IT ?

Sir,

May I suggest the institution of a hat-ribbon and tie to be worn by members of the " Past and Present Association "—buff with a narrow dark-blue stripe for choice ?

Yours, etc.,
K. O. D.

---

AN OFFER FROM NIGERIA.

Sir,

If I can be of any use out here to anyone in the Regiment at home, I shall be only too delighted. I have lived out here for about 10 years, and therefore know a certain amount about the country. One, Bremner, a temporary Buff, is out here as an Assistant District Commissioner.

Yours etc.,
C. O'HAGAN.

Muringaot,
Nyeri,
Kenya.

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INTER-BATTALION SHOOTING MATCH.

Sir,

I am very interested in the possibility of arranging a Shooting Match between Battalions. This subject was greatly talked about some years ago in the 2nd Battalion either at the time Colonel H. B. Potter was Adjutant, or under the adjutancy of Major the Hon. P. G. Scarlett. A rough draft of conditions etc., was drawn up, and I believe submitted to the Depot and 1st Battalion.

So far as my memory serves me a trophy was to be kept at the Depot and the winners (unit, company or team) inscribed thereon. The trophy was to be put up by the Regiment. An entrance fee was to be made, but whether it was to be an inter-company, or inter-battalion event (Depot to count as Battalion) I cannot remember. The 3rd Battalion and Territorials were to be included.

Perhaps Colonel Potter or Major Scarlett will give us their views, and I sincerely hope, Mr. Editor, that arising out of them, some such competition may be instituted.

The subject is worthy of the support of all Buffs.

Yours, etc.,
ALAN ANDREWS.

The Depot, Canterbury.

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*(Owing to extreme pressure in our space, a number of letters have unavoidably had to be held over).*

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**WANTED.—The names and addresses of all old Buffs to enable us to send them a Dragon.**

## The Latham Medal.

MAJOR Tomlinson, who recently went to Paris to act as " best-man " to Major E. F. Gould, has been kind enough to furnish us with an account of his efforts whilst in France to settle the question of the transfer of the Latham Medal from the family of the late Lieut. Latham to the Regiment.

Major Tomlinson paid a visit to Verneuil-sur-Avre, between Paris and Granville, and interviewed M. Georges Latham who would seem to be the only living male representative of his family.

M. Georges Latham and his two sisters, who also reside at Verneuil, appear to be willing and anxious to present the medal to the Regiment. The whereabouts of his two cousins, ladies who lived in Alsace before the war, are somewhat obscure. Another branch (female) of the family is to be found at Blangy-sur-Ternoise, and Major Tomlinson visited this town but without being able to get into touch with the ladies. Whilst at Blagny Major Tomlinson ascertained that a Mlle. Armande Latham resides in Paris, but as time did not permit he was unable to call upon her. However, he has written to this lady to obtain her consent to the gift of the Medal to the Regiment. Until a reply is received a halt must be called. The difficulties encountered by Major Tomlinson in locating these scattered branches of the family with a view to obtaining their consent are obvious, and we are happy to voice what we feel to be the opinion of the Regiment by recording our gratitude to him for his efforts.

Considerable progress has been made and it really seems that the Regiment is within measurable distance of possessing this historic relic.

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## The Final.

HUMANITY was staggered ! Had the whole din of the Great War been concentrated in one awful second, it were as the cheep of a sparrow in the raging tornado.

Elderly ladies whose highest mission in life had been the care of long-tailed Pekinese poodles, were rendered totally oblivious—for the first time, truthfully—of the higher calls of humanity. Portly gentlemen, to whom the thunder of *The Times* had been the big noise of their well-ordered lives, were left senseless on the floors of those sacred clubs where bolshevism was least expected.

Grave men of science, blanched of face, wondered if some inexperienced dabbler in the science of physics, stumbling on the secret of the atomic theory, had blunderingly released the whole atomic energy of the earth.

Mediums, who had tampered with the unseen spirits of other worlds, believed an infuriated Satan to be materializing vast legions of the nether regions for the purpose of confounding the sceptics of this sphere.

Humanity was staggered ! stunned ! bludgeoned to a state of being dimly conscious that a fast-disintegrating world was hurtling through a startled and wondering universe to something still more awful than that first cataclysmic, catasthropic crash ! Carpentier and Dempsey had MET.

H.

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**Editorial Note.**

*The Annual Subscription to The Dragon is 8/- (post free). In addition the Paper is obtainable, price 6d., in all units through company commanders ; and also at the Territorial Drill Halls. News, personal notes, short stories, sketches and drawings are invited. All communications and MSS. should be sent to the Editor, Sefton, Bridge, Nr. Canterbury. The Paper is published on the 1st of each month, and copy for insertion in the coming issue should reach the Editor not later than the 14th of the current month.*

# "Beneath Bell Harry."

By the Man with the Squeegee.

IT is not illuminating to record that we too have had a drought. But the fact remains that everything is very dry, Including the throat and inkpot of the writer of this. The reasons are many. At this time of the year one accumulates small jobs even as a sheep dog gathers ticks near a river on a summer's evening, and the playing so many parts in the short space of twenty four hours leaves little time for that reflection on human affairs that the writing of this page demands.

The Reservists came back to us to be prepared and despatched to civil life. We wish them every fortune in their peaceful vocations and hope that the cases of men who have not found their old jobs open are very few.

We are in the throes of musketry at present and every morning there is a general exodus to Blean. Table "A" has been completed and the struggle with Table "B" is in progress. The invigorating air of Blean is very welcome in the heat wave that has descended upon us.

We are all looking forward grimly to the Great Week and the festivities connected with it. In the Australian Match, if it takes place, we hope to see a little Cricket. Later in our own week we hope to play some and to see hosts of old friends.

Cricket has been going better, and up to date the Depot has won three matches. Brief results are appended.

### Cricket.

The King's School beat the Depot by 22 runs. For the Depot C.S.M. Couchman and R.S.M. Dare scored 24 and 23 respectively and Lt. Maiden took 7 wickets for 46 runs.

The Depot beat Littlebourne by 73 runs. Scores: Depot 90. (Lt. Willows 21 not out; Lt. Maiden 21). Littlebourne 17. (Lt. Maiden 6 wickets for 9 runs; L/Cpl. Parry 3 wickets for 7 runs). Loudwater C.C. beat the Depot by 105 runs; Scores: Loudwater: 171 (L/Cpl. Parry 5 wickets for 67. Lt. Maiden 4 wickets for 59). Depot: 66 (Cpl. McNeir, 30, C.S.M. Couchman 15).

The Depot beat Bekesbourne by 21 runs. Scores: Bekesbourne 97 (Lt. Maiden 4 wickets for 16, Corporal McNeir 3 wickets for 9). Depot: 118 (Lt. Maiden 46 not out. Major Crookenden 15, R.S.M. Dare 14). A Regimental Team beat Wye College. Scores: Wye College 57, (Capt. Cremer 5 wickets for 30: L/Cpl. Parry 2 wickets for 9, and Lt. Maiden 2 wickets for 13). Depot: 100 (Capt. Cremer 29, Cpl. McNeir not out 20, Lt. Maiden 14).

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### Sergeants' Mess.

Nothing of an outstanding nature has happened during the past month that calls for any special mention unless it be the disbanding of the Reserve Forces. All our Reserve Members, and all other ranks, have gone; as a matter of fact the whole of them were demobilized without a hitch within 72 hours of their return from Colchester, which, we venture to think, was a smart bit of work.

We miss them right enough for they were a fine body of chaps, and it is scarcely necessary to chronicle our regrets at their exodus, with which went our very heartiest wishes for their speedy settlement once again to their civil occupations. Some, we hear, and hear too with no small surprise have lost their billets through being called up. That's scarcely "Cricket!" They were still soldiers and were merely obeying orders in rejoining the Colours, and surely it was up to their employers to keep their jobs open for them, for their recall was, when all is said and done, with a view to safeguarding the Civil community.

We are having plenty of sport. Nightly Tennis parties—and some of the ladies are becoming proper "Lenglens," who in time will be able to give us mere male men some food for thought unless we do a mighty buck-up.

We have had two rattling Cricket matches with the Machine Gun Corps. For the first, on June 8th, the M.G.C. visited us here from Shorncliffe but had to return home beaten by four wickets. Married families accompanied the team and thoroughly enjoyed the day's outing and the happily arranged afternoon tea in the Marquee on the ground. But their enjoyment in no way surpassed that of ours when making the journey to Shorncliffe in open cars on June 15th to play the return match. The weather was glorious, and only those who have driven through the lovely lanes and villages in this part of Kent can begin to realise what the countryside is like and what almost indescribable beauty is to be seen. The start from Barracks was made at 10.30—Shorncliffe reached at 11.30, (we took a snack of Luncheon with us), and between then and 2 o'clock (we suppose we ought to say 14·00 hrs.) the party split up, some wandering to Hythe, some to Folkestone and some to Sandgate, where the kiddies enjoyed their romp to the top of their bent. The match commenced shortly after 2, and we did, as we set out to do, whack the M.G.C. in no small fashion. Against the bowling of Sergeants Maillard and Dennis they seemed powerless, and the whole side was skittled out for 37 runs. We knocked up 183, the principal scorers being R.S.M. Dare, and Sergts. Hook, Maillard and Alger. After the match we gathered at the Mess where an impromptu Sing-song was indulged in and the usual speeches of good-fellowship made. The return drive was, if anything, better than the outgoing one. The country-side seemed hushed, save for an occasional twitter from the birds in the leafy lanes, and the setting Sun lent colour to what was to our minds one of the most delightful bits of scenery ever witnessed.

Dead beat and tired, we got in at about 9.30 and all of us very soon tumbled into bed, after briefly recounting our individual opinions on what we shall all look upon as one of the happiest days ever spent by the Members and Families of this Mess.

One Member was heard facetiously to remark that he would "soldier like blazers" if he could have a similar outing every other day. Alas! Yes. and "a lack" of funds, too!

W.M.S.

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### Corporals' Mess.

Yet another step has been taken towards the re-establishment of normal Army life, by the revival of a Corporals' Mess in the Depot.

On the 28th April last a meeting was called, and presided over by R.S.M. Dare, where this matter was thoroughly gone into, discussed, and finally settled, with the result that once again we are "as you were."

(*Continued on next page at foot of 1st column*).

## Regimental Dictionary.

(with acknowledgements to *The Machine Gunner).*

BARRACKS.—Places of residence noted for the frequency with which they become damaged. "Barracks may rise, and barracks may fall, but barrack damages go on for ever."

BULL'S EYE.—A circular black aiming mark on a target, notable for its remarkable evasiveness, and ability to dodge bullets fired at it. Bull's eyes are to be seen on any rifle range except Hythe.

CAMP.—A collection of dwelling places for soldiers, pitched or erected on a site, the complete isolation of which is as a rule, its chief characteristic.

CANTEEN (WET).—The military cap-band emporium. The sale of cap-bands causes considerable swelling on the credit side of the N.A.C.B.'s balance sheet. The fact that strict honesty prevails behind the counter is amply demonstrated by the employee's pathetic eagerness to give every customer the biggest cap band he possibly can. This honesty is so persistent that the more unable to judge for himself a customer becomes the bigger the cap-band he obtains for his money.

CAP.—A garment given to soldiers to provide a means of wearing the badge. The theory has been advanced by many students that a pattern of this article called the "Brod," modelled on the style then in vogue in the German Army, and inflicted on our Army a decade or so ago, created a storm of ridicule so biting as to precipitate by several years the advent of the vengeance the Kaiser had in store for us.

CAT (OFFICE).—A well known and somewhat cadaverous member of the *Editoribus Regimentammon Journalius* genus Capt., wears his hair long. Of prowling tendencies, he is ever on the watch for items of an interesting nature in order to enable him to satisfy the appetites of his subscribers. May be seen in his wild state at any time, with a damp towel on his brow, evolving Stunts.

DESERTION.—The name given by unsympathetic authorities to a holiday taken on one's own initiative where the mere formality of obtaining permission beforehand has been dispensed with.

DETENTION.—Curtailment of one's liberty brought about by taking too many with Regulations and Orders.

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**"Beneath Bell Harry"**—*continued.*

The need for this was much felt, as there was a notable absence of that fellowship and good-feeling which comes only, by close association, whether on or off parade, and also on the Sports' field.

Many hearty thanks must be given to the O.C. and Adjutant for the manner in which both have helped by moral, and other, support in attaining the above result.

Great credit is due to the Games Committee, who, by their energy, have provided the Corporals with something of outside interest whereby they can show their prowess, and at the same time ease their lungs, other than by shouting "Left, right, left etc.," I mean Cricket matches, the results of which are as follows.

1. Corporals versus Sergeants. Lost by 29 runs. This match was commented on in last month's issue in Sergeants' Mess Notes.

2. Corporals versus Band, won by 11 runs. Corporals versus Privates, won by 18 runs. Corporals versus R.A.M.C., won by 20 runs.

Corporals versus Sergeants (Return Match) won by Corporals. Scores: Sergeants 74. Corporals 134.

A win, by 60 runs! Things according to rumour are not ending here, but however, "Mum's" the word or we may be giving away information useful to—etc. Next month we shall have more to say in ye olde Dragon.

*"Le petit Caporal."*

## Forthcoming Events at the Depot.

ALL Buffs young and old will be interested to know of the forthcoming events, which are tabulated below.

On Sunday, JULY 31st, at 2 p.m., General Lord Horne, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., A.D.C. unveils Memorial (fuller details appear on another page).

On Monday, AUGUST 15th the Depot Cricket Week opens with a match "A" *v.* "B" Company.

On Tuesday, AUGUST 16th the Depot sports take place—a social event at which the Officers, Sergeants and Corporals will be at Home to their friends, on the ground.

On Wed. and Thurs., AUGUST 17th and 18th it is anticipated that a really hot Regimental XI. will play the Small Arms School—who generally have a pretty good XI.

On Friday, AUGUST 19th the Match of the Past *v.* Present takes place.

Lt.-Col. R. S. I. Friend is getting the Past side together and Mr. S. J. F. Maiden the Present side.

This Match, it is hoped, will draw a large crowd of Buffs together from all East Kent and wherever they are to be found; and to assure them of their material welfare being provided for, the following programme for the 19th has been arranged:

1 p.m., Dinner on the Ground—Tickets exclusive of refreshments can be obtained on application to The Hon. Sec., Past and Present, Buffs Depot, Canterbury not later than 7 days previously *i.e.* 12th August. A Postal Order for 1/6 must accompany each application, and 1/6 for each extra dinner required.

Any Buff or Ex-Buff may apply for tickets, and the dinner is not exclusively for the Association.

Tea is similarly obtainable at 6d. a head.

The evening is to be devoted to a Whist Drive.

There will be 8 Prizes and conversational facilities for old friends at the place where refreshments will be found in plenty at popular prices.

The day need not end here. For those who live at a distance arrangements are being made to accommodate them at the Depot. Seven days notice is all that is requested, so that ample time may be given to the Staff of the Depot, who will be kept pretty busy, but one and all doing their best to put up a good show for their old comrades

### Births, Marriages and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

**Evans.**—On Empire Day, May 24th, the wife of Mr. T. H. Evans, late Lieut., 4th and 8th Battalions, The Buffs of a son.

**Geurin.**—On 29th March at Cannanore, the wife of C.S.M. C. Geurin, 2nd Battn. The Buffffs, of a son.

**Small.**—on March 6th at Cannanore, the wife of Pte. C. Small, 2nd Battn. The Buffs, of a son.

**Williams.**—On March 3rd at Cannanore, the wife of Sergt. F. Williams, M.M., 2nd Battn. The Buffs, of a son.

DEATHS.

**Pinnick.**—On June 1st at 9 Cotton Mill Row, St. Stephen's, as a result of War Service, William James Pinnick, formerly 6th Battalion The Buffs, aged 33 years.

[*Personl announcements for this feature are welcomed from all Past and Present Buffs. No charge is made for insertion. Ed.*]

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**We invite YOU to send a Post Card recording your vote either for or against our Competitions. See page 116.**

## A Novice in Fleet Street.

By An Old Buff.

IT will be remembered that about eighteen months ago *The Daily Mirror*, through Lord Rothermere, offered eight openings on its editorial, advertising, business and photographic departments (two on each) for demobilised officers of good education, with or without experience. The only qualification required was the capability of "making good."

I submitted myself as a candidate, duly received notification from the Appointments Dept. and then an urgent wire from the *Daily Mirror* to attend at once for interview. I began to feel a little nervous. Would my usual calmness and self-confidence stand by me? At any rate, I reflected, it couldn't be any worse than a Medical Board or a Pensions Investigation committee—it would probably be Lord Rothermere himself, and I should have an opportunity of saying all I wanted and possibly do a little propaganda work for the *Ex-Service Man*, the paper on which I was then working.

My heart was in my mouth when I reached the door of the Interviewing Room—it sank to my feet when I stepped inside. Not Lord Rothermere—but *another Board*—the Editor and the Directors—four of them sitting round a table, each with papers, which they appeared to be examining closely—in reality taking good stock of me out of the corners of their eyes.

"Well, Mr.——, you think you'd like to be a reporter on the *Daily Mirror*, do you?" said the first brusquely.

"I do," I replied meekly.

"And *why* do you think that, Mr.——?" was fired at me by another member of the Board.

I explained shortly that I had been for two years a junior secretary on the editorial staff of a famous London daily, where I collected a good deal of what I considered to be useful knowledge of general editorial work. I was unable to tell them any more—another question was flung at me, and about half-a-dozen more—and in five minutes I was out of the room again.

Before I went the chairman said, "Well," Mr.——, you consider you are the man for the post on this paper's editorial staff. Go now and write us a letter of about 200 words stating your reasons for applying for this post."

"No better still," said another member, "let him write 200 words stating why his experience of two years as a junior on the *Daily*——" editorial staff entitles him to the belief that he is qualified for this opening."

I retired to another room, where I found half-a-dozen other would-be Austin Harrisons all writing similar letters.

I was, I must admit, a little disappointed at not being able to state more fully my qualifications verbally, so I made the most of it, by eulogising myself in writing. Having handed in my epistle I was informed that I should hear from them in a few days.

And, after all that effort, I did not get the job—my only consolation being a charming letter from the editor who, while thanking me for coming, regretted etc., etc.....

Once more I placed my name on the books at the much-maligned Horrex's and once more, I went before panels, and filled up innumerable forms, but all with no result. I was just about to offer my services to H.M. Government as a fully-fledged private when my chief, who had been doing his best to get me fixed up, but with like result—offered me a job on a service paper of which he was owner and editor, and the offices of which had just been removed to Fleet Street.

I accepted, and brimming over with pride and confidence, I made my first start as a journalist, receiving for my work as assistant editor (how my breast swelled with importance at the title "assistant editor?") the sum of £5 per week.

## Major Gould's Wedding.

THE happy consummation of a war romance was provided at Paris on June 2nd, when Major E. G. F. L. Gould, of "The Buffs'" Depot, Canterbury, was married to Mlle. Jeanne Liaume, of Paris, in the Chapel of the Invalides. It was the first occasion upon which an Englishman has been married in this picturesque chapel, near which lie the remains of Napoleon, special permission having been granted by the French Government for the ceremony to take place there. The bridegroom and his "best man," Major F. W. Tomlinson, by special permission of the War Office, wore the full-dress uniform of The Buffs. The French legal marriage had taken place on the previous day.

At the wedding were a group of the bride's patients in their wheeled chairs, one of whom, a young officer, played a violin solo.

About two months ago, Mlle. Liaume paid her first visit to England and made the acquaintance of the officers of the Depot. On the day of the wedding the same officers drank the health of the happy pair at the Officers' Mess in the best Heidsieck. The first part of the honeymoon is being spent in France and the latter part in this country.

Major and Mrs. Gould leaving the Chapel of the Invalides after the wedding ceremony.

*We are indebted to the "Daily Mail" for supplying us with the above photograph and block.*

**PERSONALIA**

*We would like you to*

**SHORT SKETCHES**

*help us develop these features*

**REMINISCENCES**

## Concerning Ourselves.

THE present net sales of *The Dragon* are just on 2,000. The total cost for printing, paper, postage, carriage, blocks, prizes, stationery, salaries, and minor incidental expenses in the production and distribution of 2,000 copies is £82. The total revenue received from sales and advertisements is £74. Or in other words there is a net loss of at least £8 each time *The Dragon* appears, and this without making any provision for expenditure on propoganda to help make the paper better known, etc., or for unsold copies amongst those printed over and above the actual orders received.

There is no subsidy for the paper. There is no money available in the first instance. And even if there were we should prefer not to have it, if for no other reason that we believe the right policy, and the one most acceptable to our readers is, that the paper shall pay its own way.

* * * *

The first vital question at the moment is :—" How can this monthly loss of from £8-£10 be wiped out ? " The only answer is by increasing our circulation by at least another 1,000. A third 1,000 sold at 6d. a copy would yield a small profit, whilst an additional 1,000 added to our net sales certificate, which we are under an obligation to render to our advertisers, would undoubtedly mean a greater advertisement revenue. And revenue from sales and advertisements are the two things upon which a non-subsidized paper are entirely dependent.

The next vital question therefore is :—" How is it possible to add this extra 1,000 to our circulation ? " The answer to this, we think, is by all and sundry bombarding us with ideas, criticisms, complaints, suggestions, and copy until we are forced to bring out a *Dragon* that no one will be able to resist buying ; and by a general booming of the paper by all and sundry whenever and wherever an opportunity occurs.

* * * *

Towards obtaining this end we invite every barrack room, every sergeants' mess, every officers' mess, and every Territorial company to be up and doing and put it across us. We hope our individual subscribers and Past Buffs will do the same. We know all about the increased cost of postage. We've had some and are still submerged by it. But expenditure on a few post cards and twopenny stamps by our readers to enable them to let us know how to better things, will we hope, help us to wipe out that monthly loss of £8. And we hope we are worth this.

Nothing would please us more than to be able to publish in our coming numbers the best constructive criticisms, the best aimed complaints, the most original ideas, the most helpful suggestions, and the brightest short articles received by us as a result of this appeal. But keep these short. Every line saved is a line for someone else. For instance a saving of say ten lines or 80 words, on every page in *The Dragon* means no less than a saving of a whole page for other matter, and we want to get all we can into the paper so as to make it as varied and as interesting as possible. Unfortunately, as it is, we have to hold over each month a considerable amount of copy we would like to see go in. Which is another reason why we are so anxious to add that extra 1,000 to our circulation as we think this, in addition to cutting out the £8 monthly loss, would enable us to add another four pages.

* * * *

That, then, is our side of the story. But what is much more vital and urgent is for us to have yours. And this we await with no small amount of keenness and anxiety.

H.H.C.B.

## The British Soldier and the Empire.

THE subject of this article was suggested to the writer by the welcome arrival of the two last volumes up-to-date of Fortescue's History of the British Army. These last two volumes with the fine maps accompanying them complete the story of the Peninsular Campaigns and conclude with that of Waterloo, Whoever reads this History, unless he happens to be a very advanced historical student, cannot fail to be surprised at the long continued and world wide work of the British Army and the predominant part it has taken in making the British Empire what it is, and even in giving the U.S.A. the necessary start to enable them to become what they are.

* * *

Not long ago there existed a school of Historical writers who claimed that History ought to be a record of commerce, industry, art, politics, etc., and that such unimportant details as campaigns, battles and sieges should be as much as possible ignored, as having very little to do with the life and progress of a Nation.

It is hardly necessary to remark that such ideas disappeared at any rate for a long time since August, 1914. The fact is, if we care to look facts in the face, that it is on the fighting forces of a nation, that the security and happiness of that nation depends. A very little common sense, a very slight study of the past will enable us to see this, but the extent to which civilization depends on the fighting man can only be vaguely realised unless someone takes the trouble to place on record exactly what the soldier has done and what the results of his work have been. In Fortescue's History will be found the whole history of the British Army and its connection with and effect upon the development of Britain, of Europe and of the World and the impression it gives will never be erased from the mind.

Of course this is specially the history of the Army, but in our History wherever the Army goes the Navy takes it there, secures it from interruption and brings it home again and in reading about the almost superhuman achievements of the troops, the Sea Power with and behind them is always present to the mind.

* * *

There are many points of view from which we may look at and read History, we may study the political, artistic, religious, philosophical, social and commercial sections of a Nation's effort. But all this can come afterwards if we desire to go more deeply into the matter. Necessities should come first and luxuries may be attended to later. Not that the reading of such a History as this is not also a luxury. No novel of adventure can compare in excitement with the accounts of deeds of individual heroism, nor bring before the eyes scenes so vivid and wonderful as the pictures of the Great Battle. If you want a sample, pick out the story of Dettingen or of Fontenoy or Blenheim in all of which the Buffs played such a gallant part. The reader seems to be present and to be taking part in the varying fortunes of the great drama and as you read on, the value of the soldier to the life of the nation becomes ever more clear to you.

* * *

Decisive battles have changed the course of human history, have won their way to liberty or plunged nations for centuries into servitude. And more than this, Military History enables us to see, that the true pacifist is, and always has been, the disciplined soldier. Without him Peace at home and abroad is but a temporary thing, which exists on suffrance and which the first gust of human passion can destroy. The soldier has done a great work and has deserved if anyone has the gratitude of his countrymen.

MOHUN ASHFORDBY-TRENCHARD.

# The 5th Battalion at Dover.

THREE moves—then a fire. Fortunately as yet the calm serenity of Connaught Barracks, Dover, where the 5th Battalion (Defence Force) now lie, has not been disturbed by a fire call, although at times one was apt to mistake Bromfield's effort at "Lights out" as a call to bucket and extinguisher. The "part worn" footgear got a severe test on the march from Ashford to Shorncliffe but the Battalion stuck the ordeal extremely well. Even the sight of Algy, Tim, Hookie and a few more of the "never sweats" doing the journey on buckshee "grids" did not upset the morale of the marchers. Everyone appreciated the healthy atmosphere at Folkestone. The four C.Q.M.S.'s were really the only people who felt the strain of toil at Shorncliffe. Whilst one was chasing round the globe for bottles, water, aluminium topped, another was delving into the intricate mysteries of bootology, to which science Sammy devotes most of the Army's time. Our arrival at Dover was greeted by the West Kent's departure for Ireland. We are nicely settled down now; that is the few men who are left, after the guard has been found. When the customary quietude had been restored it was found that "Hookie" had found his paradise. Two heavy draught chargers and a mule—all for the great and noble transport sergeant. Barely had the news been announced than "Hookie" was transformed from belt and bayonet to shining bandolier and spurs and didn't he make his presence felt. Many are the conjectures as to our next abode, but it is taken for granted that wherever it may be, the 5th will always keep up the efficiency of the regiment.

### A Company.

We lead—others follow. It is with profound apologies to "B" Company's storeman, Sammy of "C" and Digger of Don, that we are forced to make this statement, but as the Adjutant's dog is more friendly with the Headquarters Company and the Regimental graces us with his attachment, we necessarily must be to the fore. Prior to our arrival at Dover, were held a tip-top cross-country run, Bishop gaining first honours, and Tomsett and Giles, second and third respectively. There is a rumour floating around the Company that Tibby will shortly divulge the secret of the jungle and we are all looking forward to a hair-raiser. During the past few days the Company Sergeant-Major has been trying to find a recipe for the preservation of white boots and with the assistance of Culley we hope he succeeds.

### B Company.

Greatly to the relief of all Ranks the O.C. Company was safely and securely married on Thursday, June 2nd as advertised.

The strain of tactful enthusiasm added to the all too hopeless task of avoiding the one topic of conversation either officially or un-officially was making itself felt throughout the Company. There have been no sick since the event. However great the strain mentally, the good will was shown materially by the presentation of a very handsome silver sugar bowl to the victim.

The Defence Force is most things, but it is not amphibious as was dramatically demonstrated by Ptes. Godfrey and Griggs of B Company whilst theoretically guarding inexperienced bathers at Shorncliffe.

After experiencing all the horrors of approaching shipwreck even to the time-honoured custom of flying a shirt from an oar they were rescued "in an exhausted condition (vide *Daily Mirror*) in mid-channel." Congratulations on their miraculous escape. The Company as such as almost ceased to exist since arriving at Dover and is scattered in various parts of the Station guarding part-worn Government Stores and other terribly important positions, but everyone seems happy and that is the chief ambition of all these "disgruntled" days.

### C Company.

Actual happenings at South Dilgate Camp, Shorncliffe, with the 5th Battalion the Buffs, D.F.

(1) A fatigue party drawing "Bowls, metal, washing" for "C" Coy. at Q.M. Stores.

Pte. Jones, W. remarks "Why are things always called backwards in the Army? I suppose if we were drawing a ration of spring onions we should ask for a ration of "Onions, Spring" and you would expect the beggars to jump."

(2) A certain Captain in "C" Coy. while dressing early one morning sent his servant to the officers' mess for a copy of B.O.'s as he had not seen the orders for the day—his servant dashed off to execute the order, and turned up in due time with two large bottles of "Blue Nose" or bottled beer, and a tumbler, having misunderstood the officer's order, and possibly thinking he looked as if a good draught of the "early morning beer" would do him good. It is only necessary to report that the bottles were returned to their proper home and that it was eventually Battalion Orders that were consumed.

### D Company Notes.

We arrived at Dover minus Rosie (mounted) and the Pioneer Sergeant, the latter being struck by an anaemic looking dandelion on the roadside. The Company scouts have been very busy recently searching for haversacks, one, C.Q.M.S.'s for the use of, believed to repose inside the boundaries of the south of England, Naturally when Digger, the Danish detective is not on canteen patrol he utilizes his C.I.D. propensities. But Tyler and Co. cannot understand how a haversack could find its way into the Saloon bar of the Hotel Met'. Anyhow it is the sincere wish of the Coy. at large and the officers at Buxton University, that Digger will soon recover from his bad attack of contingentitis. The word contingentitis being derived from the Hungarian word contingo-contengo, meaning "missing." It is very satisfactory to know that out of a Coy. strength of 46, ten men have rolled up for the regular army.

**War History of the Buffs**

*By Colonel R. S. H. Moody, C. B. (p.s.c.)*

*Intending purchasers will render considerable assistance by an early registration of their names with Major F. W. Tomlinson, The Buffs, 2 Cavendish Square, W. 1, from whom full particulars as regards the contents of the History, and probable cost per copy, are also obtainable.*

**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
**High Class Photograghers,**
**Canterbury.**
**Tel. 21 X.**

## Our Competitions.

### To Be—or Not to Be.

THE eleven Limericks received as entries for last month's competition have been judged by the Officers Mess at The Depot, with the result that the following was unanimously chosen as the winner:—

I once asked a man old and bent
"Are you a Kentish Man or Man of Kent?"
He replied "It's enough
That I served as a Buff."
I salaamed—for I knew what he meant.

The above was submitted by Sgt. Potter of the Depot, to whom cheque for one guinea has been sent.

The four entries chosen for half-crown consolation prizes are as follows:

Though my home is not down in East Kent,
Yet four years with the Buffs have I spent,
And that is why I
*The Dragon* will buy
Until my last sixpence is spent.

Submitted by C. C. Worters, Armstrong Castle, Newcastle.

When away on their duties intent
One's friends leave the County of Kent,
You'll invariably find
They'll keep you in mind
If *The Dragon* is each month to them sent.

Submitted by L/C H. Polkinghorne, 1st Buffs, Fermoy.

At an Infantry Depot in Kent,
You *surely* can guess the one meant,
Each man's motto is I'll
Keep my chum o'er the stile
And thus count every day as well spent.

Submitted by Sgt. W. H. Sedgwick, Depot The Buffs.

There was once a young lady of Kent,
Who sat down on a pin that was bent,
It was surprising how quickly
She looked very sickly
In the short time that on it she spent.

As regards Mr. Clifton's challenge, the result of this will be published in our next issue, by which time we are hoping we shall have received further entries.

Now for the future. Candidly we do not think it worth while continuing our competitions unless the entries are at least doubled or trebled. Perhaps we have not yet struck the kind of competition our readers want, or it may be that competitions of any kind make no appeal. In any case this is a thing we are anxious to clear up, and towards doing so here is our plan.

**We write each one of our readers to record his or her vote on a post card either for or against the continuance of competitions on the Dragon. We sincerely hope we shall receive some hundreds of post cards, and that officers will record their votes as well as the rank and file.**

To add to the amusement and interest of this ballot we propose, on the day that the actual printing of our next number begins (probably about the 21st inst,) putting every post card received into a hat, and to each of the senders of the first ten drawn quite irrespective of their vote we shall send a postal order of half-a-crown.

In our next number will be published the result of the ballot, the names and addresses of the half-crown winners, and either an announcement that our competitions are to be discontinued, or, should the voting be in favour, the nature of the competition to be run next month.

**Once again, therefore, we invite all our readers whether they be generals or privates, to send a postcard recording their vote for or against, to the Editor, The Dragon, Sefton, Bridge, Nr. Canterbury.**

## The Ditchwater Stakes.

### Point to Point Races at Kirkuk.

ON April 16th the 30th Lancers held a point-to-point meeting on the ground between the Rifle Range and the river, two miles north of Kirkuk

The Meeting was well attended by all ranks in the station who were able to see the whole course from the Grand Stand—a convenient hill—and also to bet at the totalisator which was very ably managed by Major Stanbridge and Lieut. Bicknell. The course was about three miles long and fairly stiff.

The Ditchwater Stakes was open to all officers of dismounted Units. Officers who wished to ride, and had no horses, were most generously mounted by the Lancers. The Buffs were prominent in this race, although, after two horses had been killed in the first race on the card, a few wished they had been orderly officer.

The following is a list of the starters:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Captain Heyman, | The Buffs. | His foot charger. |
| 2. | Lieut. Backhouse, | ,, | Haymen's pte horse. |
| 3. | ,, Lister, | ,, | His Govt. Charger. |
| 5. | ,, Lloyd, | ,, | 30th Lancer Charger. |
| 6. | ,, Crozier, | ,, | ,, |
| 7. | ,, Hoare, | ,, | ,, |
| 8. | ,, Mitchell, | ,, | ,, |
| 9. | ,, Hamill Stewart | ,, | ,, |
| 10. | ,, Knight, | ,, | ,, |
| 11. | ,, Chester, | ,, | ,, |
| 12. | ,, Hall, | ,, | ,, |
| 13. | ,, G. H. Stainforth, | ,, | ,, |
| 14. | Major MacBrayne, | 15th Sikhs, | ,, |
| 15. | Capt. Hawkin, | 15th Sikhs, | ,, |
| 16. | Lieut. Awdry, | 69th Pack Batty. | His Govt. Charger. |
| 18. | Major Pritchard, | Political Officer, | 30th L. Charger. |

All the horses refused the first leap—a stiffish water jump. They eventually waded through. At the next two jumps both of which were water, there was much confusion and several refusals, both Lieuts. Lister and Backhouse being knocked over. Capt. Haymen then took the lead and kept it until an elevated irrigation channel caused his horse to refuse when Lieut. Awdry went to the front. Lieut. Hamill Stewart came to grief at the next jump, and his horse got away. Mitchell met his Waterloo at the mud wall, his horse shying first at a dead comrade, killed in the first race, and secondly at its rider; this horse however—Tweedle Dum by name eventually finished well up.

From this point the course swung to the left towards the stop butt and eventually turning right handed in a large circular sweep finished in front of the Grand Stand. About half a mile from the finish Major Pritchard was in front of the field, but Lieut. Hoare gradually drew level from second place, and took the lead two jumps (two walls) from home. He finished in great style after riding an excellent race. Major Pritchard was second and Lieut. Backhouse third. Half-way round the course Lieut. Chester broke his girths, but, undefeated, finished, his race bare backed, and was not last; a creditable performance to say the least of it.

Result:—1. Lieut. Hoare; 2. Major Pritchard; 3. Lieut. Backhouse.

The totalisator paid 18 rupees for a 5 rupee ticket and I hear that all the Orderly Room staff were on.

G. F. H.

**The Editorial Office of *The Dragon* has been removed to Sefton, Bridge, Nr. Canterbury, to which address all Subscriptions, Correspondence, and Mss. should be sent in the future.**

# Swimming in the Army.

*(Specially contributed to "The Dragon.")*

IT was not until 1898 that a regular system of Regimental Instruction in swimming was introduced into the Army. In that year the Swimming Baths at Aldershot were built at a cost of about £11,000, thanks to the enterprise and enthusiasm of Lieut.-Col. the Hon. Scott Napier being supported by H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught and Field Marshal Lord Roberts.

On April 26th, 1902 the baths were opened on a self supporting basis, the admission fee being twopence; and in the first two years 78,000 tickets were sold to soldiers. In 1905 instruction for non-swimmers in the Command was provided for for the first time, and between 1905 and 1909 about 1800 of the rank and file took advantage of this. This number gradually increased, and as many as 900 were taught during the 1913-14 Season, up to which time the Baths remained a self-supporting institution.

### A Military Necessity.

On September 1st, 1914 the Bath was taken over by the War Department as a "Military Necessity," and was used for compulsory bathing parades for troops in the Command, also for the W.A.A.C.S., W.R.N.S., Women's Legion and N.A.C.B.

During the first two years of the Great War, the numbers attending these parades frequently reached five thousand a day. From 1918 and onwards the Bath was opened to troops for voluntary Bathing, and Annual Competitions were held under the auspices of the Aldershot Command Athletic Association.

In 1906, when Viscount French was General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Aldershot Command, he presented a Challenge Cup for Water Polo in the Command. The Royal Engineers were twice the holders of this Trophy, the present holders being the 1st Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment. Previous to 1904, only one Water Polo match had been played in the Bath. In 1913 as many as three hundred matches were played.

During 1919-20, at the invitation of the Commandant, Army School of Physical Training, Mr. Henry, Chief Secretary of the Royal Life Saving Society visited the Bath, bringing with him expert swimmers and divers for the purpose of demonstrating the various strokes, etc., used in Swimming. It was then that the troops at Aldershot had the pleasure of seeing such well known swimmers and divers as Professor F. Unwin, Back Stroke Champion; Red Solomon, the once Australian Sprint Champion; George Vernot, a young Canadian Champion at all distances, and last year's Olympic representative; Mr. Ricardo Maund, Miss Yarborough, the Misses Elliott, Miss Bell White and Miss Armstrong, two of Great Britain's representatives in the Ladies' High Diving Competition at the 1920 Olympiad. Much valuable experience has been gained by watching the above experts in action.

In January, 1920, representatives from the Army School of Physical Training visited the Royal Naval School of Physical and Recreational Training at Portsmouth, where they spent several days perfecting themselves in the system of instruction in Swimming in use in the Royal Navy. They brought back much valuable information, and the same system is now in use at the Army School of Physical Training.

### Learning How to Swim.

From this period, Instruction in Swimming improved by leaps and bounds. Swimming (various strokes), Life Saving and Diving, now forms part of the daily syllabus of training for Students attending the Courses at the Army School of P.T. The system of teaching is divided into two stages, Land Drill and Water Drill. In Land Drill, the pupil places himself lying flat on his face across a stool, and a card with diagrams showing the breast stroke action is placed just in front of him. The pupil goes through these movements until he has thoroughly mastered them to the satisfaction of his teacher; and it is found that from three to four lessons of Land Drill are sufficient to make the pupil perform the correct movements, and to inhale and exhale at the proper time without reference to the card. Similar diagrams are displayed on a large sheet at the end of the bath.

In the next stage the pupil is shown by demonstration the movements in the water by the Instructor, after which a special swimming belt which will support him in any position even upright with arms folded is fitted on to the pupil who is told to jump into the deep end of the Bath. The Instructor holds a pole just in front of the pupil who strikes out to reach the pole, imitating the movements he has learned on land and keeping his eyes on the diagrams on the sheet. It has been found that in a very few lessons the pupil can discard the belt and strike out on his own. In order to qualify as a swimmer, it is necessary to have a thorough knowledge of Land Drill, and to swim two lengths of the Bath (67 yards) on the breast. Having mastered the breast stroke the pupils are taught all the various strokes, including the "Crawl," the recognized racing stroke and the one which all fast swimmers now use.

### Trophies and Championships.

A Student while at the School has also an opportunity of competing for the Bronze Medallion and the Silver Award of Merit and Certificates offered by the Royal Life Saving Society for Proficiency in knowledge of Saving Life. During the past year (1920) 103 Bronze Medallions and 14 Awards of Merit were gained by Students while at the School. Proficiency in Diving is also required before a Student can be called a second class swimmer, and he has to be able to perform standing, spring-board and high diving (12 feet) to the satisfaction of the examiner.

The Aldershot Command Athletic Association holds its Swimming Championships annually, the last being held on June 9th, 1920, and an exceptionally good programme was carried out. The Programme arranged for this season will have even greater attractions, in that two separate competitions have been arranged—Competition No. 1 comsisting of "Individual Championships" is to take place on July 6th, and Competition No. 2 consisting of the Inter-Unit Team Swimming Challenge Shield Competition to be held on August 12th. In this Competition provision has very thoughtfully been made for the "novice" as the Programme includes a four lengths relay (teams of 4) open only to men whom the C.O. certifies were unable to swim on April 1st, 1920. The actual programme is as follows:—100 yds. (free style), 400 yds. (free style), 60 yds. (breast stroke), Spring Board Diving, High Diving, and Team Relay Race. An Army Swimming Association has been formed and the first Championship Meeting was held at Aldershot on June 10th, 1920, and some very fine performances were witnessed.

The facilities for Swimming in the Army are increasing yearly. The only Army Baths are at Aldershot and Colchester, but steps are being taken to provide facilities for swimming in Rivers, Canals, etc., whenever opportunity offers itself.

Swimming is one of the finest exercises in the world, and it should be looked upon as a duty by every soldier to be able to swim.

# South Africa to Kirkuk.

**The following list of those who proceeded with 2nd Battalion The Buffs to South Africa on 2/6/05 and are still serving with the Battalion in Mesopotamia will no doubt interest a large number of our readers :—**

| Old Regtl. No. | Rank. | Name. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Major | E. C. Norman. | To Somaliland, 1907, rejoined Battalion 1919. |
| 7051 | R.S.M. | Andrews, A., D.C.M. | |
| 6891 | Bd. Mr. | Hewitt, C. | |
| 6397 | R.Q.M.S. | Edwards, W. | |
| 7201 | Q.M.S. (O.R.S.) | Ings, G. | |
| 7967 | C.S.M. | Vincer, A., D.C.M., M.M. | To Army Reserve 1911. With 1st Battalion during war, rejoined Battalion 1919. |
| 7907 | C.S.M. | Cook, F. | |
| 6923 | C.Q.M.S. | Upson, F. | To Army Reserve 1910. Rejoined 1915. |
| 7957 | Sgt. | Mannering, A. | |
| 7810 | Sgt. | Wilkins, W. | |
| 7217 | Cpl. | Cloke, F. | To Army Reserve 1910. With 1st Battalion during war, rejoined Battalion, 1919. |
| 7178 | Cpl. | Farr, A. | |
| 7999 | L/Cpl. | Emery, S. | To S. and T. Corps 1914-15. 6th Battalion during war, rejoined Battalion 1919. |
| 6632 | Pte. | Manning, A. | To U.K. 1915. To Mespot, 1915. Rejoined Battalion 1919. |
| 6986 | Pte. | Woodhams, H. | Invalided 1918, rejoined 1919. |
| 6584 | Pte. | Martin, W. | To 1st Battalion 1914, rejoined 2nd Battalion 1916. |
| 7869 | Pte. | Howland, A. | |
| 7550 | Pte. | Houckham | To Army Reserve 1910. With 1st Battalion during war, rejoined Battalion 1919. |

### Defence Force and Territorial Bounties.

Service in the Defence Force is to have certain advantages for the members who rejoin Territorial units after demobilization and also for those who may enlist for the first time in the Territorial Army. It is officially announced that, provided they enlist or re-enlist within one month of their discharge from the Defence Force, such men may reckon each day's service in the latter force as two drills for the purpose of the £1 Territorial Camp bounty.

Any member of the Defence Force who joins the Territorials within one month of demobilization will be allowed to count the Musketry Course which he carries out in the Defence Force towards the Musketry Course prescribed for the Territorial Force.

### Skill-at-Arms Badges.

New badges for skill-at-arms and for *personnel* who qualify in certain courses have been approved by the Army Council.

Musketry badges will now comprise crown and crossed rifles in wreath for the best shot among sergeants and lance-sergeants, and star and crossed rifles in wreath for best shot among corporals and privates in a battalion; crown and crossed rifles for commanders of sections and platoon sergeants in the best shooting company of an infantry battalion; star and crossed rifles for best shot of a company, or band; and crossed rifles for marksmen.

The following badges are abolished :—Star for judging distance : and fleur-de-lis for infantry scouts.

**Your assistance is invited to help us increase our circulation by at least another thousand—see page 114.**

### Rifle Shooting.

THE formation of a Territorial Army Rifle Association, to be affiliated to the National Rifle Association, is officially announced. The object of the Association is to foster practice, amongst all ranks of the Territorial Army, with service weapons under such conditions as will conduce to efficiency in modern warfare.

Through the new Association, members who cannot go to central shooting meetings will enjoy opportunities of competing on their own ranges. Competitions open to the whole Territorial Army will be decentralised down to the local ranges all over the country, and it is hoped that at the annual meeting of the National Rifle Association a large number of champion shots of the Territorial Army will be sent to compete with others drawn from all the armed forces of the Crown. A Challenge Cup, open to all serving members of the Territorial Army, has been presented by Major-General the Earl of Scarborough for the Champion Shot of the Territorial Army.

Annual subscriptions for individuals are, 5/- for officers, 2/6 for other ranks; Life Membership, £2 and and £1 respectively. The Annual subscription for an Infantry Battalion is £3.

[*The initiation of this movement would certainly appear to strengthen the suggestion on our correspondence page that an inter-Battalion shooting competition might be arranged. Ed.*]

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## "Stirrup Cup's Memories."

It had been happening at 10.45 hours precisely for the past 7 days. Whatever could it be? What was wrong with the animal?

These questions were asked consequent on the extraordinary antics of the horse which pulls the Depot Swill Cart and the Sports Ground roller, and which, at the above-mentioned hour, had been displaying weird pranks for no apparent reason. At the time mentioned, aged though it is, it would prance and romp about like a veritable 2 year old. What gave rise to it? Was it possessed of devils, or was it by any means attributable to some form of Transmigration? Had the poor old thing, we wondered, ever been a soldier and re-born a Quadruped, and recognising that 11.00 hours was fast approaching and that the Commanding Officer would soon be holding his Orderly Room decided to shew his disdain for the C.O.'s powers and his utter fearlessness of the call warning you to "Mind your Hair?" That we decided, after mature deliberation, (that phrase somewhat savours of Court of Enquiry lingo), was scarcely the reason for its making an ass of itself. What could it be—what *could* we deduce from its senseless antics?

Ah! Listen!! 10.45 hours,—what Call's that? Look at the old thing—just look at the old blighter? What can it all mean? Why, hang it all, it looks as if he intends to make an effort to clear that high Tennis Court wire. It'll never do it—perhaps though it might have done in its YOUNGER days. "Its younger days!" The poor old beast may cherish some happy memories—who knows! In its younger days it might perhaps have enjoyed many happy chases with the Hounds after the sly and cunning Reynard. Who knows!

* * *

"I must go now" said the DEPOT ORDERLY SERGEANT," they evidently want me."

"How's that, Sergeant?"

"Why, bless me, didn't you just hear them sound the good old *Hunting Song*?"

* * *

10.50 hours, and the old Nag is now quite docile, quite contented. Memories! Sweet Memories!!

RATTZ.

### Territorial Officers and Promotion.

A new Army Order provides that, up to January 1st, 1925, officers of the Territorial Force will be considered for promotion on the recommendation of the General Officers Commanding-in-Chief of the Commands in which they are serving, and on their records. But before promotion to Captain or Major, officers who have not previously held such rank for three months prior to the Armistice in the same arm in a Regular, Territorial or New Army Unit, will be required to qualify in certain courses presented for the various arms. Officers above the rank of second lieutenant (except those who are candidates for commissions in the Regular Army) may present themselves if they choose for examination in the subjects which pertain to the arm of the Service to which they belong, as prescribed in the King's Regulations. A field officer or a captain will be examined in the subjects set for captains in the Regular Army, and a lieutenant in the subjects set for a lieutenant in the Regular Army.

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No. 261. August, 1921.

# The Dragon

A PAPER OF THE MEN OF

FOR MEN BUFFS, AND KENT.

## CONTENTS.


| | page |
|---|---|
| Personalia ... ... ... | ... 123 & 124 |
| Regimental Notabilities ... | ... ... 125 |
| War Memorial ... ... | ... ... 125 |
| The Oldest Serving Buff ... | ... ... 125 |
| Battle Honours of the Buffs | ... 126 & 127 |
| Excelsior ... ... ... | ... ... 127 |
| Past and Present Association | ... ... 127 |
| The First Battalion ... | ... 128—130 |
| War History of The Buffs... | ... ... 130 |
| You to Us ... ... ... | ... ... 131 |
| Births, Marriages and Deaths ... | ... 131 |
| Shunted ... ... ... | ... 132 |
| Sighting Shots ... ... | ... 132 |
| Mesopotamia ... ... | ... 132 |
| Mutt and Jeff ... ... | ... 133 |
| I Fly... ... ... | ... 133 |
| A Reminiscence ... ... | ... 134 |
| The Army List ... ... | ... 134 |
| The 2nd Battalion... ... | ... 135—137 |
| The British Legion... ... | ... ... 137 |
| Regimental Newspapers ... ... | ... 139 |
| From an Old Buff ... ... | ... 139 |
| Our Competitions ... ... | ... 139 |
| Beneath Bell Harry ... | ... 140 & 141 |
| Army Historical Research ... | ... 141 |
| Service for Pension ... ... | ... 141 |
| The Fifth Battalion ... ... | ... 142 |
| C.O.'s Inspection ... ... | ... ... 143 |


## Personalia.

WE much regret to have to report the death of No. 1431 Colour-Sergeant J. Ward, who died at Canterbury on 11th July. He went to pension on the 5th March, 1893, but in spite of his age and service he answered Kitchener's call in 1914, and rendered valuable service at The Depot during the earlier phases of the War. He was discharged in 1916 on being found no longer physically fit for War Service. He was aged 68 and was in possession of the '79 African Medal and Clasp. Truly a wonderful old Buff! He was given a full Military funeral which was found by the Depot. The bearers were C.S.M.'s Verlander, Knight and Bones, and C.Q.M.S.'s Spearpoint, Bridgland and Ransley.

The funeral was very impressive, and many wreaths were sent from friends and from the Depot. The Firing Party was composed of recruits, who rose splendidly to the occasion.

---

Whilst on the subject of the 2nd Battalion, it has now officially gone forth that Aden is to be their next station, but when the move is to take place we are not yet in a position to say.

---

Round about the 14th of last month we found ourselves very severely on the mat owing to the late arrival of last month's *Dragon*. Letters came pouring in, some making tender enquiries, and others very decidedly putting it across us, yet all expressing the determination not to miss a single number. For all of this we are both sorry and glad—sorry for the inconvenience caused, and glad for the proof of the interest taken in the paper. We can only say that we hope never to fail our readers in this respect again.

Owing to the fact that the 1st Battalion is in Ireland and therefore unable to send exhibits because of the risk in transit, it has been decided to postpone the proposed exhibition of regimental trophies, prints and relics until a more favourable opportunity.

---

Mr. H. Jacobs (late No. 4490) who many of our readers will remember in the 1st Battalion, is working at Handley-Seymour's in New Bond Street. Jacobs came home from India with the 1st Battalion in 1904, and, taking his discharge after 12 years' service, went to Canada. He came to France with the 1st Canadian Division and was wounded at the 2nd Battle of Ypres and invalided out of the Army. He is living at Fulham.

---

Mr. G. Chinnery (late No. 3651) has recently returned from France where he has been working with the War Graves Commission. Chinnery holds the Chitral medal (clasps 95/96 and 97/98, two South African medals with clasps and two medals for the late war. He enlisted over 30 years ago.

---

Lieut.-Col. L. C. R. Messel, O.B.E., who raised and commanded the 2/4 Buffs during the war, has an extensive collection of regimental photographs which he has kindly placed at the disposal of the Hon. Sec. of the Regimental History. Col. Messel is living at Handcross in Sussex.

---

Another most generous offer comes from Lieut. H. Alexander, 5th Battalion The Buffs, the painter of a water-colour drawing —"Forward The Buffs!"—which is hung in the Imperial War Museum. This picture depicts a scene in the operations of January

**Personalia**—*Continued.*

1917 at the recapture of Kut. Lieut. Alexander writes " if this is considered of any use for the History I shall be very pleased to get the drawing reproduced, and bear the cost of the plate."

Talking of History, we have been most interested in reading " The Green Triangle," being an account of the 2/5 Bn. Sherwood Foresters, by Captain W. G. Hall, late The Buffs.

We hear with regret that Captain C. E. A. Terry has sent in his papers. His appointment as A.D.C. to General Sir Guy Bainbridge has just come to an end.

In our September number will appear the first of a series of short biographies of Colonels of The Buffs, dating from the formation of the regiment. These articles will be illustrated from contemporary portraits, whenever possible.

Major-General Sir Guy Bainbridge is back in England from Belfast—he hopes permanently.

Congratulations to Captain E. Smith on his recovery from a very serious illness.

W. G. Maxted has succeeded " Bert " Spicer as mine host of the Evenhill House, Littlebourne. All old Buffs will find a hearty welcome there at all times.

Sergt.-Major W. H. Cooke was looking extremely well, when we saw him in Tankerton a few days ago.

Charlie Kember was at The Depot recently looking as fit as ever. He has promised to be present at the dinner, full particulars of which we hope to publish shortly.

We hear C.S.M. Oliver Mason is to be posted to the Depot for a tour of duty, and we look forward to the tremendous assistance he will be able to render *The Dragon*.

Sergt. Holness has joined The Depot from the 2nd Battalion for discharge.

" Toff " Wall, C.S.M. is at the Duke of York's School and has been doing well with the bat for the " Dukies."

Jack Bennel late Sergt.-Major of the Depot is back from his trip to the Antipodes looking younger than ever. He doesn't recommend any young fellows going out there at present unless they have capital to invest. He was full of the praises of New Zealand where he said he felt 45 years old instead of 70. We understand that both of his daughters are now comfortably settled down there in good situations. We hope he will let us have a little story about his trip.

Mr. G. Greenland is now to be found in Lydd. He will be remembered as being an old Chitral and S. African Wallah and one of those who came up for some more this time. This he got with the 3rd Battalion at Dover and the 2nd Battalion in France.

Another old Buff at Lydd is Mr. S. E. Chittenden, an old 5th Battalion Warrior in the days when they were volunteers.

We are glad to hear that " Tom " Tapp who left the Band of the 2nd Battalion in 1895 is still going strong. As Big Drummer under Bandmasters Kelly and Griffiths, he will be remembered by many old hands. He is now running a hairdressing and tobacconist establishment in Southfields, and says he would like to exhibit some *Dragon* Posters.

Dick Kesby is one amongst the many who have written in to say that they are coming to the Past and Present Meeting on the 19th. He apparently intends to make a thorough job of it as the following extract from his letter shows :—" In fact put me down for everything including the re-union bar."

Mr. Smith who is doing such gallant work for the paper at Lydd is of course Smudger Smith, Range Warden, Lydd where he has been employed for 15 years. He also looks after the ranges at Rye, and in the evenings changes the order of things by becoming a cinema operator. A busy man indeed, and all the more credit to him for booming the *Dragon*, and for taking a supply monthly on sale or return.

Mr. S. Ingleton, who served in the Regiment from 1905 to 1908 when he was transferred to the A.O.C. is now a member of the Metropolitan Police and writes to us from Ilford. His brother Mr. A. Ingleton who spent 12 years in the Regiment and returned with the 1st Battalion from India in 1904 is now living at Farnborough.

As we go to press we hear that, owing to the reduction in the establishment of the Territorial Forces, it is almost certain that an amalgamation of the 4th and 5th Battalions The Buffs will take place at an early date. With things in the melting pot at the time of writing we refrain from making any comment, unless it be to say how much we shall regret the passing away of one of our Territorial Battalions, and how much we sympathise with the many, both officers and men, whom we know will feel the wrench so much.

The following is a list of those who will probably be playing for the Regimental cricket team during the Depot week.

Lt.-Col. H. de R. Morgan, Lt.-Colonel J. Body, Capt. H. L. Cremer, Capt. D. A. Wilkins, Lieut. D. V. Coote, Major H. S. Hardy, Major Guy Lee, Lieut. H. N. Kent, Major J. Crookenden, Capt. Strettel, Lieut. Maiden, Lieut. Willows, R.S.M. Dare, C.S.M. Bennett, and Sergt. Dmr. Clayton.

Lieut.-Col. R. S. I. Friend, Bramling Ho., Wingham, Canterbury is anxious to obtain more names of N.C.O. and men who would like to play for the Past Buffs Cricket XI. side on August 19th. It would be of assistance if when sending in their names Past Buffs would say whether they are bowlers or wicket keepers, etc. Up to the time of writing the following officers have promised to play :—Capt. R. K. Price, Lt.-Col. L. C. E. Knight, Lt. R. S. Igglesden, Lt. H. N. Kent.

Our best thanks go out to the officers, N.C.O.'s and Men of D Company, 2nd Battalion for supporting the *Dragon* to a man, vide page 137.

**PERSONALIA**

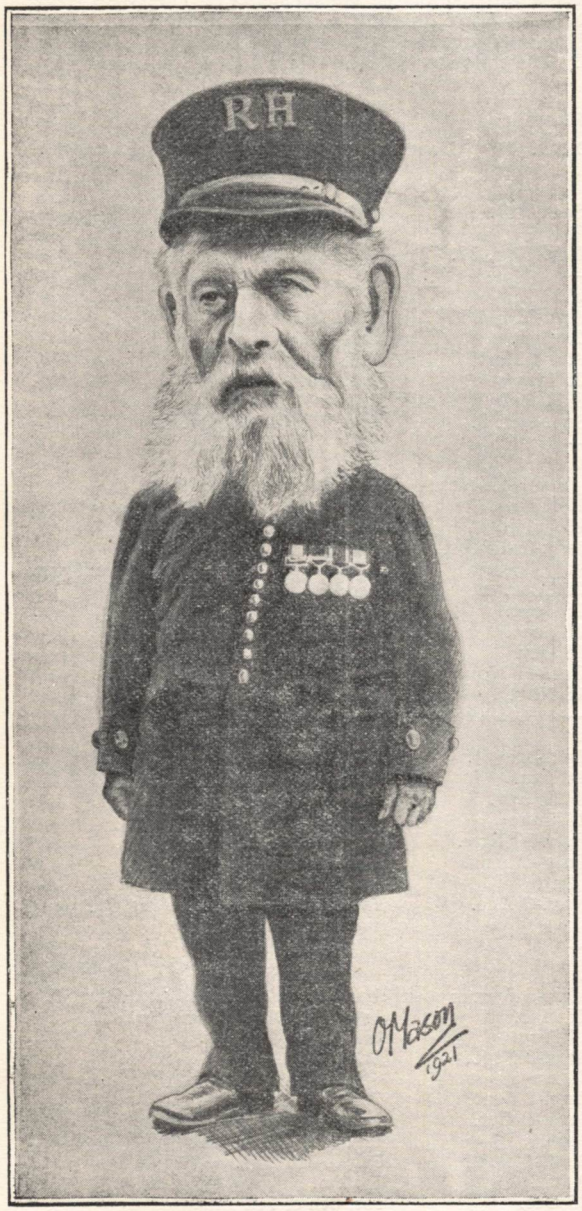
*We would like you to*

**SHORT SKETCHES**

*help us develop these features*

**REMINISCENCES**

## Regimental Notabilities.




PENSIONER S. PHILLIPS (late The Buffs).

Enlisted 1855. Fought with The Buffs in the Crimea, where he gained the Crimea Medal with bar for Sevastopol, and the Turkish Crimea Medal. Later served with the Regiment in India and China, and was present at the battle of Taku Forts. Is also in possession of the G.C. Medal, and is now to be found at Chelsea Hospital.

**WANTED.—The names and addresses of all old Buffs to enable us to send them a Dragon.**

## The Buffs War Memorial.

BELOW will be found the further list of donations received by the Hon. Secretary, The Buffs War Memorial Fund, up to and including July 16th. A full account of the unveiling, with illustrations, will appear in the September issue of *The Dragon*.

| 5TH LIST OF DONATIONS. | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Previously acknowledged ... ... ... | 554 | 17 | 2 |
| Captain H. Massie Blomfield ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. J. R. Willows ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. E. G. Carrier ... ... ... ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Captain F. Whitacre Allen ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Captain H. C. Morley ... ... ... | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Major G. Lee, D.S.O., M.C. ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mr. D. V. Coote ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. F. Gwendoline Hobbs ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lt.-Colonel R. S. I. Friend, D.S.O. ... | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Brigadier-General A. J. Whitacre Allen ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. H. B. Hoare ... ... ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Depot, The Buffs ... ... ... ... | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Lieut.-Colonel A. G. Trollope ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lt.-Colonel H. de R. Morgan ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Major H. E. Ward ... ... ... ... | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Mrs. Ronald ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. M. Prescott Roberts ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Lt.-Colonel C. V. Morland ... ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Major G. A. Porter ... ... ... ... | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| | £624 | 11 | 2 |

## The Oldest Serving Buff?

IT would be interesting to know whether there is any Buff still serving with a longer record of service than that of C.S.M. E. R. Clifton, Here is his record.

Enlisted 1882. Served with the Battalion in Ireland until proceeding abroad, in January 1885, and then continued with them in Malta, Singapore, and India.

Left India for service at Home, February, 1895.

Posted to 2nd Vol. Battalion as Instructor in June 1899.

Discharged to Pension on reduction of establishment 1908 and continued as Acting Instructor until the Territorials mobilized in 1914.

Appointed Recruiter 1914, and served on the Recruiting until the Armistice.

Re-Enlisted August, 1920 as Instructor to Territorial Company in which capacity C.S.M. Clifton is still serving at Tenterden.

AND THAT OF HIS FAMILY.

The record of C.S.M. Clifton would not be complete unless it were accompanied by that of his six sons who served in the Great War as follows :—

Sergt. C. Clifton, 2/Buffs. Wounded in France.

Pte. E. I. Clifton, 2/Buffs and later transferred to Notts. and Derby Regt., Sherwood Forresters. Gassed in France.

Dmr. F. R. Clifton, 5/Buffs. Wounded in Mespot., afterwards granted a Commission in 112 Native Inftry. I. Army and wounded in N.W. Frontier.

Bandsman A. A. Clifton, 2/Buffs. Wounded in France.

Pte. F. R. Clifton, R. Marines, served in Channel and Baltic.

A/C. V. G. Clifton, R.A.F., served in the Baltic.

Band Boy A. E. Clifton, 2/Buffs, now serving in Mesopotamia.

In congratulating C.S.M. Clifton on his very fine family record, we take the opportunity of expressing the hope that we may be able to publish in our pages other Buff Family Records of a similar kind. There must be many of these and we would welcome particulars.

# Battle Honours of The Buffs.

IT will be remembered that in our June issue, we gave a full list of the engagements of The Great War which have been classified as battles by the Nomenclature Committee. We now have to thank Major F. W. Tomlinson for being able to show in which of these engagements The Buffs were engaged, together with the number, or numbers of the Battalions concerned. The following is the table which Major Tomlinson has so kindly supplied us.

**France and Flanders.**

| Battles. | Actions. | Date. | Battalions of The Buffs Engaged. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | **1914.** | |
| Battle of the Aisne. | (i).Action on the Aisne Heights. | 20 Sept. /14. | 1st Bn. |
| Battle of Ypres, 1914. | | 19 Oct.-Nov. 22. | 1st Bn. |
| | | **1915.** | |
| Battle of Ypres, 1915. | | 22 Apr.-May 25. | 2nd Bn. |
| (Grafenstafel Ridge) | | 22-23 Apr. | 2nd Bn. |
| (St. Julien) | | 24 Ap.-4 May | 2nd Bn. |
| Bellewaerde Ridge). | | 24-25 May | 2nd Bn. |
| | Action of Hooge. | 19 & 30 July & 9 Aug. | 1st Bn. |
| Battle of Loos. | | 25 Sep.-Oct. 8. | 2nd, 6th & 8th Bns. |
| | | **1916.** | |
| Battle of the Somme. | | 1st July-18th Nov. | 1st, 6th, 7th & 8th Bns. |
| Battle of Bazentin Ridge. | | 14-17 July | 7th Bn. (capture of Trones Wood) |
| Battle of Albert. | | 1-13 July | 6th & 7th Bns. |
| Battle of Delville Wood. | | 15 July-3rd Sept. | 8th Bn. |
| Battle of Pozieres Ridge. | | 23 July-3 Sept. | 6th Bn. (fighting for Mouquet Farm |
| Battle of Flers-Courcelette. | | 15-22 Sept. | 1st Bn. |
| Battle of Morval (Lesboeufs). | | 25-28 Sept. | 1st Bn. |
| Battle of Thiepval Ridge. | | 26-28 Sept. | 7th Bn. |
| Battle of Transloy Ridges. | | 1-18 Oct. | 6th Bn. |
| Battle of Ancre Heights. | | 1 Oct.-11 Nov. | 7th Bn. |
| Battle of Ancre (1916). | | 13-18 Nov. | 7th Bn. |
| | | **1917.** | |
| Battles of Arras, 1917. | | 9 Apr.-May 4. | 6th Bn. |
| (1st Battle of the Scarpe). | | 9-14 Apr. | 6th Bn. |
| (Battle of Arleux). | | 28 & 29 Apr. | 6th & 7th Bns. |
| Battle of Messines. | | 7-14 June | 8th Bn. |
| Battles of Ypres, 1917. | | 31 July-10 Nov. | 7th & 8th Bns. |
| (Battle of Pilckem Ridge.) | | 31 July -2 Aug. | 8th Bn. |
| (Battle of Poelcapelle). | | 9th Oct. | 7th Bn. |
| Battle of Cambrai, 1917. | | 20 Nov.-3 Dec. | 1st & 6th Bns. (including German counter-attacks.) |
| | | **1918.** | |
| 1st Battles of the Somme, 1918. | | 21 Mar.-5 Apr. | 1st, 6th & 7th Bns. |
| (Battle of St. Quentin). | | 21-23 Mar. | 1st & 7th Bns. & 6th Bn. |
| Battle of Amiens. | | 8-11 Aug. | 6th & 7th Bns. |
| 2nd Battle of the Somme, 1918. | | 21 Aug.-3 Sept. | 6th & 7th Bns. |
| (Battle of Albert). | | 21-23 Aug. | 6th & 7th Bns. |
| (Battle of Bapaume-2nd.) | | 31 Aug.-3 Sept. | 7th Bn. |
| Battles of Hindenburg Line. | | 12 Sept.-9 Oct. | 1st, 6th, 7th & 10th Bns. |
| (Battle of Epehy). | | 18 Sept. | 1st, 6th, 7th & 10th Bns. |
| (Battle of St. Quentin Canal). | | 29 Sept.-Oct. 2. | 6th & 7th Bns. |
| (Battle of Cambrai, 1918). | | 8-9 Oct. | 1st Bn. |
| Battle of the Selle. | | 17-25 Oct. | 1st, 6th & 7th Bns. |
| Battle of the Sambre. | | 4th Nov. | 7th Bn. |

**Macedonia.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Action of Karajakoi's | 3 Sept.-4 Oct., 1916. | 2nd Bn. |
| Affair of Barakli Juma's | 31 Oct. | 2nd Bn. |
| Battle of Doiran (1918) | 18-19 Sept. | 2nd Bn. |

**Egypt and Palestine.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2nd Battle of Gaza, 1917 | 17-19 Apr. | 10th Bn. |
| 3rd Battle of Gaza, 1917 | 27 Oct.-7 Nov. | 10th Bn. (capture of Beersheba) (capture of Sheria) |
| Battle of Nebi Semvil | 17-24 Nov. | 10th Bn. |
| Defence of Jerusalem | 26-30 Dec. | 10th Bn. |

| Battles. | Actions. | Date. | Battalions of the Buffs Engaged. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Southern Arabia.** | |
| Defence of Aden | | 3 July/15 to 31 Oct./18. | 4th Bn. (in Aden 4/8/15-Feb./16) |
| | | **Mesopotamia.** | |
| Action of Shaikh Sa'ad | | 6–8 Jan., 1916 | 5th Bn. |
| Action of the Wadi | | 13–14 ,, ,, | ,, ,, |
| 1st Attack on Hanna | | 21 ,, ,, | ,, ,, |
| Attack on the Dujaila Redoubt. | | 8 Mar. ,, | ,, ,, |
| Action of Falahiya | | 5 Apr. ,, | ,, ,, |
| 1st Attack on Sanna-i-Yat. | | 6 ,, ,, | ,, ,, |
| 2nd ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, | | 9 ,, ,, | ,, ,, |
| Action of Bait Aissa | | 17–18 ,, ,, | ,, ,, |
| 3rd attack on Sanna-i-Yat | | 22 ,, ,, | ,, ,, |
| Battle of Kut | | 9 Jan.-24 Feb. 1917 | ,, ,, |
| | | 25 Jan.-5 Feb. | ,, ,, (capture of Hai Salient) |
| | | 9-16 Feb. | ,, ,, (capture of Dahra Bend) |
| | | 23-24 Feb. | ,, ,, (passage at Shumran Bend) |
| Passage of the Diyala | | 7-10 Mar. | ,, ,, (occupation of Bagdad) |
| Affairs on the Nahr Khalis | | 9-15 Apr. | ,, ,, |
| Passage of the 'Adhaim | | 18 Apr. | ,, ,, |
| Action of Istabulat | | 21-22 Apr. | ,, ,, |
| Afiairs on the Shatt al 'Adhaim | | 30 Apr. | ,, ,, |
| 2nd Action of Jabal Hamrin | | 18-20 Oct. | ,, ,, |
| 3rd Action of Jabal Hamrin | | 3-6 Dec. | ,, ,, |

*[Copies of the June Dragon, containing the full list of the Battles of the Great War can be obtained on application to the Editor, price 8d. post free.]*

## Excelsior.

(A Parody).

The shades of night were falling fast,
As through a Kentish village passed,
A youth who bore a strong desire
To join the Corps his soldier sire
Excelled within.

His mien determined—Stand or fall,
He'd join the Buffs or none at all,
Though voice alluring tried to swerve
The youth in other Corps to serve
"The Buffs," said he.

The sergeant said, "I see the light,
"Of fame for you, and prospects bright."
Above the Hussar's cap badge shone,
But from his lips escaped a groan,
"I want The Buffs."

"Join not The Buffs," his tempter said,
"Be a Hussar, my lad, instead."
"For in that Corps the scope is wide."
And loud that clarion voice replied,
"I'll join The Buffs."

"Oh stay," his sweetheart cried, "No jest,"
"I like the trooper's togs the best."
A tear stood in his bright blue eye,
But still he answered with a sigh.
"The Buffs for me."

"Beware the beetle-crushing crowd,"
"Where riding nags is not allowed."
That was the sergeant's last good-night,
His voice replied "I know I'm right,"
"The Buffs beat all."

At break of day as barracksward
He went his way, he saw the fraud,
As offered him by dodges bare
His voice it rent the startled air
"Now I'm a Buff."

There in The Buffs so happy and gay,
Thankful he passes the time away.
And from his heart that no trouble mars,
A song bursts forth, "My lucky stars,"
"Excelsior. Excelsior."

O. Mason.

## Past and Present Association.

By R.Q.M.S. A. Andrews, Hon. Sec.

I HAVE received many letters of appreciation that the Cricket Match is to be held at the Depot this year, and I hope, now that strikes are over and things more settled that we shall see a bumper crowd on the Depot Ground. The ground under the careful superintendance of Pte. Bowman, assisted by an ex-charger "Furious" reported to be closely related to the Derby Winner, is in splendid condition. In fact many say the Depot Ground has never looked so well. Under the conditions we are all looking forward to a fine exhibition of cricket.

The notice re the Annual dinner will be soon out, I hope that any one having suggestions to make will do so by letter as soon as possible or at the cricket match.

Subscriptions are very slow in coming in from the Battalions. It would be of great assistance to the Regiment as well as to the advantage of the Association if the Sergeant-Majors of both Battalions would bring the Association to the notice of all under them. The subscriptions are very small, *i.e.*, 2/6 on joining and 1/- per annum after. In the pre-war days the two Battalions subscriptions used to amount to between thirty and forty pounds per annum. Now, with all the increase of pay, they do not total FIVE pounds, and many appeals are received for various things by old Buffs which have to be turned down for want of funds. Cannot this be altered? Have a try. I know the 2nd Battalion can do much better if they wish.

Next month, with the kind permission of the Editor, I propose to publish the names of all Life Members of the Association to be followed by the members; and in future subscriptions will be acknowledged in the *Dragon* every month.

There are many Past Buffs in Dover, but one hears so very little of them that instead of being some 60 or 70 you would only think there were two—Marchant and Rowlands. Now Peggy what about the cricket match. "Drummy" Dixon says "You can't play cricket, never could," and Lt.-Col. R. S. I. Friend, Bramling House, Bramling, tells us he is more than anxious to hear from other ranks that they are ready to help him out with his team.

# The 1st Battalion.

CRICKET, Weather, and the Prospect of Peace—such are topics of everyday interest in the 1st Battalion at Fermoy.

In the Cricket world, "B" Company has emerged triumphant, having beaten "A," "C" and "D" Companies, so winning the Cricket Shield, and receiving two points towards the Lord Harris Shield. The match *v.* "D" Company provided the most interesting day's cricket to date. For the winners Lts. Gem and Price distinguished themselves with the bat, the former playing a priceless innings of 79. W.O. Instructor Collins did great work with the Ball. For "D" Company, Pte. Woodward scored 57 and Sgt. Hills 51. "C" Company, having beaten "A" and "D" Companies receives one point towards the Lord Harris Shield.

Particulars of two of the Company matches and our only Battalion match to date are given below. In the latter match Lt. Kimm, A.E.C. and Sgt. Hills provided as merry a spot of cricket as could be desired, piling up 109 runs in three quarters of an hour.

Of course it is just as hot everywhere as it is in Fermoy. We know that. But isn't it hot! Thank goodness (and the C.O.) that we can now bathe in the Blackwater.

Joy and great marks of exclamation!!! What shall we do o'nights should Curfew cease? So used are we to being awake during the night that 'twill be strange to turn in at normal hours (*i.e.* after the N.A.C.B. is closed). But is it to be peace? Will it mean goodbye to Fermoy? How can we leave Fermoy behind us? (Editor dear, we can!).

Readers will no doubt extend their sympathy to Captain J. B. Sharp and N. G. Vertue, M.C., both of whom are in hospital, the former as the result of a bad wrench of the knee, the consequence of a terrific attempt with a cricket bat (if that ball had been hit, it might yet be travelling!); and the latter as the result of an unfortunate accidental G.S.W.-leg, happily not too serious. May they be out and about again when these notes appear.

We have missed Major R. G. D. Groves-Raines, D.S.O. who has been absent from us for a month or so. Expressive of his popularity was his "send off" by all ranks, including the Band. May his shadow never grow less.

Musketry Training and the new scheme of Educational Training are now in full blast. In connection with the latter it is rumoured that one officer has already ordered a mortar-board and gown!

Congratulations must be extended to Sgt. Ravenscroft, "C" Company for winning the Open Mile in the "Queen's" Sports, and taking 2nd place in the Half Mile on the same day, and in the Open Mile at the R.A.S.C. Sports. We hear that "Ravo" is happier at distances of 3 miles and above.

Finally our sympathies are offered to L/C. Mantell of "A" Company who was wounded in an enemy attack while on a trip through County Dublin. We are glad to hear that he is progressing favourtbly.

"EEOWE."

LEAVES FROM A DETACHMENT LOG.

Several moons have grown and waned since any news were sent about the Castletown roche detachment. And in that time many things have happened.

Several months ago we were moved from the expigsty quarters that we occupied for so long into a larger house. Unfortunately it was necessary to evict the owners for the time being, but that was the fortune of war, and could not be helped. Nevertheless it may have been a blessing in disguise, for both parties concerned, Anyhow there can be no doubt that we are now most comfortable. And if we had not come here the place might have been burnt by pseudo-patriotic incendiaries. They have dome more senseless and brutal things than that for the "Cause" which they call by the name of that arch-deceiver "Freedom."

During Captain Pinkey's absence on leave Captain N. G. Vertue assumed command, and was fortunate in bumping some Shinners a few days after his arrival. He was returning from a short patrol when suddenly the flank-guard were fired upon, and a few men ran hastily out from a farm, and doubled across the fields. They were fired upon, and two men captured, one of them being wounded. A short account of this "brush" with the enemy" appeared in the May *Dragon*.

Our spare time we have spent playing cricket and bathing in the river. The other day a great Test match was arranged between the Officers and N.C.O.'s against the men. Before the match much labour was spent in cutting the grass and rolling the pitch. Water-carts were commandeered, and their contents poured upon the ground. But it ran off almost as quickly as off the proverbial duck's back. So the pitch was not quite up to the standard of St. Lawrence. The outfield really was an outfield. There was none of your billiard-table putting-green kind of smoothness about this field. But it has its advantages this kind of ground. The length of the grass is worth quite another eleven fieldsmen—if not more. But sometimes it favours "the batsman," for the ball may be lost twenty (or even ten) yards from the crease! Then comes the chance of the keen batsman to increase his average.

But I suppose all Men of Kent know this kind of Cricket. So there is no need to say any more about it. Now to get back to this great test match (everything's called a Test match now, of course.)

The men went in first and made about twenty-six. I know the score looks small, but please remember that no good carpet shots obtained their true value. They were held up in the wilderness of the outfield twenty yards away from the crease. Then the other side went in and made about fifty. The same kind of performance was repeated a second time until the Officers and N.C.O.'s eventually won by six wickets.

To-day a great Test match was played between 13 and 14 Platoons. Capt. Pinkey played for 13 and C.S.M. Mould for 14. Fourteen platoon led by 13 runs on the first innings, but when they went in a second time their wickets fell like ninepins. Nothing could keep them up. But when five wickets had fallen for about two runs Queenie Priest went in armed with a bat straight from the Canterbury pavilion. He hit like blazes and made sixteen runs. In the end 14 Platoon won by sixteen runs! So we know who to thank for it.

The officers have invented a new game called Tenminton, by reason of its hybrid nature. It is played with a stout cloth ball stuffed with wool, and tennis rackets. The ball is hit across a badminton net into a court marked out partly like a tennis court and partly like a badminton court. The courts are different sizes each side of the net, but this was originally unintentional, and was due to an error in pacing. However, as it was spit-locked out it could not very well be altered.

**The First Battalion**—*continued.*

Talking about cricket again, I will give away a secret. By the way, secrets wouldn't be of any interest unless everyone else knew them, and thought no one else did, would they ? That's why I'm giving this one away for nothing.

Next time it is proposed to play a match Veterans *v.* Others (we won't call them recruits as they might not like it.) But what is a veteran ? We have our—old Tim—and he has done about eighteen years in almost as many regiments. But there is no one else who can get within five years of him—and he can't play us all alone. Could six years and the other war be called a veteran ? R.T.

THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

Nothing very exciting has happened this month, although our "jazzes" and "socials" still continue. These have been combined and are held each Friday. Judging from the attendances the change seems to have proved very popular.

Owing to our inability to get the 30 yards range, our Spoon Shoot has been cancelled, as it had previously been decided to use ball ammunition for the competition. "D" Company have been to Kilworth firing their course, so we may look for a likely winner among them next month.

A party from the Mess accepted the invitation from the "Queen's" to their sports, and evidently had a good time. Congratulations to Ravo, on winning the open mile.

The R.A.S.C. held their sports on the Recreation Ground on Wednesday, July 6th, 1921, and we were again well represented. We had several entries in the Open Mile, but this time Ravenscroft was beaten by Pte. Pacey of the Glosters, who ran second to him at Kilworth.

Tennis is taking very well, more especially with the fair sex, and we have a new song now entitled "Oh Lord send us rain," sung in unison by the married members or at any rate by those who hold allotments.

CRICKET RESULTS.

On Sunday, 19th June, 1921, the Battalion eleven journeyed to Moore Park to meet our old opponents the 7th Brigade Royal Garrison Artillery. In the first innings, we led by 53 runs, and it was decided to continue play, each side batting for 45 minutes. Lt. Kimm and Sergt. Hills gave a fine display of hitting, our score being 109 for 2 wickets, the Gunners replying with 49 for 9 wickets.

Detail of scores below :—

1ST BATTALION THE BUFFS.

*1st Innings.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Bd.-Mr. Elvin, b Webb | 8 |
| Lieut. Kimm, c Weekes, b Lt. Simmons | 15 |
| Sergt. Hills, b Lt. Simmons | 6 |
| Sergt. Collier, c Warren, b Hall | 14 |
| Sergt. Denny, b C. McDade | 23 |
| Capt. Thomson, lbw, b Lt. Simmons | 3 |
| Sergt. Truby, c Col. Bond, b Lt. Totcombe | 18 |
| C.Q.M.S. Kelly, b C. McDade | 6 |
| W.O. Inst. Collins, c Lt. Simmons, b C. McDade | 5 |
| Pte. Perry, c Col. Bond, b C. McDade | 1 |
| Pte. Sharpe, not out | 0 |
| Extras | 16 |
| Total | 115 |

*2nd Innings.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Lt. Kim, lbw, b Bates | 41 |
| C.Q.M.S. Kelly, c Webb, b Warren | 2 |
| Sergt. Hills, not out | 60 |
| Sergt. Truby, not out | 1 |
| Extras | 5 |
| Total | 109 |

Sgt. Collier, W.O.Inst. Collins, B.M. Elvin, Capt. Thomson, Sgt. Denny, Pte. Perry, and Pte. Sharpe did not bat.

7TH BRIGADE R.G.A.

*1st Innings.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieut. Titcombe, c Collins, b Pte. Sharpe | 5 |
| Gnr. Weekes, c Denny, b Sgt. Hills | 7 |
| Col. Bond, b Hills | 8 |
| Capt. Cardale, b Hills | 4 |
| Bdr. Hall, c Hills, b Collier | 11 |
| Lt. Simmons, b Denny | 13 |
| Sgt. C. McDade, lbw, b Collier | 8 |
| Bdr. Warren, c Kelly, b Collins | 3 |
| Sgt. C. McDade, c Hills, b Collins | 0 |
| Gnr. Webb, not out | 1 |
| Dvr. Bates, b Collins | 0 |
| Extras | 2 |
| Total | 62 |

*2nd Innings.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Capt. Cordale, c and b Sharpe | 4 |
| Dvr. Bates, b Sharpe | 0 |
| Gnr. Weekes, c Collier, b Kelly | 1 |
| Col. Bond, c Perry, b Denny | 22 |
| Bdr. Hall, b Sharpe | 1 |
| Lt. Simmons, c Collier, b Hills | 2 |
| Lt. Titcombe, b Denny | 12 |
| Sgt. J. McDade, c Capt. Thomson, b Denny | 0 |
| Gnr. Webb, b Denny | 0 |
| Sgt. C. McDade, not out | 5 |
| Bdr. Warren, not out | 1 |
| Extras | 1 |
| Total | 49 |

On Saturday, 18th June, 1921, "A" Company met "B" Company in the first match of the Battalion Cricket Shield League. "A" won the toss and went in to bat being all out for 68, "B" replying with 35. In the second innings "A" scored 60, leaving "B" to get 94 runs to win. This proved very exciting "B" losing 7 wkts. for 63 runs when Pte. Marsh went in scoring 41 runs in two overs, thus bringing "B" out winners by two wickets.

Scores are set out below :—

"A" COMPANY.

*1st Innings.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Bd.-Mr. Elvin, run out | 4 |
| Pte. Wellard, c Lt. Price, b Pte. Sharpe | 1 |
| Sgt. Burville, b Pte. Sharpe | 8 |
| Sgt. Truby, lbw, b Pte. Sharpe | 8 |
| Pte. Perry, b Pte. Sharpe | 3 |
| Capt. Thomson, c Richardson, b Pte. Sharpe | 19 |
| Pte. Freedman, b Pte. Sharpe | 0 |
| Cpl. Hamer, b W.O.Inst. Collins | 11 |
| Pte. Woolhead, b Pte. Sharpe | 8 |
| Sgt. McLean, b W.O.Inst. Collins | 4 |
| Q.M.S. Evans, not out | 0 |
| Extras | 2 |
| Total | 68 |

*2nd Innings.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Bd.-Mr. Elvin, c Marsh, b Grigsby | 4 |
| Q.M.S. Evans, b Grigsby | 21 |
| Sgt. McLean, b W.O.Inst. Collins | 6 |
| Sgt. Burville, c Rice, b Collins | 9 |
| Pte. Perry, c Lt. Price, b Collins | 0 |
| Capt. Thomson, c Pte. Sharpe, b Collins | 2 |
| Cpl. Hamer, c and b Grigsby | 2 |
| Sgt. Truby, c Richardson, b Collins | 3 |
| Pte. Freedman, not out | 4 |
| Pte. Wellard, c Sharpe, b Grigsby | 1 |
| Pte. Woolhead, b Collins | 0 |
| Extras | 9 |
| Total | 61 |

"B" COMPANY.

*1st Innings.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieut. Gem, b Wellard | 2 |
| Pte. Marsh, c Burville, b Perry | 0 |
| W.O.Inst. Collins, c Evans, b Perry | 11 |
| Lt. Price, c Truby, b Perry | 5 |
| Capt. Sharp, c Perry, b Wellard | 1 |
| Cpl. Rice, b Freedman | 8 |
| Pte. Sharpe, b Perry | 2 |
| Pte. Bushnell, not out | 0 |
| Pte. Grigsby, run out | 0 |
| Pte. Russell, b Perry | 0 |
| Pte. Richardson, b Perry | 2 |
| Extras | 4 |
| Total | 35 |

*(Continued on next page.)*

**The First Battalion**—*continued.*

*2nd Innings.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Lt. Gem, b McLean ... ... ... ... ... ... | 17 |
| Cpl. Rice, c Wellard, b Freedman ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Capt. Sharp, c Truby, b McLean ... ... ... ... | 16 |
| Pte. Richardson, c Perry, b Freedman ... ... ... | 4 |
| W.O. Inst. Collins, b Perryj ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Pte. Sharpe, c Hamer, b Woolard ... ... ... ... | 22 |
| Lt. Price, c Hamer, b McLean ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Pte. Marsh, not out ... ... ... ... ... ... | 41 |
| Pte. Grigsby, caught Burville, b Perry ... ... ... | 1 |
| Pte. Bushnell, not out ... ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Pte. Russell, did not bat | |
| Extras ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Total ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 105 |

A VERSUS C.

"A" Company met "C" Company on 22nd June, 1921, in the Cricket Shield League. "C" won the toss and went in to bat being all out for 89. "A" replied with 86 although being 83 for 6. "C" batted again being all out for 53 leaving "A" 57 runs to get to win in 20 minutes. They replied with 27 for 6 wickets leaving "C" the winners on the first innings by 3 runs. Scores are set out below :—

"C" COMPANY.

*1st Innings.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Bdsm. White, b Col. McDouall ... ... ... ... | 15 |
| Bdsm. Cadman, c Wellard, b Col. McDouall... ... ... | 0 |
| Lieut. Kimm, b Perry ... ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Sergt. Denny, b Truby ... ... ... ... ... | 38 |
| Bdm. Pearsall, b Freedman ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| C.S.M. Barrell, c Freedman, b Truby... ... ... ... | 3 |
| L/C. Ballard, b Truby ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Pte. Shaw, run out ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Lieut. Stemp, b Truby ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| L/C. Coleman, b Col. McDouall ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| L/C. MacLaren, not out ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Extras ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 12 |
| Total ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 89 |

*2nd Innings.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Bdsm. White, c Burville, b Perry ... ... ... ... | 8 |
| Bdm. Pearsall, c Truby, b Col. McDouall ... ... ... | 2 |
| Pte. Shaw, b Perry ... ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Lieut. Kimm, c Burville, b Col. McDouall ... ... ... | 19 |
| Sergt. Denny, c Capt. Thomson, b Col. McDouall ... ... | 0 |
| Bdm. Cadman, b Col. McDouall ... ... ... ... | 8 |
| L/C. MacLaren, not out ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Lieut. Stemp, c Col. McDouall, b Truby ... ... ... | 0 |
| C.S.M. Barrell, b Truby ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| L/C. Ballard, lbw, b Evans ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| L/C. Coleman, b Evans... ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Extras ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Total ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 53 |

"A" COMPANY.

*1st Innings.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Bd.-Mr. Elvin, c Coleman, b Lt. Kimm ... ... ... | 27 |
| Q.M.S. Evans, b Lt. Kimm ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Sgt. Truby, b Denny ... ... ... ... ... ... | 12 |
| Col. McDouall, c Denny, b Lt. Kimm ... ... ... | 15 |
| Pte. Perry, b Lt. Kimm ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Sgt. Burville, c and b Lt. Kimm ... ... ... ... | 8 |
| Capt. Thomson, c and b Lt. Kimm ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| Pte. Wellard, b Denny ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Sgt. McLean, c and b Denny ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Cpl. Hamer, c White, b Lt. Kimm ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Pte. Freedman, not out ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Extras ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Total ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 86 |

*2nd Innings.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Q.M.S. Evans, b Lt. Kimm ... ... ... ... ... | 8 |
| Pte. Perry, b Denny ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Pte. Wellard, b Lt. Kim ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Sgt. Truby, c Ballard, b Lt. Kimm ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Capt. Thomson, c and b Lt. Kimm ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Col. McDouall, not out ... ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| Bd.-Mr. Elvin, c Lt. Stemp, b Denny ... ... ... | 0 |
| Sgt. Burville, not out ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Cpl. Hamer, Sgt. McLean, and Pte. Freedman did not bat | |
| Extras ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Total ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 33 |

# War History of the Buffs.

THE task of preparing the War History of The Buffs is not yet complete though it is progressing. Naturally certain difficulties arrive, one of the chief being the arrangement of suitable maps so necessary to follow intelligently the movement of troops, without too seriously adding to the cost of production. To read a statement, say, that such and such a battalion pushed on and placed itself astride of the Rancourt—Sailly road with the ultimate view of turning the enemy's position near Morval would be interesting only to a man who remembers the country, unless reference can be made to a map on which these places are marked.

Some war histories are already published and others besides our own are now in course of preparation. Most of these are very beautifully got up, no expense being spared, and it is only natural to suppose that these works are intended for the use of messes and libraries only, as their cost is considerable.

Col. Moody however, has been asked to prepare a work, the price of which will be within the reach of all, and here it may be pointed out that the more the copies ordered at first, the less the cost will be. He has in fact been asked to cater for the ex-soldier, his family, his neighbour, and his fellow townsman, as well as for regimental institutes and individuals still serving.

To do this necessitates the provision of small sketch maps only, instead of elaborate plans. It is hoped that many of these will occupy merely a page of the book and that a few larger ones can be interleaved and simply folded inwards, though certainly one and possibly two general maps of France and Flanders will be required. For from Ypres to St. Quentin is roughly about 90 miles and the country is dotted with towns, villages, rivers, railways, canals and woods, many of which are mentioned in the several battalion stories.

The general idea is the production of a readable book at a reasonable price which will not only explain the main actions of each battalion, but which will record as far as possible the intrepidly carried out raids and minor enterprises, in which so many individual Buffs distinguished themselves.

It is a pity that many gallant acts of both officers and men have found no record in the official diaries and such like documents, but it must be remembered that the intense attention to immediate business on the part of responsible officers must in the nature of things cause many heroic deeds to be overlooked.

Private soldiers are not apt to come to the authorities and claim recognition for what they have done any more than are their officers; and when deeds of gallantry are occurring even the platoon commanders may be too busy with their own job to notice much, and so it comes about that it is more or less luck whether a hero is noticed particularly or not, and so it has ever been in War.

It seems to take a long time to write a regimental war history, but that of The Buffs is rather an elaborate one and must include the stories of Mesopotamia, Salonica, Palestine and Aden, in addition to that of France and Flanders.

Research work is always a slow business and the compiler must make sure he is missing nothing of importance. Accuracy is more to be desired than rapidity; but matters are progressing and it is hoped that the work may be in the hands of the printers sometime this coming autumn.

**Picture Framing and Art Depot.**
**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
**Canterbury.**
**Tel. 21 X.**

# You to Us.

OUR RE-UNIONS.

Sir,

I am enclosing 8/- as my subscription to *The Dragon*. I am an old contributor to *The Dragon* in India and, I trust, I may be so again.

During the war I collected all cuttings relating to the "Old Buffs." These I forwarded to the compiler of the War history and, I trust, that they were useful.

I can never forget my happy days spent in the dear old corps; and our annual union is a piece of recurrent joy. I can only hope I shall for many more years, take part in these delightful gatherings, and meet old friends, officers and men,—good comrades all.

With all good wishes to past and present "Buffs," and success to *The Dragon*.

W. A. GREAVES.

30A Davenport Road,
Catford, S.E.6.

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CASUALTIES IN THE GREAT WAR.

Sir,

I was much interested in reading in your June issue the number of Buff casualties in the Great War. I am hoping that perhaps you may be able to let us have these by Battalions.

Margate. AN OLD BUFF.

[*So far as we have been able to obtain the following were the losses amongst Other Ranks suffered by each Battn.*:—1*st Battn.* 1098, 2*nd do.* 682, 3*rd do.* 46, 4*th do.* 89, 5*th do.*, 275, 6*th do.* 1,332, 7*th do.* 1,046, 8*th do.* 575, 9*th do.* 4, 10*th do.* 151, *Depot* 120, 71*st Prov. Battn.* 3, *making a total of* 5,421. *An accurate estimate of the losses in officers is not yet available, but this we hope to be able to give in an early issue. Ed.*]

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AN OLD SUPPORTER.

Sir,

I have much pleasure in enclosing my subscription to *The Dragon* and having been a reader of the paper since its inception, in the seventies of last century, may I be permitted to congratulate all concerned on the admirable manner in which it is now run.

Kingston-on-Thames. A. B. COLLEY.

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ON THE MAT.

Sir.

My July Number of *The Dragon* not yet to hand hope I am not too late in writing for it. I have kept putting off as I have expected it every post but it has not turned up yet. I do not want to miss a number.

Also where are those posters you mentioned on your postcard some time back? I see you have thanked me in *The Dragon*, but what have I done yet. I hope I am not too personal.

Lower Eythorne. H. G. CLARABUT.

[*Our striking poster designed by C.S.M. Mason will be out almost at once. Ed.*]

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OUR LETTER TO THE BRITISH LEGION.

Dear Sir,

I should be very glad if you could kindly let me have at your earliest convenience full particulars, inclusive of those relating to finance, as to how it is proposed that Regimental Old Comrades' Associations shall be either amalgamated with or affiliated to the British Legion. I may say that I propose publishing this letter together with your reply in the next number of *The Dragon*, the Regimental Paper of The Buffs, a specimen copy of which I have pleasure in enclosing.

Yours faithfully,
HY. H. C. BAIRD, Captain.

AND THE LEGION'S REPLY.

16*th July*, 1921.

Dear Sir,

I beg to thank you for your letter dated 14th July, with which you kindly sent copy of the *Dragon*.

The subject of the best method of bringing together the Regimental Old Comrades Associations with the British Legion is at present being considered, and we have invited suggestions from the Regimental Old Comrades Association to assist us. I hope to have the views of a large number in time to bring the matter up at the meeting of our National Executive Council on the 23rd inst., after which I shall hope to communicate with you again.

Yours faithfully,
E. C. HEATH, Colonel,
*General Secretary.*

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PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION.

Sir,

I should like to call attention to a serious inaccuracy in the July issue of *The Dragon* in relation to the terms of Membership to the Association of Past and Present Buffs. I refer to Rule 3 which as published stated that the Association is open to those who served in the Great War only, whereas it was recently decided in Committee that Membership should be open to "all those who are serving or have served in a Regular Battalion of The Buffs, and to all those who have served or are serving with a Service, Territorial, or Special Reserve Battalion.

A. ANDREWS, R.Q.M.S.
*Hon. Sec.*, The Association Past and Present Buffs.

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OUR COMPETITIONS.

Sir,

"Limericks," seemingly, have not caught on and should be dropped, unless it is arranged that *a verse* be provided *with the last line missing*, and it would be up to competitors to send in the most suitable line, to complete the verse in their effort to collar the Guinea. It could be humorous or otherwise.

Not because I have been fortunate enough to snap up a Premier and a Consolation prize, still, I consider it a pity to drop the Competitions altogether. Find out one that would be popular with all other ranks.

I have one or two alternative ideas that might afford "Tommy" a better chance perhaps than "Limericks," but if the entries did not exceed those received in the latter-named Competition, then there would be nothing for it but to drop them altogether.

W. M. SEDGWICK, (Sgt.)

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[*We can only say again we welcome any suggestions towards finding a Competition sufficiently popular to draw entries. We are asking Sgt. Sedgwick to send his and extend a similar invitation to others. Ed.*]

## Births, Marriages and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

**Silverwood Cope.**—On the 4th July, at 44 Rue Hamelin XVIe, Paris, the wife of Captain A. L. Silverwood Cope, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

**Ward.**—On the 11th July at Canterbury, No. 1431 Colour-Sergeant J. Ward, late The Buffs.

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[*Personal announcements for this feature are welcomed from all Past and Present Buffs. No charge is made for insertion. Ed.*]

**REMEMBER OUR ADVERTISERS.**

# "Shunted."

## The True Story of a Railway Warrant.

BY A RESERVIST.

I HAVE spent many years, (and precious little else), in the army, and it is a long time since I learned the meaning of "Tape Red" of the metaphorical kind. I have met some astonishing examples, but this last affair, has I think, "put the lid on it."

I am a Reservist, and during the recent industrial crisis I joined for duty at Shorncliffe, which, as all Buffs know, is charmingly situated some three miles west of Folkestone, and but a stone's throw or so from the nearest railway station, Cheriton Halt. I gathered from the troops permanently situated in the garrison that they considered themselves very lucky to be situated so close to fashionable Folkestone, to visit which place necessitated only three or four minutes walk into Cheriton, and fifteen minutes bus ride thence, which landed them practically on the sea front.

But I digress.

I went with my battalion to "somewhere" in the north, and as, after kicking our heels there for some weeks nothing happened to break the peace, we were all duly "hiked" back again, and eventually the machinery, (such wonderful machinery with plenty of grit in the cogs), was set in motion to send us back to our homes once more as civilians. Khaki was discarded and "civvies" donned. We all, (or nearly all), wore our collars and ties and a large sized smile, and patiently or impatiently awaited our turns to be marched to the railway station in Folkestone known as Folkestone Central.

That three miles, was, as you may guess, very lightheartily traversed during the few following days, as party after party made the first portion of their journey towards hearth and home. But there was one amongst them whose heart was anything but light, and that heart was mine.

Pay? No! I had paraded that morning at the company office with the remaining score or so of my party and had received my pay to the last halfpenny. Everything went off for me as merrily as may be until—I received my railway warrant.

As my eyes lit upon it I could scarcely believe them. I made a very vigorous but very respectful protest to the orderly sergeant who issued it, and was "bitten" for my pains. The fact was, I wanted to do anything but march with that party to Folkestone Central Station. I suggested in as nice a way as I knew that this little whim of mine might be gratified, and was then "chewed up" in turn by the officer whose decision on the matter had been sought by the company sergeant major.

The three miles that lay between barracks and Folkestone Station, as I plodded wearily along the Cheriton Road seemed more like thirty. The heat, both inside and out, was terrific, and I inwardly cursed miners, and trade unions, and sergeant majors, and red tape, and, to wind up, the whole army.

At long last the station was reached, and we entered our compartments. The rest of them were as happy as sandboys while I, with a burst of maniacal laughter scanned my warrant once more and read:—"The S.E. and C.R. are hereby requested to provide conveyance from Folkestone Central to Cheriton Halt."

I got out at the latter place and walked the remaining 20 yards to my home, where I knew my family awaited me, as I saw them through the window as I marched to the station to get that train home.

**Buffs,—Halt!!**

NOW YOU need the "Dragon."
As the "Dragon" needs you.
Tell of its glories to your friends
And try and sell a few.

S. J. PICOTT, C.S.M.

# Sighting Shots.

A SOCIETY has been formed in Belgium to secure the adoption of English as the language of the country.

We suppose this country, as usual, will follow suit if the scheme succeeds.

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A million old trench maps were recently purchased from The Surplus Property Disposal Board by an enterprising merchant, who cut them up into socks for tennis shoes.

Still in the service.

---

Russian Bolshevik officials have forbidden the teaching of fairy tales to children, on the grounds that they are politically unsound.

They still intend however to go on telling them to the rest of the world.

---

Mr. George Bernard Shaw told the Society of Authors, Playwrights and Composers that he had just been offered from America £10,000 for what was simply nothing more than to put his name on a bill for a film. "I think the man was a lunatic," added Mr. Shaw.

Agreed. But had we said that.

---

Referring to the mobilisation of the Reserves, Sir Robert Horne said that the cost of the call-up was £4,800,000.

These telephone charges are becoming a perfect scandal.

---

A new German invention is an opera or field glass which is worn like a pair of spectacles.

It is hoped that with its aid they may be enabled to find some of that indemnity.

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Question at Shoreditch County Court:—"You quarrel and row with your wife, do you not?" Man:—"Well it doesn't take the form of a slanging match. We put the soft pedal on."

Eminently suitable for a discord.

---

A Scotch enthusiast was heard to remark that very few undertakings or businesses are successful without the assistance of at least one of his countrymen, and that they penetrate everywhere.

No, not everywhere. The bag-pipes are not yet heard in jazz bands—mercifully.

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The indiscriminate discharge of oil from U.S.A. tank steamers in Southampton Water is the cause of the death of many thousands of fish.

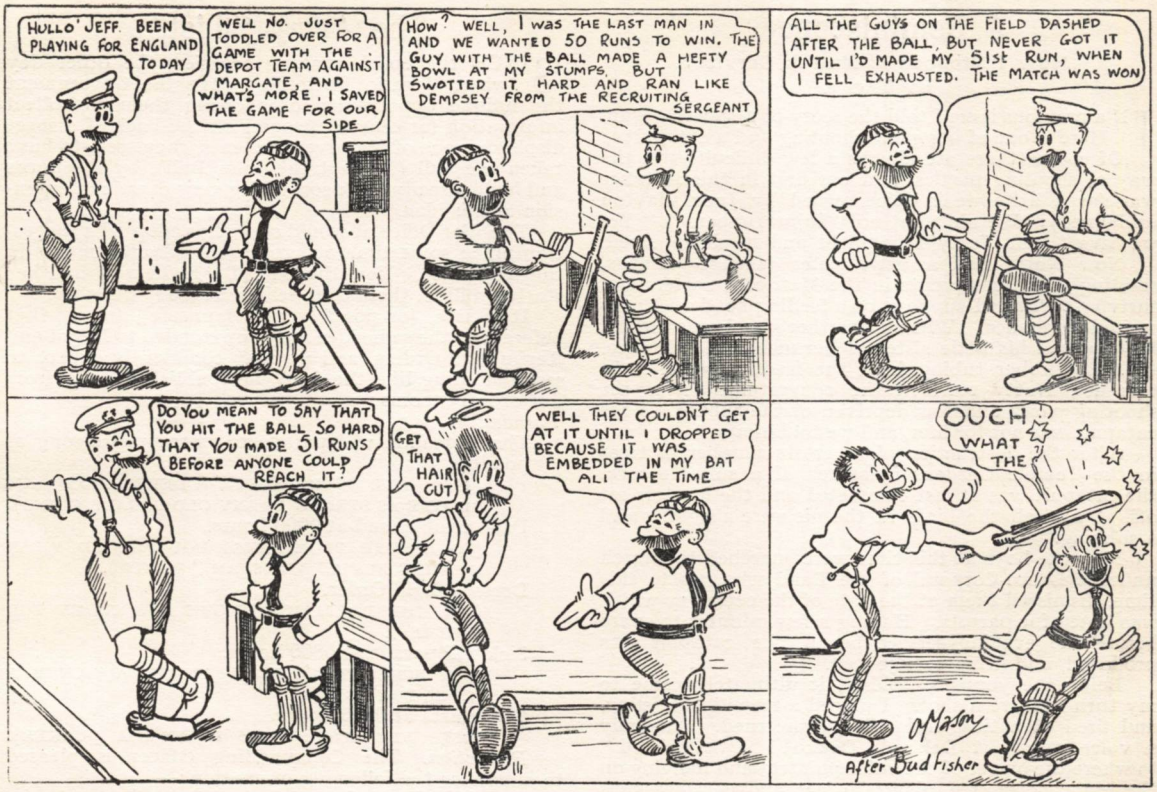
A chance for some enterprising individual to profit by collecting them and selling them as sardines.

---

It is generally agreed that the parties of Anarchists and Communists who collided and fought in a Parisian cemetery, selected a very appropriate battleground.

**Mesopotamia.**

M stands for Mespot, the land of regrets,
E stands for Eatables, we very few get,
S stands for Sun, and I can assure you it's hot.
O stands for Overtime, we do quite a lot,
P stands for Pay, which we spend all on drink,
O again means 'Ome of which we all think,
T stands for Topy, which we all have to wear,
A stands for Arab, who had better take care,
M also means Mail, which we all look for,
I stands for Ice, of which we always want more
A stands for Able, that means the British can stand,
All the troubles and trials there are in the land.




# I Fly.

BY INKY.

IT'S strange how the ambitions of men differ! The ambition of some is the perfect woman, others for knowledge, or for filthy lucre. But mine! I am different. I wanted to fly! My ambition was high.

For years past I had gazed upon, read about, and seen at pictures—in short dreamed of 'planes, with as much hope of obtaining the height of my ambition as of becoming G.O.C. But life is full of surprises, for on the 13th of May, I flew.

It was the Garrison Sports at Canterbury that did it. Cycling down to join the merry crowd, I arrived just in time to hear that "Flights" were being sold. So, when the officer "selling," came my way and asked, "You bid another five bob," I nodded—"Yes!" and got the prize. Even then I had visions of being "Sold," as I know these "Sports" and sales.

However, all was arranged, for after paying the price, I was rushed to a motor and thence to the Aerodrome. The pilot had a kind face. Smiling, he asked me if I had been up before. I shamefully admitted I had not, except before the C.O.! I am sure he pitied me. He dressed me for the skies, helped me into the plane, and gave me the necessary instructions regarding not touching controls, but what interested me most was the quick release belt that held me. He too got in, and shouted something like "Flood in—switch on,—let her go."

The propeller whirled, the wind blew—and we were off. Soon we were racing over the grass, and then, before I realised it, we were going up—up and up—to clip the clouds. I gazed down on mother earth, as I watched her getting lower, lower and lower. Then to the registers. Height 3—4—5,000 feet. Speed 65 miles p.h.

This beat cycling!

This was life.

I tried to tell the pilot my opinion of things, but found that the propellers held the field. They made a perfect roar.

It is difficult to describe the beauties of things seen from above. The map-like earth, the tiny fields, the dots of people, the crawling motor cars, and a thousand other wondrous things. And the air! Like a tonic!

The first time we banked, I confess I felt my heart thump, as it was a queer sensation to find the plane seemingly standing on end (like my hair), and ready to slide down, and ever down to the unavoidable crash! But we righted, and on we went.

Soon we came to the "Sports Field" and the tiny circle of people round it. How small and puny they looked, and how superior I felt. Oh the vanity of man!

We circled round and round, dipping and rising, banking and righting, and never did time fly so fast,—or was man so content.

Was I afraid? I ask you. I felt as comfortable as in a first class taxi, the exception being that, unless I looked down I couldn't realise that we travelled.

But all good things end, for after half an hour or so we made towards home. Larger and larger loomed the "drome," and then, down we came in a spiral—a slight jar—and we were speeding along the grass again. I was alas! back to mother earth again.

I can honestly say I sadly got out and made my way to the car. But I was happy, for had I not seen my ambition realised?

I am firmly of opinion that a "plane" should be issued to all with the full kit, so that all could experience the joy of cutting the clouds so cheaply as I did.

## A Reminiscence.

### How I Stopped a Church Service.

BY TACET.

IN a previous issue I told the story of a sporting gun. Here is one of big game shooting and a catapult.

Of course there are always a few difficulties in the way of shooting parties, and our first in this instance was (as a little weak voice owned by Jock Clayton exclaimed) "We ain't got no "Injur rubber." "Yes we 'ave," said Nutty Bloomfield and he disappeared.

Now Nutty had a little sister (aged 3 months) residing with her parents in the Married Quarters and thriving partially I suppose, on a feeding bottle. Nutty waited his chance. When his mother's back was turned, he deprived his little sister of her means of existence, (*i.e.* the rubber tubing from the feeding bottle). In this act, Nutty received the congratulations of the shooting party and was deprived of the tubing, as the catapult was not for him, and we told him so.

After the destruction of a certain number of trees in the Temple Gardens in search of a suitable fork, the catapult was at last completed and the hunters set off. "And all the birds in the air were a sighing and a sobbing."

Now the boys at this time were marched to church under a Lance-Corporal of the Band who, up to this time, dismissed them at the gate of the cemetery which was noted for parrots. Having a few minutes to spare before the evening service began, the catapult was produced, and firing commenced.

Being the youngest soldier, it ultimately came to my turn to have a shot. I placed a stone in the sling, and fired at a tiny bird still unconcerned. Suddenly a voice rang out Dekko! Dekko!! I "dekkoed" to where the owner of the voice pointed, and hanging on the branch of a tree, about 20 feet above I saw what I after discovered to be a massive hive of wild bees. There being several outstanding bets as to my ability as a marksman, I was allowed 3 shots. Hit, or hand over the catapult and lose the bets. The second attempt I hit it, dislodging a large piece of the hive, which, naturally, was one mass of bees. These began to separate as did the remainder above, and the shooting party having decided not to wait for me, hurriedly entered the church.

It was not long before I found myself getting pretty badly mauled and I bolted for the church, followed by thousands of bees where I arrived in time to hear the last strains of that beautiful little Hymn "All things bright and beautiful, all things great and small." Then I thought to myself did he make bees too.

I sat down just inside the West door. The bees still swarmed in, some staying with me, and some going on. Then the Padre started:—"Dearly beloved the scripture moveth us in sundry places," and I thought what part will the bees take in assisting the scriptures. By this time they were in possession. People tried to look pleasant. Then came a shuffle of hands and much beating of the air. Ladies were waving handkerchiefs as though bidding farewell to a troopship. The Padre looked anxious as the bees still swarmed in.

In the turmoil which ensued many of the bees were knocked on the floor and began to climb about. Several of the ladies had a rude awakening and so did some of the men when the bees began to climb up their trouser legs.

I could stand it no longer. I got up and departed.

I am told it was a fine sight to see the swollen noses, ears, and eyes, of fleeing Church goers, who copied my example,... and shared in a straight run home for the best fomentations.

Nutty did not attend Church that evening as his mother had discovered the loss of the Feeding Bottle tubing, and he was indisposed.

## The Army "List."

SINCE the epoch making occasion the other day when Horatio Bottomley gave the Government the unique opportunity of allowing them to collect information for census purposes on the back of a sheet displaying one of his advertisements, they seem to have taken the bull (No, not the John Bull), by the horns and have already done something very drastic in extension of this idea.

The War Office, it would seem, has adopted a suggestion made some time ago to accept advertisements in the Army list. Now the bull (Dear! dear!) ball has started rolling, there is no telling where it will stop.

It is safe, (or possibly rather unsafe), to say that before long the same idea may be extended to Depot and Regimental Orders, and we may confidently expect to see something like the following published daily from our orderly rooms:—

*Parades.*

The Battalion will parade to-morrow as strong as possible.

(TRY OUR "MUSSLEY" DEVELOPERS AND BECOME AS STRONG AS ANY OLD PARADE GOING).

Fall in will sound at 0900 hours.

(TO ENSURE PROMPTNESS YOU SHOULD WEAR NOTHING BUT A "WELSHAM" WATCH).

Dress:—Drill Order.

(ALL THE BATTALION KNOWS IT'S COHEN FOR CLOTHES).

Sick will parade at 0800 hours.

(TRY SCREECHAM'S PILLS, WORTH A TICKEY A COAL-BOX).

Breakfasts at 0730 hours.

(GIVE HIM SCOT'S OATS IF HE'S A QUAKER).

*Promotion.* The Commanding Officer is pleased to announce the following promotion:—

No. 123 Lance-Corporal A. Young-Sweat to be corporal from this date.

(ANOTHER TRIUMPH—"UMPH"—FOR TELMANISM).

*Strength. Animals.* A party of one N.C.O. and 60 men under Lieutenant Ryder will proceed to the S.E. & C.R. Station,

(SEE OUR GUIDE BOOKS TO 52 DIFFERENT HEALTH RESORTS ON OUR SYSTEM, WHICH WILL SURELY HAVE A BRACING EFFECT ON YOURS).

to take over and bring to barracks a convoy of 2 Government mules.

(ALL TRANSPORT MEN RECOMMEND FILLUP'S RUBBER HEELS FOR MULES).

Haversack rations and a supply of chloroform will be carried and the party must arrange prior to departure to make out their respective wills and hand them into orderly room.

(ODONTO FOUNTAIN PENS—STILL RUNNING).

*Salvage.* A Salvage Dump has been arranged for next to the Guard Room. Waste Material and damaged stores will be taken there and handed over to the N.C.O. in charge, who will give a receipt for same.

(A. RATTLER—LOCAL AGENT FOR FORDS).

*Discharge.* No. 3. Q.M.S. A. Leech, is discharged after 45 years service, under Para. x.y.z. K.R. from this date.

(FOR THE BEST MOVING PICTURES VISIT THE CUDDLEM CINEMA).

And so on.

O.M.

**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
**High Class Photograghers,**
**Canterbury.**
**Tel. 21 X.**

# The 2nd Battalion.

THERE is very little to add to the news being sent to *The Dragon* by the Sergeants, Corporals and Company correspondents. The Range camp in spite of its sand, storms, sand flies, scorpions, lime juice, erratic shooting, dud ammunition and all the rest of it was a great success and enjoyed by most, as a change from the monotony of the old Turkish Fort. The Musketry course itself was disturbed by the receipt of orders for the performance of other duties, the detail of which must stand over until next month.

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IN A FEW LINES.

Some fine ponds have been dug out near the camp and quite a good few have enjoyed the fine exercise of bathing. It was a pity that they could not be made larger and deeper so that games of Water Polo might have been arranged. A game so much enjoyed by this Battalion at Hong Kong and Singapore.

---

The Fiery Furnace is within five miles of the camp. This is said to be the place whereupon Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were placed by King Nebuchadnezzar, but their faith was so great that they could not be burnt. Many members have visited the place and they say that the ground has only to be dug a few inches deep and flames burst forth, making a noise similar to a blazing lamp. At present they are only about nine inches high but as the weather gets hotter they are said to rise to a height of quite nine feet.

---

The grave of Daniel of Lion Den fame is also within the City of Kirkuk and forms an object of interest to the sight-seeing members of our confraternity.

---

Our friends the sandflies are well established now and give us some annoyance. Many are the artifices adopted to evade these pests, but in spite of all they accumulate and sting. Rumours are rife of an early evacuation of Mesopotamia. Roll on !

---

An interesting event of the last month has been a football match between the Sergeants and Corporals Messes which the latter won by two goals to one. A comparison of the total service of the members of the two sides is not without interest, that of the Sergeants amounting to no less than 150 years whilst that of the corporals reached 65 years only. The following were the teams that lined up.

Sergeants :—Goal. Bandmaster Hewitt (The Grand Old Man) 30 years. Backs. Snowey Mannering, 17 years. Buster O'Dell, 15 years. Halfs. Smudger (Dr.) Smith, 7 years. Bunny Joy, 11 years. Joe Richards, 6 years. Forwards. R.Q.M.S. Edwards, 21 years. Peter (Armr.) Jackson, 17 years. Dennis 10 years. Ricketts, 7 years. Busty Herbert, 16 years.

Corporals :—Cpl. Moore, L/C. Giles, L/C. Patterson, Cpl. Faulkner, L/C. Searle, L/C. Richards, L/C. Kimber, L/C. Cardoza, L/C. Lockwood, Cpl. Gover, Cpl. Rodda.

L/Cpl. Giles and Lockwood were the goal scorers for the corporals.

THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

The latest Firm in the Mess outside the " Muckin Waller Firm " is Jackson and Slender, Art Photographers Military Studio, Kirkuk. Photos by appointment. Business Hours, 09·00 hrs. to 16·00 hrs., (Military Time). Special Sittings, 07·00 to 09·00 hrs., (also Military-Time). Agents, Mac. and Whit., " The Muckin Wallers." Dream Photos a Speciality, satisfaction guaranteed. Special Terms for Groups. A Framed Enlargement is presented free by the Firm to the first Happy Couple of a Wedding Group taken in Kirkuk.

Poor old Billy Upsom had a terrible fright the other day, and almost got mixed up with the C.I.D. Some fool of a native,—" Old David " we're told, was seen by Bill to have in his possession a disused firearm, for which by the way, he held a license. Bill was overheard to have said that he saw the said David practising with it between the new camp and the Barracks (?) and was of course pinched by the C.I.D. for evidence, but they couldn't drag Old Bill, (apologies to Bairnsfather) into their net. He couldn't cope with it.

By the way, I forgot to mention that the charge for a dozen of the fine Photos taken by the New Firm is Rupees eight (Rs. 8 only).

You really should know that Simo and Dick have got their " Seconds," Educational. Dick had proper wind up and lost his for over a week when a sand storm was blowing, the day after he had been presented with it at the Orderly Room (without musical honours). He has however found it now, safely locked in the P.R.I's Safe (?)

Frequent visits are paid to us by our friends from the Camp, and the other night when some of them were going home, a frog stabbing competition was started. Of course Leslie Stewart and Georgey Porgey were in this affray and naturally got wet, both of them falling in the ditch.

We paid a visit to our members at the new camp the other evening and found them very comfortably situated. A nice little Mess has been rigged by placing two E.P. Tents together and the place certainly gives credit to those responsible for the arrangements. Whilst there, we were shewn the scorpion spiders that infest the camp. Wilkins was giving a display with one in a tumbler, which he swore coulf not climb the sides : as he was explaining he took his eyes from the object the spider however *did* climb the glass unbeknown to Wilkie and just touched his hand, result a broken glass and roars of laughter.

It was a great disappointment that the Grand Open Air Concert which we had arranged to take place at the camp had to be abandoned owing to the weather, as great pains had been taken to make a comfortable arena for the audience. Undefeated, however, an impromptu one in the Mess tent took its place and was much enjoyed, thanks to the excellent and varied programme provided.

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THE CORPORALS' MESS.

Life under canvas is at the best of times a little trying, but out here when terrific sand storms are frequent, it is not all honey. Still our mess is always filled in the evenings, man and his bottle taking up most of the room.

Very shortly we shall all be dotted here and there in different camps down the line, and our experiences should make interesting reading in our next letter.

A hearty welcome has been extended to Cpl. Mount, Cpl. Sidwell, and Cpl. Jenkins who have joined us from the 1st Battalion. By the way talking of the 1st Battalion we are hoping to see the news of their Corporals'

**The Second Battalion**—*continued.*

Mess regularly in *The Dragon* in the future. Some of us out here have been thinking over the old saying that the Army worked on its stomach. We are inclined to think now that it works on its head, judging by our daily puzzling over that funny stuff called " Education." We all have a lot to learn. One of us for instance was not aware that Arithmetic and sums are identical, whilst another has yet to learn that a Cenotaph is not the machine used by a stenographer.

A COMPANY'S WIN AT MOSUL.

During the past month the Company moved from the Fort into Camp to join the remainder of the Battalion. But no sooner was everyone getting nicely settled down when the news reached us that we were for another move, this time to take over the " Lines of Communication. Both A and B Companies are detailed to proceed to Kingarbah. No doubt we shall have a good time together during this temporary duty.

Our Cross Country Team left here on the 4th May arriving at Mosul on the 10th May to take part in the Inter-Company. Divisional Cross-Country Race. The first six days was done by route-march to Quain Ferry, distance about 96 miles. From there to Mosul (33 miles) they proceeded by motor. During their stay at Mosul they were attached to the East Yorkshire Regt., and all speak highly of the hospitality shown.

Only three clear days remained before the day of the run, so little time remained for training. This was occupied by an hour's physical training each morning, and a run each evening. When the final day came everyone was looking very fit with the exception of Mr. Foster-Hall, M.C., who was very unfortunate to catch a touch of the sun soon after arriving at Mosul, which had enforced him to bed. But the team had to run one Officer, and as he was the only Officer with them, he turned out and by sheer determination finished the whole course—a very gallant and plucky effort.

The run was slightly over three miles. The country was very hilly and a good deal of plough was met. The remainder was very stoney except for about the last 600 yds. on the main road. One of the rules was that no team was to be shown over the course prior to the run : so our team had no idea of the ground or the exact distance they were to go ; whereas the teams belonging to the Mosul Area must of had a good idea of the surrounding country. All of which of course did not prevent our team lined up for the start quite confident of winning.

Whilst the points were being totalled up excitement ran high. A storm blew up and, during the downpour of rain " A " Company " The Buffs " were declared winners with 264 points, " B " Company East Yorks were second with 296 points, Head Quarters East Yorks being third with 475 points. We therefore won the Elephant trophy and an elephant medal was presented to each of our team. This was by far the best run we have had so far, and we are proud in the fact that our team still remains unbeaten.

The following are the Official placings of our team 2nd L/C. Kimber, 3rd Sgt. Ongley, D.C.M., 4th Pte. Harlow, 6th L/C. Hodges, D.C.M., 7th Pte. Marsh, 8th Pte. Parker, 10th Sgt. Shoobridge, 12th Pte. Hedges, 15th Pte. Smith, W. H., 18th Pte. Hughes, 24th Pte. Ringe, 29th Pte. Smith J., 37th Pte. Game, 44th Pte. Hobbs, B. J., 45th Lt. Foster-Hall, M.C.

The time of the 1st man home, Pte. Stack of the E. Yorkshire Regt., was 17 min. 3 secs. L/C. Kimber was beaten by about 30 yards, after leading for about 2¾ miles.

After the run the team were informed that motors were unavailable, so that the whole of the return journey was covered by route-march—an eight-day trek of 130 miles.

C COMPANY.

We have started an inter-platoon shield sports competition in which almost every sport is embraced, and which is expected to last well into November. Up to the time of writing the following contests have taken place.

Football : 11 platoon beat 12 platoon.

Hockey : 9 platoon beat 10 platoon 6-2 ; 10 platoon drew with 12 platoon and 9 platoon drew with 11 platoon.

Other recent sporting features have been as follows : On the 6th May, after a close and exciting game we defeated D Company at football 3-2. Our goal scorers were Bdm. Shelton and Pte. Hawkins, and Lt. Cartwright scored the two goals for D. On the 13th May we were beaten 1-0 by the Band and Drums.

On Monday, May 23rd, 1921 about 5 o'clock in the morning, all was bustle and excitement in the Fort, and men were running hither and thither with bundles of all shapes and sizes on their shoulders. C Company were moving into Camp, and by the time evening arrived were fairly well settled in our new abode.

On the first day in camp, much to the disgust of the C.Q.M.S., the tents which were to be used for dining tents were commandeered by the P.R.I. for a wet canteen. We do not suppose that the majority of the company shared his feelings, but if anyone is curious, please ask the boys. Nevertheless, the man on whom the company pivots was not to be beaten, and, though we were the last Company to go into Camp, we were, owing to the efforts of our Q.M.Sgt., the first to have a comfortable dining tent.

A lot of hard work has been done and the camp now bears resemblance to a Base Depot.

After all these preparations and achievements we can scarcely expect to remain long to enjoy the fruits of our labours.

A move is reported and " C " are going to be split up. Two platoons with C.H.Q. are to be stationed at Tazah, one platoon at Tang and one platoon at Tuz, which are all camps on the Kingerbah—Kirkuk road. When at first we came into camp it was arranged for us to fire our course. A week's preliminary training was gone through, but the move has knocked this on the head, so perhaps after all we shall fire the 1921 course in Blighty. (Cries of " What hopes." )

A large number of moves have taken place during the month. C.S.M. Vincer has rejoined us from India, together with Sgt. Freeman, who has recently been transferred from A Company, Color Sgt. Tong, Q.M.S. Edwards, Sgts. Petley, Warner and Webb have gone to India, to visit their Mem-sahibs. Cpl. Hollis has gone to Baiji in the capacity of Camp Sgt. Major and Q.M.S. combined. Ptes. Terry, Coe, Balcombe, and Fowler have rejoined ostensibly for the purpose of firing.

D COMPANY.

Under somewhat better conditions than those prevailing last year when we fired our Annual Musketry Course in that delightful summer health-resort Multan, the Company has just finished its G.M.C. The shooting on the whole has been rather disappointing, Pte. Lea being our only marksman with 132. We were blessed with very ' dud ' ammunition and specimens ranged from Turk rounds, 1914 and 1915 ammn. to tracer. Delayed action rounds were quite common, which, taken all round isn't exactly conducive to good shooting !

Albuera Day here in camp was celebrated by a holiday. Unfortunately no large programme could be arranged owing to half the battalion still being in the fort. Soccer " sixes " were organised however and these took place early in the morning. Rain later in the day prevented further play and the finals weren't decided until the next evening.

**The Second Battalion**—*continued.*

For the evening of the 13th we had fixed up a sing-song. We were just getting "well away" after "Lord Asahis" (Pte. Girling's) hebraic rendering of "Yoi, Yoi vot a game it is, yoi, yoi," suitably attired in Capt. Rice's best "gent's natties," Corporal Jenkins song "Friend of mine" and lively music from the band, all mellowed by the succulent product of the 'fruit' of Kent, when the rain came down in the proverbial "cats and dogs." This ended—or rather shall we hope adjourned—the proceedings.

This month we haven't had very much hockey or football. We drew with the Officers of the Station at footer 0-0, after a somewhat poor show. Corpl. Gover 'twixt the posts played a splendid game. Our hockey match was against the Kirkuk F. Amb. A much superior side, they beat us 3-0. We were not at full strength however. The camp footer and hockey grounds are rapidly nearing completion and to those stout hearts who have put in some of their spare time with the rake and shovel, our thanks are due. Strangely enough, the bulk of the volunteers emanated from the ranks of the non-players—the sporting spirit!

**The strength of the Company is 149.**
**The Company has ordered 149 Dragons per month.**
**Q.E.D.**
**Floreat Dragon.**

So that's that, and now for a few personal notes. C.Q.M.S. Upson left us on the 23rd for 2 months' leave in Bangalore, India. (Who wouldn't be a C.Q.M.S.?). Sgt. Coaster is doing "quarterbloke" in his absence. Corpl. Sidwell made his welcome return from hospital at Baghdad on the 25th. Pte. Morris—one of our keenest hockey enthusiasts left earlier on for a shoeing course at the same place. As these are being written, the Company is under orders to go out on convoy duty. Any thrilling incidents that may happen will be published in our next.

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E Company (M.G. Platoon).

When the Battalion reached Kut-el-Aanara in December three officers, 3 sergeants, and 30 O.R.'s were sent off to Baghdad on a Machine Gun course. After a very strenuous ten weeks on the gun we were joined by 34 more men to act as drivers. This little party of about 60 strong, with 8 guns, 44 very "bobbery" mules, 4 horses, 8 dogs, a fighting cock, and 36 cases of whisky for the Officers Mess, marched off into the wilds to find their new home. After a very hazardous journey, catching mules, preventing the dogs killing the cock, and the Drabis stealing the whisky we arrived at Kirkuk and were played into the Fort by the Band and Drums. We stayed in the Fort about a fortnight and then came out to Camp to finish our training. The Company is under the Command of Captain Haymen with Lt. Lister and Lt. Hoare in charge of the two sections.

Our Sergeants are Colour Sgt. Goldfinch, Sgt. Denis who has recently joined us from the 1st Battalion, Sgt. Ross and Sgt. George. We have just started to run our own games and up to now have had two matches against B Company, the first game, hockey, we won 2-1 and the second game, football, we drew two all.

**Films Developed and Printed.**
**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
**Canterbury.**
**Kodaks.** **Tel. 21 X.**

# The British Legion.

THE amalgamation of the four leading ex-Service organisations into The British Legion, which in itself is only part of a greater Imperial movement, is a matter of vital interest to every Past and Present Buff individually and also to the Past and Present Association.

Space does not permit of giving in full the aims and objects of The Legion, but broadly they can be said to come under the following two headings :—

(*a*) To protect the interests of members of all Services on their return to civil life, together with that of the widows, children and Dependants of those who have fallen.

(*b*) To perpetuate in the civil life of the Empire and the world the principles for which we have fought; to inculcate a sense of loyalty to the community, State and nation; to promote unity amongst all classes; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, and to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual service and helpfulness.

In regard to (*b*) the following extracts from a recent article in *The Evening Standard* by Capt. Baird is of interest.

"As one who has persistently urged unity amongst ex-Service men for the last four years, I should like to suggest that at least one of the resolutions passed at the inaugural meeting of the Legion should receive further consideration.

This resolution provided that the "British Legion shall not be used as a recruiting agency for any of H.M. Forces," and Mr. Lister, who presided at the opening meeting said: "I hope you will remember the concluding words of the inspired message from Marshal Foch, when he said: 'War is not the highest goal, since above war there is peace.' I believe it is because peace is greater than war that we have come here."

Obligations of Service.

Those are words which every ex-Service man will heartily endorse, but what other way is there first of acquiring and then securing peace than that of maintaining at full strength and in a state of contentment and efficiency our fighting forces? This is not a suggestion that a recruiting campaign should be initiated within the Legion itself with a view to persuading members to re-offer their services, but it is to suggest that the Legion may use its influence and power towards ensuring that the younger generation shall fulfil to the Empire the great obligation which is awaiting them, and help to perpetuate for all time the example that has already been set.

Now it so happens that in my own particular district those responsible for recruiting in the Territorials have sought with no small amount of success the active co-operation of the local branches of ex-Service organisations. Surely it cannot be seriously intended by the Legion that the co-operation is to come to an end; and surely it cannot be for negative purposes such as these that amalgamation has been effected.

[*The reply received from the British Legion to our request for information as to how it is proposed that Regimental Associations shall amalgamate with, become affiliated to, or co-operate with The British Legion will be found on page* 131. *Ed.*]

**ON PULLING TOGETHER.**

We would appeal to all readers to back, whenever and wherever they can, the firms which are backing our venture with their advertisements. These houses are all of high reputation and they display sound commodities which are at all times in greater or less request. And please mention the *Dragon* when giving your order.

# THE DEPOT WEEK, 1921.

*August 15th. Cricket Match: A Buffs XI. v. The East Kent Hunt.*
*August 16th. Depot Sports.*
*August 17th & 18th: A Buffs XI. v. The Small Arms School.*
*August 19th. Cricket Match: Past and Present Buffs.*

## SOCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

### AT HOMES.

*ON the occasion of The Depot Sports, the Officers, Sergeants, and Corporals, will be at home to their friends.*

### LUNCH & TEA.

*AT the Past v. Present Cricket Match on the 19th, Lunch and Tea will be available on the ground for all Old Buffs present, the prices being 1/6 and 6d. respectively.*

### WHIST DRIVE.

*THE evening of the 19th will be devoted to a Whist Drive, at which 8 prizes will be given, and at which refreshments of all kinds at popular prices will be available.*

### ACCOMMODATION.

*WHILST in addition arrangements are being made by which Old Buffs coming from a distance can be accommodated in Barracks.*

**Applications both for Lunch and Accommodation should reach the Hon. Sec., The Past and Present Association, The Buffs Depot, Canterbury. not later than the 12th inst.; and in the case of the former a remittance should occompany the application.**

### A RECORD GATHERING.

*IT is hoped that every Officer, N.C.O., and man who is within reach of the Depot and who has ever served in either the Regulars, Militia, Special Reserve, Territorials, and Service Battalions, will make a special effort to be present on August 19th. A record gathering is expected, and no stone is being left unturned towards making the day a thoroughly enjoyable one.*

## THE ANNUAL DINNER

## BUFFS

## REGIMENTAL DINNER CLUB

WILL TAKE PLACE AT

**CONNAUGHT ROOMS**

GT. QUEEN STREET, W.C.

On FRIDAY, 2nd SEPTEMBER, 1921

AT 7.30 P.M.

DRESS:—Service Dress or Evening Dress.

*R.S.V.P. to O.C. Depot, The Buffs, not later than eight days before 2nd September.*

---

**It is hoped that every officer who has ever held a commission in the Buffs will make a special effort to be present.**

# HISTORY OF THE BUFFS

## 1914-1919

BY

**COLONEL R. S. H. MOODY, C.B.**

(*late the Buffs*).

*The History will include the Services of all Battalions of the Buffs and will contain illustrations and maps, as well as complete lists of all those who lost their lives.*

*The price will not exceed 7/6, and, in order that the Committee may form an idea as to how many copies to order from the Publishers, intending purchasers are asked to give notice of their intention as early as possible to*

MAJOR F. W. TOMLINSON,
Hon. Sec. The Buffs History,
2 Cavendish Square,
London, W. 1.

*Note. Payment will not be required until the History is ready for delivery.*

## Regimental Newspapers.

A movement which should go far is the recently formed Association of regimental newspapers. Some sixteen of these publications have already become members. The Chairman is Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Arthur Leetham, of the *Cavalry Journal*. The Executive Committee entrusted with development is composed of Major B. F. St. John (*St. George's Gazette*), Major W. S. Turner (*China Dragon*), Captain H. H. C. Baird (*The Dragon*), the regimental paper of the Buffs), Captain Stewart (*Territorial Illustrated*), Captain W. V. Palmer (*The Queen's Own Gazette*), and Captain W. T. Sargeaunt (*Tank Corps Journal*), who is hon. secretary. The other publications which have come into the movement are the *R.U.S.I. Journal, Hampshire Regimental Journal, London Scottish Regimental Gazette, R.A.O.C., Gazette, Royal Fusiliers Chronicle, Hibernia, Faugh-a-Ballagh, Globe and Laurel, Tiger and Rose*, and the *Ypres Times*.

Briefly, the objects of the Association are :

Free interchange of ideas, copy, and blocks, etc.

The dissemination among its *clientèle* of news relating to the Army Sports Control Board, the British Legion, the Ypres League, the Officers' Association, and all other such movements of interest to those who have served. And also to work in close co-operation with the publicity departments of all Government Departments, obtaining from them, not only their everyday Press communications, but special articles of interest to the serving and ex-Service man.

A centralised advertising campaign.

Ultimately, each paper to be of a standard size, with a view to economy of production.

A Big Programme.

This is a big programme, but by no means an unsurmountable one, if only the authorities, and the War Office in particular, will take the long view and appreciate from the outset its great potentialities.

There is no possible doubt that a regimental paper can be made the greatest asset in a thousand and one ways. But this, of course, is not to say that every page of a regimental paper must preach a sermon or be in deadly earnest. Far from it, the lighter element is every bit as important, and for this the newly formed Association will equally cater in the way of collecting good drawings, short sketches, and articles of general interest. The writer has recently made a careful study of between thirty and forty such journals, and the successful ones are undoubtedly those which show originality and variation in their contents. There can be no doubt that the successful way of running one can easily be introduced into others. This is but another object of the Association, the hope being that ultimately every regiment may have its own monthly publication, which will not only provide the means of keeping its own record, but also a permanent link between those now serving and those who have served.

[*The above article appeared in The Morning Post of July 11th. Ed.*]

## From an Old Buff.

### A Striking Letter.

WE are indebted to Captain Cook of the 1st Battn. for sending us the following letter received by him from Mr. John Mullineux. We publish this letter in full, not only on account of its absorbing interest, but also as a means of congratulating Mr. Mullineux on the way he is still "beating the drum." We also hope that the publicity given may lead to our helping Mr. Mullineux to obtain further information about Sergt. Downs, and to placing both him and us in touch with other old Buffs who served in the Regiment during the Campaign and periods he refers to. Here is his letter.

Dear Sir,

May I ask if you would kindly oblige me by sending me about 6 inches of the Perak Expedition 1875-6 Ribbon though perhaps there may not be any serving now in the Regiment that took part in it so long as 46 years ago. If you should have any in stores, telling me the price of it, I will forward the cost in stamps.

I will now try and give you an explanation of myself. I am an "Old Buff" having joined the Regiment when they were stationed at the Curragh in 1866, 55 years ago come July 5th next, a long time to look back upon. I went out to India with them along with my dear brother, who I am sorry to say died of Cholera in 1867, when we were stationed at Meerut and where the Regiment lost a deal of Men, Women and Children. Before we left Meerut we erected a Regimental Monument to their memory.

I have often looked back to thirteen years ago with very great pleasure, when I spent a very pleasant week with the Regiment. They were then stationed at Aldershot. Sergt.-Major Cooke was their Sergt.-Major. Sayer was Drum Major, and Cooper Sergt. Instructor of Musketry. Other names I now forget. I am glad to say that I came across one who I left in India, Sergt. Downs by name. He was then living at Guilford near Aldershot, and had received an invitation to the Regimental Sports which were being held the week I was there. I am sorry to say that I do not know what has become of him. I corresponded with him for a long time after. Perhaps he may have joined the great majority, for he was a few years older than me.

I am glad to say that I am keeping fairly well myself. I should very much like to see the Regiment, "The Old Regiment" once more before I go hence. But that I am afraid is nearly out of the question, Ireland being in such an unsettled state, at present.

I am glad to say that I still hold the position of Drum Major to the Bolton Battalion "Church Lads' Brigade, which I have now held for nearly 20 years.

I hope you will pardon the liberty I have here taken in writing to you being a perfect stranger, but at the same time proud of being an old Buff. Hoping this may find you in good health, I beg to subscribe myself, dear Sir, yours very respectfully,

John Mullineux.

### Our Competitions.

*The late arrival of the July Dragon having given our readers little or no time in which to let us know whether they are in favour of competitions being run in The Dragon or not, the final decision in regard to this matter is held over until next month.*

*In the meantime the number of postcard opinions received up to date is disappointing, and we again express the hope that each of our readers, officers and men, will let us have their views not later than the 14th inst.*

### The 14th.

*In order to make certain of the Dragon appearing up to time, namely, on the first day of the month, it has been found necessary to make the 14th instead of the 18th of the current month the closing date for the receipt of copy for the following month's issue.*

*Battalion, Company, and other correspondents are invited to make a careful note of this announcement.*

# "Beneath Bell Harry."

BY THE MAN WITH THE SQUEEGEE.

WE mentioned the all-pervading drought when last we took up our pen. A little tantalising rain has fallen since but at the moment of writing we are recovering from what is considered to be the hottest July day for eighty-four years.

This is weather for shady backwaters and punts, for pleasant company and indolence, but, except on rare Sundays, we mop our brows and carry on with the great work in the cauldron of Canterbury. It must necessarily be assumed that this city was sited in the Ice age and without thought of the almost tropical heat of this *annus mirabilis*.

We fortunately completed Table "B" at Blean before the heat really began, and it is noteworthy that the shooting was very satisfactory. As soon as the last shot was fired the Band departed to Herne Bay where they are delighting the fashionable throng thrice daily.

Cricket is going strong in weather which is designed primarily for the game. The depot victories now number six, a great improvement on last year's succession of defeats. Brief results of matches are given later on this page.

By the time these words are in print Cricket Week and its attendant excitement will be upon us. The monastic calm of our cloistered lives will receive its annual shock and there will be sounds of revelry by day and by night. Close upon Cricket Week will come our own seven days of Sport and Striving and we hope for great days.

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CRICKET RESULTS.

Depot versus Littlebourne C.C., played at Canterbury on 25th June. Depot: 192 (Lt. Willows 46, Capt. Morley 30, C.S.M. Couchman 29). Littlebourne: 49 (L/Cpl. Parry 5 wickets for 16. Lt. Maiden 4 wickets for 21.)

Depot versus 5th Battalion The Buffs Defence Force. 5th Battalion The Buffs: 253 for 5 wickets (Capt. Cremer 128, Lt. Cooke 43). Depot: 100 (Corpl. McNeir 26, C.S.M. Couchman 17).

The Depot versus The Queen's Own R.W.K. Depot. Played at Maidstone on July 2nd. A thoroughly enjoyable and interesting game as is always the case when we meet our *vis-à-vis* from Maidstone.

The Queen's Own won the toss, batted first and compiled 87. Our reply was 76.

In their second innings the Queen's Own sportingly declared with 7 wickets down for 78, leaving us 90 runs to get in just about an hour. This we achieved thanks to some spirited use of the long handle by L/Cpl. Parry who went in last, hit two sixes and several fours including the winning hit.

We won by 2 runs with as many minutes to spare. For some time those who were anxiously calculating our runs thought that we had just succeeded in making a fix of it and it was almost disappointing to be told that we had passed our opponents' total by two runs.

Depot versus Wingham C.C. Depot: 217 for 9 declared. (Lt. Willows not out 55. Major Guy Lee 53. Corporal McNeir 49).

Wingham: 145 (Lt. Willows 4 wickets for 25. L/Cpl. Parry 4 for 46).

Depot versus St. Lawrence A. Depot: 124 (Lt. Willows 38, C.S.M. Couchman 21). St. Lawrence A: 135 for 2.

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**Families Outing to Whitstable.**

"Lovely day, a nice place and a beautiful Tea" sums up the Married Families' Outing on July 13th.

A start was made from Canterbury West at 11.40, Whitstable being reached about 30 minutes later.

Everyone went out to enjoy themselves in their own way, and they certainly did, too. At Tea time (17·00 hours) all very contentedly sat down to a Bonny Tea—piles of winkles and mountains of cake disappearing like magic. The Commanding Officer and Mrs. Crookenden visited us during the afternoon and all were glad to see them. The return journey was made at 19·20 hours, all being tired out but very happy.

R.Q.M.S. Andrews, tireless in organizing and helping, must feel satisfied that his efforts were rewarded by results.

(1) Who likes winkles?
(2) What of the Pierrots?

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SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES.

Apart from Sports—accounts of which will be found below—there is little that calls for special comment during the past month in connection with the Mess.

C.Q.M.S. W. G. Jones has arrived home from abroad on ceasing to be employed on the A.G. Staff and is with us at the Depot: while Sergeant A. Jones has joined the Depot for a tour of duty from the 1st Battalion in place of Sergeant W. E. Jones posted from here to that Battalion. Quite a shandy of the "Jonahs!"

Pensioner (late Clr.-Sergeant) Percy Ralph has taken up his duties on the Recruiting Staff and we occasionally see his cheery face in the Mess. He has recovered from his recent accident (a fractured arm), and seems well enough now—at all events he has got no thinner. Ex.-R.S.M. Bennell has returned from New Zealand and gives us a look up now and again. He has once more settled in Canterbury, at all events for the time being, and though getting well on in years carries his age wonderfully well. He tells us some startling tales of how he was held up on the voyage out due solely to strikes and other matters of industrial unrest, so that, seemingly, it is not only the Mother Country who has been recently suffering in that respect.

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A most pleasant time was spent on Wednesday, 29th June, 1921, when we played the Littlebourne C.C. at Littlebourne. Although nearly all our best players were unable to play owing to their services being required for the Depot Team, we put up a very good fight but were defeated by 5 wickets. Our team was captained by R.Q.M.S. Andrews who looked after us as he always does on the field and off, but being a very "Shaky" turn out, for "Taffy and Wally." Some very good bowling by "Taffy" and Sgt. Dennis was accomplished, the former taking 6 for 32 and the latter 6 for 34.

A very nice tea was given by the Littlebourne C.C. and a smoker in the evening, where Sgt. Beasley returned their splendid entertainment with a song "When the Umpire says your *OUT*, then you're *OUT*" and a few

**" Beneath Bell Harry "**—*Continued.*

" tales " by C.S.M. Pigott that kept them in roars of laughter. They are only too anxious for a Return and no doubt we will give them as good a time as they gave us.

Some of the Littlebourne Team wished to be remembered to Sgt. " Gibbo " and " Lottie."

The scoring in the Classification Practices by the members of the team were a revelation to all. Bulls-eyes were plentiful.

Maxted, an old Buff, played " mine host " and will be pleased to see any old Buff at the Evenhill House.

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On Saturday, July 9th, 1921, we played the return match with the Canterbury City Police. The Sergts. batted first and totalled 145 for 9 wickets. The Chief Scorers were C.S.M. Couchman, 54 ; C.Q.M.S. Bridgland, 29 not out ; C.Q.M.S. Ransley, 20 ; R.S.M. Dare, 15. The Police collapsed against the bowling of Sgts. Maillard and Dennis, and were dismissed for the total of 39. Sgt. Maillard took 5 wickets for 21 and Sgt. Dennis 2 for 18.

TENNIS.

The Sergeants' Mess Tennis Tournament is now in full swing, and the following games have been played off in the first round.

Ladies Singles.

Miss D. Foster defeated Miss W. Foster in a well-fought set. Scores 6-4.

Mrs. Beasley defeated Mrs. Osborne 6-1. The feature of this set was the splendid services of Mrs. Beasley.

In the Men's Singles a very exciting game was fought between R.Q.M.S. Andrews and O.R.-Sergt. Maillard. The former shewed splendid skill in serving and returning. and considering the game was played on the full court, the R.Q.M.S. shewed wonderfully agility in getting to the ball. The Games stood at 5 all, and it was then necessary to obtain 2 clear games to decide the winner, which eventually fell to C.R.S. Maillard after a hard struggle.

Scores : O.R.S. Maillard 7. R.Q.M.S. Andrews 5.

The full results of the tournament will be reported in next month's issue.

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CORPORALS' MESS.

Since the last issue, there has been somewhat of a quiet time among the Corporals owing, in a great measure, to the Annual Course of Musketry for which everyone felt constrained to concentrate strongly on " Points (NOT PINTS) to be observed when firing," in order to successfully combat the Powers that be for elusive " Profish."

However one very enjoyable day was spent by the Bhoys at Dover on the 11th June when they were entertained by the details of the 2nd Connaughts to a game of Cricket, etc., and losing only by 8 runs after a good afternoon's sport. The scores being as follows : " Connaughts," 115, Corpls. " Buffs " 107. Top scores for losers being L/C. Parry 26 and L/C. Aldridge 25, not out, both of whom endeavoured to emulate Jack Hobbs.

Needless to say the—er—" Dover Air " certainly agreed with all, and the party returned safely home, filled with heartfelt longings for just such another trip.

One other match has been versus R.A.M.C. on the Home ground, resulting in another loss by 9 runs ; the Corporals fielding, from various causes, a rather weak team. Scores :—Corporals 67. R.A.M.C. 76.

Nevertheless our spirits are still running high, and it is hoped to add a series of wins before the present season ends, especially when this heat wave breaks.

Members are going strong on our new bagatelle table, kindly presented by the Commanding Officer.

LA PETIT CORPORAL.

ANNUAL MUSKETRY COURSE.

The Annual Course for 1921 has just been completed. The weather on the whole was good, as was also the result. The Depot average was 146·7 which is 16·7 over 1st Class shot. Dr. Collier " A " Coy. proved to be the top scorer with 200, closely followed by C.S.M. Piggott " B " Coy. with 198, Pte. Raines " B " Coy. with 190 being 3rd, and Lieut. Willows " B " Coy. with 189, 4th. Other marksmen were Sgt. Morgan, Pte. Beal, Dr. Laming, and Sgt. Legg.

The following classified as 1st Class Shots :—

C.S.M. Couchman, Pte. Ellen, C.S.M. Knight, Dr. Wise, Cpl. Baker, C.Q.M.S. Ransley, Cpl. Woods, Dr. Baker, Pte. Wadelin, L/Cpl. Torre, Pte. Piper, Sgt. Wren, Sgt. Brooker, Sgt. Potter, L/Cpl. Adams, Pte. Mills, Cpl. Sands, Dr. Pike, C.S.M. Bones, Sgt. Bromley, Cpl. Holding, Cpl. Dillon, Dr. Philpot, L/Cpl. Driscoll, C.Q.M.S. Spearpoint, C.S.M. Verlander, L/Cpl. Bradley, Dr. Richards, and Lieut. Maiden.

Casuals have not fired yet. Field firing will take place later in the year.

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## Army Historical Research.

IN addition to becoming a member of The Association of Regimental Newspapers we have now subscribed to the Society of Army Historical Research. The objects of this Society are :—

1. To encourage research into Army Antiquities, into matters connected with Regimental History, Uniform Dress and Equipments of the past, Old Military Customs and Traditions, the Art of War in bygone days, Pictures, Prints, Medals, Relics, and other subjects of similar interest.

2. For this purpose to publish a Journal, to be called " ARMY HISTORICAL RESEARCH," containing original Articles, extracts from rare and not easily accessible old Military Works, Pictures and Notes, Drawings, Questions, and Answers, and generally to serve as a medium of inter-communication between Members of the Society.

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## Service for Pension.

An Army Order published monthly provides that all periods spent by soldiers with the Colours during the Great War, on any attestation, otherwise than in connection with a state of civil emergency, shall reckon as service, and (except under the age of 18 years) as qualifying service, towards pension. Periods in Classes W, T, and W. (T) of the Army Reserve shall reckon as service, but not as qualifying service, towards pension. Periods in Classes B, P, P. (T) and Z. will not reckon as service or as qualifying service.

Classes W. Army Reservists and W.T. Territorial Force Reservists were established in 1916, and comprised all soldiers whose services were deemed more valuable in civil than in military employment. Class T., Army Reserve, also established in 1916, consisted of men in certain specified skilled trades who would otherwise have passed to Class W. on leaving the Colours or on transfer to Class B. Classes P., Army Reserve, and P.T., Territorial Force Reserve, established in 1916, were composed of men whose services were deemed of greater value in civil life than in the Army, but who through previous military service, were eligible on discharge for a disability pension, or qualified by length of service to receive a service pension. Class Z. established in 1918, comprised men released from service but liable to be recalled in case of urgent military necessity.

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**If The Dragon appeals to you, it will no doubt appeal to others. Why not tell them about it ?**

# The 5th Battalion.

ALTHOUGH one would naturally expect a breeze of an intensive vertical nature to prevail when the time arrived for the dispersal of the Defence Force, the Battalion passed peacefully and regretfully away at Dover on July 4th. Apart from three of the best for the Commanding Officer, the Adjutant and the Officers, there was no gnashing of teeth or emotional disturbances, except from the four quarter blokes who reluctantly resigned themselves to the pleasant task of clearing up.

On the whole the battalion spent a most happy time both at Shorncliffe and Dover. The gods that be apparently thought however that the 5th were something akin to the gentlemen, who armed with alpine-stocks, tend to the wants of Mr. Nestle's goats on the mountains, for the contours encircling both these havens of rest were somewhat of an elevated nature. Still all these difficulties were surmounted and the battalion dispersed a much fitter body of men.

Whilst at Dibgate and Dover we sported a pretty good cricket eleven and some excellent contests were witnessed. In this respect at the kind invitation of Lieutenant "Alec," a representative team journeyed from Connaught Barracks and spent a most enjoyable day at Hawkhurst.

We shall never forget the "nice" little stroll to the Orderly Room from the Barracks. The regimental, always considerate for the fitness of his N.C.O.'s was exceedingly fond of blowing that beloved call with one "gee" at the end, and those of us who were waiting to hear what his latest brain wave was, were kept in anxious suspense until the poor orderly sergeants managed to crawl back from the long, long, trail.

### "A" Company.

The headquarter Company retained most of their personalities until the end. As Mac (now minus his beloved bowler but wearing a somewhat dilapidated hat of the Alpine variety), Tibby, Goodie and the rest of the Company drifted away,) Hookie and Britt stood hand in hand and quoting those fine words of Lauder, "It is a far far better thing we are doing now than we ever hope to do again" wending their way into the bunk with every intention of finding solace in the bewitching arms of the Goddess "Morpheus." Alas 'twas not to be, for an irresistable wave of "Blanketitus" originating from the Quartermaster's stores rather upset their plans and days of harrowing toil ensued.

Tim, whose demeanour is generally calm and sedate, rather reminded the rear party as an Inquisition Superintendant. In the evening however a "Johnnie" preferably double, a cue and balls seemed to melt the heart of this modern Captain Kettle. It was rather extraordinary too, how Algy used to cotton on to this Company but, unlike Tim, he pulled the strings behind the scenes, and a very strong wrist he had—vide Digger's notes on breeze, vertical and otherwise.

Anyhow the last of the Moichans still lived to tell the tale and amidst all the slander that generally surrounds a quarter bloke bade one last despairing goodbye to Connaught Barracks as the G.S. limber trundled down the zig-zag.

### C Company.

We have once again resumed the peaceful occupations of Civilian Life but unfortunately a good number of our comrades in arms are now on the unemployed list and I am sure they have the deep sympathy of all ranks We can only hope the wheel of fortune will soon turn in their direction; and we earnestly appeal to all employers of labour to do all they can to help these Comrades in appreciation of the valuable services they have rendered during the late emergency.

We are proud of the fact that over 50 men from Cranbrook responded to the Country's appeal and they look back with pride to their service under that ever popular C.O. Lt.-Colonel J. Body, D.S.O., T.D. Cranbrook is ever to the fore, when an appeal has to be answered, proof of which is given in the fact that practically all our men who served in the Defence Force have rejoined the Terriers. And we are also pleased to welcome nine new ex-Service men who have joined us from the D.F. including one who has the proud honour of wearing the D.C.M. They say "Good Old Mac."

We are now looking forward to our great recruiting march through the Weald of Kent which starts from Headcorn on August 6th, and we hope we shall be fortunate enough to have the services of the Depot Band. I am sure all ranks in this Company will do their utmost to answer the C.O.'s appeal to get enough recruits to bring the Company to its required strength. No effort of ours shall be spared to prevent the Gallant 5th from being disbanded.

*A Regimental Order may or may not be issued in the near future to the effect that orderly officers will, during their leisure hours, take any steps they consider suitable to increase the circulation of The Dragon.*

*We may look forward therefore, to something like the scene here depicted happening shortly.*

## C.O.'s Inspection.

BY PTE. J. B. SPICER.

"THE Commanding Officer will inspect "H" Company's quarters on Saturday, next at 10.00 hrs."

The above is an extract from Battalion Orders and causes the Company named a certain amount of what is commonly termed, "wind-up." The men live in the throes of white-wash, red paint, and Brunswick black for at least three days before the "Great Day" and the quarters to be inspected present a bee-hive of industrious scrubbers, white-washers, painters and polishers who work willingly for the good of the cause.

The Wednesday preceding the great day is allotted to white-washing. The men become decorators of the very first water, and dinner-time sees an orderly rush to the Company wash-house to remove the remnants of a half-bushel of white-wash that cannot be accounted for.

Throughout the remainder of the day a steady rain of white-wash patters on the ground floor of "H" Company's dwellings. A Tommy perched on a table of the "B" III. category, wobbles and loses his equilibrium trying to reach a little farther than his predecessor did. From an upper room one hears the strains of that very tuneful melody, "When Father painted the Parlour."

Thursday is given over to painting. Brunswick-black and red-ochre is the order of the day. The Company assumes the aspect of a mixture of Red Indians, and South-African negroes. Everybody seems employed in the paint and varnish trade, for a paint brush or paint pot is in the hand of every man.

One must indeed walk warily when visiting "H" Company's quarters. Should a person unthinkingly close a door which some seemingly idiotic fellow has left open, he will have many hours to reflect on his own stupidity and the meaning of those two words "Wet Paint," which had unfortunately escaped his eye.

Friday is the day allotted to scrubbing.

From every room comes a sound of strenuous labour. Sc-rub! Scrub! Scrub. One has a fair representation of Niagara, or, the Grand Cascade flowing down the stone stairs of the Company's quarters. Scrubbing brushes appear in all sorts of weird and unexpected places and, in the attempt to evade the never-ending streams of water that spit defiance at you, you invariably come to grief, sprawling over a rather objectionable looking mop, swallowing a few of its rag-like bristles where-with to allay your appetite.

But by Saturday the air has become clearer incidentally your hair has become a shade greyer. It may be white-wash of a fast nature? 10.00 hrs. arrives. The Commanding Officer very punctual, arrives also. He finds a little to grumble at, nothing much it is true, but still a Commanding Officer is happy if he grumbles a little. It is recognised that the Commanding Officer must appear to be a wee bit dissatisfied. His criticism on the inspection is noted by the O.C. Company and the defect speedily remedied. But on the q.t. the C.O. informs the O.C. that his quarters were,—"Damn fine!

This gets abroad in some mysterious fashion and the tommies of "H" Company smile, and whisper,—"Good on you, McDuff."

### Scene at the Cook House.

New Cook Orderly. What's for Supper, Sergt?
Master Cook. Tripe and Onions, my lad, so buck up and get the water on.
New Cook Orderly. Tripe? Where's the Tripe! Sergt.
Master Cook. Hanging behind the door, boy.
N.C.O. (aside). Blime! and I've been wiping my 'ands on it.

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# GAMAGES, HOLBORN, LONDON, E.C.1

No. 262. September, 1921.

# The Dragon

A PAPER OF THE MEN OF

FOR MEN BUFFS, AND KENT.

## CONTENTS.


| | page |
|---|---|
| Personalia ... ... ... ... | 147—148 |
| Regimental Notabilities ... ... ... | 148 |
| The Buffs' War Memorial... ... | 149—152 |
| The First Battalion ... ... | 153—154 |
| Civil Liabilities ... ... ... ... | 154 |
| 1st Buffs *v.* 1st Queen's ... ... ... | 155 |
| Past and Present Association ... ... | 155 |
| On Tour with the Families ... ... | 156 |
| The Fourth Battalion ... ... ... | 157 |
| Wanted—Bones of Contention ... ... | 158 |
| Regimental Encyclopœdia ... ... | 158 |
| Mutt and Jeff ... ... ... ... | 159 |
| Agents Wanted ... ... ... ... | 159 |
| The Fifth Battalion ... ... ... | 160 |
| Our Buffooneries ... ... ... ... | 160 |
| The Depot Week ... ... ... | 161—163 |
| Births, Marriages and Deaths ... ... | 163 |
| The 2nd Battalion... ... ... ... | 164 |
| An Impression of Aden ... ... ... | 165 |
| The British Legion... ... ... ... | 166 |
| The Pick of the Basket ... ... ... | 167 |
| Beneath Bell Harry ... ... ... | 168 |
| Obituary ... ... ... ... ... | 169 |
| Enquiry Bureau ... ... ... ... | 170 |
| Regimental Gazette ... ... ... | 170 |
| Our Competitions ... ... ... ... | 171 |
| Nursery Rhymes Up-to-date ... ... | 171 |


## Personalia.

CONGRATULATIONS to Major J. Crookenden and all who supported him on the striking success of everything that has taken place at the Depot during the last month.

To do anything like justice to every event, the arrangements made, the way in which they were executed, and the hospitality offered is beyond us. All we are able to do is to crave indulgence for our omissions in trying to record the story of what must surely have been quite the busiest month the Depot has ever known.

There is however just one little group to whom we would like particularly to refer. This is the staff of the Officers' Mess. None could have worked harder, and to give some idea of what they were called upon to do no less than 504 teas were supplied in The Buffs enclosure on Ladies Day of the Cricket Week, whilst in the evening of the Dance no less than 78 sat down at the same time to a five course supper. And so it has been with them almost incessantly during the last three weeks.

The following Buffs played with the Old Stagers during the Cricket Week :—Major F. W. Tomlinson (O.C. Noises off produced by Sgt. Chambers and 8 recruits, in Trilby), Major Gould whose performance as a cricketer obtained for him a special notice in *The Times*, Capt. Strettell as "Dodor" in Trilby, Capt. Morgan as Albert the butler in Lady Frederick, Brig.-General Finch Hatton and Capt. Baird who carried Old Stagers and I.Z. Banners respectively, and Mrs. E. H. Finch Hatton as the spirit of the Old Stagers. Whilst another Buff who took part was Lord Harris who, with Lord Dartmouth, scored the dramatic success of the week with the topical verses written by the latter and entitled "I've been thinking."

Speaking of the Cricket Week the following Buffs were seen upon the ground in addition to those serving at the Depot.

Colour-Sgt. Coppings, Sgt. Burton, Sgt.-Major Longman, Capt. Reid, Sgt. Dale, Sgt.-Major Jenner, Capt. H. Barton, Capt. Boon (Junior), Pte. Farrow, Dr. Mount, Bandsman Hotchkins, Sgt.-Major Cheal, Sgt. Macdonagh, Major Tylden-Pattenson, Capt. H. H. C. Baird, Br.-Gen. Finch Hatton, Lt.-Col. H. Findlay, Major H. E. Ward, Major V. T. Dampier Palmer, Lt.-Col. R. S. I. Friend, Maj.-Gen. Sir A. Lynden Bell, Maj.-Gen. Sir Guy Bainbridge, Gen. Sir Arthur Paget, Lt.-Col. Hulke, Sgt. Coveney, Capt. C. P. Lloyd, Capt. H. Gilead Smith, Mrs. Backhouse, Capt. H. de R. Morgan, Capt. J. B. Sharp, Lt.-Col. A. C. Jackson, Major W. Tufnell, Sgt. Groombridge, Major M. A. E. Chapman, Mrs. Norman, Lt.-Col. R. Bright, Mrs. Bright, Lt.-Col. R. E. Power, Major H. James, Lt.-Col. Mainwaring Dunstan.

**Personalia**—*Continued.*

It will no doubt interest our readers to hear that the Secretary of State for War has very kindly given us an interview, the subject under discussion being Regimental Newspapers. As a result of our representations the names of all Regimental Papers are to be published in the Army List in the future and such articles as may be desired by them from the War Office and Army Sports Control Board are to be supplied.

Congratulations to Major Lord Teynham, late the Buffs, on being awarded The Legion of Honour.

We have just had a most interesting letter from the Bishop of Rockhampton, Queensland, about Captain Lathom's grave. The Bishop, or, as he then was, the Rev. P. C. Crick interviewed Captain Lathom's grand-daughter (now deceased) who lived at Blangy and arranged for the renovating of Captain Lathom's grave. We hope to refer to this at greater length in our next number.

Captain W. T. Johnston and Lieut. H. T. Brady are both at Dublin still; the former at the Castle, but rather expecting to be out of a job when (and if) the new government takes charge; the latter is still at G.H.Q.

Colonel Sir Courtenay Vyvyan has been up in London during August on one of his very infrequent visits, and looks very fit. Unfortunately he was just too late for the Cricket Week and too early for the Depot Week.

Mr. Eric Millar, late 4th Battalion, who is working in the British Museum has been most helpful in connection with the Book of Honour which is to be placed near the War Memorial in Canterbury Cathedral.

We regret that pressure of space compels us to omit from this month's number the first of the series of articles on Colonels of the Buffs, and a quantity of other matter.

A very cheerful letter has been shown to us written by Mr. G. W. Hopkins, who joined the South African Constabulary after the South African War. He went out originally with the Mounted Infantry under Lieut. (now Colonel) Gregson. He was taken prisoner at Sannah's Post, but escaped the next day. Later on he was Colonel McDouall's orderly when he was in command of No. 10 troop, a division of the S.A.C., and was made Corporal by him. He is now living at Ladysmith, Cape, South Africa.

Captain Bobbie Child, whose marriage we have much pleasure in announcing on another page, is now playing at the Prince of Wales Theatre in the "Gypsy Princess." Incidentally he umpired in the Past *v.* Present Cricket Match.

Major Tomlinson writes that "C" Company, 1st Battalion, The Buffs, have placed an order with him for 43 copies of The War History of The Buffs, which it is hoped will be published before Christmas. As already stated the selling price of the book is entirely dependent on the number of copies ordered prior to publication, and on this account we invite our readers to follow the example of "C" Company, and to place their orders with Major Tomlinson at the earliest possible date, especially as the number of copies printed will be limited. The announcement relating to the History will be found on page 166.

Lt. H. L. Milles, M.C., has been heard of killing time at Cambridge, playing tennis and learning "stinks."

## Regimental Notabilities.

BREVET LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. E. POWER, D.S.O.

Gazetted 21st October, 1893; Joined 1st Batt. in Jullunder, January, 1894; Seconded for service with West African Frontier Force, 1908–1910; Reported 1st Batt., 1910; Transferred to 2nd Batt. 1911; Commanded 2nd Batt., 1915; Brigade Major, March, 1916–April, 1917; Commanded 2/4th K. O. Y. L. I., April–December, 1917; Commanded 1st Batt. The Buffs, December, 1917–May, 1919.

CAMPAIGNS:—Relief of Chitral, 1895. Punjab Frontier (wounded), 1897–98. Operations Aden Hinterland, 1904. Knock-Ishar and Niger-Cross Expeditions, 1908–10. European War (wounded 2nd Battle of Ypres whilst commanding 2nd Batt.), 1914–18. Awarded D.S.O. and French War Cross.

# The Buffs War Memorial.

## Unveiling by General Lord Horne in the Warriors' Chapel.

*I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me: Write from henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; Even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours.*

IT was with this inspiring sentence that the Dean of Canterbury opened the Service at the Unveiling of The Buffs War Memorial in the Warriors Chapel of the Canterbury Cathedral, which already contains so many emblems sacred to the Regiment.

The ceremony was performed by General Lord Horne, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., A.D.C., G.O.C. Eastern Command, and among the many distinguished people present were the late M. Castenskiold (representing the King of Denmark, Colonel-in-Chief of the Buffs) and General the Rt. Hon. Sir A. Paget, P.C., K.C.V.O., Col. of the Buffs.

Over two thousand people, including many past and present officers and men of the regiment, attended the service, the main part of which was conducted in the Nave. The Depot band, which also accompanied the hymns, played Beethoven's Funeral March before the Service, which opened with that ever-soul-stirring hymn "O God, our help in ages past."

### Lord Horne's Address.

The Dean having recited Psalm xlvi and read the lesson (taken from I Corinthians xv., 50–58) Lord Horne advancing to the foot of the Nave steps, delivered the following impressive and memorable address:—This ancient Cathedral has been the scene of many memorable spectacles and of many impressive ceremonies but I submit that for simple dignity and for fullness of heart no ceremony has excelled that in which we are taking part to-day. A great regiment offers its tribute of respect and affection to those who in the days of war maintained its honour at the cost of their lives. For "The Buffs" is a great regiment—the oldest regiment in the British Army. Its history is the history of England for three and a half centuries. The outline of its history is written on its colours—Blenheim, Waterloo, Albuhera, Punjab, Sebastopol, Taku Forts, South Africa, Chitral, the Relief of Kimberley—and then the Great War. "The Buffs" were the first regiment of the British Army to fight on the soil of Flanders; and in the Great War for the sixth time they fought in that theatre of war. No longer one or two battalions, but eight battalions fought in different parts of the world for a just cause and for the honour and glory of their country and their regiment.

### A Great Record.

Lord Horne then briefly recounted the record of "The Buffs" in the Great War:—

The 1st Battalion, with the Sixth Division, fought on the heights of the Aisne, well known as the Chemin des Dames, on 20th September, 1914; and again in Battle of Ypres in Oct.–Nov., 1914; and so on through the whole war, fighting—and fighting with great distinction.

The 2nd Battalion, brought from India to the trenches of Flanders in January, 1915—endured hardships which could only be realised by those who have undergone similar conditions. From India to the trenches in January! They distinguished themselves by bearing the brunt of the first German gas attack; and then went to Macedonia—that long, weary campaign—emerging with honour and glory.

The 4th and 5th Battalions, so advanced in their training, and having reached such a state of efficiency, that in the early part of the war they were ready to go overseas, to take the place of and to release our Regular battalions in our garrisons abroad. To India they went, and later on two companies joined the 53rd Division in the enterprise in Gallipoli. The 4th Battalion were at Aden—at Aden in the hot weather; and then on to a long, wearying time in India on garrison duty, where the discipline and spirit of "The Buffs" carried them through. The 5th Battalion went to Mesopotamia, and took part in the fighting on the Tigris, ending in the glorious capture of Baghdad.

The 6th Battalion sailed for France with the 12th Division, meeting its baptism of fire at the Battle of Loos, in September, 1915, and afterwards distinguished itself at the Battle of Albert in 1916, and the Battle of Arras in 1917; and so on, including the very serious time in November, 1917—when scant justice has been done to many of the troops which took part in the enterprise in the Cambrai salient.

The 7th Battalion was with the 108th Division on the Somme in 1916, and took part in the fighting at Trones Wood, that never-to-be-forgotten battle.

The 8th Battalion, with the 24th Division, did their duty nobly in Delville Wood, and afterwards served with great distinction at the Battle of Messines and at the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

The 10th Battalion, with the 74th Division, formed of Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles and Royal West Kent Yeomanry, fought in Palestine, and assisted at the capture of Beersheba and Jerusalem—and then went to France in time to join in the ultimate victorious advance.

### What They Endured.

There is a record! One and all, Regulars, Territorials, and those who fought with the Service battalions, all serving, all nobly maintaining the discipline and the traditions of their regiment, all inspired by the spirit of "The Buffs." All this! but not without loss. Twenty-eight thousand men passed through "The Buffs" during the war; 5,684 gave their lives. One in each five men was a casualty!

And so we honour them to-day. They are worthy of honour, for these men, and men such as these, endured a very great deal. In many cases only they themselves knew what they endured; in others only those with them and those who have served under similar conditions know, or can imagine, what they endured. They endured a great deal, but they accomplished much! Not only have they maintained the honour of the regiment and the fair name of the British Army, but they have set an example to the nation and to the world—an example of devotion to duty and self-sacrifice. These are innate qualities of the British character, qualities that will out under stress, qualities that do not appear under softer conditions—to our regret be it said. Would that they would only do so—what a different country this would be! Let those who disparage everything nowadays—who disparage the British Army, and forget and run down the men who have done so much—remember that it is under stress that the great qualities of the British character are revealed. What these men did was to bring out those qualities.

### The Dedication.

So their regiment and their kinsfolk have placed in Canterbury Cathedral—Canterbury Cathedral, so closely associated with "The Buffs"—a memorial expressive of their admiration of those who did their full share to keep alive the sentiment which makes the regiment, and which is reflected in their motto:

*"Veteri frondescit honore."*

Ticket-holders then proceeded to the Warriors' Chapel and with eyes uplifted to where so many of the

*(Continued on next page.)*

**The Buffs War Memorial**—*continued.*

regiment's colours are sheltered—above the East window which is dedicated to the Regiment—listened with mute attention to the Dean's dedicatory prayer which followed the Unveiling by the General:—

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we dedicate this Memorial to the glory of God, in memory of these our brothers, who have fallen in the Great War. May their example inspire us to courage in the greater war against all evil; may their memory, ever burn brightly in those who here, or elsewhere, remember their deeds; and, strengthened by their fellowship, may we look forward to reunion with them in the inheritance of the Saints in Light, through the power of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Redeemer."

Returning to the Nave, the Dean offered special prayers for the Departed and our greatest warriors' hymn "O Valiant Hearts, who to your glory came" was sung with full-hearted fervour by the whole congregation.

And then, the Blessing and—possibly the most impressive portion of the service—The Last Post and Reveille, whilst two thousand men and women stood silent and immovable—the former conjuring up visions of the happy days spent in barrack and in trench with the men whose memory they were honouring; the latter—but who can even attempt to probe the feelings of those wives and mothers, who, for England's sake, gave without a murmur!

* * *

## To their Memory.

Our Sovereign King—the land he rules
For both they fought: for Honour bright
Called them to arms lest tarnish dwelt
On the grand escutcheon of old England's Might
And Majesty.

For each brave lad—each noble heart
Who Gave his all, yet Kept his Soul
Untarnished for that "Great Beyond"
This Token stands, this Warriors' Roll
Of Majesty.

* * *

## Their Sacrifice.

(*An Impression of The Memorial Service by a Serving Buff*).

A FULL report will, of course, be given of the unveiling of the Buffs' Memorial in Canterbury Cathedral, but, consequent on a remark addressed to me on that Sunday afternoon as a casual observer of the ceremony, I thought perhaps a few lines might be spared by the Editor to permit of me shewing what were, to my mind, the feelings of the many relations and friends of the rank and file lost in the war, and who were gathered in large numbers in that great Cathedral.

Many mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, wives and sweethearts had come from afar to pay a final homage to the memory of those noble lads of the Buffs which this Memorial Tablet perpetuates. Collectively, they seemed amazed at the wonderful regularity of the proceedings—the beautiful solemnity of it all—the sentinels with arms reversed—the periods of dead silence when one and all must verily have felt if they never did before in their lives that they were in close touch with their Maker.

It needed little seeing; one could hear those brave mothers and wives essaying to choke back their sobs, hard though it must have been, and it was after the "Last Post" had sounded that an aged mother who had come from the North turned to me and whispered "It is hard, for he was always such a good boy to me." The lad had been killed early in the War.

It was those few words that conveyed to my mind how nobly the mothers of England had borne the loss of their dear sons, for in that memorable assembly on July 31st nothing more than tears (that Heaven-sent outlet for grief) were outwardly indicative of how parents had so nobly and generously and gallantly given their sons for the cause of Freedom and Right.

We shall meet those dear lads of the Buffs again SOMEDAY, for is it not that:—

*The NOW is an atom of sand,*
*And the NEAR is a perishing clod;*
*But AFAR is as Fairyland,*
*And BEYOND is the bosom of God.*

* * *

## Their Graves.

IN all the lands where the forces of the Empire have been engaged during the war lie buried the bodies of thousands of our comrades, who have died for liberty and right. The Empire takes it as a sacred obligation that their graves shall be preserved inviolate through future ages as well as adorned with such monuments as shall most fittingly honour their memory and perpetuate the ideals for which they fell.

The Imperial War Graves Commission, representing all parts of the British Empire, has been charged with the responsibility for carrying out this work. It has laid down that in the treatment of the graves no distinction should be made between officers and men, this desire having been expressed by all ranks whilst fighting was in progress.

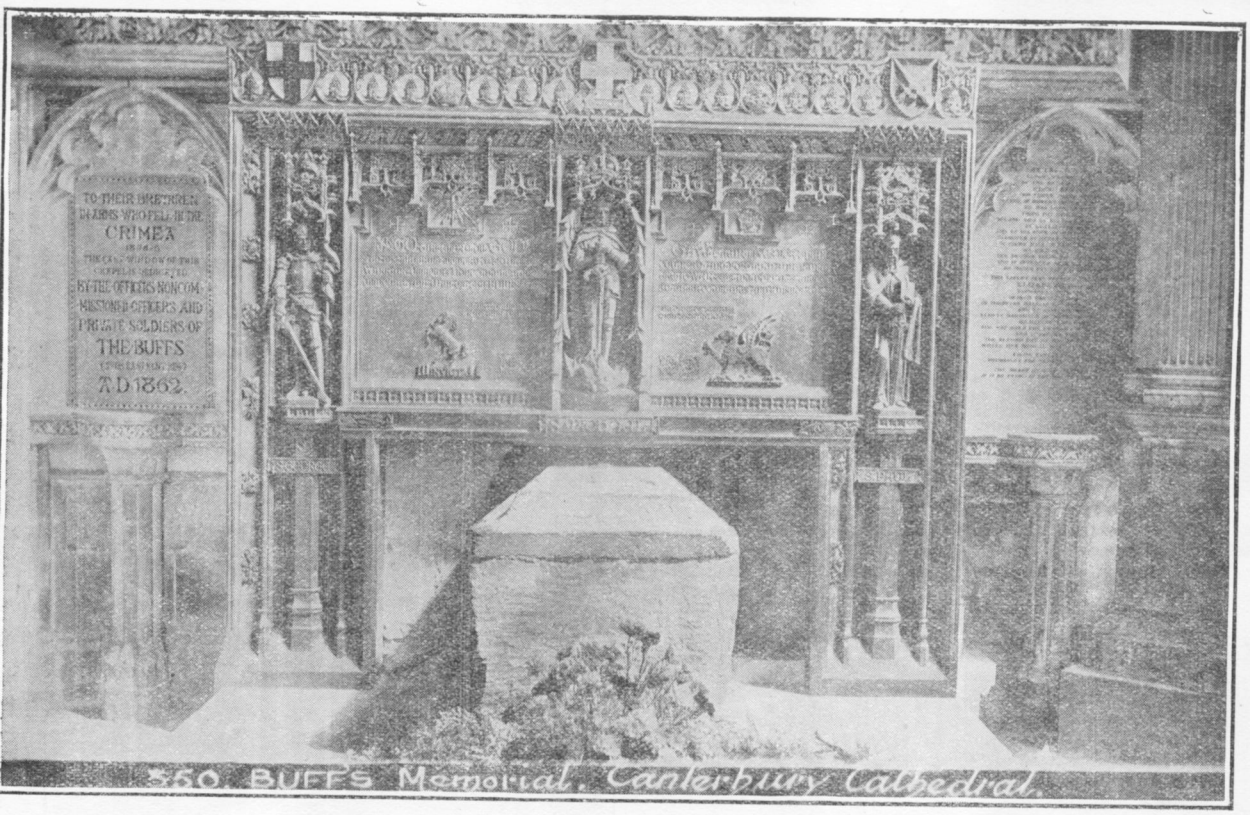
The Commission feels that it would be inadvisable to leave the provision of memorials to private initiative. If memorials were allowed to be erected in the War Cemeteries according to the preference, taste, and means of relatives or friends, the result would be that costly monuments put up by the well-to-do over their dead would contrast unkindly with those humbler ones which would be all that poorer folk could afford. And the cemeteries would lose that regularity and orderliness most becoming the resting-places of soldiers who fought and fell side by side.

The governing consideration which has influenced the Commission's decision is that those who have given their lives are members of one family and children of one mother, who owes to all an equal tribute of gratitude and affection, and that in death all, from General to Private, of whatever race or creed, should receive equal honour under a memorial which should be the common symbol of their comradeship and of the cause for which they died.

To carry out this principle the Commission has decided that in cemeteries, where circumstances admit, each grave shall have its own regimental headstone, which will be uniform in shape and size with the others. On the stone will be inscribed the appropriate religious emblem, the number, name, rank, regiment, and date of death, with the regimental badge, or, in the case of Dominion Soldiers, the national emblem. Thus, all officers and men of the same regiment would rest under headstones of their own regimental pattern. The regiments themselves—British, Dominion, Indian, and from all other parts of the Empire, —have been invited to obtain designs for these headstones from their own officers and men, which have been considered by a committee of artists and architects appointed by the Commission, and are being used as the basis of the designs to be finally adopted.

In addition to headstones over individual graves, the Commission proposes that each cemetery should contain a Cross of Sacrifice and a great Stone of Remembrance as monuments of a general character.

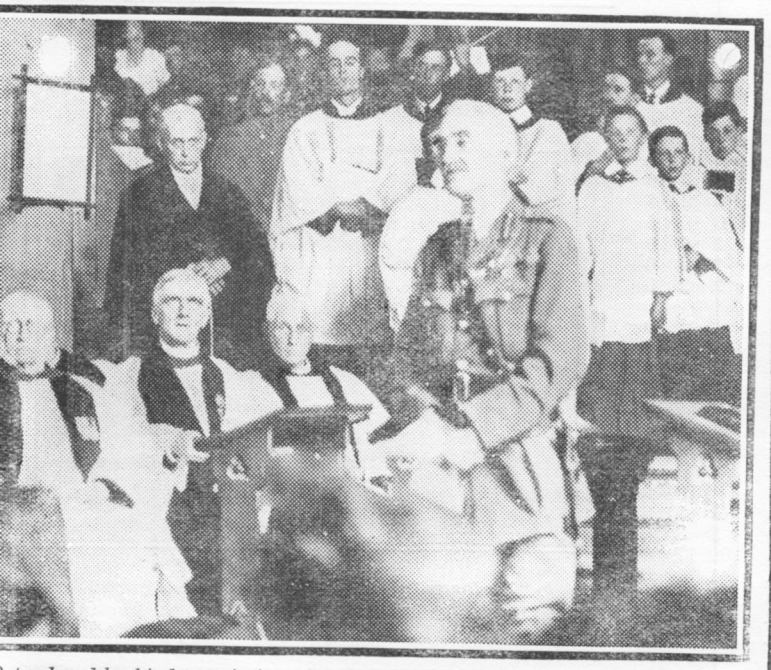
(*Continued on page 152.*)




360. BUFFS Memorial, Canterbury Cathedral.

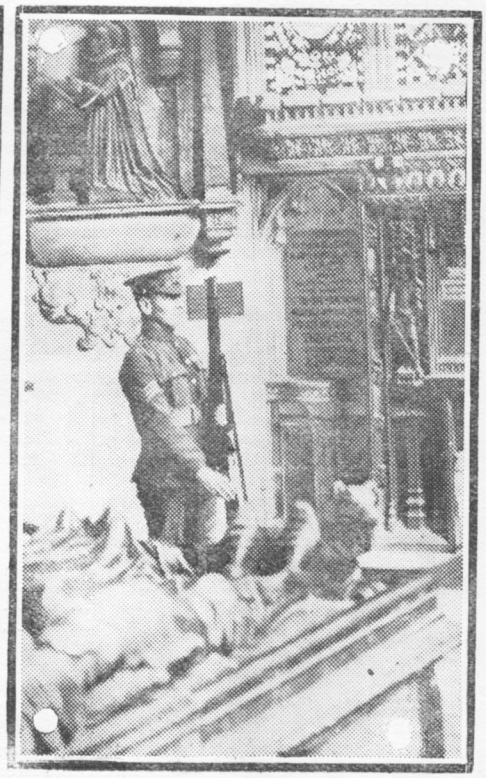
Photo by Ackland & Youngman, Canterbury.

*Reproductions of the above illustration can be had on application to the Editor at 6d. each as follows:— Postcards, unmounted photographs, 5" × 3", or on fine art paper same size as above, suitable for framing.*



*(Reproduced by kind permission of the "Daily Sketch.")*

The above—GENERAL LORD HORNE delivering his address.
On the left of the picture is to be seen Dean Wace.



The picture in the right shows a Sergeant of The Buffs by the Memorial.

## A Tribute

God send their like, in England's future need,
Who England's call, gladly answering, gave
Life, and it's fullness, that the World might live
Free from oppression, at a Tyrant's hand.
Great names, written on these sculptured tombs,
Great deeds of valour, brought undying fame;
What names are greater than these humble ones?
What deeds surpass, their willing sacrifice?
God made them, God took them, they sleep with God.
The deeds they wrought live on in History's page
Glorious traditions that their sons may strive
To emulate at most, can ne'er surpass.

ERIC C. FRINCH.

* * * *

## Donation List.

BELOW will be found the further list of donations received up to the 14th August towards the War Memorial.

6TH LIST OF DONATIONS.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Previously acknowledged ... ... ... | 624 | 10 | 2 |
| Colonel W. E. R. Kelly ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| T. Rowlatt Hubbard, Esq. ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. R. Hollis ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| E. Clarke, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Captain Amies ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. E. Miller... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| H. L. Cremer, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| H. E. James, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lieut.-Colonel C. P. Lloyd ... ... ... | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Jackson ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Per P. C. Ralph, Esq. ... ... ... | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Captain E. Smith ... ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. R. E. Wood ... ... ... ... | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Major F. S. Reeves ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Captain E. Green ... ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Captain T. R. Rye ... ... ... ... | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| G. W. Page, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| C. J. Wood, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Captain N. S. Hart ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| C. E. Kingsford, Esq. ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| W. A. Macfadyen, Esq., M.C. ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Francis Wolstenholme ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| The Misses Lane ... ... ... ... | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. A. Ratcliff ... ... ... ... | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| 1st Battalion The Buffs ... ... ... | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Captain C. E. Hamilton ... ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hardcastle ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| C. Burgess, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Miss C. Davidson ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Captain J. V. Hitchcock ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| S. J. F. Maiden, Esq. ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss Margaret F. Loyd ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Captain A. B. Thomson, M.B.E. ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lieut.-Colonel W. G. F. Barnard ... ... | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Major Charles Hood ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| The Canadian Buffs ... ... ... ... | 72 | 8 | 4 |
| Evelyn Hughes D'Aeth ... ... ... | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| W. V. S. Sinclair, Esq. ... ... ... | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. L. G. Mathias ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Captain C. V. Vallange ... ... ... | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| 2nd Battalion The Buffs Memorial Fund ... | 109 | 17 | 9 |
| Mrs. Cecil Castle ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| T. H. Lockley Turner, Esq.... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Major E. G. F. L. Gould ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Captain A. G. Nugent ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | £977 | 16 | 3 |

J. CROOKENDEN,
Major.
*Hon. Secretary,*
The Buffs Memorial Fund.

Canterbury,
14-8-21.

*Photo by "The Dragon."*

Names reading from left to right:—
GEN. LORD HORNE, GEN. THE RT. HON. SIR A. PAGET,
MAJOR-GEN. SIR GUY BAINBRIDGE.

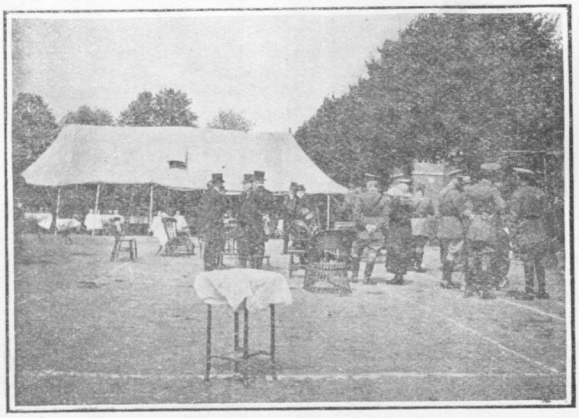


***Photo by "The Dragon."***

Prior to the unveiling, a Reception of the guests was held by the Officers at the Depot.

**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
**High Class Photograghers,**
**Canterbury.**
**Tel. 21 X.**

# The 1st Battalion.

AMID great cheers bathing started in the Blackwater under an armed picquet, but with the cessation of hostilities the latter was discontinued, it being interpreted by the local worthies as provocative action. So bathing parties went down to the river unarmed.

The truce has certainly eased us of a lot of tiresome and irksome duties, and has enabled us to give much more time to Sports, etc. Perhaps for that reason alone it is blest by some of our less war like members, while others simply swear, and curse and groan generally.

More leave is now possible and most of the Battalion have applied for some—the more the merrier.

### In A Few Lines.

The deepest sympathy of the Battalion goes out to Mrs. Evans the mother of Boy Degville in her tragic and irreparable loss.

---

The Investiture by H.M. The King of Col. R. McDouall with the C.B.E. took place at Buckingham Palace on July 19th. Hearty congratulations.

---

Lieut. Fox, M.C., recently paid a two days' visit to 1st Battalion at Fermoy—looking very fit after his tour of duty in West Africa. He is on leave until about End of August when he returns to West Africa.

---

Lieut. Sankey has left us for a spell of leave pending his departure for West Indies where he has elected to do a tour of duty. God speed and the best of luck.

---

Captain H. C. C. Morley had a warm welcome on bringing out a draft to 1st Battalion.

---

### Cricket.

#### 1st Buffs *v.* 1st Queens.

The Battalion played 1st Battalion The Queens Royal Regiment on 16th and 17th July at Fermoy.

The Queens having won the toss batted first, but thanks to the good bowling of Sgts. Hills and Denny they were soon dispersed of for the small total of 50.

In our first innings Sgt. Hills and Bandmaster Elvin played splendidly for their 60 and 55 respectively. In their second venture the Queens knocked up a 132 leaving the Battalion only 18 to get to win. This number however cost the Battalion three wickets and left them winners by seven wickets. A very enjoyable week end was spent with plenty of other things besides good cricket. Appended are the full scores and analysis:

The Queens.

| *1st Innings.* | | *2nd Innings.* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lieut. Pierssené b, Denny | 12 | b Collins | 1 |
| Corpl. Cowte, b Hills | 1 | c Collins, b Denny | 1 |
| Lieut. Whitfield, b Denny | 7 | run out | 20 |
| Lieut. Bolton, c Kimm, b Hills | 7 | c and b Denny | 0 |
| Capt. Sillem, c Denny, b Hills | 0 | b Collins | 33 |
| Pte, Bryant, b Denny | 1 | c and b Collins | 23 |
| Lieut. Fairbrother, b Hills | 2 | c and b Collins | 0 |
| Lieut. Upton, c and b Hills | 11 | c Elvin, b Collier | 47 |
| Lieut. Dickenson, b Hills | 3 | b Kimm | 0 |
| Pte. Smith, not out | 1 | not out | 1 |
| Pte. Woodard, b Hills | 2 | b Collins | 1 |
| Extras | 3 | Extras | 5 |
| Total | 50 | Total | 132 |

Hills 7 for 26. Denny 3 for 22. Denny, 2 for 45, Collins 7 for 42, Kimm 1 for 17, Collier, 1 for 13

The Buffs.

| *1st Innings.* | | *2nd Innings.* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Elvin, b Capt. Sillen | 55 | b Smith | 1 |
| Lt. Kimm, b Smith | 1 | b Sillem | 1 |
| Lt. Webster, b Smith | 0 | not out | 6 |
| Sgt. Collier, b Smith | 14 | | |
| Sgt. Hills, c Bryant, b Sillem | 60 | | |
| Sgt. Denny, b Balton | 0 | | |
| Lt. Gem, b Smith | 15 | | |
| Capt. Thomson, b Sillem | 0 | | |
| Sgt. Truby, not out | 2 | b Sillem | 9 |
| L/Cpl. Perry, c Upton, b Smith | 0 | | |
| W.O. Collins, c Woodard, b Smith | 10 | | |
| Extras | 8 | Extras | 1 |
| Total | 165 | Total for 3 wkts. | 18 |

#### 1st Buffs *v.* 1st Lincolns.

On 26th July, the Battalion Cricket Team journeyed by road to Tipperary for a two-days match with the 1st Lincolns. The two hours' journey was delightful, and varied by the frequent tricky negotiation of partially filled-in trenches and temporarily repaired bridges. On arrival the barracks were at once compared with our own and we envied the Lincolns to say the least. Their barracks, possibly the finest in the south of Ireland, were singularly planned, but above all, contain a very respectable cricket-ground. The Lincolns were not slow in extending their hospitality. After all, it was a *very* dusty journey and particles of dust in the throat must not be allowed to remain there.

The first day's cricket consisted of a complete innings by each side. The Lincolns batting first looked like making a large score, but were eventually dismissed for 112 of which the Bandmaster—Mr. Trout—a very able cricketer—made 68. Sgts. Hills, Collier and Denny did all that was required with the ball. The Buffs replied with 123, the chie contributors being Lt. E. W. P. Kimm (33) and Sgt. Denny (25), both of whom made a useful stand, putting on 41 while together.

The evening was spent—inter alia—(and the syllable "ale" need not be emphasized!) at the Regimental Cinema. (Why cannot we have a Regimental Cinema too?)

The second day looked none too promising, and indeed was somewhat marred by a very heavy shower. However 11.30 found The Buffs in the field, this time to dismiss their opponents for 84 runs. Good bowling and rather good fielding were the chief causes of the Lincolns small figure. Sgt. Denny took 5 for 26 and Sgt. Hills 4 for 15.

It looked an easy thing for The Buffs. But cricket is uncertain—and glorious in its uncertainty. Note the first 4 batsmen—Mr. Elvin, run out—0; Lt. Kimm, bowled—0; Sgt. Collier, caught—1; Sgt. Hills, run out—8; That is what happened when we wanted but 74 runs to win. Hearts beat rapidly when Sgts. Denny and Truby got busy. The latter hit lustily and managed top score with 27—a most useful total. Sgt. Denny, batting carefully and well was unfortunately damaged by a ball which got up off his bat and had to retire to the adjacent hospital. Hopes of a win then were not high. At least one member of the team couldn't stand the strain and had to retire for a while!

Then it was that W.O. Instructor Collins came to the rescue and with the return of Sgt. Denny, much be-plastered, hopes again were in the ascendancy. But Sgt. Denny had been badly hit and could not settle down and was soon out with 16 runs to his credit—not a great total numerically, but nevertheless, great. Excitement was high when L/C. Perry joined W.O. Instructor Collins and each run was counted until the winning hit was made.

The Buffs had won by two wickets after all. There was a sigh of regret from one of our officers who had

*(Continued on next page.)*

**Have you any queries to raise? See Page 170.**

**The First Battalion**—*continued.*

been waiting, with pads on, to go in, with the responsibility of his side on his shoulder, and demonstrate that he *could* do what he had unfortunately not done once before. But the pleasure was denied him.

Cheers for the Lincolns, a hurried tea and change and we were soon on our way back. But what a journey. No roofs to the Crossleys and rain most of the way. But let us not conclude with a mournful note. The 1st Buffs were triumphant—and would that we had more Battalion games to go on with.

THE CORPORALS' MESS.

Now that the truce is on and duties are not so hard and often for our Members, we are able to gather around in the Mess, and to entertain on a better scale than during the Irish WAR. Our President is the renowned "Nobby," who is away at present on his yearly furlough, and the Mess has come under the jurisdiction of Cpl. "Bunny" Crump.

Recently we have run two Dart Tournaments. The first was but a trial and met with so much success, that it was decided to run the second. Great excitement prevailed when L/Cpl. Batson was beaten in the Final by L/Cpl. Perfitt (C.O.'s Moke Minder), who is now the proud possessor of a trio of framed pictures for his skill.

Our recent shoot versus Sergts., fired on the Kilworth Ranges ended in a draw.

A successful Whist Drive and Concert was run by us in the Garrison Gymnasium. Cpl. Crump being M.C. ably assisted by his staff. Prize winners were Ladies 1st Mrs. McWalter, Ladies Second Miss Stafford, Gents First L/Cpl. Peebles, Gents Second L/Cpl. Sawkins.

The Annual Cricket Match versus the Sergts. ended in our sad defeat. Inspired by this the recent draft from The Depot, through the agency of young Tutt, had the audacity to challenge us to cricket. We intend to show "youngsters" that the Cpls. can still play cricket (M.C.C. please note), in the near future.

A swearing-box has been started in the Mess and our most generous subscribers are at present being "Ding-Dong" and "Alice."

We extend a hearty welcome to L/Cpl. Mantell on his return from hospital where he has been recuperating from wounds received in rebel action in Co. Dublin.

Queries:—Has Cpl. Bell applied for the post of Permanent Orderly Sergeant?

Is Batson thinking of opening a Canteen?

Is "Alice" Beverley entitled to six months sick furlough due to overwork?

Who is "Billy" doing at Dungarven?

We extend our hearty greeting to the Corpls. of The Depot and 2nd Battalion and hope to meet them very shortly in England.

THE TWO JEWS.

A COMPANY.

The great event of the month has of course been the "truce." It is not altogether an unmixed joy, but greater freedom and less duties are much appreciated. Otherwise the month has not been very eventful. Mr. Sankey we are sorry to say has left us to go to Jamaica, we wish him the best of luck. Most of us are very envious as well. However if there is any truth in rumour, and this time it surely *must* be true, we shall not be much longer in this "distressful (and distressing) country."

Lt.-Col. Power, Mr. Spear, R.S.M. Martin, Sgt. Burville and Pte. Wellard went to Canterbury from us for the unveiling of the memorial.

Rumour also has it that we are the next to go to Kilworth, wherefore there is much activity. Of course we would have to go there after the weather has broken. However perhaps by that time Mr. Essell's garden will be beyond the need of rain, and his prayers for it will have ceased. They have been horribly effective so far, we hope a cessation of them will be equally so.

Lastly, we tender our heartfelt sympathy to the parents of Boy Degville whose tragic death while bathing cast such a shadow of gloom over the company.

B COMPANY.

At the time of writing the company is firing its annual course of Musketry on the Kilworth Ranges. We are all under canvas and in spite of frequent spells of bad weather, are enjoying the change of surroundings. Great keenness and competition is being shown in the course and we are in hopes of doing well in the classification practices. Our thanks are due to Lt. Keble and C.S.M. I.M. McWalter for the energy they have shown and the assistance they have been to all ranks.

On Sunday, 24th July the Company played A Company, 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment at Cricket. B Company batted first and made 153, Sgt. Ludeman being top scorer with 48 which included some very big hits. Our opponents were dismissed for 15 runs, Q.M.S. Collins taking 4 for 5 and Pte. Grigsby 6 for 6. It is only fair however to state that the Kilworth cricket ground is like unto a switchback and that therefore the cricket was rather of the village green type.

The following have left us during the month—Ptes. Harris, F., and Baker, A., discharged, time expired. Ptes. Stafford, Sage and Fane to the Reserve. We shall miss them and wish them the best of luck in the future.

The following have represented the Battalion at Cricket. Lts. Webster and Gem, and Q.M.S. Collins *v.* 1st Battalion The Queens Royal Regiment and Q.M.S. Collins *v.* 1st Battalion The Lincolnshire Regiment.

At the Brigade Sports held at Tipperary on 19th July Sgt. Grainger and Pte. Fane were in the Battalion Tug-of-War team which reached the final and Bdsm. Marshall was 2nd in the hurdles.

**Civil Liabilities Grants to Ex-Service Men.**

The Secretary of the Ministry of Labour makes the following announcement:—

Applications for Civil Liabilities Grants made after the 30th September, 1921, will not be considered, except in the case of

(*a*) men who joined H.M. Forces for the duration of the war and have been retained after 31st July, 1920, owing to lack of transport or through being in hospital. Such men may apply within 12 months from date of discharge or within six months of termination of treatment under the Ministry of Pensions, if this commenced within 12 months of date of discharge.

(*b*) men other than those referred to in (*a*) above who commenced treatment under the Ministry of Pensions within 12 months of date of discharge or not later than 30th September, 1921, whichever is the earlier. Such men may apply within six months of date of termination of treatment.

(*c*) men in training under the Industrial Training Scheme. Grants will be governed by the existing conditions.

**Editorial Note.**

*News, personal notes, short sketches, photographs, letters for publication, and drawings are invited from our readers. All communications and MSS. should be sent to the Editor, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury. The Paper is published on the 1st of each month, and copy for insertion in the coming issue should reach the Editor not later than the 14th of the current month. No MSS. or drawings, etc., can be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.*

**Though "t" in "Depot" is silent, you need not be.—**

**Cricket Match—1st Buffs *v.* 1st Queens.**

*Names reading from left to right.*
STANDING:—L/C Meakin *(Umpire)*, C.Q.M.S. Manning *(Scorer)*, Lieut. E. O. Kimm, X, X, X. Sergt. Hill, Sergt. Collier, Capt. A. B. Thomson, O.B.E., Sergt. Truby, X, X, Lieut. R. W. M. Webster *(Capt.)* X, X, X, X, X.
SEATED:—L/C Perry, X, W. O. Instr. (Edm.) Collins, Lieut. R. H. Gem, Band-Master Elvin, X, X, Sergt. Denny.
X—Members of opposing team.

## Past and Present Association.

BY R.Q.M.S. ANDREWS, HON. SEC.

APPENDED will be found the first series of names of those who are Life Members of the Association. Amongst them are some with whom touch has been lost, and I should be grateful if any reader of *The Dragon* could help me in obtaining their addresses. I would also crave indulgence for any honours omitted.

Now since this list was compiled great news has come to hand from C Company of the 2nd Battalion. This is that no less than 57 of the Other Ranks serving in this company have become Life Members of The Association, and a cheque for the sum total of their subscription has been received by the Association.

**When writing to your friends and relations remember Dragon Envelopes increase the Circulation.**

This is great work, and is an example which will no doubt be followed up throughout the Regiment.

Many old Buffs have been amongst us during the past month, and gradually and surely our membership is strengthening, but we have a long way to go yet before we can claim to have become firmly established. I trust therefore, that every Buff reader of *The Dragon* who may not yet have joined up will not only respond to our appeal himself, but also persuade his friends to do the same.

The notices of the Annual Dinner have been sent out to all members, and an announcement relating to same appears on page 156. The hope is that all members will help make this occasion known, as a bumper attendance is what we are aiming for.

LIFE MEMBERS.

1ST LIST.

Sgt.-Major Shoe Allen (late 2nd Bn. Address wanted), Lieut. G. R. Adamson, Lieut.-Col. A. Atkinson, R.Q.M.Sgt. A. Andrews, Captain H. H. C. Baird, D.S.O., Col. W. H. Booth, D.S.O., Mr. A. Brehrem, *Mr. J. Brooman (late 1st Bn.), Major Blackburn, Capt. A. Barton, *Colour-Sgt. Brown (late 1st Bn.), Lieut. G. Boon, Capt. W. R. Burrell, M.C., Capt. A. A. Barnard, Capt. H. M. Blomfield, Col. C. J. Buttenshaw, Lt.-Col. M. Beevor, Mr. E. A. Beilby, Mr. Tom Burke, Mr. S. J. Barraud, C.Q.M.S.gt. Bridgland, Col. A. H. Coles, C.M.G., D.S.O., Capt. T. O. Cook, Mr. R. H. R. Codd, Capt. A. E. Colley, Capt. A. Corney, Mr. (late Cr.-Sgt. Inst.) Cafferty, Lieut. A. W. Colley, Mr. (late Sgt.-Maj. T. Cheal, Mr. N. Catchpole, *Capt. E. Carter, M.C., Major C. C. Cobbe, Mr. E. Coppings, Mr. H. G. Clarabut, Mr. W. H. Clarke, Mr. E. G. L. Clifton, Capt. R. Corrall, Mr. W. Davis, *Mr. O'Dowd, Mr. E. S. Dixon, *Mr. J. Daley, Mr. B. Draper, Col. F. W. Bradley Dyne, F. W. Daniels, Esq., Lt.-Col. F. Mainwaring Dunstan, Mr. W. Elvey, *Mr. Emmerson, Major F. Essell, Col. W. A. Eaton, O.B.E., Mr. Elliott, Brig.-Gen. E. H. Finch Hatton, C.M.G., D.S.O., Major F. W. Foster, Lieut. W. W. Fenwick, Mr. J. R. Gardner, Capt. A. Graham, Mr. Tom Groombridge, Mr. G. Hilderbrand, *Capt. H. Hopps, Capt. J. Hawkins, Col. L. I. B. Hulke, Gen. R. A. Hickson, C.B., Mr. H. Hepworth, Bd.-Mr. C. B. Hewett, *Mr. Hubbard, Mr. T. Holloway, Mr. T. W. Henderson, Lord Harris, G.C.S.I.,

** Denotes those whose addresses are required.*

**WANTED—The names and addresses of all old Buffs to enable us to send them a Dragon.**

**Write to The Dragon about it.**

# On Tour with the Families, 2nd Battn. The Buffs.

By Col.-Sergt. J. A. Sayer.

OFFICIAL news of the move of the Battalion to the land of "Oil and Dates"—"Mespot," was received with varied feelings, but all were glad to get definite news. In the "Married Patch" respective "Hubbys" were called upon by wives to answer the query "what do we do?" referring to herself and the remainder of the family. This query was answered in B.O.'s to the effect that the families would proceed to Cannanore on the 6/12/20, conducted by Lt. Stainforth, Cr/Sgt. Sayer, and 7 others. As the time drew near, all was bustle in the "Married Patch," but as everyone had had moving experience to the hills, homes were packed and stacked all in good time. The 6th arrived, and amid good-byes we steamed out of Multan Station, en-route to Karachie, our first stop.

Arriving at Karachie late on the night of the 7th we embarked on the S.S. "Field Marshall" bound for Bombay. The trip to Bombay was thoroughly enjoyed by all, 1st Class accommodation and food being provided, and the Children had their meals separately under the kind supervision of the Stewardess, an arrangement much appreciated by the mothers. Bombay was reached on the 10th, and we disembarked on the 11th with orders to proceed to Cooperage Families Camp, where, on arrival, quarters were allotted to the families. These quarters consisted of long tin huts partitioned off into rooms by curtains. All families had their meals together, everything being arranged by the Commandant. A splendid recreation room was available, with pictures twice weekly, and the opinion of the majority on our stay in Bombay was "Topping."

After seeing all settled at Cooperage, Lt. Stainforth, much to our regret, received orders to rejoin the Battalion in Mespot.

At Christmas time a good spread was provided, also a tree for the youngsters, who were delighted with the various gifts they received. Shortly after Christmas we received our "Marching Orders" from Cooperage, leaving there in two parties for Cannanore, the first on the 29/12/20, the second on the 3/1/21. On arrival at Cannanore we were met by the Adjutant of the Families Camp, and drove to the quarters in smart little "Gharrys," which were tastefully decorated. These will be remembered by all old 2nd Battalion men who were on detachment at this place just prior to the War. The quarters allotted us were all situated in one square and consisted of Barrack Rooms, each of which originally held 24 men. One Room per family was allowed, divided into two by a partition of matting.

Many of the Ladies will never forget the braying of a Dhobies Donkey in the square, at all hours of the night ("just as I'd got the kids to sleep too"). This same donkey, early one morning, was led by one of the ladies to the bedside of a neighbour, who was awakened by a wet caress on the cheek. I will draw a veil over the scene, but the neighbour had her revenge, as the following morning with some assistance, she ducked the lady responsible in a large bath of water.

Donkeys were not our only trouble at Cannanore, Cows used to wander in, and to help themselves at the Cupboard. It has been said that the Quarters used to be their home, and by their antics this seemed verified.

So life went on at Cannanore, plenty of fun but one sad event cast a gloom over us all, this was the death of Baby Holness. The little chap was buried in Cannanore Cemetery.

By this time it was getting very hot and we were not sorry to receive orders to move. In due course, seven families proceeded to Kaity Families Camp, nr. Wellington, and the remainder, 17 to Bangalore.

I proceeded to Kaity Camp, which was erected three and a half years ago as a Convalescent Camp for troops from Mespot. The tin roofed huts were soon made as comfortable as possible, though the majority of them leaked during the Monsoons. A favourite expression heard at Kaity was "A bob a day, and the rain comes in." To one in the know this implied that each lady had to pay 7/- a week rent. The one thing which compensated them for this, and other inconveniences, was the splendid climate, a welcome change after the heat of the plains. Whist Drives, Dances, etc., were organised weekly, which, with the weekly "Shandy," or shopping expedition into Ooty or Coonoor, passed the time away pleasantly.

On my way to join the Battalion early in May, I broke the journey at Bangalore, to enable me to visit the remainder of the families. The general verdict there was "no complaints," and I found the quarters were better than those at Kaity. All spoke well of the treatment they were receiving.

Before leaving I made the acquaintance of three "new little Buffs," Babies, Williams, Small and Scopes. Bidding good-bye, I caught the Bombay Mail, and reaching Bombay embarked on the S.S. Barjord. This boat I find will take 18 days to reach Basrah instead of the usual 5 or 6, as she calls at every port—and this Gulf is not exactly an ice chest.

I should like to say what a pleasure it was to carry out my duties in connection with the move of the families to Cannanore. It is a difficult job at the best of times, but in spite of the heat, changing from train to Boat, and vice-versa, all kept cheerful. I can only echo Lt. Stainforth's message on bidding us good-bye at Bombay. "I've had a splendid trip, made possible by the assistance of all concerned under trying circumstances.

The following is a distribution of the families at the time of my departure 8/5/21.

Bangalore:—Mrs. Ings, Mrs. Blackman, Mrs. Upson, Mrs. Slender, Mrs. Tong, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Whittingham, Mrs. Petley, Mrs. Warner, Mrs. Ricketts, Mrs. Croucher, Mrs. Williams (Wife of Sgt. Williams), Mrs. Kramer, Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. Scopes, Mrs. Small, Mrs. Williams.

Kaity:—Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Guerin, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Sayer, Mrs. Prescott, Mrs. Dodd, Mrs. Jarvis.

Left for the U.K. Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Austin, Mrs. Holness, Mrs. Joy, Mrs. Farr, Mrs. Pennell.


## RE-UNION OF PAST & PRESENT BUFFS.

*The ANNUAL DINNER of the Association of Past and Present Buffs will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, the 5th of October at the*

**HOLBORN RESTAURANT.**

*Tickets 7/6 each.*

**All Buffs who are serving, or who have ever served in the Regulars, Territorials, Militia, Special Reserve, or Service Battalions, are invited to make this a Record Gathering.**

*Application for tickets, together with remittance, should be sent to the Hon. Sec., Association of Past and Present Buffs, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.*


**Husbands dread wives becoming interested in Sales.**

# The Fourth Battalion.

THE dispersal of the Defence Force has thrown us upon strenuous times again, particularly as such occurred towards the end of the ninety days service, and the sending of the men to their homes had to be proceeded with instantly. However, we are at it again and are now embarked upon the ship of reconstruction, which failed to reach port at the first attempt, and we hope that she will be safely moored by the autumn. At least her ships company do as they are some what weary of the making of building material even though the Harvest was an early one.

The process of getting together a battalion has lasted well through the second year, and it is high time that Kent had a Territorial battalion of its own.

Recruiting is still going briskly forward in East Kent and we have 430 men joined in this area, which is an advance upon numbers in the Battalion on April 9th when " Territorialism " went on the shelf. But yet we cannot say how we stand.

It cannot be said that the projected amalgamation of the 4th and 5th Buffs has taken place since no official intimation to this effect has been received. Perhaps the date will coincide with the termination of the war !

Until this amalgamation is an accomplished fact exact numbers cannot be given. Presumably the men of the 5th Buffs will be given the option of remaining on in the territorials or cancelling their agreement without penalty.

It is to be hoped that all those who live within a few miles of such centres as Cranbrook, Tenterden, Horsmonden, Yalding will continue to serve on, and that a good two hundred men will join the new unit with the old traditions, and represent the Weald of Kent in the second line army.

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AND A FEW NOTES.

What the poor Adjutant is going to do with this nice little addition to his garden, we don't know. If anyone has a couple of nice peaceful little Handley-Pages to lend, they would be of *some* service (with Chauffeur of course) ?

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We are congratulating W. J. Dean, V.C., on his promotion to captain in 4/Buffs. This officer has worked hard to gather round him a little Army in Sittingbourne, and we are both delighted with the results and most hopeful for the future. So far he has 42 enlisted, and another 19 will complete his requirements. Roll up ye valiants and join this distinguished officer. Now is the time to show what Sittingbourne can do, " an it will ! "

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We are sorry to hear that Lieut. A. E. Smith, has left the scene of his activities at Herne Bay. But like a true Sportsman and a good soldier, he has offered to carry on his command from Faversham. This entails much sacrifice of time, and we congratulate him upon his devotion to his detachment. Do ye likewise all ye !

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We are waiting to welcome a certain very distinguished officer into our fold at Folkestone. We all pray that his answer may be " Yes ! "

Economical reasons have been the deciding factors in determining the scene of our training this year. Instead of the march, the Battalion is now going into camp at Dibgate (let me see where is that now ? ) on September 10th. We really think that all ranks will be more comfortable there after hopping, and we cannot have fine weather always. Don't be deterred from coming. We want you to join us.

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The delights of Palm Bay and " Dreamland " have evidently fastened their grip on residents as well as visitors, and the Margate drill hall is not patronised as much as it should be. However with the slackening of the summer season, there should be good attendances at the parades, and we are looking forward to strenuous work in the winter months and many new recruits.

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Unfortunately we have lost a valuable W.O. in the transfer of C.S.M. A. Cartwright to Dartford. He is an official of the Met. Asylums Board.

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Since the demobilisation of the 4th Buffs Defence Force, Lt. S. S. Linicker has taken over command of the Margate Detachment.

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Congratulations to C.S.M. F. C. S. Wood, M.S.M. (Lackary) who, at Sittingbourne on July 25th, was married to Miss Newby, formerly a nurse at Sittingbourne Hospital. A Guard of Honour (with " Kentish Fire ") was provided by " C " Company, the officers and men of which presented the couple with a handsome clock as a wedding gift. R.S.M. W. Lamer was best man.

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It is good to know that nearly all the members of the 4th Battalion Defence Force have rejoined the Battalion and that the work of reconstruction is moving steadily.

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**Dragon Agents.**

Sergt. Johnson and Pte. A. H. Pettet have kindly offered to take up the Agency for the *Dragon* at Margate and Dover respectively, and there is no doubt that their energy and enterprise will soon increase the sale of the Paper in these districts. Here are their addresses :

**Sergt. Johnson,**
**6a Upper Grove,**
**Margate.**

**Pte. A. H. Pettet,**
**76 Snargate Street,**
**Dover.**

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D COMPANY AT FOLKESTONE.

The reorganization of the Battalion only allows for one platoon of " D " Company at Folkestone together with the Battalion Signallers and various H.Q. details. The majority of the best of the men who served with the Defence Force have joined the Territorials.

It is hoped to run a football team next winter and to turn out some boxers under the expert tuition of Cpl. Jackson who has transferred from Whitstable to Folkestone.

In July H.R.H. The Prince of Wales visited Folkestone and attended various functions. He inspected a large number of ex-Service men in Radnor Park when the Buffs were well represented by past and present Territorials. The Folkestone Detachment very much regretted that an opportunity could not be given them to provide a Guard of Honour, but as the Prince's time was very limited this had to be omitted from the arrangements.

**But there's one you need not dread.**

# Wanted—Bones of Contention!

YOU beseech us to bombard you with ideas to help increase the circulation of *The Dragon*, so I will let fly. I throw my missiles in the hope that they may promote retaliation from other quarters besides the Editorial office.

Everyone will agree with me, I think, when I state that no periodical will enjoy a large circulation unless it gives something more than mere *news*. It must provide some other factor. Something that will rouse the interest, and stir the intellect of even the dullest reader. And the narrower and more local the news that any given paper dishes out, then so much the greater, so much the more sensational, must be the auxiliary factor. But what shall this be?

Now the greatest interest of all is controversy. This, I am sure, is the secret of success of many periodicals, even as the promotion of a friendly controversy in a public house is the key to the success of mine host. The more a man talks the more he drinks, and vice-versa—until he is carried home. In the same way, the more the spirit of friendly discussion is fostered in a paper, so much the greater will grow its popularity and, as a natural sequence, will its circulation increase.

**Have you seen *The Dragon* Envelopes? If not, look in at *The Dragon* Office and we'll show you something good.**

Glance for a moment at any one of our best known Dailies. Is it not a fact that nearly always one will see some knotty problem being thrashed out in the correspondence column?

*The Times*, for instance, gave many a gallant old sailor a chance to let off much steam last winter when it put the question—"What is the good of a battleship?" And you will doubtless remember what "fillip" was given to the discussion when a precocious or fed-up young Snotty replied—"No damn good, at all!"

Now, sir, I humbly suggest that something of this kind might be started in *The Dragon*.

Everyone likes to blow off steam sometimes, and there is not one, I venture to say, who does not delight in seeing his effort in print. There is something sublimely satisfactory in it.

But the subject must be of wide interest, and yet within the sphere of each particular paper. This is not easy.

What could we start off with in *The Dragon*? Thinking still of the battleship controversy, an Army subject suggests itself to me, although I am only giving an example of *my* idea of developing the spirit of friendly contention. Shall we ask—"What's the good of a brass hat?"—or tin hat, if you like.

Replies might come as follows:—

Sir,

Ref. your query concerning brass hats, it all depends what's inside 'em.

Yours, etc.,

SHORTSNAP, *Major*.

or possibly this:

Sir,

I should have thought the value of a brass hat (as you vulgularly term it) was apparent to even the meanest intellect. Have you forgotten already its use in Armageddon? Wasn't it a passport to every leave boat? Didn't it please our poor war-weary flag sellers at home? Have you forgotten how well the delicate crimson on the superstructure set off our war-tanned Boulogne complexions? Surely it was a sad day for England when junior staff officers were forbidden to wear it! Tours etc.,

J. BOTTLEWASH, *Captain*.

or even this:

Sir,

Ref. brass hats. No damn good at all.

Yours etc.,

A. LA SNOTTY, *Lt.*

Surely discussions of this kind could not fail to make the paper a really startling success? Crowds would press round to buy copies of *The Dragon* even as they surge round newsboys to find the winner in the evening papers.

You will be able to say after the first appearance of replies—"This subject will be dealt with further in our next issue. *Order your copy early*.

That's a wonderful slogan. It makes papers sell like hot cakes. Just as a man thinks that everyone else will propose to his girl before he can, so he will imagine that a rush really will be made by others to get a copy. And so *he* rushes—and lots of others do the same. Then up goes the circulation once more.

As I said before, these are only my ideas and, no doubt, there must be many of your readers who do not agree with my statements at all, but, by the mere suggesting, I hope that this letter may in itself provide a subject for discussion and counter-attack in the pages of *The Dragon*.

If this is the result, then I think, my point is carried and *The Dragon* will be helped thereby.

Let us, then, know the bone of contention and chew the fat of controversy in the pages of our beloved *Dragon*.

ROBIN TUKE.

Castletownroche, Ireland.

[*Correspondence on this letter is invited*].

## A Regimental Encyclopædia.

ABSENTMINDEDNESS.—A common trait in the Character of the Soldier. Manifests itself more frequently between the hours of 9.30 and 10 p.m., particularly on Fridays. The subject's watch invariably goes wrong at this time, and he rarely finds himself sufficiently near any public clock to be able to tell the time by it. During this period many men meet friends they haven't seen since before the war.

ARMY.—No reliable encyclopaedic description of this can be given until the War Office has made up its mind what to do with it.

ACCUSED.—The term applied to a man whose name appears on a charge sheet. In the old days he was known as a "prisoner," a term which was discarded to save his feelings. The alteration, however, in no way saves his bacon.

ADAPTATION.—The process of enlisting a dustman into the Army, and when he is dismissed his drill, employing him as Company Cook.

ADJECTIVE.—Qualifies a noun, also a drill instructor.

ALLOWANCE (TRAVELLING).—Money paid to senior ranks to reimburse them for expenses incurred on a journey. The lower ranks enjoy complete independence in this respect, by being allowed to bear such expenses themselves.

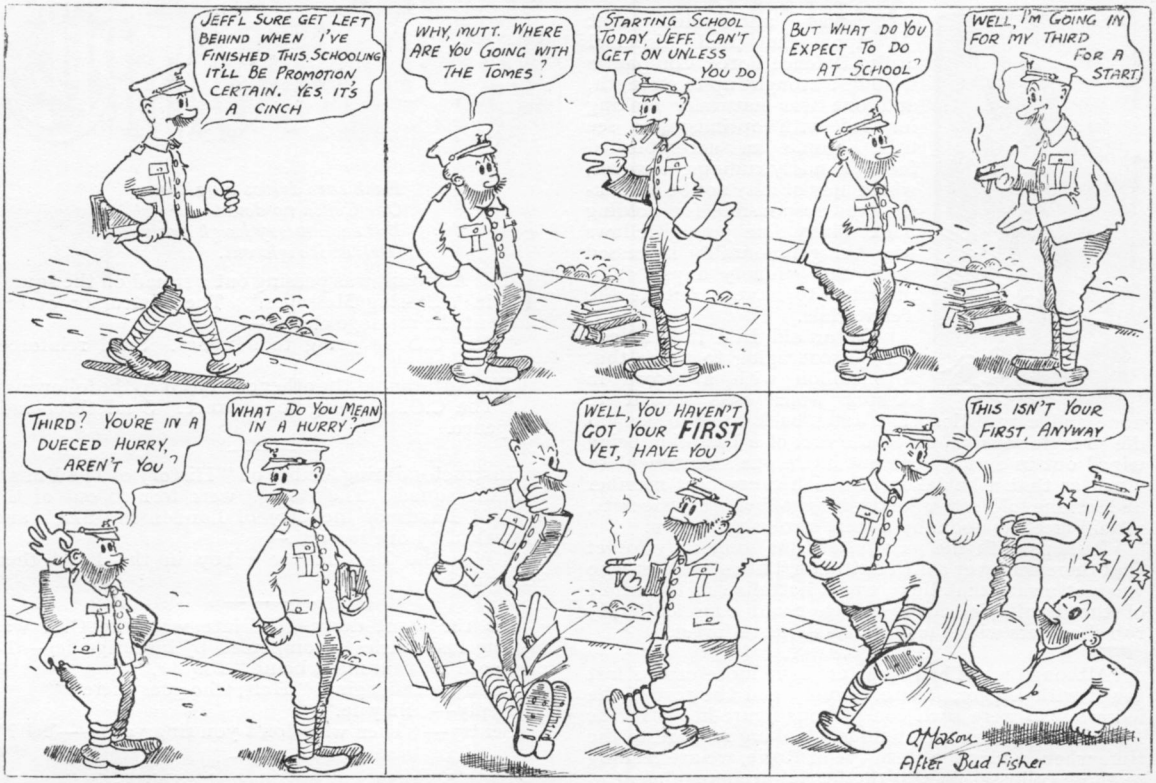
AMENDMENT.—The purpose for which Army Books and Regulations are issued.

ARMOURER.—A man in whose eye some abnormal formation or condition causes rifle barrels into which he gazes to appear rusty and corroded.

BANK.—The place where some soldiers put their money, and the remainder put their shots during their annual course. The two categories are, for obvious reasons quite distinct one from the other.

**The sale of The Dragon.**

## Jeff's Idea of Schooling is so Quaint.




# AGENTS WANTED.

**The greater the Circulation of The Dragon, the better the Service we can render our Readers.**

* * *

*TO enable us to realize the larger circulation we are aiming at, we have decided to appoint, from amongst our readers, an Agent for The Dragon in all the more important towns and villages throughout East Kent.*

* * *

* * *

*ANYONE is eligible, and everyone will be able to find time to earn the commission to be paid on all cash sales, direct subscriptions, & advertisements obtained by Agents in their District.*

* * *

*(The above is a reproduction of the special Dragon Poster designed by C.S.M. O. Mason, to help Agents to increase their sales.)*

**The Editor will be pleased to let you have full particulars, together with the terms he offers, if you drop him a line.**

**Do your best to help it on.**

# The Fifth Battalion.

IT was anticipated that upon the final dispersal of the Defence Force, Companies would be brought up to strength, and one was naturally looking forward with optimism to see this become an accomplished fact. A nasty rumour, however, which may or may not be authentic, was responsible for holding back many fine young fellows who being favourably inpressed with the "ninety days" fully intended to have a cut at the Territorials.

To an old Buff it is indeed very discouraging to think that a battalion with a record in Mespot which was second to none and a tradition that dates back to 1860, should die so ingloriously. Even the fact of a battalion being wiped out in action does not incite one's sentiment so much as that a battalion of which every past member and serving soldier was justly proud of being an associate, should meet its doom by a mere stroke of the pen.

Perhaps with the passage of time some may forget that there was ever a fifth battalion, but as a soldier who was not aware that there was a battalion in the whole of the Territorial Army which could conscientiously rub shoulders with the 5th, I shall never forget.

"A" COMPANY.

Although we at headquarters have more or less lost touch with Digger, Brann, Sammy and the rest of the fellows who were such conspicuous figure-heads in the Defence Force, we are anxiously looking forward to the time when, under the stern eye of Rosie, we are tending to those collossal fires to the fearful accompaniment of Bromfield's bugle. Who knows, we may yet have another opportunity of being together in khaki. If it were only to hear Digger discourse on blanketitus, or to see Sammy of bootology fame lugging bed biscuits about—we could even resign ourselves to Jack's amorous ravings about his limpid blue-eyed Gwen—if this would only come to pass. We are very busy concentrating on Musketry at headquarters and we are turning out some pretty good shots. With the welcome approach of the soccer season the lads are all talk about our eleven for the season. Realising what a splendid show we made last season under the circumstances, it is hoped that we can with penty of support boast a really strong team.

D COMPANY.

The following are the musketry results up to the 7th August :—

Qualified in grouping Trained Soldiers. Practice 6. C.S.M. Whaley, Sgt. Hooker, Ptes. Clifford, Sarrell, W. Hooker, A. Rose, B. D. Hope, F. Masters, R. Relf.

Practice 7, possible 20. A. Hilks 17, S. T. Sarrell 16, Weller 16, C.S.M. Whaley 15, Pte. P. Hooker 15, J. Clifford 14.

Practice 8. possible 20. Ptes. Relf, 15, Clifford 14, Weller 12, Hicks 11, Hope 11, Sorrell 10.

Young Soldiers qualified in grouping Practice 1. Ptes. Newman, Lambert, Moon, Pearson, Bishop, Shuell, Winch, Mitchell, A. Masters, D. Hooker, A. Cottenham.

Practice 2, possible 20. Ptes. R. Lambert 15, A. Bishop 13, L. Mitchell 12.

**Films Developed and Printed.**
**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
**Canterbury.**
**Kodaks.** **Tel. 21 X.**

*Each care drives a nail in*
*Our Coffin no doubt*
*But each merry laugh again*
*Drives it right out.*

THE Adjutant was passing out a squad on the square in "Passing Messages." The Instructor at one end sent the message along :—

"The C.O. is going to advance. Send reinforcements."

The Adjutant at the other end received the following :

"The C.O. is going to a dance. Send three-and-fourpence.

---

Instructor during lecture on "History of The Buffs" told the squad "The Buffs" were formed out of the Trained Bands of the City of London in 1572," and was asked by one recruit :—

"Was the Bandmaster a boy in the Band then Sergeant ?"

---

On the front during the late war, the O.C. was visiting his sentries accompanied by his Brigadier—the password for that night being "*Bicycle.*"

Sentry, challenging, "Halt, who goes there ?"

Reply—"Bicycle."

Sentry—"Then why don't you ring your——bell?"

---

Lady Shopper : "Pyjamas, size thirty-six."

Ex-Supply Sergeant (*in reverie*) : "Where's yer old ones ? Gotta turn 'em in ; gotta see yer old ones." —*The Red Diamond.*

---

Robbie met a neighbour smoking some fine tobacco sent by his son in America. He took out his own pipe ostentatiously. "Hae ye a match, Sandy ?" he queried. The match was forthcoming, but nothing more. "I do believe," said Robbie, "I hae left ma tobacco at hame." "Then," said Sandy, after a silence, "ye micht gie back ma match."

---

A party of Sportsmen in Scotland had a very fine talking grey parrot. The parrot escaped and was lost. A few days afterwards they were out shooting, and a dense pack of grouse came streaming over the hills. From their midst a well known voice was heard exclaiming : "Damn you, don't push !"

---

A widow got in touch with the Spiritualists and called up her late lamented and conversed with him. "Are you happy ?" "Yes, I am quite happy." "Are you happier than you used to be with me ?" "Yes I am." "Do tell me all about it, I do so want to know what Heaven is like." "Heaven ? I'm not in Heaven !"

---

He had just come back from Hythe full (?) of the knowledge imparted to him by the Musketry Instructors. He was detailed by his O.C. Company to lecture the men on the latest ideas from the School of Musketry. After some time spent in showing the different causes that affect the flight of the bullet, etc., some youth, more intelligent than the remainder, said : "What about the force of gravity, Sergeant ?"

"Force of gravity ?" said he. "That's been done away with long ago."

**You will get a good deal with any of our Advertisers.**

# The Depot Week.

## Past Buffs win Cricket Match by 13 Runs.

FINE weather, arrangements well thought out and executed and a whole host of old friends—bringing back old memories! What more could one want to make the Depot Week—the first of its kind to be held—the brilliant success that it was?

Limited space makes it impossible to do justice to the many incidents of the week. It is sufficient to say that from every side the hope was expressed unanimously that the Depot Week should be made a permanent feature in the life of the Regiment.

And speaking of coming years, it is to be hoped that in the future members of the Territorial battalions will roll up in force. Buffs! Don't forget. It is not just a depot fixture. It is a regimental show, and we want you all.

**Make the Paper known amongst your friends by using *Dragon* Envelopes.**

In future years, with still more support, we look forward to seeing the Buffs Week every bit as popular and as well patronised as that of the Greenjackets at Winchester and the Fusiliers at Hounslow, and the other regiments who make such a week a fixture of the year.

In the meantime we take this opportunity of congratulating all at the Depot—Major Crookenden, the officers, W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s, trained men and recruits alike—on the success of their efforts. Every man pulled his weight, and everything went with a swing.

Every enclosure was well-filled, not a few old hands being very much in evidence; and the Band worked nobly and untiringly every afternoon.

Not the least important items of the week's enjoyment were the arrangements made for the catering and comfort of those present, and the fact that £8 was collected for the Buffs Benevolent Fund.

The following give only a brief account of each event that took place :—

### Cricket.

DEPOT THE BUFFS *v.* EAST KENT HUNT.

Played on August 15th and after a tremendous finish resulted in a victory by the Hunt by one run.

Scores :—Depot The Buffs, 102 (Maj. Lee 11, Lieut. Maiden 18, Lieut. Willows 24, L/Cpl. Parry 11).

East Kent Hunt 103 (Mr. Selby Lonndes 18).

For The Depot Lieut. Maiden and L/Cpl. Parry took 4 and 6 wickets respectively.

A BUFFS XI. *v.* SMALL ARMS SCHOOL, HYTHE.

Played on August 16th and 17th, and after an interesting game on a difficult wicket, the pace of which became variable through rain, resulted in a win for the Small Arms School by 5 wickets.

Scores :—The Buffs 53 (Capt. Cremer 53), and 153. (Lt. Kent 53, Maj. Lee 22, Lt. Willows 22). Small Arms School 173, and 120 for 8 wickets.

PAST *v.* PRESENT.

For the first time in the History of the Regiment the Past Buffs were successful in this match! It was a great game in which the interest was maintained to the end. Lt. Coote made a bold bid to obtain victory for his side. Capt. Cremer bowling down wind at a critical stage of the game did great execution. Major Ward got another "one." Capt. R. K. Price was amazed at the prancing of Lt. Kent, Major Crookenden in the match decided to bat right handed. Capt. Morgan won the sweepstake on Major Hardy's score. Col. Knight on one occasion must have thrown the ball at least 30 yards.

And also for the first time in the History of this match the following welcome and distinguished visitors, all of whom were unable to be present last year, were with us :—Messrs. Bass, Guinness, and Johnnie Walker accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Schweppes. Appended is the full score.

CAPTAIN BAIRD batting, MAJOR WARD behind the wickets, and CAPTAIN MORGAN (running for CAPTAIN BAIRD) standing by Umpire (CAPTAIN MORLEY).

PAST.

| | |
|---|---|
| Capt. H. L. Cremer, lbw, b L/C. Parry | 9 |
| Capt. R. S. Igglesden, b L/C. Parry | 29 |
| Lieut. H. W. Kent, c Maj. G. Lee, b Capt. D. A. Wilkins | 17 |
| Lieut. R. Hillary, b Maj. H. S. Hardy | 12 |
| Lt. Col. L. C. E. Knight, b. Capt. D. A. Wilkins | 0 |
| Capt. H. H. C. Baird, b Col. J. Body | 6 |
| Capt. R. K. Brice, c Maj. G. Lee, b Capt. D. A. Wilkins | 8 |
| Lieut. J. G. Whitfield, c R.S.M. P. Dare, b L/C. Parry | 1 |
| Lt. Col. R. S. I. Friend, b L/C. Parry | 16 |
| Mr. Leary, not out | 11 |
| Mr. Gamon, c Lt. J. R. Willows, b L/C. Parry | 2 |
| Extras | 25 |
| Total | 136 |

PRESENT.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieut. D. V. Coote, c Lt. Whitfield, b Lieut. H. W. Kent | 58 |
| Col. J. Body, run out | 7 |
| Capt. H. de R. Wilkins, b Lieut. H. W. Kent | 5 |
| Lieut. J. R. Willows, c Sub. b. Lieut. R. Hillary | 5 |
| Major G. Lee, b Mr Leary | 14 |
| Major H. E. Ward, c Mr Gamon, b Mr. Leary | 0 |
| R.S.M. P. Dare, lbw, b Capt. H. L. Cremer | 6 |
| Major H. S. Hardy, b Capt. H. L. Cremer | 0 |
| Capt. H. de R. Morgan, not out | 10 |
| Major J. Crookenden, c Mr. Leary, b Lieut. H. W. Kent | 3 |
| L/C. Parry, b Capt. H. L. Cremer | 0 |
| Extras | 15 |
| Total | 123 |

*(Continued on next page).*

**And we get a good deal from them.**

**The Depot Week**—*continued.*

### The Sports.

Here we must congratulate all concerned on the remarkable punctuality displayed in carrying out the programme together with the variety it contained. Whilst a word must also be said for the three clowns, Sgt. Beasley, Cpl. Wood, Pte. Woods, and the donkey which accompanied them. On this occasion all enclosures were packed with friends of the Regiment and a great reception given to Mrs. Crookenden who distributed the prizes.

RESULTS.

100 Yards (Recruits).—1, Penfold; 2, Richardson. Time, 11⅘ secs.

Throwing Cricket Ball.—Williams. Distance, 86½ yards.

220 Yards (W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s and men).—1, W. G. Jones; 2, Penfold. Time, 25⅘ secs.

Boot Race.—Bromfield.

440 Yards (Recruits).—1, Burt; 2, F. Turner. Time, 1 min. 5 secs.

Mop Fight (Sections of four).—No. 3 Section, B Company.

Children's Race.—Victor Bridgeland, (Boys); Belle Andrews (Girls).

Relay Race (Sections of four).—1, Burt, No. 2 Section, B Company; 2, Lyons, No. 1 Section, B Company.

Blindfold Drive. (Men to be blindfolded, lady drivers).—1, Mrs. Adams; 2, Miss Ray.

Garrison Mile.—1, Wadelin; 2, Lyons; 3, Burt. Time, 4 min. 37⅘ secs.

Blindfold Drill.—Cpl. Crauley's Section.

440 Yards (W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s and men).—1, Wadelin; 2, Penfold. Time 1 min. 2⅘ secs.

Boat Race (Recruits). Six and Coxswain.—No. 1 Section, A Company.

Long Jump (Recruits).—1, Bates; 2, Richardson. Distance, 15 ft. 8 ins.

Ladies' Thread-the-Needle Race.—1, Mrs. Adams; 2, Miss Jones.

Sack Race.—1, Mowland; 2, Newell.

100 Yards (W.O.'s N.C.O.'s and men).—1, Jones; 2, Penfold. Time, 11⅘ secs.

Musical Pegs.—Woods.

Potato Race (Recruits).—1, Followell; 2, Phillips.

Veterans' Race, 120 Yards, (15 years' service and over). Two yards' start for each year's service over 15 years.—1, Clayton; 2, Jones.

Band Race.—1, Piggott; 2, Laming.

Consolation Race (220 Yards).—1, Moore; 2, Price.

Tug-of-War (110-stone team).—"A" Team, trained men; A Company. "B" Team, Recruits: B Company.

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THE MUMMERS.

On the evening of the 17th in the Prince of Wales' Institute the Mummers gave a most delightful entertainment in aid of The Buffs War Memorial and the Canterbury Hospital. Amongst those associated with the Regiment who took part were the following:—Mrs. E. H. Finch Hatton who played very charmingly in a duologue entitled "Jerry and a Sunbeam" with Capt. H. H. C. Baird, Mrs. Howard Smith, Captains Morley and Strettell; and Lieuts. Willow and Maiden. These again were ably assisted by the following, Messrs. Jack Robertson (Father and Son,) Mrs. H. Scrimgeour, the Misses Robertson, Scrimgeour and Champion, and the two Miss Godfreys.

Part II. of the programme provided by the Mummers consisted of a *pot-pourri* of excerpts from the favourite musical comedies, and each item was received with enthusiasm by a well filled house. To mention item by item is impossible. It is sufficient to say that in this, one of the most popular events of the Depot week, we have the equivalent of the Old Stagers of the Canterbury Week, and we hope the former may become as firmly established as the latter.

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WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE.

This was held in the Garrison Gymnasium on Friday Evening, the 19th August, for the members of the Buffs Past and Present Association. It was attended by the Commanding Officer and Officers of the Depot and a goodly number of the members and their wives and lady friends. Both the game and the dance proved very enjoyable. During the latter it was noticed that in one Set of Lancers the gentlemen partners boasted an aggregate service of 139 years. They were Capt. H. Barton, Capt. Smith, Sgt.-Major Jones and Capt. Stone. Old "Sweats!"

The winners in the Whist Drive were:—

| Ladies. | Gents. |
|---|---|
| 1st Prize, Mrs. Dare | 1st Prize, Sgt.-Dr. Clayton. |
| 2nd, Mrs. Dennis. | 2nd, Capt. Smith. |
| 3rd, Miss Foster. | 3rd, C.S.M. Mason. |
| Hidden number, Mrs. Ransley. | Hidden number, Q.M.S. Spierpoint. |

The prizes were very kindly provided by the Commanding Officer personally, who after awarding them, was cheered by the assembly.

A view of the Sergeant's Mess Enclosure, C.S.M. VERLANDER in foreground.

**New readers wanted everywhere.**

**The Depot Week**—*continued.*

### The Battle of The Bullet Bank.

CAPTURE OF DINIZULU.

" Official Communique : The enemy carried out a successful raid at about 20.30 last night in the Bullet Bank sector and captured several prisoners including their Chief Dinizulu. A counter-attack was organised, and after sharp fighting the position was re-established. Many enemy dead were left on the field, 50 prisoners fell into our hands, and our own men were rescued. The situation was normal by 22.00.

Such would have been the official account of the thrilling struggle which took place on the slopes of the Bullet Bank, Canterbury, on Thursday evening before some thousands of people. History was re-enacted and travestied by men of " The Buffs " (by kind permission of Major J. Crookenden, D.S.O., O.C. Depot), Dinizulu having been a notorious chief who stirred up strife in South Africa whilst the 2nd " Buffs " were stationed at Harrismith.

The part of Dinizulu was capably undertaken by C.S.M. Verlander, whilst C.Q.M.S. Ransley was in charge of the convoy. The show reflected the greatest credit upon all who took part, particularly the recruits, who took parts as Zulu warriors, and who entered into the thing bubbling over with enthusiasm. Excellently arranged and punctuated by a series of coloured Verey lights, which marked the progress of the display, it was a delightful combination of thrills and fooling. In brief, it was one of the best entertainments provided in Canterbury for many a long day. A number of ladies collected on behalf of " The Buffs " Benevolent Fund, and afterwards, during the firework display, Dinizulu, who seemed none the worse for his grilling experience, reaped, if not a golden, at least a silver and a copper harvest for the same object.

In this all too brief account, room must also be found to record the untiring work, energy, and enterprise of C.S.M. Piggott, who rendered such valuable assistance throughout all the arrangements.

### The Flaming Line.

AN IMPRESSION ON DANE JOHN.

The City of Canterbury wore a deserted look on the evening of August 20th—despite the fact that it was a Saturday night—and even the High Street contained only a few stragglers and farm carts returning to outside villages. For the greater part of the population were gathered at Dane John, the terraces and banks of which were thronged with people.

The occasion was the final event of the Depot Week—a Military Tattoo by the W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s and men of The Depot. This was R.S.M. Dare's special show, and he is to be congratulated on a perfect display. I have seen many such entertainments, but, taking into consideration the fact that many of the young soldiers taking part had been at the Depot but two weeks. I can honestly say that I have never seen this popular display carried out so efficiently.

With heads erect, torches held firmly aloft, chests out (one enthusiastic youngster, in an attempt to emulate an R.I.C. Head Constable, had apparently burst the two top buttons of a somewhat short tunic)—I think a lady friend must have been watching his efforts) and keeping excellent step, they carried out their evolutions to the strains of inspiring music provided by the Depot Band, ably conducted by Sergt.-Drummer Clayton.

Circles, squares, figures of eight, marching single file, file, fours, eights and sixteens—every movement was perfect, and I was really sorry when " Lights Out " was sounded, and we had to go home.

F.

### Births, Marriages and Deaths.

[*Notices of Births, Engagements, Marriages and Deaths will be inserted in The Dragon free to all Past and Present Buffs on request.*]

BIRTHS.

**Freelove.**—On the 6th July, the wife of No. 6278533 Pte. Freelove, Depot The Buffs, of a daughter (Violet Winifred).

**Friend.**—At Bramling, on 9th August, 1921, the wife of Lt.-Col. R. S. I. Friend, late The Buffs, of a son.

**Jackson.**—On the 20th June, the wife of No. 7810012 Pte. W. Jackson, 1st Battalion The Buffs, of a daughter (Joan Lucy.)

**Maillard.**—At Canterbury on 18th August, 1921, the wife of Sgt. W. Maillard, Orderly Room Sergt., Depot, The Buffs, of a daughter.

ENGAGEMENT.

The engagement is announced between Captain Frank Whitaker, M.C., the Buffs, only son of the late Mr. F. S. Whitaker and Mrs. Whitaker, of Newholme, Kedleston Road, Derby, and Eva Gwendolyn, elder daughter of the late Councillor E. J. Hulse, J.P., O.B.E., and Councillor Mrs. Hulse, M.B.E., of Oakdene, Duffield Road, Derby.

MARRIAGE.

**Child—Davey.**—On the 9th July, 1921, at the Parish Church, Marylebone, Captain Robert Deacon de Quincey Child to Minnie Hilda Davey, daughter of the late Henry Davey and Mrs. Henry Davey of Hove.

**Wood—Newby.**—At Sittingbourne, on July 25th, 1921, C.S.M. F. C. S. Wood, M.S.M., 4th Battalion The Buffs, to Miss E. R. Newby, late of Sittingbourne Hospital.

DEATHS.

**Degville.**—On the 20th July, 1921. Accidentally drowned whilst Bathing at Fermoy. No. 6279225 Boy H. Degville, 1st Battalion The Buffs.

**Graham.**—At Ramsgate, on 9th August, Company-Sergt.-Major John Graham, late 3rd Grenadier Guards and of the permanent staff of the 4th Buffs.

**Rolston.**—At Cologne, on August 11th, Captain W. E. Rolston, late 2/5th Buffs, and late Editor *The Cologne Post.*

**Vipan.**—On the 15th August, at his residence, Ford Bank, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Major Charles Vipan, D.S.O., late 3rd Battalion The Buffs, aged 72. No flowers, no mourning, by his request.

## To Old Buffs.

*THE Association of Past and Present Buffs is open to all those who are serving or have served in a Regular Battalion of The Buffs, and to all those who have served or are serving with a Service, Territorial, or Special Reserve Battalion.*

*The greater the membership, the more enjoyable our Re-unions, the stronger our Esprit-de-Corps, and the greater the service that we can render each other.*

*If you are not already a member, why not become one now ?*

**Terms of Membership.**

*Officers* ... ... ... 2/6 *per annum.*
*Other Ranks* ... ... 3/6 *first year,* 1/- *subsequent year.*

**Life Membership.**

*Officers* ... ... ... £2 2 0
*Other Ranks* ... ... ... £1 1 0

*Membership Badges are issued free. Silver and Enamel to Life Members, and a brass button to annual subscribers.*

**All Applications for Membership should be sent to The Hon. Sec., Association of Past and Present Buffs, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.**

**Can YOU get one ?**

# The 2nd Battalion.

THE intense heat is now upon us, and it is difficult to find a redeeming feature in this station. At the time of writing we have only got E.P. Tents, and the temperature goes up to 120° in the afternoons. So far as we can see the huts in the course of construction will not be finished until the cold weather sets in. Sand fly fever is another curse at this time of the year. Although in itself it does not last long, it makes one feel rotten for a considerable time after.

On May 30th our Regimental Hockey Team took on the 15th Sikhs and beat them 4-1, after a good game, in which our men showed considerable improvement.

---

THE SERGEANTS' MESS, No. 3.

We have abandoned the Fort and left it in the hands of the Arab Levies, and have taken to the Camp on the hill about 1½ miles from Kirkuk. A mud brick hut is being constructed for the Mess, but pending the completion of same, we exist in three E.P. Tents, and exist very comfortably too. Life in Camp is much healthier and more interesting than at the Fort, where the love affairs of Mr. and Mrs. Stork perched on the Mosque in the centre of the square was all there was to relieve the monotony of the cement walls. By the way, Mrs. Stork has presented Mr. Stork with four lively young storks, and a regular clatter of beaks now greets any visitor to the Fort.

Since our last notes almost all our Married Members have left us to visit their families in India; lucky chaps! also Tots Ambrose, who escorted the Band and Drummer Boys to Bolon in the Simla Hills, Cr.-Sgt. Sayers and Chippy Hamblin who were left in India have rejoined.

Before the departure of the Married Members, who by the way had to march to Kingarban, an impromptu Smoker was held in the Mess at the Fort, the most interesting item of the programme being a demonstration by Billy Upson of how he relieved the Suffolks.

Deeks has rejoined from his employment at the G.H.Q. Mess, Baghdad, and the Mess is again kept alive by his quaint and humorous remarks.

It has been fairly quiet for the last fortnight in Camp; three companies (A, B & C.) being away at the various camps on the Lines of Communication between the Railhead at Kingarban and are breaking them up as this line is to be closed and a new route via Baiji opened. "C" Company has now returned. A and B. are expected at the beginning of July, and with a full Mess things will become lively once more.

R.S.M. Andrews, Sergts. Ricketts and MacMahon sat for the second group of their 1st class certificate on Wednesday, 22nd June. This was the last examination on the old system. We wish them every success.—V.J.M.

---

"C" COY. ON LINES OF COMMUNICATION.

It became our lot, on June 10th, to leave Kirkuk, and to proceed to various camps on the Kirkuk-Kingarban road in relief of a Battalion of the Malabar Rifles, who were going to India.

Before leaving, the C.Q.M.S. took over a chota canteen from the contractor. The stores were loaded on civilian carts, very shaky "turn-outs" too, and it was a marvel that they managed to get to the first camp without falling to pieces.

All through the march the C.Q.M.S. had to keep a very watchful eye upon them and when one cart went down a bank and nearly into the river, he saw visions of Rs 10,000 "going west."

On reaching Tazah the Company was divided up. Company Headquarters, Nos. 10 and 11 Platoons remained there. The other platoons continued the march the following day, No. 12 being left at the next camp, Tauq, and No. 9 going right through to Tuz.

There were plenty of duties for the Tazah Detachment for the first few days and when orders were received to commence striking Camp, things began to hum. However, the greater part of them managed to find time for a dip in the river in the evenings. Others, however preferred fishing, Some had bites, some did not.

And apropos Angling ask Pte. Statham to give you a few tips on angling. Rule No. 1 will probably be, "Keep your helmet dome screwed on tightly." But, if you value your life, do not ask Q.M.A. Austin or Sgt. Freeman what luck they had with the mosquito net.

The health of this detachment was very good, the only prominent disease being "Barbed-wire fever." Even the Post Commandant suffered from this.

No. 12 Platoon at Tauq also suffered from this complaint. During their sojourn they played several footer matches with the 30th Lancers and others. They also made full use of the boxing gloves. L/Cpl. Player was unanimously appointed Canteen Manager and Sgt. Hook, Detachment Humourist.

The Tuz detachment, No. 9 Platoon, do not appear to have been quite as hard worked as the remainder of the Company. When they rejoined us in Kirkuk, we were for ever hearing hymns of praise on the good qualities of their cook. We hope this individual, by name, Pte. J. W. Smith, is not suffering from swelled head. But he certainly should feel proud of himself.

The joys and sorrows of Lines of Communication came to an end on Friday, June 25th and once again the Company is carrying on in the Kirkuk Summer Camp, with a temperature averaging 115° in the shade. Phew! Its 'ot.

---

E COMPANY.

The Company is now settled down, and we have played three more matches; a hockey match against B Company (Result 2-1 in our favour); and two football matches, one against the Band and Drums, which we lost, and the other against the Drums only, whom we managed to defeat.

On Albuhera Day sports were arranged in Camp and our mule drivers challenged the rest of the Regimental Lewis Gun Transport to a wrestling match on mules. We gained an overwhelming victory.

These drivers of ours are also famous in the hunting field, and most of them have had some excellent runs—and some "excellent" spills too, out with Capt. Haymen's "bobbery" pack. Pte. Barrett and Pte. Read are among the hardest goers, but they all deserve equal praise for the dashing way they ride across country.

The other day we carried out a Machine Gun scheme in front of the C.O. Among other things we came into action from pack on being rushed from an ambush by "Arabs" on either side of the road.

The Arabs consisted of Pte. Ralph and Pte. Kimpton, one on each side of the track. Pte. Kimpton played the part of the wild Arab in such a realistic manner that several outsiders not in the know, were on the point of disarming him and putting him under restraint, thinking he was one of D Company from the adjacent Range (firing their annual course) driven mad by continual "wash-outs!"

**Ladies! Your turn has come. See Page 167.**

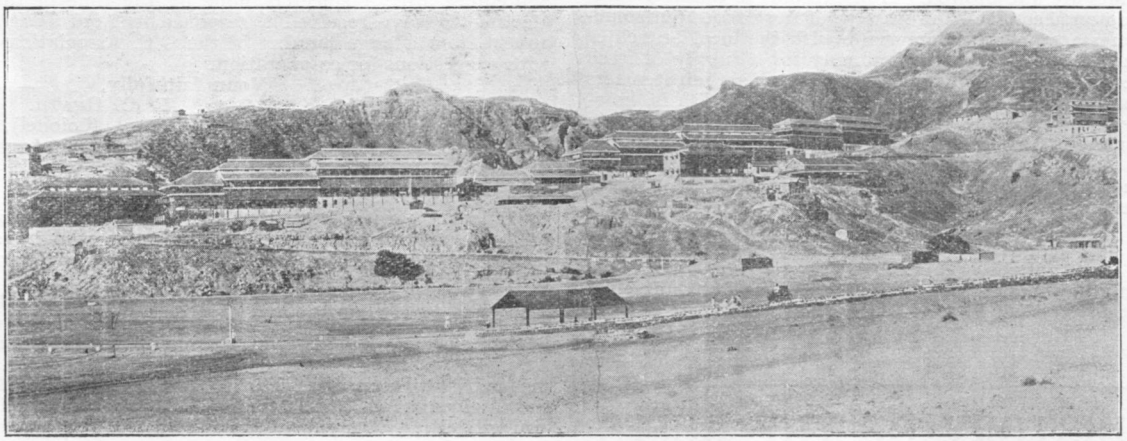
# An Impression of Aden.

TO the majority of people, the name of Aden conveys an impression of intense heat, combined with great general discomfort. Against this we find the consoling saying—so often heard in the East and elsewhere as well—that "Aden is not as bad as it is painted."

ADEN is a mass of bare and desolate volcano rock, five miles in extent from East to West, and connected with the mainland of South Arabia by a stretch of flat, sandy ground. The greatest elevation is JEBEL SHAMSHUM (1,776 feet) with the Port Signal Station on its summit.

The native town is on the East Coast, and is situated within a crater formed by low rolling hills. There are no flowers, and practically no vegetation of any kind growing in the place.

The Royal Garrison Artillery are stationed at STEAMER POINT, a strip of sandy land at the western end, from ½ to ¾ mile wide and extending from the sea to the foot of the hills. Here are found the barracks, bungalows, shops, official buildings, etc., comprising the European quarter.



VIEW OF ADEN.
Showing R.G.A. Quarters and Recreation Ground.

The normal garrison also includes a Battalion of both British and Indian Infantry, a Company of Indian Sappers and Miners, and the Aden Troop of Cavalry, the latter unit comprising Indian "Sowars" mounted on both camels and ponies. The Infantry are quartered at "THE CRATER" and the Cavalry at KHOR MAKSAR, some miles from Steamer Point on the ISTHMUS.

The climate is hot, but not particularly unhealthy. The *average* shade temperature is 83 Fahrenheit and varies from 76 in January to 91 in May and September. The two latter months are by far the hottest, as they immediately precede and follow the monsoon. From November until the beginning of March, the weather is fairly cool and by no means unpleasant. The rainfall is limited to a few showers annually, the water supply being from condensed sea-water.

Aden is generally free from disease such as enteric, dysentery, etc., and the only cases of malaria occurring in the station have been contracted in the interior or elsewhere outside the station. The chief complaints are heat stroke, and a mild form of fever lasting three or four days. The absence of shade and green makes the place rather depressing. Ladies and children do well in the station in the winter, but should go home, or to fhe hills of India, in the hot months (April to end of September, or October if possible). During the latter period all parade work is reduced to a minimum, and as a rule is over by 8 a.m.

Every possible facility is given to N.C.O.'s and men for indulging in games and sports.

At Steamer Point, football, cricket (on matting) and hockey are freely played. There is a Gymkhana Club for the use of officers, with tennis courts, attached, and a nine-hole golf course has been laid out on the sandy plain between the barracks and the mess.

Boat sailing and fishing are also popular forms of recreation. Large fish (such as the tarpon) are to be had, but to be successful special rods and tackle are necessary, as well as some skill on the part of the fisherman. Sea-bathing is only permitted at certain allotted spots fenced in as a protection against sharks. It is very unsafe to bathe in the open sea for this reason.

From November to February, Aden is quite a gay station, and dances, theatricals, gymkhanas, dinner parties, moonlight picnics, etc., follow each other in quick succession. Open-air concerts for the men are also got up from time to time. Polo (of sorts) is sometimes played at Khor Maksar, the cavalry station, on ponies provided by the Aden Troops.

Khaki drill uniform is worn in all orders of dress, except at mess where white mess uniform is the rule. Home pattern service dress is never required. A Wolsley helmet should be brought from home. For mufti wear, the thinnest tropical clothing, with thin flannel suits for social purposes, and an evening dress suit, is all that is required. Tweed clothing as worn at home is never required (except for leave purposes). With the exception of cotton or linen suits, khaki uniform and mess kit (which can be obtained better and much cheaper in Aden) everything should be brought from home. The local shops are poor.

Leave is very liberally granted to officers stationed at Aden in the hot months.

The station is unfortunate in one way, possessing no hill resort near at hand where one can go to for a "week-end." The nearest place for short leave is ASMARAX on the East Coast of Africa, the seat of Government of the Italian Colony of ERITREA, and 60 miles inland from the seaport of MASSOWAH. Asmara is 5,000 feet high, and pleasantly cool even at midsummer. There are frequent steamers between Aden and Massowah,

*(Continued on next page.)*

**Take in The Dragon. It won't take you in.**

**An Impression of Aden**—*continued.*

the entire journey to Asmara taking about 3 days. There is rough hotel accommodation at Asmara, and the officers of the Italian garrison do all they can to help the British officers in every way, making them honorary members of the two clubs (civil and military) and of the Tennis Club.

For longer periods of leave, amounting to two months or more, officers can elect to go to England, to the continent of Europe, to the hills of India, or to Somaliland for big game shooting. The latter enterprise would require rather elaborate arrangements for supplies, transport, etc., and would also entail a good deal of expense, but the excellence of the sport obtained should amply repay all this.

Indian currency is in circulation at Aden, and Army pay is calculated at Indian rates. Generally speaking, Aden is a cheap place for soldiers in comparison with most foreign stations, as the opportunities for spending money are few.

For servants, officers must put up with Somali "boys," unless they can get Indian servants, but it is difficult to get the latter to stay at Aden. Soldier servants are not allowed. Housekeeping is rather a question on account of the scarcity of fresh food, but sometimes arrangements are made with the local branch of the Eastern Telegraph Company for a supply of fresh vegetables and fruit from ZANZIBAR, when their steamers come in from that port. Plenty of fresh fish is, however, always to be got, and this forms a good substitute for the ration beef, which is usually quite uneatable.

Aden can hardly be said to be a popular station with the rank and file, but the writer's advice to those whose fate it is to be ordered there is :—

(*a*) To lead a temperate life.
(*b*) To go in freely for games and sports in the cool of the evening.

and they should have no difficulty in keeping themselves fit during their tour of duty in the station.

[*The above article is published by kind permission of The Editor of The Gunner Magazine. Ed.*]

# HISTORY OF THE BUFFS

## 1914-1919

BY

**COLONEL R. S. H. MOODY, C.B.**

(*late the Buffs*).

*The History will include the Services of all Battalions of the Buffs and will contain illustrations and maps, as well as complete lists of all those who lost their lives.*

*The price will not exceed 7/6, and, in order that the Committee may form an idea as to how many copies to order from the Publishers, intending purchasers are asked to give notice of their intention as early as possible to*

MAJOR F. W. TOMLINSON,
Hon. Sec. The Buffs History,
2 Cavendish Square,
London, W. 1.

*Note. Payment will not be required until the History is ready for delivery.*

# The British Legion.

IT will be remembered that in our August issue, we published the correspondence which had passed between ourselves and The British Legion in regard to the proposals for co-operation between The Legion and Regimental Old Comrades Associations.

We now publish a further letter we have received from The British Legion bearing on this important matter, together with an extract from a letter sent by Field Marshall Earl Haig, to the Regimental-Sergeant-Major, Depot, The Buffs.

THE LEGION'S LETTER.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of 8th August, for which I thank you, I brought the matter of a liason between regimental Old Comrades Associations and the British Executive Council. They asked me to proceed as far as Legion up at the recent meeting of the National feeling the pulse of the Old Comrades' Associations is concerned, and of devising methods of co-operation, but otherwise the matter was deferred until the next meeting of the National Executive takes place on September 3rd. I sincerely hope by the time of the Meeting to have received a response to Lord Haig's appeal from a large number of the O.C. Associations, with suggestions for co-operation.

Yours faithfully,
E. C. HEATH.
(Colonel),
General Secretary.

26 Eccleston Square,
London, S.W.1.

EARL HAIG'S LETTER.

It is my earnest hope that the Legion shall enrol the vast majority of all officers and men who have retired or been disabled or demobilised from any part of His Majesty's Forces, Land, Sea or Air.

It is with this object in view that I venture to ask you kindly to bring the Legion to the notice of those in charge of your Regimental Old Comrades Association. At an early date my Council will be considering the best means by which the British Legion can co-operate with the Regimental Associations, and I shall be grateful if you will let me have your views as to how this can best be effected.

Yours very truly,
HAIG,
Field-Marshal.

It will be noticed that in both the above communications suggestions for co-operation are invited. We are hoping that some of our readers will deal with this subject in the pages of *The Dragon*.

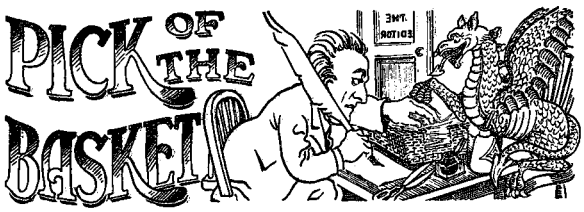
**Our Illustrations.**

*Copies on art paper, and suitable for framing, of any of our illustrations can be obtained on application to the Editor at the following rates :—*

**Regimental Notabilities—1/- each.**

**Any other drawing or Photograph—6d. each.**

**Picture Framing and Art Depot.**
**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
**Canterbury.**
**Tel. 21 X.**




A LADIES FEATURE ?

Sir,

Can you not spare a page each month for the ladies ? Your feminine readers must be numerous, and doubtless the majority would welcome the innovation should *The Dragon* get abreast of the times and give us the voice we claim everywhere else as our right.

Being women, we have so many things to talk about, and I for one would appreciate being allowed the use of your columns as a medium.

Yours etc.,
" EVE."

Married Quarters,
Canterbury.

[*This is a feature which makes a strong appeal to us, and we hope some of our other lady readers will send us their views. Ed.*]

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DO YOU KNOW HIM ?

Sir,

I should be greatly obliged if you could assist me in tracing an old Buff who served with me many years ago.

His name is Joseph Cook, No. 1243, and enlisting in 1866 he proceeded in the same year with the 1st Battalion to India, I joined the Battalion in 1869, and Cook and I returned to Shornecliffe in 1880. A few weeks later I purchased my discharge, since when I have lost touch with him.

As we served together in " H " Company of the 1st Battalion for nine years, you will realise I know the pleasure it would give me to talk over old times with my old comrade.

G. STONE,
No. 1871,
late The Buffs.

Ward 21,
Royal Hospital, Chelsea,

---

5TH BUFFS AT BAGHDAD.

30 Girton Road,
Sydenham, S.E.,
17th Aug., 1921.

Sir,

I have just returned from Mesopotamia and notice in the June number of the *Dragon* that the successes of the 2nd Battalion in the Baghdad Commemoration Week Athletic Sports are given. I think, however, that the 5th Battalion should also be mentioned as in the latter sports I won the 440 yds. (Officers) and was 3rd in the 440 yds. (All ranks). In the previous year's meeting I was the only Buff represented and won the 440 yds. (all ranks). I also won the 440 yds. Baghdad Area Championship in February last. On each of these three meetings I have run in Buff colours.

**When writing to your friends and relations remember Dragon Envelopes increase the Circulation.**

The above reads very much as if I was particularly anxious to " blow my own trumpet," but I think the above events should be to the credit of the 5th Battalion and recorded as such in *The Dragon*.

L. A. FIRMIN,
" The Buffs."

Sydenham.

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OUR COMPETITIONS.

Sir,

It has been suggested to me by many men in the Company, that there would be a great many more entries for the Competitions in the *Dragon*, if it were made possible for the 2nd Battalion to enter for them.

During those blistering hours between ten in the morning and six in the evening, when all work is out of the question out here, many an honest guinea might be won by making up Limericks and so on.

At present *The Dragon* takes six weeks to reach us, and another six for our answers to get back, by which time the competition is closed.

The Company to which these men belong, take a copy of *The Dragon* monthly, to a man.

N. D. RICE.

D. Company,
Mesopotamia.

[*The receipt of this letter has decided us to re-open our Competitions vide page 171, from which it will be noticed that we are making special arrangements for the 2nd Battn. Ed.*]

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A SUGGESTION.

Sir,

I suggest that a prize might be given for the best design for a Regimental Recruiting Poster. Judges to be O.C. 1st Battalion, O.C. Depot, Recruiting Officer.

E. F. D. STRETTELL, *Capt.*

The Depot, Canterbury.

[*This is a suggestion we should like to see followed up, but we think the prize in this instance might be offered by the Regiment, in view of the several other prizes we ourselves are putting up. Ed.*]

---

AND ANOTHER.

Sir,

Why not give a prize in *The Dragon* for the best account of " life in a German Prisoners of War Camp." I expect some of the men would spread themselves.

W. H. TREVOR, *Col.*

Mesopotamia.

[*Responding to the call two prizes of half a guinea each will be given for the best two articles of not more than 800 words received. Photographs or sketches to accompany the articles are invited. Ed.*]

---

AND SOME MORE.

Sir,

With reference to the " Competitions " for *The Dragon*, as the Limerick one has not been as successful as one would wish, perhaps a competition of any of the following lines would be more popular.

1. " *Short story Competition.*" This could be a story on any subject—War Humour—or Sentimental, of abour 300 words length.
2. " *Prize Verse Competition.*" This could be say 2 or 3 verses on any of the subjects as in 1.
3. " *Missing Line Limerick Competition.*" As suggested by Sgt. Sedgwick in the last issue of *The Dragon i.e.*, a made up limerick—leaving out the last line—this to be made up by the competitor.
4. " Bullets "—on something on similar lines.

The prizes need not be so large as one guinea : say one of 10/-, one of 7/6, one of 5/-. This would give more chance of winning a prize.

Personally, I think that with a little more encouragement on the part of the senior ranks, and a few entries from the Officers, the thing would go with more success. There is nothing to stop the winner—if not in need of the prize—to pass the cash to " The Buffs Benevolent Society " or some other such needy society.

J. W. POTTER, *Sergt.*

Depot The Buffs.

*(Our decision in regard to competitions will be found on page 171.)*

**Help to increase its circulation.**

# "Beneath Bell Harry."

BY THE MAN WITH THE SQUEEGEE.

THERE came one to The Depot recently who gave evidence of having read his *Dragon* pretty consistently. Said he to the modest and retiring writer of this page "I suppose you are the fellow who writes the stuff on the "Bell Harry Page." It sounded like you." The compliment or criticism contained in this non-committal assumption was accepted with mingled pleasure and apprehension; the first, as the vendor of tripe, it was gratifying to know that it is consumed regularly and the second, because it was felt that perhaps what follows immediately below the title at the head of this page monthly is an involuntary source of hilarity. At any rate it is read which is the chief concern. The lot of a special correspondent (unpaid and wholly undeserving of remuneration) is never a light one and the task of chronicling all the happenings of the last three weeks loses nothing in weight.

Cricket Week (that is the less important county one) passed successfully. The Tent was crowded daily and the buns went round, although there was a moment on the Thursday when the prohibitive letters F.H.B. were more than once called into operation.

The historic example in Holy Writ of a catering triumph ceases to be a record on that day. The heart of Lord Rothermere and "The Sunday Pictorial" would have warmed at the display of anti-waste in the Service Tent. The last crumb went into the throat of the last guest without a hitch.

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The Unveiling of the Regimental Memorial on Sunday, July 31st brought a host of friends to the Cathedral where a short and admirably appropriate Service preceded the actual unveiling of the Reredos by Lord Horne. It was a blazing Summer Day, not unlike some of those, seven long years ago, when the war was only a small cloud on the distant horizon and its ghastly wastage an undreamt of horror. It was not unfitting in a week of careless enjoyment to be reminded that there was a time when even Cricket Weeks had ceased and that their renewal had been rendered the more probable not unentirely by those whom the Screen in the Warriors' Chapel commemorates.

Before the Service the many distinguished visitors were entertained to lunch at the Depot. The company included General Lord Horne, The Dean of Canterbury, General Sir Arthur Paget, Major-General Sir A. Lynden Bell, Major-General Sir E. G. T. Bainbridge, The Danish Minister, The High Sheriff of Kent and The Mayor of Canterbury.

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On Tuesday night The Old Stagers supped with us and only an insistent dawn disintegrated a happy party. On Friday night there was a dance on the Mess Tennis Court in a large marquee. Unfortunately the drought chose this night to break and therefore dancing space was limited but yet another dawn was seen by many of us.

After Cricket Week came a lull and then the Australian Match. It was interesting for the first three hours to see the experts indulge in batting practice. At the end of the second day it became a little tiring.

---

Then on the 15th August began the Depot Week. A full account of the matches and the sports appears later. Suffice it to say that there were three good Cricket Matches and a day full of athletic thrills.

On the Wednesday night "The Mummers" gave light musical entertainment in the Prince of Wales' Institute. The Past and Present Match was not only a good game but also a satisfactory reunion. It is none the less remarkable that more Buffs did not hear of the fixture. It was advertised most thoroughly but once again it is evident that "letting people know" is not the easiest of tasks.

And last but not least on 17th July a match was played on The Depot ground between Mrs. Crookenden's Ladies XI. and the Officers. A few minor limitations were placed on the officers such as batting left-handed and catching single-handed. Some spirited batting was shewn by the Ladies who compiled 103. The Officers replied with 157. On going in a second time the Ladies knocked off the deficit of runs and, according to the prearranged rules of the Match, were victorious.

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### BAYONET FENCING COMPETITION.

A Recruits' Bayonet Fencing Competition was held in the Garrison Gymnasium on Monday, 25th July, and the following were left in for the Final Pool:—

Ptes. Marshall, G., Pickard, C., Tutt, V., Ayliffe, H., Reed, E. and Stanbridge, S.

Some very good and close bouts were fought, but the bad practice of "Timing" was very evident, through the lack of confidence in the parry. The "Feint" was not used as much as it should have been, but with greater experience will come the realisation of this valuable asset in the art of Bayonet Fencing.

The winner, Pte. Marshall, was given a silver medal left with the Adjutant by General Paget, and the 2nd, Pte. Pickard, received a silver medal also.

---

### CRICKET RESULTS.

The following matches have been played additional to those in the Depot Week reported elsewhere.

JULY 16TH. The Depot beat Herne Bay by 112 runs. Depot Score 164 (Lieut. Maiden 59, Cpl. Parry 27, Lieut Willows 19), Cpl Parry took 7 wickets for 21 runs.

JULY 19TH. The Depot beat King's School by 9 runs. Depot Score 125 (C.S.M. Couchman and Lieut. Willows 33, Sgt. Maillard 29), Lt. Maiden and Cpl. Parry each took 5 wickets.

JULY 28TH. The Depot lost to Wye College by 129 runs. Depot Score 94 (Lieut. Cooke 42, Lieut. Willows 23).

AUGUST 13TH. The Depot beat R.A.P.C. by 82 runs. Depot Score 128 (Lieut. Willows 61, Major Guy Lee 20).

AUGUST 20TH. The Depot lost to Herne Bay by 148 runs. Depot Score 73 (Lieut. Willows 18, R.S.M. Dare 17).

AUGUST 22ND. The Officers, The Depot, beat the Sergeants by 79 runs. Scores: Officers 209 (Capt Baird 56 not out, Lt. Willows 55, Lieut. Maiden 38). Sergeants 130, (Sgt. Morgan 25, Sgt. Beasley 28, C.Q.M.S. Bridgeland 20, C.S.M. Couchman 25).

During the afternoon of the Officers' *v.* Sergeants' Match, MRS. Crookenden entertained the married families to tea on the Ground.

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### THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

On Thursday, 21st July, 1921, an "At Home" was held at which the finals of the Tennis Tournament took place.

The ladies who reached the final were Miss D. Foster and Miss N. Jones.

*(Continued on next page.)*

**The prevalent epidemic—"Dragonitis."**

**"Beneath Bell Harry"**—*Continued.*

Miss Foster was in great form, winning the first four games easily, at this point Miss Jones recovered and by some good services won the following two games, however Miss Foster continued her earlier successes and won the remaining two games.

Final Scores. Miss Foster 6. Miss Jones 2.

In the Gents Finals, C.S.M. Couchman met L/Sergt. Beasley, and some very fine play was witnessed. The opening games were of a ding dong character, and the first six games stood at 3 all,

Sgt. Beasley, being very nimble on his "pins," then hustled some and won the following three games.

Final Scores: L/Sgt. Beasley 6; C.S.M. Couchman 3.

Mrs. F. W. Foster presented the Prizes.

R.S.M. Dare then initiated the happy crowd into the game of Rounders, and over 40 people were to be seen chasing the ball over the famous greensward.

To finish a most delightful afternoon, a Ladies *v.* Gents Cricket match took place, the gents batting left handed and fielding with one hand, The ladies score totalled 49, and the gents were dismissed for a less total, it is not known how many they actually made as the scoring book has been used by the Orderly Sergeants for detail!

However all stated that they had thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, and their looks verified their statements.

It has since come to light that many chemists have had record sales of embrocation, and the stiffness caused through rounders and cricket has now entirely disappeared.

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CORPORALS' NOTES.

The outstanding event of the month has been our outing to Hastings by the kind permission of the C.O. Although the weather looked anything but promising, we started off from Barracks at 08.45 hours on Saturday the 6th inst. in a 32 seater of the East Kent Road Car Company, a right merry band of Corporals and their wives and prospective ones accompanied by C.S.M. and Mrs. Piggott.

This start took place to the sound of "The Advance" on the Cornet by a Musical friend, and our road took us via Folkestone, (The Friend letting rip with "Colonel Bogey," "Old Soldiers never die," "The Motor Ride," and various other fanfares), Hythe, Dymchurch, New Romney, Rye, Winchelsea, and we finally arrived at Hastings at 12.40 hours, where the party broke off to enjoy in their various ways a jolly pleasant stay of four hours.

The weather here was glorious, only there was rather a very strong wind blowing. However all met at 17.00 hours looking as though nothing at all mattered on earth. Soon after we started for home taking another route via:—Saddlescombe, Staplecross, Rolvenden, Tenterden, Great Chart, Wye, and finally reached Barracks at 20.00 hours, everyone more than satisfied with an excellent day.

No noteworthy incidents took place en-route, except at Rye, where a member apparently had lost himself, and although repeatedly called, to "The Cookhouse," "Fall-in-at the Double" by the Corneteer, every effort failed until a genius thought of the "Letter Call" which speedily brought him, no doubt thinking he was still in Barracks.

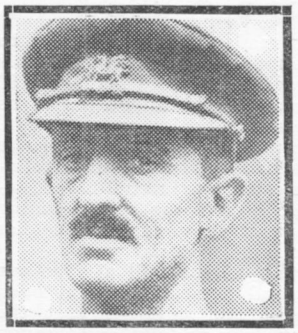
C.S.M. Pigott was the soul of the party especially on the Homeward journey when singing, or rather getting others to sing for him, that old ditty of "There was Three Crows" etc.

Many thanks must be given to Cpl. Burton who worked very hard in making the arrangements for what was really an excellent day.

LE PETIT CORPORAL.

# Obituary.

CAPT. W. E. ROLSTON, 5th (The Weald of Kent Battn.) The Buffs (*Territorials*).



WE much regret to announce the death in Germany of this very popular officer, who held a special appointment Army of Occupation, and who founded and edited their only newspaper, the *Cologne Post*, from which the following extract is taken.

"It was in February, 1919 that the late Capt. Rolston left Wahn, to undertake the production of a Rhine Army daily newspaper and he set to work with zeal and resource to get into shape the multitudinous considerations that are part and parcel of such a venture. That he did these things well, the avalanche of congratulations that came from quarters representing the fifty thousand or so readers of the first number, provided eloquent and convincing testimony. With brief and occasional respites, enterprise, and energy were expended ungrudgingly to provide members of the Rhine Army (to say nothing of a large number of German civilians) with the world's news at the earliest possible moment. "I could not possibly produce the 'C.P.' without the loyalty and hard work of the members of the staff," he was wont to remark when annual gatherings or other happenings provided the opportunity. There is not, however, a single individual who is now, or has at any time been on the staff of the journal, who could fail to admit unhesitatingly that the late "Chief's" ever sunny disposition, well timed words of encouragement, and extraordinary determination provided a bigger influence in keeping the ship afloat in trying times than any other."

The photograph of Captain Rolston is published with kind permission of *Topical Press Agency* and the *Daily Sketch*.

---

C.S.M. JOHN GRAHAM.

WE much regret to announce the death of Company-Sergt.-Major John Graham, 3rd Grenadier Guards, at Ramsgate on 9th August. This Warrant Officer will be a great loss to the 4th Batt. and particularly to Thanet where his influence was marked in the difficult task of reconstruction of that Battalion. He was a man well-known in Ramsgate and a Member of the British Legion. He leaves a widow and two children with whom we wish to express our deepest sympathy.

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**Professional Trainers.**

The Army Athletic and Cross-Country Association have asked for the opinion of units as to the advisability or otherwise of taking action to prevent the employment of professional athletic trainers by units or members of any units.

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## How to get The Dragon.

*FOR those wishing to receive the paper direct through the post each month, the rates of subscription are:—*
*1 year* 8/-, *6 months* 4/-, *3 months* 2/-.
*Remittances should be sent to the Editor, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.*

---

*COPIES of the paper can also be obtained from any Territorial Drill Hall in East Kent at the price of* 6*d.*

---

*AND Agents for the Paper are also required—*

**see Page 159.**

**More patients wanted.**

# Enquiry Bureau.

CONDUCTED BY

## The "Old Buffer."

FOR the benefit of our readers we have decided to open up an Enquiry Bureau. Through this medium our Editorial Oracle, The "Old Buffer," will do his utmost to answer all queries submitted to us relating to pay, allowances, gratuities and pensions.

In addition he looks forward to dealing with queries of a more general kind such as for instance those relating to other aspects of resettlement in civil life, Regimental Institutions, Medals, and the never ending knotty points that daily perturb the minds of the soldier past and present, Regular and Territorial.

A special feature of this column will also be our endeavour to place Past and Present Buffs in touch with each other. Gradually and surely through the addresses that are being sent in to us daily, and through our new scheme of appointing agents for *The Dragon* throughout the County, vide page 159, we are hoping to link together all those who have ever served in the Regiment. In any case that is one of our primary objects. Accordingly we invite any of our readers

**Can we send you a packet of 25 *Dragon* Envelopes, price 6d. (post free)? or call at *The Dragon* Office for them.**

who may wish for news of old comrades, with whom they may have lost touch, to send us full particulars. Wherever possible the information called for will be sent at once through the post, but failing that publication will be given to the requests that reach us in the hope that one or other of our readers may be able to supply the missing link. All queries should be submitted direct to The Editor, and a twopenny stamp be enclosed when a answer through the post is desired.

### SOME REPLIES.

W. B., Charlton :—Are The Buffs entitled to The Mons Bar ?

Presumably you mean the 1914 Bar, issued with the 1914 Star. Those of the Buffs who served in the 1st Battalion at the front prior to 19th November 1914 are entitled to this decoration.

D. K., Cranbrook :—What is the origin of the term "The Buffs" ?

The Buffs, known as the Holland Regiment on their return from Holland in 1665, wore with their red coats, facings, breeches and stockings of buff, and thus became known as the Buffs.

E.S.H., Dover :—What British honours are worn by H.M. The King of Denmark, Colonel-in-Chief of The Buffs ?

"K.G., G.C.B., G.C.V.O."

H.B. (Chatham) :—In regard to the query you raise about your gratuity, the following is the latest information supplied to me :—

"The Ministry of Pensions had carefully investigated a proposal to award permanent pensions in place of gratuities for permanent disabilities assessed at from 10 to 20 per cent., but it was felt that for a number of reasons such a course would not be practicable at this late stage after the termination of hostilities."

S.T. (Ashford) :—Is Industrial Training still open to disabled men ?

Yes, but all applications for same must be lodged not later than the 30th Sept., 1921.

H. G. Clarabut of Lower Eythorne, Dover, Kent, would like to hear from Bert Giles of the 2nd Battalion, and also from any of the old boys in Hythe.

Mr. A. G. Gunston asks "Do you happen to know the address of Col. Beevor" ? I was his groom from 1907-10.

Col. Beevor is now serving on the Head Quarters Staff in India, and a letter addressed G.H.Q., India, will find him.

Ex-Corporal C. Kimber who is employed by "His Master's Voice" Gramaphone Company, West Drayton, Middlesex, writes to say he would be pleased to exchange letters from any old friend who would care to do so.

# Regimental Gazette.

## The Depot.

### EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.

6278042 C.S.M. Verlander, F.
6280267 C.Q.M.S. Ransley, P.
5718152 Dmr. Kennedy, A.
} 1st Class Certificates of Education, 5/4/21.

### ARRIVALS.

6278137 Dmr. Murdock, R. — Joined Depot 30/7/21 from Gosport Battalion Overseas Details.

6278575 Cpl. Ingram, C. — Rejoined Colours from A.R., 5/8/21 to complete 12 yrs. service. and reverts to Private.

6280008 Pte. Bayford, J. — From 1st Battalion, 9/8/21.

### ARMY RESERVE.

6278511 Pte. Pitt, H. — To Sec. "B", Army Reserve, 27/8/21.

6278453 Pte. Barton, E. — To Sec. "B," Army Reserve 25/8/21.

### DISCHARGES.

6278177 Pte. Cranmer, E. — Discharged 24/8/21 under Para. 392 (xxi.), K.R.

### DRAFT.

Posted to the 1st Battalion on 26/7/21.

6280531 Pte. Reed.
6280817 Pte. Ayliffe.
732481 Pte. Tutt.
6280889 Pte. Chapman.
6280867 Pte. Williams.
6280332 Pte. Stanbridge.
6280247 Pte. Marshall.
6280578 Pte. Gibbs.
6280713 Pte. Redman.
6280887 Pte. Manders.
6281117 Pte. Potter.
6280740 Pte. Lawrence.
6280675 Pte. Richards.
6278387 Pte. Richards.
6280711 Pte. Keeler.
6278746 Pte. Davis.
6279178 Pte. Holness.
7810584 Pte. Jones.
6278488 L/C. Torre.
6280879 Pte. Bassett.
6280712 Pte. Pickard.

### TRANSFERS.

7808132 Sgt. Kennedy, A. — Transferred to the Buffs from M.G.C. 28/7/21.

7809395 Cpl. Sims, B. — Re-transferred from the Machine Gun Corps Army Reserve to The Buffs 20/6/21.

7814417 Pte. Leader, G. — To the Buffs from 1st Depot Bn. M.G.C. 10/8/21.

6279386 Sgt. Alger, J. — Transferred to 1st Bn. Royal Ulster Rifles, Wimbledon Common, 25/7/21.

## 1st Battalion.

### DISCHARGES.

6279380 L/C. A. Forster — 30-6-21.
6279592 Pte. J. Knighton — 4-7-21.
6279374 Pte. S. Ritchie — 23-7-21.
6279435 L/C. T. Smith — 29-7-21.
6278878 Pte. W. Murray — 5-7-21.
6278047 Cpl. F. Morgan — 28-6-21.
6279161 Pte. C. E. Finn — 27-7-21.
6279164 Pte. G. Wylde — 22-7-21.
6280035 Pte. D. J. Keen — 22-7-21.
6280048 Pte. T. Berry
6278798 Pte. W. Kensit
6280259 Pte. T. Heron

### COURSES OF INSTRUCTION.

6280011 Pte. T. Church — Qualified as Regimental Chiropodist, 31-7-21.

### CERTIFICATES OF EDUCATION 1ST CLASS.

6278829 Bd.m V. Lee — Awarded 1st Class Certificate of Education, 5-4-21.

### 2ND AND 3RD CLASS.

Divisional Order No. 316 dated 15-7-21 is republished :—The following 2nd and 3rd Class Certificates have been gained in this Division for the month of June 1921.

| | 2nd Class. | 3rd Class. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st Battalion The Buffs | 67 | 55 | 122 |

This was the *highest number* of Certificates gained in the Division.

### TRANSFERS TO ARMY RESERVE.

6278407 Pte. S. Wade — To Sec. "B," Army Reserve. 3-8-21.

### APPOINTMENTS.

6279178 Pte. E. Holness — To Unpaid Lance-Corporal. 30-7-21.

### DECREASE.

6278511 Pte. H. Pitt
6278409 Pte. E. Mummery
6279771 Pte. Harding
6278047 Cpl. F. Morgan
Posted to Depot, 1-8-21.

**Some swear by The Dragon : others swear at it :—**

## Our Competitions.

THE letter received from D Company of the 2nd Battalion in Mesopotamia, published on page, 167, requesting us to extend our competitions to them, has decided us to re-open this feature to all.

The following therefore will be the competitions for this month :—

(*a*) Two prizes of 5/- each will be given for the best line suggested to complete the following verse :—

A man of The Buffs said " Oh My "
As he entered the canteen to buy
A jar of best honey
" I've lost all my money—
.....

(*b*) A prize of 10/6 will be given for the best and most interesting account of the experiences of any Past or Present Buffs as a Prisoner of War, vide Colonel Trevor's letter on page 169. In addition to this prize, the sum of 5/- will be awarded to each of the authors of any other efforts considered by the Editor to be suitable for publication in our columns.

Manuscripts, which should not exceed 800 words, will not be judged so much on their literary merit, but consideration will rather be given to the general interest of the effort received.

(*c*) A prize of 5/- will be given for the best suggestion for a competition for October.

The conditions for the above competitions will be as follows :—

(*a*) There will be no entry fee.

(*b*) For (*a*) and (*c*) competitions no prizes will be awarded unless 10 entries are received for each.

(*c*) All entries should be sent direct to The Editor.

In regard to the 2nd Battalion, a letter has been sent to the Officer Commanding requesting him to run and judge the Limerick Competition for the 2nd Battalion locally, to debit our account with the cost of the prizes, and to forward to us for publication the winning solutions, together with the name of the authors.

In regard to our competitions, there is one point which we have to clear up. This relates to the challenge thrown out by Mr. Clifton in our June number. The only one to take up this challenge was L/Cpl. H. Polkinghorne, Oboe Player, in the band of the 1st Battalion.

The Limerick submitted by him, and published in our July number, we consider to be better than that sent in by Mr. Clifton, and a postal order for 2/-, namely the two one shilling entrance fees, has been sent to L/Cpl. Polkinghorne, accordingly.

Now for a little confession. Not a single Regimental Paper has ever yet made a success of competitions, and other Regimental Editors tell us we are on to a dud show.

Well, we simply don't believe this, and we are relying on our readers to help us prove that *our* belief is right.


**DO YOU KNOW YOUR REGIMENT?**

Unless you can conscienciously answer " Yes," you should abtain a copy of that magnificently produced little book—

**" A Short History of The Buffs."**

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*Can you beat it?*

Private Jack Horner
Sat in a corner
Counting his Dragon Prize.
A last line he'd submitted
For the verse aptly fitted
Let's hope now that you'll be as wise

**We should like to hear from them all.**

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A PAPER FOR THE BUFFS AND MEN OF KENT.

# The Dragon

VETERI HONORE 15 FRONDESCIT 72

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4/- 6 months.
2/- 3 months.

Offices:—
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No. 263. October, 1921. Price Sixpence.

## Personalia.

WE extend our hearty thanks to our E. Kent contemporaries, not only for the kind notices they have given the *Dragon*, but also for the unselfish way in which they are helping to make the paper known throughout the County. The assistance that each and all are rendering us, towards reaching the circulation we are aiming for, cannot be overestimated, and once again, we thank them.

On another page will be found our first list of Representatives as a result of our appeal, and that of Major Crookenden. To them also we offer our best thanks for coming to our assistance; and we are hoping that we may be able very considerably to add to their number in our November issue. Perhaps some of our readers can help us in this respect, either by taking up this appointment themselves, or by sending us the name and address of some Buff in their district ready to do so. Our aim is to be represented in every town and village throughout our recruiting area.

Our readers will remember the several references made in our columns to the Association of Regimental Newspapers. This number contains, in the form of an advertisement supplement, the first practical results obtained from this movement; and on the opposite page will be found a full list, up to date, of the Regimental publications which have banded together in their determination to go ahead and to give their readers, by developing the great advantages to be obtained from complete mutual co-operation, the very best value in these difficult and abnormal times. We look forward to making a further important announcement in this respect in our next issue.

Whilst on the subject of advertisements, we would ask our readers' permission just to say a few words. Put quite briefly the situation is this. The greater the advertising support given us, the better the publication we can offer; all of which means that we are hoping our readers, both collectively as units and as individuals, will, so far as it is possible, place their custom into the hands of these firms whose names appear in our pages.

Full particulars will be found on page 196 of the arrangements we have made for binding *The Dragon* and we would particularly ask those desirous of taking advantage of the second alternative to communicate with us at the earliest possible moment, the number of complete sets of the 1921 *Dragon* remaining in our possession being strictly limited.

Advance orders of 63 and 89 copies respectively for the War History of The Buffs have been received by Major Tomlinson, the Hon. Sec., from B Company 1st Battalion and B Company, 2nd Battalion. An announcement relating to the history will be found on page 198.

The following represented the Regiment at the funeral of the late Danish Minister, M. Castenskiold, whose death took place early in September as the result of a sting by a wasp:—General The Rt. Hon. Sir A. Paget, and Majors Tomlinson, Crookenden, and Gould. The late M. Castenskiold will be remembered as having represented H.M. The King of Denmark, our Colonel-in-Chief, at the unveiling of the War Memorial.

Bon Voyage and the best of good luck to our good friends in F Battery, R.H.A. who left Canterbury on the 24th September for Palestine. We shall miss them.

It will interest our readers to know that gradually and surely the Old *Dragon* is getting into touch with many old comrades with whom touch had been lost. During the last month, for instance, we have heard—from amongst many others, the following :—

Aged 82, Mr. W. H. Powsey writes to us from Dartford, telling us that he joined the E. Kent Militia in 1854, and went with them to Malta. After the Crimean War, when this Battalion was disbanded, Mr. Powsey joined the Navy in which he served for 31 years.

Then a most interesting family record reaches us from Mr. France from Dover. Joining in 1873, Mr. France served in both battalions under Colonels Pearson, Talbot H. Cox, Morley, Blakesley, Hamilton, Graves, and Backhouse; and at the following stations: Limerick, Curragh, Mullingar, Cawnpore, Meerut, Shorncliffe, Dover, Dublin, Buttivant, Malta and Assouan. Each of his three sons was born in the Regiment, and all fought in the Great War, the eldest taking part in the S. African campaign also. His daughter Mrs. Dick married a Buff, one of those, alas! who fell in the War. The last paragraph of Mr. France's letter is also full of interest. Here it is:—"The Old *Dragon* may remember me as a subscriber of comic verses, the last to be published being "Hicky the Fighting Buff."

We also hear from one, whom, we are hoping, one of our readers may be able to help. This is Mr. William Ring who is out of work, and whose age, 69, makes him too old to draw out of work pay, and too young for an old age pension. He is seeking a job as gardener or servant; his record, given below, is, we think, one to inspire confidence. Enlisted 3rd Battalion '81, served in S. African War, servant to Capt. Colley 16 years, Col. Bayard 3 years, Gen. Finch Hatton 1 year. Discharged 1914 after 22 years continuous service. Character exemplary.

*(Continued on next page.)*

**Personalia**—*continued.*

Other old hands from whom we have heard are Mr. C. S. Birkhead, bandmaster of the 1st Battalion from 1885-1897; Mr. T. Hoar, now permanently settled in India, who joined in 1880, and who served in both Battalions, and as a Sgt. Instr. in the Volunteers; Spud Austin who has been enjoying a holiday at Southsea and also has roped in Donkey Warren as a subscriber to the paper; Captain W. M. Birrell who suggests a rally of Old Buffs in Gillingham; Mr. H. Epps, late of the 1st and 7th Battalions who tells us that he is in touch with many old Buffs at Sandgate; Pioneer Sergt. J. Cook, now at Dover, who joined in 1883 and who helped to form the 9th Battalion; Mr. E. J. Wilkinson, also from Dover, who with Major Tomlinson was taken prisoner at the 2nd Battle of Ypres, and who also makes an earnest appeal for work, and many others.

An interesting letter also from Mr. R. H. Gittens, who, writing from Greenwich, tells us that, owing to so many in his district having a rough time through labour troubles, his *Dragon* " has to suffice for the following :— Sam Rivers, late Lieut. and Sgt., 2nd Battalion, Harry Reeves, Tick Isted, the three brothers Downs, J. and T. Murray, and a few others who drop in." He also sends us the Woolwich address of Tom Taylor the old Regt. footballer.

According to present arrangements, the 2nd Battalion is not due to leave Mesopotamia until January 14th.

Readers of *The Dragon*, when passing through Charing Cross Station, should look out for Mr. Hartley (late 6480 Pte. J.) Hartley was turned off during the coal strike, but has recently been taken on again—permanently we hope—as a porter.

Major H. L. Archer Houblon is back home again from his farm in Northern Rhodesia. He expects to be in England for some months.

We hear of Mr. B. Hadaway (late 9689 Pte.) from Liverpool where he is a constable in the City Police. He says there are several old Buffs up there, among them Corporal Durham (late H Coy. 2nd Battalion). Durham who lost his toes from frost-bite, is working on the tramways.

Mr. Redman (late Corporal W. H., and for many years the Adjutant's groom in the 2nd Battalion) is to be seen nightly at the Pavilion Theatre, Piccadilly Circus, where he is employed as Commissionaire. During the day he is often to be met with in Kensington High Street.

We hear also, from Plumstead, of Mr. H. Monk (late 1343 Pte.) who many of the older generation will remember in D Company, 2nd Battalion, in the South African war. Until recently he has been working at the Arsenal.

Major R. P. S. Elderton is home on leave from Egypt.

His old friends in the 6th Battalion will be interested to hear that the Rev. P. Brumwell, M.C., is writing a history of the 12th Division, of which he was Chaplain. Mr. Brumwell has recently been quartered at Portsmouth, but is now on leave, pending being posted to some other garrison.

General and Mrs. Hickson are living at Rye at present. Mrs. Hickson is very much better and has lately been able to sit out in the garden. Later on they hope to return to London.

Mrs. Goff (better known to our readers as Mrs. Geddes) expects to winter at Malta, Commander Goff having been posted to H.M.S. Marlborough which goes to the Mediterranean in November.

## Regimental Notabilities.

No. 6279138 SERGEANT R. RAVENSCROFT, 1ST BN. THE BUFFS.

Enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers in August, 1914; proceeded to France in 1915 and was wounded in 1916, in which year he was transferred to the 10th Bn. The Buffs; to Egypt and Palestine in 1917; France 1918; again wounded, September, 1918; to 1st Bn. The Buffs, 1920.

Winner of Special Medal for Irish Comd. Cross Country, 1920.

Winner of Team Medal for Irish Comd. Cross Country, 1920.

2nd in 3 mile Irish Championship, 1920.

Winner of Team Medal, English C.C., 1920.

Winner of Mile, ½ mile, 3 miles, open mile and " gold medal " presented by the Rt. Hon. Sir A. Paget at 1st Battalion Regtl. Sports.

Winner of Regtl. C.C. Run.

# The 1st Battalion.

ONCE upon a Time, a Great Man journeyed to the Land of Eng., and on his Return, he brought with him a Rumour which he had obtained from a Reliable Authority. And the Rumour, when it was opened, revealed a Number—The Fifteenth. And it was Stated, that on that Date, the Men of Kent who sojourned in the Barracks of Nu at Ferm Oy, were to journey to a place whose Cliff was Shorn, there to rest after its labours in Ferm Oy. And there was Great Joy in the Barracks of Nu.

But alas! the leaders of the host of the Devil Era did continue to talk with the leaders of the host of George, even through the hat-tops; and the Fifteenth came, and went, and with it journeyed also the Rumour. And the men of Kent who were in the Barracks of Nu, and those who were resting at Dung-ar-Vass and those who were fishermen of Roach at the Town near the Castle were filled with sorrow and were sore opprest; and they did constantly wail "Here We Are Then;" but they did Fill their Hearts with Hope that they would, ere the Feast of Beef and Pudding of Plums, yet once more mix with the Men of Kent—yea, even with the Maidens thereof.

---

IN A FEW LINES.

We had a visit during August from an old friend—Lt.-Col. H. de R. Morgan, D.S.O., now with the Oxford O.T.C.

Lt.-Col. L. W. Lucas, D.S.O., M.C., has been appointed President, and Lt. F. A. J. E. Marshall, D.S.O., M.C., a Member of the Garrison Games Committee.

---

Capt. N. G. Vertue, M.C., has now recovered after his accident, and has rejoined for duty, taking over the command of "D" Company.

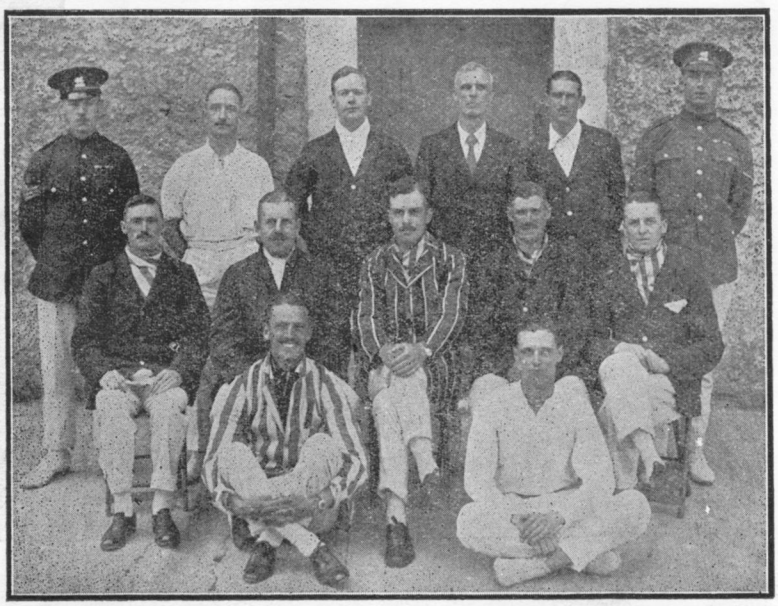
---

Lieuts. C. E. Wilson, M.B.E. and C. J. Wood, M.C. have been welcomed back to the fold, being posted to "B" and "A" Company respectively. May they have a cheery time with the Battalion.

---

Lieut. H. F. G. d'Arcy Symonds and Sgt. C. McNeir have rejoined after a Course at the School of Education, Shorncliffe.

**1st Bn. The Buffs. Cricket XI. 1921.**



Reading from Left to Right.

*Back Row:*

C.Q.M.S. MANNING (*Scorer*)
W. O. Instr. COLLINS, A.E.C.
Sgt. TENBY
Bdmr. ELVIN
Sgt. COLLIER
L/C. MEAKIN (*Umpire*)

*Centre Row:*

Sgt. DENNY
Capt. A. B. THOMSON, M.B.E.
Lt. R. M. WEBSTER
Sgt. HILLS
2nd Lt. G. W. P. KIMM, A.E.C.

*Front Row:*

Lt. R. H. GEM
L/C PERRY.

Lieut. G. W. P. Kimm, Education Officer, and Sgt. Hills and Denny recently represented the Battalion in the Fermoy Garrison Cricket XI. in a couple of matches versus the Kerry Brigade. As usual, "Sonnie" Hills distinguished himself on each occasion.

---

An interesting and instructive Lecture was given at the beginning of September by Staff-Sgt. Instr. V. P. Sweeney, P.T. Staff, on "Unarmed Defence." Now we know what to do.

---

"A" Company has followed "B" Company to Kilworth for Musketry, and, we hear, have put up some remarkably good shooting. "C" Company is next for the range, and is quite determined to leave others behind.

*(Continued on next page.)*

"C" Company's ranks have been strengthened by a second draft (to whom "Welcome!") from the Depot, amongst them being Sgt. Kennedy.

"C" and "D" Companies' Detachments have returned from their recent abodes of rest (!), being relieved by "B" Company. The former are now renewing acquaintance with the Barrack Square.

The appended Cricket Notes are the last of the season. Already we see striped jerseys about and the indefatiguable "Knight" of the Greensward is getting the Soccer and Hockey grounds ready. Practice matches are being arranged, and the "muddied oafs" displace the "flannelled fools." Besides Soccer and Hockey, it is hoped to popularize Rugger, and one or two Scrum practices have already revealed a certain amount of talent.

THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW.

Who is Jemima?
Jemima coming on parade in a dressing gown?
Will the square be used as a football ground?
Or is not the grass long enough yet?
Was the subaltern quite comfortable when manoeuvring "battalions?"
Had he visions of "crossed batons?"
Why did Julius Caesar?
Was it Educational Straining?
What was the officer's reply to the question during the Grammar lesson?
Was it "How the———should I know?"

CRICKET.

Officers *v.* Sergeants, played Sunday 28th August.

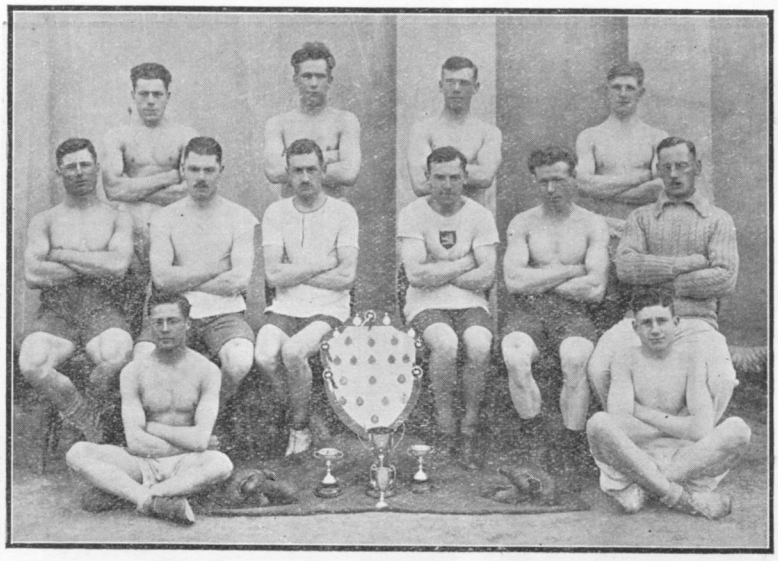
This pleasant event took place in quite good cricket weather. The Bandmaster won the toss for the Sergeants and decided to put the Officers in to bat. They fared disastrously against the bowling of Sgts. Hills and Denny and despite a good effort by our Colonel were dismissed for 50. The Sergeants opened none too well and at lunch their score was 3 wickets for 36. Resuming after lunch Sgt. Burville batted steadily for an admirable 58 and the innings eventually closed for 140.

The Officers fared much better at the second attempt and gave the Sergeants plenty of leather hunting. Capt. Pinhey 50, and Lt. Price 42 were the chief contributors to a total of 167, leaving the Sgts. 77 runs to get to win in just under an hour. This they failed to do, making 41 for the loss of 7 wickets, the match ending in a draw. A shower of rain somewhat marred the last hour of the game, but on the whole a very enjoyable day was spent. Appended are the scores.

SERGEANTS.

| | *1st Innings.* | | *2nd Innings.* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| C.S.M. Mould, c Lucas, b McDouall | 18 | c Allen, b Davies | ... | 1 |
| Mr. Elvin, c and b Symonds ... | 0 | not out ... ... | ... | 3 |
| R.Q.M.S. Martin, c Lucas, b McDouall | 17 | b Davies ... | ... | 6 |
| Sgt. Denny, c Kimm, b McDouall | 1 | c Price, b Davies | ... | 0 |
| Sgt. Burville, retired ... ... | 58 | b Kimm ... ... | ... | 1 |
| Sgt. Hills, c Price, b Davies ... | 22 | b Davies ... | ... | 15 |
| R.S.M. Martin, b Davies ... ... | 0 | | | |
| Sgt. Truby, c Davies, b McDouall | 2 | st Price, b Kimm | ... | 12 |
| W.O.Instr. Collins, c Price, b Robertson | 6 | | | |
| C.S.M. Barrell, c Webster, b Symonds | 4 | | | |
| Q.M.S. (O.R.S.) Evans, not out ... | 2 | b Davies ... | ... | 2 |
| Sgt. Wood, c Keeble, b Allen ... | 0 | | | |
| Extras ... ... ... | 10 | Extras ... | ... | 1 |
| Total ... ... ... | 140 | Total for 7 wkts. ... | | 41 |

## 1st Bn. The Buffs, Boxing Team, 1931,



Reading from Left to Right.

*Back Row:*

PTE. SYMONS, Winner 16th Infy. Bde. Light-Weights. PTE. ORSLER, Semi-Finaist All Army Heavy-Weights. SGT. REAL, Winner 16th Infy. Bde. Welter-Weights. BDM. FEARON, Winner 16th Infy. Bde. Feather Weights.

*Centre Row:*

SGT. GIBSON, Winner 16th Infy. Bde. Light-Heavies, Winner All Army Team ditto. LIEUT. CASS, Winner 16th Infy. Bde. Middle-Weights. LIEUT. MILTON, Winner 16th Infy. Bde. Light-Weights. LIEUT. SYMONS, Winner 16th Infy. Bde. Welters, 1920. DR. CLEMENTS, Winner 16th Infy. Bde. Middles, Winner Irish Army ditto. C.Q.M.S. MANNING, Trainer.

*Front Row:*

PTE. SOLLY, Winner 16th Infy Bde. Fly-Weights. PTE. ERRINGTON, Winner 16th Infy. Bde. Bantams.

OFFICERS.

| | *1st Innings.* | | *2nd Innings.* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lt. Kimm, c and b Hills ... ... | 2 | lbw, b Truby ... | ... | 13 |
| Lt. Davies, c Hills, b Sgt. Denny | 0 | b Martin ... | ... | 8 |
| Lt. Webster, c Burville, b Hills ... | 1 | c Hills, b Martin | ... | 1 |
| Lt. Symonds, b Denny ... ... | 2 | b Evans ... ... | ... | 0 |
| Capt. Pinhey, b Denny ... ... | 2 | c Barrell, b Elvin | ... | 50 |
| Lt. Gem, b Denny ... ... | 4 | c Hills, b Evans | ... | 11 |
| Lt.-Col. McDouall, b Denny ... | 18 | c and b Collins ... | ... | 5 |
| Capt. Allen, b Hills ... ... | 5 | c Hills, b Elvin ... | ... | 8 |
| Lt.-Col. Lucas, c Barrell, b Denny | 2 | b Collins ... | ... | 3 |
| Lt. Price, b Hills ... ... ... | 5 | run out ... ... | ... | 42 |
| Lt. Keeble, run out ... ... | 2 | not out ... ... | ... | 17 |
| Lt. Robertson, not out ... ... | 5 | b Collins ... | ... | 1 |
| Extras ... ... ... | 2 | Extras ... | ... | 8 |
| Total ... ... ... | 50 | Total ... | ... | 167 |

1ST BN. THE BUFFS *v.* 7TH BRIGADE R.G.A.

On 14/8/21 the Battalion played the 7th Brigade R.G.A. from Moore Park at Fermoy. Lt. Webster won the toss and put the Gunners in on a drying wicket.

**The 1st Battalion**—*continued.*

By lunch time the Gunners were all out for 90 thanks to some very good bowling by Sgt. Hills who took 6 wickets for 36 runs. The Battalion responded with the useful score of 159, Sgt. Hills again distinguished himself by making 78. Sgt. Denny also made a very useful 21. After tea, the Gunners lost three wickets for 68 runs before the close of play. Thus the Bn. ran out as winners by 69 runs. Scores below :—

7TH BRIGADE R.G.A.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gnr. Weekes, c Collins, b Hills ... | 13 | | |
| Bdr. Chapman, b Hills ... ... | 3 | not out ... ... ... | 21 |
| Sgt. McDade, J., c Parry, b Hills | 6 | b Denny ... ... | 14 |
| Lt.-Col. Bond, b Hills ... ... | 0 | c Collins, b Hills ... | 7 |
| Lt. Symonds, c Denny, b Collins | 21 | not out ... ... ... | 17 |
| Sgt. Ford, c Bdm. Pearsall, b Collins | 6 | | |
| Lt. Tidcombe, c Thomson, b Hills | 14 | | |
| Bdr. Hall, c and b Davies ... | 0 | | |
| Lt. Ross, b Hills ... ... ... | 2 | b Hills ... ... ... | 7 |
| Sgt. McDade, C., lbw, Davies ... | 10 | | |
| Bdr. Webb, not out ... ... | 11 | | |
| Byes ... ... ... ... | 3 | | |
| Leg byes ... ... ... ... | 1 | Leg byes ... ... | 2 |
| Total ... ... ... | 90 | Total for 3 wickets ... | 68 |

1ST BN. THE BUFFS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bandmaster, Elvin, c Sgt. McDade, J., b Br. Hall ... ... ... | 9 |
| Lieut. Davies, b Gnr. Webb ... ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| Lieut. Webster, c Sgt. McDade, J., b Gnr. Webb ... ... ... | 9 |
| Lieut. Gem, c and b Br. Hall ... ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Sgt. Hills, b Sgt. Ford ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 72 |
| Sgt. Denny, c and b Lt. Tidcombe ... ... ... ... ... | 21 |
| Sgt. Truby, b Lt. Tidcombe ... ... ... ... ... ... | 11 |
| Capt. Thomson, c Sgt. McDade, J., b Sgt. Ford ... ... ... | 1 |
| L/C. Perry, run out ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Q.M.S. Collins, not out ... ... ... ... ... ... | 11 |
| Bdsm. Pearsall, lbw Lt. Tidcombe ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Byes ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 10 |
| Total ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 159 |

THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

We have had a very quiet period for the last two months, broken only by a spoon shoot and our annual cricket match with the Officers. The team were very hospitably entertained to lunch by the officers, and tea

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was provided for all members and their wives and families on the ground. The result of the match is given elsewhere, and one member of our team at least now knows what " Starboard Lights " are.

Our monthly shoot was held on the 30 yards range with ball ammunition and resulted in a win for Sgt. Collier. Kilworth has evidently a good effect on one's shooting.

Our weekly practice dances have been discontinued, but we hope they will be renewed when we reach our new station. We have already selected teams to play the Depot Mess at Hockey and Football, but no mention has been made as to the year. We have to welcome one fresh arrival to the Mess in Sgt. Kennedy from the Depot (late M.G.C.) We hear that the " Things we want to know " column is to be revived. There is only one thing we want to know at present and that is : When are we going to move ?

THE CORPORALS.

Last month we promised to show the " Draft " that " The Corporals " of the 1st could still play cricket. We have done so by beating a mixed team of Draft and others by six wickets and six runs. Of course ! we could have beaten them by a greater margin had not our umpire Alix Beverly been squared with the result that he called our men " Out " as soon as they had reached double figures. The match was followed by a " Wad Punchers " tea in the Canteen and a fine social was held in the Mess in the evening.

We have had a few changes in the mess during the last month. Old friends have left us and new joined. Cpl. Warne, L/C. Peebles, Field and Venn, have retired to Civil Life and to them we extend our heartiest wishes for success in their various walks of life.

We extend our heartiest welcome to L/C. Terre (Ghost Wallah) on his entry to the Mess and are at present endeavouring to initiate him into the mysteries of " The Ancient Order of Corkers."

The Old, Old Story (1st Battalion at Shorncliffe) is still floating around here but " We aint 'avin none," and are preparing for the reign of King Footer. We have a good team and hope to give a good account of ourselves.

Heartiest congratulations are extended to L/C. Perfitt on the birth of a baby girl. Rumour has it that he is teaching her how to play Darts so that the Dart Cup may remain in the family.

QUERIES.

Who was the L/C. that fell asleep in the bath after the Mess had closed ?

And did his name begin with a T. ?

Is Crumpy getting married ?

If not why not ?

Are the members of the Mess on a strict diet of " Trotters."

BUNNY.

B COMPANY.

The Company returned to Fermoy from Kilworth on August 20th. On August 24th the Company played the rest of the Battalion at cricket. The rest won the toss and decided to bat first. Thanks to some very good bowling by W.O. Instr. Collins, Ptes. Sharp and Grigsby, the Rest were dismissed for the small total of 79. The company failed badly in their innings against the bowling of Sgts. Hills and Denny and were dismissed for 40 odd. However we have every reason to be proud of a really good performance against a side which was really too strong for us.

On September 6th, the company went out on detachment, Nos. 5 and 6 platoons under Lts. Gem and Oliver relieving C Company's detachment at Dungartan and Nos. 7 and 8 platoons under Lts. Webster and Price relieving D Company's detachment at Castletownroche.

We welcome back to the Company Lt. Wilson who has been away from us for a considerable time.

Congratulations to Sgt. and Mrs. Curtis on the birth of a daughter and L/C. Clover on the birth of a son.

The following have left us during the month :—Cpl. Warne to Section B. Army Reserve T., L/C. Peebles and Pte. White, T.R. discharged time expired. Good luck to them in the future.

Congratulations to Lt. Gem on his engagement to Miss Villiers-Stuart of Cappaguin. Also to Sergt. W. Curtis who proved himself the best shot of the Company, and to No. 6 Platoon for topping the Platoon, with 78 pts., in the Battalion Lewis Gun Match for A.R.A. Bronze Medals.

**:: HERE IT IS. ::**

What? Why! The Dragon "Multum in Parvo" Tool Outfit which does everything except do the washing or pay your Income Tax.

**IT'S A MARVEL.**

Call at the Dragon office about it. Wonderful value 1/- each or 1/3 (post free),

OR

**Why not win one in this month's competitions, see page 198.**

## The Farmer's Boy.

WE are indebted to Captain Massie Bloomfield for sending us the words of "The Farmer's Boy," the marching song of the 5th Battalion The Buffs. Capt. Bloomfield tells us that the best exponent of this song in the Battalion was the late Captain B. Buss who died in November, 1918, of wounds received at the Battle of Sheikh Sa'ad, (Mesopotamia) 7th January, 1916. The best exponent to-day, we think, must be Col. John Body who, surrounded with his own officers at the Regimental Dinner, very quickly inspired everyone present to join in, making each of us appreciate all the more the great disappointment felt by all ranks of this Battalion that, by a stroke of the pen, their identity and traditions should in any way be disturbed.

**"The Farmer's Boy."**

*(Old English Ballad—Author Unknown.)*

VERSE I.

The Sun had set behind yon Hill across the dreary moor,
When Weary and Lame a Boy there came up to the Farmer's Door,
Can you tell me wherever there be one who would me employ
To Plough and to Sow, to Reap and to Mow, and to be a Farmer's Boy ?
[*Note.—Repeat this line after each verse for the Chorus.*]

VERSE II.

My Father is dead, my Mother is left with five children large and small
And what is worse for my Mother still, I'm the biggest of them all
Tho' little I be I would labour hard if you would me employ
To Plough and to Sow, to Reap and to Mow, and to be a Farmer's Boy.

VERSE III.

But if so be no Boy you want, one favour I would ask,
To shelter me till break o'day from this cold winter's blast—
At the break o'day I would hasten away once more to seek employ
To Plough and to Sow, and to Reap and to Mow, and to be a Farmer's Boy.

VERSE IV.

The Farmer's Wife cried, "Try the Lad, No longer let him seek,"
"Yes, Father, do," the daughter cried whilst the tears ran down her cheek,
For those who would work, it is hard to want and to wander for employ
Don't let him go but let him stay and be "A Farmer's Boy."

VERSE V.

The Boy grew up to be a Man, the good old couple died,
And left the lad the farm they had and their daughter for his bride.
Now the Boy that was and the Farm now his often smiles and thrills with joy
To Bless the Happy Day that he came that way for to be a Farmer's Boy.

## The Regimental Dinner.

AN A.1. Dinner. The meeting of many old friends. A few speeches only, each of which came well within the description of what an after dinner speech should be, namely, just short enough to be interesting, and just long enough to cover everything. "The Farmer's Boy" by Col. John Body and his faithful retinue of 5th Buffs officers. "Take a pair of sparkling eyes" by Capt. Massie Blomfield, and a rousing and spontaneous reception to Gen. the Rt. Hon. Sir A. Paget were perhaps the main features of this most enjoyable evening. The only pity was the comparatively small number present, but, as many said, the holding of it in the midst of the holiday season no doubt kept many away—a little matter which can very easily be put right on future occasions. Another query raised was "Should the Dragon Club and Regimental Dinners be amalgamated ?

The following officers were present :—

General the Rt. Hon. Sir A. Paget, G.C.B., K.C.V.O., Lt.-Colonels G. V. Dauglish, W. G. F. Barnard, Mainwaring Dunstan, J. Body, H. A. Thewles ; Majors J. Crookenden, A. E. Colley, H. E. Featherstone, A. G. Hamilton, E. F. Gould, F. W. Tomlinson, Captains H. Jackson, A. R. Jackson, G. F. Jeanes, H. Massie Blomfield, W. Stone, F. A. Liddle, C. H. Cardozo, G. L. Samuelson, C. Greig, H. H. C. Baird, N. G. Vertue, T. Wheler, E. B. Burns, E. F. Strettell, Lieutenants J. D. Piper, G. C. Stemp, H. N. Sharland, F. A. Frost, W. R. Taylor, B. Vaughan, A. G. Horlock, E. N. Sinclair, E. H. O. Godden, W. R. Gray, C. Pemberton, A. L. Fisk, C. C. Worters, A. Peters, and Dr. N. M. Rankin, late Medical Officer to the 8th Battalion.

### Births, Marriages and Deaths.

[*Notices of Births, Engagements, Marriages and Deaths will be inserted in The Dragon free to all Past and Present Buffs on request.*]

BIRTHS.

**Clover.**—On the 8-8-21, the wife of 6278360 L/C. W. Clover, 1st Bn., of a son (Ronald Douglas).

**Beale.**—On the 13-12-20, at Kolar Gold Fields, India, the wife of 6279041 L/C. Beale, of a daughter.

**Goldup.**—At Hythe the wife of Mr. J. T. Goldup, late The Buffs, of a daughter.

**Johnson.**—At Margate, on 23rd August, 1921, the wife of Sgt. P. Johnson, 4th Buffs, of a son.

**Willis.**—On the 12-7-21, the wife of No. 6279732 L/C. J. Willis, 1st Bn., of a son (Edgar Arthur).

MARRIAGES.

**Manning-Elliott.**—On August 10th, 1921, at Holy Trinity, Wimbledon, Lieut. W. Manning (late 2nd Bn.) to Edith Rose Elliott, (ex-Staff Nurse T.F.N.S. Salonika).

**Turk—Foreman.**—On the 7th September, at the Parish Church, Headcorn, Mr. Frank William Turk, late The Buffs, to Doris Ruth Foreman, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Foreman of Homeville, Headcorn.

DEATHS.

**Brooker.**—On 20.7-21, at Kirkuk, of Malaria, No. 6279468 Pte. P. Brooker.

**Cocker.**—On the 22-6-21, at Basra of Tubercular Meningitis, 6278766 Pte. W. Cocker.

**Dallamore.**—On 19-12-20, at Multan, 6279043 Pte. Dallamore.

**Doble.**—On the 24-6-21, at Kirkuk, of fever, No. 6279241 Pte. Doble.

**Gates.**—On 1-8-21, at Baiji, No. 6278583 Bandsman F. Gates.

**Hamblin.**—On the 27-3-21 at Bombay, accidentally drowned, Kenneth Cecil, son of Sig.-Sgt. I. Hamblin.

**Howell.**—On 28-6-21, at Bagdad of Malaria, No. 6279314 Pte. F. Howell.

**Severn.**—On 8-7-21, at Bagdad of Malaria, No. 6278976 Pte. C. Severn.

**Williams.**—On the 27-6-21 at Baghdad, the result of an accident, No. 6278419 Sgt. F. Williams, M.M.

# The 2nd Battalion.

AT the beginning of June it was decided to close down the old lines of communication from Kingerban, the rail-head, to Kirkuk via the posts Tuz, Tauq and Taza. For this purpose A and B Companies, total strength 200 men, proceeded to Kingerban and relieved about 400 men of the 73rd Indian Infantry. The first week was pleasant, but then unfortunately the temperature rose and sandfly fever began. Two officers, Lieut. Cartwright and Lloyd and about 70 men were evacuated to Bagdad; the remainder having plenty of work finding the numerous posts for a big perimeter camp and the necessary fatigues for closing down Kingerban. C Company were distributed amongst the other posts, H.Q. and 2 platoons at Taza and one platoon at Tauq and Tuz respectively.

The lines of communication were commanded by Lt. Col. Potter with Lt. Lloyd as Staff Officer whilst the three companies of The Buffs were under Capt. Hamilton with Lt. Sandilands as Detachment Adjutant. C Company undoubtedly struck the best places, though for their numbers they had harder work. Each post is situated on a river, and bathing night and morning was possible. When all stores, etc., had been evacuated from these posts Garrisons marched into Kirkuk independently.

On June 30th A and B Companies and one troop of Arab levies with 150 carts left Kingerban for their 80 mile march to Kirkuk. The Convoy marched by night and on successive days camped in the abandoned posts. Ice and minerals were sent daily from Kirkuk. At Taza only 13 miles from home, everyone was quite cheerful except the Doctor who having worked like a slave for three weeks went down with fever.

Kirkuk was reached early on July 4th. It is not a pleasant place these days. The temperature in the tents is 120° and the usual work is building a mud wall round the transport lines.

The new line of communication is from Baiji on the right bank of the Tigris and is covered by motor lorries convoys in two days. Lt. Rowe is Camp Commandant with Cpl. Hollis and Cpl. Phebey as part of his staff.

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HOCKEY.

On July 13th after a fast game, in which there were very few shots at goal our match against the XV. Sikhs ended in a pointless draw.

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BOXING.

On the 28th July a one Round Pool Bantam Competition was held and won by Drummer Mullins who won each of his six bouts. Pte. Colby was runner up with five wins to his credit.

Drummer Mullins boxed very well in winning his last three fights which came together with only a short rest in between. Colby, Shaw and Fane all showed great promise as boxers. Pte. Coughlan and Pte. Beard were unlucky in being forced to scratch, the first with a damaged hand and the second through the effects of a K.O. in one of his early fights. Pte. Gibbs received a prize to a plucky loser.

SHOOTING.

The following are the results of a shooting competition with pool targets held on July 14th for Lance Corporals and Privates and open to all comers. Range 300 yards. Target 2nd class Figure.

**Pool Bulls.**

(1) C.S.M. Vincer (C) and Pte. Trice (D), tied and won Rs. 19-8-0 each.

**Class I.**

(*Marksmen and 1st Class Shots*).

(1) L/C. Pack; (2) Ptes. Lee, Trice, and Bird all of D Company.

**Class II.**

(*2nd Class Shots*).

(1) Pte. Todd (D), (2) Pte. Coomber (D), (3) L/C. Robertson (B) and Pte. Butcher (C).

**Class III.**

(*3rd Class Shots and men who have not fired Table B.*)

(1) Pte. Tomlin (D), (2) Pte. Clayson (D), (3) Pte. Unwin (D), (4) Pte. Twyman (C).

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THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

This month has brought a revival of our Spoon Shoots. A tie between Snowy Mannering and Robinson having taken place at our last, held in Multan, this was first shot off, the conditions being each to fire one round at 200 yards. In this Robinson with a bull to Snowy's miss was successful. In regard to the shoot itself the attendance was excellent. Whittingham with a score of 33 won the silver spoon, and Micky Dowse with 4 got the Wooden 'Un.

Our friends of the 1st Battalion appear to be very keen on their monthly billiard tournament. This form of exercise is not very popular amongst our members at present. Although Howard and Joy occasionally remind us of the four hours' enjoyment they had in playing a " 100 up " at Multan. The honour of the biggest " break " going to Joy who broke the top off his cue.

We are shortly losing Jimmy Geard who is returning to Civil life, may the best of luck go with him. His cheery antics will be greatly missed by all, especially Johnson, who by the way, said to Jimmy the other day " All right don't shout, I aint blind."

Sgt. Redshaw, Army Educational Staff, recently joined us, and is now carrying out duties as Schoolmaster to the Bn: and acts as President of the " Ancient Order of " Avants " which will be fully described in our news for next month.

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THE CORPORALS.

The Mess has recently been moved from the tents to a room in one of the mud huts and has been fitted with electric light and a fan.

A great many of us have given way to sandfly fever and other minor complaints and have been forced to invade the Hospital. The cause has been attributed to the absence of Lord Asahi, who, after being away about three weeks reappeared a few nights ago, much to the pleasure of the majority.

A very successful Spoon Shoot was held on July 21st. The competition consisted of five rounds at 200 and 300 yards, at 2nd Class Figure Targets. There were also two pool bull targets.

The total number of entrants was 71, and of these the following made scores of 25 and upwards:—L/Cpl. J. Wass 31; Cpls. L. Kemp, W. Crawley, and F. Falkner, and L/Cpls. J. Ward and J. Aman 28; L/Cpl. B. Boxall 27; L/Cpls. K. Dray, J. Holley, M.M., W. Argent, and W. Gwynell 28; Cpl. J. Coleman and L/Cpls. G. Brann and J. Burnett 25.

*(Continued on next page.)*

**The 2nd Battalion**—*continued.*

In the Pool Bulls, the winners were Cpl. L. Kemp (2), L/C. W. Pack (1). The Company averages worked out as follows :—

D Coy. 20·8, A Coy. 19·7, B Coy. 17·5, C and E Coys. 17·0 ; the total average being 18·4.

A sweepstake was run on the Shoot by Nazzums. The name of the winner was drawn by L/C. S. Kimber, Cpl. Liston taking 2nd prize and L/C. Ward the 3rd.

T.A.B.

B COMPANY.

We sincerely regret to announce the death of Pte. C. Severn, who died at the British Station Hospital, Baghdad, from malaria, on July 8th. His loss will be felt in the Sports Field, as well as by many friends ; as he was a keen hockey and football player, and represented the Company Team on many occasions. He went to hospital at Kingarbah whilst the Company was on detachment there and only lived ten days.

Since our last notes the Company has been on detachment at Kingarbah for the purpose of striking camps and closing down the convoy route and railhead, owing to the opening up of the new route to Baiji. During our stay of three weeks we had plenty of work and rather poor rations. Duties were also heavy, amounting 20 for picquet and 18 for guards, not counting N.C.O.'s. This meant about 1 night in bed only and sometimes if lucky two.

Whilst at Kingarbah there was a large amount of sickness, at least 50 of our company being evacuated to Baghdad hospital, chiefly owing to sandfly fever and Pyrexia. By the time we were ready to march back to Kirkuk our forces were so depleted by sickness that two platoons were made into one and even then it only made a half strength platoon.

Whilst on the march up still more men were taken by motor ambulances to Kirkuk Hospital, and it was a very sorry looking Company that arrived at the Camp, Kirkuk. We were given three days to recuperate before being taken for Regimental Duties—a rest which we badly needed. At the time of writing, the Company is very nearly back to its normal strength and have settled down to our old life in Camp.

**When writing to your friends and relations remember Dragon Envelopes increase the Circulation.**

THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW.

Who was the Private of B Company, when asked by the Company Officer, at the Pay Table, whose permission he had for an advance of pay, said : " I asked the Company Storeman, Sir ; " and what was the Company Officer's reply. ?

C COMPANY'S FOOTBALL TEAM.

The Company is well to the fore, and have great hopes of retaining the Football Championship. The following represents our Team.

Sgt. Smudger Smith of the Drums (between the sticks) is as much at home there as behind the big drum.

Ptes. Baker and Quick are our backs. The former has an extraordinary strong right kick, whilst his partner, Pte. Quick, is quick by nature as well as name.

The halves are L/C. Giles, Pte. Prince and Dr. Fry.

Of the forward line Bdm. Skelton (centre) an excellent shot, can net almost at any angles. L/Cpl. Kimber (Captain) outside right is noted for his splendid centres, and Hawkins inside right combines well with Kimber. Our left wing, Pte. Edwards, a promising wing man, and Cpl. Rodda, an old Regt. Player, nicknamed Tricks, still retains his reputation.

Our Waiting man L/C. Cardosa usually inside left, is very useful with his head.

D COMPANY.

When most sensible people in England are thinking of having their breakfast, we out here are thinking of finishing work for the day and crawling away to our tents there to stay until six in the evening when it is cool enough to play games.

Poulton and a few more enthusiasts still trudge a weary mile up the river bed every evening in search of a pool deep enough to bathe in, but then Poulton only needs to find one two feet deep, to make the water come up to his neck, so he doesn't have to look far.

L/C. Pack, Lee and Comber and some of the old hands have been teaching the young 'uns how to play Hockey and much new talent has been found. Trice—whose Hockey two months ago was a real danger to the Public is developing into a first class player.

The return of L/C. Sidwell from Hospital and Corpl. Farr from India has stimulated Football in the Company enormously. Corpl. Farr is still the Corpl. Farr of ten years ago on the Football field, and that speaks for itself.

Cricket Nets are a great attraction. Brown, H. is rapidly qualifying for Kent as a bowler, and Sargeant has quite a good style, but it usually happens that his mule decides to escape from the Transport lines just about the time that it is his turn to bat. The immaculate " C.B." in a spotless pair of white flannel trousers, and the silkiest of silk shirts, seldom misses an evening.

L/C. Burnett has taken over the duties of Messing Corporal, and we have never lived so well since we arrived in this Country. Godden and Company in the Cook House are becoming expert Jugglers, and can make Bully and Biscuits to look like anything you like.

Turning to other matters, when we are not making mud walls for the mules to knock down, we usually find some other form of exercise equally exciting.

At the Pool and Application Shooting Competition, ten out of the fourteen prizes found their way into D Company. Trice shared the Pool with C.S.M. Vincer of C Company ; and in the application we gained prizes as follows :—

1st Class Shots : L/C. Pack won, and Lee, Bird, and Trice, tied for Second. 2nd Class Shots : Todd won, Comber was 2nd. 3rd Class Shots : Tomlin won, Clayson was second and Unwin Third.

The following week a Corporals' Spoon Shoot was held, and L/Cpl. Wass—our Company Clerk—won.

In the Bantam weight Boxing Pool Competition, Shaw put up a very plucky show, and won the Third prize winning four out of his six fights.

We welcome L/Cpl. Corrigan to the Company and are glad to see that he is as good at all games as he used to be in the 1st Battalion.

Much sympathy is felt with L/Cpl. Fuller in the loss of his moustache. We hope that this has only been mislaid and that it will soon " turn up " again.

And now, a short story, with which to finish :—Sone's belt was loose, although in the last hole : and he was on parade. A high dignitary in the Sergts' Mess remonstrated with him and said " What you want to do—my man—is to go to the Sergts'. Mess and have a good Square meal." " Yes, Sir " said Sones dutifully.

Imagine however the " high dignitary's consternation on returning to the Mess that evening when he was told that the obedient Sones had been along, and had had two helpings of everything and had incidentally won a five rupee bet for doing it. Mark our words—Mr. Editor—Sones will be a famous man one day.

So you see, Mr. Editor, that in spite of a temperature of 120° in the shade, we still " carry on."

*(Continued on next page.)*

**The 2nd Battalion**—*cantinued.*

MACHINE GUN COY. ON ESCORT DUTY.

Why all this commoton in No. 4 Sector? The "Crank handles" are for escort duty, a chance indeed to make a name!

After the usual trouble of weighing and testing our socks (a thousand apologies Mr. Editor I meant springs) —we are ready. Reveille 02.30 hrs. with the usual grouse, and, after getting tangled up in numerous straps whilst loading up our mules, we were ready to start, beating D Company by a short head.

We joined our convoy, several packs of dogs accompanying us, and away we went, leaving Kirkuk in the distance; but the "Crank handles" were taking things very seriously until one wag remarked "Oh dear I forgot to bring any money out with me, but you've got your spare socks ain't you Sergeant?" This started the ball rolling.

Half way halt, and surprise packet No. 1. Tea up, and what a relief it was. Off again at 16.30 hrs. and formed a perimeter camp for the night. We started off again at 04.00 hrs., up and down hills for 14 miles, and again halted for the night, but this time we had a much better camp, and wonder of wonders, those that had limped into camp turned out and played the Sikhs at hockey but lost 3-nil. Mr. Hoare, Sgt. Dennis, and Pte. Furner (Buck) represented the "Crank handles."

At this camp we lost one of our gunners, Pte. Stripp, who went into hospital with fever.

Reveille 2.30 hrs. next morning, and off at 04.00 hrs. on the final and worst day's march. But we got to our destination without any casualties, except that Sgt. Ross had to be replenished with "*fodder*" every half hour. The Sikhs did us very well when we arrived in camp. Tea was all ready and served out to the troops by them on arrival. We took them on again at hockey, but lost 3-1.

Next day we made our return journey, and arrived back in Kirkuk on 6.6.21, our only casualty being Pte. Stripp to hospital with fever. So the "Crank handles" did not do so badly.

## Some 2nd Battalion Teams.

**BAGHDAD TOURNAMENT—BOXING TEAM.**

(1) Dr. Murdoch, Second
(2) Pte. Coomber, (Second)
(3) Pte. Pelford,
(4) L/C. Marshall,
(5) Pte. Bowen,
(6) Pte. Bowman,
(7) Bdm. Brookman,
(8) Pte. Yates,
(9) L/C. Cleary. (seconds).

Lieut. Hamiel Stewart, Dr. Fowles, Lieut. Lister, Pte. Cleak. L/C. Martin,

**"H" COY. CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING TEAM.**

Winners of Mesopotamia Army Cross Country (British).
Winners of 1st Divisional Cross Country (British).

**BATTALION FOOTBALL TEAM.**

Pte. Solomon, Pte. Everest, Dr. Murdoch, Pte. Hawkins, Cpl. Rodda, Pte. Reid. Pte. Manning. Cpl. Cloke. Bdmn. Shelton. Pte. Fenn. L/C. Searle.
(Absent Cpl. Gover.)

**ATHLETIC TEAM.**

Winners of Baghdad Tournament.
Bdmn. Hewitt, L/C. Player, Cpl. Cloke, L/C. Kimber, Pte. Rowley, Capt. Haymen, Capt. Rice, Lieut. Rowe, Lieut. Backhouse. Lieut. Wooldridge.

# Colonels of The Buffs.

**(No. 1).**

**Horace Lord Vere, Baron of Tilbury.**

Horace Lord Vere, Baron of Tilbury
MDCXXV

BEFORE embarking on the series of articles on Colonels of the Buffs, the writer is tempted to say a few words about the comfortable-looking old gentleman whose portrait is here reprounced.

HORACE VERE was born in 1565—exactly 100 years before the Buffs were brought on the British Establishment. Seven years later, in 1572, Sir Thomas Morgan raised two or three hundred men from the Trained Bands of London and went at their head to fight in Flanders. This was the nucleus of what soon became a considerable force, and General Sir Horace Vere was appointed to the chief command in the year 1608, on the death of his brother, Sir Francis Vere, who so distinguished himself at the Battle of Nieuport.

Although he held, at different times, important posts in England—he was created Baron of Tilbury in 1625—and in spite of advancing years, he preferred active service and continued to serve abroad until 1633. Two years later he died, at the age of 70, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, in the same vault as his brother Francis.

Of the eleven officers who commanded the troops in Holland between 1572 and 1665, no less than five bore the name Vere :—Francis and Horace were descendants of the 15th Earl of Oxford, and Henry, Robert and Aubrey Vere were respectively the 18th, 19th and 20th (and last) Earls of Oxford.

One wonders whether they were all like Horace—I think they must have been—one would like to think so at any rate. Sir Francis Vere, certainly, judging by the picture of the Battle of Nieuport which we all know, looks rather thin, but then he is brandishing a sword and looks rather excitable. He probably *was* thin. The others, we may fancy, were stoutish, easy-going old boys, who rode solid-looking horses, enjoyed their victuals and never failed to put up a good fight.

The present generation of Buffs, descended as they are from the men who fought in Holland nearly three hundred and fifty years ago, may well remember, with respect and admiration, " the fighting Veres," for it is to them and men like them that we owe the unique traditions on which we pride ourselves to-day.

F. W. T.

**Can we send you a packet of 25 *Dragon* Envelopes, price 6d. (post free)? or call at *The Dragon* Office for them.**

# Australia.

IN view of the recent booming of the possible settlement in Australia of a million souls from this country the following expressions of opinion of that country of Mr. J. Bennell, late Sgt.-Major The Buffs, who but recently returned from a visit to the Antipodes will be of general interest.

" Strikes were prevalent, and my advice to any of The Buffs as regards W. Australia is the same as I saw in America affixed to private premises, viz., " Keep Out." And my opinion of South Australia and advice to intending soldier emigrants there are the same as for the West.

To summarise, I do not think Australia is any good to the ex-imperial soldier at the present time. I saw many of their own ex-soldiers begging in the streets of Sydney, but do not believe that there was any need for this. Then there is a deal of unemployment there and strikes seem to be continuous.

The soldier emigrant arriving in these places feels very much alone. He has been abroad before several times perhaps, yes, but under very different circumstances. With one's battalion all your familiar surroundings are with you. There are the same faces, the same Sergeants' Mess and Canteen, so that it matters little where you are. It is a very different thing being alone in Australia or any other country.

In New Zealand there was much unemployment also, and I saw some ex-service men who would have gladly taken a passage home again, but had not the means to go anywhere. It seemed to me that the only class with a prospect of making good in the country are those with capital sufficient to take up and stock grass land, put a bungalow on it, and then start sending cream into the creameries. These make money fast enough. This needs experience and money, neither of which the ex-soldier is likely to have a sufficiency.

Young women can find employment fast enough in either country. I had no trouble in placing two daughters in good employment.

At the present time it is impossible to obtain house accommodation in either of these Dominions and the same may be said of employment, unless a man goes to the bush to live in a " Shack " and work hard at unaccustomed labour doing his own cooking and washing. Experienced farm laboure s stand a better chance."

**We want your friends as Subscribers, but—**

*If you're friendless and strangers won't nibble the bait,*

*Opportunities still remain rife.*

*You might rope in one of your enemies,*

*And thus make a good friend for life!*

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# The Ladies

By The Lady Editress.

*Britain's Bonniest Baby Boy.*

HOW to start a Ladies Page in a man's paper caused me many anxious moments, but my path has been happily paved for me by being able to congratulate Sgt. - Major and Mrs. Sangars on the triumphant success gained by their boy, Frank, in the *Weekly Despatch* "Britain's Bonniest Baby Boy" Competition, thereby winning a five guinea prize. Here he is — a Regimental Notability if ever there was one. And is'nt he a Darling? Seeing his picture on this page encourages me to ask for photographs of the many other bonny boys and girls in the Regiment. I am sure the Editor would allow me to publish one of these monthly.

A Page for Ourselves.

With this little introduction, I must now come to general matters. What we want, I think, is a page to ourselves where we can, in addition to publishing our news, exchange ideas, and glean useful hints on housekeeping, health, education, dressmaking, and hobbies, etc. A few of these are given later, and I am looking forward to receiving many others from my readers.

Then, most certainly, we must have some humour on our pages. And what better humour than that which comes spontaneously from the kiddies. Was it not the little London four year old child, who, kneeling at her cot was heard to say "Our Father, which art in Heaven, Harrods be thy name?" I should in fact like to see a monthly prize in *The Dragon* for the best child story. [*Only too delighted. Offered right away. Ed.*]

That a Ladies' Page in *The Dragon* is welcome, and at the same time useful, is surely proved by the following letters from Mrs. John Crookenden and "A Mother" respectively. Each will be found to contain a valuable suggestion.

In conclusion, don't forget that all the competitions published on page 198 are open to us as well as our husbands, that I am relying on your help to make this page really interesting, and that all correspondence and manuscript relating to this page should be sent to The Lady Editress, c/o *The Dragon*, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.

A Baby Show.

Dear Mr. Editor,

It is only from my interest in *The Dragon*, and from no idea of "Women's Rights," that I write to hope that I shall see a Ladies' Page in *The Dragon* as a permanent feature.

The Ladies of the Regiment are aware, in all humility, of their shadowing by their stalwart Buff husbands, but, nevertheless, what would these husbands be without them?

"How lone the Bold without the Fair"—and let us not forget the equally beautiful stanza "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

Speaking of Canterbury, the Ladies of the Depot are one huge happy family and the most insatiable have, this year been sated with the rush and whirl of gaiety that has followed, event after event, in intoxicating succession.

In the inner domestic Circles there is much to tell, and I could fill many columns of your Paper Mr. Editor, with but a fraction of the small talk that interests us, when we get alone behind a cup of tea, and in our case, the victim's character remains intact and not in the proverbial "shreds."

I must put a stop to my ramblings but, before doing so, I have a suggestion. You are always calling for suggestions, so here is one.

I suggest a Baby Show about the middle of October, the details of it could be easily worked out. It would be of great interest to all the Married Families and also be a very nice social function. The Buff and brawny need not come if they don't want to.

Yours truly,

The Depot, I. M. Crookenden.
16-9-21.

Our Dances—and A Creche.

Dear Sir,

The ladies' feature advocated by "Eve" is an excellent suggestion, and one that should certainly help to popularise *The Dragon*. There is one thing I should like to refer to in your columns if it meets with your approval.

The dancing season is about to begin, and doubtless all the wives are looking forward to some enjoyment in that quarter. Many mothers of young children and babies (who of course cannot be left unattended in quarters during the evening) who are desirous of attending these functions, are usually prevented from doing so by this difficulty.

Could not arrangements be made to get a room adjacent to the ball room in charge of a motherly matron, or two, into which all such children could be taken in peramulators, etc., and handed over by the mothers. All anxiety as to the babies would be allayed by the knowledge that someone was there to look after them.

Yours etc.,

"A Mother."

Home Hints.

1. If you have no shelves for storing apples put them in a packing case with layers of newspaper between and nail lid securely, they should keep well for months.
2. To preserve runner beans for winter—put in a jar with salt on top of each row, tie paper over top to exclude all air.
3. A little Shredded Suet added to a skimmed milk pudding will make a most nutritious and palatable dish.
4. To cut very new bread and butter plunge the knife for a few moments in boiling water.
5. Where a polished table has been marked by a hot dish, a little Olive oil and Methylated Spirit will remove the stain.
6. An ordinary hair pin hung on the rim of a lamp chimmey will prevent the class from cracking.
7. The best way of cooking cabbage is to tie a handful of bread-crumbs in a fine cloth and place in the water with the cabbage when cooking. The bread will absorb all the bitter juices which are really harmful, and the cabbage will be rendered more digestible. Another advantage is that the bread will absorb practically all the smell which accompanies the cooking of this vegetable.

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## The Army Encyclopædia.

DEVELOPMENT (Physical). — Introduced into the Army in order that the weedy specimens of humanity who drift thereinto may become fit to undergo fatigue, the better known specimens of which are Officers' Mess, Sergeants' Mess and Quartermaster Stores. The antiquated system of a decade ago, which consisted mainly of having one's innards twisted, and one's feelings very much hurt by the withering remarks on one's physique made by a huge heartless, cruel inquisitor in a striped jersey called a P.T. instructor, has of late years given place to a quiet, ladylike, and sedate game of " Ring-a roses," " Hop-scotch," " Tick," " Roundthatreego," or " Oranges-and-Lemons," under the guidance of a nice gentleman wearing a white jersey and a large sized smile.

DIAGNOSIS.—That which enables the Medical Officer rapidly to distinguish between " men who are bad " and " bad men ; " also between typhoid and tiredness, sick men and men for guard.

Both kinds receive " treatment," but not by any means of the same sort.

DIALECT.—That " which Commanding " Officers of Scottish Regiments insist that all under their Command shall use, with the idea of ensuring that only bona-fide Scotsmen shall join their ranks. Practised to such an extent that only the most intrepid dare-devil Englishmen ever dream of donning the kilt.

Anybody's mode of speech but one's own.

DIARY (War).—The keeping up of our War Diaries during the Great War is the real, though little known, reason for the importation into this country between 1914 and 1918 from America of such vast quantities of paper, suitable in texture for use in the field. The exporters had little or no difficulty in keeping up the supply, having themselves no use whatever for paper of this nature.

D.C.M.—That which the Army gives as a reward for behaviour.

DICTATION.—That which means suffering to many a soldier, both inside school and outside.

DIDDLER.—The man who gave the Army 6d. per diem Proficiency Pay, and took away 7d. per diem Service Pay. This occurred some years ago, but they are still (like the victims), " carrying on."

DIE.—The one thins which old soldiers, Quartermasters, Barrack Wardens and donkeys never do.

DIET.—The name given to one's food when in hospital. Soldiers themselves give it an entirely different name of their own.

DIFFICULTY (Pecuniary).—That from which most soldiers invariably suffer about Thursday. This difficulty is as nothing compared with that experienced when attempts are made to get relief from the C.Q.M.S.

DILUTION.—A process through which tea is passed, before leaving the cookhouse, so as to minimise the damage to the nervous system usually consequent upon indulgence in this beverage.

**DO YOU KNOW YOUR REGIMENT?**

Unless you can conscienciously answer " Yes," you should obtain a copy of that magnificently produced little book—

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24 pages of red-hot interest to all Buffs, Half of which are taken up with beautiful pictures in colours, illustrating episodes, etc., in the history of the Regiment.——This is something to be proud of, and to show your friends.

*Apply personally or by letter to The Editor, or our Representatives, vide page 199.*

## The Home-coming.

*[To be carried in the hand of Every Soldier on his arrival in England from Mesopotamia.]*

IF I seem strange, if my actions seem queer,
If I look like a wandering Jew never fear,
I am perfectly harmless that's why I am here
" On Demob from Mesopotamia."

John Bull in an article touchingly said,
That the Mespot army was clean off its head,
In fact that our brains had become numb, if not dead
Since we went out to Mesopotamia.

They gave us no money, but we did not complain,
We should have had some if we had been sane,
But money they say is the cause of all pain,
" So we left ours in Mesopotamia."

If I should do things that seem senseless to you,
You will find there is a method in all things I do,
I am a marvel at catching, Flies, Fever, and Flue,
" They learn it in Mesopotamia."

They sent us to Blighty, I think as a test,
To see if a change and a few years' rest
Will bring back the brains that the sun has sent west,
" Of the Soldiers in Mesopotamia."

And if in the Strand I am found charging a bus,
Or otherwise making a damnable fuss,
If I am squashed, or smashed, don't stand the cuss
" I am a mad man from Mesopotamia."

So if you see me gazing at a loss in the street,
With my cap in my hand and my kit at my feet,
Just pass me by kindly and say its the heat
" And Date Palms of Mesopotamia."

Take me up tenderly and treat me with care,
I am one of the crowd England sent over there,
To live in the desert for years trying to scare,
" The Turks out of Mesopotamia."

We found milk and honey just flowing about
Peach, Melon, and cream grew with fine Brussels sprouts,
They fed us on grass, when Bully gave out,
" Near Baghdad in Mesopotamia."

We were stabled in Eden awhile they say,
The place we are told from which Eve ran away,
And out there she's never been seen since the day
" She bolted from Mesopotamia."

And if when I die I am sent for a spell,
To some place where souls are made clean, glad and well,
Pray to Peter in Mercy to send me to——
" But not Back to Mesopotamia."

F.R.

### Bones of Contention.

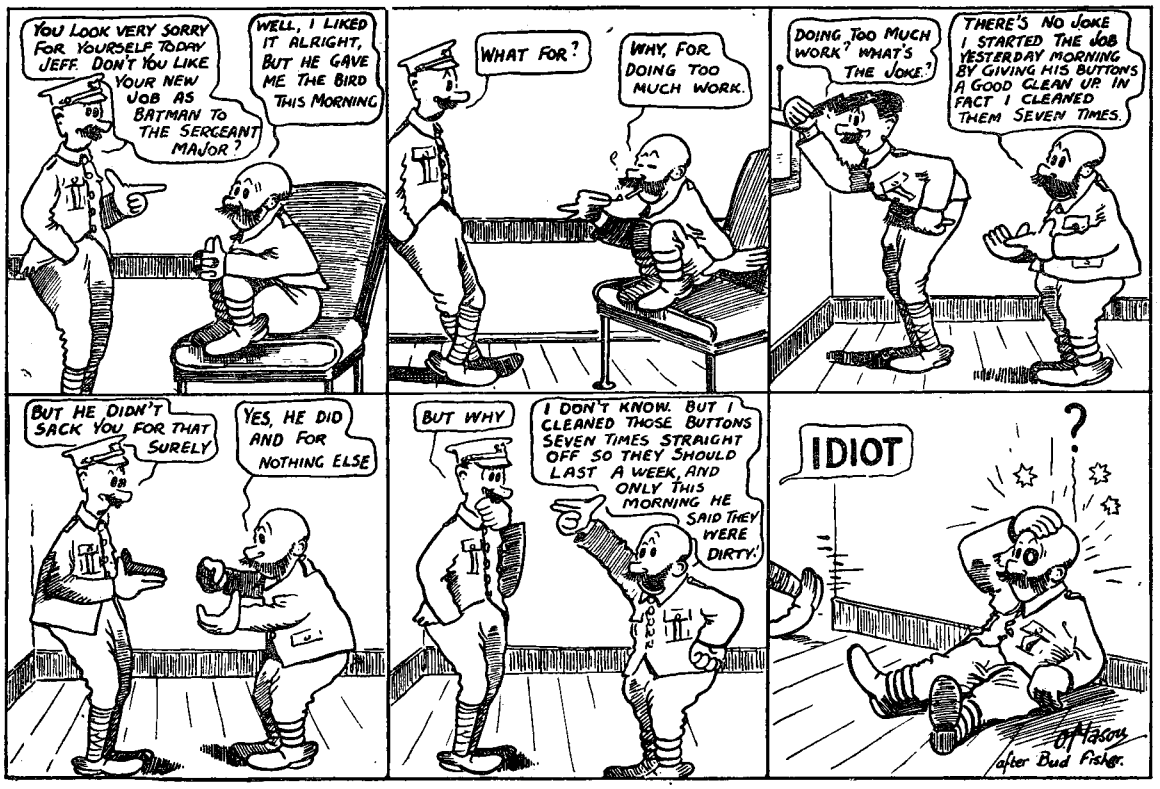
Robin Tuke has set us thinking with his article in our September issue. Perhaps some of our readers might like to express their views on the following :—

Should the Past and Present Association have colours suitable for Hat ribbon and tie ?

Should the Dragon Club and Regimental Dinners be amalgamated ?

Should the Regimental Gazette be published or give way to more general and lighter matter ?

Should an annual inter-Battalion Shooting competition be held ?




## Our Representatives.

APPENDED below will be found the names and addresses of those who have kindly offered to help us in their respective districts.

In publishing their names, we would particularly ask our readers to give them their support by not only referring to them any possible new subscribers to the *Dragon*, but also those desirous of becoming members of the Past and Present Association.

And we would also invite the co-operation of our readers in the development of our ultimate aim, which is, that the *Dragon* and the Past and Present Association may be represented in every town and village throughout our recruiting district.

THOSE ALREADY APPOINTED.

**Adisham.**—Mr. W. Arnold, 4 Chapel Vfllas.
**Ashford.**—Mr. J. R. Gardner, Drill Hall.
**Barham.**—Mr. Seary, Gravel Castle.
**Burton Court** (Chelsea).—Mr. W. R. Trinick, Ministry of Pensions, Burton Court.
**Canterbury.**—Mr. E. F. Nunn, 66 London Road.
**Charlton.**—Mr. A. V. Hewitt, 117 Victoria Road.
**Deptford.**—Mr. C. A. French, 1 Addey Street.
**Dover.**—Sgt. A. H. Pettet, 4th Buffs, 76 Snargate Street.
**Folkestone.**—Mr. W. F. Ingleton, 24 Wood Avenue. Mr. C. Stockwell, 33 Athelston Road.
**Gillingham.**—Mr. W. Skinner, 4 Cross Street.
**Greenwich.**—Mr. H. Greenway, 3a Avenue Rd., Tunney Avenue, E. Greenwich.
**High Halsted** (Nr. Rochester).—Mr. E. Pratt, Brickfield Cottages.
**Littlebourne.**—Mr. J. Beer, Ivy Cottages, The Green.
**Lydd.**—Mr. A. W. Smith, Sunnyside.
**Margate.**—Sgt. P. Johnson, 4th Buffs, 6a Upper Grove. Mr. R. J. Glover, 20 Buckingham Road.
**Minster.**—Mr. J. Knight, 2 Station Road.
**Ramsgate.**—Cpl. Sylvester, 4th Buffs, 2 Sackett's Hill Cottages, St. Peter's.
**Shorncliffe.**—Mr. T. H. Bilton, 2 Royal Military Avenue.
**Shorncliffe.**—Mr. E. Turner, 180 Risboro Lane.
**Sittingbourne.**—Mr. A. J. Mannock, 143 Chalkwell Rd. Mr. J. C. Strouts, 74 Chalkwell Road.
**Snodland.**—Mr. A. H. Bolton, 14 Faith Place, May Street.
**Swanscombe.**—Mr. J. Burton, Stuckly House.
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**Woodnesborough.** (Nr. Sandwich).—Mr. E. Garrett, Marshborough.

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SING a Song of sixpence
Just the sum to buy
Eight and twenty pages,
Crammed with good things. Why—
When *The Dragon's* opened,
The Buffs begin to sing
This would be a splendid dish
To set before the King.

The Prize Ed's in his counting house
Counting out the money
He's going to send competitors
Anent that jar of honey.
Now roll up! those subscribers
We're never going to close,
And bear in mind, enquirers,
We snap off no one's nose.

# The Ration-al Adventure.

*Our Short Story.*

By Pte. J. B. Spicer, 1st Buffs.

Lieut. Billy Kemp, D.S.O. emerged from the depths of a none too comfortable dug-out, into the chilling downpour without. Stumbling over loose trench-boards and stray pieces of wire, he made his way to the platoon's post.

"Pretty rough night," he remarked, on reaching the post.

"Yessir! 'Tis," returned Sergeant Bird. "Men've had nothing to eat since day break, and, with this rain and mud and no prospect of any rations to-night, well, things are'nt exactly comforting? The blighters across there are getting hot coffee and the whiff of it drifts across here and makes you feel homesick!"

"It does!" assented Billy.

"Tell you what, sir? I could get some volunteers who'd risk meeting the devil himself, for a drop of that coffee!"

"Well really, it's a little out of order you know, but I'll buzz along and see the Captain. Mum's the word! Comprez!"

"Oui! sir! all serene?"

* * *

The Captain looked up from his writing desk (a Tate sugar box).

"Well! Billy! any change on the western front?" he queried.

"Nothing extraordinary sir! There's a party in front of No. 3 post. They're wiring I believe! Shall I reconnoitre?"

"Yes! if you will! By the way! Do you notice the strong aroma of cafe-au-lait over yonder! Lucky devils; I could do with a little, could'nt you?"

Billy said he could, he also thought of an over-fed Hun busy replenishing his interior with the last dregs of the dixie, and without ceremony he bade the Captain —"Good-night!"

"O.K. sergeant!" he informed him on his return. "Get half-a-dozen men, and bring them here! No noise! Bayonets fixed!"

"Right sir!" And the sergeant disappeared, returning two minutes later with six men in his train.

"Crowd round and listen boys!" whispered Billy. "You're coming across with me to find a wiring party. It's not unlikely that we shall miss them, in which case, we shall continue forward to within twenty yards of "Johnny's trench. When there, each man crawl forward and note the enemie's movements. Risk a peep into the trench. The real objective will be Fritz's coffee urn, and, any rations procurable with a minimum amount of risk. If you strike oil, work in pairs, and make for home independently! Got that?"

"Yes, sir!" came the whispered replies.

"Right then! Follow me! Sentry! Our pass word will be "Cafe-au-lait!"

"Wish it was likely!" returned the sentry.

"Asquith!" retorted one of the adventurers, and the party were swallowed up into the night.

* * *

Through wire, mud, and dead bodies, the party, silently and swiftly wended their way. They thought but little of the discomfort of "No man's land" or the rain that trickled from their helmets into, and down their necks. Their minds were too busy to think of these minor discomforts, steaming coffee, German bread and even the mysterious "German Sausage" such were their thoughts at that moment!

Twenty yards from the German trench, they halted, knelt down and received a few last instructions. The guttural voices of the enemy could be plainly heard also the quiet clang of a dixie lid. Then all was silence. Billy, crawling cautiously forward, reached the parapet, and, with infinite care, lifted his head above it and looked down.

"Nothing here!" he whispered disconsolately.

Seven other bodies were doing precisely the same thing.

"Sir" came an excited whisper on Billy's left.

"Here it is! Look! Three-quarters full and nobody about!" Billy slid gracefully to the Tommy's side and peeped down, "Quick! Now!" And Billy had the dixie on top of the parapet!"

"Your partner! Get him, and hook it for home! Don't stop for all the minions of Hades!" he whispered excitedly.

Two men disappeared in haste and uncanny silence.

Something more interesting was happening a few yards further along. One Tommy had gazed down into the trench and nearly wept with excitement. Sarg.! Come here! quick! Gaze on it! Blimey! What a beano!"

On the fire step lay nine loaves, some cheese and two or three tins of Jam, while, the orderly in charge, had departed for a few moments to inform his pals that "rations were up."

Sergt. Bird dropped into the trench and in a few seconds "rations were up" indeed. Two more men disappeared into the night. The Coffee, well on its way home, Billy looked round for more plunder.

Creeping stealthily he rejoined his sergeant!

"Had any luck?" he asked.

"Luck! Bags of it! Loaves, cheese and jam! Luck! Why Luck ain't in it!" returned the sergeant.

"And you, sir?"

"Well! Fair! Three-quarters of a dixie of damn fine coffee! Crumbs! Not really?"

"—'s fact! said Billy. "I saw the men safely away—Sh! Here's the blighters turning up for their rations! Come on! We'll retire!"

Down in Billy's dugout, the result of the adventure looked appetizing indeed. There was enough for all, as well as the captain. Each man received a good portion and went his way wreathed in smiles.

Billy felt in his glory. He loved them all, and to see them smile was a reward worth receiving.

* * *

"Come in!"

Billy came in. "I didn't discover who the party was sir! No evidence of fresh wire anywhere!" he glibly stated.

The Captain nodded. "Do you think it was a patr—oh! Please! Billy! Pull down that blanket! Their d—n coffee irritates my feelings to-night!"

"Perhaps this will help to ameliorate them a little sir!" And he presented the Captain with some coffee, bread and cheese.

"Why! Where the——!" But Billy was gone.

The next morning Billy loosed a dummy grenade towards the enemy. It fell with charming accuracy into Fritz's trench. Attached, was the following note.

Dear Hun-ny,

"Your coffee was admirable, please give my respects to the cook who made it. The cheese could have been better, but I forgive you for this defect." Yours, Billy.

**MURDER**

Adventure and Mystery are all to be found in our striking serial story

**"THE FAIRY RING,"**

which begins in our Nov. issue. This is the story that every home in E. Kent has been waiting for!

# "Beneath Bell Harry."

By Treadmill.

*"Men may come and men may go, But I go on for ever."*

My contemporary "The Man with the Squeegee" has played me a dirty trick. He has gone on leave! I don't grudge him this leave, especially as he has not been on long leave for about eighteen months. During that time he has, of course, had what is termed in the Army "Short leave" on manifold occasions, living up no doubt to paragraph 2 of the official handbook "A Young Officer's guide to knowledge" which says "Ask for leave at all times and in all places; and in the end you will acquire a right to it." But I digress.

With the imminent departure of the Australians to their native shores cricket at the Depot has also ended and King Footer reigns in its stead. We have had a successful cricket season, having played 24 matches, won 12 and lost 12. The match played at Canterbury against the Depot Royal West Kent Regiment was remarkable in that we had to face a really first class fast bowler, in Lt. Howlett by name. This officer bowls as fast or faster than Capt. Cornwallis of the Kent XI. and, besides, keeping an excellent length is even more deadly. Capt. Strettell was wise in getting out the first ball that was bowled; Lt. Willows, not so wise, tried to stop the ball on his knee and was carried off the field. The only two who seemed to enjoy the bowling were Major Crookenden, D.S.O. and Cpl. McNeir, D.C.M.; these warriors proved worthy holders of medals for valour.

August 30th provided an excellent Novices Boxing Competition. Some 45 out of about 80 recruits entered. We are all agreed that it was the best show of its kind that we have yet seen. The fights were good and hard knocks were abundant. It is even rumoured that a hawker came up to barracks after the show offering to buy old teeth. Cross Country running has been revived and we can promise the Battalions some good runners, whilst with the approach of winter Concert parties are beginning to germinate.

This is the month when Confidential Reports on Officers are sent in. I have often been asked what happens to these and am glad to be able to answer this question. It is an established fact that these reports are read out amidst huge merriment at the Annual Dinner of the War Office Officials at the Ritz Hotel, at such time as Charlie Chaplin is not in residence. As each report is read out the officials have to guess the name of the officer to whom the report refers. The Official who makes the biggest number of bad guesses is condemned to read out the reports at the next year's gathering.

The only other event of importance to note is the capture of a real live burglar by Lt. Willows, ably assisted by L/Cpl. Neve, Ptes. Piper and Keats and, last but not least, Capt. Morley, who, by the way, did not have time to bring out more than four revolvers and an automatic shot gun. Luckily for the burglar and the others Capt. Morley did not fire.

Before I end, news has just reached me that Pte. Minns has just caught his sixth rat with his bare hands in the Officers' Mess. It is a waste of breath your saying "Rats!" as it is an established fact.

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### Cricket.

A brilliant 153 not out by Lt. Willows has been the outstanding feature in the cricket field during the last month. At one stage of his innings it looked as if the match would have to be disbanded for the want of a ball, this being caused by the number of "sixes" he despatched into the cabbage patch!

The following results complete our season:—

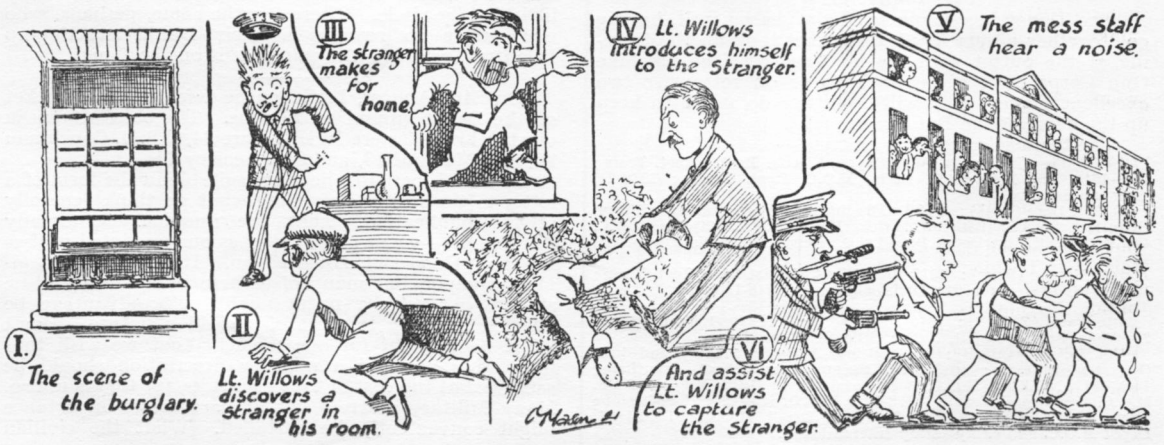
August 22nd: The Depot loss to the R.W. Kent Depot by 87 runs. Scores: R.W.K. 179; Depot 92 (Cpl. McNeir 25, Major Crookenden 22, Lt. Willows 19*). Parry took 8 wickets for 71.

September 3rd: The Depot (93) beat Wingham (85) by 8 runs. L/Cpl. Parry 20 and Cpl. McNeir 15.

September 7th: The Depot beat the Rev. Swift's Public School Team by 96 runs. Scores:—Depot 218 for 5 wickets declared (Lt. Willows 153* and Capt. Strettell 26*). Public Schools XI. 122.

September 10th: The Depot beat Bekesbourne by an innings and 92 runs. Scores:—Depot 162 (Cpl. McNeir 43, Lt. Willows 49*, Pte. Wood 24*). Bekesbourne 39 and 31.

## The Depot Burglary.



**Beneath Bell Harry**—*continued.*

AVERAGES (BATTING).

| | Total runs. | Highest score. | Average. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lt. Willows ... ... ... | 726 | 153 | 33·0 |
| Cpl. McNeir ... ... ... | 296 | 49 | 15·6 |
| Capt. Maiden ... ... ... | 318 | 59 | 14·4 |
| Major Lee ... ... ... | 260 | 53 | 13·6 |
| C.S.M. Couchman ... ... | 260 | 33 | 11·9 |
| L/C. Parry ... ... ... | 179 | 27 | 9·8 |
| R.S.M. Dare ... ... ... | 183 | 23 | 8·7 |
| Major Crookenden ... ... | 151 | 22 | 7·9 |
| Sgt. Maillard ... ... ... | 128 | 29 | 5·8 |
| Capt. Strettell ... ... ... | 100 | 26 | 5·0 |
| Sgt.-Dr. Clayton ... ... | 31 | 10 | 3·1 |

BOWLING.

| | runs. | wickets. | averages. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Capt. Maiden ... ... ... | 734 | 66 | 11·1 |
| L/C. Parry ... ... ... | 962 | 85 | 11·2 |
| Lt. Willows ... ... ... | 382 | 36 | 10·6 |

BOXING.

The following were the winners in the Novices Boxing Competition. The arrangements made were admirable, but the one thing above all others that stood out was the fine plucky and sporting display put up by the competitors. This gained the admiration of all.

6 Round Contest: Pte. H. Barden (B); Feathers, Pte. L. Robbins (B); Middle, Pte. C. Lyons (B); Light, Pte. F. Turner (B); Bantam, Pte. E. O'Hagan (B). Best Losers, 1 Pte. C. Barden (B), 2 Pte. F. Gansby (A).

SHOOTING.

The following give the results of the two shooting competitions held on the Solan Range on 2nd and 9th September respectively.

**2nd September.**

| Practice. | Winner. | Score. |
|---|---|---|
| Application (Trained Men) | C.S.M. Pigott. | 28 |
| do (Recruits) | L/C. Richardson. | 23 |
| Steel Plate | Sgt. Potter & Pte. Turner, tie. | 1 hit. |
| Invisible Bull | L/C. Crouch | 1 hit. |
| Grouping | Pte. Sinclair | Best 4 Group. |

**9th September.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Steel Plate | Capt. Strettell | 1 hit. |
| Application (Trained Men) | C.S.M. Pigott | 26 |
| do (Recruits) | L/C. O'Hagan | 27 |
| Grouping (Trained Men) | Sgt. Jones | 4" |
| do (Recruits) | Pte. Sinclair | 8" |
| Invisible Bull | Sgts. Potter & Hook tie | 1 hit. |

CROSS COUNTRY RUN.

The following is the result of the run which took place on the 27th August over a course of 3¼ miles :—

1, Pte. Lyons. time 18 mins.; 2, Pte. Tabrett, 20 mins. 2-5 secs.; 3, Pte. Fry, 20 mins. 4-5 secs.: 4, Pte. Findlay, 20 mins. 5-8 secs.; 5, Pte. Followell, 21 mins.; 6, Lce.-Cpl. Burt, 21 mins, 2-5 secs.

Number 1 Section, "A" Company, won the Inter-Section Championship, whilst "B" Company had the most men in within 25 minutes.

FOOTBALL.

The Depot has commenced the season well, having got together a very good team that took up the training at the outset with much keenness. The Machine Gun Corps have given back to us on retransfer two excellent players who will doubtless do much to keep up the name of the Buffs in the field.

The team selected is as follows :—

Dr. Collier (Goal): Pre-War Days. Lincoln Regt. Regt. Team; 1914-1918, 3rd Buffs; 8th Buffs, M.G.C. Regt. Teams; 1919-21, Buffs, Canterbury.

R.S.M. Dare (Back): 2nd Bn. Regimental Team; Army v. Navy, Hong Kong twice; 24th Bn. M.G.C., F.S.D. M.G.C. 12th Bn. M.G.C. 4th Bn. M.G.C., 1st Depot Bn. M.G.C., Depot The Buffs Regimental Teams.

Sgt. Morgan (Back): 1912-1914, Played for 1st Buffs Regt. Team; 1914-1918, Played for 6th Division Team; 1918-1921, Buffs Depot Team.

Pte. Parry (R. Half): 1918-1919, 2nd Bn. Buffs Regt. Team; 1919–20, Signal Service Depot, India; 1920-21, Buffs, Depot.

Cpl. McLean (C Half): Pre-war days, Played for 1st and 2nd Buffs (Regimental Team); 1915-1916, Machine Gun School, Grantham; 1916-1917, No. 2 Bn. M.G.C. Regimental Team; 1917-1918, No. 2 Bn. M.G.C. Regimental Team; 1918-1919, F.S.D. M.G.C. and Folkestone Town; 1919-1920, F.S.D. M.G.C. and Depot M.G.C.; 1920-1921, Depot M.G.C. and Army (Army International).

L/C. Middleton (L. Half): National School, Hythe; Hythe Town; Saltwood United; 3rd Buffs, Dover; Depot Buffs (Last Year).

Drumgold (O. Right): Pre-War, Ponders End; 1918-1919, 3rd Bn. Buffs Regt. Team; 1919-20-21, Depot Buffs.

L/C. Smith (I. Right): Pre-War Days, Garrison Boys, Hong Kong; 1915, 1920-1921, Depot Football Team.

Pte. Barden (C.F.): 1915-1916, Park Athletic; 1916-17, Park Athletic; 1917-1918, Park Athletic; 1919-20; Stepney Celtic; 1920-21, Queen's Head Rovers; Trial Games for Exeter City.

Sgt. Maillard (I. Left): Pre-War: Wilton Rd. Schools; 1913-14, Business House Team (London); 1919-20, Depot; 1920-21, Depot.

Pte. Ingram (O. Left): Pre-war days: Gillingham Schools; Zion Institute; 1916-17, 6th Buffs Regimental Team; 1920-21, Chatham Argylle; Rainham, St. Margaret's; Depot Buffs.

MATCH RESULTS.

A Farewell football match took place on the Depot ground on Wednesday, 21st Sept. against "F" Battery R.H.A. A very fine even game was witnessed, the best that has been seen on the Depot ground for a long time. The Depot team was not at full strength. Both our backs, R.S.M. Dare and Sgt. Morgan, being away on the injured list. Also C.Q.M.S. Jones injured his leg early in the game, Result, a draw. Score 2-2.

The first match of the season was played against the Pals United on the 3rd September, 1921, and resulted in an easy win for the Depot. by 10-1. The game was a very good one and half time score was in our favour, 2-1. The second half saw our lads on the top of their form and they piled on eight goals. The scores being L/Cpl. Smith 3, Cpl. McLean 3, Pte. Ingram 2, Barden 1, L/Cpl. Middleton 1.

On the following Thursday, 8/9/21, they played the Canterbury Waverley, a team that had a good record in Canterbury last year. The score was 3-2 in our favour. The Depot had by far the majority of the game but our boys were not up to scoring mood. It was however an enjoyable game all the way through, the scorers were Barden and Smith.

THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

We are gradually creeping on towards the winter nights and the news affecting the interior running of the Mess will, consequently, become more pronounced than it has been during the past few months of delightful summery weather which has kept the Members out in the open air enjoying everything appertaining to outdoor recreation.

Dances have already been spoken about—as a matter of fact we are forthwith starting the usual weekly practice ones which are a sort of "preliminary canter" to the main ones usually held in high style in the Garrison Gymnasium; with a Whist Drive acting as a sort of Preface to the "Ever enjoyable Hop."

Sergeant Osborne has taken over the post of President of the Sports Committee. Full of activity, and a jolly good sort to boot, the task could not have been placed in abler hands. We were sorry that friend Maillard had to give up the post he had so excellently handled, but of course he now is a proper "Family Man" as a reference to last month's birth column will demonstrate. Tournaments of every description are to be arranged, and there will be little wanting during the long winter evenings to make the Mess a happy little family circle. There *may* be some, perhaps, who will prefer to remain in their Bunks swotting-up Infantry Training—the emphasis is on the "may."

On 24th August, Littlebourne defeated us at cricket on the Depot ground by 27 runs. The chief scorers in our total of 100 were R.S.M. Dare 34, C.S.M. Couchman 23, Sgt. Maillard 13, and Sgt. Beasley 11.

It would, perhaps, be more suitable in the form of a letter to the Editor, regarding what we think generally of his publication. That, we imagine, he already fully knows—we mean in so far as our unstinted praises for the "Good Old *Dragon*" go. It's a top-hole regimental paper, but many of us here thought that some short space (say a page) might with advantage be allotted monthly to news of a civilian nature. Don't let it be thought for one moment that we wish that interesting news of a military description should be sacrificed at the cost of Civvy matters, for that is not so. Many Military matters not of paramount importance might conveniently be curtailed. What the civilian

**Beneath Bell Harry**—*continued.*

notes should be could be decided by the Editor. Of course something topical would at once suggest itself. Take for instance the lads out in Mespot, who probably see little of English newspapers. A smattering of news of home affairs happening outside Barrack Life would surely be welcome reading. In any case that is what a number of us think, but of course we leave it there for the Editor to judge, as only he can.

[*Many thanks. We will do our best. Ed.*]

THE CORPORALS' MESS.

A quiet month, except that the Corporals were not to be outdone even in the way of entertaining during the Depot Sports' Week. All put their shoulders to the wheel and things went swimmingly, everybody satisfied; and, according to outside authority their tent was easily the best decorated, so Bravo my hearties.

To bring our Cricket Season to an end our friends of the R.A.M.C. invited us to a Match and Tea, and right well did they entertain us. The Match ended in our favour for the score stood as follows:—Corporals Buffs 154 for 3. R.A.M.C. 29.

We heartily welcome Corpl. McLear back to the "Old Love," and he, by way of greeting heralded same by scoring 34 NOT OUT in the above Match, and is now Skipper of the Depot Soccer Team and some Bhoy at the game too.

Welcome also to Charlie Collier among our ranks, and pleased indade it is we are that Parry has decided to carry on, for we are now ready to pick up any glove thrown down in the way of sport; so what offers?

It is hoped during the winter months to hold a series of dances—or whist drives and dances—to drive dull care away, on the 3rd Friday in each month commencing in October; Friends please note.

One word to the Corporals of the 1st Battalion. We reciprocate the hope of being able to see them shortly at this end of the "rocky road to Dublin." and may we have many a pleasant journey together. Cheer-i-o.

LE PETIT CAPORAL.

## Our Lame Dogs.

THE difficulties incurred in our Regimental Employment Bureau in trying to find suitable jobs for our old comrades has already been dealt with in *The Dragon*, but these difficulties are as nothing compared to those endured by those whom we are trying to assist. If any of our readers can come to their and our rescue by putting such vacancies as they may have into our hands we should be grateful.

No less than 87 Old Buffs are on our books, and the unfortunate position remains that we are not able to offer any one of them anything tangible. Can you help? If so here are a few names taken haphazard from those in search of work and whose future welfare is our constant anxiety. It is, in fact, safe to say that there is no job that we are not able satisfactorily to fill. All we ask, then, is for Jobs, Jobs, and More Jobs, to help our Lame Dogs over the stile.

SITUATIONS REQUIRED.

Lighterman.—No. 5646 Private T. S. Southern, age 42. Character on discharge on 13/6/1910, after 12 years service. *Very Good* smart hard working reliable Man. Married. Wife Laundress.
Electrical Engineer.—9428 Sgt. T. Davis, 29, Married.
General Labourer.—7867 Pte. T. Wicklow, 32, Single.
General Labourer.—243053 Pte. E. Laslett, 25 Single.
Carman.—4279 Pte. C. Taylor, 25 Single.
General Labourer.—8747 Pte. Riglew, 26, Married.
Lift Attendant.—201457 Pte. Haughan, 20, Single.
Clerk.—Age 25, married, now serving with 5th Buffs. Shorthand, Typing, one year's course in Journalism under Ministry of Labour, thorough knowledge of office routine, etc. Go anywhere. W. E. Brittain, 13 William Road, Ashford.

SHOULD this number of *The Dragon* catch you before Ootber 5th, don't forget that is the night of our Annual Dinner at which we hope to see a record attendance. Now several members have expressed the desire that the event may be held on a Saturday in the future, and I should very much like to hear the views of others in regard to this, as should Saturday be decided upon accommodation must be booked several months in advance. In fact the time, date and place of the Dinner perhaps offers a digestible bone of contention for discussion in your columns.

Before continuing my list of Life Members may I again remind ordinary members that their subscription for 1921, is due namely 2/6 officers, and 1/- other ranks. And as a final note with the appointment of Agents for the Association vide page 196, we are hoping to see our membership well into thousands before the close of the year.

LIFE MEMBERS.

(2ND LIST).

Q.M.S. O.R.S. Ings, Capt. W. T. Johnston, M.C., Garrn. Q.M.Sgt. F.L. Jeffery, Cr.-Sgt.-Inst. Johnson, Mr. H. A. Jones, Sgt. W. E. Jones, C.Q.M.S. W. G. Jones, Mr. J. W. Kesby, Mr. J. E. King, C.Q.M.S. Kelly, Capt. L.G. M. Kidd, Mr. C. Kember, Capt. W. J. King, Lieut. G. Lord, Lieut. R. W. Leonard, *Mr. H. Link, Mr. W. Lambert, Capt. Macnamara, Capt. Joe Mills, Mr. W. Marchant, Mr. Marshall, *C.-Sgt.-Inst. Mills, L. C. MacMahon, Sgt. J. Victor MacMahon, Mr. W. J. Marsh, Mr. H. Nicholls, Mr. T. E. Noakes, Mr. E. W. Newnham, Capt. W. R. Orwin, Capt. C. P. O. Hagan, Sergt. G. P. Osborne, C.Q.M. Sgt. F. W. Potter, Sgt. Pepper, Mr. Perman, Mr. F. Prebble, Mr. H. Port, Gen. R. Hon. Sir Arthur Paget, G.C.B., K.C.V.O., Mr. G. A. Page, M.M., Mr. T. Penn, Capt. T. Rye, C.Q.M.Sgt. P. Ransley, Mr. G. E. Roulands, Mr. Dave Revell, Mr. J. R. Reeve, C.Q.M.S. W. Spearpoint, Mr. H. A. Sanger, Capt. J. Slattery, Lieut. G. Seath, Capt. E. Smith, Mr. S. O. Sutton, Major L. T. Spens, Capt. Sweitenham, Mr. W. Stanger, Major B. R. K. Tarte, Major Tylden Patterson, D.S.O., Mr. W. Twort, Lt.-Col. W. H. Trevor, *Mr. Todd, Mr. H. J. Tassell, *Mr. C. Taylor, Mr. E. Turner, Col. C. B. Vyvyan, C.B., Mr. J. Woods, Major H. Ward, Capt. F. Whitaker, Capt. R. Childs, Q.M.S. O. R. S. Evans.

**Denotes those whose addresses are required.*

## Doing His Best.

IT somehow seems little enough when you say,
That a fellow is doing his best,
It means that he toils, and he hopes day by day,
That Heaven will see to the rest.
He is jostled aside by the hurrying crowd,
Unsought by the lonely, ignored by the proud,
He earns what he gets, and no more is allowed,
To the fellow who's doing his best.

But whenever a crisis arises, we look,
To the man who is doing his best,
The Prince with his splendour, the sage with his book,
Full oft fail to answer the test.
And when there's a home or a country to serve,
We turn to the man with the heart and the nerve,
The man who adversity's touch could not swerve,
The man who kept doing his best.

* * * *

"Waste not your hour, nor in vain pursuit,
Of this and that endeavour, and dispute;
Better be jocund with the fruitful grape,
Than sadden after none, or bitter fruit."

J.M.
16/5/21

# 4th Buffs at Dibgate.

AT the time these notes are written the Battalion is assembled in Camp at Dibgate. The camp is held nominally for the benefit of those men who did not join the Defence Force, and takes the place of the camp arranged for the last fortnight in May which had to be abandoned.

The Battalion assembled at Dibgate somewhere about 300 strong, the officers present being Major L. Howard Smith Adjutant; Capts. James, Smith, and Dean, V.C.; Lieuts. Williams, Bacon, and Sherwood; Capt. and Qr.-Mr. Keeler, and Capt. Read who most kindly voluntarily undertook the important duties of Messing Officer.

Dover turned up in great strength headed by a capital Drum and Fife band under Sgt. Drummer Tripp.

The R.S.M. re-appeared with an awe inspiring cane of magnificent proportions and adornments.

The peaceful sanctity of the Dibgate plains is again invaded by a crowd of budding Wellingtons. Strains of martial music, good, bad, and indifferent, accordingly as the trained musicians or early beginners get the upper hand, smite the ear.

Incense from the Cook house chimneys and the candid comments of Drill instructors mingle with the sweet scents and sounds of the countryside, to be wafted heavenward by the freshening breeze.

The Guard is mounted with much shouting. Senior Officers spring from nowhere. The gilded staff arrive, gentle whiffs of ozone, coupled with healthy exercise and youthful appetite play havoc with the rations.

The store is depleted even to the breaking point, and yet the Quarter Master smiles. That anxious glint, so perceptible in his eye as days go on, is as yet absent. His cap is cocked at a knowing angle seeming to imply a conscious sense of security in the knowledge of his dispositions, only to be ruthlessly dispelled as the day of reckoning approaches.

Even the Mess silver has been redeemed, and so, once more, after many days, the Territorial Camp is re-instated as an annual fixture to be reckoned with.

SOME PERSONAL NOTES.

The R.S.M. returns thanks for kind enquiries, and informs us that the strain of his right arm muscle, occasioned by the official cane, is now much better.

The family assembled in the Dining Room one morning were heard to whisper :—" Now we *shall* have Bacon with our breakfast."

Who was the Orderly Officer?

We are informed that the leopard cannot change his spots, *but* you should see one of our sleight-of-hand experts change a British warm into a Service tunic at 12·00 hours (twelve beats on the gong).

Congratulations to a certain senior officer on his new appointment.

Also to another senior officer on his recent attachment to the new Marine flotilla.

A recruit wishes to know in what part of the Depot the Dragon's cage is concealed and whether in view of the recently disclosed surplus of the fairer sex his ration has been increased?

A COMPANY.

Exciting from start to finish! On Saturday, the day of departure, when the Margate boys paraded at the Drill Hall no passes had been received for our journey to Dibgate. Thanks however to Sgt. Johnson we were able to leave by the 9.45 train.

On arrival at Dibgate the Margate and Ramsgate boys each had a hut to themselves and soon settled down after the first night when one of the recruits got up at 3 a.m. to clean his boots and buttons. But he was soon quietened down. To another was given a " good wash and brush up " the following morning!

On the 14th our Regimental Team played the 4th W. Kents and suffered defeat by 3-2. In this match, Sgt. Richards, late of the Grenadier Guards and now one of the Margate detachment, greatly distinguished himself at back.

On the 15th and 16th we were inspected by Col. Commandant P. M. Robinson, C.B., C.M.G.

# The Tragic Death of Percy.

THE Guest Room at the Depot Mess has been occupied pretty nearly all the last month, but it should have been empty yesterday, as the last guest went away about two weeks ago.

That the door was locked when the last guest had gone, I am certain, because it had been my duty to take an inventory of the furniture and to see that none of the Irish Linen had been substituted for G.S. Sheets and that none of the gold toilet set had been taken in error by the parting guest. I had then closed the door, locked it, and kept the key in my possession.

Imagine my surprise therefore when I took young Floggs along to the Guest Room yesterday and, on opening the door, found that the bed had been recently occupied. I looked round the room to see if anyone were there and saw to my horror a dark figure crouching in the corner of the bed ready to spring at me. I crept forward cautiously and recognised Percy at once. You will all remember Percy who won the Army High Jump last year.

At first I couldn't believe my eyes, as I had no idea that he had been down here, at any rate recently.

" How had he got into the room? " was the first question that flashed across my mind. The window was bolted so he couldn't have got in that way and I am positive he never came in through the door with me. The only conclusion I could draw was that he had come down with our last guest and had been locked in this room for at least two weeks!

" How could he possibly have existed without food for two weeks? " Thus I cogitated. He did not wait for me to ask him for springing at me with one bound he buried his teeth in my ankle.....

I murdered Percy last night after an exciting chase lasting over two hours. The awful deed was done in the small hours of the night. Did I use a revolver? No, there was no noise, and I am certain that I shall not be found out. Nor did I use a stiletto, crowbar, sandbag, poison or any of the usual implements or expedients so often used by murderers. The nails of the forefinger and thumb were sufficient; in fact I think I should have failed in my task had I essayed any other method!

TREADMILL.

**Picture Framing and Art Depot.**
**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
**Canterbury.**
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## THE DRAGON.

*TO meet the wishes of those desirous of keeping a permanent record of their own life of the Regiment and that of the Regiment itself, the following arrangements have been made by us for binding the "1921 Dragons" in stiff blue cloth covers carrying the Regimental Crest in gold outside, and with gold lettering at back.*

THE THREE ALTERNATIVES.

1. Where readers supply us with their own Dragons: 4/- post free.
2. Where the complete set of Dragons published in 1921 is supplied from our office: 10/- post free.

   NOTE.—The number of complete sets is strictly limited, and orders in this instance will be dealt with strictly in rotation as received.
3. Covers only, 2/6 post free.

*ORDERS for any of the above can now be placed with us direct or through our Representatives vide page* 189.

*In the case of 1 or 2, no payment need be made until the end of the year, but where an order for cover only is placed this should be accompanied by a remittance.*

## To Old Buffs.

*THE Association of Past and Present Buffs is open to all those who are serving or have served in a Regular Battalion of The Buffs, and to all those who have served or are serving with a Service, Territorial, or Special Reserve Battalion.*

*If you are not already a member, why not become one now?*

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**The ANNUAL DINNER will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, the 5th October, at the Holborn Restaurant. Tickets 7/6 each from the Hon. Sec., Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.**

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# The 5th Battalion.

BEFORE dealing with Battalion news, one must in duty bound endeavour to enlighten our readers as to the meaning of the unusual elation at Headquarters. Usually one does not go temporarily " balmy ' over a new recruit, nor does one hail him with songs of thanksgiving. Generally the extra graft entailed in establishing him as " one of us " does not appear to warrant the addition in the strength of the Battalion. Still there it is—everyone went literally mad—even Cully and Toby eliminated Rip Van Winkle emerging from his shell. Our recruit was sworn in, medically examined and finally approved in record style and it was the general contention that apart from proving a fine soldier, he would in years to come rival Caruso. In fact the M.O.'s assurance that he possessed abnormal lungs was undoubtedly unnecessary. The R.S.M. was credited with his enrollment and he received numerous congratulations on his achievement. He turned up on one Monday morning unheralded and unshorn—and they decided to call him HENRY ROY. If, patient reader, I have misguided you or occupied too much of your time with unneccessary ravings about a recruit—I apologise, but the sweet fatherly vision of Algy nursing Henry Roy instead of discoursing upon Musketry and Drill, conjured up a picture that would bring tears to us who are acquainted with the effects of a bad liver. No one credited Algy with a love for music, but recently he has been purchasing a few songs amongst which I have noticed " Go to sleep my Baby," " Tramp, tramp, tramp and stop yer bawling " and " I've been worried for a long long time and I get no sleep at nights." Anyhow " here's one of the best " Algie, and all hope that even if his moustache does not rival yours in years to come, he will possess some of your excellent qualities.

Some of us are exceedingly sorry that camp has been cancelled for the battalion, but owing to hopping activities it was found necessary to do so. It is very hard when one does not know exactly how one stands in a Battalion, but that is the unfortunate case with us. Nevertheless the fact that the Battalion will soon meet the fate of a bubble has not seriously effected our morale. We still carry on—enjoy a convivial in the Canteen and endeavour to place a ·393 as near the bull as possible. Talking of Musketry, we are turning out some fine shots. The firing stunts on Sunday mornings are looked forward to with unlimited zeal, particularly amongst the youngsters. For the shots we are still looking for (profound apologies to Hollands), Pope, Theobald and others have shown remarkable consideration for the limited optical propensities of the markers.

According to Jack's bar statistics, the incoming has seriously decreased since the departure of Digger Rose. We are naturally sorry, but the " more for us " saying is very much appreciated. Sammy Mayall of Pay and Mess book fame is up in Town at the Bank of Angleterre, and it is our fervent hope that he does well. We wish him every success that an ex-Quarter bloke richly deserves (vide-my own contention). Our information bureau are busy endeavouring to trace Jack Brann. Probably at the time of writing, he is mingling the sweet vision of Gwendoline with the Hop-poles. Despite his tendancy for mutritive beverages and his exceedingly large understandings, Jack was always a gallant with the fair sex, and his captures in that direction would make Don Juan revolve in his grave, and think twice about the achievements d'amour that are associated with his name. Hookie has gone back to horse and gun-carriage and according to my notes on Guards and how to mount them—I think it best. Hookie possessed a personality on its own, and despite the fact that he was often " temporarily embarrassed," he was a general favourite with us all. Our special enquiry departments have not yet solved the mystery of the stolen table-cloth, but whoever purloined it, he had a " Good-win," and we wish him " Luke." Herbert, or to recall his poultice walloping days, " Cully," has just returned from a " gym " course at the 'Shot—at least a small portion of him has. Although the supposed additional 13 lbs and the fact that he appears " Shorter " has had a serious effect upon his Military bearing, we shall no doubt see him as his proper self as soon as he has completed his latest work on " Hop-consumption."

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HORSMONDEN'S LEAD.

Major E. B. Burns, Commanding D Company, 5th Buffs, is asking each of his N.C.O.'s and men if they will support the *Dragon*, and allow the annual subscription of 6/- to be paid out of their bounties payable at the end of the year. Here is his communication :—

" Every BUFF ought to support his Regimental Paper *The Dragon*. It is an excellent paper and aims at keeping all ranks in touch with one another. It is hoped, in future to make " D " Coy. Notes a feature, and of a personal as well as a military nature.

In order to make it easy for everyone to have the paper you are asked to sign the form below. *The Dragon* will be distributed to you from Coy. Hqrs. each month as soon as received."

Now to this request the Yalding detachment has responded to a man, and news is shortly expected that the great majority, if indeed not all the Company are prepared to do the same.

---

AND THEIR NEWS.

Ever since the dispersal of the Defence Force those of us who are connected with Farming, and there are few of us who are not) have been too busy to devote much time to Territorial Work. However, we have made a good start with our Musketry, and several have completed their Standard Test with satisfactory results. With the end of hop-picking we hope to get going again. We aim at every man in the Company qualifying for his full Bounty for Drills and Musketry before the end of the year.

C.Q.M.S. Cooper has evidently not lost the skill he acquired at Pachmarhi early in the war. He put on nine bulls in ten rounds in the rapid practice when firing his Standard Test. So did Sergt. Hicks. C.S.M. Instr. Potter went one better with ten bulls, but then we expect him to show us how to do it.

Can anyone go through the village of Horsmonden and meet a young man of military age who is not a Territorial Soldier ? We think not.

---

**" Life in a Prisoner of War Camp."**

By SGT. F. W. POTTER, Depot The Buffs.

*The above article, which won our prize for the most interesting account of the experiences of any Buff as a prisoner of war, will appear in the November Dragon.*

## Our Competitions.

ALTHOUGH only six entries were received in the "last line" competition in our September number there are signs that a "competition feature" is not unwelcome. So we continue it in this issue.

RESULTS OF SEPTEMBER COMPETITIONS.

(*a*) Best two last lines to the limerick :—

A man of The Buffs said "Oh My"
As he entered the canteen to buy
A jar of best honey
"I've lost all my money—

Only six entries having been received the money prizes are not awarded, but the senders of the best two, as shown below, have been awarded, respectively, a "Dragon" Multum-in-Parvo Tool Set (see advert. on page 179) and a pair of scissors as consolation prizes.

Lt.-Colonel C. E. Baynes, Ickham, for :—"So me and my bread must go dry"

Mrs. C. E. Baynes, Ickham; for "Oh how my "honey" will cry."

Lt.-Colonel Baynes, by the way, will be remembered by many as one who served with our M.I. Company in the South African War.

(*b*) The prize of 10/6 for "Prisoner of War" article has been awarded to Sgt. Potter, Depot The Buffs. His striking story, received too late for inclusion in this issue, will appear in November.

(*c*) Sgt. Potter also wins the prize for the best suggestion for a competition for October, and to him also has been awarded one of our Tool Sets in place of the money prize, owing to the number of entries received not qualifying for the award of the latter.

COMPETITIONS FOR THIS MONTH.

(*Open to all our readers, ladies included*).

To add variety to this feature, we have decided to discontinue offering cash prizes for our competitions in future and to offer things in kind instead. But in doing so we invite correspondence from our competitors on this decision telling us whether they approve of our action or otherwise. In any case here are our November competitions and the prizes offered.

(1) CIRCULATION COMPETITION.

A knife, razor, or ladies' prize of a pair of scissors will be awarded to the reader who sends in the nearest estimate of the number of October copies of *The Dragon* sent out from this office up to and inclusive of October 22nd. There will also be a Gamage Football Annual as consolation prizes in this competition. Namely two prizes in all.

As a guide we may mention that the number of September *Dragons* sent out, up to and including September 16th, was 2,692.

(2) GOLDEN SENTENCE COMPETITION.

A Gamage Football Annual and two *Dragon* Tool Outfits will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct solutions received of the following :—

"There is a golden sentence in this number and the clue to same is to be found somewhere in this column. It may be here, it may be there, or it may be in the nursery. The solution is simple and so is the clue. When *The Dragon* is opened on publishing day, it is quite possible you may see the sentence at once, or you may continue the search through all our pages for weeks. But remember that the first three correct solutions get the prizes.

(3) AND A THIRD.

A pipe, shaving brush, knife, or pair of scissors is being offered this month for the best suggestion for a competition for November.

*Conditions.*

(1) *All entries must be received in the Dragon office not later than the 20th instant.*

(2) *All our readers, inclusive of ladies, are eligible to enter.*

(3) *No prizes will be awarded in* (1) *or* (3) *unless* 10 *entries at least are received for each.*

(4) *In number* (1) *no competitor can be permitted to send in more than one estimate. And each entry must be accompanied by a statement as to the source from which the sender obtained his or her Dragon.*

(5) *Entries can be made by p.c. or personally at The Dragon office.*

## The Buffs War Memorial.

7TH LIST OF DONATIONS.

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J. CROOKENDEN,
Major.
*Hon. Secretary,*
The Buffs Memorial Fund.

[*Picture Post Cards of the Memorial, or reproductions on fine art paper of the illustration which appeared in our September issue can be had on application to the Editor, price 6d. each, post free.*]


# HISTORY OF THE BUFFS

## 1914-1919

BY

**COLONEL R. S. H. MOODY, C.B.**

(*late the Buffs*).

*The History will include the Services of all Battalions of the Buffs and will contain illustrations and maps, as well as complete lists of all those who lost their lives.*

*The price will not exceed 7/6, and, in order that the Committee may form an idea as to how many copies to order from the Publishers, intending purchasers are asked to give notice of their intention as early as possible to*

MAJOR F. W. TOMLINSON,
Hon. Sec. The Buffs History,
2 Cavendish Square,
London, W. 1.

*Note. Payment will not be required until the History is ready for delivery.*

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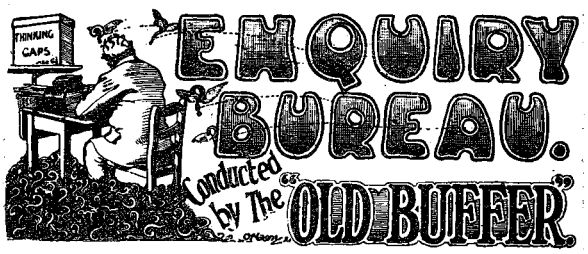


THE opening up of this new feature has brought to the surface the somewhat remarkable fact that the origin and authorship of the Regimental March seems wrapt in mystery, in so far that no authentic evidence seems to be available as to the year in which it was composed, its official title, and as to whether Handel really was the composer or not. This is a matter which *The Dragon* hopes to clear up, and, if any of our readers can help us with authentic answers to the following queries submitted to us, we should be glad to have them for publication.

Who wrote the Regimental March? In what year was it written, and what is its official name? And how did it come to be adopted?

What is the official Regimental slow step? When and by whom was this composed, and how did this come to be adopted?

Is "Wha' wud na' fecht for Charlie" an official march of the Regiment?

### Some Queries Answered.

Will any reader of *The Dragon* knowing the address of the next of kin or friend of the late No. 10681 Pte. A. Hall, "C" Coy. 2nd Bn. The Buffs, kindly forward same to O.C. "C" Coy., 2/The Buffs, who is particularly anxious to get this information.

S.E., (Ashford):—How many direct subscribers through the post have you now got for *The Dragon*?

On the 16th September the number was 405. Our aim is to bring this up to not less than 2,000, and very many thanks for obtaining another 3. We are hoping others will help us in a similar way.

Capt. J. L. (London):—As you have not yet received your M.C. you should apply to the War Office, Investitures Branch (C.2.)

E. S. (Dover):—Are long or short coats to be worn with evening clothes at the Past and Present Dinner?

The dress for this occasion is entirely optional.

L.A. Le. M. (Tonbridge):—On what occasions when in evening dress (tails or dinner jacket) is it correct to wear miniature medals?

(1) At all parties and dinners when members of the Royal Family, as outlined in Army Order 284 of 1920 are present.

(2) At all parties and dinners given in houses of accredited Ambassadors and Ministers.

(3) At all official dinners and receptions including naval and military dinners, dinners of City Livery Companies and public dinners.

Note:—On no occasion are miniature medals worn with dinner jackets. You can not do better than get your miniatures from the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths (see back cover).

J. N. P. (Folkestone):—Has difficulty in obtaining leave of absence to attend the Territorial Camp, and is in doubt as to how he will stand for the Efficiency Medal.

A member of the T.F. who is unable to attend camp, either because the unit does not go to camp or because he cannot obtain further leave consequent on his having served in the Defence Force, will be allowed to count a training in 1921 provided that he performs 50 drills in the year. If he attends camp for 8 days, he may count a training, provided he performs 30 drills in the year. Each day's service in the Defence Force (exclusive of the days of mobilisation and demobilisation) may count as two drills. He must also have fired, during the training year, musketry course, part 1 (or the alternative musketry course provided for men who served in the Defence Force) and have qualified in part 2 of that course. In those arms where a musketry qualification is not required the alternative condition of efficiency will be substituted.

L. P. (Cranbrook):—Does your Enquiry Bureau include queries of all kinds or only those relating to the Regiment and Service Life generally.

We are ready to tackle anything. There is nothing the Buffs can't do, and nothing the Buffs don't know. So buzz it along as when we are defeated ourselves we intend to call in the assistance of our readers. Besides what's the Educational Officer for?

### Can You Help?

Sir,

I shall be very grateful to any reader of the *Dragon* who can supply me with information which will enable me to locate the burial place of my son, the late Lieut. H. A. Oxley, 10th Buffs, killed on the 21st September, 1918. I have been in communication with the Graves Registration Dept., who can only tell me that he was killed in the vicinity of Bullecourt, Nr. St. Quentin, the grave not having been registered. Trusting you will be able to assist me, and thanking you in anticipation

I am,

Yours sincerely,

H. D. Oxley.

82 Empress Avenue,
Ilford.

### Our Competitions.

Sir,

May I suggest a "Circulation Competition" for October, namely prizes to be given to the reader who submits to your office the most accurate estimate of copies sold. This is simple, inexpensive, and requires no deep thinking. Proof that competitor has purchased *Dragon* must be given, such as, for instance:—

"I estimate that the number of *Dragons* sold in October was..... I purchased my *Dragon* through B Company, Depot The Buffs."

Not only would this increase the sale, but give you some idea of who was trying to push the sale of "The Duck."

Depot The Buffs. F. W. P.

[*Adopted vide page——Ed.*]

### Some Helpful Criticisms.

Sir,

May I offer the following suggestions that may be of use to the *Dragon*?

Would not a cheaper paper reduce the cost of production, especially the cover of the *Dragon*?

Would not an issue in a lighter vein be more appreciated—the September issue being very heavy reading?

Is the "Regimental Gazette" of sufficient interest to justify its insertion each month?

Could not a column or page be given over to "Things we want to know." This being humorous paras. from each Battalion and Depot in light vein.

Would not more pictures or sketches make the paper look less heavy?

I do not offer these suggestions in the manner of a fault finder, but purely as an aid to bring the "Duck" to a higher standard by meeting the tastes of all its readers. I trust that they will be accepted as such. Perhaps other readers have better suggestions to offer.

The Depot. F. W. Potter.

[*Many thanks and carefully noted. We hope others will follow up with their views. Ed.*]

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The Society calls attention to their Recessed Marking Golf Balls. They are equal in quality to, and their prices far lower than, the best known balls on the market. Per doz.

The Army and Navy, No. 1, as above, Floating or Heavy ... 23/6
The Army and Navy, No. 1, as above, Black Ring, Small Heavy ... ... ... ... ... ... 23/6
The Army and Navy, No. 2, as above, Green Ring, Floating or Red Ring Heavy ... ... ... ... 18/-

An allowance of 6d. per ball will be made on No. 1 Balls and 3d. per ball on No. 2, provided other new balls are purchased at the time.

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| The PATENT COLONEL, per doz. | 24/- | The SPALDING ... | 36/- |
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| ,, PLUS COLONEL ... ... | 30/- | ,, DUNLOP ... | 34/6 |
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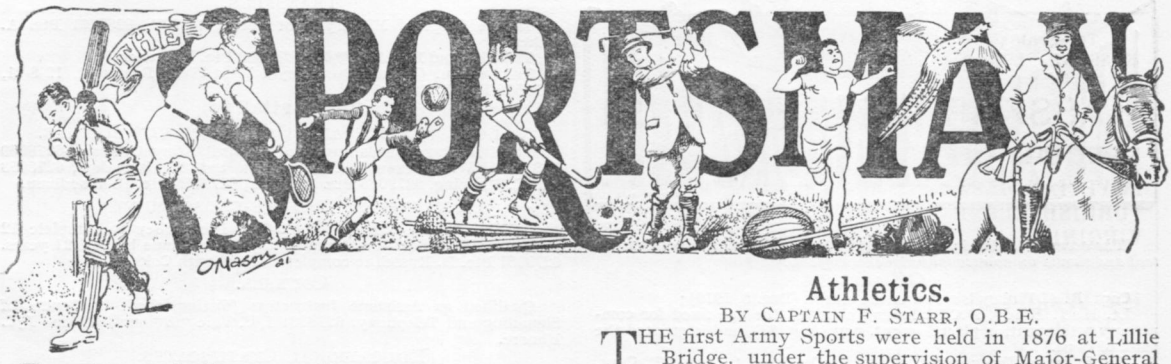
LAWN TENNIS.
The UNIVERSITY L.T. POSTS, complete with net 195/- per set.
The ANCHOR ,, ,, No net ... 132/6 per pair.
NETS suitable for above ... ... 38/3 & 70/- each
MARKERS... ... ... ... 31/-, 36/- & 48/- each

LAWN TENNIS BATS.
The SPECIAL "UN B 10" (unbeaten), A & N make 56/- each
The PARAGON, A & N make ... ... ... 42/- each

LAWN TENNIS A & N BALLS.
AYRE'S CHAMPIONSHIP ... } For Grass ... 26/- per doz.
SLAZENGERS ,, ... } or ... 26/- per doz.
The A & N "UN B 10" (unbeaten), specially recommended ... } Hard Courts ... 24/- per doz.




## Territorial Sports Championship.

THE following information is now to hand of The Territorial Boxing and Association Football Championships. Further particulars can be obtained by those interested on application to the Secretary, The Army Sports Central Board, War Office, Whitehall.

BOXING.

The divisional stage is to be completed by 28th February next and the final on a date to be fixed prior to 31st March. Only serving members of the Territorial Army are eligible to compete, but no member who has boxed as a professional and has not been reinstated as an amateur may compete. Members of the Permanent Staff are ineligible.

The Championships will consist of heavyweights (catch weights); light heavy weights (12st. 7 lbs. and under); middle weights (11st. 7 lbs. and under); welter weights (10st. 7 lbs. and under); light weights 9st. 9lbs. and under); feather weights (9st. and under); bantam weights (8st. 7 lbs. and under); fly weights (8st. and under). These championships are for other ranks only, but an Officers' Championship will be held if there are sufficient entries. All bouts will consist of two rounds of two minutes and one of three minutes. The winner only of each weight in the Divisional stage will compete in the finals. If, however, through some unavoidable reason the winner is not able to do so, the runner up may compete instead.

FOOTBALL.

The Divisional Stage of the Football Championship will be completed by 31st December, 1921; the inter-Divisional by 31st January, 1922, the Northern and Southern by 31st March, 1922; the Final or Championship round to be played on 8th April, 1922: if a draw, replayed on 22nd April. For the season 1921-22 the Final will be played in the South.

The competition will be limited to representative teams from units as follows:—a regiment of Yeomanry; a brigade of Artillery; a battalion of Signals; Divisional Royal Engineers; a battalion of Infantry; an Armoured Car Company; Divisional R.A.S.C., R.A.M.C., R.A.O.C., R.A.V.C., and such other units as may be recommended by Divisional Sports Committees and sanctioned by the Territorial Army Sport Board.

The cup will be competed for annually between 1st October and 30th April. Presentation medals will be given to the winning and losing teams at the end of the final tie.

Members of the Permanent Staff attached to units are eligible to compete for the units to whom they are attached. No man will be eligible to play in any team until he has been attested and finally approved, and any team playing an ineligible man will be disqualified.

**Make certain of obtaining our November issue in which will appear a special article entitled "Training for Athletics."**

## Athletics.

BY CAPTAIN F. STARR, O.B.E.

THE first Army Sports were held in 1876 at Lillie Bridge, under the supervision of Major-General (then Colonel) Hammersley.

The Committee on that occasion were:—Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar (President), Lieut.-General Sir T. Steele, Major-General Hubert, Sir John Astley, Colonel Goodlake, V.C., Colonel Bateson, Col. Fielding, Col. Hammersley; Lieut.-Colonels Massey, Markham, Elphinstone and Baker. Captain Borton (14th Foot) was Hon. Secretary.

On the twenty-first anniversary of the meeting the Army Gymnastic Staff took over the management, Lieut.-Colonel J. S. Napier (Inspector of Gymnasia) was the first A.G.S. Hon. Secretary, while Captain W. Edgeworth Johnson, the heavyweight boxer, was the Hon. Treasurer. At that date (1897) Major-General Hammersley was the only member of the original Committee still sitting.

The first meeting had its origin with a number of Army officers interested in Sport, who sought and obtained the permission of the Duke of Cambridge to hold an all-Army Sports Meeting.

In 1877 the meeting was transferred to Aldershot, where for many years it was held behind All Saints' Church. As recently as 1898 professional timekeepers were engaged. In that year Nat Perry and Tom Burrows (the club-swinger) held the watches.

Nat Perry also laid out the ground on several occasions, but made a disastrous mistake in 1896. Lieut. W. A. de C. King (R.E.) in that year was running in remarkable form, and won the Officers' Half-Mile in 1 min. 53 3/5 secs. By the watch he had beaten the existing world's record. Next day the track was measured, and found to be nearly ten yards short. At the pace he was travelling, had he gone the full distance, he must have beaten the British amateur record of that period. He won the English Amateur Half-Mile Championship in the same year.

## Hints on Goal-Keeping.

(BY AN ARMY ASSOCIATION PLAYER).

(1) Remember you are your side's last hope.
(2) Play for safety and clear the goal at all costs.
(3) Never kick or punch a ball when you can safely pick it up.
(4) Try to get your body in front of the ball, and do not always trust to your hands.
(5) Once you have the ball in your hands, get it up the field at once.
(6) Come to a perfect understanding with your backs.
(7) During a corner kick, always stand at the goal post farther from the kicker. You will then be able to judge the ball's flight more accurately.
(8) Whenever the opposing forwards are clear of the backs it is a good thing to come out of goal a little way, so that the forward will be forced to make a hurried shot or to dribble around; that might possibly give the backs a chance to get behind and cover your goal. Always keep in goal if possible. If the goal keeper makes a mistake it is always noticed by onlookers.

*[The accuracy of the information given in our columns is not guaranteed and should on no account be taken as official.]*

## Officers.

Capt. R. A. Pinhey is restd. to the estabt. (Dec. 8, 1919);

Lt. H. T. Brady, D.C.M. having attained the age fixed for compulsory retirement, is placed on ret. pay (Aug. 27), and is granted the rank of Capt.

The following University Candidate to be Sec. Lt. (Aug. 27), Capt. J. M. Pritchard, O.B.E., from 5th Bn., W. Kent R. (T.F.) (May 22, 1915).

Temp. Capt. A. J. Whitmarsh, D.S.O., M.C., relinquishes his commn. on appt. to a commn. in the Terr. Force (Aug. 10), and retains the rank of Capt.

R.W.A. Lloyd-Jones, 4th The Buffs, T.F., on ceasing to be empld. with the Ind. Ord. Dept. (July 20), relinquishes the temp. rank of Capt.

Lt. R. W. A. Lloyd-Jones is restd. to the T.F., 4th Buffs (July 20).

Appointments.—Lt. E. A. Wooldridge, 2nd Battn. to be Assistant Field Censor. Graded G.S.O. 3, 23-5-21.

Demobilization.—Capt. F. A. Liddell, 5th Buffs, demobilized for repatriation as from 30/8/21.

Promotion.—Lieut. S. J. F. Maiden, Depot The Buffs, to be Captain 16/7/21.

## The Depot.

### Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Granted the Medal with gratuity, 6278062 Sgt. H. Marchant and 312642 Pte. R. Woods.

### Continuance in the Service.

Permitted to continue beyond 21 years 8/9/21, 6280325 Dmr. R. Wise.

### Appointments.

Appointed unpaid recruit Lance-Corporals, No. 6280268 Pte. F. Norton, No. 6281149 Pte. L. Crouch.

### Arrivals.

From 1st Battn., pending repatriation, 6279848 Cpl. A. Kerry.

Rejoined Colours from Sec. "B," Army Reserve, to complete 21 yrs. service, 6278245 Pte. A. Finn. Re-enlisted Canterbury, Pte. C. Parry (late 6279806, The Buffs).

### To Army Reserve.

6278532 Pte. J. Fletcher, 6278428 Sgt. C. Dearing.

### Transfer.

Transferred to Royal Fusiliers, 6280147 Pte. A. F. Clark. Transferred to Ceylon Defence Force, 1/7/21, 7810266 Sgt. C. Prior. To The Buffs from 1st Depot Bn. M.G.C., 7812146 A/Cpl. McLoan G. To The Buffs from M.G.C., 7810123 Pte. A. Marsh.

### Decrease.

Proceeded to 1st Bn. The Buffs, 8/9/21, 7808132 Sgt. Kennedy, 6280899 Pte. Hughes, 6280991 Pte. McNally, 6280894 Pte. Gates, 6280897 Pte. Moore, 6281020 Pte. Haydon, 6280997 Pte. Perry, 6279750 Pte. Williams, 6280521 Pte. Cooper, 7814147 Pte. Loader, 6278022 Pte. White, 6280668 Pte. Norton, 6280892 Pte. Wolfe, 6280893 Pte. Law, 6280898 Pte. Humbles, 6280886 Pte. Olley, 6280533 Pte. Taylor, 6280890 Pte. Holloway, 6280900 Pte. Hogben.

### Recruits.

Pte. A. Barrell, Pte. G. W. Beauchamp, Pte. E. F. Scott, Pte. V. Setterfield, Pte. J. Turner, Boy S. A. Follett, Pte. J. W. Amos, Pte. G. A. Martin, Pte. T. J. Knight (late 213658, The Buffs).

### Discharges.

203222 Pte. P. Baker, 6280083 Pte. A. Twyman, 6281110 Pte. G. Downs, 6279806 L/C. C. Parry, 6278144 Sgt. Holness V.

## 1st Battalion.

### Posting.

Lieutenant C. J. Wood, M.C. joined for duty.

### Increase.

Enlisted at Fermoy, Boy G. Vincent.

### Transfer to Army Reserve.

#### Transferred to Sec. "B" Army Reserve.

6278497 Pte. J. Stafford, 6278713 Pte. W. Vickers, 6278495 Pte. W. Luckham, 6278424 Pte. J. Sage, 6278426 Pte. F. Fane, 6278705 Cpl. E. Warne.

### Appointments.

To be Paid Lance-Corporal, 16-8-21, 6278488 L/C. E. Torre.

To unpaid Lance-Corporals, 6280531 Pte. E. Reed, 6280187 Pte. H. Ayliffe, 732481 Pte. H. Tutt.

### Discharges.

6279461 Pte. C. Apps, 6279886 L/C. R. Peebles, 6279809 Pte. G. E. Baker, 6280306 Pte. F. Turner, 6279844 Pte. A. Burgess, 6279343 Pte. G. Pellett, 6279903 Pte. G. Windsor, 6280286 Pte. J. Johncock, 8279612 Pte. G. H. Evans, 6279864 Pte. T. H. Knott, 6279467 Pte. A. Baker, 6279970 Pte. A. Highwood.

### Transfers.

To the Corps of Military Foot Police, 14/7/21, 6280261 Pte. A. Baker.

To R.H., and R.F.A., 6/9/21, 6280003 Pte. F. Crouch,

To 2nd Bn. Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, 12-8-21, 6278565 Pte. L. Orsler.

## 2nd Battalion.

### Long Service and Good Conduct Medals.

The following awards appeared in April Army Orders:—6278069 R.S.M. A. W. Andrews, D.C.M., 6278049 Sgt. V. Macmahon, 6278053 Pte. C. Manning, 6278055 Pte. J. Smith, 6278068 Pte. H. Woodham.

### Extensions and Re-engagements.

6279009 C.S.M. Simon and 6280395 Pte. Colley to complete 12 years. 6278049 Sgt. MacMahon D Coy. to continue beyond 21 years. 6279051 Pte. D. Russell to complete 7 years with Colours.

### Courses.

Qualified as Assistant Instructors (distinguished) in Course of Signalling and Telephony, 6278531 L/C. Vale "A" and 6279863 L/C. Elmore.

### Educational Certificates.

2nd Class Certificates have recently been obtained by the following: 6279175 Pte. T. Bonette, 6278084 Pte. W. Targett, 6279593 Pte. F. Chivers, 6278951 Pte. J. Pitt, 6280273 Pte. C. Hewitt, 6279723 Pte. J. Pashley, 6278728 L/C. M. Burgess, 6279184 Boy A. Clifton, 6278479 Pte. T. Maplesden, 6279679 Pte. C. Rose, 6280121 L/C. B. Boxall, 6279558 Pte. W. Edwards, 6279431 Pte. W. Smith, 6278552 L/C. F. Sidwell, M.M. 6279626 Pte. B. Pearce, 6279385 Pte. W. Richards, 6279094 Cpl. W. Rodda, 6279553 Pte. H. Scott, 6279308 Pte. H. Shorter, 6280119 Pte. A. Thomas, 6279092 Pte. A. Watling, 6278724 Pte. C. Bradley, 6279870 Pte. R. Castle, 6279355 Pte. T. Copcutt, 7268635 Pte. L. Edwards, 6279947 Pte. R. Coombes, 6278862 Pte. P. Everest, 6279834 Pte. J. Garters, 6279847 Pte. A. Gore, 6279517 Cpl. L. Kemp, 6280466 L/C. Mitchell, 6279041 L/C. W. Beale, 6278760 Pte. C. Skinner, 6278559 Pte. A. Piddock, 6278891 Pte. D. Roberts, 6278911 Pte. F. Roper, 6278690 Pte. W. Shaw, 6279665 Pte. H. Sones, 6278518 Pte. A. Trice, 6278557 Pte. H. Baker, 6278989 Pte. A. Bullimore, 6280136 Pte. W. Comber, 6279561 Pte. A. Dobson, 6279863 L/C. R. Elmore, 6278719 L/C. J. Coombes, 6278963 Pte. A. Fry, 6279578 Cpl. C. Gibbs, 6279749 Pte. H. Heather, 6279143 L/C. Miles, 6279979 L/C. S. Murin, 6278842 Pte. H. Lee, 6279041 L/C. W. Beale.

And 3rd Class Certificates to the following:—6278909 Pte. W. Izard, 6279070 L/C. F. Thomas, 6279059 Pte. A. Downs, 6279333 Pte. T. Pilcher, 6278442 Pte. A. Cooper, 6279429 Pte. V. Crouch, 6279391 L/C. Quinnell, F., 6270277 Pte. G. Crampton, 6278753 L/C. G. Amos, 6279051 Pte. I. Russell, 6278862 Pte. P. Everest, 6279749 Pte. H. Heather, 6278867 Pte. E. Saunders, 6278930 L/C. W. Gullon, 6278851 L/C. Sharpe C., 6278544 Pte. D. Scollard, 6279667 Pte. J. Whitsed, 6278471 Pte. J. Knight, 6279682 Pte. J. Woodley, 6278992 L/C. Edwards 6278720 L/C. H. Hart, 6279884 Pte. A. Pointer, 6279878 L/C. J. Lawry, 6278557 Pte. H. Baker, 6278759 L/C. Gunningham P., 6278546 Cpl. E. Relf, 6278518 Pte. A. Trice, 6278810 Pte. H. Newington.

### Appointments.

As Pioneer Sergt., 6278087 Sgt. A. Goldfinch, D.C.M., 11-7-21.

To be unpaid Lance-Corporals:—6279851 Pte. C. Sharpe, 6279068 Pte. E. Sharsby, 6273828 Pte. C. Wilson, 6278719 Pte. J. Coombes, 6279514 Pte. J. A. Wass, 62780056 Pte. A. Letts, 6278757 Pte. B. Bish, 6278879 Pte. F. Harlow, 6278087 Sgt. A. Goldfinch, D.C.M., 6279939 Pte. Bridges, D.C.M., M.M., 6279753 Pte. J. Sands, 6279456 Pte. P. Pilcher.

## Editorial Note.

*News, personal notes, short sketches, photographs, letters for publication, and drawings are invited from our readers. All communications and MSS. should be sent to the Editor, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury. The Paper is published on the 1st of each month, and copy for insertion in the coming issue should reach the Editor not later than the 14th of the current month. No MSS. or drawings, etc., can be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.*

## Finis—but

WE hope *The Dragon's* articles
Now that we've reached the end,
Will prove a Source of entertain—
Ment as the staff intend.
But there are other articles
To which we'd draw attention
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## Personalia.

CONGRATULATIONS to R.Q.M.S., A. Andrews for the great success of the Annual Dinner of the Association of Past and Present Buffs. No man could have toiled harder, and all will join in thanking him.

In regard to the Association itself, it will be noticed that an enrolment form accompanies this issue. This, we hope, all who are not yet members, but who are eligible, will return filled in to the Hon. Sec.

Next month will be our Christmas Number, and we feel sure that we only have to let the news escape for all our correspondents to rise to the occasion and help us make this number "one of the best."

The sympathy of all will go out to the 2nd Battalion over the delay in their move to Aden. The rumour now is they are not to move till February. And also to the 1st Battalion whose escape is not yet from the Land of Erin.

We extend a welcome to Count Preben Ahlefeldt—Laurvig who has been appointed Danish Minister *vice* the late M. de Grevenkop Castenskiold.

Another old Buff from whom we have heard recently is Mr. W. Ambrose, whose younger son by the way is now serving at The Depot. Mr. Ambrose was with the 1st Battalion in 1883 and later served with the 2nd in Hong Kong, Egypt, and Dover. On discharge he joined the Hastings Borough Police Force and is now a Pensioned Sergeant from that Force after 26 years service. He is now at Maidstone.

Talking of the Zulu campaign we are indebted to Lt.-Col. H. F. Sparrow for sending us a copy of "Six Years with the Colours" by J. C. Ives, late Corpl. of the 2nd Battalion. This gives a most interesting account of his and the Battalion's experiences in this campaign, and later at Penang and Hong-Kong. We look forward to publishing some extracts from this book in a future issue.

Another most interesting publication sent us by Colonel Sparrow is the 1891 "Almanac for the Men of The Buffs." With this we hope to deal more in detail in our Christmas number. In the meantime it is interesting to note that this book, running into some 56 pages, and compiled by Acting Pioneer Sergt. A. H. Baker (now at Enfield), was printed at the Buffs Regimental Printing Press, Dum-Dum, by Pte. F. Hunt and Pte. A. E. Corner.

November 8th being the anniversary of the wreck of the St. Lawrence, we publish the full story of this on another page, and we are glad to be able to amplify it by quoting the following extract taken from the 1891 Almanac already referred to.

"Colonel Pearson and the officers and men of the 2nd Battalion received the approval of H.R.H., the commander-in-chief for their exemplary conduct on this occasion, and Captain Wyld of the Buffs who was despatched on a ride of over sixty miles to Cape Town with intelligence of the disaster, expressly received the approbation of H.R.H. for his energy and endurance."

During the Army Golf Championship Meeting recently held at Sunningdale, Major-Gen. Sir E. G. T. Bainbridge, (18), with a score of 181 net, was runner up in a field of eleven in the competition confined to officers of the rank of General, and for which Gen. The Rt. Hon. Sir A. Paget presents the cup.

General Paget, of course, in spite of his three score years and ten, is one of the best officer golfers we have, and we cannot resist expressing the hope that he, with another officer of the Regiment, may take part in the Regimental Golf Championships of next year.

We hear of Captain Geoffrey Spickernell, late 4th Battalion The Buffs, having been a great success as Secretary of the Golf Club at Aix-les-Bains.

After an exhausting summer of golf, cricket and tennis we are glad to hear that Captain D. A. Wilkins is taking a well-earned rest at Hythe, where he is doing the Lewis Gun and Light Trench Mortar course.

It is likely, if not already decided, that the battalion of the Cameronians, of which Captain L. P. Causton is Adjutant, will shortly be disbanded.

We hear that Captain R. K. Price intends to publish early next year, a record of his collection of early English earthenware. The book will be entitled "Astbury, Whieldon and Ralph Wood Figures and Toby Jugs," and is, we believe, to be published by John Lane.

The reason that prevented Mr. Phillips, our oldest Chelsea Pensioner, from being present at the Past and Present Dinner on the 5th October, was that he was at Netley, where several of the more aged Pensioners had been sent for a short change of air.

After serving a short time on the staff of the Rawalpindi Division, and then at Army Headquarters, Simla, Major M. Beevor has now been established for nearly a year at Meerut on the Headquarter Staff of the United Provinces District; he hopes to come home on leave about next May.

General and Mrs. Hickson are now established in London for a month or two, and hope, in the meantime, to find a flat to settle down in permanently.

Major C. C. Cobbe is up in London for a few weeks undergoing treatment for his shoulder which he injured

some time ago in a motor accident, and which has never completely healed.

Our 8th Battalion Readers will be glad to hear that their old Adjutant and Quartermaster, Captain F. W. Watson, is looking extremely fit and cheery. He is Secretary of the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, Burnham-on-Crouch and finds the work very congenial.

Mr. William Durling (late 7080) who used to be in G Company 2nd Battalion from 1902 to 1910, and was in D Company 1st Battalion during the war, is living at Lewisham. He tells us that, as a result of wounds, his right arm is no use, but fortunately he has got a fairly good job. He had recently seen another old 2nd Battalion friend, Mr. Greenaway, who had shown him his copy of *The Dragon*.

Congratulations to Smudger Smith, our Representative at Lydd, on winning a £30 prize in an *Answers* Competition.

We hear that, thanks to the enterprise of Mrs. E. H. Finch Hatton, dancing under the direction of Mr. Louis d' Egville, the well known dancing master, is to take place during the winter months at the County Hotel, Canterbury, The earlier part of the afternoon is to be devoted to children, whilst later an opportunity will be given to others to become *an fait* with the very latest in modern ball room dancing. Mrs. Finch-Hatton, whose address is, The Court, Bishopsbourne, will be glad to give anyone interested, full particulars.

Congratulations to " Peggy " Marchant on passing the Civil Service Exam. for Ex-Soldiers, and good luck to him in his forthcoming appointment.

Mr. Laurie who was Pioneer Sergt. in one of our Service Battalions during the War can be found in Littlebourne flourishing at his trade. An advertisement from him appears in this issue.

A recent visitor to our offices has been Mr. H. Green accompanied by Mrs. Green. Mr. Green enlisted in 80, served with the 1st Battalion, and ended up his soldiering days as a drill instructor at The Depot. Now living down Plumstead way he tells us he is in touch with many old Buffs amongst whom are Sgt.-Major J. Cook, C. Sgt. Graham, C.-Sgt. Desland, and Mr. Dundas.

We hear that Major-General C. F. Romer, C.B., C.M.G., is to be Director of Staff Duties at the War Office, from January 1st, 1922, vice Major-General Sir A. L. Lynden-Bell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., who will then vacate that appointment on completion of his four years tenure.

In the retirement of Major W. R. Stainforth, D.C.M. from the service, another old landmark has been removed. Joining the Regiment somewhere about the beginning of 1885, he had over 36 years continuous service, when that bogey—we all dread—" age limit " removed him from our midst.

Major Stainforth went to Aldershot in 1919 as Camp Quarter-Master from whence he retired in September last. With the exception of this short break all his service has been spent in The Buffs, and he formed a " connecting file " between the old and present day Buff. He will be greatly missed by all of us, and we wish him the best of luck.

We hear that it is unlikely that the War History of the Buffs will be published before next Easter. The reason for this is that every Chapter is being submitted to the different commanding officers of all ten Battalions and this naturally must take some time. It is still hoped that those wishing copies will place their orders in advance, vide the announcement on page 214.

## Regimental Notabilities.

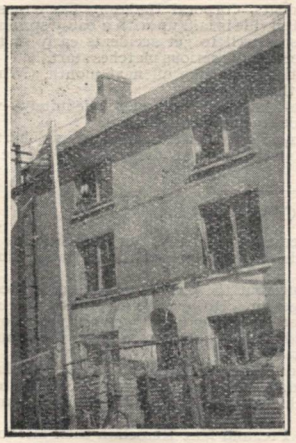
**C.S.M. S. J. PIGOTT (Depot),**
*(" 5981 Boy Pigott).*

Enlisted as a boy at Brighton 1/8/99. Joined 1st Bn. Kamptee Semptember 1899; appointed Band Sgt. 1st Bn. 5/6/08; to 2nd Bn. India, February, 1913; Band Sgt. 2nd Bn. Apr., '13 (thus having the unique experience of being Band Sgt. to both Bns.) To B.E.F. France, January, 1915, and returned to U.K., February 1919. Has played with the band continuously throughout his service. Now i/c weapon training at the Depot.

*At making " scores " and playing them Shreeve Pigott takes the bun,*
*He's a master hand at making a " bull " too,*
*And when the people gather for a little bit of fun,*
*If he's present, 'tis a sure thing they'll " pull through."*

**When writing to your friends and relations remember Dragon Envelopes increase the Circulation.**

# The 1st Battalion.



THE DUNGARVON BILLET.

THE morning of Sunday, October, 9th, found all available officers of the Battalion engaged in a shooting match at Kilworth, with four very brave ladies as spectators, brave, indeed, to face such a damp morning. Practices were fired at two, three and five hundred, and the totaling of scores revealed that Capt. Thomson had most points to his credit, followed by Lieut.-Col. Lucas. Lt. Cass, who is to be congratulated on his aggregate during Classification — the highest individual aggregate in the Battalion—was third.

THE DRAFT.

Dear Friends of the 2nd Battalion, list to our tale. We rushed through classification; we were medically inspected; we were ready in every respect; we sat down to a farewell supper; we listened to Mr. Kimm and his concert party; we were aglow with thoughts of leave, and then Aden.

But the blow fell—and we returned, most of us, to Kilworth and its mud.

" The Colonel said " Good-bye! Good Luck! "
And Crumpy answered " Chaps!
A Hearty Cheer! We'll go next year! "
And echo answered " P'raps! "

IN A FEW LINES.

Major Guy Lee, D.S.O., M.C., has rejoined us and has taken over command of " B " Company. We welcome him to our midst and trust that his days will be happy.

Greetings also to 2/Lt. G. F. Crozier who has just come to us from Sandhurst; and by the time these notes appear in print Lts. T. R. Reid, M.C. and J. M. Pritchard, O.B.E. will have come along to dwell in our tents.

Our inset illustration this month depicts, as you see The Buffs billet at Dungarven. Now of all the —— Yes dear, I know, but——(*the Lady Editress.*)

What a perfect mirage Shorncliffe appears to be!

Yet another Rumour has reached Fermoy:—
" Not ours to spend in Shorncliffe Camp
A Christmas Bright and Merry,
But we *may* quaff the wassail bowl
With friends in————."

[*Editor's Note.* " *There is no prize for the Missing Word.* *For Competitions turn to page* 231]

AN A.1. ENTERTAINMENT.

During the evening of the 19th September we witnessed a very successful entertainment given by members of the regiment, organised by 2/Lieutenant Kimm, our versatile E.O. In describing a performance of this sort it is usual to say: when all were so good it would be invidious to draw comparisons "—and then proceed to draw them: but in this case the rule will not be followed.

The band opened the show with a good selection, which helped to work the audience up to the proper pitch of expectation and contentment.

Mr. Kimm opened the vocal part of the entertainment with a delightful little song called " Feather your nest." This may not be new, but we, in these outlandish parts, had not heard it before, and would very much like to hear it again.

Then L/Cpl. Meakin and our battalion " funny man," Bdm. Moss, gave a turn which caused roars of laughter. Bdm. Moss added much to the gaiety of the proceedings by wearing his heart displayed in an unusual place. To have one's heart on one's sleeve, or in one's book or throat is common enough according to cheap novelists, but *he* thought of quite an original spot.

Moss livened the proceedings at intervals during the course of the evening.

Drummer Brothers, attired in weird and comic garments, told us all about Paddy McGinty's goat ably assisted by the sagacious quadruped itself. The goat did not appear to be in the slightest bit awestruck by making its debut before so distinguished a gathering, and proceeded to fill in time, and its own stomach, by gobbling up the decorations.

Bn. Frayken gave an excellent rendering of " Lucy long " on his bassoon. He was closely followed by Master Robert McDouall who told us a harrowing tale of a man who lost his one and only precious hair, of which he had taken so much care, in the soup.

After that the band had another innings with " A Musical Switch." It was quite exciting trying to remember the name of the tune before it switched to the next. It's like a sort of musical mental musketry, three seconds exposure. An excellent game for a wet evening!

Sergeant Emery followed with that well-known song called " City of Laughter and Tears." And very well he sung it, too.

Sergeant Burt recited with considerable pathos that held us all thrilled—" The Whitest Man I know."

Then Pte. Snelling gave us his step dance. This is an ever popular item, and never fails to bring the house down. No concert would be complete without Snelling's turn.

A feature that has previously been lacking in our concerts has been the presence of the fair sex upon the stage. But on this occasion it was a pleasure to see this want being filled by Miss Elvin, who appeared with L/Cpl. Meakin in a duologue entitled " I've got everything I want but you." Miss Elvin sustained her role cleverly and with much charm. We were delighted to see her appearing again later in the performance.

The last item was a sketch called " A Gramophone—an excellent bit of fooling given by Bdn. Moss, Brothers and Co.

The programme is not appended for two reasons—(1) Space does not admit. (2) Only the performers themselves ever read it—and all their names have already been mentioned.

THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

Another quiet month, owing, no doubt, to so many being at Kilworth with " C " Company and the " Casuals." One very pleasant event has been the revival of the annual shoot for the G.C.B. and Hamilton Cups, which has been held since pre-war days; and decided to count the aggregate scores for our Monthly Spoon Shoot.

A good number of members with their wives and families were present from Fermoy, and were very nicely entertained at the Kilworth Mess. The weather was not quite ideal for shooting, which, if not excellent, was very close. The winner of the G.C.B. Cup was C.S.M. Barrell, D.C.M. and of the Hamilton Cup, Sgt. Denny both of " C " Company. In the aggregate scores for the Spoon, R.S.M. Martin was top with 68, but having to pay the penalty of previous wins, the Silver Spoon was won by

**The 1st Battalion**—*continued.*

Sgt. Denny, who therefore brought off a " double." " Waxy " obliged with the " Wooden Un " and is happy at last.

A thoroughly enjoyable day was spent, and it is hoped that it is only a forerunner of a good many more.

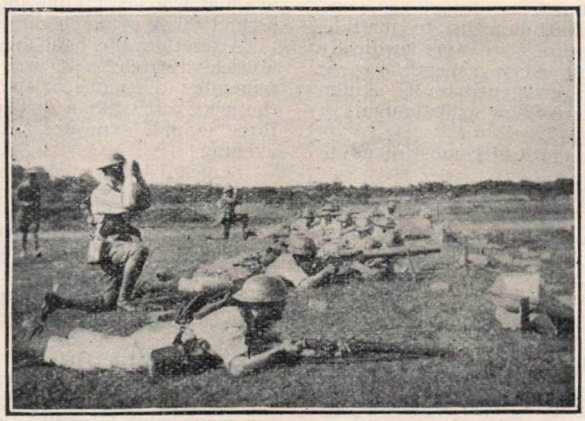
Another of our members has joined the ranks of the Benedicts, and has the heartiest congratulations of all the Mess. Good luck, Mick !

With the long winter evenings approaching, it is hoped to revive the weekly social evening, (or jazz). Also our billiard table has been re-covered, so probably a tournament will be held as soon as the Kilworth party return.

THE CORPORALS.

It is with a worried look that I proceed to pen a few notes for this month, as the Mess has been rather Topsy Turvy owing to most of the Members being away at Kilworth, learning how many points it requires to make a Marksman or Bung Shot, but with musketry finished this week we hope to throw open the door of the Mess and keep it open.

We have started to run Socials in the Mess on Sunday nights and so far they have met with great success. The only drawback is that our members are very shy until about 8 o'clock (the bar opens at 6 o'clock). Then everyone wishes to sing at once, but there ! Why worry ? We are a happy crew ! Whilst at Kilworth we have twice met and defeated the Corporals of the 1st Queens. The first match we won by 4-3, the second by 2-1. Not bad for a start but wait till we get going properly. A spectator was heard to remark after our first match that we need only to play one man in our team if that one man was " Ding Dong Bell," as he has a habit of tackling the man if he cannot tackle the ball.



ON THE KILWORTH RANGE.

A slight stir was caused a few days ago, when an Indian draft was warned to be ready to move in a terrific hurry. But it turned out to be a rush of " Arabian Wind " after all. After the Regiment had provided each and all with a good supper, followed by an equally good concert the move was postponed. Gloomy faces and regimental moans were the order of the day as all were eager to get a big hat and see the big boat, but perhaps we shall all do so later.

We are pleased to welcome the Corporals that arrived from the Depot recently.

We thank the Corporals of the Depot for their good wishes and we are sure that we shall have some good times together when we reach England.

BUNNY.

A COMPANY.

Owing to pressure of work at Kilworth we are sorry to say that no notes were forthcoming last month. Our only excuse is that anyway our labours were not in vain, for once more " A " Coy. tops the list in shooting averages with 125. A horrible rumour states that our casuals have brought this down a point or two ; however, even so we have managed to retain our position.

Sgt. Truby has our congratulations on being Company Shot. Pte. Wellard gave him a very close run for it.

We welcome 2/Lieut. Crozier to the company, having joined us from the R.M.C. He has taken over the management of football in the company, and judging by what we have seen of the team so far, we dare to predict a successful season barring accidents. So far we have been unlucky with accidents, Corporal Hadaway has a nasty injury from a kick, while Sgt. Burville is laid up with a badly sprained ankle. However perhaps it is as well to get accidents early in the season and recover from them before the serious matches start.

A Brigade boxing competition is coming off next month. What about it, the " young idea " in the Company ?

We are pleased that the draft has been postponed indefinitely—we would have lost many old friends, and we want them all.

Lieut. Essell went to Shorncliffe for an education course shortly after our return to Fermoy. Rumour has it he doesn't find life there so " Healthy " as at Kilworth.

B COMPANY.

Once again we are together as a company, our detachments at Dungarvan and Castletownroche having rejoined the Battalion since our last notes appeared.

Football is now in full swing, but the company have so far been unable to get their full team together. However we have been practicing hard, both at Fermoy and on detachment, and we eventually hope to put together a very useful side, which ought to go far in the annual Company football Competition.

The following have left us during the month in favour of civilian life :—Ptes. Doughty, Hubbard, and Spicer time expired, and Ptes. Ballard, Dugard, Barnes, Gatehouse, Woodcock, Mills, H., and Byatt. Good luck to them all.

Our deep sympathy goes to Pte. and Mrs. Russell in their late loss and we hope that Mrs. Russell is now well on the way to recovery.

Congratulations to L/C. and Mrs. Willis on the birth of a son on July 12th. We apologise for the lateness of our congratulations. However " Better late than never " as the saying is.

" B " COY. AT DUNGARVON.

On September 5th, the long expected detachment at Dungarvan became a reality, and we took over from " C " Company. We found plenty to keep us occupied.

We learnt about the Growth of Canada, how the better to handle our Lewis Guns. We bathed, played football against the Marines at Ballinaconsty and the York and Lancs, and though they both proved too good for us, we had some good games. And we watched the antics of the *I.R.A.* officers as they shewed off their new uniforms.

The whole detachment will agree that the way Sgt. Acres, nobly supported by Messrs. Killick and Hogben fed them was excellent. Our thanks go out to him ; and also to Sgt. Bennett for the " Gym." erected in the yard which helped to while away spare time.

Although our stay was too short to allow a proposed Concert to become an established fact we have since heard that the citizens of Dungarvan missed the harmonies arising from No. 4 Church Street.

On October 1st, early, an officer was urgently required on the telephone. One went expecting to hear that the D.O.R.E. would send one pound of nails by the " Rosslane " But no, a voice the other end murmured " You will evacuate immediately. ! ! "

We did. The Barrack Officer, the Lands Officer, the *D.O.R.E.* and assistant, the civil engineer, and the solicitor, all came to assess the damages in the billet. They got in each other's and our way quite impartially, but all agreed that they'd never seen men work like it.

With the help of the *R.I.C.* Cross-leys, very kindly lent by Captain Sheehan, we caught the 18.14 train but by a short head amidst loud acclamations and returned to H.Q. with mixed feelings of pleasure and regret.

VALE DUNGARVAN.

C COMPANY.

Now that our Dungarvan detachment has returned to Fermoy, we hope for a more interesting time. On September 16th we proceeded for our annual Musketry course to Kilworth Ranges, where luckily, we had fairly good weather up to the close of the Classification.

The Company, on the whole, did fairly well, and some individuals exceptionally well, especially the renowned " Footokus." Oh ! it was a scream to see his face, when he saw his target after firing his 10 Rounds (advancing up the range). He got a score of 37 and when told, he said " No," " Yes," then threw his arms in the air exclaiming " I've got the Guns. This was a much better performance than last year, as he only just managed a second.

Whilst in camp we turned out a football team and beat A Company Queen's Royal Regiment, 4-3, and we hope to make a good show in the Regimental Leagues on our return to Fermoy. We extend a welcome to the two drafts of recruits from the Depot, amongst whom are one or two promising young sports, especially in the boxing line.

And as we are a couple deficient in our company team, no doubt Manders, Williams and Leader will prove valuable to us this season, also perhaps to the regimental team where there are also a couple of vacancies.

C Company, although not being able to produce the best shot in the Battalion, during the annual course, did manage to pull off the events in the Sergeants Shoot, vide the notes for the Sergeants' Mess.

### D COMPANY.

At the time of writing, the majority of the company are still at Kilworth, where great consternation was caused in "The camp" when the news of "A draft for Aden" arrived. Many were happy indeed, when they came to Fermoy on the Sunday afternoon but they were doomed to disappointment, when, on the Tuesday morning they were sent back again. "Wouldn't mind if we were going to Dungarvan but *Kilworth*!" was the helpful remark of someone. Meanwhile the draft is still postponed—indefinitely.

We've made a start with that "greatest of all games" Football. On Saturday, a "Scratch Team" was picked from those here to play B Company, to whom we lost 5-1. However, we hope to give them a better game next time. "Joe" playing left back—highly amused players and spectators alike by turning a series of somersaults over the ball. Whether he had previously been sampling "Kelly's black" or has firm intention of becoming a contortionist we have not yet heard. We were very sorry to hear that Waxy (Sgt. Holmes) won the Wooden Spoon at the Sgts. Monthly Shoot.

Congratulations to Bdm. Lewis on being Band and also Company Shot.

C. H.

### THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW.

The "right" method of putting personal prejudices aside ?
Is there an Editress who is *not* a Lady ?
Are not the October Home Hints Handy ?
And how many have tried the trick with bent hair-pin on the "chimmey ?"
Did the "class" crack ?
Did the "chimmey shake ?"
Is the "Hint referred to the "Golden Sentence ?"
Would not Bandsman M.....S be useful at the Firing Point next year ?
When are we going to—(*Editor*—"*That's quite enough, thank you.*")
Which entrance to the barrel do the flies and wasps use ?
Does the caterer know ?
And if he *must* drown them, can't he do so in water instead of stout ?
Is Joe serving an apprenticeship to the N.A.A.F.I. ?
Is Bunny's kit enjoying itself on leave ?

### AND THE OLD, OLD STORY.

The Colonel said he fancied that,
Within a month or so,
The Regiment would probably
Across to England go.....

The Major said that he had heard,
From someone in the know,
The Regiment undoubtedly,
To England was to go.....

The Adjutant.....smiled.
"Ah now," quoth he, "I'll tell it you in brief :
Within a week or so.....the wild.....
Irish Shores we leave."

The R.S.M., who nodded slowly,
Helped the news to leak,
"We're going back to Blighty,
For Certain.....this week ;".....

The Orderly Sergeant flashed the news,
Down to the Sergeants' Mess.
"We leave for England in two days,.....
Or sooner.....p'raps.....I guess."

The Sergeants deftly told their men
To fling away their sorrow.
"The Regiment will move across
To Shorncliffe,...To-morrow."

But then to-morrow never comes ;
Like Asquith's "Wait and See."
The Regiment will likely stay
Till.....1993 !.....

S. M. W.

**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
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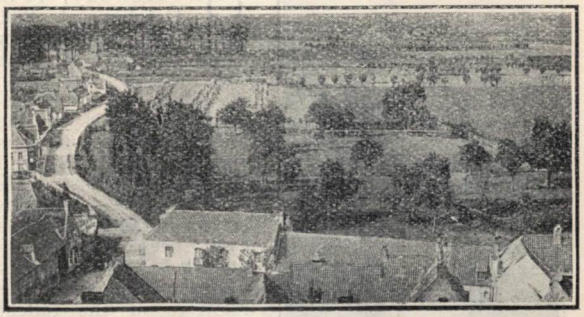
**Tel. 21 X.**

## Radinghem.



Whilst in the midst of preparing this number of *The Dragon*, we were reminded that October 18th was the anniversary of the capture of Radinghem by the 1st Battalion in 1914. The publication of the above photograph is therefore timely, showing as it does the actual ground over which the 1st Battalion fought in that memorable engagement which, it will be remembered, was their first after leaving the Aisne in September, 1914.

## Classical Colloquialisms.

(*With acknowledgements and thanks to Punch*).

[The Secretary of the Imperial War Museum is collecting curious phrases that were a feature of the soldiers' vocabulary during the War. We are happy to render him some slight assistance in his labours.]

**"——this——War!"**

A well-known expression in frequent use among the lower ranks, to whom the advantages of Armageddon were less apparent than to those who were born with, had achieved, or found thrust upon them a Staff appointment.

It was probably intended to convey a general disapproval of the principles of warfare and was occasioned no doubt, by some minor hardship, such as Plum and Apple disease or Maconochie rash, that could be directly attributed to military service.

**"Where the——d'yer think yer——well going to?"**

Another familiar colloquialism of more definite application. The conveyance of munitions, water and provisions along the lines of communication were richly productive of remarks of this nature, and the expression was in common use amongst both lorry drivers and their victims.

It is thought to have been intended not so much as a genuine inquiry regarding the destination of the person addressed as a frankly expressed opinion of his general capability of directing his progress in a satisfactory manner.

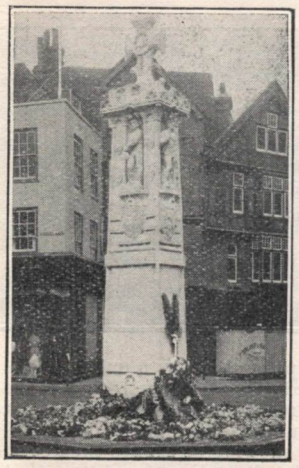
**"Some say—Good old Sergeant."**

This trite remark, found to have been accorded no small measure of popularity in the Line regiments, is refreshingly free from terms or epithets in any sense indelicate.

Merely as a good-natured appreciation of the old sergeant—a figure-head of discipline—it is typical of the spirit of willing subordination that distinguished the private soldier.

Neither should the inference of the word "*Some*" be overlooked, pointing as it does to the fact that the comparatively modest eulogy of "Good old sergeant" is only representative of many pretty little compliments that were freely showered on these popular N.C.O.'s.

# Canterbury War Memorial Unveiled.



THE CANTERBURY WAR MEMORIAL.

ON Monday, 10th October, at 2.30 p.m., the Canterbury War Memorial was unveiled by Earl Haig.

The Memorial Service, conducted by the Dean of Canterbury was singularly dignified and impressive, whilst it is probable that no religious service in Canterbury has ever been so largely attended. Special provision was made for the relatives of the fallen, some four or five hundred of whom were assembled in an enclosure immediately opposite the Memorial. The service was conducted by The Dean, and the Memorial dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

### Earl Haig and The Buffs.

Earl Haig in his notable address, when referring to The Buffs, said :—" Certainly you have a right to be proud of your men. On whatever field they fought, " The Buffs " well maintained a reputation that began gloriously at Blenheim and Ramillies, and has gloriously been continued to our own day. It is not easy to pick and choose, but you will remember that it was the 7th Battalion East Kent Regiment—with the 7th West Kents on the sub-sector on their left—that held the forward zone at Vendeuil on the morning of March 21st, 1918, when the great storm of the supreme German attack burst upon the Fifth and Third British Armies.

### " No finer feat of arms

has been performed by any regiment than was achieved by the 7th Buffs on that momentous day.

" When south and north of them the enemy had passed through to our battle zone, and even beyond the garrisons, the 7th ' Buffs ' were still holding out in their forward zone. Throughout a long day of desperate fighting all the enemy's attempts to overwhelm them were beaten off. During the afternoon attacks on battalion headquarters were defeated by whatever troops that could be got together—cooks, pioneers, sanitary men, batmen, and stragglers. Repeated attempts by the enemy to advance from the south and to destroy the garrisons of the forward company headquarters were met with equal resolution and devoted bravery. Messages asking for assistance that, alas, could not be given were received from these companies, until 8.20 that night. Touch was then lost, but until midnight the sound of rifle fire—evidence of the heroic defence and unconquerable resolution of the East Kent men who held them—was heard from the direction of those posts.

" It is to honour such men as these that we have come here this afternoon. May their memory long last among us ; and may the glory that surrounds them, and the pride we feel in them, soften the pain of hearts that mourn for them."

### In Brief.

It is hoped that the names of all those commemorated will be inscribed in the panels which are provided on the sides of the pedestal.

The units lining the main street were " A " Battery, R.F.A. (T), the local detachment of the H.C.F.A. (T.), " B " Company, 4th Buffs, under Capt. H. G. James, the King's School O.T.C., under Capts. Egerton Jones and Quigley, St. Edmund's School O.T.C., under Capt. Johnstone, the Kent College Cadets under Capt. Brownscombe and Lieut. McGillivray, and the Simon Langton School Cadets, under Major Scott and Capt. W. Thomas.

The " Last Post " and " Reveillé " was sounded by buglers of " The Buffs."

Among the many beautiful wreaths placed at the foot of the Memorial were tributes to a large number of Buffs.

Before proceeding to the Guildhall to be presented with the Honorary Freedom of the City, Earl Haig inspected and complimented the Guard of Honour of The Buffs under Major Gould and Lieut. Willows.

Prior to leaving Canterbury, Earl Haig visited the United Services Club, opened up under the auspices of The British Legion in St. Margaret's Street. Here he was officially received by Capt. James of the 4th Battalion, and Lt.-Col. Lang Sims.

In his address to Canterbury Ex-Service men, Earl Haig said : " He wanted to bring home to them what a force they might be in the Empire ; if they could only get together and gain the confidence of their fellow-citizens they would, he should think, be the most powerful organisation of the kind in the whole Empire. But if they were powerful, they had still greater responsibilities, and they must play the game now just as they all played it during the war."

A very excellent and full account of all that took place during Earl Haig's visit will be found in *The Kentish Gazette and Canterbury Press.* of October 15th.

# Colonels of the Buffs.

### (No. 2.)

### Colonel Robert Sidney,

b. 1626—d. 1668.

ROBERT Sidney was the 3rd son of the 2nd Earl of Leicester ; from the age of 17 he was serving, fighting in Holland, and was the faithful and loyal friend of King Charles II. whilst he was in exile. Later on, in 1665, when the bulk of the soldiers who had fought so long in Holland were disbanded (or " cashiered " or " broke " as it was then called) because they refused to forswear allegiance to the land of their birth, and preferred to risk the prospect of poverty and ruin on their return to England, King Charles decided to form them into a regiment under the title of The Holland Regiment ; and it was fitting that their Colonel should be his trusty and well-beloved Robert Sidney who had so often fought at their head across the Channel.

Apart from the distinction of being our first Colonel, Sidney was perhaps better known as a courtier than as a soldier. He was reputed, and there is no doubt that he actually was the father of the Duke of Monmouth, the illegitimate son of Charles the Second by Lucy Waters (Mrs. Barlow). This lady had been living with Sidney, almost up to the time when she became the King's mistress, and her son was born a suspiciously short time after the transfer. As the young Duke grew up, Court gossip was reinforced by the fact that the boy was exactly like Robert Sidney, and he even developed a similar wart on his face. This was, of course, a little awkward ; neither the King nor the Duke of Monmouth could be expected to relish the idea of people nudging each other when all three met at Court or elsewhere. It made the King look rather silly, naturally ; and obviously it suited the Duke of Monmouth to pass as the son of the King rather than of Colonel Sidney. So it was decided that Colonel Sidney must cease coming to Court. However, before any active steps had been put into execution to secure this end, Colonel Sidney died, at the age of 42.

It is interesting to note that the first Colonel of the Regiment was a Kent man, although at that time the Buffs had no official connection with Kent : the Sidneys lived at Penshurst and the present head of the family (Philip Sidney, Lord De L'Isle and Dudley) lives there to-day, and there Robert Sidney was buried.

F. W. T.

**WANTED—The names and addresses of all old Buffs to enable us to send them a Dragon.**

# The 2nd Battalion.

THE making of our Summer camp is now completed with the exception of finishing the walls round the Regimental transport lines—a little job which will take us to the end of next year should it be my fate to be left here until that time. But supposedly we shall soon be slipping off to another station, as rumour has it that we leave for Aden within the next few months. Aden as you know is called "The White Man's Grave" or "No Man's Land of the East," but surely Mesopotamia must have been unknown territory at the time of Aden's christening! In any case there is a deep longing in the hearts of all of us for the time of our move to arrive. When we leave Kirkuk we shall have to travel by a new track of some seventy miles, and whether this will be traversed by motor lorries or "Shanks Pony" is not yet known. Few of us are in love with the latter method of travelling having had all too much of it since we left India. To do the journey by foot means a 3 or 4 days trek with next to no water, in about 2 feet of sand. Whereas the journey by lorry only takes about 8-10 hours to Fabhah and then another 4 hours to Baiji, the remainder being done by rail to Baghdad which means a day in the train.

F. W. R.

### Boxing.

On the 6th August a one Round Feather Weight Competition took place at the camp, and appended below will be found the full results. Ptes. Lay and Collins are to be congratulated on being the winner and runner up respectively. Each put up a really good show and won five out of their six fights respectively.

**Results.**

Pte. Lay (A) beat Pte. Quinn (E Coy.); Pte. Shanley (B) beat Bandsman Mantle; Pte. Collins (E) beat L/C. Wittington (A); Pte. Nales (B) beat Pte. Lay (A); Pte. Shanley (B) beat Pte. Quinn (E); Pte. Collins (E) beat Bandsman Mantle; L/C. Wittington (A) beat Pte. Nales (B); Pte. Lay (A) beat Pte. Shanley (B); Pte. Shanley (B) beat Pte. Nales (B); Pte. Lay (A) W.O. Bandsman Mantle (scratched with damaged wrist); Pte. Collins (E) W.O. Pte. Quinn (E) scratched; L/C. Wittington (A) beat Pte. Shanley (B); Pte. Nales W.O. Bandsman Mantle; Pte. Lay (A) beat Pte. Collins (E); L/C. Wittington (A) W.O. Pte. Quinn (E); Pte. Collins (E) beat Pte. Shanley (B); Pte. Lay (A) beat L/C. Wittington (A); Pte. Nales (B) W.O. Pte. Quinn (E); L/C. Wittington (A) W.O. Bandsman Mantle; Pte. Collins (E) beat Pte. Nales (B);

Pte. Nales (B) 3 points beat Pte. Shanley (B) 3 points for 4th place.

Pte. Lay (A) 5 points beat Pte. Collins (E) 5 points for 1st and 2nd place after a keen fight.

L/C. Wittington (A) and Pte. Nales (B) got 3rd and 4th place respectively.

All the fights throughout the tournament were very stubbornly contested.

In a three round Contest Pte. Smith (B) K.O. Dr. Fowles (D) in the 2nd round with a right hook to the jaw.

### Our Leading Boxers.

Here are some impressions of the leading boxers with the Battalion.

*L/C. Martin* (D Coy. and Band).
Welter Weight Champion of Mesopotamia.

A tough two handed fighter with a kick in both hands and a nice style, Martin ranks equal with L/C. Beal as our best boxer. He has a fair turn of speed and is very clever with his head. L/C. Martin fights because he likes it and if he sticks to the game should stand a very good chance in the Army Championship when he gets home.

*Drummer Petford* (C Coy. and Drums).
Runner up Light Weight Championship of Mesopotamia.

A game fighter with a nice straight left and a rib-bending right. He is quick on his feet but inclined to take risks. He has a good style and like Martin fights for love. If he sticks to it he should do great things in future Army Boxing.

*Cpl. Liston* (A. Coy.)

A natural agressive fighter with a good left hand and a heavy punch. He is a little weak in defence but makes up for this by his ability to take the hardest punishment without turning a hair. Cpl. Liston got into the semi-final of the Indian Light Weight Championship last year and if he can develop a little more speed there is nothing to hold him back from the highest ring honours.

*Pte. Prince* (C Coy.)

A rugged "rough house" mill merchant. Prince fought one of the gamest fights seen during the Baghdad week.

*Pte. Cleak* (E Coy.)

Scaling under 8 stone Cleak makes up for his lack of weight by his gameness and determination in the ring. He is very quick on his feet and for his weight has a useful punch. He used to be a bit inclined to use the open glove but has grown out of it now. He is one of the keenest Members of the "Fancy" in the Battalion.

*Pte. Bowen* (C Coy.)

Bowen although a beginner is a natural boxer and with training will develop a left like a piston rod. He proved last March at Baghdad that he is one of the pluckiest fighters that ever pulled a shirt off.

*Drummer Fowles* (D Coy. and Drums.)

A keen sturdy bantam weight who has come on an awful lot lately. He is beginning to develop a snappy left and his defence has improved a lot since he fought down at Baghdad. He trains hard and will do well.

*Pte. Murphy* (C Coy.)

Murphy has not got much science but as long as he has the strength to stand up he will get you a real tear away fight from gong to gong. He has fought in every competition that has taken place since the Battalion came abroad.

*Bandsman Brookman* (D Coy. and Band.)

Brookman showed great promise when he boxed down at Baghdad. He has in him the makings of a good tough fighter if he sticks to it. Both at Baghdad and since he has shown his willingness to give away any amount of weight for the sake of a fight.

*L/C. Cardoza* (C Coy.)

A speedy boxer with an accurate left and a useful way of tucking his chin out of danger behind his left shoulder. He carries a K.O. in his right glove.

*Pte. Parker* (A Coy.)

A bantam who did well in India. He is quick on his feet and has a fair left but is rather inclined to swing too much with his right. He shapes very well and can punch.

*Pte. Bowman* (A Coy. and Drums.)

Bowman came up with the last draft and at very short notice and practically no training entered for the Baghdad Tournament. In spite of this however he put up an excellent fight and will do well in the future.

*L/C. Windsor* (B Coy.)

When little more than a beginner entered for the Indian Championship at Poona and did extremely well. He has the makings of a good aggressive feather weight.

*Pte. Smith* (B Coy.)

A bantam weight who did well in India. He has a good left hand and is very quick on his feet. Showed great promise at Poona where he won several good fights, but unfortunately we have not seen him in action since.

### The Avant Company.

The Avants, who are they? Never heard of 'em. Ah! that's where you lost Mr. Editor. Evidently you do not study your "Who's who" or your "Financial Times." If you scan the aforementioned papers minutely you must see that the Avant Company is quite a select gathering. Well anyhow a branch has been opened in the 2nd Buffs Sergeants' Mess.

The object of the Company is absolutely philanthropic to brother members. It is really in opposition to the Woodent Company, a branch of which is in existence here also. Of course they are not so strong financially as the Avants. If Avant Goldfinch were to come into the Mess and Avant Deeks were there, Deeks would say to Goldfinch "Have you had a drink yet?" Chippy Goldfinch would say "No I Avant." The result is Chippy has a philanthropic drink. Now look at the difference between us and the Woodents. Woodent Whittingham would say to Woodent Dowse "Will you have a drink Transport wallah?" Transport Wallah must say according to their rules "No I woodent." They keep to their Woodent so much that Dowse went up to the range and won the Wooden Spoon. We Avant won this Spoon.

*(Continued on next page.)*

**The 2nd Battalion**—*continued.*

Now what would you like to be, Mr. Editor ? An Avant or a Wooden't. (*An Avant of course. Ed.*) When we come home we will endeavour to make you an Avant. (*Come quickly. Ed.*) One thing will fail you though. If you do not go 60 inches round the girth you cannot join. (*Biff—or in other words we avant an earthly ! Ed.*) So while we are sojourning at Aden (We Avant gone there yet) you can go in for some kind of training, we advise you to because you will not be able to enter any decent Society without our passwords or signs.

R.S.M. Andrews tried to join us one night last week and he failed. He was quite sorry he failed. Oh ! wait a bit, the passing in test is this. Two brother avants put their Corporations together and the person who is desirous of becoming a member must place his corporation against the other two. Then if there is a hole between the three Corporations large enough for a Stout bottle to pass through, the man who is endeavouring to join fails.

We are having a meeting soon reference the question of honorary members. We may scrape the R.S.M. in under this heading. (Oh ! No, we won't scrape him too much, if we did he would become too thin for an Avant.

We Avant had any beer for quite a long time but our Brigade Commander, Col. Trevor, has put in a word for the Avants, so we Avant to wait very much longer now.

Very sorry but we avant much more time to-night to write any more of the praises of our Company because the lamp is going out. We Avant any more oil. Not even neckoil. Hope you put on some girth by the time we arrive. Be one of us. Say you wooden't be a Woodent.

---

**Heard Recently.**

Avant : (Entering Sergeants' Mess).

" Say Caterer, a bottle of Beer please."

Caterer places beer in front of Avant who doesn't pay—but says : " Sorry Caterer to trouble you, but just remembered the M.O. says I Avant to drink beer —would you mind changing it to a Whisky instead ? "

Caterer takes back the beer and produces whisky.

Avant drinks it and is about to depart.

Caterer : " The money for your whisky please."

Avant : " But, Caterer, I returned the beer for the whisky."

Caterer : " Yes, but you did not pay for the Beer.

Avant : " Certainly not ! I avant had the Beer. I avant to pay for what I avant had.

Yours to a cinder,

A MESPOT AVANT.

---

B COMPANY.

On August 3rd, we beat D Company at football 3-0, and on the 8th A Company with the same result. Our goal scorers in the first match were Pte. Barnes 2, and Pte. Day 1 ; and in the second Pte. Solman, one of the Regimental backs who played centre forward, 2, and Pte. Delves, with a beautiful shot, 1.

In these matches our teams were composed from the following :—

Goal, L/C. Robertson ; Backs, Ptes. Soloman, Meddle and Potter ; Halves, Cpl. Moore, L/C. Richards, and Pte. Dally ; Forwards, L/Cpls. Argent, Lockwood, Randall and Ptes. Barnes, Day, Brown, Beale, Wilton, and Delves.

**Boxing.**

In the Bantam Weights of American Pool Boxing Competitions, Pte. Coughlan was knocked out in two bouts and then retired from the contests, whilst Pte. Fane fought in six fights and won fourth prize. Fane took a lot of punishment and got his left home on his opponents repeatedly.

In the Feather weights Pte. Nales and Pte. Shanley both fought right through the competition and then had to fight each other for fourth place ; Nales winning. Shanley stooped too much and did not take advantage of his height and reach. In the first three fights Shanley was all over his man from the start. Nales went in for body punching chiefly, but left his face unguarded too much, and he finished up with a cut lip.

Pte. W. Smith entered for a 3 round exhibition contest against Pte. Fowles whom he knocked out at the beginning of the second round, with a blow to the jaw. This was quite the best show of the evening and the style of both was fascinating to watch.

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**Personal.**

Congratulations to R.S.M. A. W. Andrews, D.C.M. and Pte. Woodhams on being awarded the Long Service or " Rooty " medal.

Also to 627946 Pte. H. Stroud, 6278744 Pte. W. G. Giles, and 6279365 Pte. E. Marsh on being appointed unpaid Lance-Corporals. And also to the following for gaining 2nd class Certificate of Education :—

6279979 L/C. S. Munn, 6279834 Pte. J. Garters, 6279626 Pte. B. Pearce, 6278891 Pte. D. H. Roberts, 6279308 Pte. H. B. Shorter, 6280119 Pte. A. Thomas.

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C COMPANY.

At the beginning of July a second attempt was made to fire our Annual Course. The cause of the collapse this time was the introduction of the new 1921-22 Course, which necessitated new targets being made. So once again our musketry ceased, and we carried on with Company training instead, for about three weeks.

Apropos of Colonel Body's article and fly catching invention which appeared in the June number, it is as well to note that we have one, and all been issued with " strafers " fly, one. They consist of a square piece of gauze affixed to a wire handle ; truly the invention of either an ingenious or a disordered brain. These deadly weapons have proved very effective in the destruction of a deadly enemy, and are also useful for training the users in swiftness of motion and accuracy of aim.

Other sports have been engaged in as usual. Numerous football matches have been played, but the most exciting of all was when we turned out a " danker " team against A Company, whose team could not claim that nomer. We lost with only one goal scored against us. Our team consisted of Pte. Pointer ; Ptes. Statham and Ayling ; L/C. Canning, Pte. Cartisright ; Pte. W. Butcher ; L/C. Holley, Pte. Conisbee, L/C. Smith, Pte. Coshall and Pte. Rolfe. Pte. Coshall played an excellent game, L/C. Holley got so excited that he gently pushed the opposing back off the field. A week later we again played A Company, this time with a stronger team. It is strange to note that they fared worse than the novices, being beaten by two goals to nil.

On August 7th we turned out two Company teams for Hockey to test some young blood. Pte. Hird is a promising goalie and Hearne should make a good centre half, provided he can get out of that bad habit of stopping the ball with his head.

Our Company Hockey team still retains its reputation of being absolutely indomitable. New players are urgently needed to replace those who are due for discharge early next year. Two other fine players, L/C. Miller and L/C. Mitchell will shortly be leaving us for Poona, and everyone admits that we shall be losing two valuable players.

An Open Boxing Contest is now in progress, based on the America Pool System. It commenced with the Bantams on July 29th, C Company had two entrants, Pte. Mullins and Pte. Coleby who eventually took first place and second places respectively.

**The 2nd Battalion**—*continued.*

D COMPANY.

There have only been two topics of conversation during the last month, one is the move to Aden, and the other the Novices' Boxing Competition.

In the Boxing Competition the entries received in the Company have been most satisfactory, and we hope that next time we write we shall be able to record some successes.

Inter-Platoon Football matches have caused much enthusiasm and amusement, but they have served their purpose; much new talent having been found. Barnes has well earned a trial in goal for the Company, and L/C. Burnett, Trice, Arnold, and Tinnadine, all shaped well.

On August 24th we had a most exciting Hockey match against the Hospital, who beat us rather badly last time we met them. The tables were turned however this time, D Company winning 4-1, although the Hospital lead at half time by one goal to Nil. Goal scorers: Sergt. Coaster (2), Pte. Freeman R. (1), L/C. Dray (1). Team: L/C. Lawry (goal). Pte. Lee, L/C. Pack (backs), Capt. Rice, Lt. Penlington, Pte. Godden (half backs), L/C. Dray, Pte. Freeman R., Sergt. Coaster, Pte. Trice, Pte. Crowley (forwards).

There is no doubt that we were fitter than the Hospital and ran them off their legs in the second half during which we scored all our goals.

Corpl. Faulkner and Pte. Sones have been appointed to the Regimental Institutes Committee, Sones, no doubt because of his skill at getting "buckshee" meals; and Pte. Skinner has gone to Baghdad as Clerk to the Paymaster, so we shall expect to see a "credit" balance now.

The Army Dental Surgeon is paying a flying visit to Kirkuk, but if you want a tooth taken out of your head—what's wrong with the Novices Boxing Competition?

A TALE OF "ASHAI."

*By "One who could do with one!"*

"*Ashai*" is a precious fluid that works wonders, but alas, is seldom seen at Kirkuk. When news of "it's arrival" reaches us, the guard turns out, and the band goes to meet it, colours flying. It arrives at the Regimental Canteen about 12·00 hours, and, although the Canteen does not open before 19·00 hours, at 16·00 hours a queue may be seen from the Counter to the Quartermaster's Stores, all eager to purchase this wonderful liquid at the extraordinary price of Rupees one, annas one, only per bottle.

After lining up for about 4 hours you reach the counter just in time to be too late." I know one man who did this, but was not dismayed. Not a bit of it! He simply about-turned, and marched to the Dry Canteen where he called for a "pop." But once again he was foiled, all the "pops" were sold!

Not to be beaten, he said, with an effort, "Give us a tube of tooth-paste. I'll clean my blooming teeth!" He then lined up ready for the next night's issue! A regular supply is expected in a few days but I expect that will be after "The Buffs" have left! "NIBS."

THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW.

Who is to blame for the Shortage of *Dragons* in the 2nd Battalion?

When we are going to Aden?

Where we shall be at Christmas and

Whether we shall have a better one than we did last year?

Why there is a shortage of "Black and White" in Kirkuk, and

Whether the Quartermaster Sergeants being at Basra are responsible for it?

Who had a grouse and lost it?

# Army Fables.

## The Soldier Who Specialised.

*(With acknowledgements to the Cologne Post.)*

ONCE upon a time there was a young man who had joined the army. And he, like a lot of other young men, he had a preference for a cushy job. Therefore he began to search for one.

Now he was a young man who never permitted himself to be found wanting. In his civilian capacity he had once been a bookmaker's clerk, which profession demanded quickness, both in calculation and, in case of emergency, with the use of his legs.

After giving the position the "once over" he observed that there was only one job worth while for him and that was the fountain head from whence issued all orders. He would attain to the heights of the orderly room.

But how to attain it was the question.

So he did some heavy thinking and calculated he would have to do the wise bird stunt. He obtained a copy of King's Regulations and took a quick survey of the lie of the land.

Then a bright idea struck him. He would show them the depth of his knowledge. He would let them see he was a real eighteen pounder. So he began his campaign by Barrack room debates. He started all kinds of arguments on abstruse questions connected with the Regulations framed for the guidance of the king's soldiers. He led them on and at the crucial moment would quote copiously from little known paragraphs which he had acquired beforehand, thereby pulling off the wise bird stunt and acquiring notoriety for deep knowledge on abstruse questions.

When things were dull in the barrack room he would institute an argument on the case of a Private who had a maiden aunt, an invalid sister, an aged grand-mother and a feeble great-great grandfather dependent on him, as to who took the preference in the Government's allowance benefit scheme, and at the proper moment he would chime in with an air of great knowledge, "It says plainly in Para. xxxviii, sub-para 1a, Section 6c, under the heading "Privates' Dependents' Allowances" that the great-great grandfather should get it as he is likely to be the first to fluff it."

Whereat his hearers would be duly impressed and allow that he was a scorcher on King's Regulations.

Did a fellow soldier seek his advice on a point in the Regulations he always had a quick reply as to one Para. or another. He knew it looked wise, and he knew if he quoted enough it would get them guessing.

He became a regular Fizzer, a high chief of Sub Paras.

He began to gain a reputation, and his knowledge to be noised abroad. What did it matter whether he quoted Paras correctly or not. "Quote, quote, and keep on quoting was his watchword.

What did it matter too that his hand-writing was atrocious. He knew the Adjutant's was worse from the signature on Daily Orders, and he saw that when the two were compared his own efforts looked a work of art in comparison. He was a specialist.

His forte was Paras. He had learnt how to look wise on a little knowledge.

Did they give him a job in the Orderly Room? We'll say not. He went one better. He was made an officer's batman, where his apparent intricate knowledge could be directed into useful channels.

*Moral; If in Life you wish to rise, copy his example and specialise.*

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# Life in a Prisoner of War Camp.

By Sgt. F. W. Potter, Depot The Buffs.

WHEN night closed upon the 22nd March, 1918, it closed also upon the small part I had played, or was ever to play, in the great war of 1914-19, and sent me, with many a thousand more, into the land of a merciless enemy, there, as a prisoner of war, to eat out my heart behind barbed wire.

What a fate! Spared by an enemy to advertise a last and hopeless war loan, forbidden by all laws of decency and of the church to take your own life, denied the fate of an honourable death on the field, to become, for the remainder of the war, a man without a country.

Better to " crawl to yer gun, an' blow out yer brains, an' go to yer gaw'd like a soldier."

After many hard days marching, starved, and broken, a five days' railway journey under the most appalling conditions of 60 men in a railway waggon, the door of which was only opened once in 24 hours, we at length reached " the fatherland." Langensalza was the name of the place where I first tasted of " Kulture." Built on the battle field where in years past the Prussians beat the Saxons, on ground that at the opening of war had been ploughed fields, it was not an inviting place in which to spend three weeks' quarantine.

Housed in large ill-constructed wooden huts, with 250 men in each, having no other sleeping accomodation than the floor, one doubtful blanket and paper shavings, wired in, with sanitary conditions beyond description, that is my memory of my first German camp.

Imagine the life—if you can? At 5 a.m. each morning a bullying guard would bid us rise...and at 10 p.m., in the same manner we were bidden to sleep.

What did we do all day?—nothing.

What did we eat?—almost as much.

What did we talk of?—I cannot tell you.

What did we think of?—only God and ourselves know.

On rising men would fetch up the substitute for coffee and the ration of black bread. Of the former filth 1 pint was allowed for each man. Of the latter, about 4 ozs. Then about noon, 1 pint of soup made of what I cannot say. At 6 o'clock another pint of soup—and that the food of the day. Poor fare for men who had been the finest fed army of the world, who had marched and rode for days on stretch. Little wonder that before a week had passed, many had not the strength to walk the length of the hut, and numbers met—as a welcome friend—death.

After the first meal (?) those strong enough walked about the tiny piece of ground remaining for exercise churning up the mud until the ground was like a pond. Then, when exhausted, returned to the hut to rest, leaving all kind of filth on your blankets as they passed.

About 9 o'clock each morning the hun M.O. would visit us, thereto vaccinate or inoculate, us, in the most unfeeling and brutal manner. Many collapsed during this painful operation, so callous was the manner it was performed. I lost count of the number of times we were done. I only remember the fact that it seemed un-ending. Then, more walking, or rather crawling, or dozing, to recover from the injection. Do you wonder that we forgot how to laugh?

I tell you, men became animals. For days they would not utter a word, or do anything except doze, waking only to fight over the food that was issued to us and, bolting this, would doze again. For little pieces of bread, a couple of potatoes, a few peelings, they bartered watches, rings, their boots, caps, and underclothing, until they had almost nothing left, and resembled a vagabond army baffling description. They were not to blame. Reach down, if you can, to the mental and physical state they had reached, and, if you have understanding, you will pity and wonder how their mental balance remained. It did not in all cases, and many a crazy prisoner " amused " the guard.

Day in and day out, for 3 weeks, such was the life. Locked behind wire, sea's of mud, a wooden hut. Doing nothing, seeing and hearing nothing, fighting over food like animals, among thousands, yet alone, nothing in front of them, what a life!

What kept us going I have often since thought. I cannot say. I only know that we just plodded on like a herd of dumb animals. That is the only description I can offer. When health failed us, we laid down and died, for the so called hospital offered little chance of recovery.

The badly wounded—how did they fare. Ah! Sometimes the screams from the hospital told of amputations with only nature's crude antidote for pain—fainting—to help them. We weighed the chance of recovery by the number of funeral parties passing daily.

Thus was spent my first 3 weeks in captivity in Germany. Three little weeks—so little time—so great a loss. Gone was faith in God, hope in country, and for the time manhood. Three weeks stripped the veneer of civilization from us and exposed the brute. Mentally, it has taken years to recover that three weeks. Physically they can never be recovered.

But after all this I gained—in experience. It has taught me that I have the proud honour to belong to the race on God's earth—the British.

After the end of quarantine, we left for another camp, where, under slightly better conditions, we regained a little of " our true selves."

I have tried to make you see the life—to make you understand. Somehow I think I have failed. Yet, eight hundred words in which to write *such* an experience. —Impossible. I should need more like 80,000.

[*The above article gained our half guinea prize for the best article on the experiences of any Buff as a prisoner of War.*]


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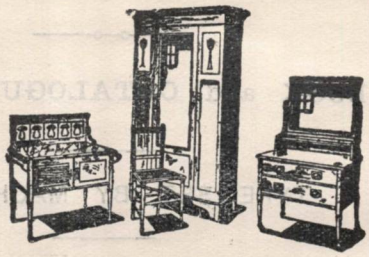

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# The Ladies.

BY THE LADY EDITRESS.

LITTLE JOHN.

LAST month I threw out the hope that I might be able to publish this month another photograph of one of the many Bonny Babies in the Regiment. Well, here he is. "Little John" I have called him, as he is none other than the son of Mrs. John Crookenden. And a very fine, jolly and jovial little John too, and one who has crept right into the hearts of all at The Depot.

Now wild horses won't drag from me how I obtained this photograph for publication. That is *my* secret. But in publishing it I must just say two things. The first is that I must ask Mrs. Crookenden to forgive me—and I am sure she will. And the second is that I am hoping mothers will spare me from having to resort to stealth again! This they can do by sending me spontaneously some photos of their kiddies instead of leaving me to—but I must'nt give my secret away in case—I need'nt say that either, as I now feel you are all going to help me. Please!

OUR PAGE.

Another proof that the Ladies Page is welcome in *The Dragon* is to be found from the following letter received from a reader.

"Seeing a plea by "Eve" in this month's *Dragon* for a ladies' column, and a request that personal opinions on the subject should be sent. As a much interested reader of the *Dragon* I thoroughly endorse "Eve's" idea. I sometimes send the *Dragon* to an old "Buff" in S. America after reading it myself. It is such a breezy refreshing magazine."

(Miss) EDITH J. HARRIS.

Bay End, Victoria Road,
Swanage.

Arising out of this letter I am sure it will interest all to know that in addition to going out to S. America, the Editor tells me he is also sending the *Dragon* to India, S. Africa, Hong Kong, Ceylon, the Continent, and the Strait Settlements. So I am hoping we may soon have some overseas news for publication on this page.

A COMPETITION.

An excellent suggestion for a competition has reached me from Mrs. E. G. Clifton, one of our readers in Liverpool. This is that a prize should be offered for the best knitted article in which the value of the material used does not exceed 7/6, and that all articles submitted should be sold for the benefit of the Buffs Benevolent Fund.

The Editor, having decided to adopt this suggestion vide page 231, am hoping to be able to publish the names of several entries in our Christmas number. The closing date for the receipt of the finished article has been fixed as December 31st of this year, after which date every article submitted will be advertised for sale on this page, and the total proceeds be handed over to the Benevolent Fund. Two prizes will be offered to the value of 15/- and 7/6 respectively, and the winners will be left to select the prizes they would like best.

Talking of competitions, I must congratulate Miss M. Martin, the daughter of Sgt. R. S. Martin of the 1st Battalion on being the first amongst our married families to enter for the *Dragon* competitions vide page 231. Although her suggestion for a competition has not been adopted, the Editor has sent her a consolation prize.

FROM A HOUSEWIFE.

The following letter received from a reader speaks for itself. It contains a suggestion which, perhaps, the Canterbury Gas Company will be able to carry out.

Married Quarters,
Canterbury,

Dear Editress,

May I make a suggestion in your valuable paper? Would it not be possible for each of the Married quarters to have a gas cooker put in, preferably on the penny-in-slot system. It is, of course, a big undertaking, but perhaps were the appropriate authorities approached something might be done. In many of the quarters the only cooking stove available is a coal burner, and is in the living room. And on hot summer days this tends to make the busy housewife's life a very hard one. If the gas stoves could only be put in they would cause endless joy not only to the present occupants of the quarters but those that are to come in the future.

Yours truly,
HOUSEWIFE.

CAN YOU BEAT IT?

It affords me much pleasure to award little Essex Finch Hatton the prize (a Children's Book) for the best child story, to which it will be remembered reference was made last month. Essex, age 4, when shown a Staffordshire Toby Jug immediately burst into verse with the following

"Yes he is Fat and Stout
With is Tummy Sticking out."

This little story will no doubt make a special appeal to Capt. R. K. Price whose collection of Toby Jugs is probably the finest in the country. Another prize is offered this month for the best child story submitted.

HOME HINTS.

Water, celery is boiled in is, so one of my readers tells me, an excellent remedy for children.

Whilst another writes saying that water fish is boiled in is the most excellent and nourishing food for a dog which happens to be below par.

An old india-rubber hot-water bottle makes a useful mat for kneeling on when doing household work or when working in the garden.

A spoon placed in a glass before pouring in hot water, will prevent the glass from cracking.

A raw potato rubbed over brass in damp weather will keep the brass bright.

A safety razor blade can be used to advantage in cutting the stitches in a hem.

Brushing the tops of pies with milk before putting them in the oven improves the flavour.

*NOTE.—Home Hints from my readers will be heartily welcomed.*

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# The Wreck of the S.S. St. Lawrence.

## 2nd Battalion "The Buffs" on Board.

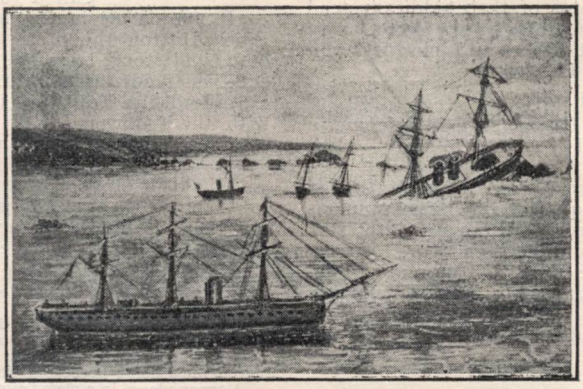
By Captain F. Mitchell, R.E.

JOINING at Canterbury, and finding it to be the Depot of The Buffs, I recall the fact that in my early youth I had been a companion in misfortune with the Regiment. This was when I, as a very diminutive passenger, accompanied it on the ship which carried them to South Africa in 1876 and which was wrecked about 90 miles north of Cape Town. The following are a few details of the incident, which I am able to abstract from records still in possession of my family.

The hired transport S.S. St. Lawrence, commanded by Capt. Hyde, R.N.R., left Dublin on 4th October, 1876, with the following troops: 2nd Battalion, 3rd Buffs, including 14 Officers, 4 ladies, 3 children, 462 N.C.O.'s, and Men, 39 women, and 73 children. Other units, 1 Officer, 10 N.C.O.'s and Men, 5 women and 8 children.

The Officers of the Regiment who were on board were Lieut.-Col. C. K. Pearson, in command, Major H. Parnell, Captains H. D. Hamilton, A. W. H. Gilston, R. A. Hickson, W. H. Wyld, Lieuts. R. J. H. Moody, C. H. Gordon, Sub.-Lieuts. D. F. Lewis, P. Green, H. R. Knight; Adjutant-Lieut. A. C. Jackson; Medical Officer, Surgeon Major H. Walker; Quartermaster, H. G. Morgen.

The principal N.C.O.'s belonging to the Battalion present at the wreck were: Sergt. Major P. Murphy, Army Schoolmaster J. Eccles, Bandmaster R. Sweeny, Q.M.S. T. Groves, Sgt.-Instructor of Musketry T. Warboys, Paymaster-Sergt. J. W. Farley, Orderly Room Clerk Sergt. S. Creeland, Drum-Major P. Gleeson, Band Sergeant. J. Foy, Armourer-Sergeant. W. Wernham, and Colour-Sergeants. H. Flaure, J. Meredith, K. Kerr, H. Bullen, A. Mulholland, Canteen-Sergeant. J. F. Dowling.



The St. Lawrence, which had only been launched 2 years, was 303 feet in length, and developed 230 horse power, and was a good sample of her class in those days. She arrived at St. Vincent on 17th October, 1876, and after leaving there no land was sighted until the time of the wreck. There was plenty of room on board and, the weather on the whole being pretty favourable, the voyage had been a pleasant one.

At noon on Tuesday, November 7th, 1876, the position of the vessel was reckoned to be lat. 31·17 S., long. 16·6 E., and everyone expected to be safely anchored in Table Bay soon after daylight next morning. About 3 a.m., Wednesday, 8th November, the Chief Officer reported land in sight, and the look-out reported something immediately ahead, which at first was taken for boats. A few seconds later, 3.30 a.m., the vessel struck. Desperate attempts were made to get the vessel off by reversal of engines, but she remained stuck fast on the reef, the reef known as the Paternosters adjacent to St. Helena Bay, north of Cape Town.

Everyone was immediately ordered to emergency quarters, the troops fell in, and were as steady as in the immortal instance of the wreck of the "Birkenhead." Armed sentries were posted and the most perfect discipline was observed. Consequently no lives were lost and no accidents occurred. In less than half an hour the women and children started to get away in the boats.

After the women and children had been safely landed the troops filed into the boats taking their equipment, and in a short space of time every soul on board had been landed without difficulty. Provisions were next hastily put ashore while the good weather fortunately prevailing, remained.

Had it been otherwise nothing would have averted a terrible disaster as there was deep water all round the vessel except forward where she struck, and despite the fair weather she settled down by the stern 48 hours later and became a total loss.

Very little of the large quantity of military stores, which included guns and ammunition, or personal effects were saved, although the troops worked incessantly hard while the ship remained above water.

An encampment was made ashore, which was an arid, and desolate part of the coast. Sentries being placed on the outskirts. Poles and sails forming temporary shelter for women and children only, but men of all ranks had to sleep in the open and experienced a night of torrential rain. Nevertheless water was very scarce, being restricted to a pint per day for 5 men. The discomforts were great. It is said that the men had a bronzed and scorched appearance and some suffered peeling off of their skin due to the exposure and the power of the sun.

News of the wreck was taken overland to Cape Town by Captain Wylde who did the journey overland by means of relays of saddle horses, reaching Cape Town in about 9 hours. H. M. S. "Active" from Simons Town and H.M.S. "Spartan" from Cape Town were immediately despatched to the spot although both vessels were under repair and hardly in a fit state to proceed to sea. The "Active" reached the scene of the wreck on Friday and proceeded to take off the women and children. Two companies of the Regiment also left the same evening for Table Bay where they arrived safely three days after the St. Lawrence was due.

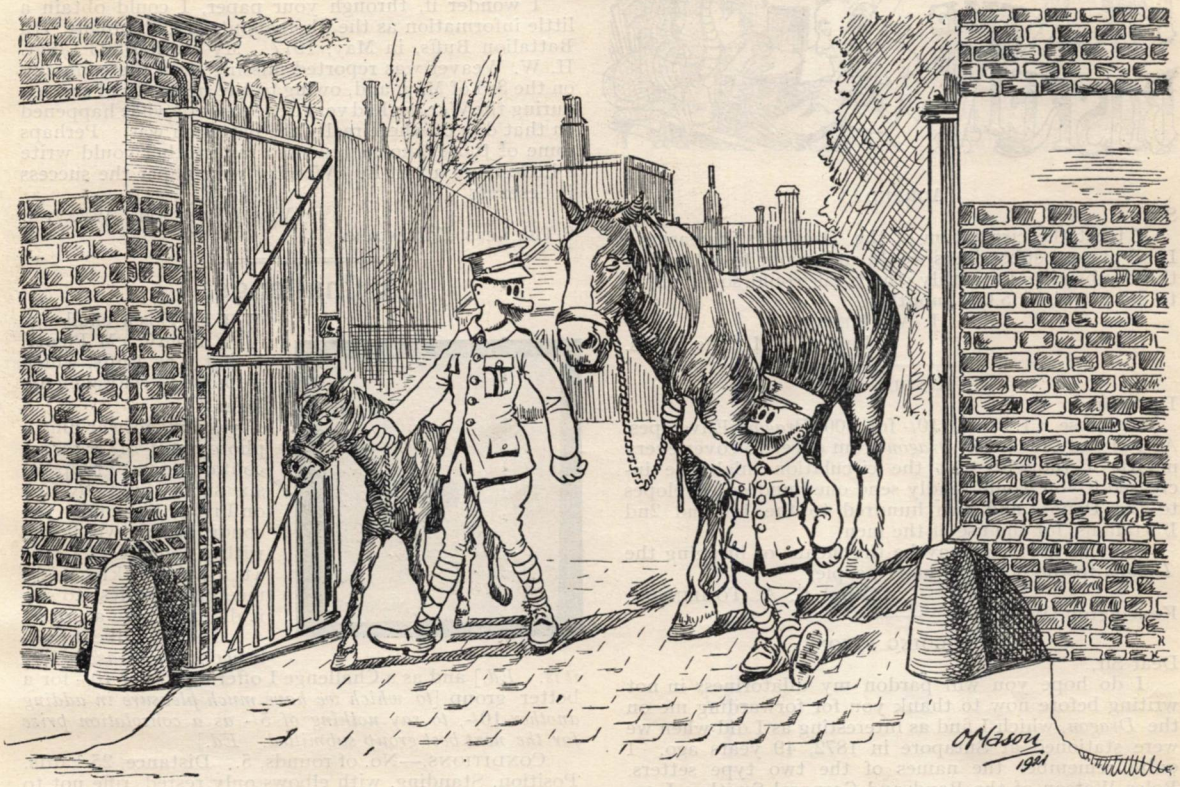
The Spartan put in an appearance as the Active left the wreck and returned to Cape Town the following Sunday with the remainder of the Regiment including the Band and a quantity of baggage.

It is recorded that the men looked in a forlorn and pitiable condition, with faces scorched, uniforms torn and every appearance of having endured considerable suffering, several being unable to walk.

It was recalled at the time that the 1st Battalion The Buffs was wrecked on the south coast of Cape Colony in the "Miles Barton" about ten or eleven years prior to the disaster to the 2nd Battalion. The photographic reproduction of the wreck is from a sketch made on the spot by Capt. R. A Hickson.

**If you would like to have your Dragons bound, see page 226.**

## Mutt and Jeff.




*Mutt and Jeff have now completed their Depot Training, and have been put on the Staff as grooms. Here we see them taking "Love-in-Idleness" and "Furious," the Depot thoroughbreds, out for an airing.*

With apologies to Budd Fisher.

# The Company Quarter-Master Sergeant.

BY PTE. J. B. SPICER, 1ST BATTALION THE BUFFS.

THEY say a Q'M's knowledge
Could fill a book or two,
And what he does'nt really know
Would be—no use to you.

HE'S learnt the most important things,
The lesser kind—you know ;—
Are trivial things, like,—" Birthdays,"
And a " cash advance," or so.

HE knows " your age " and birthday,
Dr—, when your " Granny " died
What " money " home, you'd like to send,
And how much " rent's " behind ?

HOW many pairs of " civvy " boots,
His men would like to buy ?
How many sweethearts want a " ring "
To clinch the " marriage tie."

WHAT Dr. Holmes has charged, to mend,
Your Sister's failing health ?
And " how the Dickens " you can find
Enough, to pay such wealth ?

THAT'S only half the knowledge
That Q'M's brains possess,
They know what's going to happen
Before it gets to " press."

AND long before the world has read
It's early morning paper,
The Q'M knows that Pte. Stead
Has become—a " Pa,"—or " Pater."

HE knows how many " sisters " dear,
Have lost their " Birthday Present,"
And how their brothers, liked the beer
Sold at—" The Gun and Pheasant."

AND so, you see the Q.M. has—
A world of little worries,
His life is not a daily " Jazz "
But one of ceaseless flurries.

BUT he's gentle in his nature
If a man has any sense
But if a chap, just plays the fool,
Well! Look out! Pte. Dense.

AGREED !

Sir,

I trust the circulation of the *Dragon* is increasing ? If all present subscribers would endeavour to get two or three subscribers monthly, the total would soon run up to the required 5,000 monthly.

J. W. KESBY,
Late R.S.M. The Buffs.

A KINDLY ACT.

Dear Sir,

I enclose a P.O. for 10/- for 500 *Dragon* Envelopes. As I already read the *Dragon* from cover to cover every month, I thought that the circulation might be increased if you would kindly send one hundred envelopes to the Depot, and two hundred to the 1st and 2nd Battalions, for the use of the men.

Hoping that this may be the means of bringing the *Dragon* to the notice of more people,

(Miss) C. A. TOMLINSON,

Kensington, W. 8.

STILL GOING STRONG.

Dear Sir,

I do hope you will pardon my dilatoriness in not writing before now to thank you for forwarding me on the *Dragon*, which I find as interesting as I did when we were stationed at Sutapore in 1872, 49 years ago. I quite remember the names of the two type setters. Boles Watson of the Band and Corporal Smith. I am very glad to tell you that I have come across some very familiar names in it, both officers, and men, amongst them being Col. R.A. Hickson, (Capt. Hickson in my time) Reeves, J. W. Colley, Quarter Master, who received his Commission at Sutapore, from Sergeant-Major, Jack Bennell, (Corporals Drill Instructor), and Drummer Paddy France, who joined us at Sutapore in a Draft. I do hope the Battalion may come to England before so very long, so that I may give you a visit. Well do I remember the very pleasant week's holiday I spent at Aldershot 13 years ago when Sergeant Major Cook fixed me up with quarters and I had the great privilege of dining with the Sergeants. My hand is now getting rather shaky for holding a pen, and I want you to be able to make out my writing, so, in conclusion, hoping this may find you in good health as it leaves me fairly well. Believe me dear Sir,

JOHN MOLLINEUX,
Late The Buffs.

P.S.—Enclosed you will find P.O. for 5/- towards the Buffs Memorial Fund, and will subscribe myself an old Buff of over 55 years standing and still *going strong*.

29 Durham Road,
Bolton, Lancashire.

ANOTHER BATTLE HONOUR.

Sir,

With reference to the Battle Honours of the Buffs in August copy of *The Dragon*, may I point out that there was one company of 2/4 and one of 2/5 Buffs attached to 2/4 R. West Kent Regiment at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, August, 1915, and afterwards in Egypt and Palestine.

J. LAURIE.

Littlebourne.

AND AN APPEAL.

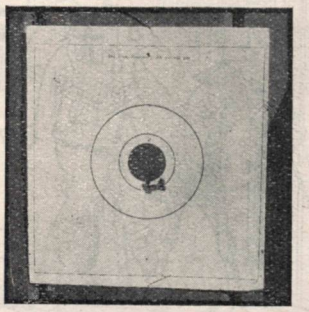
Sir,

I wonder if, through your paper, I could obtain a little information as the whereabouts of C Company, 7th Battalion Buffs, in May, 1917. My brother 803 L/Sgt. H. W. Weaver was reported missing from the company on the 3rd of May, and, owing to the necessity of secrecy during the War, we had very little news of what happened on that day or where really the battalion was. Perhaps some of those who served with my brother could write a little more about it. Wishing your paper the success it deserves

(Miss) ROSE M. WEAVER.

6 The Leas, Folkestone.

## A Challenge.



HERE is a challenge from C.S.M. Pigott, Depot The Buffs, which we hope to see taken up.

Dear Sir,

I am forwarding a photograph of a target containing a group of six shots, fired by me on Friday last under the conditions shown below with a service ·22 rifle at our weekly rifle meeting (needless to say it did not take a prize).

I should like it published in the *Dragon* [*here it is. Ed.*] and as a Challenge I offer a prize of 10/- for a better group [*to which we have much pleasure in adding another* 10/-, *to say nothing of* 5/- *as a consolation prize for the next best group submitted. Ed.*]

CONDITIONS.—No. of rounds, 5. Distance, 25 yards. Position, Standing, with elbows only rested, rifle not to be rested on or against a rest. Rifles :—Service ·22 open sights as issued. Competition closes 31st December, 1921. Editor's decision is final.

Yours faithfully,
TACET.

## The Buffs War Memorial.

EIGHTH LIST OF DONATIONS.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Previously acknowledged ... ... ... | 993 | 8 | 3 |
| J. E. King, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Captain N. D. Rice ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Alison C. Ley ... ... ... ... | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Captain R. Baker ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss A. E. Smart ... ... ... ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| E. B. Backhouse, Esq. ... ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| N. Catchpole, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Captain D. A. Wilkins, M.B.E. ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 2nd Battalion The Buffs ... ... ... | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Colonel G. V. Dauglish ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| N. E. Hoare, Esq. ... ... ... ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| John Muleneux, Esq. ... ... ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Total ... | £1117 | 6 | 3 |

J. CROOKENDEN,
Major,
*Hon. Secretary.*

Canterbury.
15-10-21.

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**Canterbury.**
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# "Beneath Bell Harry."

BY THE MAN WITH THE SQUEEGEE.

THE changes and chances of this mortal life have determined that this page must once more be started by me. Canterbury was forsaken towards the end of August for a month of relaxation and repair after the ravages of an extremely crowded summer. The return when autumn had officially begun was strange, in that summer appeared reluctant to depart, and made its wonderful sun to shine with increased warmth. Those who for exercise savagely kick spherical objects of leather perspired in a most gratifying manner, and the more civilised, inwardly rejoicing, took tennis racquets and adorned themselves in flannels. We almost revived the glories of cricket. In very truth an Indian Summer!

To go to Blean in order that the "Casuals" might fire tables "A" and "B" did not involve, as it might so easily have done, burberries and woollen gloves. The targets danced merrily in the heat and brows were mopped.

With the falling of the leaf (with which has coincided with delicate irony the second blooming of a chestnut outside the Orderly Room) come, like the Christmas Number of magazines, the revival of Education. This does not mean that in the dog days we ceased to improve our minds, but rather that a thing called Vocational Training bursts forth with the longer evenings. We learn French so that when we fight in Europe again we shall not need "The Soldiers' Vade Mecum;" We investigate the mysteries of the Culinary Art and bake cakes surreptitiously in our quarters. We are even about to read "Julius Caesar."

Another War Memorial has been unveiled. This time the Canterbury City Memorial, a Portland Stone Obelisk with allegorical figures of strange carving which has displaced the exquisite lady with the lyre which kept alive in some hearts the memory of Kit Marlowe.

The Depot provided a Guard of Honour to receive Field-Marshall Earl Haig who performed the unveiling ceremony, and due credit must be paid to the smartness of the fifty men, under the command of Major Gould, who composed the Guard.

But the most significant fact that I can record is that the Barrack Square has been worn out by countless marching feet, and, as I write, I can see barrels of tar symmetrically arranged with heaps of gravel over the scene of so many strenuous hours of setting-up-drill. This is something worth considering, and a nice little problem is suggested by a comparison between the cost of boot repaired and the cost of repairing what the boots have so systematically destroyed. But I am afraid that not even a Cost Accountant could cope with it.

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### FAREWELL CONCERT TO GUNNERS.

The Depot Concert Party are to be congratulated on the splendid show put up by them in The Prince of Wales Institute, on the 15th September, and was held to bid farewell to "F" Battery R.H.A. on their departure to Palestine.

The programme opened by the Band, under Sgt. Drummer Clayton, putting a well-filled house on the top of their toes with "Melodyland."

This was followed in turn by Mr. Bert Halliday with "Same to you with the Knobs on," and C.S.M. Pigott with "Because" with obligato Interruptiano by Pte. Woods. Then came Capt. Woods as "Madame Anita Peroxide," an excellent and amusing turn, which was followed by a laughter-making sketch entitled "The Trumpeters" in which Corpl. Collier, Dr. Simpson, and Pte. Woods "beat the band."

The remainder of Part I. was filled by Sergt. Clewer who was very much at home with "All the nice girls;" Pte. Troughton with a delightful rendering of "God sends a gift of roses;" and a highly amusing sketch entitled "Suet Pudding" in which C.S.M. Pigott, Cpl. Woods, and Pte. Woods kept the house rocking with laughter.

Part II. opened with another sketch entitled "Babes in the Wood" by Pte. Woods and C.S.M. O. Mason who was distinctly clever as a lightning artist caricaturing several Depot Notabilities. This was followed by Sgt. Clewer with a selected number, Dr. Baker with "Until," "A Fine House" by Mr. Bert Halliday; and "Golden Sovereigns" by Corpl. Woods, all of which were much enjoyed.

The finale took the form of another amusing sketch entitled "The Test Match" in which C.S.M. Pigott, Cpl. Woods, Cpl. Collier, and Pte. Woods took part. Altogether an excellent and cleverly arranged show, but perhaps just a little too long.

---

### DEPOT LEAD IN FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

The Depot football team, under Corpl. McLean are going great guns, being still undefeated at the time of writing and heading the local league.

The way in which the team has come on reflects the greatest credit to Corpl. McLean, who, without a doubt, is in a class by himself in this district. In every match he is the envy of everyone, so it is hardly surprising that not a few teams are after him. Space does not permit of giving detailed accounts of the matches played, but here are the results up-to-date.

September 17th. In a game played at the Depot and somewhat marred by a strong wind we defeated Herne Bay Athletic 4-0. Our goal scorers were Maclean (a beauty), Jones, and Smith (2). In this match R.S.M. Dare and Sgt. Morgan at back, and L/C. Middleton and Pte. Parry at half showed up particularly well.

The game against the R.H.A. on the Depot ground prior to their departure for Palestine resulted in a tie 2-2. Special interest was vested in this match, as, previously, the R.H.A. had defeated our recruits 2-1, and The Depot Team had beaten The Gunners by 8-2. Here then, so to speak, was the deciding match of a rubber, so enthusiasm ran high amongst players and spectators alike.

On October 8th we defeated Pals United at Little Barton 5-0 in a somewhat one-sided game. Our goal scorers were Pte. Burden 2, Cpl. Maclean 1 (penalty), Sgt. Maillard 1, and L/C. Parry 1 after a splendid run through the whole of the defence.

On October 13th at the Depot we defeated Waverley, 3-0. In this match our opponents had made a special effort to procure the strongest team possible with a view to beating us, but without avail. This was a ding dong struggle, and our goal scorers were McLean (Penalty), Sgt. Maillard, and Pte. Burden.

On October 14th at The Depot we beat the G.P.O. (Engineers) 7-0. The feature of this match was the marksmenship of Pte. Burden who scored 6 of our 7 goals. In this game L/C. Turner was given a trial and showed up well.

On October 15th Herne United went down to us 6-1 in a match in which we were handicapped 10 minutes after the start by having to play 10 men, Sgt. Morgan having twisted his ankle. In this game our goal scorers were Burden (3), and Maillard, Smith, and McLean with one apiece.

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### THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

Little of note calls for publicity this month. The real programme for indoor winter sports and enjoyment is what we might call "in its infancy," but Sergt. Osborne is gradually setting the ball rolling and our anticipations of many happy gatherings will, we are persuaded, be more than realised.

*(Continued on next page.)*

**"Beneath Bell Harry."**—*continued.*

As a send-off, a Crib Tournament is at present in progress, and this will be followed by other Tournaments of every description. The Depot Rifle Meeting is shortly to take place on the Blean Ranges, and the results will be made known later on, naturally, we are all keen that such results shall reflect credit on the Mess generally.

Football Notes will be found elsewhere. Three Mess members (R.S.M. Dare, and Sgts. Morgan and Maillard,) are in the Depot Team. The first-named, though getting older of course as years roll by, is as sound as in his younger days and can still run like the 12th letter of the Alphabet.

We were all delighted to offer C.Q.M.S. Ransley of "A" Company our heartiest congratulations on the birth of a son and heir, and just on sending in these Notes we hear that C.Q.M.S. Spearpoint, (the "B" Coy. bloke) has "met with a similar fate." All power to your elbow, Speary!! We shall keep an eagle eye on the *Weekly Dispatch* for some more delightful prize-winning photographs of "Bonny Buff Babies."

W. M. S.

SERGEANTS' MESS CRICKET AVERAGES.

**Batting.**

| Batsman. | Innings. | Times not out. | Runs. | Most in Innings. | Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R.S.M. Dare ... ... | 12 | 1 | 260 | 45 | 23·6 |
| C.S.M. Couchman ... | 12 | — | 227 | 54 | 18·9 |
| Sergt. Hook ... ... | 9 | 1 | 98 | 59 n.o. | 12·2 |
| Sergt. Morgan ... | 14 | 2 | 114 | 25 n.o. | 9·5 |
| C.S.M. Pigott... ... | 7 | 2 | 45 | 30 | 9 |
| O.R.Sgt. Maillard ... | 14 | — | 120 | 23 | 8·5 |
| C.Q.M.Sgt. Bridgland | 11 | 2 | 73 | 29 n.o. | 8·1 |
| Sergt. Dennis ... | 14 | 1 | 79 | 16 | 6·07 |
| Sgt. Chandler ... | 6 | 3 | 13 | 6 n.o. | 4·3 |
| Sgt.-Dmr. Clayton ... | 10 | 1 | 37 | 10 | 4·1 |
| C.Q.M.Sgt. Ransley ... | 11 | — | 34 | 20 | 3·09 |
| C.Q.M.Sgt. Jones ... | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Sergt. Cox ... ... | 11 | — | 24 | 8 | 2·1 |

**Bowling.**

| Bowler. | Overs. | Maidens | Runs | Wickets | Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sgt.-Dmr. Clayton ... | 2 | — | 13 | 3 | 4·3 |
| Sergt. Dennis ... | 66 | 13 | 235 | 29 | 8·1 |
| R.S.M. Dare ... ... | 40·2 | 3 | 205 | 21 | 9·76 |
| Sergt. Morgan ... | 32·2 | 3 | 136 | 14 | 9·71 |
| C.S.M. Couchman ... | 19·5 | 1 | 104 | 9 | 11·5 |
| O.R.Sgt. Maillard ... | 77·1 | 13 | 349 | 30 | 11·6 |
| Sergt. Hook ... ... | 14 | — | 88 | 7 | 12·5 |
| R.Q.M.S. Andrews ... | 2 | — | 23 | 1 | 23 |
| Sergt. Beasley ... | 11 | 1 | 60 | 1 | 60 |

**Catches.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O.R.Sgt. Maillard | 9 | R.S.M. Dare ... | 6 | C.S.M. Pigott ... | 1 |
| Sgt.-Dmr. Clayton | 8 | Sergt. Morgan ... | 4 | C.Q.M.-Sgt. Jones | 1 |
| C.S.M. Couchman | 7 | Sergt. Beasley ... | 3 | C.Q.M.S. Bridgland | 1 |
| Sergt. Dennis ... | 7 | Sergt. Cox ... | 2 | C.Q.M.S. Ransley | 1 |

**Stumpings.**

Sgt.-Dmr. Clayton—4.

MATCHES PLAYED—13. WON—5. LOST—7. DRAWN—1.

TENNIS—OFFICERS *v.* SERGEANTS.

The Sergeants held a tennis at home on 22nd September, and played the officers at singles and Doubles. Fine weather prevailed and the affair was entirely successful. The Sergeants were, however, quite outclassed, but this may be partly explained by the fact that the cracks of the Sergeants' Mess, Sgt. Beesley and C.S.M. Couchman, were unavoidably absent. A little better luck followed, however, when the Sergeants beat the Officers 5-3 at baseball. The attendance was good, 50 sitting down to tea. Here are the tennis results:—

SINGLES.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Major Crookenden ... | 6 | C.Q.M.S. Jones ... | 0 |
| Capt. Strettell ... | 6 | C.S.M. Pigott ... | 0 |
| Capt. Morley ... ... | 6 | S.-Sgt. Smith ... | 4 |
| Lieut. Willows ... | 6 | Sgt. Hook ... ... | 2 |

DOUBLES.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Major Crookenden<br>Lt. Willows ... | 6 *v.* | S.Sgt. Lacey ...<br>C.Q.M.S. Ransley | 0 |
| Capt. Strettell ...<br>Capt. Morley ... | 6 *v.* | Sgt. Morgan<br>Sgt. Chandlet | ... 1 |
| Major Crookenden<br>Lt. Willows ... | 6 *v.* | C.S.M. Pigott<br>C.Q.M.S. Jones | ... 0 |

SPOON SHOOTS.

A series of spoon shoots has been inaugurated among the members, which take place on the Solans Range and are fired with a fine miniature rifle purchased by the mess. The first took place on 14th September, in which Sgt. Legge, who only dropped one point below the possible, was successful in getting the Silver spoon, while Sergeant Hook was unsuccessful in hooking the wooden one.

THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW.

Is it not rather a propitious coincidence that the master cook wears spectacles in view of the reduction in Army rations?

The name of the W.O. who, on returning from a musketry course at Dover, applied for 48 hours leave under Para 319 Musketry Regus, to enable him to witness a London revue?

Who was the N.C.O. at the Corporals' Outing who sat next the charabanc driver picking up tips on driving?

Was he disappointed when the latter declined to allow him to take the wheel?

Does the sergeant who objects to his "old man" paying rates and taxes, realise that his own pay comes from the same source?

The identity of the perpetrator of the following word of command:—"Front row, right turn!"

Who is the Lilah who suggests the use of 9X4 instead of 4X2?

SOME ASSOCIATION DINNER QUERIES.

Who said the Line of Departure was the 12.15 from Charing Cross?

The name of the warrant officer who was determined not to be caught in a shower unprepared, and of the other one who forgot a part of his uniform?

How many have paid hush money to the *Dragon's* camera man?

The identity of the C.Q.M.S. who, at Charing Cross Station, on returning from the dinner, disobeyed K.R. para 1433 as amended by A.O. 373/21?

**Can we send you a packet of 25 *Dragon* Envelopes, price 6d. (post free)? or call at *The Dragon* Office for them.**

# For Officers Children.

WE are glad to publish particulars of the Wilfred Barhem exhibition at Malvern, and the Gill Memorial Scholarships for sons of Army officers. This is the letter dealing with the former which we have received from Mr. A. S. Barhem.

"Some years ago I established at Malvern School, in memory of my son, an Exhibition of about £50 per annum. The Trust Deed specifies that sons of officers and specially "Buffs" have prior claim.

There is probably some little difficulty in making it known that such an Exhibition exists, and I wonder whether there is any "Old Comrades" or other organisations which could keep it in mind and be the means of bringing it to the notice of any Buffs or widows of Buffs to whom it would be useful.

If there be such do you mind telling them of it, full particulars will no doubt be forthcoming on application to the Bursar, The College, Gt. Malvern, Worcs.

It is called the "Wilfred Barhem" Exhibition."

THE GILL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

These are for the sons of Army officers, both serving and retired. The value of the scholarship is £50, and that of the Exhibition £45. Each are tenable for four years, and a limited number of boys may be nominated by the Army Council for admission to a competitive examination to take place at Brighton College on the 6th and 7th of June. Applications for nominations should reach the Sec. The War Office not later than the 1st September, 1922, and full particulars regarding the examination, and copies of the former papers set can be obtained on application to the Headmaster, Brighton College.

# The Fairy Ring.

*Our Serial Story.*

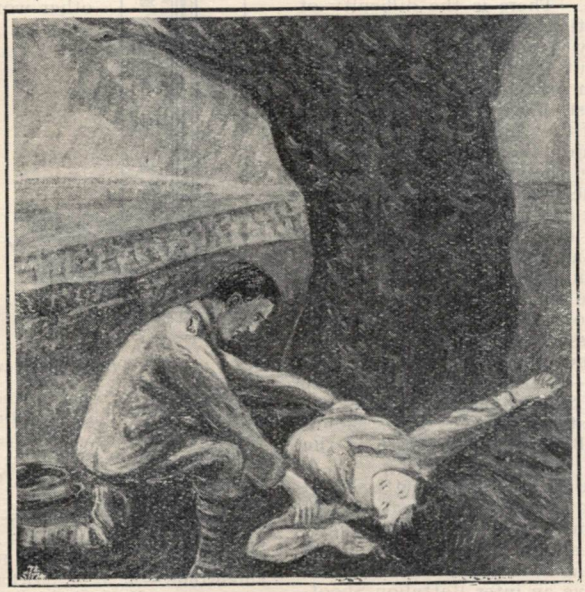
**Chapter I.** In which the heroine takes her leave, and a thunderstorm helps the hero.

AN Irish autumn night; pitch darkness, and a tearing gale. Not a night a lonely traveller would choose to take the desolate road which winds through the bogs of County Cork. Yet in spite of the gathering storm and the solitude of the district, Private Hugh Taylor, D.C.M., of the Royal West Flintshires, was struggling against the boisterous head-wind along the uneven road. But none of these things affected him, for was he not on his way to meet Sheila Nolan, whose fascinating blue eyes were drawing him irresistibly to their accustomed trysting place, the old oak tree in the meadow adjoining Michael Cassidy's farm.

Three nights ago, when he had last been to this place, the time had flown so quickly that he had returned to barracks more than two hours after his pass had expired. Although he was now a defaulter as a result of this escapade, he was unable to resist the lure of his fair charmer, and had broken out in order to keep his appointment.

As he drew near the old oak, which was silhouetted against the stormy sky, his heart beat faster and his pulses quickened. Alas, for his anticipations! At that very moment a piercing shriek rose up above the howling wind, the despairing cry of a woman in distress.

"My God, can it be—?" His lips refused to frame the thought that flashed through his mind as he stumbled madly on towards the sound. Yes, she was there, she had kept her promise. But what a difference from the scene he had so eagerly expected. There she lay limp and dishevelled across the gnarled roots of the grim old tree, her pretty face disfigured by an ugly gash. He threw himself on the ground beside her suppressing a desire to crush her to his heart, and lifting her head tenderly into the crook of his arm saw to his horror a dark crimson stain spreading over her blouse.



"SHEILA, SHEILA DARLING; WHAT HAS HAPPENED?"

Almost afraid of his voice he whispered brokenly:—

"Sheila, Sheila darling; What has happened? What have they done to you?"

A wan smile flickered painfully round the corners of her mouth. He bent close to her, and with the wind drumming in his ears could just catch the words spoken ever so faintly, "The Fairy Ring....." She made a brave effort to tell more but her breath was failing fast; and with a gentle sigh the soft blue eyes closed for ever.

In the madness of his sorrow he showered kiss after kiss upon her poor mutilated face; then in a flash the full horror of the situation confronted him. What if he were discovered beside the murdered body of this young girl? Would not suspicion fall all the more readily on him because he was known to be her lover? A charitable world would not be slow to supply a motive! In his agony he did not realize that within thirty yards of him the murderers were preparing for flight; but at this moment the sudden throb of a starting motor transfixed him. Leaping to his feet he rushed to the wall which bounded the road, only in time to see the faint outline of a car receding into the enveloping night.

* * * *

"That's one less soldier-mongering huzzy!" The speaker, seated beside the driver of an I.R.A. box Ford, proceeded to remove from his revolver a spent cartridge case, which he threw carelessly into the road. A slouch hat and a mask concealed the upper part of his face, but even in the dim light a passer-by could have noticed the smile of monstrous satisfaction that spread over the lower features of the assassin. With a callous chuckle the other opened wide the throttle and the car sped on.

* * * *

Tormented by a hundred suspicions, Hugh retraced his steps and was once again beside the prostrate body of the beautiful girl who so shortly before had been full of the joy of life. It was obvious that he must evolve some scheme for concealing his movements on this night of horror. His late return to Barracks could not escape notice. Suspicions as to his motives for absence would take one of two forms, either that he had been drinking or that some woman had lured him out. It was highly undesirable that they should jump to the latter conclusion. Therefore he was left the former as an only choice. To simulate drunkenness was too difficult. Where, then, could he get drink at this hour? A sudden inspiration! he would creep round to Pat Sullivan's pub and set the outhouse alight. In the ensuing confusion it would be an easy matter to filch a bottle of whisky.

Fear lent him wings and in a brief space he was scrambling over the wall that encircled the publican's garden. The rickety outhouse stood within a dozen paces of the main building, and, by good fortune, it was on the windward side. He struck a match and applied it to the straw that was lying inside. A sudden gust of wind blew it out. Match after match suffered the same fate until he was reduced to the very last. With sweat standing out in small glistening beads upon his forehead and with trembling fingers he struck it with a fast sinking heart. A momentary lull in the storm which had arisen during the last hour lent him aid and with hope he applied it to the straw. Although he held the match till his finger-tips burned, the damp straw refused to catch alight, and with a moan of despair he threw himself down, cursing. Nothing remained but to force an entry into the house and risk capture with its unpleasant consequences. At this moment there came a sudden blinding flash of lightning, followed by a crash of thunder, which sounded as if the very heavens had been rent asunder. A shower of slates and bricks from the building clattered over and around him. When he recovered from the shock he saw to his amazement that the elements had aided him indeed; for the ram-

*(Continued at foot of next column.)*

## Bones of Contention.

APPENDED below will be found some views received on the bones of contention published in our October issue. We are hoping we may have the opinions of others for publication, together with further subjects suitable for discussion.

FROM MAJOR F. W. TOMLINSON.

May I air my views, please, or perhaps I should say sharpen my teeth, on two of the " bones of contention " which are printed in your October number.

(1) As regards Colours for the Past and Present Association : I think it should be clearly established who is entitled to wear the existing regimental tie and hat band. I have noticed several times lately serving Buffs, other than officers, wearing the tie. That is, I believe, quite a new idea, but I am not sure that it is not a very good one. It would be interesting to know whether any rule has ever been laid down on the subject.

(2) As regards amalgamation of the Dragon Club and Regimental Dinners, I am strongly in favour of this course, in fact I do not know how the present situation ever arose. There is the difficulty of the annual subscription which most of us have paid for a good many years to what is now styled the Dragon Club, but I think that could easily be got over. I am perfectly certain that all officers, whether past or present, or regular or temporary, would, if they have enjoyed either of the two dinners, enjoy themselves far more at a combined dinner of the two clubs.

(3) I should like to see the principle of amalgamation carried further, or at any rate seriously discussed. For instance I have always wondered whether it might not simplify administration if the Benevolent Fund, the Employment Bureau and the Cottage Homes were run as one concern ; and it is, I think, even worth considering whether the Past and Present Association might not be included with the other three.

FROM R.Q.M.S. ANDREWS.

(1) The Association of Past and Present Buffs should wear the Buff and Blue ribbon as worn in the Regiment.

(2) I certainly consider the Regimental Gazette should be continued. It is an item of very great interest to three parts of your readers. I heard many comments about it at the dinner So and so got his " Civy " or has been promoted.

(3) By all means let us have an inter-Battalion Shooting match.

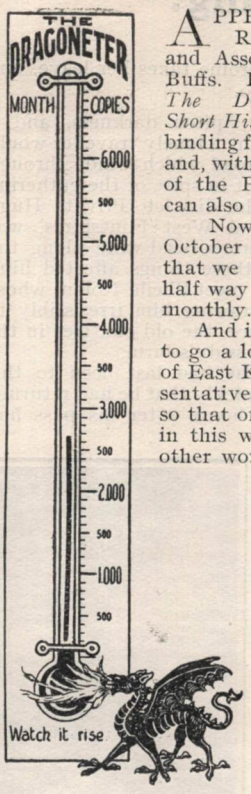
**The Fairy Ring**—*continued.*

shackle building had been literally sliced in half, and even now a frightened woman in night attire, calling in Irish brogue on all the Saints to help her, ran dementedly down the path beside him. Without hesitation he leapt towards the shattered house and scrambling over the *debris* he groped his way in what he knew to be the direction of the bar. Having no matches he could only feel with his fingers around what remained of the walls, and at last, amid the welter of glass he found what seemed unmistakably a whisky bottle. Deftly snapping off the neck he applied it to his nostrils and found that his conjecture had been correct. Without more ado he stuffed it under his coat and hurried towards barracks.

Within a few yards of the Gate he poured the fiery liquid down his throat. His senses reeling, he staggered along the wall, what time his throbbing temples seemed to beat to the cadence of " The Fairy Ring.....The Fairy Ring.....

*(To be continued next month).*

## Our Representatives.




APPENDED below is a list of Representatives of *The Dragon* and Association of Past and Present Buffs. From each of these copies of *The Dragon*, Dragon Envelopes, *Short Histories of The Buffs*, and cover binding for *The Dragon* can be obtained; and, with each, enrolment as a member of the Past and Present Association can also be made.

Now it will be noticed from the October reading of the Dragoneter, that we are only just a fraction over half way towards a circulation of 5000 monthly.

And it will be noticed that we have to go a long way yet before the whole of East Kent is served by our Representatives, which is our ultimate aim, so that offers from our readers to help in this way would be welcomed, or in other words

**Will YOU Help us ?**

Full particulars of the scheme, together with the conditions and rate of commission offered, can be had on application to the Editor.

THOSE ALREADY APPOINTED.

**Adisham.**—Mr. W. Arnold, 4 Chapel Villas.
**Ashford.**—Mr. J. R. Gardner, Drill Hall.
**Barham.**—Mr. Seary, Gravel Castle.
**Benenden.**—Mr. F. Elliott, The Street.
**Canterbury.**—Mr. E. F. Nunn, 66 London Road.
**Charlton.**—Mr. A. V. Hewitt, 117 Victoria Road.
**Cranbrook.**—Mr. J. Waters, Newsagent, Stone Street.
**Deptford.**—Mr. C. A. French, 1 Addey Street.
**Dover.**—Sgt. A. H. Pettet, 4th Buffs, 76 Snargate Street.
**Folkestone.**—Mr. W. F. Ingleton, 24 Wood Avenue,
Mr. C. Stockwell, 33 Athelston Road.
**Gillingham.**—Mr. W. Skinner, 14 Cross Street.
**Greenwich.**—Mr. H. Greenway, 3a Tunnel Avenue, E. Greenwich.
Mr. W. R. Trinick, 68 London Street.
**High Halstow.** (Nr. Rochester).—Mr. E. Pratt, Brickfield Cottages
**Littlebourne.**—Mr. J. Beer, Ivy Cottages, The Green.
**London.**—Mr. W. H. Blakemore, 1 Kemble Street, Drury Lane.
**Lydd.**—Mr. A. W. Smith, 6 Sunnyside.
**Margate.**—Sgt. P. Johnson, 4th Buffs, 6a Upper Grove.
Mr. R. J. Glover, 20 Buckingham Road.
**Minster.**—Mr. J. Knight, 2 Station Road.
**Ramsgate.**—Cpl. Sylvester, 4th Buffs, 2 Sackett's Hill Cottages, St. Peter's.
**Shorncliffe.**—Mr. T. H. Bilton, 2 Royal Military Avenue.
Mr. E. Turner, 180 Risboro Lane.
**Sittingbourne.**—Mr. A. J. Mannooch, 143 Chalkwell Road.
Mr. J. C. Strouts, 74 Chalkwell Road.
**Snodland.**—Mr. A. Bolton, 14 Faith Place, May Street.
**Swanscombe.**—Mr. J. Bunton, Stuckley House.
**Tenterden.**—Mr. H. Lawrence, The Cafe, High Street.
**Woodnesborough.** (Nr. Sandwich).—Mr. E. Garrett, Marshborough.

**Make the Paper known amongst your friends by using *Dragon* Envelopes.**

# Amalgamation of the 4th and 5th.

APPROVAL has been given for the amalgamation of the two Buffs Territorial Battalions, the 4th Buffs with their present Headquarters at Canterbury and the 5th Buffs at Ashford. The process of amalgamation which began on 1st October is to be completed by 31st December of this year.

Many of the details connected with this change have not yet received final approval, so it is not possible to do more than outline the future construction.

The name of the Battalion is to be the 4th Battalion The Buffs. The present 4/Buffs will furnish three Coys. and the 5/Buffs one Company. In this way the Weald of Kent retains its identity in the Territorial Army.

MEN AND TRADITIONS REMAIN.

One cannot but regret the necessity for this amalgamation, neither can one criticize the need for economy which has made the reduction imperative, but to those, so intimately concerned with the welfare of The Buffs and in particular with its Territorial Battalions, it is disappointing to think that after eighteen months of hard work, so freely and generously given, to raise two Battalions in East Kent, the authorities should deem it expedient to merge the two into one.

Such is the way of the world, and it is to be hoped that all ranks will accept the inevitable in a true soldierly spirit. Nobody likes it, and the good work of many men will be lost. But there remains this one great compensation which is, that the amalgamation is but two inseparable friends joining forces for the good of their country, and what true Buff could really resent this? The men remain, the traditions therefore remain with them, and, after all, what's in a name, so long as the name is "Buffs?"

5TH BUFFS GENEROUS OFFER.

Perhaps our readers are not aware that, in the normal plan, it was suggested that each amalgamated Battalion should provide two companies, and in the preliminary negotiations it was difficult to see how such could be applied to this case. Could the Thanet Company be dispensed with? For many reasons this was considered inadvisable, and certainly unwarranted in view of the fact that this area had always been a stronghold of the Buffs. But then again the same applied everywhere. No one wanted to be put into the "Limbo of Regrets."

Eventually it was thought possible to divide the misfortune between Canterbury and Sittingbourne. In this regard the 5th Buffs most generously agreed to offer one Company instead of the expected two in order to help to bridge the obstacle. So that the position now stands with A Company at Thanet unchanged—B Coy. at Canterbury has its Half Company at Sittingbourne—C (The Weald of Kent) Coy. has its Headquarters at Cranbrook with outstations at Tenterden, Horsmonden, Yalding—D Coy. remains in Static Quo!

LOOKING AHEAD.

By this distribution it is hoped to keep alive the Territorial spirit and the past traditions throughout the greater part of East Kent. One never knows when it may be necessary to expand the peace establishment of the Territorial Army, and it is highly important to keep our centres of Recruiting activity alive. Once an area is closed down and no longer provides its quota of men for Imperial Defence and so loses touch with important Imperial Duty, it is practically lost to the future and the work of reopening, should that ever be necessary, is made doubly hard. It is well to look far ahead, and to consider every eventuality, and such has been the guiding policy underlying the formation of this new Battalion.

RESULTS SATISFACTORY.

At present it is not possible to name the officers who will serve in this Battalion, nor is the Staff who will help them yet decided upon. The 5th Battalion The Buffs is busy canvassing its area to obtain the consent of such members of its Territorial Units who are willing to represent the Weald of Kent in the East Kent Territorial Battalion. The process is a long one as it is necessary to ask each Serving Territorial if he is willing to join, and to receive his answer, and from that to complete the strength of "C" Coy. So far we consider that the results have been very satisfactory. Eight officers have consented to serve and upwards of 50 Other Ranks excluding the stronghold of Cranbrook Area which has not yet "poled." This shows a splendid spirit and before long the 4th Buffs will surely be a Battalion at full strength.

SPECIALISTS WANTED.

But what it really wants to stand forth as a complete and efficient Battalion is a full complement of Specialists, Machine Gunners, Signallers, Stretcher Bearers, etc. If these qualified men would but offer their services in Dover, Folkestone and Canterbury (The Stations named in the corresponding order to the training above mentioned) then indeed we should be well set up.

With the good will and co-operation during the next few months, which we have received in the past, we shall get along splendidly, and it is not too much to look forward to a full strength Camp next Spring in some cheerful Sussex Seaside Town.

[*With the atmosphere gradually clearing in regard to the future of the Territorials, we hope we may receive regularly in the future the news of all companies and detachments for publication. Ed.*]

## C COMPANY, 4TH BATTALION.

We have very little news of interest, but we have taken full advantage of this fine weather to fire the annual musketry at Conyer Ranges and the company have been doing very well.

Our Instructor C.S.M. Taylor, C.S.M. Wood and C.Q.M.S. Stagg have all been helping as much as possible with the Territorial Club.

Recruiting having been stopped for the time being we have started a "waiting list," but we look forward shortly to be recruiting again.

We are all pleased to note that Lieut. Col. J. H. S. Allen has joined the Battalion taking command of the Canterbury company with whom we are expecting to be amalgamated very shortly.

## PRESENTATION TO R.S.M. LARNER.

On Saturday, October 8th a most enjoyable evening was spent at the Drill Hall, Canterbury, the occasion being a farewell concert to R.S.M. Larner on his departure from the 4th Buffs to join his Battalion in Ireland.

Sergt. G. A. Page, M.M. (chairman of the Sports and Entertainments Committee), and late 1st Buffs, presided over a well represented gathering, among those present being:—Coy. Sergt.-Majors M. Johnings, Barrett (Herne Bay), Taylor, Wood (C Coy.) Sittingbourne, and R.S.M. J. Taylor, R.A.M.C. (T.)

During the interval, the Chairman paid a very warm tribute to the valuable services rendered to the Battalion by R.S.M. Larner and, on behalf of the W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s and Men of the 4th Buffs, presented him with a handsome smoking cabinet containing two briars and three pieces, together with a gold-studded tobacco pouch, and a pound of the Sgt.-Major's favourite "Captive."

R.S.M. Larner, in responding, said the presentation came as a great surprise to him, but his heart was too full to permit of him saying how much he thanked them. He had come to Canterbury as a stranger to them but he was quickly "absorbed," and he had met with every kindness. He would always cherish this present, for it would always remind him of his friends and the very happy times he had spent in Canterbury. The company then rose and sang "For he's a jolly good fellow," after which cheers were called for the Sergt.-Major who briefly responded.

The following contributed to a most successful programme:—C.S.M. Johnings, song, "The Recruit" and "Marching Song, 1/5th Buffs; R.S.M. W. H. Larner, "The Old Shako" and "The Trumpeter;

(*Continued on next page.*)

**Amalgamation of the 4th and 5th**—*continued.*

Mr. Swain, "The Anchor's Weighed" and "Songs of Araby"; Sergt. G. A. Page, monologue; Mr. Lockey, "Boys of the Chelsea School"; R.S.M. J. Taylor, "Bubbles," and Sergt. Mortimer who introduced "Count Tromboneovitch Woodslavski," the great (?) Russian baritone.

Part II. was composed of the following:—

Mr. Bert Halladay (comedian); Mr. Sladden, "Oh, it was a terrible night"; Corpl. W. Collier (Depot The Buffs) cornet solo, "Perfect Day" and "The Polka Arbucklen," whilst the programme was concluded with a very amusing sketch, "The Snowstorm," presented by Sergt. Beasley (Depot The Buffs), the characters being Corpl. Collier, Pte. R. C. Woods and Mr. Bert Halladay (who acted the part of the "Lady in the Case.")

THE FIFTH BATTALION.

Mark Anthony has been credited with saying the following:—"Friends, Romans, Countrymen, etc., etc." Shakespeare when writing this passage in Julius Ceasar must have had a forebearing that Sergeant Gardner at some future date would emulate the noble Marcus. Whilst participating in my usual night-cap (at someone else's expense), flag-wagging John was heard to remark to a crowd of soldiers and Artillerymen, "Buffs, past Buffs and others, lend me your tanners, I'm here to sell the *Dragon*, not to give it"—and great was the response thereof. Which all goes to show that Vale Owen knows what he's talking about. Well here's the best of luck to Mark John Anthony Gardner, and for our dear Editor's sake, we hope he tops the roll of Agents.

Apart from the fact that Henry Roy has been duly christened and the event "wet," the chief item of news appears to be the Sergeants' mess dance. Though not very well patronized, it went off remarkably well. The Sergeant-Major efficiently carried out the duties of M.C., and incidentally, only missed four dances. This did not prevent him slipping up to the mess between acts however, which probably accounts for one charming couple mistaking his announcement "Fifteen minutes interval" for "The French minuet."

Tarzan figured very prominently in a waltz, by demonstrating the correct position of "hands down." His friend of the forest felt rather embarassed but was otherwise unhurt. Hookie and the "Indian Prince" were very prominent in more senses than one.

Up to the time of writing, no word is to hand regarding the whereabouts of Jack Bran and Digger Rose. We are naturally worried and would like to hear from them at headquarters.

We see quite a lot of Sergeant George Burden since Jack changed the brewer. He still keeps fit and takes a keen interest in Musketry. Another old stager who has graced the Mess by his presence lately is Charlie Bishop. He is now the R.Q.M.S. and judging from his adventures amongst the condensed milk tins in Mespot he should fill the post satisfactorily.

Cully has benefitted considerably by latest course in hop-consumption, and is beginning to look something like his old self.

Reverting to musketry, Corporal Prior, one of our young N.C.O.'s piled up a fine score at the ranges the other week, by making 62 out of a possible 65. Before the shoot the Sergeant-Major talked of offering five shillings to anyone who could beat him at grouping. After viewing Prior's "four inch," he diplomatically couldn't find the necessary time.

D COMPANY, 5TH BATTALION.

Can any village in Kent show a better record than Horsmonden—over 40 men serving? We think not. But Yalding district is running it close, and Goudhurst is looking up.

Corpl. F. Bridges, D.C.M., M.M., late of this Company and now in the 2nd Battalion has written from Mespot saying he is getting on well. He sends his salaams to his old Comrades. It will be remembered he carried the flag hoisted by the Battalion at the capture of Baghdad on the occasion of its being laid up in Canterbury Cathedral last year.

Pte. Butchers, also late of this Company, now in the Queen's Own, has lately been home on furlough before proceeding to India. He expects to enjoy revisiting the "Shiney" more than his recent tour in Ireland.

The weekly drills at Coy. Hqrs. and the various out-stations were resumed after hop-picking.

We have got on well with Musketry, and nearly all who were qualified to fire Part 2 of Tables A and B have done so. The leading scores will be published in a later issue.

Everything is in the melting pot at present. The amalgamation with the 4th Battalion started on October 1st and we presume will not be completed until the Drill and Musketry season ends in December. This is as well as it gives us time to put our house in order.

The reply to the all important question "Do you wish to remain in the amalgamated Battalion or take your discharge?" has been excellent as far as this Company is concerned. By far the great majority have planked for remaining. We are sure they will not regret their decision. As was to be expected a few have decided to go, but in as much as most of these seldom put in an appearance the efficiency of the Coy. will not suffer much by their departure.

Doubtless full particulars of the amalgamation will be published at an early date; in the meantime we can but carry on as before.

Another satisfactory thing to note has been the large number who have put down their names as annual subscribers to *The Dragon*. The list is not yet complete, but when it is we hope the Editor will give us a good chit.

TERRITORIAL SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP.

The dates by which the stages of following Territorials Sports Championships are to be played are as follows.

**Football.**—Bde. Group Finals by November 30th, Kent Bde. Group V. Sussex Bde. Group, December 10th, and Div. Stage Finals, December 31st.

**Boxing.**—Bde. Group Finals by 11th-18th February, Div. Finals 19th-25th February.

**Cross Country Running.**—Div. stage only. Date yet to be fixed in consultation with Mr. C. Otway, Sec., National C.C. Union.

**When writing to your friends and relations remember Dragon Envelopes increase the Circulation.**

# Obituary.

## Captain W. G. Harry Filmer, B.A., M.B.E.

HIS many friends in the 5th Battalion will have read with sorrow of the death of Capt. Filmer on September 19th, in Calcutta at the age of 27. Serving in the Cambridge University O.T.C. at the commencement of the war he at once offered his services and obtained a commission in the 2/4th Battalion.

After training with them he went with the composite Battalion known as the 2/4 West Kents to Suvla Bay and was invalided from there suffering from malaria and dysentry.

After convalescence he was sent to the 1/5th Battalion in Mesopotamia, arriving in the hot weather of 1916, where he remained until he was started home for demobilisation in February, 1919. Unfortunately, like a great many others he was held in India during the troubleous time of 1919. Whilst with the 1/5th Battalion he had acted as Adjutant for the last year and had made himself extremely popular with all ranks by his cheerful and ready help for all.

None in his Division will easily forget his quick grasp and lucid explanation of Demob: Regs: when after months of waiting a copy at last reached us.

On demobilisation he returned to Cambridge but at the beginning of this year decided to take up business in Calcutta.

A friend writes of Harry Filmer—"His conscientious work, sterling integrity and high qualifications would have brought him rapidly to the front. His loyal service to me personally had won my heart and his early death is a great loss not only to me but to a wide circle. Men of his character will be badly wanted in India in future years."

During the war Capt. Filmer was twice mentioned in despatches and was awarded the M.B.E.


## THE DRAGON.

*TO meet the wishes of those desirous of keeping a permanent record of their own life of the Regiment and that of the Regiment itself, the following arrangements have been made by us for binding the "1921 Dragons" in stiff blue cloth covers carrying the Regimental Crest in gold outside, and with gold lettering at back.*

**THE THREE ALTERNATIVES.**

1. **Where readers supply us with their own Dragons: 4/- post free.**
2. **Where the complete set of Dragons published in 1921 is supplied from our office: 10/- post free.**

**NOTE.—The number of complete sets is strictly limited, and orders in this instance will be dealt with strictly in rotation as received.**

3. **Covers only, 2/6 post free.**

*ORDERS for any of the above can now be placed with us direct or through our Representatives vide page* 189.

*In the case of* 1 *or* 2, *no payment need be made until the end of the year, but where an order for cover only is placed this should be accompanied by a remittance.*

# The Association of Past and Present Buffs.

## Annual Dinner, 1921.

By R.Q.M.S. A. Andrews, Hon. Sec.

"WEAVING fresh laurels in the garland of the past," a rendering of the Regimental Motto given in the *Dragon* many years ago, describes, best, I think, the atmosphere which always prevails at our Annual Reunions.

This year our most successful gathering—at least I hope I may refer to it in these terms—was held on the 5th October in The Crown Room of the Holborn Restaurant. Major-General Sir A. Lynden Bell, K.C.B., presided, in the unavoidable absence on the continent of General the Rt. Hon. Sir A. Paget, and was surrounded by some 160 members, the majority of whose names, are with those who applied for tickets prior to the dinner, are appended later, and in regard to which I must crave indulgence for any omission in rank or decorations.

It was not perhaps a large gathering, but we have to remember that times are bad with many; and we can only hope that the ways and means may soon be found, by which those of our old Comrades—and I fear there are many—, who are "up against it," may soon be happily settled.

But it was a great evening for those present. Friendships made in all parts of the world, and under all manner of conditions, were renewed, whilst a pleasant, and more than welcome, surprise awaited us when, later in the evening, we were joined by a large number of those who, though robbed of the dinner, by the slump, had no intention of being done out of the pleasure of meeting their old friends.

There were no speeches which several seemed to think rather a pity. But, perhaps, the decision to withhold these was for the best. Trains had to be caught, and, as it was, the evening was all too short to enable us to cover anything like all we would have wished to discuss together. But so it always is when renewing old friendships. They sort of stick and hang fire at the start, and then, when they show signs of really getting going, Dora, or some other hideous montrosity "does the dirty!" Now however, we have *The Dragon* to help us "keep them alive."

There were however the following toasts. "The Association" proposed by the Chairman, and the "The Old Brigade" and "The Chairman" proposed by Capt. Strettell and Brig.-Gen. Finch Hatton respectively, and both of which were accorded musical honours.

Looking into the future the decision must now be made on what day of the week the dinner is to be held next year. Saturday appears to be the most popular day, but how will this affect the boys in Kent? We cannot always rely on a special train; and can our members residing in Kent afford a night in London in addition to a Railway Fare? Correspondence on this point, which please send to the Editor *The Dragon*, is earnestly invited, as, if Saturday is to be the appointed day, the room must be booked not later than January.

In conclusion, I know that it will give pleasure to all to hear that, at a committee meeting of the Association held at the Depot on Friday, the 12th October, it was unanimously decided that in future years a wreath in memory of our late comrades should be laid on the Cenotaph in Whitehall on the day of our annual reunion, and that on Armistice Day a wreath in their memory shall also be laid on our War Memorial in The Warriors' Chapel. Those present at the meeting when this was decided were Majors Crookenden and Foster, R.S.M. Dare, and R.Q.M.S. Andrews.

A donation of 10/- has already been received towards the wreath fund, and any further donations will be acknowledged in *The Dragon*.

### A Few Notes.

The membership of the Association now stands at 611, the number of new members obtained during the past year being Life Members 64, Ordinary Members 52.

The increase in Life Members is mainly accounted for by no less than 57 of C Company, 2nd Battalion, serving in Mesopotamia having recently joined under that heading.

During the coming year we look forward to a very much greater increase, thanks to *The Dragon*, and Association Representatives being appointed throughout the County. By the way many more of these are wanted, so why not drop a line to The Editor?

### THE ANNUAL DINNER, 1921.

On the 9th of September the amount standing to the credit of the Association was £135 16s. 1d.

A proposal made at the Dinner was that every existing member should make himself responsible for roping in at least one other during the coming year. And a very good proposal too!

Another suggestion was that steps might be taken to foster more closely the relationship between the Regiment and the City of London.

At the committee meeting held on the 12th it was also unanimously decided to present R.Q.M.S. A. Andrews with a cigar case, as but a small token of his unsparing labours on behalf of the Association.

I gladly publish the following letter: "When reporting the Dinner in *The Dragon* would you mind mentioning how two old chums met after 33 years. These were 2072 W. H. Clarke and 2073 W. H. Maxted, and we had a fine time together."

Some surprise was expressed at the dinner that any controversy should arise in regard to the Colours of the Association, the reason being that all were under the impression that these were the Regimental Colours and none other.

Many expressed the hope that more of our officers would be able to attend the dinner next year.

And that no stone would be unturned to make it generally known that membership is not only confined to Regulars, but is open to all who are serving or ever have served in our Militia, Special Reserve, Service, Volunteer, and Territorial Battalions.

In view of the fact that many are unable to purchase tickets and find railway fare at a couple of month's notice, arrangements will be made whereby members may purchase dinner tickets by instalments.

*(Continued at foot of next column).*

## Births, Marriages and Deaths.

*[Notices of Births, Engagements, Marriages and Deaths will be inserted in The Dragon free to all Past and Present Buffs on request.]*

BIRTHS.

**Allen.**—On the 10th October, at Bearsted, to Helen (*nee* Bell) the wife of Captain J. F. Whitacre Allen, M.C., The Buffs—a daughter.

**Curtis.**—On 5th September, 1921, at Fermoy, to Sgt. and Mrs. W. Curtis, of a daughter.

**Hills.**—On 21st September, 1921, at Fermoy, to Sgt. and Mrs. E. B. Hills—of a daughter (Anna Edwina).

**Milton.**—On 5th October, 1921, at Duclair, France, to Lieutenant and Mrs. Harry Milton—of a daughter.

**Russell.**—On 16th September, 1921, at Fermoy, to Pte. and Mrs. G. Russell—of a daughter.

**Ransley.**—At Canterbury, on 26/9/21, the wife of 6280267 C.Q.M.S. P.W. Ransley, of a son, (Eric John.)

**Spearpoint.**—On the 15th October, 1921, the wife of 6278056 C.Q.M.S., W. Spearpoint, of a son, (Robert Alfred.)

ENGAGEMENT.

An engagement is announced between J. Vernon Dockray, late the Buffs, only son of Dr. and Mrs. Dockray, of Bishops Stortford, and Mollie, only daughter of E. Hugh and Mrs. Gayton, of Oakleigh, Bishops, Stortford.

MARRIAGE.

**Hall-Fellows.**—On 29th September, 1921, at the Roman Catholic Church, Fermoy, Sgt. (O.R.C.) W. E. Hall, 1st Bn. The Buffs, to Emily Fellows.

DEATHS.

**Moss.**—On the 5th October, at Malta, after a serious operation, Madeline Mary, the dearly-beloved wife of Vincent Newton Moss, of St. Leonards, late of 1st Buffs, and the eldest daughter of Frederic Marshall, of 8 College Gardens, Dulwich. Buried at Malta.

**Russell.**—On 20th September, 1921, at Fermoy, Gladys Winifred, daughter of Pte. and Mrs. G. Russell, 1st Battalion The Buffs.

## The Association of Past & Present Buffs—*continued.*

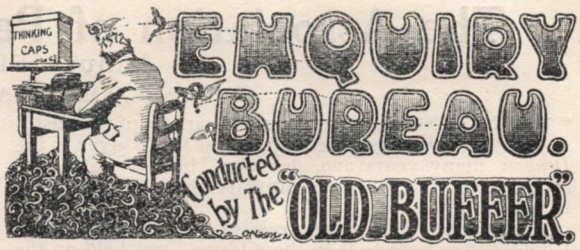
From conversation with many after the dinner I was led to believe that at certain places—notably Chatham and Gillingham—members were forming "Dinner Clubs" for the "Good old Annual." A very fine idea. Perhaps London and several other places will follow a good lead.

The thanks of the Association is due to the Committee of the Veterans Club who made us all honorary members during our stay in London. A jolly comfy little show they have too.

THOSE PRESENT AT THE DINNER.

Major-Gen. Sir A. Lynden-Bell, K.C.B., Brig.-Gen. E. H. Finch-Hatton, D.S.O., Lt.-Colonels F. W. Bradley-Dyne, W. G. F. Barnard, F. M. Dunstan, Majors J. Crookenden, D.S.O., Tiernan, E. G. F. L. Gould, H. Featherstone, F. W. Foster, H. Grigg, F. W. Tomlinson, Captains G. Boon, D.S.O., E. Smith, A. Barton, E. Strettell, W. Stone. W. R. Birrell. N. Linwood, F. Keeler, King, H. H. C. Baird, D.S.O., Orwin, Lieuts. G. Boon, Fish, Leonard; Messrs. N. Catchpole, T. Groombridge, S. Isted, J. Bennell, T. Tutt, D. Lake, T. Carden, R. Kesby, W. J. Lambert, A. E. Warren, R. Love, A. F. Nash, C. H. Copcutt, J. Mills, F. Robinson, C. Rackley, A. W. Baller, W. H. Clarke, W. A. Graves, W. H. Beale, A. H. Graham, H. A. Standford, H. C. Weeks, J. Inglis, E. J. Clifton (Senr.), D Harman, A. Willis, I. Clarke, A. Wills, G. Lehane, J H. Green, Braham, Maxted, F. J. Elliott, F. C. Smith, A. Short, Drew, S. W. Penn Earnshaw, F. Nairne, G. F. C. Bury, E. Bush, S. Foster, G. Rowland, G. H. Austin, G. Thomas, W. Digby, W. H. Tamblin, C. Kember, E. R. Clifton (Junr.), J. G. Johns (late Sgt.-Mr.) Cork, J. Baker, R. H. R. Codd, A. F. Thornton, H. E. Barham, S. O. Sutton, A. C. Gunston, D. S. Shepherd, S. H. Marshall, C. Atkins, J. Hubberstay, F. Hilderbrand, Tim Rylott, E. Turner (Shorncliffe), T. Toast, H. Adams (D. of D.), E. A. Bailee, W. J. Dampier, A. Manning (Snowball) 1st Bn., Gettings, Jones (late R.S.M.) J. Bennell, Glitho, Buckley, A. Smith, C.Q.M.S. Jones, R.S.M. P. Dare, R.Q.M.S. A. Andrews, C.Q.M.S. Spearpoint, Pte. Cork, Sgt. Bromley, L/Cpl. Aldridge, C.Q.M.S. Ransley, L/Cpl. Adams, Sgt. O. R. S. Maillard, C.S.M. S. Pigott, L/Cpl. Bradley, L/Cpl. A. Smith, C.S.M. Knight, Cpl. Burton, C.S.M. Mason, Sgt. Jones, Sgt. Dennis, Cpl. McLean, Sgt. Broughton, Cpl. Driscoll, Pte. (Chef.) Mills, C.S.M. Verlander, Pte. Trosh, Cpl. Kerry, Pte. Silk, Pte. Minns, Pte. Steel, L/Cpl. Middleton, Cpl. Baker, Pte. Freeman, Pte. Drumgold, Cpl. Parry, Sgt. Wren, Pte. Waldron, Sgt. Hook, Sgt.-Dr. Clayton.

And the Guests of the evening Chelsea Pensioners J. Holmes and G. Stone.




MRS. D. Andrews of Boughton, Faversham, writes :—"Would you kindly ask any Buffs of the 2nd Battalion who were with my husband Corpl. (then Pte.), 7203 Henry John Andrews, in France from May 9th, 1915 until their departure for Egypt in October, same year, to communicate with me." The reason for this request is that Corpl. Andrews died in Canterbury hospital in March 20th from stomachic trouble, and Mrs. Andrews is anxious to obtain (in support of her claim for pension) corroborative evidence of the poisoning of her husband by gas when serving with the 2nd Battalion on the 24th May of that year. The point is that the late Corpl. Andrews did not report sick at the time, as volunteers were wanted for the trenches that night, with the result that there is no medical evidence in support of Mrs. Andrews' claim, which up to the present has not been accepted.

Should any past or present Buff be able to help Mrs. Andrews, we feel sure they will gladly do so.

SOME QUERIES ANSWERED.

L. S. (Margate) :—The white horse "Invicta," awarded The Regiment in 1881 denotes that the Men of Kent have never been beaten.

A. C. (Paddington) :—Sgt. Bridgland, late The Buffs, is now in the employ of the S.E. & C. Railway at Ashford.

G. W. (Biddenden) :—(*a*) No medal was granted for the operations in the Aden Hinterland. On the other hand these operations were recognized as "Active Service" and both "Mention in Despatches," and decorations were gained. The late Lt.-Col. Ravenhill won his D.S.O. in this campaign.

(*b*) In regard to your pension, the Editor will be only too glad to discuss this with you any morning at The Depot.

F. F. (Curragh) :—(*a*) The Regimental Motto is "*Veteri Frondescit Honore*," and the literal translation is :—*Frondescit*, it puts forth leaves (or grows green), *veteri honore*, with its ancient honour. More general translations are "The Buffs are ever wearing fresh laurels in the garland of the past," or "The Buffs are ever adding new honours to their old renown."

(*b*) The name of No. 2616 Pte. C. Faulkner 3/4 Buffs is not at present amongst those to be inscribed in The Book of Life to be placed with the War Memorial in the Canterbury Cathedral. This being the case you should write fully to Major F. W. Tomlinson, The Buffs, 2 Cavendish Square, London, W. 1.

(*c*) I am afraid it is not possible for you to obtain your attestation papers back from the Record Office.

H. S. (Ramsgate) :—No more news is yet to hand relating to the authentic origin and authorship of the Regimental March (quick step) and slow step, except that "Wha wud wa ficht for Charlie" is the official quick step of the Cheshire Regiment adopted in 1843 in honour of Sir Charles Napier.

S. N. (Wickhambreaux) :—For information about the fishing at Aden and the rods and tackle, etc., you should take out, you can not do better than consult Hardy of Pall Mall.

To Numerous Enquirers.

It has been announced that the riband of the Territorial Force War Medal may be worn by all ranks who are entitled to the award of the medal.

Officers not now serving should make application for the riband (giving rank and name) to The Secretary, War Office (A.G. 10), 27 Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4. Discharged soldiers should submit applications to the Officer in Charge Records of the Corps in which they last served. Such applications should give full name, regimental number, and full address to which the riband should be sent. If an applicant served in a corps other than that in which the medal was earned, he should state the name of the last corps in which he served, regimental number therein, and date of discharge or demobilisation.

*Note.—Enquiries of all kinds, which should be addressed to The Editor are welcomed for this column.*

# The Sportsman.

## Training for Athletics.

By Dr. Adolphe Abrahams, O.B.E., M.D., M.R.C.P.,

THE soldier, it is gratifying to remember, enjoys special facilities for athletic training, and, what, after all, is training? Those ignorant of the subject imagine all sorts of mysterious and complicated "systems," involving a great deal of self-sacrifice and arduous toil, the performance of many things one is most unwilling to do and the avoidance of most things which make life a pleasure. Nobody denies a certain element of self-denial in training for athletics, which, stated very simply, means only putting the body in that condition which enables it to undergo exceptional demands upon its physical energies. Reduced to fundamentals, all it necessitates are regular healthy food, regular and sufficient sleep, regular and suitable exercise or practice. You will observe that I have employed and repeated the adjective "regular," indeed regularity is the very keynote of training. And who better than the soldier is given the opportunity to live a life of the most perfect regularity with adequate leisure for the necessary practice?

### How to get Fit.

Now I should like to assure the wholly ignorant who wants to get fit that all he has to do is to live the life of a sober, clean soldier, and that no crack trainer or special coach will do any more for him save perhaps in the instruction of technical methods relating to various events, which is an entirely different matter. Let him first get his teeth in order, and then eat the good food that is provided for him, as much as he wants and regularly. Let him go to bed as early as is consistent with his duties. Let him keep his body clean and fresh and his mind will keep clean and fresh. Let him seek advice from his officer and assistance to obtain regular exercise on some sort of running track and let him practice regularly (but at least one and a half hours after a meal) and as soon as he is fit let him lose no opportunity to undertake competition to learn to pull the very best that is in him out of himself.

I do not mean that he should make his life a martyrdom and live for nothing but athletics. There is no reason in fact why he should not throw himself wholeheartedly into all the active interests of a military life and make his training just an incident, becoming as in the case of many famous predecessors a highly efficient and reliable soldier as well as a champion athlete.

### Smoking and Drinking.

Should he smoke? Well, that depends. A very young man without the habit really ingrained will be well advised to abstain altogether. If, moreover, his aspirations are of the very highest, he has more than an ordinary reason not to smoke. Perhaps I can put the matter more clearly in this wise—"Smoking will not improve you in any way; that is unquestionable. How far it may lower athletic efficiency it is difficult to say, but at a very modest estimate it must reduce by 1% (probably 5% is nearer the mark). If you are an ordinary runner, such a reduction is practically negligible in its effect, but if you aspire to the very highest honours, you will encounter competition in which a decision is often a matter of inches, so that some day that tiny percentage will make all the difference between success and failure."

If the athlete must smoke, I would never draw the line at a pipe after meals, and especially in the evening when the day's work is over.

What should he drink? Plenty of water, especially *between meals*, can do nothing but good, and an occasional glass of beer is a fine tonic, especially if he is a little down in the mouth and inclined to be stale. But any other form of alcohol must be rigorously tabooed. On the whole, athletes in training tend to restrict their fluids unduly and staleness is prone often for that one reason.

The amount of exercise taken must depend a great deal upon personal requirements and peculiarities. Some men easily over-train, *i.e.*, go stale on half the work of another. Whilst a fair number of valuable tips can be picked up from old hands, nobody can estimate a man's constitutlon in this respect. My only advice is to make training a long, slow, gradual process, to begin early in the year with a little work every day, or nearly every day, and to abstain for at least three weeks from any attempt at really fast running. It is of enormous advantage to practice with another runner. If he is a better man, try to "live with him" as long as possible; if he is inferior, give him a start and get pulled out that day. Of course, such an effort applies to more advanced stages of training.

### And the Compensation.

So you see what a simple matter, after all, training is. I could wish for sufficient eloquence to convince all my readers that if drudgery is inevitable, the result is ample compensation. But, indeed, anybody who has ever experienced the joy of living when really physically fit will agree with me that it is beyond description. Even the fierce delight of being enabled to force from oneself in strenuous competition every particle of physical power, although it may be a reversion to primitive man, connotes a pleasure, which lies with you in memory for the rest of life when spiked shoes and the rest of the kit are reluctantly put away "for good."

## Hints to Footballers.

### Half Back Play.

The strongest part of a team is in half back play, and it is up to every team to cultivate this to the fullest possible extent. It is the half-backs who have the double task of stopping the opposing forwards from scoring and of keeping their forwards well fed in a manner which will enable them to score goals.

One of the secrets of successful half back play lies in the accurate passing of the ball to your forwards. A man will never be accepted as a half back who can only tackle. The halves have not only to check opposing forwards but once in possession they must know how to distribute to the best advantage to their own forwards

Don't balloon the ball. By doing so you cause the forward for whom the ball is intended to waste time in trapping it and so give his opponents time to reach him. Pass low, the forward's foot being your mark. One of the fine arts of half back play is to pass so that the forwards can get into his stride at once without having to twist and turn.

## The Englishman's Way.

BE a sport. Play the game
In the Englishman's way.
Fresh air makes your outlook the wider.
Take care that its meant
In the nobler sense
When someone says,—"He's an outsider.'"

O.M.

# Kasskar guaranteed Pipes

Here are good pipes that give you a new conception of pipe-joy.

All Kasskar Pipes are cool and sweet smoking from the first fill.

Everyone is guaranteed flawless and free from fillings.

A new pipe given if the slightest fault develops.

Also high-quality Tobacco and Cigarettes supplied or, if desired, sent out of bond at the usual minimum quantity of 2 lb. nett weight.

No. **23**

Bulldog Shape. A medium size lightweight pipe

Price **8/6**

1. *Flat Bore—giving free draught.*
2. *Push-in, perfect fitting stem hand cut from best quality vulcanite.*
3. *Bowl of carefully selected, finely grained Bruyere Root. Highly Polished.*

Made in many shapes. You can order by post, your money returned if not satisfied, or select your favourite shape at:—

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*Established more than half a century.*

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Gentlemen's Complete Outfitter, etc.,
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The Recognised House for:
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"Men of Kent and Kentish Men's" Hat Bands, Neckwear, etc.

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BUILDER,
**Carpenter, Decorator, Wheelwright.**
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**Estimates given for all Repairs and Alterations.**
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ESTABLISHED OVER 40 YEARS.

**G. NASH & SON**
Practical & Fashionable Tailors
GENTLEMEN'S OUTFITTERS, Etc.
51 St. George's Street, CANTERBURY.

**W. SAMSON**
NEWSAGENT and TOBACCONIST
PERIODICALS DELIVERED.
9 THE BORO', CANTERBURY.

## Our Competitions.

A Record month! Twenty five entries in all, which encourages us still to struggle on with our competitions.

Here are the winners for October

CIRCULATION COMPETITION.

1st, Major C. D. K. Greenway; 2nd, Sgt. Broughton; whose estimate as to the number of October *Dragons* depatched from our office up to the 22nd October were 2725 and 2715 respectively.

The actual number dispatched was 2741.

GOLDEN SENTENCE COMPETITION.

The first three correct solutions were received from the following:—C.S.M. Crouchman, Sgt. Potter and Sgt. Broughton.

The golden sentence was "When the *Dragon's* opened, the Buffs begin to sing, etc.," taken from "Nursery Rhymes up to date."

A glance at the clue given will soon show that the finding of it was not a very difficult matter.

SUGGESTION FOR NOVEMBER.

The prizes in this instance have been awarded to Mr. Clifton and Lt. Col. Baynes. The former's suggestion will be found outlined in full on the Ladies Page, whist that of the latter is given later. Miss Martin of the 1st Battalion has also been given a consolation prize.

NOVEMBER COMPETITIONS.

**1. Ladies' Knitting Competiton.**

*For full particulars see page 217.*

**2. Guessing Competitions.**

(*a*) Two prizes will be awarded for the two nearest estimates as to the number of Past and Present Association Membership Forms received by the Hon. Sec. by the 22nd inst. A Form is being sent out with every copy of this issue which presumably will mean a grand total of from 2,700—2,800, of which 640 will go to Mesopotamia.

(*b*) Two prizes will also be awarded for the two nearest estimates as to the number of November *Dragons* despatched from our office up to and inclusive of the 22nd inst.

**3. Snapshot Competition.**

A prize will be given for the most humourous or original snapshot of a soldier.

This is the suggestion of Lt. Col. Baynes.

**And the Fourth.**

A prize will be given for the the best suggestion for a competition in our Christmas (December number).

*Conditions.*

*(1) All entries must be received in the Dragon office not later than the 20th instant.*
*(2) All readers, inclusive of ladies, are eligible to enter.*
*(3) No prizes will be awarded in (2) unless 10 entries at least are received for each.*
*(4) In each of the guessing competitions, competitors can be permitted to send in more than one estimate.*
*(5) Entries can be made by p.c. or personally at The Dragon office.*


YOU'RE WANTED

**AS A MEMBER of the Association of Past and Present Buffs.**

So please fill in and return the enclosed form with remittance.


## Personal.

AT the suggestion of several of our readers, we have pleasure in opening up a Personal Column. This we hope to see extensively patronized, our desire being to make *The Dragon* as helpful as possible.

PERSONAL.

Will any reader of *The Dragon* who has successfully cured him or herself of rheumatism tell advertiser how it was done? Box 9, *The Dragon.*

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**Wanted** Representatives for *The Dragon* and Association of Past and Present Buffs. Full particulars together with commission offered from Editor, *The Dragon.*

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FOR SALE.

(*a*) **Rabbits** Beautiful Blue Beveren. Adults and Youngsters. Beveren Club guarantee with each one. Purest pedigree stock.
(*b*) **Magnificent Apples,** cooking and desert, suitable for winter keeping. 6/6 a bushel picked.
(*c*) **Child's dark blue Victorian Pram** by Millson, in good condition. Sell for reasonable offer.
(*d*) **Two Oxford Minty chairs,** upholstered green serge. All correspondence relating to the above to Mrs. E. H. Finch-Hatton Court Lodge, Bishopsbourne.

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(*a*) **War Dragons,** complete sets unbound. Price 4/6 per set (post free).
(*b*) **1921 Dragons,** back numbers, 8d. per copy (post free).
All applications to *The Dragon* Office.

WANTED.

**Bull-dog** not more than 2 years and trained to house. Not for Show purposes, so one or two minor defects immaterial. Canine, c/o Editor, *Dragon.*

---

**Herbaceous Plants** for small garden. Particulars and price to Box 99, c/o *The Dragon.*

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**Photo** of the camp of the 2nd Battalion at Bloemfontein in March-April 1900. Also of the members of the Sergeants' Mess same period. Box 55, c/o *The Dragon.*

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(*a*) **Pre-war Dragons,** any year and any month.
(*b*) **Press-cuttings, Documents, Manuscript, photos or prints** of general interest to the Regiment on loan.
Particulars etc., to The Editor, *The Dragon.*

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**Gramophone Records,** grand opera and orchestral. Particulars and price to Box 77, c/o *The Dragon.*

## Our Lame Dogs.

APPENDED below is a further list, if taken haphazard of those of our old comrades who are awaiting jobs to help them over the stile.

We again appeal to our readers to submit to our office any vacancies they may have at their disposal. We can fill them all—and what is more with real good men.

SITUATIONS REQUIRED.

**Clerk.** Age 23. Single. 6 yrs. service. Mr. J. B. Spicer, 76 Fenwild Rd., Earlsfield, S.W.
**Chef.** Age 49. 1 child. 26 yrs. service. Pte. G. Kinchie, 16 Manor Rd., Dover.
**Butcher.** Age 24. Single. Mr. W Stockley, 70 S. Eastern Rd., Ramsgate.
**Painter.** Age 25. Single. Mr. H. T. Fassam, 5 Cumberland Rd., Ramsgate.
**Labourer or Stoker.** Age 51. Married. 13 years service. Mr. W. S. Brereton, 24 Rideout St., Woolwich.
**Labourer.** Age 40. Married. Wife charwoman. Mr. J. Godden, 4 Regents Court, New Road, Chatham.

### Editorial Note.

*News, personal notes, short sketches, photographs, letters for publication, and drawings are invited from our readers. All communications and MSS. should be sent to the Editor, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury. The Paper is published on the 1st of each month, and copy for insertion in the coming issue should reach the Editor not later than the 14th of the current month. No MSS. or drawings, etc., can be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.*

## Regimental Gazette.

### Officers.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

The following relinquish their commns :—

3RD THE BUFFS.—Lt. P. Popplewell (May 12), and is granted the rank of Capt.

RLY. TRANS. OFFR. (REGTL. RATES OF PAY).—Lt. H. T. Brady, D.C.M. The Buffs, relinquishes his temp. appt. (Aug. 27).

Lt. T. H. L. Turner, remains secd. for service with the R.C. of Sigs. (June 28, 1920).

4TH BN.—Lt. G. W. Searles resigns his commn. (Oct. 7), and retain the rank of Lt.

5TH BN.—Lt. R. H. Jessel resigns his commn. (Oct. 7), and retains the rank of Lt.

The following relinquish their commns. on completion of service (Sept. 1) :—

THE BUFFS.—Temp. Capt. J. A. Barris, and retains rank of Capt. ; Temp. Lt. C. J. Bremner, M.C. and is granted rank of Capt.

POSTINGS.

2/Lieutenant F. G. Crozier to 1st Battalion, 14-9-21.

Major G. Lee, D.S.O., to 1st Battalion, 1-10-21.

### The Depot.

APPOINTMENTS.

Appointed paid Lance-Corporals :—No. 6279806 Pte. C. Parry, No. 6280320 Dmr. C. Collier.

Appointed unpaid recruit Lance-Corporal :—No. 6281175, Pte. F. Turner.

DISCHARGE.

6281137 Pte. F. Stockley.

DECREASE.

To 1st Bn., 12/9/21, 6280325 Pte. H. Sandwell, 6281335 Boy S. Follett.

RE-ENLISTMENTS.

Pte. S. F. Akhurst (late Royal Marines), Pte. W. Foster (late R.G.A.) Pte. R. Fox (late 5th Buffs).

RECRUITS.

Pte. R. Groombridge, Pte. T. Smith, Pte. J. H. Pelham, Pte. G. Richards, Pte. A. E. Aylward, Pte. E. A. Lowis, Pte. E. Bradley, Pte. A. Bone, Pte. J. E. Scott, Pte. J. W. Holland, Pte. S. Sandwell.

### 1st Battalion.

DISCHARGES.

6279948 L/C. E. Venn, 6279803 Pte. T. R. White, 6279787 L/C. E. Field, 6279805 Pte. J. Garner, 6280165 Pte. R. Osgood, 6279955 Pte. H. Griffiths, 6279956 Pte. C. Doughty, 6279512 Pte. A. Byatt, 6279889 Pte. G. Gatehouse, 6279949 Pte. R. Grainger, 6279650 Pte. R. Hubbard. 6279957 Pte. J. B. Spicer.

TRANSFER.

To the Tank Corps, 18/8/21, 6280172 Pte. H. Hale.

EXTENSION OF SERVICE.

To complete 12 years 6278441 Cpl. G. Rye.

## Les Boeufs and Morval.

WE have received a letter from Miss Eleanor Hodson, Hon. Sec. of the Canterbury French Village Relief Fund, telling us that she is sadly in need of further funds to relieve the utter distress still prevailing at Les Boeufs and Morval, the two villages adopted by Canterbury, and where our 1st, 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions fought so gallantly. Here is an extract from her letter :

" The claims of these heaps of stones, barbed wire and debris that once were the French peasants homes are very insistent. I was in the Somme country this summer and its perfectly appalling. I enclose an appeal for fruit trees. If you can help us, even a little, please do."

The Appeal tells us, that four shillings will buy a fruit tree, *and that Maidstone is sending Montanban* 1,000 *cider apple trees*. We may perhaps be allowed to express the hope, that it will not be long before Canterbury and District will so help Les Boeufs and Morval that the peasants of these villages may be assured of being able to look forward in the future to as good fruit seasons as Kent is accustomed to enjoy. All donations should be sent to Miss Hodsons', Oaten Hill House, Canterbury.

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**Victoria Buildings, Oxford.**

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*Please mention this Journal in all Correspondence.*

# —XMAS—

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PRICE £2

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| Strong Air Guns, Diana, from 7s. 6d. upwards. | | | |
| Demon do., No. 1 & 2 Bore ,, | £2 | 0 | 0 ,, |
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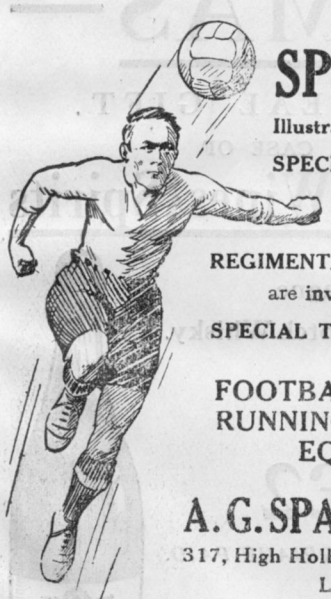

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Secretary, Royal United Services Institution, Whitehall, S.W. 1.

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1st (Depot) Tank Battalion, Bovington Camp, Wool. Dorset.

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**The Queen's Own Gazette.** ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.

**St. George's Gazette.** NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS.

**The Tank Corps Journal.**

**The Green Howards Gazette.** YORKSHIRE REGIMENT.

**The Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette.**

**The Hampshire Regimental Journal.**

**The London Scottish Regimental Gazette.**

**QUARTERLIES**

**The Lion and The Rose.** K.O.R.R. (LANCASTER).

**The 1st Battalion Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Magazine and Record.**

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**Royal Fusiliers Chronicle.**

FROM

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*(exclusive Cooper recipe)*

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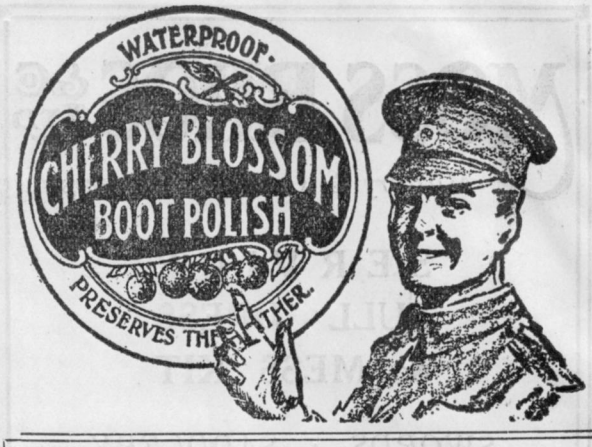


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EST. 1811.

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A PAPER FOR THE BUFFS AND MEN OF KENT.

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## "Cheerio."

### Our Christmas Number.

*TO the merits of our Christmas Number true justice surely is to be done only by our adoption of the style and manner of the more aspiring and less self-effacing of our contemporaries. Strict to the traditions of the Regiment which it represents, it is not the habit of The Dragon to cry its own achievements, but we* ARE *proud of our Christmas attractions, and doubt if the most flaunting displays of picture supplements and free prize coupons can lessen the pride we feel.*

*To begin with, it will be seen that, this being the period of Peace and Good Will to* ALL *men, we, out of sheer Christian consideration for the feelings of our readers, do* NOT *give away with this number—*

**A Fine Saffron Chromo Mezzotint in Four Colours, entitled:**

**"Daddy's Christmas Gift."**

*But to console any person who may find himself disappointed through our neglect of this grand old custom, we are happy to be able to announce that the Editor, regardless of* ALL *personal danger, will give—*

**Free, Gratis and for Nothing,**

*his carefully considered opinion upon any*

**Gift of Cigars**

*which reaches his office before noon on December 24th. Each entry must be accompanied by a deposit of One Guinea, not necessarily for celebration, but as a guarantee of good faith.*

*Nor is this all. We are able to declare with the utmost confidence that*

**Every Purchaser of this Number**
**Will Receive without Making any Payment**
**FREE SEATS**
**At any Theatre or Cinema,**

*provided his credit at that place of amusement is sufficiently good.*

*In conclusion, we have only to add that startling as these Christmas attractions must undoubtedly appear, and glad as we are to present them, our greatest pride lies not in these, but in certain other offerings that it is our happy duty to render not only at Christmas time but also at every other period of the year. They are loyal and unswerving devotion to the Regiment, and the best of good wishes for all time to every Buff both Past and Present.*

## Personalia.

WE have just heard of an old officer to whom Colonel W. E. R. Kelly must yield place in the matter of age: this is Captain S. J. Dyer, who was born in 1842. He was a member of the Naval and Military Club as long ago as 1863, and is still to be seen there occasionally. He served in the 2nd Battalion under Colonel (afterwards General Sir Charles) Pearson, and retired a short time before the Zulu War.

---

The news has been broken to Colonel Kelly who is bearing it with equanimity. We are glad to hear that he and Mrs. Kelly are back at Datchet, a d that the latter is slowly regaining strength.

---

Captain W. T. Johnston has been in London on a few weeks leave and has now gone back to Dublin. He brought news of Captain H. T. Brady who is still in Dublin, very fit and well, but has not yet found a job.

---

Another Buff who has been spending his leave from Ireland in London is Lt.-Col. H. Findlay, looking, we thought, even younger than when he joined in 1897. A suggestion which he puts forward is that officers spending their leave in London might inform *The Dragon* in advance so that their names might be published, the object being that all might have the opportunity of looking each other up.

---

Now that the Naval and Military Club has dispensed with an entrance fee, a very favourable opportunity offers itself to any officers of the 1st and 2nd Battalions who do not already belong to a senior club, especially as provision has recently been made for bedroom accommodation, and as a room for the entertainment for ladies is to be made available.

---

It is interesting to remember that the Naval and Military was founded by the Buffs in 1862, when quartered at the Tower of London, and for many years no officer ever thought of joining any other service club.

The following officers of the regiment were or are members: Generals Bainbridge, Lynden-Bell, Finch-Hatton, Hickson, Hunter, Kekewich, Mitford, Ingouville-Williams; Colonels Eaton, Geddes, Lewis, Hasler, Moody, Vyvyan, Worthington; Majors Cobbe, Bradley Dyne, Eales, Archer Houblon, Crookenden, Campbell-Johnston, Marriott, Ternan, Tomlinson, Porter; Captains Vertue, Eustace, James, J. F. W. Allen, G. R. Howe, Barker, Dyer, Price; Lieutenants C. R. B. Knight and Ensign J. Gould.

---

In regard to the above, the following extract from "Piccadilly in Three Centuries" by A. I. Dasent, is of special interest.

"In 1862, some officers of the Buffs quartered at the Tower, finding themselves without a club to go to in consequence of the long-waiting-lists of candidates for the older Service clubs, originated the Naval and Military. With a membership of one hundred and fifty they opened a small house in Clifford Street. Mainly composed of junior officers ("spring captains" and junior naval lieutenants), the club long maintained a reputation of youthfulness which has become a tradition of the past.

The new club increased so rapidly that a year after its foundation it was able to take larger premises at 22 Hanover Square, and when Cambridge House became vacant it took a lease of the old mansion and moved into it in the course of 1866.....A unique feature of the Naval and Military, which has earned the reputation of being the best-managed club in London, is the coffee-room standing apart from the main building."

Our readers will be interested to hear that no less than five old Buffs are to be found as w iters at Simpsons in The Strand, and that each is ready to vie with the other in looking after the comfort of any Buff who may chance to turn in there. Here are their names: Top Room, No. 1513 Pte. E. T. Atkinson, M.M.; (late 3rd, 6th and 8th Battalions) and No. 1417 Pte. W. Brookes (late 8th Battalion); South Room, Ptes. 1407 F. Barrett and 1475 A. Emery (both late of the 5th Battalion), and Ground Floor Room, Pte. 1416 W. Wade (late 5th Battalion).

---

We also hear that L/Cpl. Barratt, late of the . th Battalion, is now wine steward at the Berkeley.

---

It is perhaps not universally known that Sir W. T. F. Horwood, the Chief Commissioner of Police, whose name has been so prominent in the public eye during the last month, is an old Buff, having joined the 3rd Battalion in 1887, which he left later to serve in the 5th Lancers.

---

Capt. E. H. Allen and Lt. R. H. Fox have now both returned to Nigeria, the latter having been posted to the M.G. Platoon and the former to the 2nd Battalion Nigeria Regiment. Whilst another officer to leave England recently has been Major W. R. Corrall on his return to Egypt.

---

The official roll of names of the rank and file of The Buffs who fell in the Great War is now available, and can be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office through any bookseller for five shillings. This is a publication which we hope will be placed in every public library or reading room throughout the County.

---

The list shows that the regiment lost 5,531 men, the losses of the individual battalions being as follows: 1st Bn. 1,278; 2nd Bn. 692; 3rd Bn. 44; 4th Bn. 91; 5th Bn. 272; 6th Bn. 1,351; 7th Bn. 1,062; 8th Bn. 585; 9th Bn. 4; 10th Bn. 152.

---

In regard to these losses, Major Tomlinson asks us to say that he would be glad to receive notification at 2 Cavendish Square if any omissions or inaccuracies in this list that may be discovered by the relatives or friends of the fallen. This is in order that these may be rectified in the Memorial Book to be placed with the War Memorial in the Warriors' Chapel, and to which reference is made on page 262.

---

We extend a hearty welcome to the *Ypres Times*, the first number of which has now made its appearance and which is obtainable on application to the Secretary, the Ypres League, 23 Henrietta Street, Cavendish Sq., W 1. This exceeding well got up and interesting journal will make a direct appeal to all who served in the salient. In it are to be found articles by such well-known writers as Lord Ernest Hamilton, Sir Philip Gibbs, and Sir Henry Newbolt. This first number also contains a cartoon showing Bruce Bairnsfather at his best, a double page illustration of the devastated town entitled "This is Holy Ground," and a number of other illustrations.

---

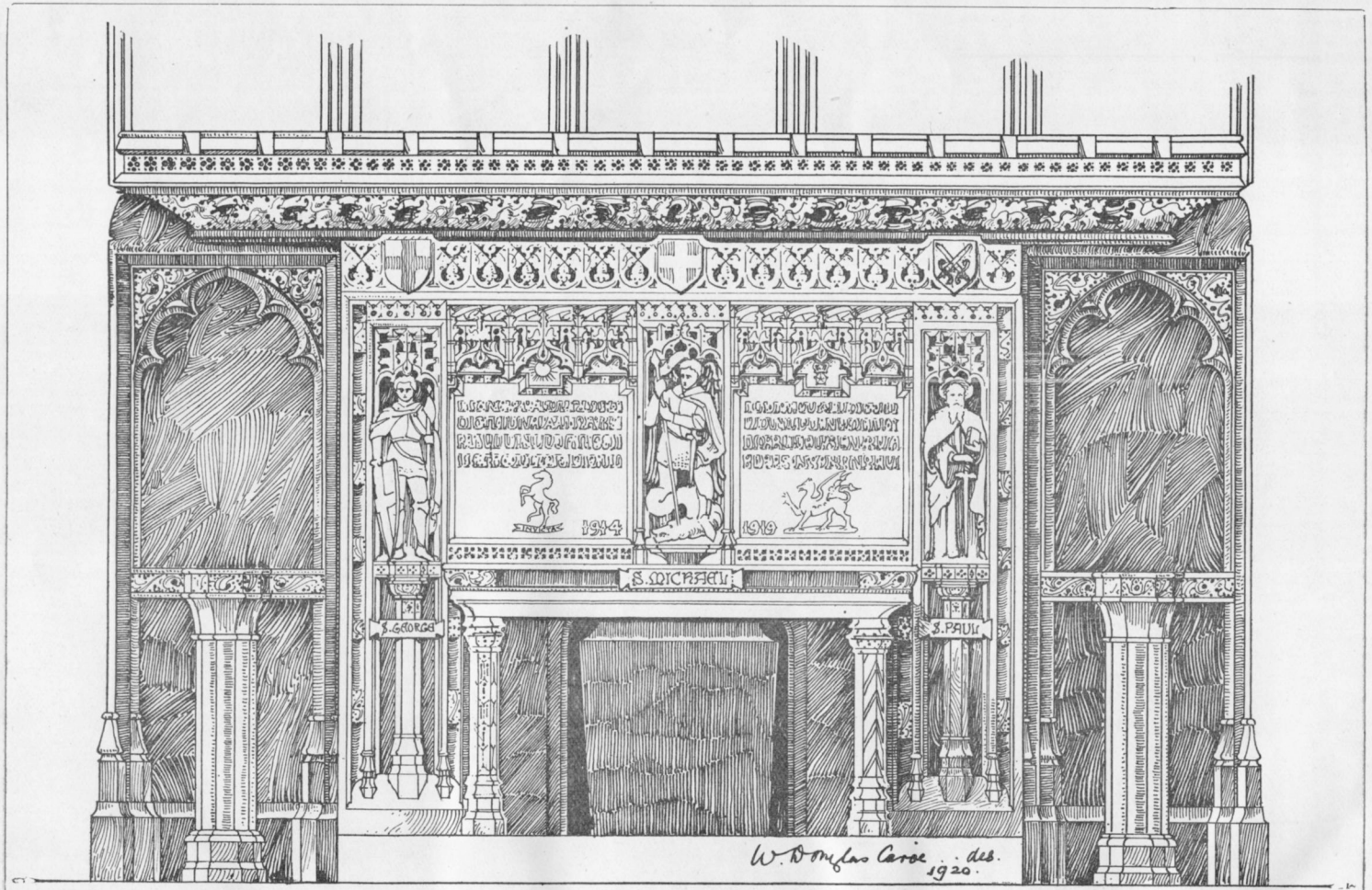
Owing to the great demand on our space we are compelled to hold over our further notice relating to the Regimental Almanac, compiled by Sergeant A. H. Baker, and published by the 1st Battalion in 1891.

---

A happy echo of the Annual Dinner of the Association of Past and Present Buffs is a letter from our Chelsea Pensioner saying how much they enjoyed themselves.

# The Buffs War Memorial,

Warriors' Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral.




Supplement to THE DRAGON.
January, February and March, 1921.

**Personalia**—*continued.*

Mr. E. F. Nunn, our Canterbury representative, is going great guns. Not content on selling close on 100 copies of *The Dragon* monthly, he has also been successful in obtaining no less than twenty-six new Members for the Past and Present Association. We thank him.

A Christmas card which will please everyone is the one published from the Depot. The Illustration takes the form of a reproduction of a rare old print kindly lent by Major Tomlinson, and full particulars as to price, etc., will be found on page 248.

Next month we propose having a special New Year's number, and we invite the assistance of our readers towards making it a record one.

One of the recent callers at our office has been Mr. W. Bayman, late of the 1st and 2nd Battalions. He is now a clerk in the Railway Offices at Woolwich, a somewhat different job to the one he had at Harrismith where he drove the Officers' Mess cart, and a transport team of 8 mules.

L/Cpl. Kelly who is up in Scotland with Sir Theodore Brinckman is having a varied time. Fishing, shooting, bicycle accidents, and earthquakes have all come his way. And it was a happy thought of his to send The Depot a sprig of heather for luck.

Another stalwart old Buff with whom we have recently got into touch is Private Harris. He joined in 1872 and left in 1884, and quite undefeated served in the Royal Defence Corps during the Great War. Good luck to him.

## Past and Present Notes.

THE following is a further list of Life Members of the Association. :—

Lieuts. R. W. M. Webster and C. B. R. Knight, C.S.M. Guerin, Sergt. Howard, Lce.-Sergt. Robinson, Lce.-Corpls. Windsor, B. Richards, and Ptes. J. Pitt, F. Matthews, T. Maplesden, F. Chivers, and W. Shrubb.

An account will be found on another page of the placing of the wreath on the Regimental Memorial in the Warriors' Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral. This was the outcome of suggestions at the late dinner. A wreath will be placed annually in future on the Regimental Memorial, in the Warriors' Chapel, on Armistice Day, and on the Cenotaph, Whitehall, on the occasion of the Annual dinner of the Association.

All Members of the Association offer their congratulations to Gillingham's New Mayor, an "Old Buff," His Worship is a Life Member of the Association and I believe the first old Buff to occupy the Mayoralty Chair. May his shadow never grow less. Mr. H. Hepworth is the one on whom this honour has been conferred. What have our Gillingham friends to say of their silence in not sending an account to *The Dragon*.

It will be remembered that the Association was recently approached by the British Legion with a view to becoming affiliated to, or amalgamated with that body. This invitation, after due consideration, has been declined, In fact it could not be otherwise, for Membership of The British Legion is confined to ex-Members of the Service only, whereas our membership also caters for the serving soldiers. This decision has been sent to The Legion together with an offer that, so far as it rests within the power of our Association, everything will be done by us to further the aims of the British Legion.

I shall be pleased to receive any outstanding subscriptions for the present year, and would draw the attention of all ranks who have not yet joined the Association to the announcement on page 269.

And last but not least a Merry Christmas to all.

A. ANDREWS, R.S.M.,
*Hon. Sec.*

**THE WAR HISTORY.**

**If you have not yet ordered your copy, you should drop Major Tomlinson a line** *vide* **page 257.**

# Colonels of the Buffs.

## *No.* 3. Sir Walter Vane. 1668—1673.

SIR Walter Vane was one of the officers who refused to take the oath of allegiance to the United States of the Netherlands in 1665 and therefore returned to England in that year together with all those who had acted similarly. He however re-entered the Dutch service in 1673, with the rank of Major-General, in command of the British troops. He was killed the following year at the battle of Seneffe.

Vane's tenure of the colonelcy of the Buffs is chiefly interesting for two reasons: during that time was established the privilege, which the Buffs still enjoy, of marching through the City of London with Colours flying, bayonets fixed, drums beating and band playing. This privilege is based on their origin from the Trained Bands of London in 1572, but the first recorded authorization to members of the Holland Regiment (Buffs) to "beat the drums" within the precincts of the city is a warrant bearing date September 23rd, 1760, which directs a certain Sergeant John Mowatt to go there and "by beat of drum to raise thirty-two volunteers." It was the almost invariable custom to issue such warrants for definite occasions only and to specify the number of recruits to be raised, but, as though to emphasise the special claim of the Buffs in this respect, in 1672 Sir Walter Vane was empowered to give orders "to any captain in his regiment, *from time to time*, to raise recruits *as they may be required.*"

It was about the same time, also, that the Buffs were sent to serve at sea :—a few, without arms, were sent in 1671 from the company quartered at Windsor, and in the following year a considerable number, with their arms, embarked at Newcastle-on-Tyne and were engaged as marines in a sharp fight with the Dutch fleet on May 28th.

### An Expression of Thanks.

The Hon. Sec. Buffs Benevolent Fund wishes to thank Bandsman Moss and Party for the £2 4s. 0d. collected by them for the Fund at the match in the 2nd round of the Army Association Cup, when the 1st Battalion beat the 1st Manchesters 3—1.

### To Our Correspondents.

*WE would be grateful if Correspondents, when communicating with us, would not only sign their names, but also mention ranks, or former ranks, decorations, late Battalions, and as many other particulars suitable for our Personalia Column as possible.*

*This would also assist us greatly in the Compilation of records necessitated by our new feature, "The Enquiry Bureau."*

# The 1st Battalion.

THE whole camp was in a turmoil. Servants, waiters, orderlies, and harried subalterns were rushing hither and thither; for in the middle of the musketry camp the cry went forth that Capt. A. was wanted on the 'phone—for a call from London.

Never before had the docile instrument in the Queen's orderly room had an opportunity of proving its worth. A call all the way from London to the Musketry Camp at Kilworth! The knowledge that Capt. A. was daily expecting to become a Father lent wings to the heels of the searchers.—Dinner, baths, buttons, belts and the Green Hut—all were forgotten. Capt. A. was found eventually, where he might have been expected but no one thought to look, and doubled at the treble to the jangling 'phone.....

"Pte. Potter speaking Sir," (the Adjutant's groom), "I've been to see your Father, Sir, General A., and he says I'm to ask you if I may have an extension of leave." ! ! !.....

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WHEN THE MAJOR SWORE.

It was one of those days, anxiously looked forward to, and hot—hot as only October weather apparently knows how to be. The sportsmen set forth armed like bandits, guns glistening in the sun and pockets full of cartridges—some only warranted to explode—and borrowed from all manner of persons—'praps even from the Shinners.

For many weary hours they tramped—thro' woods and fields and rivers searching, searching, for the pheasants that it was hoped existed in those parts. It was so hot that coats and lunch and beer were left under a holly tree, to which after a fruitless morning's toil the sportsman returned for a refresher. Guns were laid aside and the Colonel's coat that had been keeping cool the beer was grabbed by eager hands.

"Tgh-h-h," a noise like silence moving, and away from under the coat went a woodcock! Guns were seized—and some exploded, but the woodcock almost turned back to laugh. The Colonel wants to know what the bird had been doing there for the cork of one of the beer bottles was loose. The shooters saw nothing else to shoot at all that day, and the story of the cock that made himself at home in the Colonel's Burberry will I know provide merriment in certain circles for many a long day.

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IN BRIEF.

Cheery Xmas Greetings and a Happy New Year to all our friends.

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We had hopes of spending Xmas elsewhere, but—

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However, we have our Medals now.

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Over 400 were presented by Colonel R. McDouall on Armistice Day.

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Armistice Day, 1921 was another Boxing Day.
Yes! Coal-boxing day.

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Who was the Officer who forgot to put his safety catch forward in one of his Classification practices—and then wondered why he was'nt a Marksman?

Who was the Officer too who lost his revolver and belt on the range, and then after a prodigious search found it under a pile of stones?

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Who ran up and down his front line emitting the inimitable fire order, "Get the damned thing going."

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Is he dressed yet? If not he ought to be?

R. W.

THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

With the approach of the long winter evenings, our social functions are increasing, and so this month we have had a fairly busy time. We kicked off with a Whist Drive and Dance in the Mess, and this, being the first of its kind for a considerable period, proved very popular. Seventeen Tables were occupied, and the Winners were —Ladies 1st Mrs. Martin (R.Q.M.S.), 2nd Mrs. Evans, Booby, Mrs. Souter. Gents 1st C.S.M. Smith (R.A.S.C.), 2nd Mr. Bladon.

Our Billiard Match with the R.A.S.C. has concluded leaving us winners by 111 points. Some very close matches were witnessed and the result was in abeyance until the last game or two. Scores :—

| R.A.S.C. | | Buffs. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| S.Q.M.S. Patterson ... | 250 | R.Q.M.S. Martin ... | 206 |
| C.S.M. Bryer... ... | 215 | C.Q.M.S. Kelly ... | 250 |
| S/Sgt. Marlow ... | 250 | Sgt. Truby ... ... | 244 |
| Sgt. Perry ... ... | 250 | Sgt. Croucher ... | 214 |
| C.S.M. Duggan ... | 150 | W.O.-Instr. Collins | 250 |
| Sgt. Kiddle ... ... | 241 | Sgt. Denny ... ... | 250 |
| C.S.M. Taylor ... | 250 | R.S.M. Martin ... | 176 |
| Sgt. Pickard ... | 117 | Sgt. Mullen ... ... | 250 |
| Sgt. Carter ... ... | 250 | C.S.M. Follett ... | 244 |
| Total ... | 1973 | Total ... | 2084 |

A Billiard Handicap is now being arranged, and according to the entries up to date, looks like going well.

A very pleasing little function took place in the Mess on November 7th. This was the occasion of the Silver Wedding of our popular Quartermaster and Mrs. Cook. With a few well chosen words R.S.M. Martin briefly referred to this happy event, and then called upon Sgt. Holmes, the only member of the Mess who was serving in the Regiment when the wedding took place 25 years ago, to make the presentation.

Waxy's first remark was "Turn out the Guard," and his explanation was that the occasion was an exceptional one, if for no other reason that both the actual wedding itself and the Silver one were celebrated in the Service. Although a bit "nervy" he made an excellent speech, and then asked Capt. and Mrs. Cook to accept, with hearty congratulations, a Silver Salver as a small token of the esteem with which they are held by all the Members of the Sergeants' Mess.

Capt. Cook replied with a few words in his own inimitable style, and made reference to the happy times he had always spent as a member of the Sergeants' Mess and also to those which he hoped to spend in the future. At the end of his speech he said that if the Buffs were anywhere within reach when his Golden Wedding took place, he would come and pay them a visit. Then after a few songs, etc., the whole company stood up and sang Auld Lang Syne, thus closing a memorable and very pleasant evening.

We had a big dance in the Gymn on Armistice Night and our Spoon Shoot was held the following week end, but the accounts of these must stand over.

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FOOTBALL.

**1st Round Army Cup.**

On Wednesday, November 2nd the Battalion played the 2nd East Lancs. at Buttevant, and after a game in which the score does not signify the nature of the play we ran out winners by one to love.

In the first three minutes we were awarded a penalty kick. Our goal-keeper Woodward the "Boston Kid" who takes all our penalties scored with a beauty right in the corner of the net but alas, Lewis had put his foot over the Line and the Kick was taken again. Woodward banged it straight at the Goalie and it rebounded. In the second half we ran them off their feet but our forwards failed to score. They ought to have changed their boots. About eight minutes from time Corpl. Jones scored the winner with a shot from an almost impossible angle and we got to our Lorries and returned to Fermoy cold but very happy and satisfied.

On Saturday 5th we played the 2nd Bde. R.F.A. and ran out winners by eight to love. Evidently we were a little too good, and Lewis Rye and Andrews made rings round them. We hope to tell you next month how we won both 2nd Round Army Cup and 2nd Round Irish Army Cup. (News is just to hand that, in the 2nd round of the Army Cup, the 1st Battn. beat the Manchesters 3—1. Ed.)

**The 1st Battalion**—*continued.*

HOCKEY.

The first match of the season was played on the 3rd November against the 1st Queens and resulted in a win for our visitors by five goals to one.

In the Irish Army Cup Competition, the Battalion met the 2nd Bde. R.F.A. in the 1st Round on the 9th November. The day was damp, cold and cheerless and the ground very slippery. From the bully-off The Buffs pressed and were rewarded after 15 minutes with a goal scored by Sgt. Boarer. The pace of the game remained surprisingly fast and began to tell on those who were not quite so fit as others. Before half-time the Gunners were able to equalize during a great tussle in the goal-mouth. Early in the second half they took the lead, and for some time the game was evenly contested. Eventually L/Cpl. Perry got possession of the ball and as the result of a splendid individual effort beat half-back, back and goal-keeper and so put The Buffs on level terms with The Gunners. It was but a few moments from "time" when Sgt. Burville raced in from the right wing, slammed the ball into the net, thus enabling The Buffs to meet the 1st Queens in the 2nd Round.

Throughout the game Q.M.S. Evans was prominent in his display and thwarted many a movement of the opposing forwards. L/C. Tutt played well at inside right whilst Lieut. D'Arcy Symonds, Bandsman Marshall, L/C. Perry, C.S.M. Mould, and Sgt. Dixon in goal are also to be specially commended for their tireless efforts.

Our Team was as follows:—Goal:—Sgt. Dixon. Backs:—C.S.M. Mould and Sgt. Hills. H.-backs:—Pte. Wellard, Q.M.S. Evans, and Bdm. Marshall. Forwards:—Sgt. Burville, L/C. Tutt, Lieut. D'Arcy Symonds, Sgt. Boarer and L/C. Perry.

**On Half back play.**

The above game revealed the importance of half-back play. While still fresh, the halves were where they should be—well up behind the forwards. During that period the Gunners were hard pressed and continually on the defensive. But as soon as our halves fell back, the Gunners opened out, and it was The Buffs turn to be forced on the defensive. It was particularly noticeable during the second half of the game that our halves seemed to be content to hit the ball up the field and wait for it to come back. That is, they adopted the role of "defender" and gave up that of "attacker." This may seem stern criticism of men who played gamely; but the half back line, in Hockey as in Soccer, is the making or breaking of a team.

Half-backs have the hardest game to play, and must never give up their work as attackers, keeping close up behind the forwards.

A COMPANY AT CASTLETOWNROCKE.

On October 11th A Company took over the Castletownrocke detachment from B Company, No. 4 Platoon being joined on 17th by No. 2 Platoon.

The morning's work varied between P.T., Lewis Gun Drill, repair of fortifications and other martial occupations while from 11.30 to 12.30 Education, held on the front lawn of our palatial abode, occupied the attention of all and sundry. The afternoons we spent in football matches between the two platoons. Honours were very evenly divided but the detachment side carried all before it in two matches against the R.I.C.

Sgt. MacLean, ably supported by Messrs. Cook, Sullivan and Wallis, fed the detachment admirally while the canteen under Cpl. Willing, supplied us with everything from "Blue-Bell" to Mr. Maye's best ale. Our thanks go out to all of them.

We held three detachment concerts. Excellent programmes included songs and recitations by Sgt. Jones, step-dancing and musical interludes by Cpl. Taylor and popular songs by nearly everyone else.

We had just begun work on our miniature range when we heard we were to hand over the billet on Saturday 29th to the R.I.C. and return to Fermoy. There followed a bustle of cleaning up and packing the end of which saw us all safely loaded into lorries with all our goods and chattels, bumping back to Fermoy.

B COMPANY.

Since our last notes appeared Major Guy Lee has come from the Depot and taken command of the Company. All ranks join in welcoming him.

Heartiest congratulations to Nos. 6 and 8 Platoons and Lts. Oliver and Wilson on winning the Lewis Gun team and Platoon Field Firing Competitions respectively. Also to Lt. Oliver and No. 6 again on coming second to No. 8 in the Field Firing. We feel sure these successes will inspire the rest of the Company to further victories.

Congratulations too, to Cpl. Rice and Pte. Andrews on the very fine game they both played for the Regiment against the East Lancs. at Buttevant; especially to the former for the splendid way in which he kept his team together. Large numbers of the Company, armed with rattles and the Battalion Colours, went to watch. They had a great day. Lets see more still turn out next time.

We came up against C Company in the first round of the Harris Shield soccer and, after a very even game, we drew with three goals all. Cpl. Rice and Ptes. Hogben and White played exceptionally well and went very hard and straight all through the game.

On October 30th a Company Sports Meeting was held at which it was decided that the "McDonall" Shield should be called the Winter Shield, and competed for by Platoons before January each year. Teams from each platoon will compete at Football, Hockey, Cross-Country Running, Boxing, Bayonet Fencing and Shooting on the knock-out system. So far we have only played the first round of the football in which No. 6 beat No. 5 4–0. We hope to finish up this Competition with a "Company Smoker" early in December.

We have lost the following:—Ptes. Hunter and Jordan (a loss to the officers' mess) time expired, and Ptes. Wright and Redman, medically discharged. Good luck to them all.

L/C. Bradbury, one of the Company Marksman, and Pte. Grigsby, who will leave a gap in the cricket team, have been transferred to D Company. We shall miss them both.

Cpl. and Mrs. Belsey are to be congratulated on the birth of their daughter, Jessie Regina, to whom all health and happiness.

C COMPANY.

Since last writing, the company has returned from Kilworth to Fermoy, and football has been taken up in earnest as far as possible. Practice games have been played between platoon teams with a view to to the strongest company team possible being selected, Our matches have been against the R.A.S.C. Bakery who beat us 3–0, and a practice game against B Company whom we beat 5–1. But a few days ago we met B Company in the first round of the "Harris Shield" Competition and, after an exciting game only managed to draw 3–3. Our goal scorers were Lieut. Kimm, L/C. Hughes, and Bandsman Lee.

We have also started practice cross-country runs with a view of selecting a good team for this year's "Harris Shield" and hope to come out a few points better than last year.

There is a Novices boxing tournament taking place in the near future, and afterwards a Brigade open Boxing tournament. In both of these we hope to have a few entries from the Company, and we hope to start Hockey soon.

H. E. MANNING, C.Q.M.S.

D COMPANY.

Now that the whole of the Company is at Fermoy again, we have started working very seriously at drills, etc., and at sport.

Our ranks have been swollen by the arrival of a draft, 31 strong, from the Depot. We welcome them, too, May they enjoy themselves here as they did at Canterbury. We shall then be a very happy family. Rumour has it that there are some good sportsmen among them, boxers and runners particularly. Only yesterday, our worthy "Wank" was heard saying "Scrap? not 'arf, y'ought to see 'em knock us old sweats abaht." Nevertheless we like to hear it.

Football did you say? Oh, no, we're not giving any tips away, but rest assured we're "hot-stuff." The company is well represented in the regimental football team but another one or two wouldn't hurt. So "buck up" and we'll see what can be done about it. We have a very promising young forward in Sid Priest. And this would hardly be complete without a little about our "Tubby." Some of you think he can't do anything except dish out the grub (and service) in the mess-room; but you see him play football. It's a scream to see him rolling up the field after the ball. But you know it wasn't his fault that he missed the goal by two fields, when he "took" the free-kick, as he admitted afterwards, in his hurry to get dressed he put his boots on the wrong feet. Shush! he's a "rugger" fiend too.

We heartily congratulate Cpl. Cornwell on winning the prize for the gentleman's best fancy dress at the Corporals' dance, and may it prove a valuable aid for the circulation of *The Dragon*. And although perhaps a little belated we should also like to congratulate Sgt. and Mrs. Hills on the birth of a daughter.

C. J. H.

# School of Military Administration.

## The 1922 Courses.

ARRANGEMENTS have now been completed for the Administrative Courses and Cookery and Catering Courses to be held next year, at the School of Military Administration, Chisledon.

For the Senior Officers' Courses, students will be selected from graduates of the Staff College, and regimental officers with at least 15 years' service, while the Junior Officers will be chosen from regimental officers with less than 15 years' service, but with at least 4 years' regimental experience. Adjutants and quartermasters are eligible to attend the Junior Courses.

For the Quartermaster-Sergeants' Courses, students will be selected from regimental quartermaster-serjeants, and quartermaster-serjeants, and serjeants recommended for promotion.

For the Territorial Army Courses, selections will be carried out by Commands as far as practicable, on the same lines as for the Regular Army Junior Officers' Courses, and Quartermaster-Serjeants' Courses.

For the Cookery and Catering Courses, candidates will be selected as follows:—(1) Serjeant Cooks Courses: from N.C.O.'s holding 2nd Class Certificates of Education who have already obtained Cookery certificates from the Aldershot Cookery School, Command Cookery Schools, or the School at Chisledon. (2) Company Cooks' Courses: from men in possession of 3rd Class Certificates. (3) Officers' Mess Cooks' Courses—from N.C.O.'s or men who have already obtained certificates from the Aldershot Cookery School, Command Schools or School at Chisledon.

## Tommy's Christmas.

*(Being an extract from a series of articles entitled Thomas Atkins which appeared in The Dragons of* 1887).

TOMMY has a great idea of keeping up Christmas, and the further he is away from home the greater "stickler" he will be for the old time-honoured customs. For a week before the festive day he is hard at work, cutting out paper mottoes and devices, and painting strange designs to be fixed to the barrack room walls; and I almost believe that if he were stationed in the midst of Sahara, he would manage somehow to have a few boughs and green leaves.

I know that he once managed it in mid-ocean, which is nearly as unfavourable a locality. It was once my lot to spend a Christmas with Tommy in a troopship in the middle of the Indian Ocean, and on visiting the troop-deck at dinner-time I was much surprised to find that most of the tables had burst out into leaf. With an eye to the future Tommy had, it appeared, smuggled on board a few small branches of evergreen when we had touched at the Cape two or three weeks previously. How he had managed all this time to evade the vigilance of the first lieutenant and his myrmidons (Tommy's natural enemies on board a transport), I cannot conceive. But that he did so shows how, when far away from home, the poor fellow cherished those little observances of a time when home, more than at any other period is in mind of the exile.

Tommy's Christmas day on shore in his normal condition is a very different affair. The decorations in the way of paper flags and evergreens are most elaborate. There are generally about seventy men in a company, who, are, as a rule, accommodated in three rooms, and in each room a festive board is spread. There's a tablecloth to-day—not a very fine one certainly, but it's very white and clean, and beside each plate, there's a wine-glass and tumbler. None of your tin canteens to-day. At the top of each table, by the side of the non-commissioned officer of the mess, there is a tray with a decanter of wine and two wine-glasses which are jealously guarded. The explanation of this is, that the captain and subaltern are sure to come round to see him, and Tommy is not going to be found wanting in hospitality on an occasion of this kind.

Before drinking the glass of "Sherry white wine" to the healths of his men, the captain always makes a few remarks, which ought to contain a joke or two. It need not be one of the first water; indeed, only let it be known that it's meant for a joke, and that's quite enough. By the side of the captains stands the colour sergeant, looking alternately at his officer and the men with a smiling face, as much as to say, like Captain Crosstree in the burlesque, "Always laugh, boys, at your captain's jokes." The best plan is always to have a good stock-joke and then there can be no mistakes. I know my old captain adopted this course with the most brilliant success.

His joke was this: There was a man called Brown, who enjoyed the reputation of having the "biggest twist"—that is, the largest appetite—in the company, and on glancing round the festive board the most prominent feature was Brown's plate. From its willow-patterned surface there rose a pyramid of roast goose

*(Continued on foot of next column).*

(it is generally roast goose) and baked potatoes, purposely heaped up, I suspect, by the "wag." When the captain took his glass in his hand to wish "his lads" a merry Christmas, I knew what was coming, every man knew, Brown nervously so. The captain in the middle of his remarks about "not forgetting those at home," and having "spent many Christmases together all over the world," would suddenly pretend to catch sight of Brown's plate for the first time, and, after shaking his head, would say in mock tones of sympathy, "Ah, Brown, that old attack of consumption coming on again, I see, eh?" We generally here made our exit amidst the most ringing roars of laughter.

## An Echo from the Shiny.

*(Being extracts from a letter received from Snowball Hoar).*

I WAS indeed very glad to have *The Dragon* once again. I can assure you I made his wings flap, and was very pleased to see you have one or two old 1st Battalion contributors. "Harrisonisms" by A.H.B. who, I presume, is the "Great Gus" tempts me to try one which also bears on fishing referred to by A.H.B. in his article.

Now at Dum Dum we had many ardent anglers in the Battalion, foremost among them being Jimmy Morris of H Company. His favourite pitch was the tank near the church and officers' club and near his own bungalow. Jimmy did not believe in going far from home.

One Evening he was in his old spot when Colonel Harrison stopped and spoke to him. After the usual enquiries, "what luck, etc., etc.," the Colonel very kindly placed his tank at Jimmy's disposal. This tank was well stocked with fish, and woe betide any one caught fishing there without permission.

Jimmy Morris made up his mind to pay a visit to the Colonel's tank the following afternoon. Right enough he turned up about 4.30. The Colonel saw him from the Bungalow and told his servant to take out a rug for Jimmy to sit on. So that he might make himself at home which he did. In the meantime the Colonel went on with his toilet. He had a shaving bib on at the time to save his shirt. All went well with Jimmy for some time until he hooked a real beauty. Out went the reel. The sound reached the Colonel's ear, who quite forgetting his condition at the time, rushed out into the Compound shouting, "Hold him. Hold the—Hold him—etc., etc." and made straight for poor Jimmy Morris.

The sight of the Colonel with his fancy dress, face well lathered, shaving brush in one hand, and razor in the other, was too much for Jimmy, and he dropped the rod and made tracks for home-sweet home.

Any amount of leg pulling was the result but no one could kid Jimmy to go back for his rod and line and *the fish that was landed by the Colonel*?

As regards the fishing story by A.H.B. (*this appeared in our april issue*) I must ask him kindly to excuse me by pointing out that he did not put the finishing touch to it. The fish in question was sent by the Quarter-master to the President, Sergeants' Mess, with a letter giving a rough outline how he caught it and how he played it. And no doubt it was a real beauty weighing about 40 lbs. Being Mess President at the time I wrote and thanked him for it, and congratulated him on his good luck. Well the next morning, I was Regimental Orderly Sergeant, and to my surprise at the ration stand a gang of fishermen presented a petition to me demanding Rs 10-0-0 for the fish supplied to the Sergeants' Mess! I was dumbfounded but suddenly the Quarter Master himself appeared on the scene, and with the aid of the Regimental Kut-Wal he soon put matters right!

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.—See page 248.**

# The 2nd Battalion.

SINCE the return of A and B Company from Kingerban on July 4th the Battalion has been together except for the provision of a few small escorts for convoys. The beginning of August brought a sudden warning for column duty. Twelve hours notice was given, and strength was to be every man available. Ready to the last gaiter button, and after standing by for a week this order was cancelled.

C Company have also suffered from a cancelled order. Struck off to fire their annual course, it was found that, though Addendum, to the new course, was safely to hand, no ochre to paint the targets accompanied it. So back they went to guards and fatigues. At the time of writing, however, paint and some Heath Robinson targets have come along, and C are in the midst of their classifications.

On September 6th D Company, less one platoon, started their six day trek to Baiji as escort to the heavy baggage. This consists of a two days' march across the wilderness, all water being carried, to Uraishah, a fortified post, on the Lesser Zab. Then two days along the Zab to Wahad Egrier, one day to Fattah near the junction of the Zab and Tigris, and the last day across the Tigris to Baiji on the railway. One platoon under Lt. Cartwright is to remain at Baiji, whilst the Company less 2 platoons is to return to Wahad Egrier as garrison of this post.

Another move has been that of 2 platoons of A Company under Lt. Chester to take over the post of Uraishah.

The Battalion is now due to concentrate at Baiji on October 4th whence we proceed to Amara to await orders for our move to Aden.

### In Brief.

On September 4th D Company won the final of the XV. Sikhs and the Buffs Company hockey tournament.

Owing to the evacuation of Kirkuk the Battalion has packed up and is now living in 160 lb. tents.

After the Novices Boxing Competition our officers entertained the rest of the officers in the station in the mess.

In the absence of Bandmaster Hewitt and Band-Sergt. Herbert on 6 months' leave Cpl. Barzetti is in charge of the band.

Lt. Backhouse and Cpl. Coleman have proceeded to England for an educational course.

Some 130 other ranks will leave us for discharge this trooping season. That they may all obtain good jobs in civil life is the wish of all of us.

Lt. Mulland, our Educational officer, has left us. Good luck to him, and he takes with him our appreciation of the fact that the 2nd Battalion had the best educational record in Mesopotamia.

Lt. Knocker has returned from registering graves in the Baghdad area.

Lieut. Lister and all those associated with him are to be congratulated on the wonderful success of the Novices Boxing Competition. The arrangements were admirable, everything went off without a hitch, and all ranks will join in thanking them.

Corporal Rodda has been selected for employment as an instructor to the Arab Army and has gone to Baghdad to the Arab Army School.

### Novices Boxing Competition.

Here are the results of the above competition held at Kirkuk on September 12th, 13th and 14th.

#### Fly Weights.

**Semi Final :**—Dr. Mullins (Drums) beat Pte. Richards (D Coy.) Pte. Coleby (C Coy.) beat Pte. Barrett (E Coy.)

**Final :**—Pte. Coleby (C Coy.) beat Dr. Mullins (Drums) after an extra round.

#### Bantam Weights.

**1st Series :**—Pte. Rowley (A Coy.) beat L/C. Cleary (E). Byes, Pte. Carley, Dr. Supple, L/C. Corrigan.

**Semi Final :**—Pte. Rowley (A Coy.) K.O. Pte. Carley (D Coy.), Dr. Supple (Drums) K.O. L/C. Corrigan (D Coy.)

**Final :**—Pte. Rowley (A Coy.) beat Dr. Supple (Drums) in one of the most stubbornly contested bouts of the tournament.

#### Feather Weights.

**1st Series :**—L/C. Pennell (D Coy.) beat Dr. Pitt (Drums), L/C. Hart (C. Coy.) beat Sgt. Cornwall (D Coy.), Pte. Collins (E Coy.) beat Cpl. Locke (E Coy.), Pte. Gibbs (A Coy.) Bye.

**Semi Final :**—L/C. Hart (C Coy.) beat L/C. Pennell (D Coy.) who retired with a damaged hand. Pte. Collins (E Coy.) K.O. Pte. Gibbs (A Coy.)

**Final :**—Pte. Collins (E Coy.) beat L/C. Hart (C Coy.) in the final session after a close fight.

#### Light Weights.

**1st Series :**—Pte. Newman (A Coy.) beat Cpl. Relph (D Coy.), Dr. Lockwood (Drums) K.O. Pte. Holley D Coy.) in the 1st round. Byes, Pte. Dobson, L/C. Boxall, Pte. Somerset, L/C. Bromley, Pte. Yates, Dr. French.

**2nd Series :**—L/C. Lockwood (Drums) K.O. Pte. Newman (A Coy.) in the 1st round. L/C. Boxall (C Coy.) beat Pte. Dobson (D Coy.), Pte. Somerset (E Coy.) beat L/C. Bromley (D Coy.), Dr. French (Drums) beat Pte. Yates (E Coy.)

**Semi Final :**—L/C. Lockwood (Drums) K.O. L/C. Boxall (C Coy.) in the 2nd round. Dr. French (Drums) beat Pte. Somerset (E Coy.) who retired in the 1st round.

**Final :**—Dr. French (Drums), a game and determined fighter beat L/C. Lockwood (Drums) an equally game boxer in the middle of the second round, when the latter's hand and arm, which he had damaged on one of his previous victims, began to give trouble and forced him to retire.

#### Welter Weights.

**Semi Final :**—Dr. Taylor (Drums) beat Pte. Palmer (B Coy.) in the first round.

**Final :**—Dr. Taylor (Drums) K.O. Pte. Kiskee (C Coy.) in the 2nd round.

#### Middle Weights.

**Final :**—L/Sgt. Smith (Drums) showing tremendous pace throughout beat Pte. Trice (D Coy.), the referee stopping the fight in the 2nd round.

#### Six round Contests.

Pte. Cleak (E Coy.) K.O. Dr. Fowles (Drums) in the 1st round.

Pte. Smith (B Coy.) K.O. Bdms. Brookman (D Coy.) in the 6th round.

This was the best fight of the evening. Both men boxed cleanly and on top of their form. It was hard to say who would win up to the final round, when Pte. Smith settled all doubts by flooring his man for keeps with a right to the jaw.

#### Special 6 Round Contest.

L/C. Martin, The Buffs, (*Welter wt. champion, Mesopotamia*) K.O. Pte. Pugh, R.A.S.C. in the second round.

Pugh was outclassed from the first. He tried hard however to win on a foul by turning his back suddenly on his opponent and inviting a kidney punch. Martin almost fell into this rather questionable trap once but after that was careful not to fall into any such snare. The end came at the beginning of the 2nd round when Martin floored Pugh with a terrific right to the jaw and Pugh was carried to his dressing room. The applause for the winner was both loud and long.

### Young Hands Bugle Competition.

This competition was keenly contested on 19th September with the following result :—

(1) Dr. French, 129, (2) Dr. Bowman, 125, (3) Drs. Supple and Lockyer, a tie with 102, (5) Dr. Dunk, 83, (6) Dr. White, 75, (7) Dr. Underdown, 69.

After an extra call Dr. Supple gained the decision of the judges for 3rd place.

### The Sergeants' Mess.

Some Buzz," as the Yankees would say, exists in the summer camp owing to the anticipated move. The Q.M. and his aide-de-camp Cpl. Potter, with loving hands have started to gather in Tents I.P. and all the rest of it. One can only be thankful that they can't " gather in " the Mess itself, as otherwise the whole lot would go, I am sure, billiard salon and all.

But what a terrible thing the Q.M. Dept. is once they get busy prior to a move. One sees one's late office (considered essential) finish up in component parts

**The 2nd Battalion**—*continued.*

way up " Broad Street being checked off by Beecham (not of Pill fame), accompanied by that well known wail of " Tents one," " Poles Four," etc., etc. What a glorious end to what was once a hive of industry!

Our Summer Camp, in fact, instead of having the appearance of a respectable military centre, now favours the Gipsy settlement on Epsom Downs on Derby Day, minus the dirt. But, as things are at present, all will be glad to get on the move.

The Mess has the " Bums " in. Each meal time sees a deficiency, the latest being Electric Light, our friend Cook the manufacturer of CURRENTS, ELECTRIC, having dismantled his PUFF PUFF. Consequently members are requested to bring their own lamps (or anybody else's) to lighten our evening meal, and to ensure that Daisy Fawsett dishes up the right number of potatoes.

Shortly the mess will be broken up and we shall be left to " pigging " on our own, but, needless to say, we shall re-assemble at the first opportunity further down Irak.

### Personal.

Jack Simon is away trekking. He loves it and it is said that even his " Trucks " will maintain their immaculate crease " out on the Blue."

George Coaster as % Q.M.S. in camp daily tries to solve how to strike and hand in four tents with one man available. He has been referred to C.S.M. " Left-right-left " for a solution but the latter owing to his chin straps not being down was at a loss for an answer.

Knox Freeman in competition with Percy Vincer, whilst firing their course, was heard to say that he had " stung " Percy for another bottle of Lord Ashai. Methinks that at this rate Percy will have to " flog " some of that surplus kit he has.

We miss Decko, away on trek as acting C.Q.M.S. of his Company. When last seen he was expounding on rations, business-like from head to foot with a pencil in his ear and V patch on the centre back of his trews.

Chippy Hamblin mutters frequently on Volts, circuits, etc., and rumour has it that Marconi is approaching Chippy about the inclusion of his Wireless Station in the World circuit.

Sgt.-Instr. Redshaw " fer shure " improves daily both in wit, and figure, but surprise is universal that he should wear such a small sun shade to protect his ample neck.

Mike Dowse, who by the way is ready at any time to give an illustration of " How to train Mule Drivers," flatly denies the statement that he is on the Tac, and that, a few weeks back, he was trying to keep pace with the Band Master in drinking soda water.

It is as well perhaps that some explanation be given of the number of feminine *nom-de-plumes* which appear so frequently in our notes. Well conditions out here compel a man's thoughts to hover between Love and Beer, more after the latter on account of the famine in " Square Tack." So we have done our best to make up the deficiency by naming those about us according to fancy. Mike Dowse, for instance although ordinarily Mike, became Queenie Vinces on the two occasions he appeared in " Shorts."

We are glad to welcome Sgt. Richards back from Baghdad where he has been laid up with malaria ; and to hear from him at at Mac (Sgt. MacMchan) is going strong in hospital.

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### THE AVANTS AND WOODENT'S.

From the above it will be seen that the two rival organizations in the Sergeants' Mess are now amalgamated. The organization in fact is going so strong that we shall soon be applying for Affiliation to the British Legion! It has been decided to call the branch " Buffavants No. 1," and a No. 2 branch will be set up when we leave Aden, No. 1 being left to the many civilian members we shall leave behind.

To get down to business a complaint has arisen that whereas the billiards of the 1st Battalion is reported in *The Dragon* nothing appears about ours. The reason for this is that we have not had our table for so very long and the registration of our thermometer in the shade is 128°. Now, however, thanks to the generosity of the Avants and Wooden'ts, a new set of snooker balls is to hand, and on the 15th September a snooker Pool match between R.S.M. Andrews and Ted Cook of the S. and T. Corps was held to celebrate their arrival. This proved to be the most exciting and well-contested game, and the R.S.M. ran out the winner by the narrow margin of 3 points. On the conclusion of the game the R.S.M. made a well chosen speech wishing Ted Cook the best of luck on his departure from Mespot.

Ted, in his reply said he was very sorry to be leaving such good fellows. They were all " Buffs," and that little word embraced all the component parts of a gentlemen. He was also glad to be the guest of the Avants and Wooden'ts and the present they had just given him, would be passed on to one of his little Cooks as an heir-loom.

The Company then proceeded out to the Tennis Courts, which had been covered by the Avant Wooden't Committee with a tarpaulin for the purpose of a dance. Here we had a representative gathering, among those present being Miss Ross, daughter of the Senior Naval Officer ; Miss Cornwall, Mr. Wilkins, and Miss Shoobridge who made quite a hit with their Zulu and Hottentot dancing, Mrs. Deeko, Mrs. Coaster and Miss Whittingham. One important personage was missing and that was Mr. W. Geard who has recently departed for U.K.

The decorations of fairy lanterns, palm groves and naval flags (kindly lent by the Senior Naval Officer whose gunboat was in the river close by the Kirkuk bridge) presented an extremely pretty effect which well rewarded Pioneer Sergeant Goldfinch and Chippy Hamblyn for their untiring efforts in the heat of the afternoon sun on the day of the dance.

Dancing was from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m., the " floor " was possessed of a very fine dancing surface, and one " Played Second Fiddle " and " Chased Rainbows " to the excellent accompaniment of Buster O'Dell's band, which played by kind permission of the O.C. At the close Father Avant made a short speech on behalf of all the members of the Avants and Wooden't organisation, and thanked all the outside friends for their magnificent assistance which contributed largely towards making the evening successful.

The link was formed whilst " Auld Lang Syne " was sung with feeling and a very enjoyable evening concluded with the " Royal Toast."

### Officers Challenged at Tennis.

Our tennis challenge to the Officers Mess was readily accepted Space does not permit a full account of all matches played, so just a few notes on the more important happenings.

First and foremost the Avants and Wooden'ts won by 186 games to 127.

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R.S.M. Andrews beat Capt. Howe 6–4.

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Lt. Backhouse was the first to secure a win for the Officers by beating Sgt. Whittingham (Wooden't) 6–2, but later this officer received a smashing defeat of 6–1 at the hands of Father Avant.

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Sgt. Decks (Avant) beat the Q.M. 6–2.

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Major Norman beat Sgt. Coaster (Wooden't) 6–4, but the greatest triumph of this officer was in beating Father Avant also by 6–4.

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Lt. Lister beat Sgt. Goldfinch (Avant) 6–1.

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The match of the afternoon was that between Sgt. Richards (Avant) and Capt. Hamilton. Each game was a ding-dong struggle and with the score at 5 all, excitement was intense. Then came a series of " deuce " advantage in the final game which Richards ultimately won amidst a spontaneous burst of applause.

" SARCAVANT."

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### CORPORALS' MESS NOTES.

The first Mess Meeting, after a lapse of four months was held on August 1st with R.S.M. Andrews in the chair. A proposition put forward by Cpl. Coleman, the President of the Mess, that committees should be formed for Games, and for the Rifle Club, was carried, and the following selected :—Games Committee : Cpl. Coleman ; Cp. Faulkner, Vice-President, a keen footballer ; L/Cpl. Lawry, L/C. Marshall and L/C. Ward, who are members of the Regimental Hockey Team ; Rifle Club Committees : Cpl. Coleman ; Cpl. Faulkner ; Cpl. Kemp, who got two pool bulls at the last shoot ; Cpl. Liston ; and Cpl. Jenkins, an old 1st Battalion N.C.O.

A Silver Spoon was presented to L/C. Wass, top scorer at the last Shoot and the Wooden'un to L/C. Sharpe.

On July 31st the Corporals Mess played the Rest at football, and after a most exciting and even match we lost 2–0. Our Team was made up as follows :—

Cpl. Kemp ; L/C. Robertson, Cpl. Farr ; L/C. Corrigan, L/C. Searle, L/C. Richards ; L/C. Martin, L/C. Kimber, Cpl. Sidwell, Cpl. Faulkner, Cpl. Rodda, who will be sadly missed on his departure to Baghdad.

**The 2nd Battalion**—*continued.*

The second Spoon Shoot of the season was held on Thursday, 11th August. The R.S.M. was present and the Adjutant's dog turned up later. Everyone knows that the Adjutant and his dog are inseparable. The average was below that of last month and it is strange to note how vast the differences are in the Coy. averages. The following scored 23 or over :—

L/C. Goodsell 33, L/C. Allen 32, L/C. Sharpe, 30, L/C. Holmden 29, L/C. Pack 29, L/C. Kimber, S. 29, Cpl. Faulkner 27, Cpl. Kemp 27, L/C. Hodges, D.C.M. 25, Cpl. Gibbs C. 24, L/C. Waghorn 24, L/C. Boxall 24, Cpl. Coleman 23, L/C. Bristow 23, L/C. Hassan 22.

The Averages worked out as follows :—

Total 17·7. C Coy. 21·6, D Coy. 18·5, E Coy. 17·4, A Coy. 17·0, B Coy. 14·0.

The only Pool Bull was obtained by L/C. A. Cork, A Coy. who received the Pool of Rs. 17/8/0.

The sudden departure of Corpl. Coleman to U.K. for an Education Course has left us without a President. He has worked hard for the benefit of the Mess and has held the President-ship ever since our arrival in Mesopotamia. We wish to take this opportunity of thanking him for his untiring efforts and endeavours to make the Mess a success.

**Obituary.**

It is with deepest regret that we record the death of L/C. W. Cardoza C Coy. on August 21st, 1921. He was a good sportsman and of a bright and happy disposition ; his loss will be felt by all. The funeral which took place on August 22nd was accorded full Military Honours and was largely attended by his comrades and members of the Corporals' Mess. The Pall-bearers were L/C. Vale, L/C. Giles, L/C. Boxall, L/C. Bridges, D.C.M., M.M., L/C. Goodsell, L/C. Hart, L/C. Kimber, and L/C. Canning, all of whom belong to C Company.

C COMPANY.

For the third time in as many months we are endeavouring to fire our Musketry course. Consequent on the expected move of the Battalion it is very doubtful whether we shall complete it this time. In the meantime, Mr. Asquith's notto is easily adapted to the situation.

We claim to be the Pioneers of a new and great achievement. It is very frequent to hold inspections and to check men for having long hair, on Pay Parades. But, throughout the annals of the British Army, has anyone ever heard of a foot-rule being used for this purpose ? Hence our claim.

Our usual standard of efficiency in sports has been maintained, and taking into consideration the loss of L/Cpl. Miller and L/C. Mitchell two excellent Hockey players ; and Cpl. Rodda our indomitable outside left we have done very well. On 12th August we suffered a defeat at the hands of 15th Sikhs at Hockey, by two goals to one. It was a splendid game and the fact that we were beaten by so small a margin goes to prove that our team was not inferior to our opponents.

In the inter-company Hockey competition between The Buffs and 15th Sikhs we were beaten after a keen and exciting struggle, and during extra time by one goal. The competition was eventually won by D Company, 2nd Battalion the Buffs to whom we offer our heartiest congratulations.

An interesting Football match was played on August 15th between teams comprising 3 years Men and The Rest. Pte. Edwards played a splendid game for The Rest and L/C. Holly for the others. Goals were scored by L/C. Holly (3 yrs. Men) and Pte. Hawkins (The Rest) and resulted in a draw, 1–1.

T. A. B.

THE DRUMS.

We did exceptionally well in t e Novices Boxing Competition as will be seen from the results published elsewhere, and we congratulate L/Sgt. Smith of Canterbury and our bass drummer, in winning the Middles, and L/C. Lockwood also of Canterbury on being runner up in the " Lights." Another Canterbury man who put up a good show was Dr. Supple in the Bantams.

We " old uns " were delighted to see The Drums foremost, and upholding our reputation as being the Depot, as it were, for regimental teams in the field of sport—a reputation gained in the time of Jack Port, and kept alive by such well known sportsmen as Drummy Dixon, our R.S.M., and our present Sgt. Drummer Buster O'Dell. Whilst amongst others many will remember Jim Roadley, Pat, Colopy, Mary Hurst, (Killed Alas ! in the Great War), Tom Trevor, Jimmie and Johnie Stevens, (Sons of the Late Sgt. Dr. Stevens, 1st Battalion, who died in Aden 1902), Bob Graham, Cpl. Bob Boucher, Whiskers Crayford, Mc Everney, the brothers Port, Len Morey, Patsy Flynn, Joe Long, Sharkey Sparks, Jim Chudley, Cogger, Jury, Tich Newton, Bad Gas Curtis, Harry Crawley, Tidley Turner, and Joe Enwright (afterwards Captain). And I could mention dozens of others.

Now off on the 100 miles *march* by foot express. Our " Motto " stands for ever. " Good old Drums."

# Christmas, Thirty Years After.

BY F. CLARE PEARSON.

IT was Christmas morning in the year 1950. Outside the snow lay on the ground, a tawdry mantle, filthily yellow where it had been churned up by the feet of passers by and the wheels of traffic, but virgin white on the roofs and ledges where the hand (or foot) of man could not sully its purity.

William Tucker, one time Lance-Corporal (temporary, acting, unpaid) in the Rutland Rifles, crept shivering from his bed. He was stiff with cold, due to the threadbare nature of his one blanket, and racked with rheumatism aggravated by his four winters on the Western Front in the Great War, which had terminated over thirty years before.

It was a gloomy Christmas morning for the veteran, and, as he hobble round the bare garret, he breathed a prayer that his dear wife was not there to share his hopeless misery. She couldn't have been, for the simple reason that he had never married.

William had been out of work for a month, owing to a strike of the Doll's-eye Painters, who had striven to hold up the Christmas supply of dolls. William was a sweeper in the factory—the only job permitted by the Union for discharged men to engage in.

Dejectedly, William dressed, pondering over the ways and means (chiefly the means) of raising the price of a meal as well as the last fortnight's rent. He finished dressing and looked hopelessly in the cupboard. It was empty. William expected to find it empty, he had merely looked into it from sheer force of habit.

Alas, there were but two ways out. Suicide or the Medals. The tears rolled down his cheeks. He dismissed the idea of suicide. He must part with his medals. The decorations he prized more than anything else on earth, tokens of a nation's gratitude for his services in the Great War.

With hands that shook with cold and emotion he took them from their box.

He laid them reverently one by one on the bed. His Mons Star, his British War Medal, the Allies Medal and the various other decorations spasmodically issued by the Government during the medal mania years that had followed the great struggle, his medal for volunteering, his medal for not being wounded, his medal for being vaccinated, and others. As he surveyed the glittering line a lump came to his throat. Being hungry, he promptly swallowed it. Reverently he replaced them and with wearily dragging steps moved towards the door and " M. le oncle." His progress was arrested by a peculiar panting noise outside like a bull dog with bronchial cattarh fighting a tank. His landlady, Mrs. Leach, was ascending the stairs. A knock came ; wearily he told her to come in, and wheezily she entered, bearing gingerly in her hand a long buff covered envelope bearing the ominous sign, " On His Majesty's Service."

" 'Ere, mate," she said, " letter fer yer. 'Appy Chris'mus "—and she oozed off. Wonderingly the veteran gazed at the envelope. What could it be ? A demand for income tax ? Surely not another medal ? Slowly he opened it, and unfolded the enclosed sheet. His eyes lit up with joyous fires.

It was from his old Regimental Paymaster ; his back pay, £14 13s. 11¼d., had come through. The medals were saved !

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# The Turk at Home.

*(Being the experiences of Major E. B. Burns, of the 5th Battalion, as a Prisoner of War in Turkey).*

HOWEVER unpleasant most of one's experiences in Turkey may have been there were bright intervals.

I had fallen sick on the journey of the Kut Prisoners—the journey which commenced after the surrender of General Townshend's force at the end of April 1916. We were not in a happy plight, after five months of siege and starvation, to undertake the 400 mile trek on foot across the desert at the hottest time of year. The fact that only a quarter of the garrison survived the march and subsequent imprisonment goes far to show what they suffered at the hand of the Turk—the Turk who was always supposed to be a gentleman.

I was among the lucky ones in falling sick after the long desert trek was over and we had reached the railway. We were taken by train to Angora, which was the railhead, and from whence the last stage of the journey to Yozgad, which was to be our internment camp, had to be completed by road. Here I was left behind, and admitted into a soldiers' hospital. One imagines the medical skill of the doctors of this institution was of the most elementary nature. But it had one point in its favour. It was clean, and that is a great deal in a country whose houses almost universally swarm with bugs.

After being kept some time confined in a Khan, or Inn, which was very dirty, I was glad when, one evening, I was ordered to pack up and proceed to Yozgad, whither my party had proceeded me by nearly a month. Yozgad is in the centre of Anatolia, and 120 miles east of Angora. The convoy consisted of two arabas, the light springless waggons of the country, loaded with government stores, and for escort an onbashi (corporal) and three old askars (soldiers) armed with equally old sniders.

Now a journey in Turkey almost invariably starts in the late afternoon, presumably owing to the earlier part of the day having been devoted to tieing up the waggons and harness with string, sleeping, smoking and other necessary preparations. Well, off we went at last, and travelled well into the night. At last a halt was called at a place most unsuited for a camp as there was no water. We slept by the road and the weary ponies were unhitched, but the removal of their collars and harness appeared quite unneccessary.

We re-started before dawn, and travelled at a rapid pace with very brief halts. I wondered how long even these hardy ponies could stand such pressing (the Turk is no horsemaster), and why this fearful haste. That night we camped on the outskirt of a dirty village. Off we went next day before light again, and at noon approached a fair-sized village. We drove up to the Khan where the askers threw off the kits, and intimated that the day's journey was ended. It then dawned on me the wherefore of this hurry. The onbashi had repeatedly pointed ahead, and said, "Memleket." I now gathered that Memleket meant home, and this was his native village. No doubt he had orders to report at Yozgad by a certain date, and seized the opportunity, by means of fast travelling, to put in a visit to his family.

Having declined, after inspecting its unsavoury interior, to enter the Khan I was finally allowed to take up my quarters on the large flat roof, and I prepared to rest after these two days of strenuous travel. However, this was not to be. Very shortly the onbashi appeared. He was really a very decent old thing, minus an eye. which he lost in one of Turkey's many previous wars, He was suitably nicknamed Cyclops, and became quite a friend later on of the Yozgad prisoners. He now brought with him a crowd of venerable old men, including the Headman, the Priest, his ancient father and others, evidently the leading citizens. These he duly presented. We shook hands and salaamed solemnly all round. I had a good stock of cigarettes which I had brought from Angora. These I handed round, and there were more salaams.

Cyclops then intimated his friends would like to see the contents of my kit, which had interested him and the askars greatly on the journey. And now this, although it was meagre enough in all conscience, appeared to afford this simple folk unlimited pleasure: as did also my boots, helmet and shorts. But my collar badges excited their conjecture most of all. It was evident they were defeated entirely by the Dragon, which they were quite unable to classify among the beasts of their knowledge. Unfortunately I could not enlighten them as my ignorance of their language was as complete as theirs of mine.

FINALLY I HAD AN IDEA.

As the afternoon wore on the crowd increased. I wondered how many more the roof would bear before it collapsed. I had no more cigarettes to offer, and they showed no sign of going, but simply sat on their haunches and stared. It was embarrasing. Finally I had an idea. They had shown great interest in my shaving kit. I got it out, stropped a Gillette blade in a stropping machine and set to work. The effect was instantaneous; they awoke from mere stolidity to the keenest interest. The front rank (they were about ten deep by this time) edged forward until their faces nearly touched mine. I felt like screaming, but kept steadily and, to all appearances, unconcernedly on. Finally, after stropping and putting away the razor, I brought out one of the few Turkish words I knew, and bowed saying, "Tamam," meaning "It is finished"

My friends, then arose, evidently satisfied the day had no more wonders for them. After final handshakes they gravely withdrew. I gave a sigh of relief and set about cooking the evening meal. Shortly little gifts of cucumbers, eggs and yourt, the sour cream of the country were brought by boys, who showed an inclination to hang about. They had evidently heard all about the "Ingleesh."

Next morning, after cordial farewells of the whole male portion of the Village assembled, we drove off; old Cyclops very depressed, and continually looking back, saying sorrowfully, "Mamleket, Mamleket."

I too, perchance, was thinking of home.

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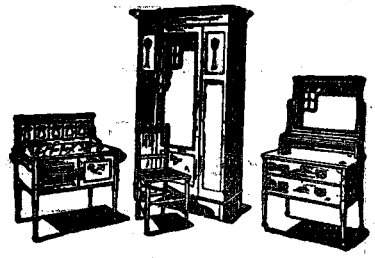

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## Xmas Greetings.

A Particularly happy note has been struck in a Regimental Xmas and New Year Card published from the Depot.

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# The Ladies.

BY THE LADY EDITRESS.

HERE is the letter which accompanied this delightful photograph of John Eric Clarke. It speaks for itself and John Eric certainly seems to be preparing for the day when he will be able worthily to uphold the regimental traditions contained in the article entitled "Three Big Men of The Buffs" published on another page!

Dear Editress,

After your pathetic appeal for photos of "Bonny Babies of the Regiment," I enclose one of our son, a real Buff Baby as will be seen from the particulars given later.

John Eric was 1 year 8 months when this photo was taken, and now at 1 year 11 months stands 3 ft. high and weighs over 2 stone.

Yours truly,

The Abbey, Cranbrook, GRACE C. W. CLARKE.

HIS RECORD.

**Father's Side.**

Father. Major Eric Clarke, 5th Buffs.

Grandfather. The Rev. J. S. Clarke, Chaplain to 2nd V-B. The Buffs.

Uncle. Sgt. S. A. Clarke, 6th Buffs.

**Mother's Side.**

Grandfather. Maj.-Gen. F. Morley, Col. Commanding 1st Buffs for 5 years.

Only Uncle. Capt. H. C. C. Morley, 1st Buffs.

Godfathers. Col. J. Body, D.S.O., 5th Buffs and Capt. H. C. C. Morley, 1st Buffs.

CAN YOU BEAT IT?

Also to John Eric is awarded this month's prize for the best child story which is as follows:—

While John Eric (age 1 year and 4 months) was playing in his "Playground," his ball rolled outside. Unable to reach it with his hand, he retrieved it by putting out his leg and bringing it with his foot to within reach of his hand.

---

"ARE MEN VAINER THAN WOMEN?"

*Scene.* **By the Fireside.** *Characters.* **John and Jane.**

Jane. Yes, I'm quite determined. I am going to write an article for the *Dragon* on the vanity of men.

John. Oh! I suppose you'll be very eloquent on the subject?

Jane [with warmth] Very.

John. May I ask what you are going to say about us poor men?

Jane [reluctantly.] Well, the title of the article isn't really "The Vanity of Men" but "Are Men vainer than Women?" But you see, the answer to that question is so obvious that I shall ignore it altogether and start straight away on the vanity of the vainer sex.

John. That's sheer self-defence, and it will be a highly untruthful statement of affairs.

Jane. My dear boy, whatever I say on the subject, one side would be dissatisfied with it. And I can't be impartial because that would make my essay sound so lukewarm and cautious. I *must* say violent things one way or the other or *no one* will read it. Anything that isn't highly-coloured passes unnoticed these days.

John. If you were really original, you'd take the man's side against the women.

Jane. But I have no intention of being original. I am going to be violent and positive. Then the Editor will have a splendid time after my article has appeared. All his lady readers will rush for pen and paper to confide to him the many vanities of their husbands.

John. And what will the men do and say when they read this article of yours?

Jane. Oh! they'll laugh and forget all about it, probably.

John. But you haven't told me yet exactly what you are going to say in this devastating attack on mankind.

Jane. Well, I shall start by bringing forth a few proofs, a few examples of the awful vanity of men. There's nothing people like as much as solid proofs. I shall say how a friend of mine (a man mark) you went into a hair-dresser's shop the other day and saw about twenty men lying back in armchairs, their faces thickly coated with some alarming-looking green stuff. There they were in rows like plasticine statues. The hairdresser told this friend of mine that this was "A-New–preparation–for–removing–wrinkles–" and then added, "Sir-would-you care-to-try-some?"

John. *Not* a very tactful hair-dresser—And did your friend try the stuff?

Jane. No.

John. Then he isn't a vain man anyhow.

Jane. He's the exception that proves the rule. After writing about him, I shall write pages on the vanity of my own particular husband.

John. I hope you won't mention any names.

Jane. Oh! but it's going to be so cleverly written that everyone will guess whom I mean without my mentioning any names or even signing my own at the end of the article.

John. I shall rush for pen and paper and confide to the editor that you're a fool, and that your judgement is *not* to be trusted.

Jane. He'll realise that without your telling him.

John. Why? Do you mean that you don't really believe a word of what you're going to say?

Jane. Not a word. Women are much vainer than men, and they know it.

John. Then why on earth——

Jane. My dear boy, four-fifths of the people who read this page are women. I *must* flatter their vanity by telling them they haven't got any.

John. My dear wife, you're not a fool, you're a genius. I shall write to the editor and tell him so. W. A.

*NOTE.—Stop Press (Ladies) appears on page 250.*

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LARGE STOCKS OF
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**1—6 Mercery Lane, CANTERBURY**

# Xmas, 1916.

By Pte. C. Redman, 1st Battalion The Buffs.

THE sentry gazed across "No Man's Land." Barbed wire and indistinct mounds, lit up by the silvery rays of the bright moon, were the only objects to be seen. Somewhere, in the distance, the bursting of a shell, threw back its echo, reminding one of the clanging of a heavy door. A Verey light occasionally shed its glare over the opposing trenches, to die away with spasmodic flickerings, and then, for a brief space, all was still.

The trenches alone were the only objects that shewed animation, and, as one looked at the silent figures, passing to and fro within, a feeling of uneasiness seemed to creep over you,—why?—you could not explain. The horrors of War seemed far away, and yet, the feeling that something, a something indefinite, was about to happen, still held you, as you looked upon those moon-lit faces that passed, grim-looking men, with bayonet-tipped rifles, and their cigarettes glowing with a pale-red light.

Once again all was silent. The figures ceased to pass. Everything seemed asleep, except the occupants of the trench, and they knelt on the firestep, awaiting the command that would stir them into swift activity. A whisper, travelling along the line of silent figures said softly, "after the Third Heavy, over with you, and the best of luck!" and the whisper continued its way along the line.

In a little cluster of stunted trees, a mile or so to the rear, stood a Lieutenant, watch in hand, at whom the Gunners gazed expectantly. One minute to twelve! "Battery load; at intervals of one minute, from No. 1.——."

The Lieutenant again consulted the watch, Fifteen,——Ten——Five seconds!——"Fire!"

No. 1 Gun threw out a lurid glare, a tremendous crash, and a twelve inch projectile travelled with its train-like rumble into space.

In the Front Line, the figures still knelt. A moaning sound from behind came gradually nearer to pass over the trench, a slight pause, and then, somewhere behind the Enemy's front line—a crash! "No. 1," whispered the grim figures in our front line. Again that moaning sound, again a pause, again a crash! "No. 2" whispered the occupants. Again that now familiar moaning; again that death-like silence, and yet again a crash! Suddenly, Hell seemed to awaken; the shrieking, crashing and rending of shells, they came from everywhere. Verey lights in hundreds, sprang from the ground, as it were, and a mighty British "Hurrah!" sounded above this inferno.

The silent figures in the trench suddenly leapt into activity, the long awaited signal had come! With a nerve-racking yell, they scrambled on to the parapet, through tangled masses of barbed wire, that tore and hung to their clothes, into innumerable shell holes. These yelling demons tore their way over the intervening space that separated our trenches from the enemy's. Then—there came the crash of bodies meeting bodies, the stabbing, the cries of the maimed, the shouts and curses of men still fighting for supremacy, and then—all was still.

The enemy's front line had been taken. Hardly a man of the enemy's line had survived that inferno. We had taken that line, but at what a cost! Of all the men that had rushed across that shell torn ground, hardly half of them remained. All around, lay bodies, torn and trampled on. The cries of the wounded and dying still filled the air. Now the work of reconstructing the enemy trench began, while the stretcher-bearers commenced their gruesome task of removing the wounded and dying, and hastily burying the dead.

Once again all was still. The objective gained and held, the war-worn heroes again resumed their silent but ever alert watch.

(*Continued at foot of next column*).

Again a sentry gazed across that desolate waste in search of enemy movement and gazing, there came to him a vision of a bygone Xmas, when, with others in the little church on the hill, he sang in noble chorus. And the words repeated themselves on that misty morning—"Peace on Earth, Goodwill towards Men."

# Three Big Men of the Buffs.

(*Reprinted from the April Dragon of* 1889).

THE Old Regiment was always noted for the splendid physique of its men. In June, 1834, there were some Peninsular veterans still serving and it was often told by them, that during the bayonet charges in Spain, it was always the custom of one of the Grenadier Company "Grenadier McCullum" after bayoneting a Frenchman, to throw him over his shoulder as a farm labourer might a sheaf of wheat. McCullum was reported to have been six feet six inches in height, and a second Samson in strength.

McCullum had his counterpart "although 20 years later" in the commissioned ranks in the person of Captain Barr. On one occasion whilst inspecting some transfer from another regiment, Capt. Barr was greatly displeased on finding some men about five feet six inches in height amongst them, turning round to his Col.-Sgt. he exclaimed, "Stratford, see what sort of men they are sending us now," at the same time picking up one of the five feet six inch men by the back of the collar and holding him out at arms length, greatly to the amusement of the on-lookers. Captain Barr's great ambition was to command the Grenadier Company, and on the captaincy of that company falling vacant, he was appointed to it, but he did not live long to enjoy his command, as he died very suddenly shortly after whilst on leave, but it was currently reported in the regiment, he was killed in a duel.

Whilst the regiment was quartered in Greece at the commencement of the Crimean War, one of the finest made men serving in its ranks, was Private John Liston. One evening Jack was passing a wine shop, when the proprietor's daughter rushed out in wild alarm, and on hearing a great noise he entered to see what was the matter. He found the tumult was caused by some seven or eight French Linesmen, who after drinking as much as they could comfortably carry, refused to pay their bill. On Jack remonstrating with them they attempted to draw their bayonets, but without more ado, he took them up one by one by the back of the collar and seat of their trousers, and pitched them through an open window into the middle of the road. The whole party then hurriedly made off, not one of them caring to encounter the English Giant a second time. Handsome Jack Liston unfortunately a few months later was killed in the trenches before Sebastopol.

A. E. Colley.

**Stop Press** (*Ladies*).

The Editor has shewn me the P.S. to Mr. Baker's letter relating to the printer's error in my Home Hints of last month. I hasten now to remedy matters by pointing out that "children" should have read "chilblains!"

Our Competition.

The following entries have been received up to date for the Ladies' Knitting Competition. Mrs. Baynes, Mrs. Clifton, and Mrs. H. H. C. Baird, and I am still hoping very much that many other entries will reach me. It will be remembered that the Editor is offering a prize for the best knitted article, the cost of the material of which is not to exceed 7/6. All articles should reach *The Dragon* by the end of the year and they will be sold for the benefit of the Buffs Benevolent Fund, so you see that by entering this competition you are helping others in addition to standing a good chance of winning a prize for yourself.

## Mutt and Jeff.

## The Army Encyclopædia.

DETRAINMENT.—A ceremony which takes place from one to twenty four hours after the arrival of troops by train at their destination. The cue to commence operations is taken from the Sergeant Major, who blows a whistle as a Signal to fall out and fall in. A remarkable feature of this occasion is the apparent horror suffered by the animals when the time arrives to take them off the train, a horror which is only approached in intensity when one tries to get them on.

DEUCE.—A playing card with two pips, the name of which is said to have been derived from " Deuce—Evil One by the prehistoric Buffs, who were inveterate players of whist.

DHOBY.—The Army synonym for launderer, particularly amongst those who have never served in India.

DIAGONAL MARCH.—An intricate military manoeuvre, of which no amount of instruction, demonstration, interrogation, imitation, correction, threatening, cajoling, wheedling, or bullying has ever, or will ever, bring about the correct performance. This is the real though unsuspected cause of the complaint known professionally as INSTRUCK TUS LIVVA.

DIAMETER.—That which, in musketry, gives measurement to a group. The earth's is also said to have a diameter (Length 8,000 miles—somewhat greater than that of a trained soldier's group). This is measured by a line drawn through the earth from pole to pole though the identity of the person who drew it is somewhat obscured.

DIARY (AMMUNITION).—(Deleted by censor, who happens at the time of writing, to be a Company Officer.)

DICTIONARY.—One of the few books, the study of which, by Army instructors is considered unnecessary.

DIMPLE.—A Sort of hole in the face. Not to be confused with that in the face of the sergeant major, the dimensions of which are somewhat greater.

DINING HALL.—A room in barracks set apart for Corporals' dances, visitation by the Orderly Officer, providing work for cleaning up parties, and where the troops occasionally consume comestibles.

DISCHARGE.—The only thing a good Buff finds any difficulty in " taking."

## Nursery Rhymes Up-to-date.

SIMPLE Simon sees the barman
At the Canteen bar.
Says Simple Simon to the barman
I want beer—not char.

Says the barman to young Simon
Show me first your cash,
Says young Simon to the barman
I can't—'cause I've gone smash.

Simple Simon goes a-fishing
For to get a loan
But 'tis Thursday—and his fate
We'll leave him to bemoan.

**If you want your Dragons bound, see page 259, and drop a line to the Editor.**

THE SEVENTH JUBILEE.

Sir,

Next year, 1922, the Regiment will celebrate its 350th anniversary, and if I may be permitted, I should like to suggest, that the event should be marked in some fitting manner. There is a possibility that the 1st Battalion may be stationed in the County, in which case could not an effort be made to run a Regimental Pageant to take place at Canterbury during cricket week. Should there be no cricket on the Saturday an endeavour might be made to secure the St. Lawrence ground, and the Pageant might be repeated the following week at Margate Ramsgate, Folkestone and Dover. Perhaps those in Authority might consider this suggestion.

A. E. COLLEY.

Kingston-upon-Thames.

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THE DUM DUM ALMANAC.

Sir,

I was flattered to see your mention of my 1891 Dum Dum Almanac in last month's *Dragon*, and hope it may become a handy reference. The printing of this book was a very serious undertaking. Our little manual press, with its limited supply of type, was really only suitable for printing Battalion Orders and little jobs like that. Hunt and Corner worked at it like demons, and it was simply marvellous how they succeeded in turning out the 5,000 (I think it was) copies, which were disposed of like hot cakes. It is 30 years ago since it was published, and it would be interesting to know how many other people besides Colonel Sparrow have treasured their purchase like he did.

The Avant and Woodent Clubs referred to by your 2nd Battalion correspondent are of very ancient origin! Avant you heard of the tradesmen who rendered the following account:—

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. 1st, 1572. | 1 doz. Tin Pails | ... | ... | 12 | 0 |
| ,, 3rd ,, | 2 Wooden do | ... | ... | 2 | 0 |
| | | | | 10 | 0 |

27 Soham Road, Enfield Lock,

Yours faithfully,
A. H. BAKER.

P.S.—I think the first HOME HINT by your Lady Editress should have been given Great Primer or some other heavy type. It seems a pity such a valuable hint to remedy children is so little known. And such an inexpensive remedy too! Why didn't I know about it 25 years ago?

---

8TH. BATTALION BATTLE HONOURS.

Sir,

In your August Number there appeared a list of the Battles of the Great War in which Battalions of the Regiment took part. Amongst them is the Battle of Arras with sub-heading The Battle of the Scarpe April 9-14-1917 and the 6th Battalion alone is shewn as being engaged. Can you please inform me of the limits of this Battle?

The 24th Division was on the left of the attackers. Of this Division the Right Brigade—the 73rd, was allotted an objective in the orders for the Battle and as a result of this the whole Division, including the 8th Battalion as leading Battalion of the centre Brigade, moved forward on April 13th and continued until pulled up sharply in front of Lens on April 15th. Should not this also count as part of the Battle and the 8th Battalion also be included in the list of those engaged?

G.H.Q. BAGHDAD. E. F. H.

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A GENEROUS ACT.

*November 13th*, 1921.

Sir,

With reference to the Article on the Wreck of the St. Lawrence, I would like to tell you that my two sisters and myself are *most* interested as we possess a picture enlarged in oils of the same which I believe was painted from Captain's Hickson's sketch by the late Colonel Cox and given to my Father the late Lt.-Colonel Charles James Hamilton who was on board the troopship at the time. I see his name is mentioned in the *Dragon* but the initials are not correct.

We think it would be interesting for the Buffs to have it, and so have left directions in our Wills to that effect. I am much interested in the *Dragon* and always pass on my copy to some member of the Buffs.

Yours faithfully,
(Miss) M. H. HAMILTON,
at 10 Kingsnorth Gardens,
Folkestone.

---

IT SHALL BE DONE.

Sir,

Towards increasing the circulation of *The Dragon* would it not be a good idea to approach all municipal and urban councils in Kent and to ask them to make such arrangements as may be necessary to ensure that *The Dragon* shall be placed in all public reading rooms throughout the county.

Yours etc.,
J. H. GREEN,
Plumstead. Late Cpl. 1st Battalion.

[*We are following this suggestion up, and are also making a similar request to all Clubs throughout the county. Ed.*]

---

OUR SALES IN MESPOT.

Sir,

In order that a larger number of copies of *The Dragon* be sold in this Battalion, could not some arrangement be made whereby the copies should reach us much earlier than they now do.

A good many men receive copies from friends at home about two weeks before the arrival of the Battalion's consignment.

They then pass the paper round their respective companies until almost everyone has seen it. If the copies for this Battalion were sent earlier so that they arrive before individual copies there would be a much greater demand for them.

Yours etc.,
Mespot. F. B.

[*The delay complained of must, we fear, be caused by the Parcels Post as the Mespot Dragons leave the printers the moment the ink is dry. Now that this point has arisen, perhaps we may be allowed to say that as we send 640 Dragons each month to the 2nd Battalion, it is not necessary for our home readers to send their copies into this quarter. And may we also express the hope that each and all of those who read the paper in Mespot—or elsewhere—will buy a copy for himself, as the individual assistance given by so doing can not be overestimated. Ed.*]

# "Beneath Bell Harry."

BY THE MAN WITH THE SQUEEGEE.

IT is quite impossible to talk about summer and warm days because winter has descended upon us at long last. The carefully conserved coal ration has been brought into use. Nothing of outstanding importance has happened since these notes were last written with the exception of the departure of a draft of 32 to the 1st Battalion to the land of the truce. The new rules governing the length of stay of the recruits in this place involve the departure at an early date of another draft, the members of which are at the moment enjoying a brief leave.

On Armistice day a guard of honour paraded at the Warriors' Chapel in the Cathedral, and the Commanding Officer placed a wreath of laurel, presented by the Past and Present Association, upon the Regimental War Memorial. There was a short service at which the Dean of Canterbury officiated and as usual a great number of friends of the Regiment were present.

The Football Team goes on from strength to strength. collecting points in the Canterbury and District League, and the Hockey Team, though a little overshadowed, is doing well.

These notes will be included in the Christmas number of *The Drgaon*, and it would be churlish not to add the best Christmas wishes of The Depot to all Buffs wherever they may be when they read their *Dragon*.

### THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

The sudden cold snap has been conducive to bringing us all more closely together lately of an evening in the Mess, and heats in the various Tournaments which were inaugurated have been carried out successfully. Fresh ones are now in progress, and are being run of the League System whereby each individual who enters has, in turn, to meet every other individual in the specific game that is being played.

The pre-eminent pastime, however, is Dancing, of which everyone is getting a plentiful share. The usual weekly Practice Dance is held in the Mess every Tuesday, and by way of a diversion from the usual procedure a Dance was held in the Gymnasium on the 4th to which all Married Families of the Depot were invited. It was a delightful turn-out lasting from 8 p.m. till 2 a.m., and the next one of a similar kind is being eagerly looked forward to.

The members of the City Police very kindly gave us an invitation on November 3rd, to their Club Room where a top-hole evening was spent. Billiards, Whist and Crib were the games indulged in, the majority of which were watched with interest by the Chief Constable of the City (Mr. Carlton), who, before leaving, spoke a few encouraging words to us all and extended to the Mess generally a very hearty welcome to drop in any evening and see them whenever we felt so inclined. We shall most certainly do so, but not, by the way, from the view point of "surrendering ourselves" to them, although the cells (which we had a peep into) looked very very "comfy." We hope to have them with us at the Mess very shortly in a return gathering.

We have just heard that two of our W.O.'s are to join the 1st Battalion—C.S.M. Bones and Knight. It goes without saying that we shall miss them both very much. That is a somewhat stereotyped phrase, but we fully mean it, as we have all become so accustomed to their ways and the absolute sincerity of both of them in all their transactions either on or off duty. Our very best wishes go with "Honest Jack" and "Young Bogey."

And last but not least. To our R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Andrews we were all delighted to offer our congratulations on the birth of a daughter, as we were also to C.S.M. and Mrs. Knight on the arrival of a similar "Gift."

W. M. S.

### THE CORPORALS.

Shure Mr. Editor it's myself that's the same as the co-respondent of the Corporals 1st Battalion, for 'tis the want of news for ye that a bad head its giving me, it is and all.

In the way of sport there has been nothing doing lately, not withstanding the -er-challenge we threw down in the *Dragon* a month or two back. We are left wondering as to the whereabouts of that part of the Army known as "The Sergeants," but there, probably 'tis old age creeping on. However, the Corporals managed two or three small encounters at Soccer, and just managed to win.

**When writing to your friends and relations remember Dragon Envelopes increase the Circulation.**

The only other event of importance has been our Dance, which, by the way, held on 21st October, was the opening one of the Depot, and which, I think, it can be said, was a great success. Many thanks must be given to those who helped so much to attain this, especially to the one who took charge of the Food Supply Column as though 'twas second nature. No names. No "Crackers." Cheer-i-o old bean.

Although it was originally intended to run one of these affairs each month we are unfortunately unable to do so this month (November) for various reasons and for which we apologise. Let us down lightly please!

### WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW.

Where do the Corporals get to of an even tide?

### SHOOTING.

The *Dragon's* congratulations are due to C.S.M. O. Mason of the Depot, who has just completed firing Table "B" Musketry Course for 1921, and who made in the Classification Practices, a remarkably high total score of 218. He obtained 44 points in the Rapid Fire Practice at 300 yards, one point short of the possible.

Has anyone in the Buffs beaten either of these performances?

**Musketry. Result of Table "B."**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C.S.M. Mason | 218 | Marksman | L/S. Cox | 149 | First. |
| L/S. Beasley | 186 | do. | Pte. Silk | 149 | do. |
| Sgt. Jones | 180 | do. | Cpl. Crawley | 146 | do. |
| Pte. Waghorn | 172 | First. | Pte. Marsh | 133 | do. |
| C.S.M. Moberley | 169 | do. | Cpl. Wright | 126 | Second. |
| Pte. Lewry | 163 | do. | Dmr. Shaw | 160 | do. |
| Dmr. Kennedy | 161 | do. | Pte. Bayford | 91 | do. |
| Cpl. Hewett | 159 | do. | Pte. Waldron | 47 | Third. |

*(Continued on next page.)*

**Beneath Bell Harry**—*continued.*

FOOTBALL.

### Depot v. Lesser Stour. 22/10/21.

This was a good game played on our opponents' ground and resulted in a win for the Depot; 5–10. Right from the start the Depot played a good game and over-ran their opponents. The most curious feature of the game was that all the forwards scored, namely Drumgold, Smith, Bardon, Turner and Ingram.

### Depot v. Herne Bay Athletic. 29/10/21.

This, the best game so far of this season, was played on the Herne Bay ground and resulted in a win for The Depot, 2–0. All our supporters, to say nothing of ourselves, thought we were going to run up a big score, as we were two goals up at the end of the first five minutes. But as things turned out there was no further scoring. The Herne Bay team have greatly improved since the beginning of the season and should do well in the league. They made our boys go all out in this match, but we should have had more goals if we had taken advantage of our opportunities. The goal scorers were Turner and Ingram.

### Depot v. Herne United. 12/11/21.

This game, the 2nd round of the Canterbury Charity Cup, was played on the Wincheap Grove Ground and, was stopped a quarter of an hour before time owing to an appeal against the light by our opponents, when the Depot was leading by four goals to nothing. It was a very exciting match and it was not long before goals by Middleton and Sgt. Morgan gave us a lead. This seemed to dishearten the Herne Team who somehow fell to pieces. Several disputes with the referee arose, but the game was continued, and Parry scored another goal before the interval. Parry scored another goal a quarter of an hour before time, and it was at this stage of the game that all the players of the United team swarmed around the referee with an appeal that the light was too bad. So we shall have to have a replay some time later. The whole of the Depot team played well especially the forwards, who combined better than they have done in the past. And a word of praise must be given to our supporters for the encouragement always given the team, all of which renders us tremendous assistance.

**Recruits Inter-Section (6 a side) Comp.**
**Results up to 16th Nov. 1921.**

| Section. | Played. | Won. | Lost. | Drawn. | For | | Against. | | Points. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Goals. | Corners. | Goals. | Corners. | |
| B. 2 (Corpl. Holding) ... | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| A. 3 (Corpl. McLean) ... | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| B. 1 (Sgt. Beasley) ... | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 6 |
| A. 1 (C.Q.M.S. Jones) ... | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| B. 3 (Sgt. Morgan) ... | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 4 | 2 |
| A. 2 (Sgt. Cox) ... ... | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 20 | 8 | 2 |

HOCKEY.

Up to now there has been something missing from the Sports news of the Depot, which seems to be monopolised by the Soccer Team, "all Good Luck to them," But there is another little lot dressed similarly who play with sticks and a small white (?) ball and who have been keeping their end up, pretty well. So here goes with *their* record.

On the 15th October they had their opening game against the Royal Marines (Deal). Result 6–3 for the Depot.

On 20th October, a game against Canterbury H.C. in the pouring rain, which reminded one of water polo, resulted in a win for The Depot by 3–0.

On 22nd on another cold rainy day, we played Wye College. In this match although the Depot was leading 4–1 at half-time, the final result was a draw, 4–4.

On 27th again versus Canterbury H.C. we recorded a win by 6–2, and on the 29th yet another win versus the same club, by 4–2.

On 5th November at Ashford versus Ashford Church House. After a jolly fine game, still another win by 3–1.

So the record of the Hockey Team up to date is :—Played 6, won 5, Drawn 1, which is quite equal to that of our friends the Soccer wallahs!

The following have played for the Depot :—

Goal :—Dr. Richards. Backs :—C.S.M. Couchman, Cpl. Holding. Halves :—Capt. and Adjutant E. F. D. Strettell, Lt. J. R. Willows, Dr. Philpott. Forwards :—Cpl. Menier, Pte. Woods, Sgt.-Dr. Clayton, Rev. Cooper-Hunt, Pte. Williams, also Lce.-Cpl. Adams, C.Q.M.S. Jones and Pte. Bowman.

HOCKEYIST.

**1922 Calendars for Christmas.**
**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
**Canterbury.**
**Kodaks.** **Tel. 21 X.**

# Boxing.

### The Coming Championships.

AN Executive Committee Meeting of the Army Boxing Association was held on October 19th and the following important decisions were reached :—

(i) That the Army Representatives on the I.S.B.A. Committee should recommend that the I.S.B.A. Championships this year, should take the form of a Team Championship.

(ii) That Fly-weights for other ranks, and Fly-Weights and Bantam-weights for Officers should be eliminated from all Army Championships. The final decision was therefore, that the following weights would be open in Army Championships for this season :—Officers : Heavy, Middle, Welter, Light and Feather ; Other Ranks :—Heavy, Light-Heavy, Middle, Welter, Light, Feather and Bantam.

(iii) That the number of Officers in a Unit Team be reduced to four, each Officer to be of a different weight, the choice to be from the five weights mentioned in para. (ii). It was further decided that the Officers and Other Ranks should be considered separately for the purpose of making up the marks equal to the largest entry. The complete rules are given below.

(iv) That the Army Individual Championships be definitely fixed for March 30th and 31st, 1922.

**Can we send you a packet of 25**
*Dragon* **Envelopes, price 6d. (post free)?**
**or call at** *The Dragon* **Office for them.**

INTER UNIT ARMY BOXING TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS.

### The Rules.

(i) A complete Unit Boxing Team shall consist of eleven members, *i.e.*, four Officers and seven other ranks, every member of the team shall box in a different weight, and no member shall box in more than one weight.

(ii) There will be five weights open to Officers :— Heavy-weight, Middle, Welter, Light and Feather.

(iii) There will be seven weights open to Other Ranks :—Heavy, Light-heavy, Middle, Welter, Light, Feather and Bantam.

(iv) It is not essential for a Unit to send in a complete team.

(v) For the purpose od marking, the number of entries will be made up in each weight to the maximum entry, and in this the officers' maximum entry will count for the officers, and the other ranks' maximum entry will count for the other ranks.

EXAMPLE.—In a team competition the maximum entry in any officers' weight was seven officers, and with the other ranks the maximum entry in any weight was nine other ranks.

There are only two entries in the officers' heavies, and three entries in the other rank heavies.

With officers, the marks in the maximum entry will be as follows :—

1st Round Winners, and Byes, 2, Losers, 1. Semi-final Winners, 2 plus 2, Losers, 2 plus 1.

Final Winners, 2 plus 2 plus 2. Losers, 2 plus 2 plus 1.

Hence the two officer heavy-weights who walk into the final will receive—Winner, 6 points, Loser, 5 points.

With other ranks the marks in the maximu m entry will be :—

1st Round Winners and Byes, 2, Losers, 1. 2nd Round Winners, 2 plus 2, Loser, 2 plus 1.

Semi-final Winners, 2 plus 2 plus 2, Losers, 2 plus 2 plus 1. Final Winners, 2 plus 2 plus 2 plus 2, Losers, 2 plus 2 plus 2 plus 1.

In the other ranks' heavy-weights, we will call the boxers, A B and C ; in the first series (semi-finals), A fights B and A wins. A therefore receives 6 points, B 5 points and C 6 points. In the final, A fights C and A wins. A therefore receives 8 and C 7 points.

(vi) For the purposes of the Inter-Unit team Championship, the definition of a Unit shall be the same as for the Army Football Cup.

### On The Mat.

WE have to thank a reader for sending us the following. "For Heaven's sake try and take a rest. Eat opium or suck poppies. You are too restless. Cultivate the "*dolce far nientie.*" Push in the largo and pull out the piano. In fact rearrange the Furniture." To all of which we humbly say "Yes Sir, it shall be done," but don't forget all copy for our New Year's number must reach our office no later than the 12th inst. Important this, as we are anxious that the Christmas Holidays should not prevent us from being up to time in making our bow to the New Year.

# The Fairy Ring.

*OUR SERIAL STORY.*

### Chapter II.

'ONE hundred and sixty-eight hours detention!" roared the C.O.

* * * * *

Leaving the grim walls of his prison behind him, Private Hugh Taylor hurried along towards the scene of his sweetheart's murder, in the hope of finding some sort of clue as to the identity of the murderer against whom he had vowed a vendetta which death only could terminate. [*The Authors have purposely omitted to describe the life inside or the means of escape from a building so familiar with most of their readers as a Detention Barrack. They have also in mind the fact that to disclose the daily routine in these establishments might cause them to be overcrowded by the many Sybarites of the Army; while they themselves hope to employ the same means of escape as that used by our hero.*]

But the picture which he now presented was very different from his dapper appearance and soldierly bearing in barracks. For clothes stolen from a scare crow would scarcely be considered smart enough for parade. In fact he was actually at that moment congratulating himself upon the efficacy of his disguise. "Hoo-bally-ray!" cried he, giving vent to his elated spirits, but the words froze on his lips as he suddenly found himself looking down the barrels of two large Colt automatics levelled at him from behind the old oak.

"THEY'VE GOT ME, THE BLASTERS."

"They've got me, the blasters," he muttered," the game's up! Righto, Sergeant, I'll come quiet," he added.

Imagine his surprise when the unexpected answer came:—"Put up yer hands, we arrhest ye in the name of the I.R.A.!" and without more ado they blindfolded him and led him roughly to the car which was waiting behind the farm.

They hustled along, and after what seemed like many hours they drew up suddenly with the grinding of brakes. Bundled out of the car, Hugh stumbled along behind his captors, and when the bandage was removed from his eyes, he found himself in a damp, underground cell.

After a sleepless night, when he often wished himself back in his comfortable bed in the Detention Barracks, he was peremptorily marched into the cavern which served as an orderly room and sleeping apartment for the Irish Republican Commandant. His introduction to this official was somewhat of a shock, for instead of the well-groomed and dapped Commanding Officer he had been accustomed to, he saw before him an unkempt, tousled, evil looking man, whose dark, black hair straggled over his low, mean forehead, and whose bedraggled moustache half concealed the loose, sensual lips of a typical bully. His shifty little eyes fixed themselves for a moment on Hugh's face.

"Waal, mister soldier," he drawled in a distinct American accent, "I've had you brart here as a spy on the Republican Army. On two occasions of late you've been seen hangin' around the Headquarters of one o' my companies at Michael Cassidy's farm. We also suspect you of the mur-r-der of an innocent Oirish lady——"

"Its a lie! you swine!" blurted out Hugh at this foul accusation. "By heaven!—" but he felt the words choked down as the sentry's grimy hand seized him by the throat.

"See here, young man," the Commandant went on, "I guess you'd better keep a civil tongue in that moosick box o' yours, or you'll learn there aint no kid gloves in *this* concern; Patrick," he added, turning to his adjutant who was standing behind him.

"I'll leave you to carry out the usual pro-ceedure for spies and murderers! Take him away; and see to it that no traces are left in the morning!"

Hugh had no doubt what this meant. He racked his brains to find some way out of his desperate position For the turn events were taking was a bit to quick for his liking, and he *must* cling to life if only for the sake of Sheila. Ah!...the memory of her name brought back to his disturbed mind her dying words on that bitter night... ...Almost involuntarily the words sprang to his lips:—"The Fairy Ring!"

Hardly had he spoken when the air became tense and electric. The Commandant turned deathly pale, and beads of perspiration stood out under his lanky locks.

"Clear the room!" he thundered, and his myrmidons slunk away, leaving the two face to face.

Although Hugh had no idea why this simple phrase should have caused such a change of demeanour in the bully, yet, realizing the value of bluff, he was quick to follow up his advantage.

"You're lack of intelligence, Commandant, has disappointed me," he said, "instead of jumping blindly to the conclusion that I was an English Spy, I should have thought that you might have realized that my presence in the English Army was necessary in order to gain the information I was sent to obtain. I am now in possession of that information, and I must take it back to my headquarters; and you must help me."

The Commandant was utterly abject.

"Forgive me my mistake, comrade," he muttered, I am at your service. I can give you American money and passports. If they are any use to you, they are yours!"

Choking down his excitement Hugh answered calmly, "that will suit me very well; but I also require clothes. While this is all being got ready I will have a meal. Go, and remember that every minute is precious!"

Regaled by food, clad in new clothes, with passports and money galore in his pockets, Hugh was soon being whirled down the high road to Cork. Arrived there he had no difficulty in boarding a liner, and was soon speeding on his way towards America. At last, he felt, he was really on his way to finding some clue to the "Fairy Ring."

[*A prize will be given to the first reader submitting to us the correct solution of the Fairy Ring. Ed.*]

# The 5th Battalion.

A MERRY Christmas!" Somehow I feel half inclined to welcome this greeting with Scrooge's rejoinder—"Bah! to yer merry Christmas." I have not always been in this frame of mind, nor do I possess the uncertain temperament of this most liverish of Dicken's characters, but I recall with intense vividness how I spent last Christmas, when the Orderly Sergeant made me a present of an order. This was an extraordinary order. It was not a postal or money order as one would naturally expect at such a festive time, but just a few words to the effect that I would be on guard from Reveille 25.12.20 until Reveille 26.12.20. I possess a cherished memory for that Sergeant—he had such a particularly kind face. Well, well, it's a sad heart that never rejoices, for this year I hope (in fact I have graced the family pew with unusual consistency during the past month or so) to see the Adjutant gaily tripping across the Orderly room, with a fairy wand in one hand and my T.F. Bounty in the other.

During the past few weeks we have been suffering from an exceedingly bad attack of musketryitus, brought on I believe by over indulgence in amalgamation. Talking about shooting, the officers had a preliminary canter for the Cup the other Sunday and we saw some remarkably fine results, both on the targets and in the bank. Captain Hawkins demonstrated that he still retains most of his old prowess with the rifle.

Henry Roy is coming along splendid.

Can you imagine Joe Beckett caressing a bluebottle? If not, you cannot possibly picture the R.S.M. googling sweet words of comfort to his auburn-haired offspring. If one could only compare this gentle vision with the occasions he has been seen googling sweet words of comfort to an Urban District Council lamp post, you would realise what an excellent sense of forethought he must possess.

By the way, the Sergeants held their second monthly dance the other Wednesday, but owing to the crowded floor, most of us spent the night and part of the morning in the Mess. We had two M.C.'s this time, one for keeping the numerous queus from knocking Mrs. Gardner's coffee stall down and the R.S.M. looked after the Mess upstairs. At least this was the position up to half time, when the Mess looked after Algy.

Cully was in excellent form, and an admiring crowd of M.C.'s spare Sergeants and empties, highly appreciated his efforts at the one-step. Bert obviously thought that to be correct a one-step should be performed on one leg. Anyhow he let the other leg go wandering at times, with distastrious results.

In conclusion (a sigh of relief from the Editor). I co-operate with everyone in wishing everybody the compliments of the Season.

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SHOOTING.

The Officers' Cup was competed for at the Brewers Wood range on Tuesday, November 15th, for the first time since 1918, the competition consisting of the 4 practices in Part II. Table B. T.F.

The following officers competed:—Lt.-Col. J. Body, Major E. B. Burns, Capt. F. S. Fleuret, Capt. T. B. Cheesman, Capt. E. Scott, Lt. A. U. Boning, Lt. H. Alexander, 2nd-Lt. G. F. Reeves, Capt. and Qr.-Mr. A. Hawkins, and Major and Adjutant B. L. Birley.

The result was a win for Major Burns with the creditable score of 78, Capt. Fleuret being a good second with 76.

After a short interval for lunch the five officers of Battalion Headquarters took on the five company officers in a match in practices 7 and 8. The result was a narrow win for the officers of Battalion Headquarters with an aggregate score of 152 against 149 compiled by the company officers. In this competition Lt. Alexander made the highest score of 33, and Major Burns 32.

C COMPANY, 5TH BATTALION.

The first item to report this month is that, together with D Company, we had a pleasant week-end camp at Sissinghurst Castle under the personal direction of our worthy skipper Captain T. B. Cheesman who gave us a hearty welcome to the domain over which he reigns supreme. Major Burns was in command of the camp, and he exercised us in company drill, etc., during the evening. The end of a perfect day was brought to a close with a camp fire concert. The following day was spent on the range and we had a visit from the Brigadier, Col. Robinson, our C.O., Col. Body and also Major Moulton Barratt, Adjutant 4th Battalion R.W. Kent Regiment.

Our next item of news is a church parade which was held at Cranbrook Parish Church to assist in the unveiling of a War Tablet in the church to the men of Cranbrook who gave their lives in the Great War. We had a good number on parade under command of Captain T. B. Cheesman who had the honour of unveiling the Tablet.

During the last six weeks, Sundays have been taken up with firing the annual course of musketry and we have been very fortunate in having fine weather and the shooting shows a great improvement on last year. The best shot amongst the trained men so far is Cpl. W. D. Golding with a score of 82. This dour old Buff seems to improve with age. Cpl. Leaver, the holder of the Battalion Shooting Cup, comes second with a score of 81, which indicates a hard fight to retain the Cup.

The Recruits are on the whole doing splendidly. Pte. F. Collins is top with the fine score of 94 out of a possible 115. Pte. S. C. Hickmolt is 2nd with a good 92.

Pte. J. C. Couchman is 3rd with 88. These fine young recruits should do much to revive the shooting records made in the old days by our old friends Col.-Sergts. Springett, and Rofe. Now boys keep your eyes fixed on next year's Bisley Meeting, and the King's Prize Man may yet be a Cranbrook man.

We have also taken part in the unveiling of the beautiful monument at Goddard's Green the entrance to the town of Cranbrook, when the Company had one of the best parades seen for many years in this old town. The majority of the employers gave the men a few hours leave, and we were able to form up with 3 Officers and 54 other ranks to form a guard of honour under command of Captain T. B. Cheesman. The average height of this guard was 5 ft. 8 in. and they looked well on parade and were very steady. A full report of the unveiling ceremony will be found on page 259.

It is now generally known that on January 1st, 1922, we shall become the Weald of Kent Company of the 4th Battalion, and nearly all of the N.C.O.'s and Men of C Company have decided to carry on with the new Company thereby making it a success, keeping alive the memory of the old 5th, and carrying on the good work for which so many of our dear comrades gave their lives. Our motto should be "We will not fail."

J. MOBBERLEY, C.S.M.

D COMPANY, 5TH BATTALION.

Probably some of us wonder how many more papers we must sign before we become members of the amalgamated Battalion. Having fixed our valuable autographs to a document stating our desire to serve on we thought we had done all that was necessary. But no, we have just had to do it all over again. [*You are evidently a very young Soldier. Ed.*]

The Musketry is finished, except for the inevitable few who each year ignore the warnings of their Officers, and warm summer weather, and prefer to wait till it blows and freezes.

There is the Annual Company Supper to look out for. It will be held at the Cranbrook Drill Hall, and will be for all those transfering to the amalgamated Battalion. It will probably be on December 20th. The men from Out Stations will be brought in in Motorbuses. Full details will be given later.

---

# Our Lame Dogs.

HERE is a further list of old Buffs on the books of the Regimental Employment Bureau, and for whom we make an earnest appeal for employment.

SITUATIONS REQUIRED.

**Labourer.**—Age 23. Single. Mr. W. S. Ansell, 19 Brunswick St., Ramsgate.

**Outfitter's Assistant.**—Age 23. Single. Mr. H. Sayer, 5 Dane Road, Ramsgate.

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**Porter or Handyman.**—Mr. P. Sullivan, 84 Carleton Vale, Kilburn, London.

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MAJOR F. W. TOMLINSON,
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## Cranbrook War Memorial Unveiled.

THIS year's Armistice Day was made memorable for Cranbrook folk by the Unveiling and Dedication of their War Memorial at Goddard's Green. In spite of the cold wind a great concourse of people assembled for the ceremony which was very beautiful and impressive.

The Memorial stands at the branching of the roads against a pretty and typically English background of old manor house, farm and cherry orchard; and upon the plot of turf surrounding it were grouped the different public bodies of the Town, the Committee, V.A.D. Detachment, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Wolf Cubs, and Brownies. Also the relatives of the Fallen bringing their offerings of flowers, the officiating Clergy, and 250 children led by the surpliced choir to sing, with voices un-accompanied, the hymns. Whilst beyond the enclosed space was a gathering of people that must have well-nigh emptied the Town and neighbouring hamlets.

Facing the Memorial was a splendid Guard of Honour composed of 3 officers and 54 men of " C " Company, 5th Battalion The Buffs under the command of Captain Cheeseman, and 28 men of the Cranbrook School O.T.C. under Captain Saunders.

After the names of the Fallen had been read by Lt. Alexander, Chairman of the War Memorial Committee, Colonel Walter Horsley gave a brief address and then released the flags which veiled the monument. This was the signal for the command to be given for the Guard to present Arms. Then the buglers sounded the Last Post, and when, after a brief silence the Guard returned to the Slope, from away in the distance came the sound of the Reveille. This was a most impressive effect. Then the four sentries, three in full marching order and tin hats, and one in khaki drill and Indian topee, who till now had been on guard with arms reversed at the corners of the monument received the command to take part with the Company.

The Rev. W. R. F. Addison, V.C., now made a short address and dedicated the memorial, and after a hymn and prayer, the service was concluded by the singing of the National Anthem.

Before the people dispersed, relatives and friends of the dead placed offerings of flowers, and among many beautiful emblems and wreaths was one of buff-coloured chrysanthemums and Autumn leaves which was laid by Colonel Body, D.S.O. in the name of the Regiment and " in affectionate remembrance."

The Memorial, which was designed by Major J. B. Scott, takes the form of a simple pylon of Portland stone about 20 ft. high and canopied to protect a carving in bold relief of a mounted St. George slaying the Dragon. Below this come the dates 1914–1918, and below these again a panel carved with the English rose. Upon the plinth is this inscription in noble lettering :—

TO THE MEMORY OF THE
MEN OF CRANBOOK WHO
FELL IN THE GREAT WAR
WHOSE NAMES ARE ENGRAVEN
ON THE MEMORIAL IN THE
PARISH CHURCH.

After being dismissed " C " Company was entertained at tea in The Drill Hall by Lt. Alexander; and Colonel Body, Major Burns, Captain Cheesman and Lieut. Winch honoured the occasion with their presence.

H. MESSITER.

**B. & W. FISK-MOORE,**
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## The 4th Battalion.

THE War Office has decided to drop the Scheme for the erection of a Territorial Sports' Stadium on the W.D. land at Old Park, Canterbury. Whilst we should be the last to criticize the policy of Economy which calls for such a decision, we cannot but announce it without the greatest regret. Canterbury is none too well equipped with Recreation Grounds and we had hoped to see a further incentive given to healthy Sport by the provision of this Ground. We can only hope that it is but a postponement and that the matter will be reconsidered in the near future.

We are glad to announce that up to the middle of November, 122 other Ranks had signified their intention of serving on as Territorials in the 4th Buffs or transfer from the 5th Battalion. This is highly gratifying, and is evidence of the comradeship which exists between the Men of East Kent and the Men of the Weald. We hope that this number will increase before the end of this year and that the Weald of Kent Company will be at full strength on 1st January, 1922.

The New Drill Hall at Dover is well on the way to completion and we look for a great future to the Dover Company.

### THE SITTINGBOURNE COMPANY.

Our Drill Instructor, C.S.M. Taylor, having returned from a course at Hythe S.A. School, the company is now well up to Bayonet Training and there are rumours that at least half the Drill Hall will shortly blossom out as a landscape range.

A hotly contested " dart " competition has just been finished, the winning pairs being Sgt. Shepherd and Cpl. Stafford (first), with Cpl. Scott and Pte. Scott (runners up).

Interest now centres round the billiard tournament which is in full swing and it is yet to be decided whether we shall challenge " Smith " or " Inman."

We regret to announce the death of Cpl. Wildash late of the 1/4 Bn. The Buffs, this company finding the firing party, the ceremony being carried out under Sgt. Shepherd.

On Sunday, November 13th the Company turned out for Church Parade at the Parish Church on the occasion of a special Armistice Service at which all local public bodies were represented.

The Company wish the best of luck to those attending the Reunion Dinner of the late 1/4 Battalion at which several of the Company members will be present.

[*We are genuinely sorry not to have more news of the 4th Battalion, and make an earnest appeal that a correspondent from each company may yet be found to come to our assistance. Ed.*]

**IMPORTANT.**

**Please remember that all copy for our New Year's Number must reach us by the 12th inst.**

## THE DRAGON.

*TO meet the wishes of those desirous of keeping a permanent record of their own life of the Regiment and that of the Regiment itself, the following arrangements have been made by us for binding the "1921 Dragons" in stiff blue cloth covers carrying the Regimental Crest in gold outside, and with gold lettering at back.*

THE THREE ALTERNATIVES.

1. Where readers supply us with their own Dragons: 4/- post free.
2. Where the complete set of Dragons published in 1921 is supplied from our office: 10/- post free.

   NOTE.—The number of complete sets is strictly limited, and orders in this instance will be dealt with strictly in rotation as received.
3. Covers only, 2/6 post free.

*ORDERS for any of the above can now be placed with us direct or through our Representatives vide page* 189.

*In the case of 1 or 2, no payment need be made until the end of the year, but where an order for cover only is placed this should be accompanied by a remittance.*

# Armistice Day and the War Memorial.

*(From a Correspondent).*

NOVEMBER the eleventh, of the year Nineteen Hundred and Twenty One was the Third Anniversary of the Armistice, and the day on which the First Act of Homage was made at the Buffs' Memorial.

As the Cenotaph is the symbol-tomb of the glorious dead of our Nation, so does the Buffs' Memorial in the Warriors' Chapel symbolise the tomb of the heroic dead of the regiment. By the erection of this Regimental Memorial in Canterbury Cathedral on the last day of July of this year, it has been made possible to celebrate in the city of our own Regimental Depot, a very fitting ceremonial, in honour of, and as a solemn homage to the memory of our comrades, who, in the Great War, gave their lives, the most a man can give, for God, King and Country.

About a quarter of an hour after the celebration of the two minutes silence, a Guard of Honour, under the command of Major E. F. Gould and consisting of about twenty files of trained men and recruits, paraded on the barrack square, and were inspected, prior to taking part in the real act of homage. On the right of the Guard could be seen a large wreath of bay leaves carried by two members of the Past and Present Association.

Before marching off, each member of the Band and Guard of Honour was the recipient of a poppy, gratefully presented by an anonymous gentleman as a Remembrance token. These emblems placed behind the Cap Badges, not only gave a touch of colour but added to the general smart appearance of the well-groomed Guard.

A little later the Guard marched off, the wreath being carried immediately behind the Commander. The route taken was by Military Road, High Street, through Mercery Lane, passing the City Memorial (which was surrounded by beautiful floral tributes) in the Butter Market, through the Gate, and on to the Cathedral.

The Guard of Honour escorting the wreath was met at the entrance to the Cathedral by the Dean and the Mayor of the City, who led the procession through the Nave on to the Warriors' Chapel, where the ceremony was celebrated with reverent simplicity.

The Guard with sloped arms was formed in line, with the wreath in front, at the foot of the steps leading to and facing the Regimental Memorial in the Chapel. On the right of the Guard were assembled Officers of the Regiment and their friends, and on the left, the Cathedral Choir and members of the congregation. The Dean, the Mayor and Major J. Crookenden, D.S.O., Officer Commanding the Depot, stood at the foot of the Memorial.

The Service was opened by the Dean saying, " In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." The wreath, the outward and visible token of Remembrance, was handed over to Major J. Crookenden, D.S.O., who laid it at the foot of the Memorial with the following words :—

> " From the Association of the Past and Present Buffs—To the glorious memory of those Buffs who gave their lives for their King and Country in the Great War of Civilisation."

Then the Command rang out—" Present Arms," and after the clatter of arms, a brief and tense silence was broken by the echoing sounds of " Reveille " sounded by the Drummers of the Depot Staff. The Lord's Prayer was recited and the air was filled with music by the singing of that great hymn " O, God, Our Help in Ages Past." Then followed a simple and moving address by the Dean at the close of which a Prayer was offered. The service was then concluded by the Dean pronouncing the Blessing.

The congregation dispersed and the Guard of Honour returned to the Barracks and when passing the City Memorial, saluted it, as it had done on its outward journey.

This simple, impressive, but significant Act of Homage will it is hoped, be carried out yearly and thus become a time-honoured custom.

Thoughts ! Ah ! I wonder what were the thoughts of those who paid their tribute to the " Glorious Dead." Of whom did they think ! What places and what stirring incidents were recalled ? It is too sacred to tell. Is it not sufficient to be a member of a regiment whose motto is :—

*" Veteri Frondescrit Honore ? "*

## Births, Marriages and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

**Andrews.**—On the 4th November at The Depot, the wife of 6278037 R.Q.M.S. Andrews—a daughter (Marjorie).

**Douglas.**—On the 1st November at The Depot, the wife of 7815544 Pte. C. Douglas—a son (George Roland).

**Hills.**—On the 21st September at Fermoy, the wife of 6278097 Sgt. E. Hills of a daughter (Anna Edwina).

**Knight.**—On the 3rd November, 1921, in London, the wife of C.S.M. Knight, M.M.—a daughter (Joyce Annie).

**Nunn.**—On the 6th October at Canterbury, the wife of Cpl. E. F. Nunn, 4th Btn. The Buffs—a daughter.

**Summers.**—On the 11th October at Fermoy, the wife of 620082 Sgt. R. W. Summers—a daughter (Dorothy Queenie).

**Whittingham.**—On 12th July at Bangalore, the wife of 6278110 Sgt. F. Whittingham—a son (Thomas Hordell).

**Woods.**—On the 20th November, at Canterbury, the wife of Cpl. Woods—a son (Ronald Arthur).

MARRIAGES.

**Bailey—Gower.**—On the 29th October, 1921, at St. Stephen's Church Tonbridge, R. A. Bailey (late Sergt. 4th Bn. The Buffs) of Canterbury to Miss H. G. Gower of Tonbridge.

**Hall.**—On the 29th September, 1921, 6279123 Sgt. (O.R.C.) W. R. Hall, at Fermoy.

**McLean.**—On the 29th September, 1921, 6278184 L/Sgt. P. L. McLean at Canterbury.

DEATHS.

**Cardoza.**—On the 21st August, at Kirkuk, 6278921 L/C. Cardoza, 2nd Bn. The Buffs.

**Essell.**—On the 14th November, at Beveré Knole, Worcester, Nella Lilian, beloved wife of Colonel F. K. Essell, C.M.G., aged 48.

**Howell.**—On the 10th November, at Pantgwyn, Cardiganshire, Williama S. Howell, widow of Col. Howell aged 82.

**Sargent.**—On the 11th November, at West Lea House, Folkestone, Alice Mary, wife of the late Lieut.-General J. N. Sargent, C.B.

**Teall.**—On the 4th August at Kirkuk, 6279180 Pte. H. Teall, 2nd Bn., The Buffs.

**Watling.**—On the 25th May at Kasauli from hydrophobia, 6280064 Pte. C. Watling 2nd Bn., The Buffs.

[*We should be glad if, when particulars of marriage are submitted to us, the name of the Lady might also be included. Ed.*]

**Your Christmas Shopping.**

**If you deal with the firms whose names are to be found in our pages, you will not be disappointed.**

# The Sportsman.

## How to train for Cross-Country Running.

By Captain N. F. Hallows, M.A., M.D., late R.A.M.C.

A CROSS-COUNTRY race, being a severe test of a runner's stamina and general physical condition, the preparatory training must extend over a lengthy period of time, and must also be regular and systematic.

To deal with the main points, at the outset the runner, although in good general physical training, will find that any hard running produces stiffness of the leg-muscles, this being Nature's way of pointing out that the muscles have done more work than their condition warrants. To avoid this stiffness and possible injury to muscles, it is all-important that the process of training should be a gradual one. It is best at first to run only on grass, and for a short distance at a time. For example, run half a mile easily but with a good stride, and then walk half a mile. Half an hour of this on alternate days will be sufficient for the first three times out.

During the second week, the distances run should be increased to, say a mile at a steady pace, and the walking intervals correspondingly shortened. It is not advisable, and certainly unnecessary, to run more than four times a week, when doing easy work; and when hard running and racing is being undertaken, twice a week is sufficient.

After two weeks of preliminary training there is little fear of stiffness arising, and the distances run should be further increased, with less walking. Later on, two runs a week of three to five miles over give-and-take country will be found the best way of keeping fit; but the process must not be allowed to become monotonous or irksome—this can be guarded against by taking part in cross-country races and by running with other members of a team.

It is best always to run in the company of others who are about equal as to pace, and to take turns at taking the lead. When about a mile from home the team should rendezvous, and then have a brisk run home.

### Stamina and Speed.

In practice it will be found a good plan to go for a long run one day to develop stamina, and the next time out to do something shorter and faster in order to develop speed. From time to time practice over obstacles should be undertaken. Valuable seconds and much energy may be saved in negotiating a field-gate, while with practice the easiest way of crossing ploughed land will be arrived at. Road-running is useful for developing speed and also hardens the feet.

Walking is a very fine subsidiary exercise for cross-country running, as it not only hardens the muscles, but is one of the best means of getting rid of stiffness or any slight sprains or strains. Walking should be performed with the natural gait, and the pace must not be forced.

It is impossible to lay down any absolute rules for running exercises, as individuals vary, and whereas one man will thrive on very hard work, another will quickly become tired out and go stale with the same amount of exercise. The runner's motto should be, "*Train slowly.*" A solid foundation of physical fitness will then be established, upon which such qualities as speed and a good style can subsequently be built up.

Running shoes are an important item, and it is advisable to have a pair of leather shoes with bars across the sole, and also a pair with spikes for use on an all-grass or very soft course. The shoes should have heel-straps to fix across the instep, to prevent them being pulled off in heavy mud.

### Team and Individual Work.

In team racing, packing may be carried out with advantage, and the team should be divided into several packs, so that the faster members are not kept back unduly. During training, members of a pack should run together, so that they may learn to understand one another and thus produce the best average result in a race.

In a race for individual placings, judgment is an important factor, and the following points are worthy of notice:—To stand a chance of winning a race, it pays most runners best to obtain a position with the leaders from the very start, and to maintain this as long as possible. Never, if possible, allow anyone to get right away from you, as it is exceedingly difficult, especially towards the end of a fast race, to reduce such a gap. Try to size up the other competitors, and don't allow yourself to be run off your legs by someone who neither looks like nor intends going the whole course.

If you have a bad time, or the going becomes very heavy, shorten your stride for the time being and quicken your step.

In regard to smoking and drinking most excellent advice has already been given by Dr. Abrahams in the November *Dragon*.

# The Burning Question.

(*Submitted by Pte. Beck of the 1st Battalion*).

THREE Tommies sat in a trench one day,
Discussing the war in the usual way,
They talked of the mud, they talked of the hun,
Of what was to do, and what had to be done,
They talked about rum, and—'tis hard to believe—
They even found time to speak about leave,
But the point they argued from post back to pillar
Was whether *Notts County* could beat *Aston Villa.*

The night sped away, and zero drew nigh,
Equipment made ready, all lips getting dry,
And watches consulted with each passing minute
Till five more to go, then 'twould find them all in it;
The word came along down the line to get ready!
The sergeants admonishing all to keep steady,
But out rang a voice getting shriller and shriller;
"I tell you Notts County can beat Aston Villa."

The earth shook and swayed, and the barrage was on
As they leapt o'er the top with a rush and were gone,
Away into hunland, through mud and through wire,
Stabbing and dragging themselves through the mire,
No time to heed those who are falling en route
Till, stopped by a strong point they lay down to shoot
Then through the din came a voice, "Say Jack Miller
I tell yer Notts County can beat Aston Villa.

The strong point has gone, and forward they press,
Towards their objective, in number grown less
They reach it at last, and prepare to resist,
The counter-attack which will come through the mist
Of the rain falling steadily; dig and hang on,
The word for support back to H.Q. has gone,
The air, charged with moment, grows stiller and stiller—
"Nott's County's no earthly beside Aston Villa."

Two "Blighties," a struggle through mud to get back
To the old A.S.S. down a rough ducking track,
A hasty field dressing, a ride in a car,
A wait in a C.C.S. then there they are:
Packed side by side in a clean *Red Cross Train*
Happy in hopes to see Blighty again,
Still, through the bandages, muffled, "Jack Miller"
I bet you Notts County can beat Aston Villa!

## A Farewell to The "Buffs."

### A Messy Ode.

*(Submitted by a reader from Johannesburg)*

I'VE been in some plights that were strange,
But here's one no one ever could guess,
That one day I'd be sad at the change,
When I found myself out of a Mess!

There are Messes and Messes, of course—
When the cat puts its foot in the jam—
The Mess a shell makes of a horse,
Or a 2nd Lieut. carving a ham.

There is, too, the South African brand;
It records all the meals of the week;
The handle turns round in the hand,
And it smells of cheese, kippers and leek.

And in vain may one shout to the boy,
"Ikona pukele lo mess!" (The knife is not washed).
Such savours to him are a joy,
Which no fuming nor threats will suppress.

And then there's the kind in "Paree,"
Where the maidens all go to *la messe*:
But its raptures would scarcely suit me,
With fifty years' sins to confess.

But a Mess without any alloy,
Where they can't make you welcome enough,
Is my home for eight months at Fermoy,
In the Officers' Mess of the "BUFF."

I've had ne'er a word to annoy
From any brave BUFF drunk or sober,
And the cheque to GROVES RAINES was a joy,
So low were the bills—last October.*

So well is your kindness maintained,
That an ancestor, even, you've found me—
But if that relationship's strained—
Why! I've had more than Brothers around me.

K.S.L.I. (late 6th Battalion).

[*(1919) *When we had an over optimistic Mess President.*]

## A Practical Suggestion.

IT was during the Canterbury Week, when I heard you say that, though you were very anxious to add to the revenue obtained for the *Dragon* through direct subscribers, you were not in favour of having a higher rate of subscription for officers than for other ranks.

Now with this opinion I am inclined to argue, but may I qualify my agreement by making a suggestion? This is that you open up a Propoganda account—or in other words, that you invite officers, and of course any others, who may be willing to subscribe to *The Dragon* at the old rates of 15/- per annum to submit to you such donations as they may care to make; and that these be specially earmarked for propoganda work in making the paper known. Once you were able to do this, I think your circulation would soon reach the 5,000 mark, and I feel sure there must be many who would like to help you in this way and who would be interested to see published from time to time what has been done, and the results obtained. To set the ball rolling I have much pleasure in enclosing you a P.O. for 7/-, the balance between my present subscription and the old rate of 15/- per annum.

T. O. M.

[*We can only say this is a suggestion which appeals to us very strongly, and we propose giving publication to any further amounts received on this account. Ed.*]

**THE CAPTURE OF OPORTO.—See page 248.**

## The Buffs War Memorial.

### Memorial Book.

ARRANGEMENTS have now been completed for the preparation of the book containing the names of all ranks of the Buffs who lost their lives in the War. This book will rest in a box with a glass lid and will be kept on Stephen Langton's tomb—that is to say immediately under the Regimental War Memorial in the Warriors' Chapel.

The artist who has been asked to undertake the work is Mr. Graily Hewitt, who has long been acknowledged to be the finest writer in England; Mr. Hewitt did the book which rests in Cape Town Cathedral and contains the names of all those who fell in the South African War, and he has recently done memorial books for Eton and Harrow, the Hampshire Regiment and the Inns of Court; the Memorial Scrolls sent to all next of kin were also his work.

The book will contain about 250 pages and will have an illuminated title page; the names will be inscribed on vellum in black letters with coloured capitals, and the honours will be in gold.

It has been decided to give christian names in full, and regimental numbers only in the event of two names being exactly similar. Names will be arranged alphabetically by ranks.

Printed lists of names, giving additional details, as regards battalions and date and place of death, will be obtainable in the cathedral.

NINTH LIST OF DONATIONS.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Previously acknowledged ... ... ... | 1117 | 6 | 3 |
| Captain E. H. Allen ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Captain V. N. Moss ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Dr. J. R. Tibbles ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Total ... ... ... ... ... ... | £1120 | 9 | 3 |

J. CROOKENDEN, Major,
Hon. Secretary,
The Buffs Memorial Fund.

Canterbury,
18-11-21.

## Bones of Contention.

THE following expressions of opinion have reached us from Capt. A. E. Colley:

AMALGAMATION OF REGIMENTAL FUNDS.

Major Tomlinson's suggestion that all Regimental Funds, Benevolent, Cottage Homes, Employment, Past and Present Association, should be amalgamated, is I consider a most excellent one. It would simplify matters, and save a certain amount of work.

REGIMENTAL DINNER CLUB.

Speaking as a member of the Regimental Dinner Club, and as one who is not eligible at present to join the "Dragon Club," I have not the least doubt that all members of the former Club, would consider it both a pleasure and honour to amalgamate with "The Dragon Club" if invited to do so.

### Loot!

A PESSIMIST has been described as one who wears a belt in addition to a pair of braces.

Instructor (to recruit, after lecturing on Regimental Colours, etc.)

"What are the Regimental Colours?"

Recruit:—"Blue and Buff shirts and white knicks."

Musketry Instructor questioning a recruit—"What's the sear?"

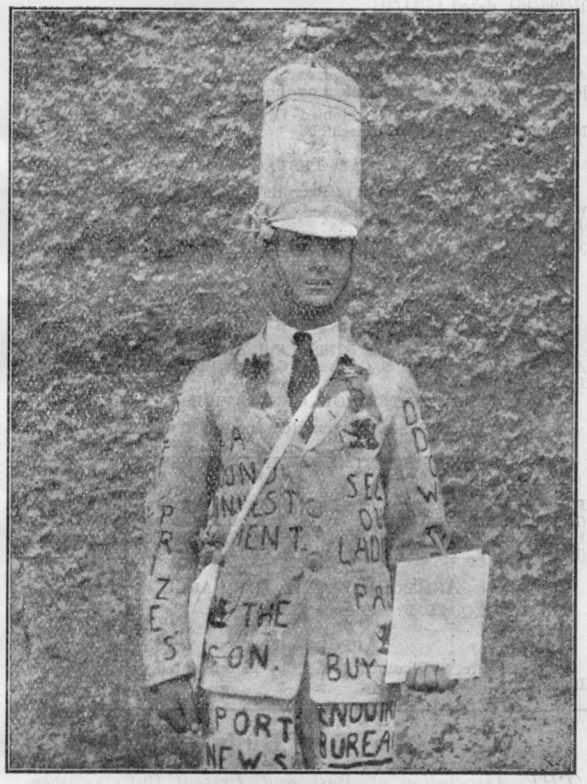
Puzzled Recruit—"This 'ere wot, Sergeant?"

## Our Competitions.

IT is with no small amount of regret that we have to announce that, owing to the small number of entries received, five in all, for our November competitions, no prizes can be awarded this month. This feature of the paper, in fact, seems to make no appeal. So, for the time being at any rate, out it goes.

On the other hand our offer of prizes still holds good, and we propose to award these in future to those of our readers who render *The Dragon* most assistance. What we want are short stories, sketches, personal notes, gossip, constructive criticisms, propaganda, and snapshots, etc., etc., and for the best of these sent in each month prizes will be given. This month for instance we are glad to reward Mr. Nunn for his valuable assistance referred to in Personalia, and Corpl. Cornwell with whose photograph we now present you.

**A Prize Winner.**



Corporal C. W. Cornwell, winner of the 1st Prize at a Fancy Dress Dance, given by the Corporals of the 1st Battalion at Fermoy.

Reverting to our competitions of last month, the number of Past and Present Membership forms received by the Hon. Secretary was 33, and the number of *Dragons* sent out from our office 2,500, a considerable decrease, on that of the previous month caused, firstly, by one or two of our representatives falling off and the remainder finding difficulty in disposing of their original estimates, and, secondly, by our calling a halt in sending out specimen copies for the lack of funds.

The Ladies Knitting competition progresses slowly, and an announcement relating to it will be found on page 249.

(*Continued at foot of next column*).

AS a result of our enquiries as to the origin of the Regimental March a reader has sent us the following very interesting letter.

"Some years ago I was informed by one who joined the Regiment in 1863 that, certain Officers of the Regiment were very friendly with Handel, and that the Great Composer wrote the march at their request especially for the Regiment, simply styling it "The Buffs." My informant was exceedingly fond and proud of everything connected with the Regiment, and as he was also very keen on old military music and marches, I have not the least doubt he tried to find out all he could respecting the Regimental March. If this origin should be the correct on , the march was most probably written soon after 1710. The Regiment had in 1708 received a new title, and possibly on this account Handel may have been asked to write a march to celebrate the occasion, or it may have been written some years later in 1743 when he wrote a special Te Deum and Anthem to celebrate the Victory of Dettingen, in which engagement the Regiment distinguished itself."

Needless to say should any of our other readers be able to supplement or verify the above or have other views to put forward we hope they will communicate with us.

### A Submarine Query.

A reader draws our attention to the fact that in the Illustrated London News of 2nd April, 1921, reference was made to an expression of sympathy to The Buffs on the loss of the submarine K.S., and asks if there were any special relations between The Regiment and the crew of the boat. We are hoping that one or other of our readers may be able to enlighten us.

### Some Queries Answered.

Capt. W. Manning writing from 9 Clifton Hill, Brighton would like to hear from Lt. Frost who was in the 3/4 Buffs from about Christmas 1915 to September, 1916.

C. Bennett (Margate) :—In order to join Section D Reserve you should write to Officer i/c Records, Hounslow, being very careful to state your Regt. No. and rank on leaving the colours when doing so. You will then be informed if there are any vacancies and if so, your papers will be sent to the R.O. Canterbury who will ask you to name a date that will be convenient for you to attend for medical examination. On receipt of this information a Railway Warrant will be sent for the journey.

H. A. S. (Rochester) :—You can obtain full information relating to the visiting of the Graves of the fallen in France or Belgium from the Salvation Army, the Church Army, or the Y.M.C.A.

K. J. (Chatham) :—The Victoria Cross was instituted on the 29th January, 1850, and we are trying to obtain a complete list of all Buffs who have gained that honour.

---

In conclusion we too think it would be churlish—to pinch an expression used by our friend the Man with the Squeegee— were we not to give some recognition to those who supported our November competitions. So to each of these we have sent one of the Depot Christmas cards with our best wishes and thanks. Here are their names : Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Baynes, Mrs. Clifton, and her husband, the late member of the Band blows the oboe up Liverpool way, and Miss E. J. Harris.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

### Officers.

The following is granted temp. rank whilst holding appt. in India :—As Lt.-Col. :—Whilst G.S.Os., 1st Grade.—Bt. Col. C. L. Porter, C.M.G., D.S.O. The Buffs (April 1).

3RD BN. THE BUFFS.—Capt. C. V. Mercer relinquishes his commn. (April 1, 1920), and retains rank of Capt.

4TH BN. THE BUFFS.—Lt. P. Y. Warwick resigns his commn. (Nov. 9), and retains the rank of Lt.; Lt. F. E. Banwell resigns his commn. (Nov. 9), and retains the rank of Lt.

5TH BN. THE BUFFS.—Lt. G. A. Body resigns his commn. (Nov. 9), and retains the rank of Lt.

Lt. G. E. Sankey is secd. for service with the W.I.R. (Sept. 26).

### The 1st Battalion.

INCREASE.

6280044 Pte. F. Beal.

ENLISTMENT.

Pte. J. J. McCarthy, D.

DECREASE.

6279808 Pte. M. Delaney, C, 6279952 Pte. J. Tedman, C, 6279953 Pte. J. E. Gibson, D, 6280001 Pte. F. G. Goodwin, C, 6281181 Pte. P. Ryall, D, 6278529 Bdn. F. Butler, B, 8/10/20. 13/10/20, 6278473 Pte. L. Hogben, B, 6278300 Pte. A. Larkin, C. 17/10/21, 6279982 Pte. J. Jordan, B, 6279763 Pte. J. Hunter, B, 6236029 Pte. J. Wright.

DISCHARGED.

8/10/20, 6280262 Pte. W. Ballard, B, 6280038 Pte. W. Dugard, B, 6278790 Pte. T. Barnes, B, 6280350 Pte. W. Woodcock, B, 6279277 Pte. H. Mills, B, 13/10/20, 6279794 Pte. F. Harris, B, 6279652 L/C. P. Mardell, A, 25/10/21, 6279982 Pte. A. J. Jordan, B, 6279763 Pte. J. Hunter, B, 6279993 Pte. J. Gibson, C, 6279808 Pte. E. Delaney, C, 6279952 Pte. I. Tedman, C, 6278300 Pte. A. Larkin.

APPOINTMENT.

Appointed paid Lance-Corporal, 22/10/21 :—6279732 L/C. J. Willis.

### The 2nd Battalion.

EDUCATION—AWARDED 3RD CLASS CERTIFICATES.

6278921 L/C. D. Cardoza, 6279095 L/C. J. Cleary, 6279863 L/C. E. Elmore, 6279470 L/C. R. Holinder, 6279786 L/C. G. Manning, 6279143 L/C. Miles, 62780466 L/C. W. Mitchell, 6279895 Pte. A. Venner, 6279245 Pte. B. Cook, 6279788 Pte. W. Hardwick, 6279521 Pte. F. Hart, 6278919 Pte. W. Hunt, 6280737 Pte. W. Phillips, 6279951 Pte. P. Quinn, 6279260 Pte. E. Rosses, 6279103 Pte. E. Weld.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

To acting rank of C.Q.M.S. :—6279389 Sgt. C. Smith.

To be acting paid-corporals :—6280086 L/C. W. Pack, 6278552 and L/C. F. Sidwell, M.M.

To be acting paid Lance-Corporals :—6278720 L/C. H. Hart, 6278699 L/C. J. Randall, 6278886 L/C. A. Kimber, and 6279502 L/C. S. Lockwood.

To be unpaid Lance-Corporals :—6279083 Pte. F. Towerzey, 6278446 Pte. R. Corrigan, and 6279197 Pte. C. Foott.

To be unpaid Lance-Corporals whilst employed at G.H.Q. Base :—6279440 Pte. H. Stroud, 6278744 Pte. W. Giles, 6279365 Pte. E. Marsh, and 6280037 Pte. E. Woods.

To be acting Sgt. whilst performing duties of Pioneer Sgt. :—6279048 L/C. A. Allen.

EXTENSIONS.

6278826 Pte. F. Green extended to complete 12 years.

6278247 Sgt. C. Shoobridge extended to complete 12 years.

6278215 L/C. Annam, re-engaged to complete 21 years with the Colours.

6279549 L/C. O. Stocken, extended to complete 12 years.

6279870 Pte. R. Castle, to complete 12 years.

### The Depot.

RECRUITS.

Pte. W. Higgins, Pte. W. Morbley, Pte. T. A. Isted, Pte. G. W. A. Voitch, Pte. J. Read, Pte. W. G. Martin, Pte. F. Fittall, Pte. S. E. Bourne, Pte. J. Heasman, Boy W. Apps, Pte. P. Macdonnell, Pte. B. J. Pilcher, Pte. F. Carter, Pte. E. A. Goodsell, Pte. A. Cavell, Pte. R. Heasman, Pte. A. M. Parsons.

DRAFT.

The undernamed proceeded to join 1st Bn. The Buffs on 1/11/21, 6281092 Pte. O'Hagan, 6281094 Pte. Fry, 6281097 Pte. Flisher, 6281111 Pte. Burden, 6281114 Pte. Kerry, 6281113 Pte. Penfold, 6448505 Pte. Biscoe, 6280554 Pte. Hatton, 6281126 Pte. Lyons, 6281132 Pte. Tabrett, 6281015 Pte. Swinbourne, 6281127 Pte. Dunn, 6281149 Pte. Crouch, 6281133 Pte. Masters, 6281135 Pte. Gausby, 6280759 Pte. Harris, 6281073 Pte. Turner, 6281108 Pte. Gardner, 6281152 Pte. Peck, 6281124 Pte. Burt, 6281130 Pte. C. Barden, 6281122 Pte. Hull, 6281125 Pte. Price, 6281118 Pte. Richardson, 6281116 Pte. G. Robbins, 6281120 Pte. Rogers, 6281131 Pte. L. Robbins, 6281109 Pte. Southon, 6280990 Pte. Sinclair, 6279433 L/S. Chandler, 6336590 Pte. Taylor, 6279420 Pte. Parker.

INCREASE.

The under-mentioned details of 2nd Battalion arrived home from over seas ex. H.T. "Huntsgreen" 12/11/21, were admitted to R.V. Hospital, Netley, are taken on Depot strength from the above-mentioned date, and posted to "B" Company.

6279265 Pte. F. Cripps, 6278377 Cpl. W. Mount, 6278473 Pte. H. Maddox, 6279247 Pte. G. Cross, 6279611 L/C. Ainsworth, 6278394 Pte. T. Fowler, 6279530 Pte. Reynolds, 6278447 L/C. F. Smith, 6278774 Pte. L. Rowe, 6279867 Pte. A. Weddle, 6279356 Pte. Saunders, 6279867 Pte. F. Bishop, 6279240 Pte. D. Moaden, 6280084 Cpl. W. Palmer, (Query) Pte. Cornwall.

6279768 C.S.M. S. Adams, joined Depot from 4th Bn. The Buffs, 16/11/21, and is taken on the strength. (Auth :—Inf. Records, E.K. B/296/464, dated 15/11/21).

ARRIVALS.

6278115 Sgt. W. Geard (for discharge under Para. 392, xv., K.R.) Arrived home from overseas on ex. H.T. "Princess" on 14/11/21, joined Depot same day and taken on the strength.

6280272 Pte. F. King, rejoined Depot 16/11/21 from School of Military Administration, Chiseldon.

EDUCATIONAL TEST. RECRUITS.

The following is the result of Recruits' Educational test held during week ending 12/11/21 :—

| | *Classification.* |
|---|---|
| 732627 Pte. A. Coe, "A" | "C" |
| 1665400 Pte. C. Hill, "A" | "C" |
| 6280472 Pte. P. Macdonnell, "A" | "D" |
| Awaited Pte. A. Curtis, "A" | "D". |

DISCHARGES.

G/28216 Pte. A. Dinnen, 6279848 Cpl. A. Kerry, 6278469 L/C. W. Alldridge, 6279641 Pte. S. Goldsack, G/17754 Pte. F. Gillam. 6279165 Pte. A. Searle.

EXTENSION OF SERVICE.

6280080 Pte. W. Piper. Extend to a total of 10 years.

RE-ENLISTMENTS INTO BUFFS.

Pte. A. E. Gray, (late M.G.C.), Pte. G. A. Ward (late 24th Training Reserve Bn.), Pte. A. C. Curtis (late 5th Bn. The Buffs), Pte. A. C. Coe (late 236th Bty. R.F.A., T.), Pte. E. R. Smith (formerly 739247, 234 Bty. R.F.A. T), Pte. C. Hill (late 1665400 R.G.A., T.), Pte. F. Longhurst (late R.A.M.C., H.C.F.A., T.), Pte. A. Clifford (late 17663, R.M.L.I.)

ARMY RESERVE. DISCHARGE.

7809391 C.Q.M.S. F. McDermott.

APPOINTMENT.

6788331 Pte. S. Channell, "A" Coy. is appointed unpaid Recruit Lance-Corporal.

## To Old Buffs.

*THE Association of Past and Present Buffs is open to all those who are serving or have served in a Regular Battalion of The Buffs, and to all those who have served or are serving with a Service, Territorial, or Special Reserve Battalion.*

*If you are not already a member, why not become one now?*

### Terms of Membership.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Officers* ... ... ... | 2/6 *per annum.* |
| *Other Ranks* ... ... | 2/6 *first year*, 1/- *subsequent year.* |

### Life Membership.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Officers* ... ... ... | £2 2 0 |
| *Other Ranks* ... ... ... | £1 1 0 |

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