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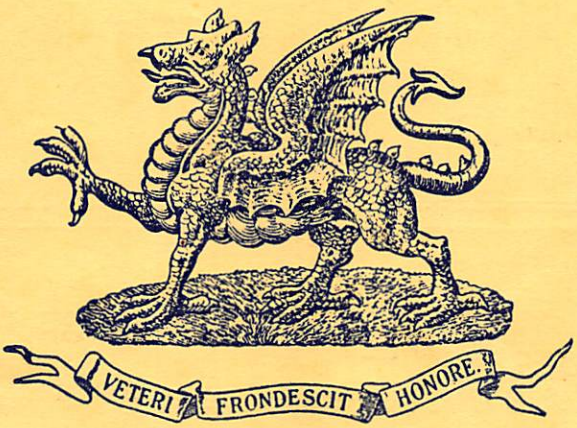
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THE REGIMENTAL PAPER OF THE BUFFS.



No. 662 January 1955

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Lunn, J. M.... ... ... 1st Bn.
Lea, R. ... ... 1st Bn.

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Kille, W. E. ... ... Maj., 1st Bn.
Catt., A. H. ... ... Capt., 4/5th Bn.

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*Elliott, N. ... ... Aldershot District.
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*Roseberry, L. S. ... ... S.I.B. & R.M.P.
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Froom, A. F. F. ... ... 6 Armd. Div. Coln. R.A.S.C., B.A.O.R.

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Freebairn-Smith, S. J. ... 1st Bn.
Simpson, K. T. ... ... 1st Bn.
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Klean, P. H.
Morgan, R. J. S., *M.C.*

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Pury, J. D. de
Whiting, D. A.
Thomas, J. H.
Nye, R. T.
Bennett, R. G.
Morlock, P. J.
Sanger-Davies, A.
Oliver, C. P.

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Holloway, R. G.
Finn, W. C.,

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Col. (T/Brig.) R. F. Parry, *M.C.*	Comdg. 3rd Inf. Bde., Arab Legion.

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Lieut.-Col. J. G. Atkinson, *O.B.E.*	C.O., 2 Malay Regt

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C.S.M. Champion, R.
C.S.M. Clifton-Sprigg, H.
C.S.M. Middleton, J.
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C/Sgt. Denny, F.
C/Sgt. Ellis, D.
C/Sgt. Mannering, D.
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C/Sgt. Jephcott, H.
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D/M. Gardner, E.
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Sgt. Larkin, F.
Sgt. Anderson, C.
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Sgt. Morrish, E.
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4/5th Battalion (T.A.)

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Sgt. Partridge, R.
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Sgt. Vaughan, F.
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EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS greetings were as usual conveyed to our Colonel-in-Chief through the Danish Ambassador to which replies were received from the 1st A.D.C. by command of His Majesty.

* * *

It is interesting to know that our Colonel-in-Chief and Queen Ingrid have chosen a School at Broadstairs, for their daughter Princess Margrethe, the heir presumtive. The Princess will spend about six months at the School.

* * *

The 1st Battalion received a great welcome on their return home. The Colonel of the Regiment, who was accompanied by the Depot Commander and Adjutant, met the Battalion at Liverpool. At Dover a large gathering were there to add their welcome. Major Sir Charles Tuff, Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, represented Lord Cornwallis, the Lord Lieutenant. Others were the Mayor of Dover and a party of Aldermen and Councillors, Brigadier J. J. McCulley, representing the G.O.C. Home Counties District, and Colonel A. E. Brown. A very representative gathering of officers and wifes and members of the Past and Present Association were there; among the latter those who travelled from London deserve special mention. As the train steamed in, the band of The East Surrey Regiment, to whom we are much indebted, played the Regimental March. There was no doubt of the warmth of the welcome, and relatives and friends were very obviously touched by the sincerity of it all.

Official news has now been received by the Colonel of the Regiment that the Colonel-in-Chief has fixed Monday, 2nd May for the presentation of new Colours. We look forward to His Majesty's visit, further details of which will be given in this journal during the following months.

* * *

Whilst in New Zealand, the Colonel of the Regiment stayed with Lieut.-General Sir Willoughby Norrie, the Governor-General, who at General Boucher's request has given us some recollections of Fermoy days, which we publish this month.

* * *

Recruits from the Depot once more boxed against recruits from the Depot The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment for the Hardy Cup, which we retained after an exciting series of fights. Now that Captain Rex Carey has left to join the 1st Battalion, the Depot will miss him and his wealth of experience which has meant so much in these contests.

* * *

Mr. H. D. Day has taken over the Secretaryship of Weald Branch from Mr. A. H. Betts, who has retired on account of his health. We hope that he will soon be restored to full vigour and thank him for his years of service on behalf of the Association.

IF YOU ENJOY THE DRAGON PLEASE ASK A FRIEND TO BECOME A SUBSCRIBER

Personalia

CUPID, with his arrows tipped with the Dragon, has launched a formidable attack on Buffs. Miss Anne Cameron has arranged her wedding to Major Beau Harris-St. John for the 22nd of this month, upon which happy event we offer our congratulations.

* * *

Those of us who were not with the 1st Battalion and were therefore not in the secret were very pleased to welcome home Major Hugh Collins and his wife (*née* Brienne Beaumont), and to them also our congratulations.

* * *

Almost of greater importance, for it affects the structure of the Past and Present Association and *The Dragon*, is the news of the engagement of Miss Patricia Rickards to Captain John Grugeon. Almost from the day of her arrival as assistant to the Secretary, Past and Present Association, John Grugeon made an unprovoked attack—or was it?—on Patricia Rickards. Nevertheless, we offer them our congratulations and forgive any thoughtlessness.

* * *

Congratulations also to Lieut. Robin Wright on his marriage on the 28th December to Miss Sylvia Evans; and to Cpl. Ronald Manns on his marriage to Miss Anne Churchyard.

* * *

We congratulate Lieuts. Grugeon, Mullins and Lott on promotion to Captain.

* * *

Also to Brigadier Rufus Parry on promotion to Substantive Colonel.

* * *

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. St. A. Turner and Captain Stuart Squire are both appointed M.B.E. Our congratulations to them also.

* * *

We are sorry to hear that Major Irvine Friend is in hospital at Folkestone and assure him that our thoughts are with him.

* * *

We are sorry to hear of the death of Mr. S. French, known to many of the 1914 vintage 4th Battalion as "Togo", and offer our sympathy to his family. He was a widower. His brother, Eric French ("General") died in 1950. Both brothers were on the staff of Lloyds Bank, Margate and were keen sportsmen.

News has lately been received of the death last year of Herbert Miller, who served in the 1st Battalion in 1914-18, being awarded the Military Cross. After leaving the Regiment, he went to Cambridge and read Medicine. His friends spoke of him as a brilliant, devoted and self-sacrificing doctor. His later life was a battle against ill-health which no longer allowed him to continue his more active pursuits. He turned his energy to books, music and painting.

* * *

Lieut.-Colonel John Crookenden received a letter at Christmas from Colonel A. B. Harley, who served in the 1st Battalion from 1901-06. His father commanded the 1st Battalion in 1897, and his younger son, after service in the Indian Army, was posted to The Buffs but was afterwards transferred to The Queen's. He was later invalided and is now a schoolmaster. His elder son is farming in Kenya and spoke of his admiration for the Regiment, to which he was lately attached.

* * *

General and Mrs. Scarlett spent Christmas with Mrs. Scarlett's daughter in North Wales.

* * *

Colonel G. R. Howe was with his sister at Woodchurch and Major C. S. Field was with his eldest brother at Berkhamsted.

* * *

Once again Mrs. Ronald gave a most enjoyable party at the County Hotel, for her two grandchildren, David and Cynthia Whigham. This year it was on New Year's Day and among the numerous guests and hordes of children we noticed General and Mrs. Boucher; Mesdames Baird, Grace, Connolly, Guy Lee, Knocker and Norman; Brigadier and Mrs. Dewar, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Hart, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Argles, Major and Mrs. Dendy, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Crookenden, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Howard Smith, Lieut.-Col. Howe, Major John Prestige, Major F. W. Tomlinson and Lieut.-Col. Roscow Reid.

* * *

ENGAGEMENT

Captain J. D. Grugeon and Miss M. P. Rickards

The engagement is announced between John Drury Grugeon, The Buffs, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Drury Grugeon, of Westfield Lodge, Granville Avenue, Broadstairs, and Mary Patricia, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Rickards, of The Hoath Farm, Canterbury.

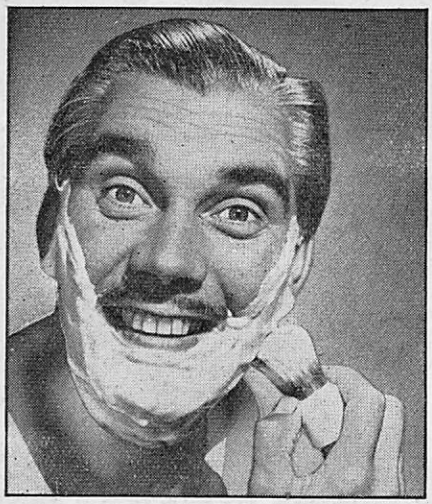
Don't be Vague - ask for



Haig

The Oldest Scotch Whisky Distillers in the World

Here's the Cleanest Coolest Shave yet!

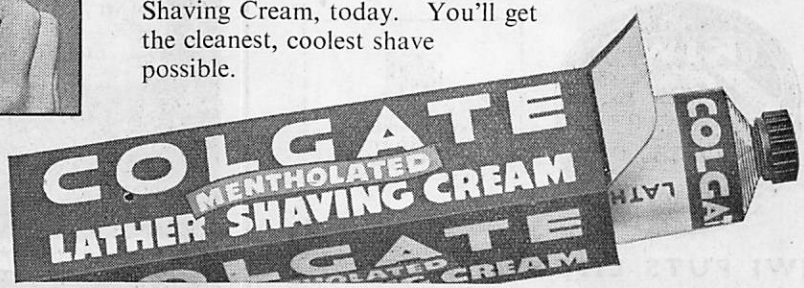


No pain here. Because Colgate's richer, creamier lather is scientifically blended to give a cleaner, cooler shave.

THE SECRET IS COLGATE'S RICHER 'MENTHOL-BLENDED' LATHER

No more choppy, painful shaves. Because Colgate Lather is made from pure, rich creams specially blended with menthol, to give you a *cleaner*, *cooler* shave.

The richer, creamier Colgate lather gets right in and softens the toughest whiskers—gets your beard ready for a really close, clean shave. Meanwhile the menthol ingredient in Colgate's begins its cooling action. Ask for "mentholated" Colgate Lather Shaving Cream, today. You'll get the cleanest, coolest shave possible.





There's something about a soldier...

EVEN WHEN HE'S OUT OF UNIFORM

There's something about a soldier, *even when he's out of uniform*, that makes him stand out. Something about the way he walks—head up, shoulders back; something about the pride he takes in his personal appearance. On parade or in civvies, he's smart right down to his Kiwi shine.

KIWI

It's the soldier's polish

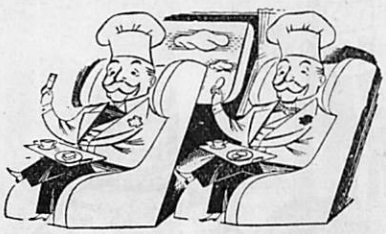


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KIWI POLISH CO. PTY. LTD.
MAKERS OF SHOE POLISH
TO THE LATE KING GEORGE VI

KIWI PUTS LIFE INTO LEATHER

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When you're posted abroad, by air or sea, remember that there is a fine selection of Peek Frean's biscuits at your destination.

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The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay
—INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670—

HUDSON'S BAY JAMAICA RUM

In A.D. 1775 the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay arranged the first shipment of rum into the Bay aboard the H.B.C. ship "Sea Horse"

Ask for it at N.A.A.F.I.

MARRIAGE

COLLINS—BEAUMONT.—On November 18th, 1954, at Limuru, Kenya, Hugh Collins (1st Bn., The Buffs) to Brienne Beaumont, of Gordon House, Lambourn, Berks.

* * *

DEATH

AHLEFELDT-LAURVIG.—On December 11th, peacefully in Copenhagen, in her 81st year, Mary Countess Ahlefeldt-Laurvig, widow of Count Preben Ahlefeldt-Laurvig, former Danish Minister to the Court of St. James.

* * *

Future Events

March 4. 89 L.A.A. REGT. (THE BUFFS), REUNION.
April 23-24. BUFFS GOLFING SOCIETY. SPRING MEETING. ROYAL ST. GEORGE'S.
May 2. PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO 1ST BATTALION BY THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF (H.M. KING FREDERICK IX OF DENMARK).
May 4. DRAGON CLUB DINNER. UNITED SERVICES CLUB.
June 19. BUFFS GOLFING SOCIETY. SUMMER MEETING. NEW ZEALAND G.C., WOKING.
Sept. 10-11. BUFFS GOLFING SOCIETY. AUTUMN MEETING. DEAL.
Oct. 8. 6TH (S) BATTALION 1918-18 ANNUAL DINNER.

* * *

Dragon Club Dinner

AS the 1st Battalion are due to move to Germany in June it has been decided to hold the dinner on the 4th May this year so as to give the Officers of the Battalion an opportunity of attending. The dinner will be held at the United Service Club.

* * *

Olympic Langlauf

AS a result of applications, from the Services in particular, the Club has decided to encourage Langlauf, with a view to entering a Langlauf Team for the Olympic Games in 1956.

A special British Langlauf Committee has therefore been formed as a section of the British Ski Racing Committee under the Chairmanship of Lieut.-Col. Robert Readhead, D.S.O. Lieut.-Col. Readhead was Manager of our 1948 Olympic Winter Pentathlon Team and has since looked after British teams in the International Military Patrol Championships of 1949, '51 and '53, and other International Langlauf events. Other members of the Committee are Major John Nash and James Spencer, both former British Langlauf Champions and Mrs. Helen Tomkinson, a former British Ladies' Ski Champion and Ladies' Captain.

A 16-month training programme is envisaged, with Norwegian trainers on the snow, from January to March, 1955, and December to February, 1956, in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy; as much cross-country training as is practicable will be undertaken in this country and abroad during the summer of 1955.

A team was trained and entered by the S.C.G.B. for the 1952 Winter Olympics, but after competitions against Norwegians it was withdrawn, as it was not considered up to the required standard to justify the expense of sending it to Oslo. It later turned out that it would almost certainly have beaten several other teams, including the U.S.A.

Britain is pre-eminent among European countries in distance running, with such names as Bannister, Chataway, Pirie and Peters. We only need to convert our distance runners to Langlauf (which is basically only running on ski) to achieve at least a measure of success in International Competitions.

The main selection races for the 1956 Olympic Team will be the British Langlauf Championships of 1955 and 1956. The British Langlauf Championship was revived after the war and has been run at Bad Gastein in Austria for the last five years, with entries rising steadily to 43 in 1954, a substantially larger entry than for any British Downhill and Slalom Championships. The 1955 Championship will again be at Bad Gastein on February 10th.

Applications are invited from anyone who would like to be trained in Langlauf free of charge from January 30th—February 11th at Bad Gastein, from February 13th to 26th in Austria or Germany, and from March 1st to 6th at Andermatt in Switzerland. Special terms will be available at all three centres and for travel from England, Germany and Austria.

Applicants should write to Secretary, S.C.G.B. (Langlauf Training), 118 Eaton Square, London, S.W.1.

1st Battalion



TELEGRAMS of welcome from the following were received by the 1st Battalion on arrival home from Kenya, and are gratefully acknowledged by the Commanding Officer and All Ranks of the Battalion.

AT LIVERPOOL ABOARD THE SHIP

H.M. King Frederik IX of Denmark, Colonel-in-Chief
The Army Commander, Eastern Command (General Sir Francis Festing)
The Director of Infantry, The War Office
Lieut.-Colonel J. F. Connolly
Chairman and All Members, Past and Present Association, The Buffs
Canterbury Branch, Past and Present Association, The Buffs
Ashford Branch, Past and Present Association, The Buffs

Folkestone Branch, Past and Present Association, The Buffs
Record Office, Warwick

AT OLD PARK BARRACKS, DOVER

Lord Cornwallis, Lord Lieutenant of Kent
General Bucknall and All Ranks, The Middlesex Regiment
Major-General the Hon. Gerald Scarlett
Colonel J. V. R. Jackson
Colonel R. S. I. Friend
Lieut.-Colonel J. R. P. Williams
Lieut.-Colonel E. S. Scott
Lieut.-Colonel P. J. Lewis
Major B. J. Harris-St. John
Chief Officer, Officers and Men, The Kent Fire Brigade

* * *

The responsibility for recording the tale of the Battalion's activities during the month of December, 1954—a period covering the move from Thika Camp to Old Park Barracks, Dover—has fallen on an erstwhile Sub-Editor. This has been due to the departure—for England, by air and with the Advance Party—of your official Correspondent, who took leave of the Main Body only a few days before they themselves, by somewhat more pedestrian methods, began their own move in the same direction.

Let it be said at once that it is not without certain misgivings that the pen is taken up once more. The uncomfortable feeling that during the intervening years what little touch there may once have been has gone for ever is inevitably mingled with the nasty thought that the standard of Sub-Editorial-writing is now sufficiently high as to be virtually unattainable. Be that as it may, however, apprehension is to a great extent alleviated by a two-fold pleasure. On the one hand there is the pleasant thought of being able, once again, to try one's hand at writing a short page of the Battalion's history and even, perhaps, at closing a Chapter therein; and on the other the not unpleasing prospect of being able, doubtless for the last time at all events in print, to see ourselves as others see us by having a quiet and friendly prod at the ribs of some of those characters who are making this particular journey.

* * *

While waiting, however, for the train bearing our reliefs, the 1st Battalion The Rifle Brigade, to come snorting its way into Thika Station and for us to begin our own travels, perhaps it may not be wholly without interest to retrace, for a moment or two, the steps of the Battalion during their twenty months in Kenya and to try and assess what changes in the situation have come about there during that period.

Although your Correspondent was not with the Battalion at the time, the great majority of those who were would probably agree with him that, on arrival, the outlook was somewhat bleak. A lack of numerous essentials, from hurricane lamps to proper maps; a disastrous and devastating fire which laid waste much of an already gloomy and uncomfortable camp at Thomson's Falls; the ascendancy of the revolting Mau Mau and the fear which they were instilling into so many hearts—these were some of the more sombre colours in which the picture was painted when, for the first time in the Regiment's history, the Battalion set foot on the red murram of Kenya in April, 1953.

A period spent in the Nyeri Settled Area followed by another in the Native Reserve south and west of Nyeri—to both of which were added operations in the forests and on the heights of the Aberdare Mountains as inevitable adjuncts—these soon brought the Battalion face to face with the rigours and the dangers of the campaign. Not only did it bring some of us, on several occasions, into contact with the Mau but it also taught others the necessity for rapid tree-climbing as an alternative to an angry, charging rhino. Successes began to be achieved, however, gangs to be found and eliminated, weapons to be recovered, morale to improve; of necessity failures also came our way together with tragedies to life and limb.

Such was the up and down of the Battalion graph when, towards the end of the year, the first of the families made their appearance in Kenya. In their immediate train came the happinesses of re-unions and of week-ends away from operations but, in the long term, there was a good deal of uncomfortable living—in hotels and other accommodation for which exorbitant charges were levied—a sense of insecurity when neighbouring farms and houses were raided by roaming gangs of terrorists and, in the main, a subjection of those concerned to unusual conditions of living in a country which by no stretch of the imagination could at the time have been described either as an Other Ranks' or as a Married Families' country. If there has since been some improvement regarding the latter there is still a long, long way to go concerning the former.

Early in the new year a change-over of Commanding Officers preceded by only a few weeks another change of station and the Battalion, less "B" Company, found itself concentrated at Thika as a prelude to the big clean up of Nairobi in the lengthy, and already fabulous, Operation Anvil.

The Battalion's role during the cleansing of the Nairobian stables was, to mix one's metaphors, that of long stop. That the Operation was a success is unquestionable, but to many it will always be a mystery why Kikuyu are still permitted to work in Nairobi and why a Curfew during the hours of darkness has never been imposed. To the layman the latter would appear to be a matter which, in view of the recent outbreak of arson and fire-raising, was a very real necessity, one which no amount of Operation Anvils could ever properly replace.

From many points of view, and certainly at the time, the phase immediately following Operation Anvil was a dull and unspectacular period, but it was gratifying to discover, on our return to Thika just prior to our eventual departure, that the results of the two months we spent there, building up the Home Guard and putting the Thika Settled Area on its feet, had been considerable and lasting; no major incident and no terrorist activity during our absence elsewhere was the measure of the success of our efforts.

It was a singularly tidy arrangement that, for our last few weeks, the Battalion should have been engaged in operations in the forest, and in the Native Reserve, in the south-west corner of Mt. Kenya itself. The Rift Valley, the Aberdares, the Settled Areas, Nairobi—to all these we had paid a visit, of varying duration; but on the towering massif of Mt. Kenya we had previously but looked from afar. Our three-and-a-half months there, after a hesitant and difficult start, eventually turned out well and when, at the end of November, we once more

moved back to our old stamping-ground at Thika we left behind us an area which, if not quite as trouble-free as we could have wished, was at all events well on its way to being so.

On looking back there is no doubt whatever that in the twenty months during which the Battalion has served in Kenya, and thanks to the unrelenting pressure applied by the triumvirate of the Administration, the Kenya Police and the Armed Forces, the Mau Mau movement has deteriorated from a state of well-organised, successful and well-led terrorist activity to a point where survival is about all that really matters. Although the repulsiveness of the whole conception of the movement still remains; although a number of "hard-core" terrorists—human-beings who have sunk lower than any animal so far discovered—have yet to be rooted out; although what remains of the "passive-wing"—the underground suppliers of food and clothing, shelter and money—have still to be persuaded that the reign of the terrorist is ending and that the sooner their support is withdrawn the more rapid will be that end—despite all this the finish of the "shooting war" is, in the opinion of many, not so very far away. It is not without considerable pride that the Battalion can look back upon their twenty months, upon their achievements and their reputation, and claim that, in their own way, they have contributed to the re-painting of the picture in far more attractive colours than those with which the canvas was originally covered.

Statistics are, at the best of times, dull and uninteresting fare; it is not your Correspondent's intention to bother your readers—always assuming that any of them have got as far as this—with facts and figures. Suffice it to say that, during their months of operational duty, the Battalion was responsible for the elimination of over 300 "hard-core" terrorists and for the capture of about another two hundred. A large number of precision and home-made weapons were also captured and a selection of the latter will, if the Curator agrees to accept them and can find a corner for them, soon be on display in the Museum. Within the Battalion the fact that there was only one fatal, Mau Mau-inflicted, casualty—L/Cpl. Warrener of the 3-in. Mortar Platoon, in March, 1954—shows all too clearly the calibre of the opponent the Battalion was up against: an enemy which, fundamentally, was not fighting us, which had a small, jealously-guarded store of precision weapons and ammunition and which, except when cornered, would run rather than stand and fight.

To many—and in particular to the junior leaders—the experiences of Kenya, and of the type of fighting encountered there, were of the greatest value. It was, to a large extent, a platoon and section commander's "war", calling for qualities of cunning, quick-thinking and resourcefulness and, above all, the ability to look after oneself and one's subordinates in unpleasant conditions at high altitudes and in difficult country. It was, in short, the best possible training, one which sorted out, in next to no time, those who were the leaders from those who weren't.

If it was all that, however, it was, in addition, something much worse: utterly frustrating. To bear, for days and nights at a time, the discomforts, the dangers and the back-breaking toil of a long-distance forest patrol in the pale green twilight of that bamboo nightmare, and then to be rewarded merely by a fleeting glimpse of a Mau Mau sentry as he dived away to safety; to hear, but to be unable to see or to get a shot at, the remainder of the gang making a bolt for it, in ones and twos, away from their hide; to find that hide, a matter of minutes later, with the fires still smouldering and the remains of a freshly-slaughtered bullock still cooking in the embers. But not a human being anywhere. . . .

Or, sweating and swearing, to force one's way, as part of the "sweep-force", through the most hairy part of the Native Reserve during a day-long cordon-and-sweep operation in an area in which, according to informers' stories and Special Intelligence Branch reports, a gang of twenty was operating under a well-known and much wanted, self-styled, "General"; to find fresh tracks leading out of, rather than into, the area around which the cordon had been thrown; to find, once again, a recently abandoned hide which showed signs of occupation up to but a few hours before. But not a trace of any living thing. . . .

Or to sit, for hours on end, as silently as the shadows around one, with the orchestra of the night besieging one's ears, every nerve strained to catch that faint but unmistakable whisper of sound which would proclaim the oncoming terrorist; to be unable to move for fear of breaking the spell of silence imposed upon the whole of the ambush party and to be bitten alive by mosquitoes for one's pains; at last to feel, rather than to see or hear, something stealthily approaching one's cunningly concealed position; the sudden, ear-splitting burst of fire from the Bren gun to one's left, the kick of the Patchett in one's own hands, shattering the night's silence for a few, brief, hideous, moments; and later, in the pearl-grey light of a Kenya dawn, the sight of one home-made rifle, still with its unfired round of .303 ammunition firmly in the breech, lying on the path beside a small pool of blood which was yet warm. But of the previous owner of both blood and rifle, not a sign. . . .

That is what your Correspondent means—or, for that matter, that is what any member of the Battalion would mean—when describing the campaign against the Mau as "frustrating". Surely there can seldom have been a theatre of operations in which, on so many occasions, so much thought, preparation, skill and effort produced such microscopic, tangible results.

* * *

And now it is high time that any long-suffering reader who has struggled gamely on as far as this should be invited to join the Battalion for the journey from Thika to Dover—that marathon which began on December 1st and ended nineteen days later.

It is probably safe to say that nobody had any regrets at leaving, for the last time, that camp on the ridge some two miles north of Thika township. In dry weather the dust from the nearby main Nairobi-Nyeri road, not to mention the dust within the camp itself, had billowed and blown around us, getting into everything and on to everybody; during the rains, the mud had been indescribable. Whichever way one looked at it—no matter, in other words, how thinly once sliced it—that camp site was the very devil. In consequence it gave one and all not a little pleasure to turn their backs on it, even if those same backs—to say nothing of other, less mentionable, portions of the human frame—were to become during the next twenty hours somewhat stiff and corrugated thanks to the hardness and the design of the seats in the 3rd Class compartments so thoughtfully provided by East African Railways.

Brigadier The Lord Thurlow, who had been commanding 39 Infantry Brigade since early in 1954 and who had become known, affectionately, to many of us as "the fighting Peer", was at Thika Station to wave us away. With him were his two old war-horses, Majors "Sandy" Thomas, the Brigade Major, and Norman Speller, the D.A.A. & Q.M.G. From all three, as well as from the whole of the Brigade Staff, we had always received the greatest kindness, the utmost help and encouragement and, above all, the warmest friendliness. We can count ourselves extremely fortunate to have had

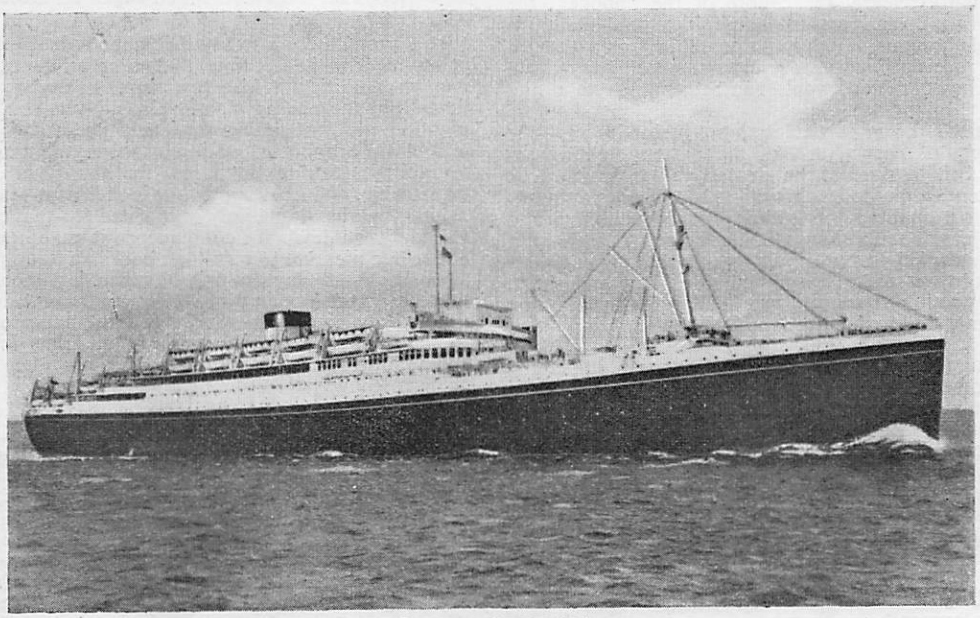
behind us a Staff who invariably gave the impression that their motto was: "The customer is always right." If the Brigadier should read these words—and it is a fairly safe bet that he will—we hope he will realize how much we are indebted to him and his Staff and also how queer it feels to be, for the first time in four years, no longer a member of 39 Brigade.

A halt of just over an hour at Nairobi Station enabled numerous friends and acquaintances to come and have speech with us on the platform. The Commander-in-Chief, General Sir George Erskine, walked the whole length of the train having a word with most of us. To serve under his command had, as always in the past, been an inspiration, and there can be but few of us who are not hoping like mad that, when we eventually hole out in Germany, we shall find that once again we are under his leadership. If that should happen it will be for the fifth time since 1948—Hong Kong, Suez, Eastern Command and Kenya having been the four previous occasions—that we shall have been so fortunate. With the C.-in-C. were his M.A., Lieut.-Col. Gillett, and his Chief of Staff, Major-General Heyman. The Regiment was well represented by Colonel Rowe, accompanied by his wife and daughter; by Majors Ravenhill, Lucas—for a brief moment—and Court; and by Captains Macdonald and Squire, with wives to match. To them, and to all the other well-wishers who came down to see us off, a very warm word of thanks and the hope that our next meeting will not be too long delayed.

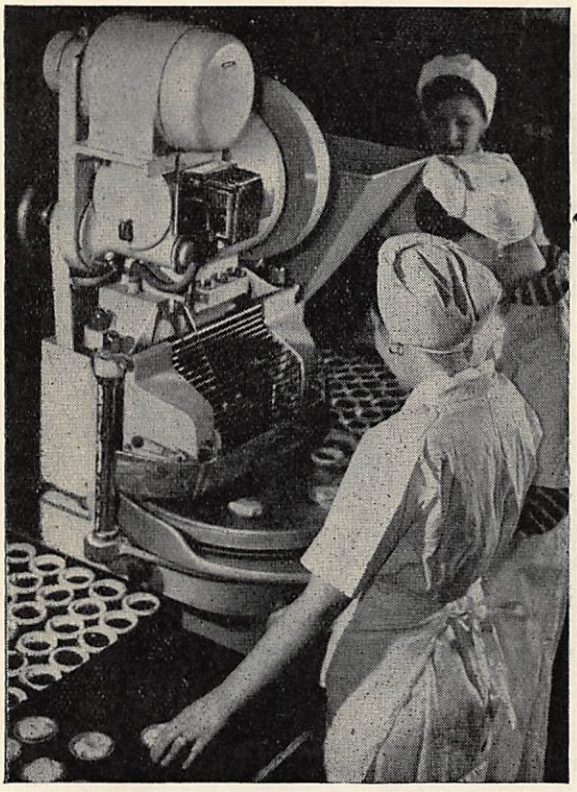
Apart from the fact that we reached Mombasa Docks one hour behind schedule, the 300-odd mile journey to the coast was uneventful. The H.M.T. *Georgic*—a photograph of which appears elsewhere in this issue—looked a fine, comfortable vessel and closer acquaintance confirmed that opinion. She had, however, been lying motionless in the heat for five days and it was not until we had been at sea for 48 hours that the cabins and public rooms began to lose their resemblance to the interiors of a set of steam ovens.

Some five hours after easing our way—some of us rather stiffly and all of us gladly—out of the train, and when everything and everybody was safely on board and the last visitors had shuffled their way ashore, the gap between the ship's side and the quay slowly began to widen. The Band of the 1st Battalion The Rifle Brigade struck up the Regimental March, at Light Infantry pace, the Deputy Chief of Staff, Colonel Carver, who had come down to see us off the premises, sprang smartly to attention and saluted, handkerchiefs fluttered, arms waved; one of the moments that many of us had been visualizing for so long had come at last. Out into mid-stream; slowly past the Naval Headquarters, where two white-clad figures, waving vigorously, proclaimed Commander Sam Nicholson, brother of our Brigadier Gerald, and his wife; through the narrow entrance-channel, still guarded by what remains of an old Arab gun-emplacement and by its rather more modern counterpart; on to the point where the Pilot, having seen us safely out, clambered down a swaying rope ladder to the security of his waiting launch; and then the clang of the engine-room bell as "Full Ahead" was ordered from the Bridge, and we knew we were really on our way.

As far as Port Said we had the 28,000 ton Cunard liner to ourselves and rattled about in her like peas in a pod. Everyone appeared to settle down rapidly and easily to a new way of life, though one or two of the Field Officers seemed to have packed certain essential articles of uniform in luggage which was not at once available. Lieut. Hugh Tennent, the Baggage Officer, and his assistant, 2/Lieut. James Lunn, dived down daily into the bowels of the ship, while Capt. Harold Gatehouse went about his affairs as Ship's Adjutant with an air of quiet efficiency, although he was always incorrectly dressed at dinner-time. Major Barry McGrath suffered for the first few days from an upset inside "and that", but Lieut. Nigel Walsh, our resident physician, eventually claimed—after a series of false starts—that once again he had effected a successful cure. The Colonel was seen to be writing diligently—no doubt yet another of those extraordinary

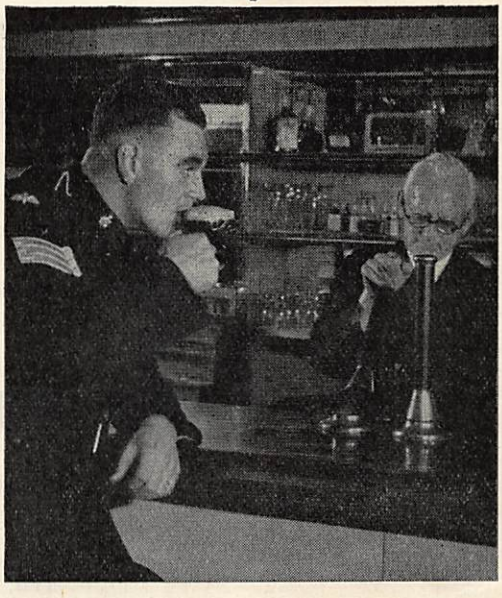


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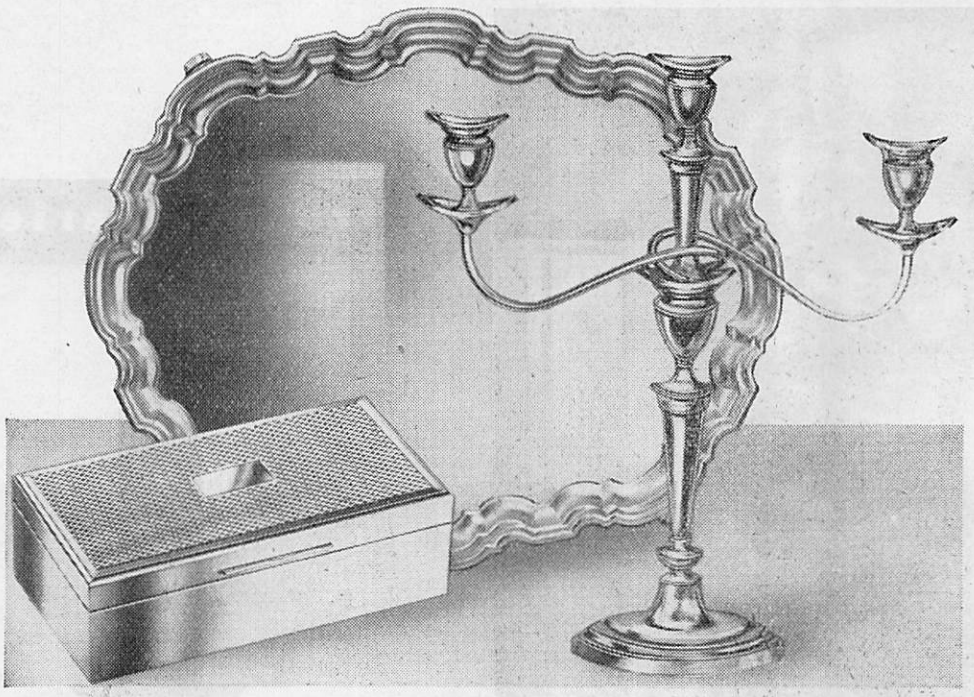
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outcrops of verses which from time to time find their way into the pages of *The Dragon*—and Captains Thorneycroft, Griffin and Willows disappeared at an early stage to the Isolation Ward in order to take their Promotion Examination. Lieut. Peter Mitchell took the money and his stooge, 2/Lieut. Graham Turner, marked up the board, for the sweep on the ship's daily run and Lieut. Ian Minto, as Entertainments Officer, frequently gave tongue, sometimes inaccurately but always with considerable wit, over the Tannoy system. Our Padre, the Rev. Walter Evans, busied himself with the children's education, ably assisted by, amongst others, Lieut. Ron Baker, who discovered, much to his astonishment, that he hadn't after all forgotten everything he'd ever been taught about Vulgar Fractions. Captain Robin Stratford-Tuke appeared to be disregarding the suggestion, made by the Bishop of Croydon when he talked to the Battalion at Thika, that we should not "keep ourselves to ourselves", and Captain Charles Hamilton, having obviously just purchased the newest edition of *Teach Yourself Geography*, managed to give everyone the latest score about the places of interest that we passed *en route*.

Major Horley looked a hundred on some days and only fifty on others and his chief opponent at Chess, Captain Eric Ransley, contrived in some mysterious way during the train journey to mislay a quarter of a bottle of Scotch Whisky belonging to the Commanding Officer. 2/Lieut. Pip Arnold showed, by the wearing of a singlet under his white sports shirt, that he ought really to have been a professional cricketer; Major Noel Norris buried himself in a series of lengthy novels, thus avoiding having to "carry the baby"; Major Hugh Collins was quite obviously still on his honeymoon; Major "Bunny" Green, our tame Paymaster, was in league with the Officers of the Watch, to judge by the number of times that he won the daily mileage sweep; Lieut. Mike Dracopoli's laughter was as resonant as it was infectious; and Messrs. Cross, Klyberg, Rhymer-Jones, Edgecombe and all the rest of the Officers appeared to be fully occupied in not pretending to be anybody but themselves.

The stretch of sea between Mombasa and Aden was singularly empty, only one ship—a small coastal steamer ploughing a lonely furrow in the opposite direction—being sighted during the first four days. There was, however, the unusual and unexpected excitement of the discovery on board of three stowaways—one European and two Africans—to enliven the first 72 hours afloat. At Aden there was just enough time to go ashore, for those few of us who wished to do so. With the prospect of not being allowed to leave the ship at our only other stopping place, Port Said, the chance of having a leg-stretch on dry land, the opportunity of taking a look at the ship from a distance and, for some, the availability, at a cheap price, of Nylon stockings for the girl-friend were none of them to be missed, even though time was short.

Soon after entering the Red Sea we passed the troopship *Dunera* heading the wrong way. We were not sufficiently close to her for any ribbald remarks to be passed from ship to ship but there can be little doubt that most of us, in a somewhat uncharitable way, were probably saying to one another: "Rather them than me!"

Deck games of all descriptions, tugs-o'-war, Band Concerts, a nightly film show, tombola sessions and a Beating of Retreat were some of the many diversions thought up by those responsible for keeping the customers out of mischief. Such attractions, coupled with the unvarying steadiness of the ship and the courteous, friendly ways of all the four hundred members of her crew, from Captain Stewart, the Master, to the lowliest of the bath stewards, made the whole voyage—and the first nine days of it in particular—a most happy and carefree journey. It was with a very natural feeling of wanting the whole thing to go on indefinitely, just as it was, that we all sat back and enjoyed a cool, sunny passage of the Red Sea. We dropped anchor in Suez Roads during the late evening of December 9th and to those of us who served in the Battalion during the troublous times in the Canal Zone three years previously the unpleasant smell of the Suez oil refineries which assailed our nostrils that night and the following morning brought back some equally unpleasant memories of Grovehurst Camp—now occupied by the Egyptian Army—of our casualties at the Water Filtration Plant and of Operation Flatten. It was with a certain sense of relief therefore that, soon after 8 o'clock the next morning, we found ourselves taking our place in the first northbound convoy of the day; relief was tinged with regret, however, that the final day of having "the run of the ship" had come at last.

The journey through the Canal, punctuated at intervals by the passing of ribbaldries such as "soldier on!" and "it's all yours!" to those members of the Services who were seen standing about on the banks, occupied the whole of December 10th. It was after nine o'clock when the anchor rattled down into Port Said harbour but that did not in any way deter the embarkation authorities. As soon as possible the loading of the baggage of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards and the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment began, and Messrs. Tennent and Lunn spent a somewhat sleepless night supervising this manoeuvre.

Visitors to the ship the next morning were numerous. They included a liberal sprinkling of what your Correspondent understands the Americans would describe as "top brass"; certainly red flannel did not appear to be in any way in short supply in the Middle East. Major-Generals Hull, G.O.C. British Troops Egypt, and Churcher, G.O.C. 3 Infantry Division, were both on board for luncheon, as was also our new Brigade Commander, Brigadier Deakin who, with his family, travelled the remainder of the voyage with us. It was most pleasant to be able in this way to catch a glimpse of our Divisional Commander, and to get to know our future Brigadier and those members of his Staff who were accompanying him.

Perhaps an even greater attraction than the floods of visitors and well-wishers that morning was the ubiquitous "Gully-Gully man" who performed miracles of lèger de main before an admiring and appreciative audience in the 1st Class Lounge. From children and grown-ups alike his display, to say nothing of his patter, brought many rounds of applause and much laughter, particularly when an apparently endless stream of small yellow chickens was produced from the depths of Captain Charles Hamilton's battledress jacket.

Early in the afternoon the embarkation of the two other Battalions was completed. Later on the Band of the 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, perched somewhat precariously on the deck of a nearby Z Lighter, struck up the sort of tunes with which one normally associates the departure of a troopship. Darkness, rather than a lack of anything more to play, eventually extinguished them, however, for it was not until the first whisky and soda had become a thing of the past that the *Georgic*, by now a very crowded ship, slipped quietly away from the lights and the Neon signs of Port Said, past the de Lesseps statue, and out into the darkness of the Mediterranean.

At intervals during the four days which it took us to get from Port Said to Gibraltar a good deal of discomfort was suffered by many of us, especially those berthed for-ard. The stuffiness of those cabins which, because of their proximity to the waterline, had to have their portholes closed at the least suspicion of a heavy sea, was one

of the main contributory causes. On one morning in particular large numbers of prostrate, denim-clad figures were to be seen lying about in all directions, most of them very much the worse for wear, and even amongst the 1st and 2nd Class passengers there were numerous vacant places in the dining saloon.

On two successive mornings, when Britannia had agreed to rule the waves flat for a change, a team consisting of the Colonel, Major Noel Norris, Lieuts. Mike Dracopoli and Hugh Tennent and Sgt. Page talked at some length about what had been going on in Kenya. Their audience consisted of all the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants of 32 Guards Brigade, together with any other passengers who cared to listen. Much to the astonishment of the team quite a large proportion of the latter turned out to be Officers in the Battalion; whether they came to learn something, to pick holes in what was said, to give the team their moral support, or merely to have a jolly good laugh, will always remain a mystery.

It would be un-gallant in the extreme not to mention, somewhere in this account, the activities—or otherwise—of some of the wives who travelled with the Battalion. Mrs. Excell was, as always, willing to do anything and in consequence found herself in charge of a daily half-hour's programme of gramophone record "requests", played over the ship's Tannoy system; and Mesdames Grace, Green, McGrath and Willows—plus, after a week's hesitation, Mrs. Collins—all lent a hand with the education of the hordes of small children on board. The remainder, for a variety of reasons, all appeared to be using the voyage as an opportunity for doing nothing and, as far as your Correspondent could judge, were all managing to do it extremely well.

It was shortly after luncheon on December 16th that we eventually emerged from the Mediterranean. It was faintly disappointing that we passed a good deal closer to Ceuta than to Gibraltar, even though the top of the Rock was swathed in cloud. In compensation, however, there was a reasonably close-up view of H.M.S. *Agincourt* and two other Destroyers in line ahead and an even closer view of a small Portuguese tanker, to avoid which the *Georgic* had to do a sharp and sudden right-incline.

To everybody's intense surprise—as well as great relief—the three days spent in the Atlantic, the Bay of Biscay and the Irish Sea were all conspicuous for the absence of anything approaching a rough sea. A long, deep, swell—aftermath of some big storm many hundreds of miles away to the west—came rolling at us in a majestic and impressive way during the early stages of this last lap, but by then most, if not all, of us had grown a sufficiently stout pair of sea-legs for any undue movement on the part of the good ship *Georgic* to pass un-noticed. The finals of the tug-o'-war, when "C" Company were only narrowly defeated by Support Company of the Bedfords; a cabaret in the middle of a dance, when the Colonel, instead of inflicting his usual song upon the customers, gave them a recitation à la Douglas Byng; a Service of Carols and Lessons on the Sunday morning, the last day of the voyage—these were some of the moments which formed the prelude to our getting in to Liverpool and to the climax of the whole journey—the arrival on board, shortly after 7.30 p.m., of the Colonel of the Regiment.

That it was good to see him again is an understatement, but it certainly made us all feel that we were well and truly back in England when, after having the Officers and W.O.s presented to him, we gathered round him, Major Richard Dendy, and Lieut. John Grugeon, and heard all the news and Regimental gossip. A glass or two of champagne was an obvious adjunct to such a re-union and this commodity, thanks to the Colonel's foresight, was available as soon as those somewhat sinister figures in blue, the Customs men, had given their approval. Telegrams and messages of welcome and good wishes, including one from the Colonel-in-Chief, came flooding on board in profusion; it really warmed the heart to realize how genuinely pleased so many people were that we had returned once more. A list of those who so kindly thought of us at that moment appears elsewhere; to each and every one of them your Correspondent, on behalf of all ranks of the Battalion, would like to send a most sincere message of gratitude and appreciation.

For the night of Sunday, December 19th, we remained quietly on board, firmly attached to Prince's Quay, while some of our Scots Guards friends made tracks for the North and some of the Liverpool dockers went through the motions of unloading the small proportion of baggage which their Union allowed them to handle. Disembarkation started in earnest early the following morning and the journey's last lap began when, at eight o'clock, the first Special Train, bearing the Commanding Officer, the majority of the Officers and some 450 Other Ranks, pulled slowly out of Riverside Station, waved away by the Colonel of the Regiment.

It was a long, though uneventful, last lap. The bare, English countryside looked wonderfully green and inviting especially to those who hadn't seen anything but parched red earth and some emaciated elephant grass for the last twenty months. Crewe, Stafford, Rugby and all our other halting places were homely and friendly names to be savoured and conjured with, while later, as the afternoon wore on and the train plunged through Ashford and Folkestone Central, the Kent orchards and hop gardens have seldom looked more attractive.

A sudden hurry and bustle as equipment was put on, battledress smoothed out and kitbags collected; the emergence from that last tunnel; the silhouette of Dover Castle against the darkening sky; the lights of Dover Marine Station as we rounded the final curve—and here it is high time that your temporary Correspondent handed over the Editorial pen to his official counterpart who was, at the end of this lengthy journey across half the world, on the platform to meet us.

* * *

We of the Advance Party on the platform had had a busy ten days culminating in some strenuous—to put it mildly—hours preceding our arrival at the Marine Station to meet the train. Major Bill Kille, our ubiquitous quartermaster, had by the nature of things borne the major burden, and vast quantities of stores of every description had been drawn up, checked and moved under his wary eye to all parts of barracks. Then there were such as the swill and tailoring contractors (the latter bore the appearance of, and received the compliments due to, an energetic general officer), the transport, the messes, the rations, the families' quarters, the Press (with all their persistence), the civic authorities, the relatives, the railway tickets (one for every man jack), and the pay—some £25,000 in cash—not to mention the day-to-day administration of a hundred men. We were very glad of the additional services—in greater or lesser degree—of Major Jimmy Worts, Captains Bill Dunglinson and Rex Carey, Lieut. Roger Pilcher, and a strong draft from the Depot. Lieut. Cecil West, with telephone receivers at both ears, was taking long-distance calls from movements staffs and stationmasters at Liverpool and intermediate stations—and one call covering some 4,000 miles—and chalking up on the office blackboard the rapidly altering "E.T.A." of the three trains, all delayed for one reason or another. In the end, however, the main train made up sufficient time to be only 58



Song of Arrival



Some W.O's. and Sgts. of the Battalion



A last look at captured Mau Mau weapons



Arrival at Dover Marine Station 20th December 1954 — Family Re-union

minutes late. All was ready on the platform as the Band of the East Surrey Regiment—who had travelled over from Kingston and for whose services we are most indebted—struck up the Regimental March, even if the Mayor of Dover and his retinue had only managed to beat the engine to the platform by a short head.

Official representatives, by whose presence we were most honoured and to all of whom we are very grateful for enduring a cold station to receive the Battalion, included the following:—

Sir Charles Tuff, D.L., representing the Lord Lieutenant of Kent; His Worship the Mayor of Dover; The Town Clerk and members of the Dover Town Council; Brigadier J. J. McCully, D.S.O., Deputy Commander Home Counties District; Colonel A. E. B. Brown, Colonel A/Q. Home Counties District; Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles, Secretary Past and Present Association; Lieut.-Col. Duffield, Commanding 1st Battalion Kent Home Guard, and his Adjutant; Representatives of most Branches of the Past and Present Association, the London and Sittingbourne Branches carrying their standards; Major G. A. White, M.B.E., 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regt.; Lieut.-Col. W. Broke-Smith, R.A., Commanding 34 L.A.A. Regt., R.A.; Major C. Harris, R.A.S.C., representing C.R.A.S.C., Home Counties District.

And also among the large crowd of friendly faces we were delighted to see the following (with apologies to those whom the memory may not serve):—

Colonel J. V. R. Jackson; Colonel C. R. Tuff; Lieut.-Col. Rodney Hews with Captain John Dent; Mrs. E. V. Argles; Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. J. F. Connolly; Mrs. E. L. C. Edlmann and family; Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. J. R. Willows; Lieut.-Col. Roscow Reid; Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. H. S. Knocker; Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. J. E. King; Lieut.-Col. P. T. G. Lynden-Bell; Mrs. Gatehouse; Major and Mrs. A. A. West and Mr. Valentine West; Major P. Ransley and Mrs. E. Ransley; Major and Mrs. G. H. A. Yates and Miss Yates; Mrs. Michael Lawrence and family.

* * *

Regimental Gazette

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 1954, DATED FRIDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 1954

INFANTRY

TERRITORIAL ARMY—NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. R. G. Holloway (430079) is granted the actg. rank of Lt., 2nd Dec., 1954.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 1954, DATED TUESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, 1954

INFANTRY

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

THE BUFFS.—Lt. (Hon. Capt.) J. Green (90571) resigns his commn., 8th Dec., 1954, retaining the hon. rank of Capt.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—Lt. C. G. S. Paterson (411737) from T.A. Nat. Serv. List to be Lt., 22nd Oct., 1954, retaining his present seniority.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, 1954, DATED FRIDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 1954

INFANTRY

TERRITORIAL ARMY—NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. W. C. Finn (427773) to be Lt., 9th Dec., 1954.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 1954, DATED TUESDAY, 21ST DECEMBER, 1954

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Lts. J. D. Grugeon (397911) and G. O. Mullins (397997) to be Capt., 22nd Dec., 1954.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 28th DECEMBER, 1954, DATED FRIDAY, 31ST DECEMBER, 1954

REGULAR ARMY

The undermentioned to be Col. on the date shown:—
Lt.-Col. (Temp. Brig.) R. F. Parry, M.C. (38526), from Buffs, Empld. List 1, 15th Aug., 1954.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

CLASS III

THE BUFFS.—Capt. A. F. P. Wilson (375978) from Res. of Offrs., Cl. II, to be Capt., 27th Dec., 1954, retaining his present seniority.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2nd Lt. (Actg. Lt.) R. F. Johnson (425209) to be Lt., 29th Dec., 1954, with seniority 20th June, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Capt. E. H. Body, M.C. (174940), from Active List to be Capt., 16th Nov., 1954, retaining his present seniority.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 31ST DECEMBER, 1954, DATED TUESDAY, 4TH JANUARY, 1955

REGULAR ARMY

INFANTRY

THE BUFFS.—Lt. (Qr.-Mr.) A. H. Catt (426703) to be Capt. (Qr.-Mr.), 3rd Jan., 1955.

* * *

Happy Recollections of Fermoy about 1913

by

Lieut.-General Sir Willoughby Norrie, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Governor-General of New Zealand

BEFORE the First World War, Fermoy, County Cork, was a popular station, with ample opportunities of huntin', shootin' and fishin'.

The local packs of fox hounds were The United, and The Duhallow; and, as far as I remember, Martin Powell (R.H.A.) was M.F.H. of the former, and Nigel Baring of the latter.

From the time I was 15 years of age, my father and mother used to rent every Christmas holidays a house in Fermoy called "Monabeg", belonging to Colonel Martelli, which was situated practically next to the Infantry Barracks.

My father would never buy me a horse, but allowed me to hire from the local chemist in Fermoy, Mr. J. J. Broderick. Some of the horses I rode had hardly been schooled, but it was amazing the way they took to hunting after being lunged over a few banks.

It was in Fermoy about 1912 that I first met Lieutenant-Colonel Julian Hasler.

I gradually got to know practically everybody in the Battalion, but after all these years, it is difficult to recall all the names, but here are certainly some of them: Studd, Lucas, Beevor, Hamilton, Terry, Morley, Howard-Smith, Jackson, Peareth, Thompson, Stronge.

It is not easy to write about events which occurred some 45 years ago, but I retain vivid recollections of the great kindness shown to me by The Buffs.

The Battalion had been previously stationed in Dublin, and arrived in Fermoy about September, 1913.

I cannot remember everyone in the Battalion who hunted, but I think there were very few who did not keep a horse or hire one. They were a magnificent band of Officers—great sportsmen, who enjoyed life.

The private soldier of those days was far more illiterate than he is today—drank beer, and "getting drunk" was not considered a great crime.

These were the men whom the Kaiser called "The Contemptibles", but they certainly knew how to fight.

I was made an Honorary Member of the Mess, and later stayed with the Battalion for some weeks before my family arrived in Ireland. I was certainly well-instructed in the strict and narrow path of life, and was even taught how to play poker on Guest Nights.

One of the most popular Meets of The United was at a place called Water Grass Hill, half-way between Fermoy and Cork City, where the banks were firm and large.

J. J. Broderick, the chemist, was a good friend of mine, and we used to do quite a bit of horse coping together. At that time he also owned the best hunter stallion in County Cork, called "Reynard", by the famous "Red Prince II".

A strange mixture of pharmacy and coping with the love of the horse far more pronounced than an interest in making up prescriptions.

Buying a horse in Ireland required a technique of its own, and the bargaining usually took several days. One must never offer the price demanded, and when the deal was completed, there was always a certain amount of "luck" money to be paid back to the buyer.

The best—and only—horse I owned, which I got from J. J. Broderick, was a short-tailed brown cob called "The Stag", which I rode in my first point-to-point, and finished second. Later, I took him to Knocklong in County Limerick, for a big point-to-point, but had a crashing fall.

Riding hirelings was a great way to learn to ride, and quite a number of the Officers in The Buffs followed this same method as well.

There was another well-known dealer in County Cork at that time, called Jerry Rohan, who lived at Middleton. He kept magnificent horses, and one could occasionally have a day with his private pack of harriers. I think his son is still living in County Cork, and Jerry would be remembered by many soldiers of the 1912 vintage for his hospitality and sportsmanship.

One thought nothing of riding to a Meet 20 miles away, and 20 miles back, and Irish hospitality then was just as genuine and as warm-hearted as it always has been.

Officers of The Buffs were frequently asked out either to shoot or to fish, and there were many well-known names living in the locality.

Jakes Harman, in The Queen's Bays, who subsequently became Lieutenant-General Sir Wentworth Harman, was a great man across country. He lived at a placed called Rathcormac, and others in the neighbourhood whom I remember well were the Hudson Kinahans, of Glenville Manor, where one could enjoy a first-class day's shooting after the snipe in the local bogs.

Talking about hunting and shooting reminds me of the story of the last British Governor of Bengal—Sir Frederick Burrows—who in his earlier life had been an engine-driver. At a dinner given in his honour in Calcutta, he remarked: "I know my predecessors were brought up in an atmosphere of hunting' and shootin'—but all I can claim is some experience of shuntin' and hootin'.

These were happy days, and I am certain that all of us who hunted were much better men for it, in spite of the many falls we had. It is sad that those grand days cannot return. I believe that part of the Fermoy Barracks were burned out during "The Troubles".

I established a great friendship with The Buffs, so much so that my brother, George Stuart Norrie, was gazetted to the 1st Battalion after going to Sandhurst, but was killed leading his Platoon at Geudecourt on October 7th, 1916, aged 18½ years.

I am writing these notes at the request of Major-General V. Boucher, Colonel of the Regiment, who is visiting us in New Zealand, and if any of my old friends read them, I would very much like to renew their acquaintance.

Watch for these Films

CARRINGTON V.C. This film is made from a great stage success. The play has been put on the screen with nothing left out. It is the enthralling story of a Court Martial, written by General Campbell Christie and his wife, Dorothy Christie. The screen part of Carrington is played by David Niven, himself a regular soldier before he was a film star. He shows his capacity for serious acting. All the parts are brilliantly played, in particular Margaret Leighton as a neurotic wife. This film has humour, it is moving, in fact has everything expected of its director, Antony Asquith, and is ranked by some as the best British production of 1954.

The Sea Shall Not Have Them. In view of a comparatively recent event, this film about the Air Sea Rescue Service is of great interest. It is a simply told story, with no great heroics. The crew of the rescue launch are well drawn types, and the four airmen adrift in a rubber dinghy in the North Sea are played by Michael Redgrave, Bonar Colleano, Dirk Bogarde and Jack Watley. To this very strong cast is added Nigel Patrick and Antony Steel, with all minor parts equally well played. Though not so well constructed as some war films, this is a good one.

Make Me An Offer. The story of an antique dealer with Peter Finch the new British star as the lead. The subject is original and all the characters well played.

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. An american musical made as only they know how. It is lively and gay, with attractive songs, and brilliant dancing. The hero (Howard Keel) is a backwoodsman who brings his bride back to his shanty, where she finds she has to look after his seven brothers. The solution to this problem is witty. Those who liked *Oklahoma* and *Annie Get Your Gun* will love it.

Drumbeat. A good Western founded on fact about a war with a band of Indians in Oregon. Alan Ladd is the lead. Photographically is magnificent.

Carmen Jones. This is Bizet's *Carmen* up-to-date. The setting modern, in Florida and Chicago, with the original music. Don José is an Air Corporal, Escamillo a boxer. There is a negro chorus. Altogether an interesting and successful experiment.

M.M.A.

Round & About

by the Tramp



WELL, it's all over and another Christmas has slipped into the pigeonholes of The Past. By common consent it was a more intense festival than usual, if judged alone by the number of greetings cards sent and received. Mercifully the sharp weather and blizzards came just too late to satisfy the dreams of the Bing Crosby school. I must confess to a preference for the bland airs which distinguished the holiday as a prelude to the bitter gales and blizzard that followed. We spent the festive season in Hampshire when the countryside looked its best, and immediately afterwards we went by road up to the East Coast, where we were surprised by the unwonted mildness of the air. For three days we looked out on a calm North Sea which soon gave way to turbulence and arctic winds. True to its character the English weather has given us infinite variety and as I write these notes the snow lies heavily on all around us, transforming even the dullest areas of outer London. It must be a very welcome sight to those who have just returned from the heat of East Africa.

GOOD NEWS

To offset the depressing threats of Railway Strikes and international wrangling came this morning the heartening news from Melbourne where English cricket has once more come into its own with a bang. To be one up after the dismal affair at Brisbane must have warmed Londoners making their cold and slushy way to work this morning. The pessimists and the fireside critics find themselves obliged to eat their hats, a salutory if a morally indigestible diet. The selectors may be excused if they are rubbing their hands with glee if not with cold. They had to endure much criticism for preferring Tyson and Statham to Trueman. Their judgment has been vindicated and they deserve a bouquet. This would be a rare experience for them. It's a funny business, this Test Cricket, and utterly inexplicable to those unfortunate people who remain coldly impervious to the excitement enjoyed and endured by the "Island

Race". The fact is that there is something Homeric about these struggles. Another aspect of them is often forgotten. Not long since, in the Bradman era, English cricket was "in the dumps". The *cognoscenti* were writing to the papers ascribing our habitual failure to cope with the Australians to a variety of causes. A friend of mine who was no mean authority wrote at length saying that our system of County Cricket with its lengthy programme of matches was the cause. I ventured at the time to question his theories and was bold enough to say that it was largely a matter of the swing of the pendulum. I felt and said that history was on my side. Unfortunately, he is no longer here to say, with the generosity he invariably displayed in discussion, that I "had something". But I imagine that in the Elysian Fields, where he is watching the giants of the Past, he is smiling happily at reports that the cream of Australian batting has been skittled by English fast bowlers. That is why Test cricket is never dull.

It would be a bold prophet who would dare to foretell the outcome of the two remaining Tests. Although I feel that Australian batting is having a lean season, the fighting qualities of our worthy foemen must never be forgotten. There may be some tough fights ahead. The English captain's grip on affairs seems happily to be growing firmer. Let us hope that the fielding of his men will show a like improvement. From all accounts it is clearly below the Australian standard.

THAT PORTRAIT

As a nation we are less interested in Art than in sport, but every now and then everyone in the country becomes an art critic. The birthday portrait of the Prime Minister has aroused a stimulating degree of controversy. As a humble practitioner in the arduous and unrewarding profession of painting I stand a little aloof from the argument. When asked, as I often am, for my opinion of Graham Sutherland's painting, I make two comments. First, in the form of a question: "Who would you have chosen of contemporary British painters for this very difficult commission?" Next, also a question: "Have you ever seen Sir Winston with your own eyes?". The answers to these enquiries are revealing only in their similarity. I am not of the company which regards Mr. Sutherland as the greatest living British painter. I consider him to be an artist of very severe limitations and as far as I know he has painted only three portraits; those of Lord Beaverbrook, Mr. Somerset Maugham and this debatable one of Sir Winston. All three are striking character studies and tolerable likenesses. None of them, however, are pictures in the fullest sense of the term. They are strident and disturbing in colour and they are not, in my humble view, good compositions or "arrangements". I would like to have seen what Augustus John could do with any or all of the three subjects. In the Tate Gallery are several admirable examples of this great painter's work. And in his recent one-man show at Burlington House the sweep and range of his vision and skill left me mute with astonishment and admiration. But John is a painter in the great tradition. He is already an "Old Master" and that is considered out-of-date by the modern pundits. I would as soon prophecy the result of the remaining Test Matches as venture to say whose work will live. As long ago as the early years of this century when John was already acknowledged as a significant painter, literary critics, frightened by Rudyard Kipling's popularity, were saying that he was a spent force as a writer. There are indications today that even some highbrows are inclining to find permanent merit in his prose and poetry. That's the way it goes. It doesn't do to anticipate the verdicts of Posterity. She is very jealous of her rightful prerogative.

"HERESIES & HUMOURS"

I came across a book the other day which gave me an hour or two of pleasant reading. It was written by the late Major C. S. Jarvis, who contributed very readable articles to various periodicals. Major Jarvis served in various places in the Empire and recorded his impressions with considerable wit and wisdom. He was an ardent fisherman and a true lover of the country. I shall always be grateful to him for a story he told in an earlier collection of his writings. It concerned an officer who during his service collected a foreign decoration, the Order of Chastity, 4th class. His satisfaction at this official recognition of his services was somewhat clouded by the difficulty he had in explaining to his wife on his return to England why it was only the 4th class of the Order that he had merited. *Heresies and Humours*, first published by Country Life Ltd. in 1943, and reprinted in 1945, contains some stories and recollections which are only slightly less entertaining than the gem I have quoted from memory.

BATTLES LONG AGO

Motoring from near Winchester to London the other day I found myself on Hartford Bridge Flats near Camberley. I had last seen this ground in 1914 when as a Cadet at Sandhurst I had participated in "schemes" designed to

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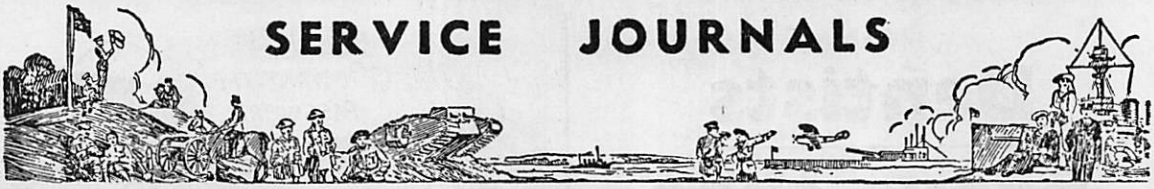
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impart a knowledge of tactics in my young and eager mind. In those distant days it was wild and desolate *terrain*. Now it is a vast airfield with all its accompanying busy-ness. But I remembered that while we strove with military problems we were conscious of the great battle of the Aisne then in progress across the Channel. Our instructor, the late Captain D. R. Ewing of the Scottish Rifles, called our attention to certain similarities in the ground over which we plodded on bicycles with that of the battlefield in France. His comments came back to me from the past and the thoughts of a young cadet returned with startling clarity as we passed along that road so familiar to generations of would-be officers. In a matter of minutes we were passing the gates of the R.M.C., once so intimately connected with our lives, and the curtain of the years was drawn back for a few moments. A mere forty years before I had been quartered in the Old Buildings with some eighty young comrades in a very happy hard-working company under the guidance of some inspiring officers and N.C.O.'s who put us through an intensive but highly enjoyable course. The only thing that was wrong with an admirable syllabus was the fact that I never saw a Platoon until I stood in front of No. 1, "A" Company, 1st Battalion The Buffs, at Armentières on a cold morning in February, 1915. But I soon began to learn something of that essential formation.

* * *

Correspondence

The following letter was received by the Colonel of the Regiment:—

65 Schubert Street,
Binghamton,
New York State,
U.S.A.
December 5th, 1954.

Major-General V. Boucher,
Colonel of The Buffs.

I have just read an interesting article in the *East Kent Gazette* entitled "Buffs Comradeship Lives On". That's the stuff that makes a former Buff proud to be one.

The Buffs indeed did a splendid job during the War, in fact all wars found the Regiment somewhere along the line.

It was indeed a fine gesture of the City of Canterbury to present the Freedom of the City to The Buffs some time ago, and it showed that the spirit was not dead.

During the First World War I was in the 3rd East Kent Buffs stationed at Dover, having enlisted in Syracuse, New York.

May the Comradeship last are my thoughts. Now that Christmas is upon us, may it be a joyous one for you, and also all The Buffs.

Sincerely,

DAVID SAXBY.

* * *

Sir,

CHRISTMAS AT WINCHESTER, 1914

Sitting alone on Christmas Eve, I recollected that the only Christmas fare I had in the house was three mince pies; and that took my mind back to Christmas Eve, 1914, when the 2nd Battalion from India had just reached Winchester and were camped in a morass on the top of a windswept hill, on the outskirts of the city.

Chiefly due to the good offices of my brother, who happened to be in London and responded nobly to my telegram, my company was the only unit in the 28th Division that had Christmas puddings on Christmas Day—an achievement to which I still look back with satisfaction.

I send greetings to any old friends who partook of these puddings and, in fact, to all my old friends in the Regiment.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

F. W. TOMLINSON,
Major.

14 Mill Wall Place,
Sandwich.

* * *

26 Osward Road,
London, S.W.7.
January, 1955.

To The Editor, "The Dragon".

Dear Sir,

In the London *Evening News* on January 3rd last, there appeared under the heading "East Kents" a paragraph announcing that King Frederik of Denmark would shortly present the Regiment with a "Banner".

I immediately sent a letter to the Editor pointing out our proper title and that we carried "Colours" not "Banners".

The Editor replied very handsomely and I enclose his letter, and apologies.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. ENRIGHT, M.M.

143 Moor Lane,
Chessington,
Surbiton, Surrey.
January 7th, 1955.

To The Editor, "*The Dragon*".

Dear Sir,

Will you kindly forward me *The Dragon* for the period 1st January, 1955 to June, 1955, to address as above.

Enclosed is P.O. for 7/- in payment.

I am happy to say that despite the fact that I shall be 83 on 11th April next, I am still "going strong" and keeping "fit as a fiddle".

I am living with my eldest daughter and her husband, Major F. Sidwell, M.M.

Kind remembrances to Col. G. Howe, Major A. W. Andrews, Mr. G. Mould, Mr. A. Argraves, Mr. Jerry Osborne (Bk. Stores).

A Happy and Prosperous New Year, with Good Health to enjoy it, is my wish for all Officers and Other Ranks, both Past and Present, wherever they may be.

Times may change but Happy Memories will always remain.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. (TOMMY) TUTT,
(ex-R.Q.M.S.).

Beneath Bell Harry



NATURALLY the main topic of conversation during the beginning of the month was the 1st Battalion's home-coming and its arrival eclipsed all other events. "Boy" Catt gave cause for celebration on the arrival of his third "pip" and created a minor mystery by his disappearance for a week or so, the effects of the celebrations, no doubt. The Adjutant also joined the Q.M. 4/5th in this exalted rank and promptly entered the marital stakes; our heartiest congratulations on this notable achievement.

Visitors have been many, and amongst them we were particularly pleased to see Major Neale Gordon-Wilson, now fully recovered from his accident. Lieut.-Colonel Connolly also paid a visit for the object of confirming the startling news of Major Harris-St. John's engagement from the suitor himself.

To all members of the Regiment we extend our wishes for the coming year and our warmest greetings to the 1st Battalion, now once more firmly established in Kent.

* * *

W.O.'s AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Well, Christmas has been and gone, and is now just another memory, and one sees the Permanent Staff of the Depot casting longing eyes at the cricket pitch, and the coming of the summer, but we still have a long way to go yet, so a few words about the events of December, 1954.

The Children's Christmas Parties were quite successful and Mrs. Dendy's idea of Father Christmas arriving in a large cracker was original and a huge success.

Then came the Annual Recruits' Boxing Competitions for the Hardy Cup, this year held at Maidstone, the results of which will no doubt be published in No. 1 Company notes. The Members of the Mess, wives and sweethearts went over in a coach to see the match and were entertained by the Sergeants' Mess of the Queen's Own Royal West Kents afterwards, and beat them again at darts, etc., Q.M.S. Sinclair scoring 98 to finish the game.

The Officers entertained the Sergeants' Mess on the 16th and right royally they did it, as several Members instead of returning home, pushed off to a dance and have been in the doghouse since. The Rum Punch was the appetizer for a start, and it was noticed that the last to leave the Officers' Mess (Don't get ideas, Sir!) was the R.S.M.

We entertained the Officers the following evening, and although the Brigade Colonel and Major Snowdon beat the R.S.M. and Sgt. Dean at Darts, I believe that it was all part of the game, or was it!

The famous "Hoisting the Brick" ceremony went off well and no one needed the M.O., although the forfeits came fast and furious. Members present for the Record were: R.S.M. White, R.S.M. Turmaine, R.Q.M.S. Howe, Sgts. Partridge, Dean, Phillips, Raines, Coughlan, Colyer, Whyte, R.Q.M.S. Harwood and Ex-Sgt. Dickie Fox.

We have now said "Good-bye" to R.S.M. F. Turmaine who has joined 1 Buffs and our best wishes to him on his new appointment. We welcome to the Mess R.S.M. G. Faulkner, who has now taken over the 4/5 Buffs. Several Members of the 1st Battalion have visited us recently, and we are looking forward to a few inter-Mess social gatherings, before 1 Buffs disappear again.

* * *

No. 1 COMPANY

The leaving of Captain Dunglinson for the Battalion and his replacement by Major Montgomery has been the most important event in the last few weeks. We should like to welcome Major Montgomery to the Company and hope that he will enjoy his stay with us; and to thank Captain Dunglinson for the keen and sympathetic interest he always showed not only in the Company as a whole but in each individual.

The arrival of the Battalion at Dover stirred the Company like a wind and a few weeks will see many of the old soldiers now pawing the ground with excitement back to join them.

The victory of the recruits' boxing team by a narrow but definite margin over their West Kent opponents was due mainly to their own determination and the expert training of Capt. Carey, Cpl. Parker, Cpl. Palmieri and Cpl. Callender. The Hardy Cup is now held by the Depot for the second year running.

The relentless fusilade of .22 shots continues and the team has now a steady run of victories. In December the football team lost one of its stars when L/Cpl. Mynheer was discharged to T.A.

The discovery, the P.T.I.s are a little coy about it, of a ghost in the gym. with the usual low moans, plaintive knocks, and sudden bumps, has caused a flutter of interest. The C.S.M. believes that it is the soul of the barber in torment because no one ever comes to see him now. This isn't the popular belief though.

Christmas was enjoyed by all and only slightly ruffled by the flood warnings in East Anglia. But now it is over and the warmth and gaiety have evaporated, the inevitably inclement weather has arrived in a flurry of snow. We can now only hang on grimly and pray for the spring.

In conclusion we wish everyone in the Depot and in the Battalion a successful and happy year.

4th/5th Battalion



DECEMBER saw further Companies carrying out their week-end training commitments, often amid rather frightful weather, as witness Support Company, whose stay at Lydd was spoilt by teeming rain on the Sunday. Boating is exacting its toll; whatever Commando tactics were being employed by Lawrence Crowdy when he succeeded in damaging his ankle may never be known. We may be sure they will not be repeated. The end of the month will see the training cycle commencing all over again as fresh personnel come forward to take part (or to the water, according to the prevailing directive). There are also prospects of N.C.O.'s Cadres at Canterbury and other signs of the training year gathering impetus. This is also the season for refresher courses, and already several Officers and N.C.O.'s are *en route* for Warminster or Hythe, there to be subjected to seven days of hectic concentration before being cast back quite exhausted to the everyday callings—but fully equipped with the latest gen on this or that and ready to do battle with the Training Officer!

The news of the impending dissolution of A.A. Command has brought in its wake the usual speculation as to the effect this decision might have on other units. Desirable drill halls are presumably likely to become vacant—or are they?

The New Year has seen the departure of R.S.M. Turmaine to the 1st Battalion. A succession of farewells culminated in a final launching and his stentorian voice (after much practice at Stanford and Tweseldown) will soon echo gently among the barrack blocks and trees at Old Park, Dover. We are of course sorry to see him go, his work for the Battalion has been tremendous, and we welcome in his place R.S.M. Faulkner, who will be a worthy successor. R.S.M. Faulkner has served with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong, the Sudan and Egypt and will be no stranger to many of us. May his stay with us be happy and successful.

Other P.S.I.'s are also on the move consequent upon the 1st Battalion's homecoming and to Sgts. Partridge and Vaughan we wish good luck and give grateful thanks for all that has been achieved during their stay with us.

An innovation has resulted in Companies being made responsible for M.T. inspections, a task in the past which has been dealt with by Higher Authority. The M.T.O. must have known a thing or two to have pulled it off and would be advised to tread very carefully in future—his one consolation is that all the many things wished upon him cannot possibly happen.

With the New Year before us, we send best wishes to all members of the Battalion, past and present, and to all Buffs everywhere.

* * *

"A" COMPANY

December saw the M.M.G. Platoon at Lydd in conjunction with Support Company week-end. The weather, cold but fine on the Saturday, deteriorated to such an extent on the Sunday that it was just impossible to see the butts from the 600 yards firing point and an indoor programme was carried out. We soon found that it was virtually impossible to equal Q.M.S.I. Fordham in stripping the gun! The Advance Party who travelled to Lydd on the Saturday morning arrived frozen and were rather startled at the appearance of members of the Platoon from the Support Company area. C.S.M. Fagg's subsequent enquiries may produce results, however. A quick thaw enabled an interesting shoot to take place on the strike range on Saturday afternoon before a body of spectators larger than those participating! Again it was nice to have C.S.M. Gabriel, C/Sgt. Couzens and Sgt. Hurlow with us. The latter was struck down with a struck down with a chill shortly after his arrival—yet

another victim of the pneumonia wagon. Saturday evening was spent in good style at the local Ex-Servicemen's Club, an event which is becoming very popular. Our thanks are due to C.S.M. Gabriel for laying-on such an excellent evening's entertainment. It is probably just as well that firing on Sunday was cancelled.

Sgt. Hewitt has recovered from his recent illness and is up and about again. We look forward to having his company the next time we go to Lydd; with the ammunition saved we shall be able to pay another visit when the weather is a little more settled.

"Buy a draw ticket?" . . . this was the cry just before Christmas and we wonder what was said to Captain Morgan when he produced Rosemary's hotwater bottle.

The New Year has opened with a bang. Our first drill night in 1955 featured the new film *Platoon in the Attack* which was very interesting and left us wondering whether the Number Two on the Bren really was on the correct side or not; Margate and Sandwich detachments will see the film in turn. Our P.S.I., flushed with success after Christmas leave, is *en route* for the 1st Battalion and we wish him and Mrs. Vaughan all best wishes for the future. The handing-over ceremony should be quite simple; thus . . . "No, Captain Klean has all the pamphlets, the keys are with Captain Morgan and Horace has the spares for the Vickers." We shall be sorry to see Sgt. Vaughan go; the anti-archery experts will insist that he takes the whole of his kit with him. We welcome in his place Sgt. Dean, who at the time of writing has yet to appear. Wise man.

Mention has already been made of R.S.M. Turmaine's departure; he was better known to us at "A" Company as our P.S.I. following on after R.Q.M.S. Excell. He always took a very lively and personal interest in our affairs and we shall miss his visits.

New Year resolutions are very much to the fore. Mac has made his and seems to be sticking to it!

* * *

"B" COMPANY

The event of the month was the Company Regatta, held at Wouldham-on-Medway. The occasion was the first Company N.S.M. Week-end, and two dozen men thought it might be the last, for them! A gale and a very steady drizzle greeted their arrival at the R.E. Bridging Camp on the Saturday, and anxious eyes surveyed the swollen fast running river. Fortunately, the introduction to the subject was held on a sheltered lake in a disused clay quarry, and by the end of the afternoon a small spark of confidence was kindled in every breast, to be fanned into flame by later revelries in Maidstone.

A calm and sunny Sunday provided the perfect setting to the ensuing labours, as assault boats crossed and re-crossed the Medway with varying degrees of proficiency—indeed, at one stage, two officers quakingly paddled across the current, easily missing a River Police launch, to pick up men "stranded" on the "enemy" bank. Altogether an enjoyable though muddy week-end.

On the miniature range, the Company gained another narrow win over our old friends in the Home Guard. The Commanding Officer paid us a welcome visit that night, and gallantly agreed to shoot for us—he returned a (surprisingly?) good card, which may relieve some anxiety felt regarding the defence of B.H.Q.!

During the month we said good-bye to Ptes. Fallon and Harman, who emigrated to Canada with a bag of tools and a few pounds each. We congratulate them on their initiative and wish them all the success they deserve. They have served us well.

As the news of the Battalion's return home became official, a distinct lightening of the brow of Sgt. Partridge was observed, and handing-over certificates became the thing!

* * *

"C" COMPANY

The 4/5th December saw our first home based N.S.M. week-end, and proved very successful. We are greatly indebted to 211 Field Squadron, R.E., for giving us some excellent instruction in Assault Boating and Mine Laying and Lifting. During the Boating Mr. Crowdy unfortunately fractured his ankle, but I am glad to say there were no more casualties.

There was keen rivalry among the men to see who could beat the mine detector by prodding.

The feeding was ably done by Cpl. Boydell, A.C.C.

There was a section competition in turn-out, marching and shooting on Conyet Range which was won by L/Cpl. Pressley's section by one point.

The miniature range is flooded with about two inches of water (from a faulty drain), so our .22 shooting has been curtailed.

Soon we shall relinquish the Drill Hall to hordes of Post Office Officials.

* * *

"D" COMPANY

The Officers, N.C.O.s and men of "D" Company sincerely wish all readers a very happy and prosperous New Year.

At the moment, with visions of a benevolent and hoary headed and bearded old man, attired in a coloured mantle and armed with a large sack of assorted items of nursery equipment; everyone is in rather a flap over the impending onslaught on their financial resources. Although we are fully aware of the colour of this old man's garb, we hesitate to mention it, as the colour might offend the susceptibilities of some of our good friends and allies.

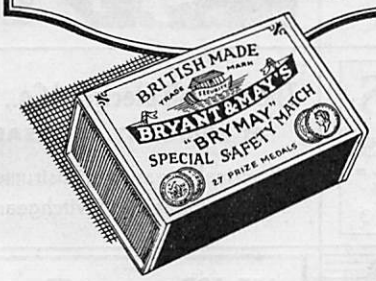
During the past week, several members of this Company (including our P.S.I.), have been observed staggering home from shopping expeditions like two-legged pack horses and we, as a Unit, haven't been overlooked as we are now the proud possessors of a full sized Billiards Table. For this valuable acquisition, however, we have to thank the thirsty troops who have been responsible for the healthy state of our Canteen funds.

Last week we had an enjoyable get-together with the boys of "Q" Battery, 410 Coast Regt. Although beaten at darts, we showed them some of the finer points of table tennis and on the whole, acquitted ourselves quite honourably.

Our latest intake of N.S.M. seem very decent blokes and we're looking forward to getting to know them better during our first training week-end in January.

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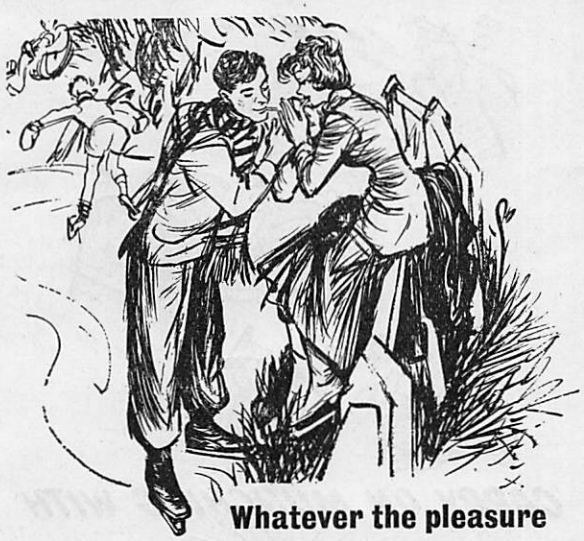
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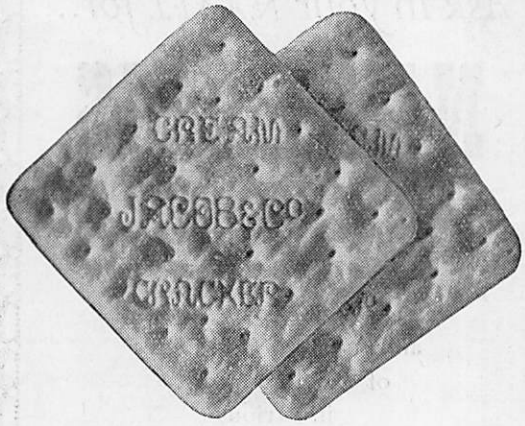
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"S" COMPANY

December so far as the Anti-tank Platoon is concerned has seen a lot of changes, new faces to train and the new idea of training in Company areas instead of at Canterbury or Shorncliffe. The Platoon went to Lydd expecting to have a good week-end of training and sub-calibre shooting. Instead the weather turned out very rough and we had to do most of our work at the blackboard and with diagrams, with the aid of training films to fill in.

Congratulations to Sgt. Wraight on his purchase of a car and also to C/Sgt. White who pushed it nearly into Lydd on Saturday evening! C/Sgt. White's first effort at Lydd was a fair one; he only had to cope with one hundred or so National Service men and breakages and deficiencies were nil.

Early in the month the 17 pdrs. were inspected and so we did not get a lot of time training on the actual gun; practising on the range has been the order of the day. On 16th December the Mortar Platoon visited us with their best shots to help us in the postal competition and by the results we think that all the practice was well spent.

We would like to say cheerio and good luck to our old R.S.M. and at the same time welcome his successor, who we hope will enjoy his stay with us, as we are sure R.S.M. Turmaine did. R.S.M. Turmaine has been with the Battalion since 1949, first at Ramsgate and then as R.S.M. R.S.M. Faulkner, who relieves him, has just come home from the 1st Battalion and we know he will enjoy his camps with us as he did those months he had in Norfolk when the 1st Battalion were there???

The Mortar Platoon were also at Lydd for the training week-end and were disappointed when firing had to be cancelled on the Sunday because of rain. The weather was definitely against us and we had to make do with an indoor programme, including a very good film on the 3-in. mortar, which gave the other Support Company Platoons some idea of our job.

Whilst all the activity was going on at Lydd, Lieutenant Morlock and Sgt. Babbage, with the Assault Pioneers were at Sandwich having their own regatta, despite the elements. A river crossing was put over in record time, and although soaked with the rain, the Pioneers did an excellent job and are all set to carry on the good work at Camp.

Our Ramsgate friends, the Machine Gun Platoon, joined us for the week-end and were able to have a brief shoot on the strike range on the Saturday afternoon. They too had to carry out indoor training on the Sunday which must have been pretty strenuous if the tea urn being carried into their bungalow was anything to go by!

Past and Present Association

Life Member

1ST TO 31ST DECEMBER

H.Q. Roll.—Bird, A. J.

* * *

Grants

The total grants from the Benevolent Fund and the World War 1939 Charitable Fund during the month of December, 1954, are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Benevolent Fund	41	10	0
World War 1939 Charitable Fund	20	0	0

Do You Just Belong?

Are you an active member now,
The kind that's always missed?
Or satisfied to just allow
Your name upon the list?

When strength is needed to decide,
Are you there to help along?
Or stand aloof, dissatisfied,
Content to just belong?

Are meetings too much trouble
For you to play your part?
Do you watch the ceaseless struggle
And criticize or "nark"?

Does dear friend include you,
Do you help to cheer the sick?
Or leave it to the faithful few,
And then call them the clique?

Do you sit back and pass the buck
Because you've "not the time",
And then set out the goose to cook
Of those who toe'd the line?

There's more to do than has been done,
We need your help to make us strong,
Our forward march has just begun,
Join in: don't just belong.

With apologies to J. A. C. Mitchell.)

* * *

Competitions 1954—1955

DARTS

1st Round Results: Medway beat Margate.
Weald beat Sittingbourne.
Dover (w.o.) Hythe (Scr.)
Ashford beat London.

2nd Round Result: Ashford beat Dover.

SHOOTING

	October	*November*	*December*
Dover ...	441	408	438
Ashford ...	396	429	420
Canterbury ...	471	472	478
Sandwich ...	409	428	417
Sittingbourne	352	412	
Ramsgate ...	467	469	468

* * *

Ashford Branch

Our meeting on 4th December was attended by 20 members, Mr. A. J. Mills being the Chairman.

A letter was read from our President as he was unable to attend this Annual General Meeting.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman and the Minutes for previous meeting were read and signed. The correspondence was then read and discussed.

Mr. G. Skinner gave an account of our visit to the London Branch, and stated that *en route* the coach stopped and half the party went for a "quick one" whilst the remainder went for a cup of tea, and it had never been known before, that the beer drinkers were first back on the coach.

Mr. Bert Vant's wife won a box of toy soldiers in the raffle at London so that should keep him amused.

Colonel Argles then arrived with our Branch Standard, which in due course was handed to our Chairman. All members applauded as this was being handed over. Mr. G. Skinner was voted to be our Standard Bearer, and the Standard was handed over to him for safe keeping.

A vote of thanks was given to Colonel Argles for attending our meeting, and presenting our standard.

As the winners of the first round Darts Competition with London Branch, we are now looking forward to our next opponents.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. and afterwards a few members gave the dart board a "tuning up".

* * *

Our meeting was held on New Year's Day. Fifteen members attended, including our President, Major Bompas, and Chairman, A. J. Mills.

We were sorry to hear that one of our oldest members, Gus Tompsett, had been unable to get around much during the past few weeks, and only hope he is soon well again.

Our Secretary was asked to order a coach to go to Dover for the second round of the Darts Competition on 8th January, so we are all looking forward to a very enjoyable evening, and hope to return victors, as Dover beat us last year in the second round.

The Christmas cards were displayed, having received a total of 12 cards from fellow-Branches and serving members. Is this a record, or can any other Branch beat this?

One of our active members, Ossie Masters, was absent from this meeting; several members suggested he was in no fit state to attend owing to his daughter's wedding.

As our old age pensioners had received a bag of firewood, free, from Messrs. Davis and Co., letters were read from these members, who expressed their heartiest thanks for such a gift. This gift of firewood originated by the late Captain Crothall, The Buffs, whilst he was a Director with this firm.

No other business, and the meeting closed at 20.00 hrs.

May I through *The Dragon* notes wish all Branches and serving members all the very best for 1955.

A.C.M.

* * *

London Branch

There being no meeting on Saturday, 18th December, 1954, owing to the Christmas Draw taking place, the evening of course turned out to be one of great activity. There was quite a good attendance, the majority being kept very busy in the work of folding up the counterfoils. Under the supervision of Captain Emery the Draw was completed and prizes distributed. May I at this stage on behalf of the Chairman, and Committee, say many thanks to all the helpers, who came along to give their services.

The Draw being completed, the night became a social affair, music being provided on the piano and accordion. We hope everyone had an enjoyable evening. Special word of thanks to Mr. Lewis and Mr. Watts for their grand effort.

The visit of Brigadier Foster Hall, looking very fit, was really appreciated. We hope to meet him many times in the future, also Lieut. Grant, whose help to the Branch is a great asset.

Hallo, who is that with the turkey under his arm? Why, Captain Woodcock, of course. Who was it who said, "If he fell in the water he would never get wet"?

Now let us include some of our old stalwarts who during this last year have hardly missed a meeting, and looking round I notice Messrs. Cobb, Clayton, Cotton, Everett, Odell, Budd, Perry, Wenham, Hardwick, Cousins, Watts, Collins, Ricketts, and so on, and let's thank them all for the great work they have done and are still doing for this grand Branch of ours.

The London Branch had quite a busy year, also a few obstacles to get over, so we all pulled our weight and came out with standard flying. We would also like to thank our President, Major Enright, Vice-President, Captain Emery, and Chairman, Mr. Billings, for their grand work they have put in during this past year. In fact one could keep on, so if I have not mentioned some names, please forgive me, but you are not forgotten. I must mention it was so nice to meet Snowy James after so many years. Hope to see you a lot more, Snowy, also Mr. Brown. Let's see a lot more of you chaps.

Glad Mr. Whichells has got over his illness, now keep clear and bring the Dior Model along with you at all times.

We also take this opportunity of thanking our General Secretary, Colonel Argles, for the great work he has done for the Association since taking office.

Just another thank you to Mr. Johnston from the Ramsgate Branch for giving us a look up on the 18th. All the best to you in the New Year. This wish is conveyed to all Branches of the Past and Present.

I feel I would not complete these notes if I did not mention a few of the names for their grand contribution to our Christmas Appeal: Mr. F. R. Parks, Mr. A. G. Stephens, Sir Thomas Overy, Mr. Billings, Captain Emery, Mr. Timms, Mr. Scott, Mr. Knott, Brigadier Whitacre Allen, Mr. Cousins, Mr. Gilfillian, Mr. Collins, Major Pitkin, Captain Buxton, Mr. Hudson, Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Brigadier E. Foster Hall, Commander Fraser, Mr. L. Gower Hemmings, Mr. A. S. Villars, Mr. G. Hardwick, Lieut.-Col. Beevor, Major Enright, Mr. Carr, Mr. Rosson, Mr. Pullam, E. J. Hodges, Mr. E. Benge, Mr. Wright, Mr. A. E. Sharp, Mr. C. Varnham, Mr. Verney, L. A. Griffiths, Lieut. Osmond, Mr. S. J. Potter.

On behalf of all members of the London Branch, Gentlemen, thank you.

A.J.S.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

A meeting was held at The Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, on Saturday, January 1st, Mrs. Coley in the Chair.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

CORRESPONDENCE was read from Mrs. Stretton, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Annan and Mrs. Dalgleish.

REGRETS were received from Mesdames Taylor, Hawkins, Tucker, Baxter, Cotton, Cobb and Jackson.

SICK MEMBERS.—Our best wishes to all sick members.

Owing to such a lot of illness it was a very small meeting.

The Chairman announced that the Hon. Secretary had tendered her resignation.

Mrs. Coley wished all members a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Raffles were given by Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Kelly and a Member.

Our best wishes for 1955 to all Guild members.

This being all, the meeting closed.

M.J.D.

* * *

Dover Branch

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held at the Eagle Hotel on Thursday, December 2nd, 1954. The meeting was opened at 7 p.m. by the Chairman, Captain Marsh.

The Secretary read the minutes of last meeting and these were confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Letters from six Vice-Presidents accepting office for a further year. These included the Mayor of Dover. Lieut.-Col. Crookenden, D.S.O., was again elected President, which he accepted.

Letters were received: re Garrison Church, Canterbury, re subscription; from Ashford Branch re visit to Hospital to see Mr. Clarabutt of Dover—many thanks; from Hythe Branch re our darts fixture. It was then that the Chairman announced that Hythe Branch had telephoned that evening cancelling the darts match. Most disappointing—all arrangements had been laid on.

Business now concluded and our own Branch Darts Cup Competition then took place. Among the winners for the next round are Arthur Banks, Ernie Hayward, Tom Noakes, Parky Hawkins and Tommy Holloway.

It was agreed to hold a Christmas Social on Wednesday, 15th December.

It was also suggested that the Secretary report the circumstances re the cancelling of the Hythe *v* Dover Darts match to the General Secretary.

Box Collection, 9/9 for Branch Funds.

Alf Steele and Ernie Hayward were present at the meeting; all were pleased to see them after a long absence. Also regret Mog Hollands is ill and was not able to be present.

The refreshments for the evening were supplied by the ladies and those which could not be eaten were raffled and the money given to our Funds. Very many thanks, Ladies.

T.H.H.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

A Meeting of the Guild was held on Thursday, January 6th, at the Belgrave Hall.

Owing to such terrible weather conditions, only a few members were able to attend.

The Minutes of the previous meeting, were read, and signed as correct, by our Chairman, Mrs. Crookenden.

We were unable to discuss any business, owing to the small attendance, so have held it over till our next meeting.

We had a chat, and our usual ever welcome cup of tea and cakes.

The raffle was brought by Mrs. Crookenden, and won by Mrs. Mills.

As the time was getting on, we finally made our way home, and hoping for better weather conditions for our next meeting, to have our usual crowd with us again.

H.M.M.

Medway Branch

Have you ever experienced butterflies fluttering in your tummy? You would have had you been present on the occasion when this Branch met Margate in the first round of the Darts Competition. It took place at the Two Brewers, Rochester, on Saturday, 11th December, when about twenty Margate members and their wives and friends (I do not infer that wives are not friends) attended and, according to what they said, had a most enjoyable evening.

The competition did not start until about 8 p.m. The first round produced nothing startling in the way of big scores, indeed only three players succeeded in securing more than 60 with three darts, Hermitage (Margate) 80, Tom Jenkins and Tich Eldridge scoring 84 and 92 respectively. These latter two were substantial players throughout. But the finish of this game—oh, my, I can feel those butterflies even now. When Medway wanted 35 Margate required 232. It took us eight times to the board to reduce our score to 2 by which time Margate wanted only 69, from which it will be seen that the Margate team had not been rushing along. Our players (*sic*) had six more tries at the double one and failed to obtain it and so Gander (Margate) put us out of our misery by throwing the winning dart for his team. Oh! Goosey Goosey Gander—if looks could have killed you would by now have been stuffed and in the pot for Christmas. The average score in round one was 25 points per throw of three darts—the spectators offered sundry remarks and much advice, none of which I offer for print for fear of the law of libel.

The second game produced a few more fireworks than did the first, the average score being 38.5 per throw. Steward, Gander and Tong (Margate) scoring a 60, 60 and 75 respectively, our response being given by Tommy Blakelock 100 (the only "ton" of the evening) and 71, Tich Eldridge gaining a nice 67 whilst Tom Jenkins came into his own with an accurate double nine to win the second leg of the round for Medway. The excitement was now intense, the men were breathing in short gasps and the ladies in short pants, the landlord smiled (without mirth) to see such fun as everybody moved away from the bar to watch the final game.

And what a start was made in the final round. Breed, of Margate, went to the board to score 72, Tommy Blakelock hit back with a 60 to be followed, a few minutes later, by Attwood with 63 and Chaney with a near miss to score 9. Margate took it steady during this leg until Tong lashed out with a fine 80 after Tom Jenkins had put in a left hook for 70, Tich Eldridge a right swing with an 88 and Chaney (presumably having recovered his second breath) a short uppercut for 61. The next ten or so throws on each side were quiet—plenty of footwork—occasional jabs at 40's and 50's—and then Boorman (Medway) brought home a nice cross which connected with 60 leaving the scores at Margate 92 and Medway 22. Margate then scored a 32 and a 6, and then it happened. Hermitage (Margate), who had distinguished himself by scoring an 80 in the first leg, did not get a dart on the scoring surface of the board. Meanwhile Tommy Blakelock scored an 8 for Medway, leaving 14, Tommy Jenkins scratched the outside of the wire of the double seven with his three darts and Tich Eldridge went in to win the leg and the round for the home team. The three games gave an exhibition of good sportsmanship throughout, they were as exciting and pleasant to watch as they were to play, and were enjoyed by players and spectators alike.

So Medway won its first round. So what! Of course it is nice to win but I feel sure that Margate will agree with me that the real prize of the evening was the fun of getting together and the good fellowship we all experienced.

There were, of course, the usual sweepstakes—Margate, as was appropriate, won the first three prizes, two bottles of whiskey and a large box of chocolate mints, and Medway came in for the three remaining prizes, a decorative box filled with confectionery and two packets of twenty cigarettes. (Please note how careful was I to avoid advertising.) Somebody, holding up a bottle of whiskey, said, "I did not come to win the darts—this is what I came for", to which came the quick response, "Oh, Sir, that is not the right spirit."

A game was played between two teams of the ladies present but I was so busy chattering to old friends that I did not hear the result—I am sorry about that. Our President, Mr. Hepworth, looking as fit and jolly as could be, made a very appropriate speech which was responded to by Major Jarman, and all seemed merry and bright. And now, quite naturally, our team is looking forward to the next round in the competition so that it and its supporters can meet up with some more of our old acquaintances of another Branch.

I must not conclude the above remarks without adding a hearty "Thank you" to all those who gave their time and interest in making preparation for our comfort. We are inclined to accept a ham sandwich, a sausage or cheese roll, and think no more about it. We do *really* appreciate what is done on our behalf but we are a little thoughtless. So "Thank you" once again to those members who gave time and went to such trouble to make the show a success, and to the Landlord and his merry helper who took charge of the spirit of the evening.

Mr. King Holt, our Treasurer, is not well again and the last report I received, a little before Christmas, was that he was then confined to his bed. It is sincerely hoped that long before these notes contact printers' ink he will be well and about again.

I look forward to reading this issue of *The Dragon* for therein I shall get full news about the 1st Battalion's return to this country and not a skimpy little paragraph such as appears in the National papers—it would appear that it is only Buffs who really appreciate the importance of the Buffs.

* * *

Sittingbourne Branch

MINUTES of the 231st Meeting of the Past and Present Association of The Buffs held at the Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne, on Friday, December 3rd, 1954. In the absence of Colonel Dean, v.c., and Lieut.-Col. Wills, Councillor Mount took the Chair. About 18 members were present. Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed as a true record. We were all sorry to hear from Mr. Rains that his brother "Darkie" Rains had been taken seriously ill and was in hospital, also that Wally Ford, who we had not seen at the Club of late, was ill and confined to bed. All hoped that both these old members would soon be restored to health.

CHILDREN'S PARTY.—Mr. Croucher reported that all arrangements were complete for the children's party and that more prizes had been received for the raffle which was to be held on that evening—a Christmas Cake, given by Mr. Jackson, Grocery from Mr. Stevens, Tea Tray from Lieut. Campbell, Child's Desk from Mr. Barden and more prizes were promised. It was decided that as so many tickets had been sold for the Christmas Cake alone we should only include a further couple of prizes as 2nd and 3rd, as however many more prizes we offered at this stage we could not hope to sell many more tickets; if we held a raffle at a later date this would considerably help our funds. The prizes were given for the Children's Party and although not raffled on the Children's Party night the Committee would assure the donors that money raised would be earmarked for that purpose. We were reminded that we had not yet a "Father Christmas" for the party. After a little discussion Fred Allen volunteered to undertake this.

CORRESPONDENCE.—A letter was read from the Housemother-in-charge of the Green Porch thanking the members for inviting the children under her charge to the Christmas Party and for arranging transport to fetch and return them. She said they were all looking forward to coming already as these treats mean a lot to children who are deprived of a normal home life.

A letter was read from Mr. Jamieson, Sub-Area Secretary of the Weald Branch, saying that he was dumbfounded at receiving two letters from our Assistant Secretary asking for dates for the Darts match to be played at Weald by December 18th when he had already sent a choice of dates to our Secretary, Mr. Coward, and also a reminder asking for a reply. Mr. Sinclair said that Mr. Coward was away from Sittingbourne and these two letters had not been passed on. As time was now so short the Assistant Secretary was asked to get in touch with Mr. Jamieson by 'phone and arrange a date for the match to take place.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.—Mr. Mount said that the Home Guard were shortly moving from the Drill Hall and would then be starting a Club of their own. They had, however, no funds for this and suggested that as much of the money in the Past and Present Club was derived by way of profits on drinks from members of the Home Guard using our bar we should make them a grant. Mr. Wigg proposed that the sum of £10 be given to the Home Guard. This was seconded by Mr. Allen and carried unanimously.

Mr. Croucher proposed that a 4½ gallon cask of beer be made available for members free on Christmas Eve; this was seconded by Mr. Russell. Mr. Wigg proposed an amendment "That every member buys his own", seconded by Mr. Warner. The amendment was put to vote which resulted in 5 for and 10 against. Voting on the original proposition was then carried. Mr. Nairne proposed that "One bottle of cherry wine be made available for the ladies". This was seconded by Mr. Croucher and carried unanimously.

The question of the Club Darts match was raised and the Chairman suggested that the question of arranging for the various competitors to take part be left to Mr. Frost and his Committee.

Members were warned by Mr. Bob Russell about a calendar being sold in the district which was said to be made at Preston Hall. This is not the case and the British Legion are taking the matter up.

BOOBY was then drawn, given this month by Colonel Dean, v.c., and won by Mr. Hall, raising the sum of 10/6.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9 p.m.

* * *

Ramsgate Branch

I must thank all Branches and Members for their Christmas Greetings and wishes for the New Year; it gives one great pleasure to hear sometimes once a year from old friends. We heard from Major Enright, Bob Knott, Freddy Jones, Sid Heath and the widow of Captain

Ernie Carter, the Buff some of us will never forget; Christmas time brings us all together again. Talking about old times it was good to see the smile of old R.S.M. "Jeff's" face when he won the bottle of whisky in this year's Christmas Draw. These old soldiers support our meetings and it is nice to see them fraternising with our young members. We have a good representation of old and young soldiers and 1955 should be a year of progress. Our A.G.M. is on 21st January and with new officers and Committee we should get "going".

Now for the Meeting report:—

Mr. C. F. Fakley presided and he was welcomed back after his illness by the Branch President, Major A. J. H. Taylor. Mr. Fakley then thanked Officers and members for their welcome and support. He greatly appreciated their enquiries and sympathy during his illness. The good attendance that evening was a sure sign that the Branch was a flourishing concern.

The Chairman expressed the Branch's sympathy with their sick members, Messrs. C. Curtis, E. Goldsmith, R. Grainger, A. Clayton and R. Finn.

Mr. E. Castle presented an excellent report of the Christmas Tea Party; the party had proved a big success. Mr. Castle thanked the President and members for their help in making this 1954 party such a successful event.

Mr. Knott stated that news had arrived from Canterbury that the 1st Battalion, The Buffs, are due to arrive at Dover Marine Station at 1600 hours on Monday, 20th December.

Five members, Messrs. J. Hogben, T. Miller, A. Knowles, E. Birch and W. Lee, would go to Dover as representatives of the Ramsgate Branch to greet the 1st Battalion on arrival from overseas.

Mr. Hougham, late The Buffs, who was the Secretary of the Ramsgate Festival of Remembrance, thanked the Branch Representative on the Committee. He stated that with Brigadier J. M. Stebbings as Chairman and the Mayor of Ramsgate, the Producers, Richard Taylor and Jack Keys, the representatives of ex-service also pre-service organisations, such a strong body of supporters, made a successful event and everyone was pleased with the satisfactory result.

Both Major Taylor and Mr. Fakley congratulated Mr. Hougham and Committee on the wonderful show, each service scene was well constructed and Major Taylor said it was an evening that brought back many memories.

Mr. Hogben, Captain of the Branch Rifle Team, gave an interesting Report on the Club progress and stated that the team commences again at the Drill Hall on 5th January and invited other members to share in this interesting sport.

Being no other business the President and Chairman wished the members a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mr. E. Birch on behalf of the members reciprocated the greetings. Refreshments were served by Buff Host Dick Atkins and the remainder of the evening was spent in reviving old comradeships.

B.E.K.

* * *

Margate Branch

Margate Branch Monthly Meeting was held at the Drill Hall, Hawley Square, on Wednesday, 1st December, and among those present was our President, Major W. T. Jarman. Mr. B. H. Breed was in the Chair, supported by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Gander. After the Minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, Mr. Breed informed us that he had been in touch with Mr. Shakeshaft, our Secretary, who has been ill in hospital; that he was now much better, and we were pleased to hear that he hoped to be with us again ere very long.

A letter of acceptance to a social evening was received from Sandwich Branch, and they propose to be with us on Wednesday, 2nd February, when we can look forward to a pleasant time, which we always enjoy when we have a "get-together" with Sandwich.

We had been drawn away to Medway Branch in the first round of the Inter-Branch Darts Competition, so on Saturday, 11th December, a party of twenty-four members and friends journeyed to Rochester, where we spent a very pleasant evening with our Medway friends at the "Two Brewers". A closely contested match was won by Medway, Margate winning the first leg, Medway the second, and after an almost point by point struggle, we were defeated by a wonderfully thrown double seven.

Some consolation was obtained by Margate ladies beating a team of ladies of the Medway Branch. Well, we lost in the first round of the competition, but we gained the memory of a most enjoyable evening, when old friendships were renewed, and our grateful thanks are due to the President and members of the Medway Branch for their bountiful hospitality.

The highlight of the month has been the return to Dover of the 1st Battalion from Kenya. Major Jarman and two members represented the Branch on this occasion. Many more would have liked to attend, but it being a Monday, they were unable to get the time off to travel to Dover. When the train steamed in it was to the accompaniment of cheers, and the playing of the Regimental March by the Band of the East Surreys, who followed it with some rousing music. That Colonel Grace should have spoken to every member of the Association present, was an honour, appreciated, I know, by all. It is hoped that everyone in the Battalion has a wonderful Christmas leave, and that they have a long and not too strenuous time in Dover before going to Germany.

W.E.B.

* * *

Folkestone Branch

Let us now praise famous men. This is most certainly no hollow phrase. If ever I was proud to be able to call myself a Buff it was on Platform 6 of Dover Marine Station on Monday, December 20th, 1954.

What is meant by the word discipline, was certainly given a very clear definition, when the train carrying the first part of the Battalion steamed in. Of course those on board who had friends to meet them were brimful of happiness to see them, but as calmly as though coming home on a 48-hour pass I saw men just reaching up for kit, and, having fitted it to their satisfaction, wait for the word to alight. Yes; just that! No fuss, no hurry, and most of all, no excitement.

Just one more job of work carried out in a way we have become accustomed to knowing it will be done. This does not mean to say that family re-unions were not in any way sincere. Far from it. But those are very personal matters and not to be described by me. One very proud mother I happen to know was looking forward to Christmas with her two sons at home. What a wonderful day that must have been for them.

It would be an understatement if I said I was glad to be present on such an occasion. One can only surmise what a wealth of feeling was behind the hand-shake and the words of Lieut.-Col. Grace, when he said, "It was jolly nice of you to come and see us."

Sir, it was an honour to be in such company. I do hope I shall hear no more of the "soft young men of these days".

The honour of the Regiment is truly in safe keeping, and we, of the days that are past, are happy to leave it with you.

At our monthly meeting on December 7th we were glad to welcome back our Chairman after his long period of indisposition. Also to hear good reports of other members who were sick. Here's hoping that 1955 will see them all completely restored.

A happy and prosperous New Year to you all and many, many thanks for all your kind wishes to the Branch.

* * *

Sandwich Branch

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Tuesday, December 7th, 1954, at 8 p.m. Major F. W. Tomlinson presided and 14 Members were present. The Meeting opened with the usual moment's silence.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Apologies were received from Lieut.-Col. L. S. Hart and Mr. W. Spicer.

Correspondence from Headquarters was read and discussed with reference to the Shooting and Darts Competition, Entrance Fees and the award of Medals for the Winners and Runners-up of the Darts Competition.

It was proposed to enter one team in the Shooting Competition.

On the question of medal awards, it was unanimously agreed to stand by the Branch's original proposal.

Two samples of the Regimental Christmas Cards were before the Meeting and orders were invited.

A Regimental Greetings Card from the W.O.s and Sergeants, The Depot, Canterbury, was read and then handed round to the Members.

Correspondence from the Margate Branch was read and discussed with reference to a proposed visit by the Branch for a social evening. It was agreed to arrange for a visit on February 2nd, subject to the date being convenient to the Margate Branch.

In the report was the account of the outing which took place on Saturday, November 13th, when a party of 32 made the journey by coach to Minster for a social evening with the British Legion and according to reports they were made very welcome and had a very enjoyable evening. The "At Home" Darts match arranged for the 19th November with the Sandwich British Legion was, unfortunately, not very well attended owing to some misunderstanding about the date.

On Remembrance Day, November 7th, Members were represented at the Parade and Service. Our Chairman, Major F. W. Tomlinson, attended with the Mayor and Corporation and the Members with the British Legion. A Poppy Wreath was laid on the local Memorial by the Hon. Secretary.

ELECTION OF BRANCH AUDITORS.—Mr. E. Dinham and Mr. L. Daniels were elected to Audit the Branch accounts for 1954.

Nominations were received for Officials and Committee for 1955. Notice was given that the Annual General Meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 4th, 1955.

Brighton Branch

A good monthly meeting for December, almost a dozen members turning up on a really fine night. Ben Molkenthin sent a note saying he couldn't manage the meeting and probably wouldn't again appear until the Spring. We hope he'll feel like facing it on Saturday, 26th March, the day we have arranged to hold our Re-union Dinner.

All members seem well at the moment of going to press and our only casualty is the Secretary, who was silly enough to put his hand in the apple mill and nearly lost his little finger—fortunately it is his left hand and he can still write. He thinks it will add strength to the cider and a reward of half-a-crown is offered for anyone finding the piece at our cider party.

We thank Ashford, Medway, Folkestone and Dover Branches for the kind thoughts and their Christmas cards and wish them all the best and prosperity in 1955.

We also welcome our new member, Mr. R. S. Hare of Kingston, near Lewes. He hasn't attended a meeting yet, but he sent two bob for his *Dragons* which is the next best thing.

To all Buffs everywhere, the best of luck for 1955.

* * *

Old Brigade News

WELCOME home to the 1st Battalion after another fine spot of work. It is a pity that these days there is no 2nd Battalion to relieve it from its almost continuous service overseas.

* * *

Ben Molkenthin informs us that he is now much better. Reg. No. 6206. Enlisted in 1900. Joined 1st Battalion in Poona. Discharged 1907. Re-enlisted 1914 for First World War. Invalided 1916. Tells us that his brother Alf. is fairly fit. Sends best wishes to Snowball, Donkey, Varnham and Nutty Cross.

* * *

We had a letter from No. 5847 Mr. N. Knight asking to be put in touch with his old friend Mr. G. Brooker, D.C.M. He tells us that he was in "B" Company at Brighton in 1899, and remembers the late Bobby Withring, also George Cobb. His brother, Reg. No. 5469, and he served in the Boer War together. Being invalided home he eventually was posted to the 1st Battalion then in Burma. His proudest day of soldiering was when he marched with the 1st Battalion through London with Colours Flying and Drums Beating, to the H.A.C. parade ground to receive New Colours in 1906.

* * *

Pleased to hear from Colonel Orwin who sends good wishes to all old friends. He recently visited Dover and hooked twenty-four bass of good size and weight. Of course, he is very fond of "Bass".



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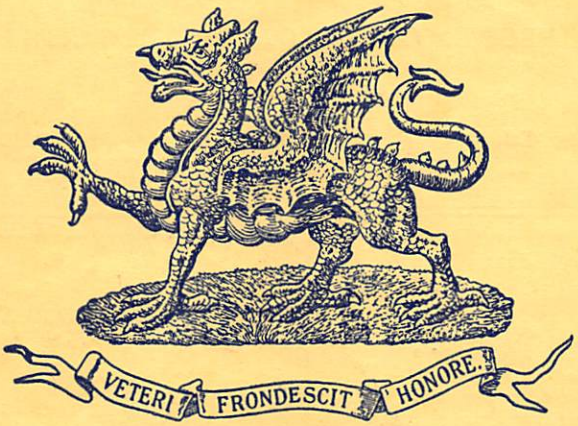
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No. 663 February 1955

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Colonel: Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B.*, *C.B.E.*, 8 Longport, Canterbury

Lieutenant-Colonels

Grace, H. R. ... ... O.C. 1st Bn.

Majors

Jelf, A. G. ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Officer i/c Field Records, FARELF.
Harris-St. John, B. J. ... D.A.A. & Q.M.G., H.Q., Aldershot
Lewis, P. J. ... ... T/Lt.-Col. MA Copenhagen.
Bailey, N. T. ... ... Gold Coast Regt. T.C.
Yates, G. H. A. ... ... Nottingham U.T.C.
Edlmann, E. L. C., *M.C.* ... 1st Bn.
Rawlings, A. C., *M.B.E.* ... Depot C.R.M.P.
Horley, B. M. ... ... 1st Bn.
May, J. F., *M.B.E.* ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Ministry of Supply.
Ravenhill, R. A. C. ... DAAG, G.H.Q., E. Africa.
Plumptre, P. B., *M.B.E.* ... 6 Travelling Wing.
Dendy, R. H. ... ... O.C. Depot.
Majendie, A. E. ... ... Att. Depot
Lucas, J. P. ... ... Colonial Prisons, Kenya.
Norris, N. F. H. C. ... 1st Bn.
Crichton, R. F., *M.C.* ... 5 Nigeria Regt.
McGrath, B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Blaxland, W. G. ... ... Hospital, U.K.
Gay, A. W. ... ... KAR Depot, E. Africa.
Montgomery, D. ... ... Depot.
Morgan, F. de R., *M.C.* ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q. Malaya.
Poulsen, N. D. ... ... 1st Bn.
Cox, E. G., *M.C.* ... ... R.M. Officers' School, Lympstone.
Collins, H. A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Critchley, L. P., *M.B.E.* ... R.M.A. Sandhurst.
Worts, J. B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Court, D. N. ... ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q. E. Africa.
Gordon-Wilson, N. F., *M.B.E.* 3 Bn. Para. Regt.
Nash, J. P. ... ... G.S.O. 3 L/AW War Office.
ffrench Blake, M. A. O'B. R.M.C. Science

Captains

Semmence, R. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Iliffe, R. O. ... ... 2 Malay Regt.
Hadshar, G. ... ... T/Maj. DAAG H.Q. Nigeria District.
Dunglinson, W. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Barrett, D. P. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dent, J. E. ... ... T/Maj. 4/5th Bn.

Captains—*continued*

MacDonald, E. W. ... G.S.O. 3, (SD) G.H.Q. East Africa.
Marshall, F. ... ... W.O.S.B. Barton Stacy.
Dubois, G. E., *M.C.* ... 6th Bn. K.A.R., East Africa.
Peckham, A. D. ... ... Malay Regt.
Squire, S. J., *M.B.E.* ... H.Q. East Africa.
Thorneycroft, F. E. ... Adjt. 1st Bn.
Willows, D. A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Wilson, P. F., *D.F.C.* ... Glider Regt., 2nd TAF., B.A.O.R.
Hamilton, C. M. ... ... H.Q. B.T.A.
Gatehouse, H. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Griffin, C. J. ... ... Adjt. 4/5th Bn.
Webber, J. W. ... ... T/Maj., ADC to Fld. Marshal Montgomery.
Pim, A. H. E. ... ... 2 Gold Coast Regt.
Stratford-Tuke, R. A. F. ... 1st Bn.
Brigstocke, W. F. ... ... G.S.O. 3, Ind. Para. Bde. Gp.
French, B. G. J. ... ... 6 KAR, E. Africa.
Lees, H. D. ... ... 7 KAR, E. Africa.
Dalgliesh, A. R. F. ... Somaliland Scouts.
Grugeon, J. D. ... ... Adjt. Depot.
Mullins, G. O. ... ... 3 Bn. Parachute Regt.

Lieutenants

Minto, I. G. ... ... 1st Bn.
West, C. T. F. ... ... 1st Bn.
Ward, M. W. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dracopoli, M. P. St. F. ... Depot.
Tennent, H. C. L ... ... Depot.
Mitchell, P. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Pilcher, R. A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Baker, R. W. M. ... ... 1st Bn.
Rymer-Jones, J. A. ... 1st Bn.
Edgecombe, G. J. B. ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants

Lunn, J. M. ... ... 1st Bn.
Lea, R. ... ... 1st Bn.

Quartermasters

Watts, E. H. F. ... ... Maj., Depot.
Kille, W. E. ... ... Maj., 1st Bn.
Catt., A. H. ... ... Capt., 4/5th Bn.

Short Service Commissions

Majors

Broadley, A., *M.B.E.*, *T.D.* War Office.
*Ford, E. N., *M.C.* ... ... Leave U.K.
Todman, N. E. H. ... ... E. Anglia District.

Captains

Minard, F. G. ... ... 4 Int. Tr. Team, S. Command.
Stewart, E. B. ... ... H.Q. Hook Grn., B.A.O.R.
Brooke, C. W. ... ... Bermuda Regt.
*Carey, R., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Robertson, R. J. ... ... H.Q. Nigeria District.
*Elliott, N. ... ... Aldershot District.
*Ransley, E. J., *M.C.* ... 1st Bn.
McGrath, G. A. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
*Fakley, J. F. ... ... P.S.O., H.C.B. Depot.
*Butcher, D. A. T. ... ... East Africa Training Centre.
*Roseberry, L. S. ... ... S.I.B. & R.M.P.
Marshall, J. V. ... ... S.P.S.O. Staff.

Lieutenants

Barlow, W. B. ... ... Inf. Div. Pro. Coy.
Davison, J. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Kirby, J. A. ... ... Movement Control Pool, H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Hicks, E. M. G. ... ... Brigade of Gurkhas, FARELF.
Prentice, J. R. ... ... Brigade of Gurkhas, FARELF.
Froom, A. F. F. ... ... 6 Armd. Div. Coln. R.A.S.C., B.A.O.R.

2nd Lieutenants

Hodges, J. D. ... ... ERE Singapore.

Quartermasters

Rowcliffe, T. A., Major ... MELF.
Stone, J. H., Capt. ... ... B.A.O.R.
Senior, N., Major ... ... H.Q., N.A.G., B.A.O.R.
Corps, J., Capt. ... ... 16 Coy., R.A.S.C.

* Extended Service Officer.

National Service Officers

2nd Lieutenants

Cross, K. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Naldrett-Jays, R. C. ... 1st Bn., N.R.R.
Klyberg, C. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Turner, G. P. ... ... 1st Bn.
Jakob, F. J. ... ... West Africa.
Wilkins, G. C. ... ... Accra, West Africa.
Wright, R. P. ... ... 1st Bn.
Edgeley, P. H. ... ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants—*continued*

Arnold, P. ... ... KAR Depot, E. Africa
McGowan, M. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Freebairn-Smith, S. J. ... 1st Bn.
Simpson, K. T. ... ... 1st Bn.
Parker, P. W. M. ... ... 1st Bn.
Shephard, J. N. ... ... 1 KAR.
Wilcox ... ... 23 KAR.

4/5th Battalion

HON. COLONEL

Col. D. J. Dean, *V.C.*, *T.D.*, Woodcourt, 1 Park, Avenue, Sittingbourne Kent.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

Hews, G. R. D., *M.C.*, *T.D.*

MAJORS

Dent, J. E. (Trng. Major)
Alexander, U. H. B., *M.B.E.*
Prestige, J. T. R.
Tilleard, J., *T.D.*
Neville, F. G., *M.C.*
Plunkett, P. N. P.
Balding, C. E. E

CAPTAINS

Griffin, C. J. (Adjt.)
Beaumont, M. J. P.

CAPTAINS

Klean, P. H.
Morgan, R. J. S., *M.C.*

LIEUTENANTS

Crowdy, R. E. L.
Roper-Curzon, Hon. J. C. I. (A/Capt.)
Kelly, G. D. S.
Pury, J. D. de
Whiting, D. A.
Thomas, J. H.
Nye, R. T.
Bennett, R. G.

LIEUTENANTS

Morlock, P. J.
Sanger-Davies, A.
Oliver, C. P.

QUARTERMASTER

Catt.. A. H., Capt. (QM)

CHAPLAIN

The Rev. J. E. Robinson

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Vallins, J.
Johnson, R. F.
Holloway, R. G.
Finn, W. C.,

Staff and Command

Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B., C.B.E.* ... ... D.M.I., War Office.
Brigadier T. H. Spear, *O.B.E.* Mil. Attache, Saigon.
Col. (T/Brig.) M. P. D. Dewar, *M.B.E.* ... ... D.D.M.P. (A), War Office.
Col. (T/Brig.) R. W. Craddock, *C.B.E., D.S.O.* I.D.C.
Col. (T/Brig.) F. W. B. Parry Comd. Sierra Leone and Gambia Dis.
Col. (T/Brig.) R. F. Parry, *M.C.* ... ... Comdg. 3rd Inf. Bde., Arab Legion.

Lieut.-Colonels (Employed List)

Lieut.-Col. H. P. Williams, *O.B.E.* ... ... G.S.O.I, Inf. Dte., War Office.
Lieut -Col. J. G. Atkinson, *O.B.E.* ... .. . C.O., 2 Malay Reg:
Lieut.-Col. J. F. Connolly, *D.S.O.*, Chief Instructor, S. of Inf., Hythe.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

1st Battalion

R.S.M. Turmaine, F.
B.M. Sharpe, T.
R.Q.M.S. Rose, J.
C.S.M. Callaway, R.
C.S.M. Kemp, J.
C.S.M. Sharman, R.
C.S.M. Champion, R.
C.S.M. Clifton-Sprigg, H.
C.S.M. Middleton, J.
C.Q.M.S. Denny, F.
C.Q.M.S. Ellis, D.

C.Q.M.S. Day, S.
C.Q.M.S. Mannering, D.
C.Q.M.S. Newman, P.
Sgt. (O.R.S.) Mans, W.
D/M. Gardner, E.
Sgt. Smissen, J.
Sgt. Larkin, F.
Sgt. Anderson, C.
Sgt. Lyons, B.
Sgt. Morrish, E.
Sgt. Weatherall, P.

Spt. Jephcott, H.
Sgt. Colyer, A.
Sgt. Simmonds, R.
Sgt. Page, A.
Sgt. Harris, F.
Sgt. Kay, M.
Sgt. Bird, H.
Sgt. Woodrow, V.
Sgt. Histed, W.
Sgt. Martin, A.
Sgt. Wright, R.

Sgt. Thurley, R.
Sgt. Spiers, E.
Sgt. Gibson, J.
Sgt. Townsley, J.
Sgt. Streeter, E.
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Sgt. Rowland, K.
Sgt. Cock, C.
Sgt. Pooley, L.

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R.Q.M.S. Howe, W
C.S.M. Chapman, G.
W.O. II Excell, F.
C.S.M. Diamond, R.

C/Sgt. (O.R S.) Webb, C.
C/Sgt. Belcher, E.
C.Q.M.S. Stremes, G., *D.F.M.*
Sgt. Laker, J.
Sgt. Baldwin, V.

Sgt. Haines, E.
Sgt. Bryant, A.
Sgt. Ivory, L.
Sgt. Rea, R.
Sgt. Cain, D.

Sgt. Bean, G.
Sgt. Raine, R
Sgt. Harrison, W.
Sgt. Recton, T.

4/5th Battalion (T.A.)

PERMANENT STAFF

R.S.M. Faulkner, G. T.
C.S.M. Fagg, G.
C.S.M. Seymour, J.
Sgt. Partridge, R.
Sgt. Miller, C.
Sgt. Porter, J.
Sgt. Dean, D.

Sgt. Stoakes, A.
R.Q.M.S. Harwood, E.
C.S.M. Chapman, W.
C.S.M. Gabriel, J.
C/Sgt. Trinkwon, A.
C/Sgt. Couzens, W.
Sgt. Bell, J.
Sgt. White, R.

Sgt. Hurlow, R
Sgt. Babbage, W
Sgt. Wraight, S.
Sgt. Neaves, C.
Sgt. James, A.
Sgt. Bass, R.
Sgt. Williams, E.
Sgt. Thundow, W.

Sgt. George, M.
Sgt. Saunders, G.
Sgt. Richardson, H.
Sgt. Cope, H.
Sgt. Hewitt, C.
Sgt. Chidwick, E.
Sgt. Allen, A.
Sgt. Jones, A.

Regimental Appointments

Administrative Officer—Depot The Buffs
Secretary: Canterbury Cricket Week Club
Dragon Club
Regimental Committee
} Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker

Curator: Regimental Museum — Lieut.-Col. G R. Howe

Secretary: Past and Present Association, The Buffs
Executive Committee
Editor: The Dragon
} Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles

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BRANCHES

Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1. 1st Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
2. 4th Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
3. ASHFORD	Mr. A. Mills	Mr. A. C. Mills, 20 Waterman House, Godfrey Walk, Ashford, Kent	First Saturday in each month, The Invicta Godington Road.
4. LONDON	Mr. R. W. Billings	Mr. H. J. Scott, 1 Oxford Road, Carshalton, Surrey.	Third Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, 7.30 p.m.
5. DOVER	Capt. E. Marsh, M.B.E.	Mr. C. Collins, "Haven" Meadway, Minnis Lane, River, Dover.	First Thursday in each month, "Eagle Hotel", London Road, Dover, 7.45 p.m.
6. WEALD	Col. E. B. Burns, T.D.	Mr. H. D. Day, 3 Pittlesden Tenterden.	HAWKHURST SUB-AREA. Third Thursday in each month, British Legion House, Hawkhurst, 7.45 p.m.
7. MEDWAY	Mr. F. J. Cox	Mr. H. A. J. Brand, 83 Delce Road, Rochester	Third Saturday in each month, The Two Brewers, High Street, Rochester, 8 p.m.
8. SITTINGBOURNE	Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D.	Mr. L. J. Coward, 75 William Street, Sittingbourne.	First Friday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, 7.30 p.m.
9. RAMSGATE	Mr. C. F. Fakley	Mr. B. E. Knott, 27 Wilfred Road, Ramsgate	Third Friday in each month, Freemason's Tavern, Ramsgate, 8 p.m.
10. MARGATE	Mr. B. H. Breed	Mr. J. H. Shakeshaft, 14 Alexandra Road, Broadstairs	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, Hawley Square, 8 p.m.
11. HYTHE	Mr. J. Green	Mr. H. Thompson, 4 Hillside Court, Hythe	Last Wednesday in each month, The Star, Stade Street, 7.30 p.m.
12. CANTERBURY	Lt.-Col. E J. Evans	Major S. J. Selway, 153 Sturry Road, Canterbury	Fourth Friday in each month, Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury, 8 p.m.
13. HERNE BAY	Mr. H. Davey	Mr. A. Trice, 23 Queen's Gardens, Herne Bay	Second Monday in each month, British Legion Club, May Lodge, 8 p.m.
14. FOLKESTONE	Major A. A. West	Mr. H. Fordred, 36 Fernbank Crescent, Folkestone	Second Friday in each month, Guildhall Hotel, 8 p.m.
5. SANDWICH	Major F. W. Tomlinson	Mr. H. Taylor, 19 Paradise Row, Sandwich	First Tuesday in each month, Drill Hall, 8 p.m.
16. FAVERSHAM	Capt. J. Green	Mr. R. C. Croucher, 10 Glebe Houses, Eastling, Faversham	First Monday in each month, Carpenters Arms, Eastling, 7.30 p.m.
17. BRIGHTON	Capt. R. J. Robertson	Major H. Milton, 118 Queens' Road, Brighton	Second Monday in each month, R.E. Record Social Club, The College, Ditchling Road, Brighton, 8 p.m.
18. DENMARK	Major W. M. Iversen, K.D.	Mr. P. Berendt, Ostergade 22, Copenhagen K.	By Arrangement. Phone Secretary By 8313

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President: MRS. V. BOUCHER

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1. LONDON	Mrs. L. Coley	Mrs. M. J. Dalgleish, "Woodville". Highwood Hill, Mill Hill, N.W.7	First Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, S.W.1, 6.30 p.m.
2. DOVER	Mrs. J. Crookenden J.P.	Mrs. Wraight, 93 Markland Road, Dover	First Thursday in each month, Belgrave Hall, Belgrave Road, Dover, 3 p.m.
3. FOLKESTONE	Mrs. G. Wood, J.P.	Mrs. Kay Mantell, 5 Page Place, Folkestone	Every other Wednesday, Drill Hall, Shellons Street, Folkestone, 3.30 p.m.
4. MEDWAY	Mrs. King Holt	Mrs. W. T. Brooker, 67 Malvern Road, Gillingham, Kent	Fourth Tuesday in each month, Foresters' Hall, King Street, Gillingham, 2.30 p.m.
5. ASHFORD	Mrs. L. King	Mrs. E. Partiss, 22 Bond Road, South Ashford	Second Wednesday in each month, The Drill Hall, Ashford, 3 p.m.
6. SITTINGBOURNE	Mrs. M. E. Dean	Mrs. J. Ravensdale, 10 Railway Terrace, Sittingbourne	Third Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall. East Street, Sittingbourne, 6.45 p.m.

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No. 663 FEBRUARY, 1955 Price: One Shilling

EDITORIAL

THE Colonel of the Regiment has appointed a committee composed of Lieut.-Col. H. R. Grace as Chairman and Major R. H. Dendy, Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker and Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles as members, to deal with the arrangements for the Presentation of new Colours to the 1st Battalion and for the laying up of the old Colours. By courtesy of the President and Committee of the Kent County Cricket Club the parade will be held on the St. Lawrence Cricket Ground. The Dean and Chapter of Canterbury have given permission for the service for the laying up of the old Colours to be held in the Cathedral on Tuesday, 3rd May. As soon as detailed arrangements have been worked out further announcements will be made in this journal. As we mentioned in last month's Editorial, Monday, 2nd May, was the day fixed by our Colonel-in-Chief, as being the most convenient day for him.

* * *

Lieut.-Col. L. W. Lucas' niece, who is married to a Dutchman and lives in Arnhem, sent him recently an interesting article from a Holland newspaper. Mrs. Rex Carey has kindly made a translation. The article is headed "Are the Buffs coming back?" and the writer wonders if the Buffs may again set foot on Dutch soil as one of the units to be stationed in Western Europe. The article goes on to speak of the association of the Regiment with Holland and of the traditional link by which the Buffs are attached to that country, dating back to the defence of Dutch soil in Elizabeth I's day.

* * *

Some time ago, before the 1st Battalion left Kenya, we received a letter from Major E. L. C. Edlmann, who had met Mr. Hugh Massie-Blomfield, a veteran of the 1914-18 War and with a distinguished career of Public Service in Egypt and Jamaica and now in Kenya where he founded a school of which he is Principal. Mr. Massie-Blomfield served in the 5th Battalion from 1912 to 1917 and has written his reminiscences of those days, which we publish elsewhere.

* * *

Have our readers ever considered why a Soyer stove is so named. The November number of the Royal United Service Institute Journal gives us the answer. Of those who, during the Crimean War, read the reports of the horrors in that theatre was a Frenchman named Alexis Soyer who had a considerable reputation as a *chef de cuisine*. He was so shocked by the details of the hardships suffered by the Army that he offered to go to the Crimea at his own expense to advise on the feeding of the troops. He introduced a portable field stove and took a number with him. He set up field kitchens and demonstrated that the stoves could be used in barracks, hospitals or standing camps. Quite apart from the immediate benefits at that time, due to Monsieur Soyer's reforms, he had much to do with the whole subject of the soldier's diet although army diet is not now always appreciated by those who sample it!

* * *

Many congratulations have been received from our readers who have shown great interest in the monthly notes whilst the 1st Battalion were in Kenya. We should like to add our own appreciation and thanks for the help of the Battalion, not only for their interesting contributions but for the financial assistance in meeting the cost of postage and photographs.

Presentation of Colours to 1st Battalion

THE time of the parade on Monday, 2nd May, will be 11 a.m.

Blocks of seats will be reserved for the Regiment and it is expected that there will also be a reserved car park.

It will be appreciated if all retired or serving officers other than those with the 1st Battalion, Depot, and 4/5th Battalion would apply to the Administrative Officer of the Depot as early as possible for tickets for themselves and their families. Applications from branches of the Past and Present Association and from all members of the Regiment not now serving, other than officers, should apply to the Secretary, Past and Present Association, The Buffs. Arrangements for lunch will be notified in a later edition of *The Dragon*.

* * *

Personalia

WE regret to report the sudden death, at the age of fifty-one, of Mr. Hans Hedtoft, the Prime Minister of Denmark.

* * *

All his friends were shocked to read of the death, whilst out shooting, of Captain A. E. Loyd Hardcastle and we offer our deepest sympathy to his wife and family. Captain Loyd Hardcastle served in the 5th Battalion during the 1914-18 War which he left before the outbreak of the Second World War but was recalled and served with them again in the early days of 1939. He subsequently became a Home Guard Battalion Commander.

* * *

Our apologies to Captain Catt whose name, through an undetected printer's error, was given last month as Lott.

* * *

Congratulations this month to Captains J. E. Dent and T. A. Rowcliffe on promotion to Major.

* * *

Major R. F. Crichton looked in before he left for West Africa. His address there is 5th Battalion Nigeria Regiment, Ibadan, Nigeria, B.W.A.

* * *

Another visitor was Lieut.-Col. K. M. C. Mallam. He and his wife now live at The Old Cottage, Tylers Green, Haywards Heath, Sussex. They expect to be present at the Presentation of Colours in May.

We were sorry to hear, in a letter from Colonel W. H. Rowe, that Mrs. Harry Jackson underwent a serious operation in January. We are pleased however that it was quite successful and our hopes are that she will make a speedy and complete recovery. Other news from Kenya is that Major Hugh Mitchell is now back there, bent on big-game fishing at the coast. Mr. Paddy O'Hagan at Nyeri is still in the midst of Mau Mau activities. Colonel Rowe sends his best wishes to all his friends.

* * *

Major A. A. Huckle writes from Kuala Lumpur that he would welcome the opportunity of meeting any old Buffs who may be stationed in Malaya or passing through that way. He can be found at the office of the Member for Health at Federal House.

* * *

Mr. R. Gray, who served two years' National Service with the 1st Battalion in Kenya, is now in Ontario and has lately, as he puts it, "stepped into" the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and is pleased to find that it is our affiliated regiment.

* * *

News is received, from time to time, of Major H. Hobbs, though we doubt if there will be many who remember him. He lives in Calcutta and is now in his 91st year! He wishes to be remembered to any old Buffs who may remember him.

* * *

We congratulate Mrs. Kearney (*née* Joan de R. Morgan) on the birth of a daughter at Crickhowell on 15th January.

* * *

We offer our sympathy to Mrs. Scarlett on the death of her brother, General Sir Thomas Humphreys.

* * *

We hear by rather roundabout channels that Mrs. Mairis is well; and although she seldom leaves Budleigh Salterton intends to be in London for a short visit in the Spring.

* * *

It is good to know that Lieut.-Col. C. E. Wilson is now home again and we shall look forward to seeing him about once more.

* * *

It is nice to have Lieut. P. O. R. Gatehouse about again. He is now staying in the Depot Mess and lending a hand to Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker. He has made a wonderful recovery.

* * *

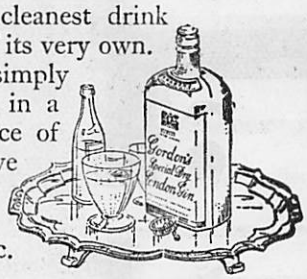
Congratulations to Captains M. A. O'B. ffrench Blake and J. P. Nash on promotion to Major.

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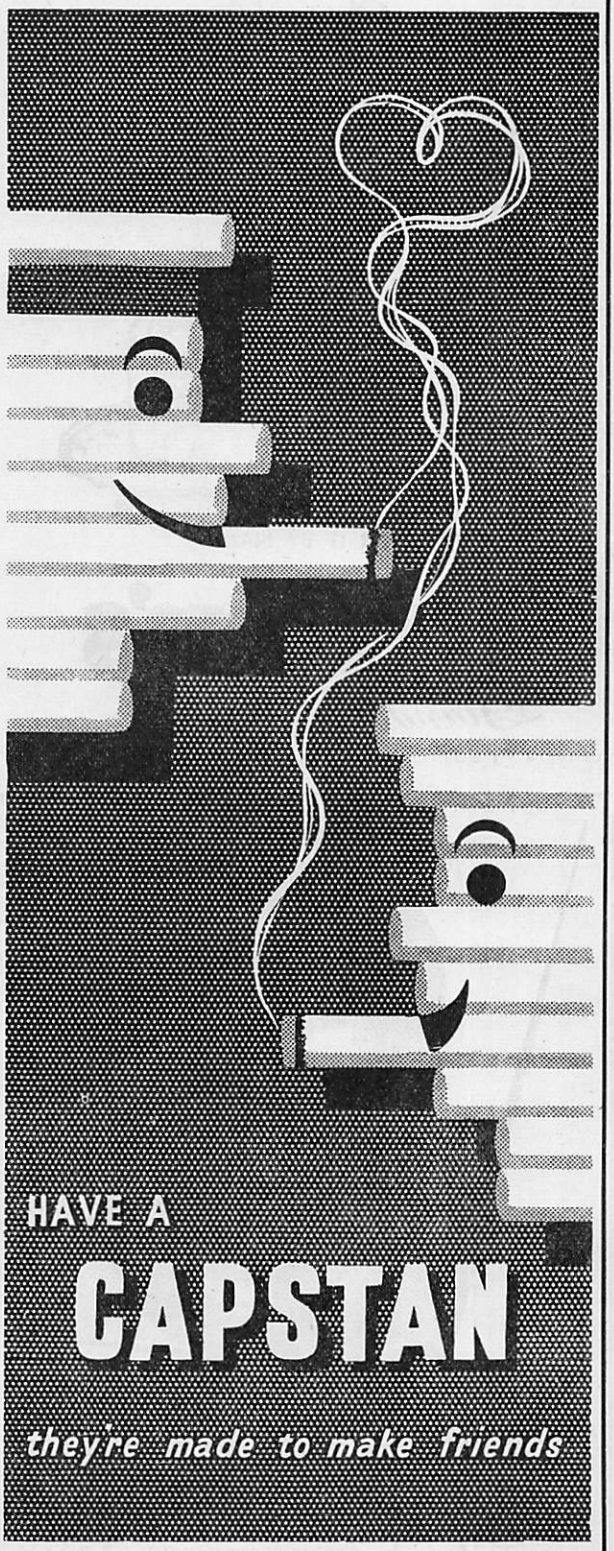
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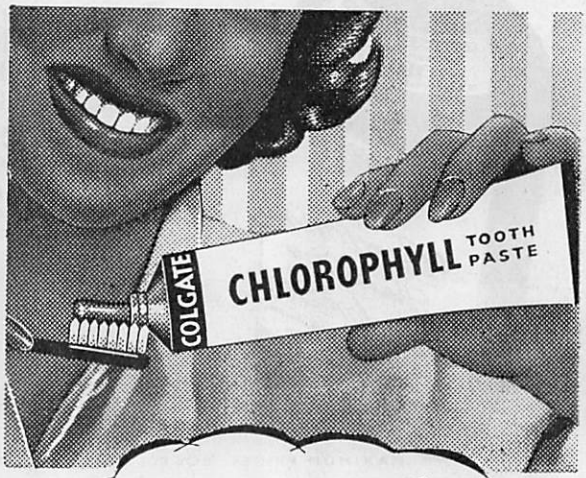
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DEATHS

HARDCASTLE.—On January 22nd, 1955, very suddenly, Alfred Edward Loyd Hardcastle, of Singehurst, Ticehurst, Sussex.

* * *

Obituary

LOYD HARDCASTLE

THE sudden death of Loyd Hardcastle on 22nd January last was a great shock to his friends, including many in the Regiment. He was with a shooting party, and apparently in his usual good health when he collapsed and never regained consciousness. He was only 61.

Hardcastle was educated at Repton and at Magdalene College, Cambridge. It was then that the war of 1914 began. He was Commissioned in the 1/5th Battalion, The Buffs—the Weald Battalion. He served in it throughout the war, first in India and then in Mesopotamia, where it gained such renown under Colonel John Body, and added Baghdad to the Regiment's Battle Honours.

After the war he served in the 4th Battalion. He was on its Reserve when the Second World War began. Later he commanded the Weald Home Guard Battalion.

Loyd Hardcastle had a great variety of interests. He served on numerous councils and committees. He helped to form the Weald Branch, Past and Present Association, and was its first Secretary. He was Chairman of the Bodiam Castle Trust, and he was also a member of the Committee administering Batemans, the Burwash home of Kipling.

He had a most happy disposition, ever getting the best out of life. He loved the Weald country in which he was bred and born. His parents lived at Hawkhurst. After his marriage in June, 1921, to Miss Leila Brierley he settled down to fruit farming at Tenterden. Later he moved to Ticehurst on the estate of Lord Courthope, his cousin. Eventually he bought Singehurst, also in Ticehurst—an old Wealden farmhouse.

He leaves a widow and a son and daughter and several grandchildren, to whom he was devoted. John Hardcastle served in the last war in our Young Soldier Battalion before being Commissioned in the Gurkha Regiment. We feel deeply for them in their great loss. Many others mourn a warm friend indeed, to whom nothing was too much trouble if ever he could give a helping hand.

E.B.

MARRIAGE

HARRIS-ST. JOHN—CAMERON.—On January 22nd, 1955, at All Saints' Church, Martin, Major Beaumont Jocelyn Harris-St. John, The Buffs, to Anne Maclean, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Cameron.

* * *

Future Events

Mar. 4. 89TH L.A.A. REGIMENT (THE BUFFS) REUNION. ECCLESTON HOTEL, LONDON.

26. BRIGHTON BRANCH DINNER. EMERY'S HOTEL, QUEENS ROAD, BRIGHTON.

May 2. PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO 1ST BATTALION BY THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF (H.M. KING FREDERIK IX OF DENMARK). ST. LAWRENCE CRICKET GROUND.

3. LAYING UP OF OLD COLOURS IN CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.

4. DRAGON CLUB DINNER. UNITED SERVICE CLUB.

REGIMENTAL TEA PARTY. UNITED SERVICE CLUB.

16. ALBUHERA DAY.

June 18—25. REGIMENTAL CRICKET WEEK.

Aug. 7. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.

Sept. 10. BUFFS GOLFING SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER.

Oct. 8. 6TH (S) BATTALION (1914-18) ANNUAL DINNER.

* * *

Dragon Club Dinner and Regimental Tea Party

AS the 1st Battalion are due to move to Germany in June it has been decided to hold the dinner on 4th May this year so as to give the Officers of the Battalion an opportunity of attending. The dinner will be held at the United Service Club.

The Regimental Tea Party will be held at the United Service Club on the afternoon of the same day.

1st Battalion



OLD Park, Dover, has at last, after an interval of just under two years, reasserted its right to exist. The barrack blocks, now pregnant and without an empty room, again reverberate to the sounds of nailed boots, the shouts of the orderly sergeant, the discord of bugle and band instrument, the crash and clatter of peace-time barrack routine. It takes a little time to settle down to old conditions reborn, to get back into the stride of make-believe, to resist the temptation to hit the road to London in order to make quite sure that it really is only two-and-a-half hours away, or, for the family man in quarters, to get used to breakfast, lunch, and tea with the children. And it is still a source of wonder that a telephone call over a distance of 30 miles, not to mention 300 miles, can be achieved in seconds and not hours, or that the shock-absorbers of the car or truck remain intact for more than a week. It does take a little time, but time is fast ebbing, and the "exigencies of the Service" will very soon, if they have not already, put an end to such reflection.

Returning home from overseas, going on leave, returning to conditions known as "staging in U.K.", fulfilling the need for reorganisation, postings in and postings out, have all meant many disturbances and changes among individuals. This aspect is of course inevitable, but it is none the less the greatest brake to a quick getaway, and incidentally it narrows the scope of this editorial to that of people and names.

* * *

In Kenya we fulfilled our job with a Headquarter Company, four Rifle Companies, and a 3-inch Mortar Platoon. In Europe we must play at war proper, and thus train a Support Company to support our Rifle Companies. This, it may be remembered, we started *en cadre* in Kenya, but now our Kenyan "D" Company (Major Hugh Collins) is fully fledged into "S" Company, with four strong specialist platoons—3-inch Mortar Platoon (Lieut. Ian Minto), Machine-Gun Platoon (Lieut. Cecil West), Anti-Tank Platoon (Lieut. Roger Pilcher)—soon to be re-equipped with the comparatively new 120 m.m. Recoilless gun—and Assault Pioneer Platoon (Lieut. Ron. Baker and Sgt. Page). They all have a lot of hard work ahead of them before they will be able to take on what the Rifle Companies will expect of them.

The gap caused by the disappearance of the fourth Rifle Company is now filled by a skeleton Training Company known as "D" (Training) Company (strength approximately 4 officers and W.O.s, 3 Sergeants and 7 men) which runs N.C.O.'s Cadre courses and Battalion Weapon Training. This is under the care of Capt. Bill. Dunglinson, whom we welcome to the Battalion from the Depot. Our welcome too for a happy tour of duty goes to Major Jimmy Worts who has taken over "C" Company, to Captain Graham Semmence who has temporarily succeeded Major Noel Norris in command of "B" Company and taken over P.M.C., to Captain Rex Carey who wasted little time in slipping off to Windsor for an Equitation Course, and to 2/Lieut. Richard Lea from Sandhurst who has since departed for the usual course at Warminster. Majors Martin Horley and Noel Norris are away until April on a Senior Officers' School Course (Erlestoke Park, Devizes).

R.S.M. Turmaine, after his tour with the 4/5th Battalion, has taken over R.S.M. of the Battalion from R.S.M. Chapman, who returns to the Depot with our sincere wishes for a happy future. R.S.M. Turmaine is well known to many of us, and has both our welcome and our best wishes for a successful and happy tour. He will have his hands full in the very near future when we start work on preparation for the big event of 2nd May—in fact his tall figure has already been seen pacing out distances on the windswept spaces of the St. Lawrence Ground, Canterbury (a most depressing place in January). Sergeant-Major Rose has also joined us from the Depot, and will be taking over from R.Q.M.S. Excell. It gives pleasure to your Sub-Editor to reflect that he gave Pte. Rose his first stripe in "C" Company, 2nd Battalion, 19 years ago.

* * *

Welcomes unfortunately but invariably go hand in hand with farewells, and thus we have said *au revoir* to Capt. Charles Hamilton, who soon goes to the staff in Glagenfurt (Austria)—there must be many envious eyes cast in his direction—to Capt. Christopher Griffin, who after 5½ years' service with the Battalion has taken over Adjutant 4/5th Battalion, and to Lieuts. Mike Dracopoli and Hugh Tennent—both to the Depot—and temporarily to Lieuts.

John Davison and Ken Cross to H.Q., 29 Infantry Brigade (Brig. C. M. F. Deakin), in which formation we are now temporarily placed. Good luck to all of them.

* * *

Among visitors who have been more than welcome are Colonel J. V. R. Jackson, Lieut.-Col. G. R. Howe, Lieut.-Col. Ted Argles and Lieut.-Col. Humphrey Williams. One of the great things about our home-coming to Dover has of course been the regaining of personal contact with the friends who either live in or visit East Kent and the Depot. Here we must add the names of Brigadier Dick Craddock (who was in splendid form and full of sparkling reminiscence of the wild 30's), Major Gregory Blaxland, who is putting up a great fight against his present disability, and Peter Gatehouse, who has returned—to everyone's delight—into the Regimental orbit. We have heard too from Brigadier Whitacre Allen, and would belatedly thank him for his telegram of welcome which the Liverpool post office failed to deliver. Some of us also were the guests of the 4/5th Battalion to dinner in Canterbury, according to report a splendid and enjoyable evening. Our District Commander, Major-General R. C. M. King, has also paid us a visit.

* * *

It would perhaps not be out of place to finish these notes with a reminder to all serving or retired Officers, Warrant Officers, or Sergeants, that they are of course Honorary Members of our Officers' or Sergeants' Messes, and we hope very much that they will take advantage of it during our comparatively short stay in Dover.

* * *

Regimental Reminiscences

IT was the early summer of 1913, and the 2nd Battalion had come from Singapore to Wellington in the Nilgiri Hills. As was the custom the Governor of Madras with his staff had moved up to Ootacamund for the hot weather, and also as a custom H.E. gave a ball. The Regiment was duly invited.

I decided to have a day with the Ooty hounds and to attend the ball the same evening. The horse was walked up to the Club stables the previous day, and I instructed my bearer to take my mess-kit up by train to the Ooty club while I set off at dawn on a motor-bicycle. I told the bearer that the club steward might say that they had no room available, but that he was not to take "No" for an answer. A very important officer wished to sleep there, and a room he must have.

I forget what sort of a day we had with the hounds, but I well remember riding back to the club house to find no bearer and of course no kit. I spent a dull evening alone while all the world took part in the splendour of the Government House hospitality.

And now comes the pith of the story. The bearer knew better than me that as the dance was at Government House it was there that I must sleep. He had demanded of one of the A.D.C.s that a room be got ready at once for a very important officer. I was very junior and had met none of the G.H. staff, so my name conveyed nothing to the A.D.C., but the bearer was so insistant that eventually two of them doubled up and a room was prepared for me with my clothes laid out on the bed. The bearer sat watching for my arrival while I sat at the club watching for him. For some months I noticed a certain coldness in the manner of the G.H. staff.

It was that same year that a most remarkable event occurred which involved two of the A.D.C.s. I only remember the name of one of them—Horace Colemore. He had such a large nose that he grew side-whiskers to draw attention away from it. But that has nothing to do with the story. He took four tickets in the Calcutta sweep; gave one to his co-A.D.C., and sent the two remaining ones by post to England. In due course a telegram arrived saying that one of the tickets had drawn "Cragenour", the Derby favourite. There was a rush to their rooms to check the number of the ticket, only to find that the vital one was on its way to England. Can you picture the situation? Telegrams arrived hourly offering large sums of money for a half share, and the wretched ticket was on the high seas. Efforts were made to have the letter intercepted at Suez with no success. There was nothing for it but to leave matters alone and pray that this favourite would not disappoint the public and in particular these two poverty stricken subalterns of an Indian Cavalry Regiment.

The great day came and the Derby was run. "Cragenour" romped home by a length or two. But "romped" is perhaps not the word to use, the horse was disqualified for bumping and boring.

The blinds were drawn in a downstairs office at G.H. where two dejected figures sat. At one moment wealth was at their feet and the next it had been snatched from them leaving them only the award for having drawn a starter.

H. DE R.M.

Watch for These Films

THE Colditz Story. The allied prisoners of war in Colditz Castle were all sent there after attempting escapes. It was supposed to be impossible to get away from it. Needless to say some did. This film describes the various attempts, some tragically unsuccessful and one completely successful. Some of the more unpleasant facts of prison life are glossed over and there are lighter moments but it is a serious film of true experiences. The dialogue is by William Douglas Home and it is directed by Guy Hamilton. It is splendidly acted by John Mills as Eric Reid, who wrote the book about his own escape, and Eric Portman plays the Senior British Officer. All the other characters are well acted.

Simba. An endeavour to show conditions in Kenya under the Mau Mau terrorism to those living in safety at home. Unlike the Colditz Story, nothing is left to the imagination. It is an honest record of the grim facts. The leading players are Dirk Bogarde, Donald Sinden and Virginia McKenna and an African character played finely by Earl Cameron.

The Man Who Loved Redheads. The film title of Terence Rattigan's play *Who is Sylvia* adapted by himself and directed by Harold French. It is an airy trifle, delicately handled. The settings are delightful, in particular the drawing room in a small Georgian house. Moira Shearer plays three parts and dances an excerpt from the *Sleeping Beauty.* Gladys Cooper makes a late, but telling, entrance and other players are John Justin, Roland Culver, Denholm Elliott, Jeremy Spenser, Harry Andrews and Ronald Square. A galaxy indeed.

Animal Farm. This is an animated cartoon of a political fable by Orwell. It was made by John Helas and Joy Batchelor. The theme is the corruption of absolute power when the animals rebel against a tyrannical farmer and find their new leader even more of a dictator. Maurice Denholm is the voices of the animals. It is these artists' first serious cartoon and as such is full of interest.

* * *

An Italian film *Umberto D* now showing at the Curzon Cinema in London is classed as a masterpiece by the *Sunday Times* critic Dilys Powell, and by Miss Lejeune of the *Observer* as the most outstanding moving picture of our time. It is hoped that it comes to the provinces.

The other film in the programme *Welcome Mr. Marshall,* a Spanish comedy with commentary in English, is charming. M.M.A.

Round and About

by The Tramp



THERE is always something stimulating about a good public controversy; the more so if it is not just a political squabble which can often become excessively tedious as it moves towards its indeterminate end. That is why I have been following the battle raging over the character and reputation of T. E. Lawrence "of Arabia" with more than ordinary interest. The simultaneous publication of a "debunking" biography and extracts from Lawrence's posthumous reminiscences of his service in the R.A.F. has brought into the limelight once again a baffling personality around which argument will continue for many years to come. The truth about Lawrence and his achievements will, I think, never be fully established. He achieved the status of a legend in his lifetime and in doing so invited and provoked criticism and doubt. Before all the recent pother what did the average and ordinarily informed person know about Lawrence? First, that he was a studious, somewhat eccentric scholar with interests and practical experience in archaeology in the Middle East before the First German War. When the Allies were occupied with the problem of defeating Turkey, so unhappily and unnecessarily ranged against us, Lawrence found himself in uniform (of a sort) in Cairo. There his talents were recognised by the more imaginative members of the Staff and the notion of a revolt by the Arabs against Turkey was born. A liberal supply of good British gold was provided and a plan for getting the Arabs moving on our side was formulated. Thereafter in a strangely undefined rôle Lawrence lived and fought alongside some of the most efficient *guerillas* in the whole history of warfare. They became the prototype of all the partisans and *maquisards* of more recent struggles. There is little doubt that the policy paid well although in money it was pretty expensive. When Allenby was making his final thrusts against the crumbling Ottoman Empire a vital flank was secured by the Arabs with whom Lawrence rode and fought.

THE STORY

The whole picturesque episode received enormous publicity, not least and, perhaps, not unnaturally from Lawrence himself. The Press had a field day after their own heart and Lawrence became known as the "uncrowned King of Arabia". He himself some years later revived and reinforced public interest by the publication of his book *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom* with a cheaper edition more precisely entitled *Revolt in the Desert*. Previous to this and immediately after the war ended Lawrence had been in Paris during the Peace Conference where he was reported as urging behind the scenes the political claims of the Arabs in the attempts at settlement of the intricate problems which beset the Statesmen of the World at Versailles. It is also reported that he was bitterly disappointed by the treatment of his former comrades in arms. It was freely rumoured that he therefore refused all decorations and appointments offered to him. Some of the latter were said to be of the highest importance and dignity. For a time there was comparative silence except for lectures by others on him and his adventures and then he burst into the news again when he enlisted under an assumed name in the ranks of the R.A.F. When his identity soon became known, as it was bound to, he was something of an embarrassment to the R.A.F. and his engagement was terminated in a manner which, in the view of many judges, left something to be desired. He died eventually as the result of a motor-cycling accident which, from all accounts, was due to his proneness to ride his machine at excessive speeds. These are the bald and incomplete facts of a strange and colourful life but, by and large, they are what most people who are the least interested in the subject, would write down in answer to the question: "What do you know of T. E. Lawrence?"

CONFLICTING VIEWS

And now it has all come into the headlines again. Richard Aldington, the writer of the "debunking" biography, seems to have gone to almost inordinate lengths to destroy a legend and to bring the idol of many people down with a mighty crash. I have not yet read the book and so I cannot say whether the attacks on it are justified but I am interested enough in the "legend", and I incline to think there was a good deal of the legend in the whole story, to do so as soon as possible. I have, however, read the extracts published in a Sunday newspaper from Lawrence's own book *The Mint*. These, I confess, left me with the firm impression that the author was what the psychologists call an "introvert". Quite naturally a man of his character and background found life in the ranks of the R.A.F. somewhat strange and uncomfortable in many ways. But his account of his experiences remind me of those familiar reminiscences of unhappy schooldays where all the boys were bullies and all the masters sadistic brutes. Lawrence chose of his own free will to become an "airman" but he writes as though he had been driven into the "servitude" of the ranks. I find it hard to believe that a man who had lived with fierce proud and warlike Arabs in the midst of an unplacable and often ferocious *guerilla* war, should have been so hurt by the very transitory discomforts, physical as well as mental, of a recruits' life. It was an experience which thousands of other men have passed through with little resentment or hurt. It would be unfair to belittle the achievements of Lawrence in Arabia but I think it is equally fair to wonder if he was not the victim of gross exaggeration by writers, lecturers, journalists and painters, an exaggeration to which he contributed not a little himself. He was once described, somewhat cynically but I think not untruthfully, as always inclined "to back into the limelight".

As so often happens, the truth lies somewhere between the extremes. It is not perhaps a bad thing that the "legend" has been slightly reduced. It would nevertheless be a pity if in the process of reduction less than justice were done to a man who, to say the least, was a picturesque figure in a dull world and one with substantial achievements to his credit.

TRIUMPH IN AUSTRALIA . . .

The decisive way in which Hutton and his men have retained the Ashes has warmed the hearts of all cricket lovers and I hear that even fierce supporters of the defeated out there have been generous in their praise and congratulations. Nonetheless I don't suppose that Australia has ever had such a disappointing team. Once again it proves that these things run in cycles. We know only too well what lean seasons mean but it is heartening to think that English fast bowling has tipped the scale *and* in Australia.

. . . AND AT MURRAYFIELD

I am an unrepentant Sassenach but I found myself audibly cheering my television set when Scotland put it across the redoubtable Welshmen last Saturday. It was magnificent to watch a side that all the pundits had given up for lost wiping out the long succession of defeats by trouncing a team that looked set for the Championship. I shall never forget this match.

A Parent's Appreciation

138 Beaver Lane,
Ashford,
Kent.
7th February, 1955.

To Officer Commanding,
Depot The Buffs,
New Infantry Barracks,
Canterbury, Kent.

Dear Sir,

I would like to offer my congratulations and appreciation to all Officers and N.C.O.s, who were responsible for the training of the batch of National Servicemen who were in the passing out parade on the 4th February last.

Whilst they have been subjected to a very hard and strict training it is gratifying to know that you have very able N.C.O.s who are human, and assist these youngsters in attaining the highest degree of efficiency.

In these days when the Press seems to be full of complaints against the treatment of these recruits, I feel it is my duty at least to show appreciation as far as The Buffs are concerned.

It so happens that it was on precisely the same piece of land in October, 1914, that I did some of my training with the Surrey Yeomanry—but instead of barracks we were in tents.

You are at liberty to use this letter in any way you may desire.

Yours faithfully,
F. J. BRITTON

(*Father of Pte. E. G. W. Britton, No.* 23088276)

* * *

Buffs Golfing Society

FIXTURES FOR 1955

April 23rd and 24th. Spring Meeting. Royal St. George's.
May 5th. Home Counties Brigade Meeting. Canterbury.
May 7th. *v* Household Brigade. New Zealand.
May 8th. *v* Woodpeckers. New Zealand.
May 12th. *v* R.W.K. Regiment. Wrotham.
May 16th—21st. Army Meeting. Muirfield.
June 19th. Summer Meeting. New Zealand.
June 26th. *v* Rye. Littlestone.
July 2nd. *v* Rye. Rye.
July 10th. *v* Liphook. Liphook.
July 24th. *v* Canterbury. Canterbury.
September 10th and 11th. Autumn Meeting. Deal.

CORRECTIONS TO HANDBOOK

CREMER. Initials are **H. L.**
HEWS, G. R. D. Add **T.D.**
LAMARQUE, Capt. W. C. **O.B.E.**
MAY, J. F. Rank is **Lieut.-Col.**
ROBERTSON, Brig. H. P. P. Address, Seymour, High Street, Odiham.
SCOTT, Major E. S., M.B.E. Address, **Tithe** Cottage.
TILLEARD, Major J. Add **T.D.**
WATNEY, M. Address, 31 Cadogan Place, S.W.1.
Delete:
HARDCASTLE, A. F. LOYD (*deceased*).
HICKS, P. M. C. (*deceased*).

* * *

The Reminscences of an Old Territorial Buff, 1912-1919

BY H. MASSIE-BLOMFIELD

MY first introduction to the Buffs was on my transfer in May, 1912, as a private in the 5th Battalion, the Gloucestershire Regiment, at Cheltenham, to the 5th Battalion, The Buffs, at Ashford.

After two years in the ranks I decided to apply for a Commission and on Christmas Day, 1912, His Majesty King George V granted his trusty and well-beloved subject a Commission as a Second Lieutenant in the 5th (Territorial) Battalion.

Our first Annual Camp was spent profitably and enjoyably at Seaford. On 26th July, 1914, we went into Annual Camp at Longmoor which was destined to last over four years instead of two weeks. It had been arranged by the War Office that a test Divisional March should be made by the Home Counties Division from Longmoor in Hampshire to Amesbury on the Plains during our second week of training. This was duly carried out in the midst of great excitement and rumours of the Great War which was then imminent. In spite of many threats of cancellation of the March we reached Amesbury station on the eve of the outbreak of war. There we remained throughout a memorable night, during which the rain fell unceasingly and pitilessly while the Regular Troops, composing part of the Old Contemptibles, were entraining on mobilisation for the Front.

The next morning we were embodied in the Regular Forces and proceeded to Dover where my Company was sent on outpost duty on the cliffs of Dover. I have vivid recollections of narrowly escaping being bayoneted by an over-eager sentry whom I was inspecting. From

Dover we proceeded to Canterbury and on the first Sunday of the War a church parade for the whole Kent Brigade (Territorial) took place in the Cathedral with the 5th Battalion, The Buffs, Band (winners of the Crystal Palace Brass Band Contest) in attendance. The singing of *Onward, Christian Soldiers* stirred the blood and must live in the memories of all survivors from that Service. The same afternoon came a great scare that the Germans had landed at Sandgate, to which we were sent post haste to repel the might of the Army and Navy of the Reich. The 4th Battalion were thrown pell mell into a train, with the result that fully three weeks were spent in sorting out kit, which was in complete confusion. The 5th Battalion marched to Sandgate and was welcomed *en route*, almost hysterically, by the women in the intervening villages who were in terror of the supposedly invading foe. We proceeded to dig trenches but fortunately the invaders failed to put in an appearance.

The call then came for volunteers for France and, as our Commanding Officer frowned on any such action because he considered that our duty was to remain and defend our country, our volunteers were not many in number. On the other hand, Lieut.-Colonel Gosling of the 4th Battalion paraded his troops and ordered the Officers to draw swords and other ranks to fix bayonets. He then ordered those not prepared to volunteer for France to march off parade. Naturally the great majority stood firm and so it was that we from the 5th Battalion joined the 4th (Foreign Service) Battalion at Westwood, near Margate, and the "non-volunteers" of the 4th Battalion joined the 5th (Home Service) Battalion at Sandgate.

We trained hard at Westwood and were full of enthusiasm—largely through ignorance of the facts—for service in France. Then it was that Lord Kitchener decided to send the Home Counties and Wessex Divisions (T.A.) to India to relieve the regular troops stationed there. This entailed the reversion of the original 4th and 5th Battalions to their old Battalions. Captain Body (afterwards Lieut.-Col. Body, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D.) as the senior Officer of the 5th Battalion Foreign Service Volunteers gathered us together informally and, by an exercise of consummate tact and diplomacy, calmed our intense resentment and enabled the foreign service "wallahs" to return to their "stay-at-home" comrades in a tolerant frame of mind. The 5th Battalion was thus reconstituted but it was in a semi-trained condition that we embarked at Southampton for India on 29th October, 1914.

Our R.S.M. was from the 1st Battalion and I can recall an incident which displayed his sense of humour and power of apposite reproof. Orderly Sergeants had failed to respond to their special bugle call. On its repetition they duly paraded and were thus greeted—"Call yourselves Orderly Sergeants? Disorderly Sergeants I call you!"

Our Adjutant, Captain Hardy, was recalled to the 1st Battalion as he was embarking with us aboard the H.T. *Corsican*. We were destined to spend five weeks in this ship. When in the Mediterranean nearing Egypt, war broke out with Turkey, and we were kept for five days at Suez until the decision was made to send us to India as originally intended and not to disembark in Egypt to meet the changed circumstances caused by Turkey's entry into the war. As a former Egyptian Civil Servant I was surprised to notice that the enemy flag, that of the Ottoman Empire, continued to fly as the National flag of Egypt as a tributary state of Turkey. This anomaly continued throughout the War!

As being the only member of the Battalion previously acquainted with Egypt I was, I fear, rather a "know-all", but deflation took place at Aden. I had informed everyone that it only rained once in five years in that part of the world. On the day of our arrival it was pouring.

continued on p. 45

Beneath Bell Harry



THE past month was chiefly memorable for the ordeal of the annual administrative inspection. It is believed—or rather it is hoped, the official report not yet having come home to roost—that the more obvious clangers were avoided. The permanent staff turned out a strong platoon, whose march past elicited favourable comment from the Brigade Colonel, who was in attendance on the inspecting officer; this, in spite of C.S.M. Rose's gloomy forebodings and comment that to parade with the more deeply dug in members of the permanent staff caused him more mental

anguish and pre-parade butterflies in the stomach than a similar procedure with eight hundred natives.

The Home Guard week-end and T.A. week-end recently filled the Officers' Mess to more than its normal week-day capacity, and Capt. Griffin, newly established as adjutant of 4/5th Battalion, has actually been seen in uniform two week-ends running. During the Home Guard "Methods of Instruction" week-end Lieut. Ward was able to illustrate one of his lessons by an unrehearsed "how not to do it" demonstration. Having forcefully emphasised to the Home Guard students the importance of avoiding outside distractions when teaching, he led them to the sports field adjoining the gym., there to demonstrate "Procedure on the Range". Noticing, half-way through the lesson, a somewhat *distrait* air about his pupils, he turned round to discover what was engaging their attention. And he, in his turn, became goggle eyed at what was going on in the gym. The interest of the veteran Home Guard was understandable. Young and shapely girls were practising Judo. Needless to say, the questions put to the class during the lesson resulted in rather "off net" answers, and more than the usual "recap" became necessary at the end.

Interest at the moment is focussed on the outcome of two sporting events shortly to take place. One the Home Counties Brigade cross-country run. The other the Officers versus Sergeants hockey match.

* * *

No. 1 COMPANY

A change of C.S.M.'s follows that of Company Commanders. We give a cordial welcome to C.S.M. Chapman and send our heartiest good wishes to C.S.M. Rose, who has left us for the 1st Battalion.

Mr. Dracopoli and Mr. Tennant are also welcome additions to the Company.

The most important sporting event of the month (apart from the highly successful rugger rallies in which the brawn of the Depot sports itself) was the Home Counties District Cross-Country Championship. In this, the Depot came a good third and the star of the team, Pte. Linford, once Middlesex Cross-Country Youth Champion and team mate of Ken Norris in the Thames Valley Harriers, was narrowly beaten into third place. His enthusiasm and the assiduous help of Mr. Hodder, together with the keenness of a team who trained mainly after hours and against a background of basic training, secured this excellent result.

Other sports are well to the fore and the clatter of hockey sticks and crunch of broken bones can occasionally be heard on Wednesday afternoon: also the tired splash of paint as the Q.M. staff repaint their stores.

Little else has been happening. The weather has been kind, and the Passing Out Parade of Sgt. Bean's and Sgt. Cain's platoons before the C.O. of the 1st Battalion promises to be very successful.

4/5th Battalion



WITH Major Crichton *en route* for warmer climes there has been the usual re-shuffle at Battalion Headquarters, and we welcome from the 1st Battalion Captain Chris. Griffin as Adjutant, in succession to Major John Dent, who has now assumed the guise of Training Major. The Adjutant is obviously settling down very well; already he has discovered that the answer to most of the too difficult files is to send the papers to "A" Company! He can be assured of an enjoyable stay as one of the Directing Staff.

Congratulations to Major Dent and Captain (Q.M.) Catt on their respective promotions. The usual formalities connected with such events have been observed and even if the stairs were a trifle hard no lasting damage seems to have occurred.

We also send sincere good wishes and congratulations to Major Frank Neville on the occasion of his marriage to Mme. Odette Vinck; it is anticipated that the Battalion will be represented at the Church of Notre Dame St. Pierre, Ghent, and that a fuller report will be forthcoming. The fact that the ceremony coincided with one of the Company Training week-ends is regarded as merely another of those things; Training Officer to note, please, for future action.

A most entertaining Officers' Dining-in Night was arranged towards the end of January, when a welcome opportunity was taken of meeting members of the 1st Battalion and discussing matters of mutual interest. The guests included Major-General V. Boucher, C.B., C.B.E., Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D., Honorary Colonel, Lieut.-Col. H. R. Grace and other Officers from the 1st Battalion, as well as former members of the Territorial Battalion. It was nice to have Captain Nigel Taylor with us for the evening.

The weather has been such that outdoor training has been impossible and activities have been confined almost entirely to rangework and various social functions. "A" Company take the field again early in February with another

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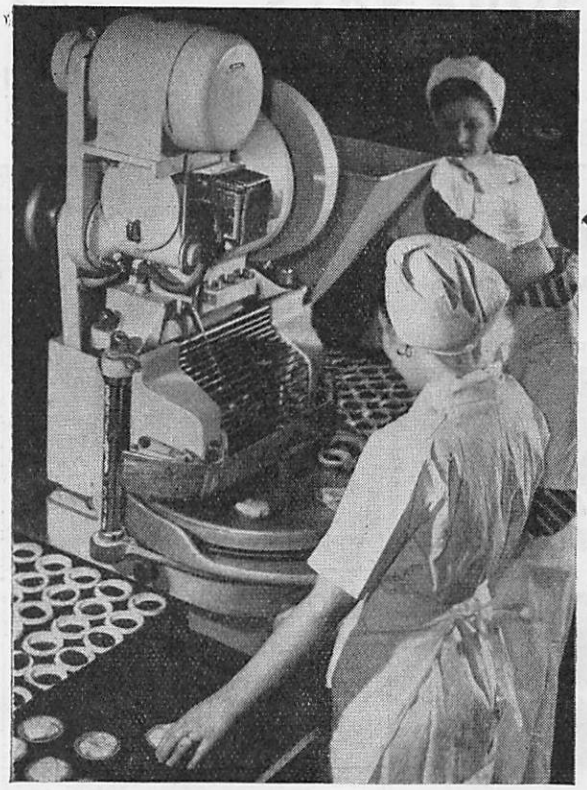
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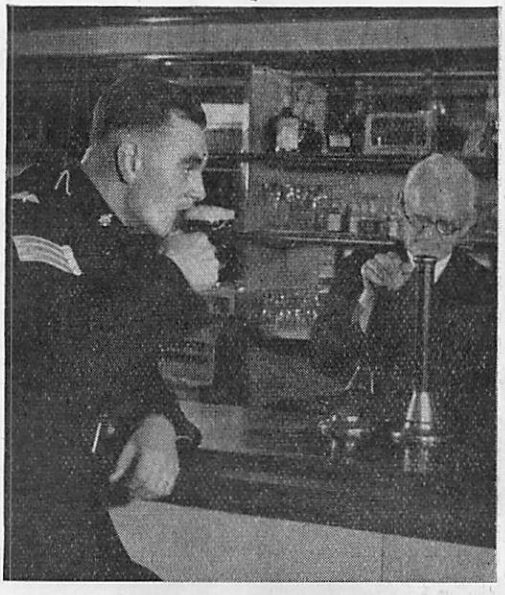
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Regimental Gazette

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 4TH JANUARY, 1955, DATED FRIDAY, 7TH JANUARY, 1955

INFANTRY

TERRITORIAL ARMY—NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. (Actg. Lt.) J. M. Ticehurst (418615) to be Lt., 8th January, 1955, with seniority 4th May, 1953.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 7TH JANUARY, 1955, DATED TUESDAY, 11TH JANUARY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

THE BUFFS.—Capt. (Qr.-Mr.) T. A. Rowcliffe (342836) to be Maj. (Qr.-Mr.), 9th January, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 21ST JANUARY, 1955, DATED TUESDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Lieut.-Col. J. F. Connolly, D.S.O. (39316), on completion of period of service in command remains on full pay (superny.), 1st January, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Lt. (Actg. Capt.) R. C. E. French (412192) from T.A. Nat. Serv. List to be Lt. (Actg. Capt.), 10th December, 1954, retaining his present seniority.

* * *

Old Brigade News

WE reciprocate Colonel Miles Beevor's good wishes for 1955 which arrived after the notes for January had been sent to the Editor. It does give the Old Brigade a kick to hear from their old officers, whose affection, advice and sportsmanship endeared them to other ranks for all time.

* * *

Darkey Warner has been spending some weeks in France with his daughter and son-in-law who is on the staff of Lord Ismay. No! he did not take his cornet with him.

* * *

Bob Knott of Dartford is, we regret to say, almost blind and cannot now read *The Dragon*. He writes, "If you should hear of any old Buffs of my day, please drop me a line." His address is 59 Spring Vale, Dartford, Kent.

* * *

We regret to read in the *Dover Express* of the death of Mrs. Caroline Keen, the widow of the late Sergeant Keen, who went affectionately under the nickname of "Snuffy" and whom old 2nd Battalion Wallahs will remember.

Charley Varnham who is now 78 sends all his good wishes for 1955. He celebrates his Diamond Wedding next year and has six grand-children and ten great-grand-children.

* * *

We recently came across a letter written by Colonel E. R. Howe, dated 24th November, 1945, in which he writes, "What I would like to see in *The Dragon* is frequent reference to Old Buffs. What they are doing and where they are living, so that one may visit them or at least drop them a line." We entirely agree, and would suggest that a correspondent is required for the period from, say, between the two Great Wars, and another from the last Great War to date. Any volunteers?

* * *

We were pleased to receive a visit from one of the Old Brigade of the 4th Battalion in Captain Woodcock and an interesting half-hour passed away all too quickly. His artistry with the pen in both printing and drawing is unsurpassed, and his enthusiasm for his Regiment unequalled.

* * *

Jimmy Dray enquires if any of the Old Brigade remember old Mrs. Cassidy in the Kilkenny days. Do we! Her cry, "Any Kiswaskies!" as she went round barracks selling her doughnuts and wads, and she did a good trade. He related a story about the beloved late Major Archer Houblon. "When in Honk Kong the Battalion Trooped the Colours. A.H. was O.C. one of the Guards and when they marched across the Square, he was the only one in step. You may guess the silent thoughts of all on parade."

* * *

Major Bill Stone informs us that he has received many letters from old pals including Nutty Cross, also Jim Cooper, who was Company Storeman in Dublin in 1911. Sends good wishes for 1955 to all.

* * *

It is good to hear that Chocolate Taylor is now out of hospital, but it will be a little while before he is fit.

J.E.E.

IF YOU ENJOY THE DRAGON PLEASE ASK A FRIEND TO BECOME A SUBSCRIBER .

training week-end based on Canterbury. It is hoped to experiment with loading men and equipment on a tank, against the day when this has to be done in earnest and also to take part in a little more boating at Sandwich. Prayer mats are much in evidence.

* * *

"A" COMPANY

Sgt. Dean has now appeared, completed with "Sergeant" and after a rather anxious week with the Quartermaster has now taken over as P.S.I. from Sgt. Vaughan, who as reported last month has gone to the 1st Battalion in charge of the Archery Company. We wish him all success and welcome Sgt. Dean, whose stay with us we are sure will be happy and successful.

Several old faces have gone recently, among them being Pte. D. Jones on securing an appointment in the Metropolitan Police. We are very sorry to see him go and wish him all the best on his "course". The M.M.G. Platoon have yet to recover from the shock and are busy casting about for a successor as Platoon D.R.

The Annual Children's Party was held this time at the St. George's Hotel, Cliftonville. Despite treacherous conditions underfoot a goodly number of children, parents and friends made the journey, a coach being provided for families in the Sandwich and Ramsgate areas. The children took part in a most enjoyable afternoon of games, a tea party, film show and distribution of presents. "Popeye" as Robin Hood had an immediate appeal to the youngsters and to others as well, since we now know how they get their steady hands at archery in Sandwich. Thanks are due to Major and Mrs. Tilleard for the excellence of the arrangements as well as to Captain Klean for braving the storm with all the balloons, and to the projectionist for his assistance.

Drill night activities have been curtailed considerably owing to the weather, but we are hoping for better things in February when the next Company Training Week-end is due to take place. Now that the M.M.G. Platoon have their private cars at Ramsgate there is almost certain to be an increase in their week-end activities—and an appalling rise in the sick list if hoods come off and go into cold storage as threatened.

As we go to press we anxiously await news of the youngest Mirams and hope all goes well.

* * *

"B" COMPANY

Our attendance this month has suffered as a result of snow and on re-opening after Christmas the New Year was inaugurated by a blizzard. However, several of our volunteers, namely Sgt. Cope, L/Cpl. Holness, Ptes. Williams and Smith, have struggled to the Drill Hall regularly. We understand that on the night of the 6th our gallant P.S.I., Sgt. Partridge, had to drive for two-and-a-half hours through heavy snow on his way home from Whitstable.

We take this opportunity of welcoming Ptes. Jones, Santer and Gorringe, from the Parachute Regiment, 1st Battalion and A.C.C. respectively, and hope they will enjoy their new journey.

Training week-ends start next month with Company Training at Canterbury on 19th and 20th February and we can only hope that the weather is warmer.

"C" COMPANY

The New Year has started quietly, with the bad weather affecting attendances. However, things are picking up again now and the purchase of a small billiards table seems to have proved an attraction.

Our miniature range is now clear of water and we hope some good scores will be forthcoming for the various competitions to be fired in the future.

The films *Platoon in the Attack* and *Tunisian Victory* drew a reasonable audience and the projector behaved as it should.

* * *

"D" COMPANY

We have just passed the first milestone in our Annual training programme. By that, of course, we refer to the training week-end of the 15th-16th January. It was unfortunate that the weather should have clamped down on our scheduled programme, but "morale was high" ('arf, 'arf) and we did receive some excellent lessons indoors at Canterbury.

It was good to see such a sizeable turn-out again and we extend a hearty welcome to all our new comrades. Although many of us were sorry to learn that R.S.M. Turmaine has left us, we can but hope that his new job with the 1st Battalion will be a happy one and entirely to his liking. We were all most impressed by R.S.M. Faulkner and hope that his tour of duty with us will be eventually one of his happiest recollections.

Our heartiest congratulations to L/Cpl. Laws, who is now the proud father of a delightful baby girl. For several days he'd been an obviously expectant father and now that his ordeal is over, he'll be full of zest for soldiering again.

In concluding this month's notes, we extend a sincere welcome to any member of the 1st Battalion who may be passing this way.

* * *

"S" COMPANY

So far as the Moartar Platoon is concerned the weather has curtailed carrier driving and our hopes of several drivers being passed out have had to be postponed until next month, when perhaps the weather will be better. The hardest task of all has been to keep warm in the Drill Hall; plenty of mortar drill helps considerably!

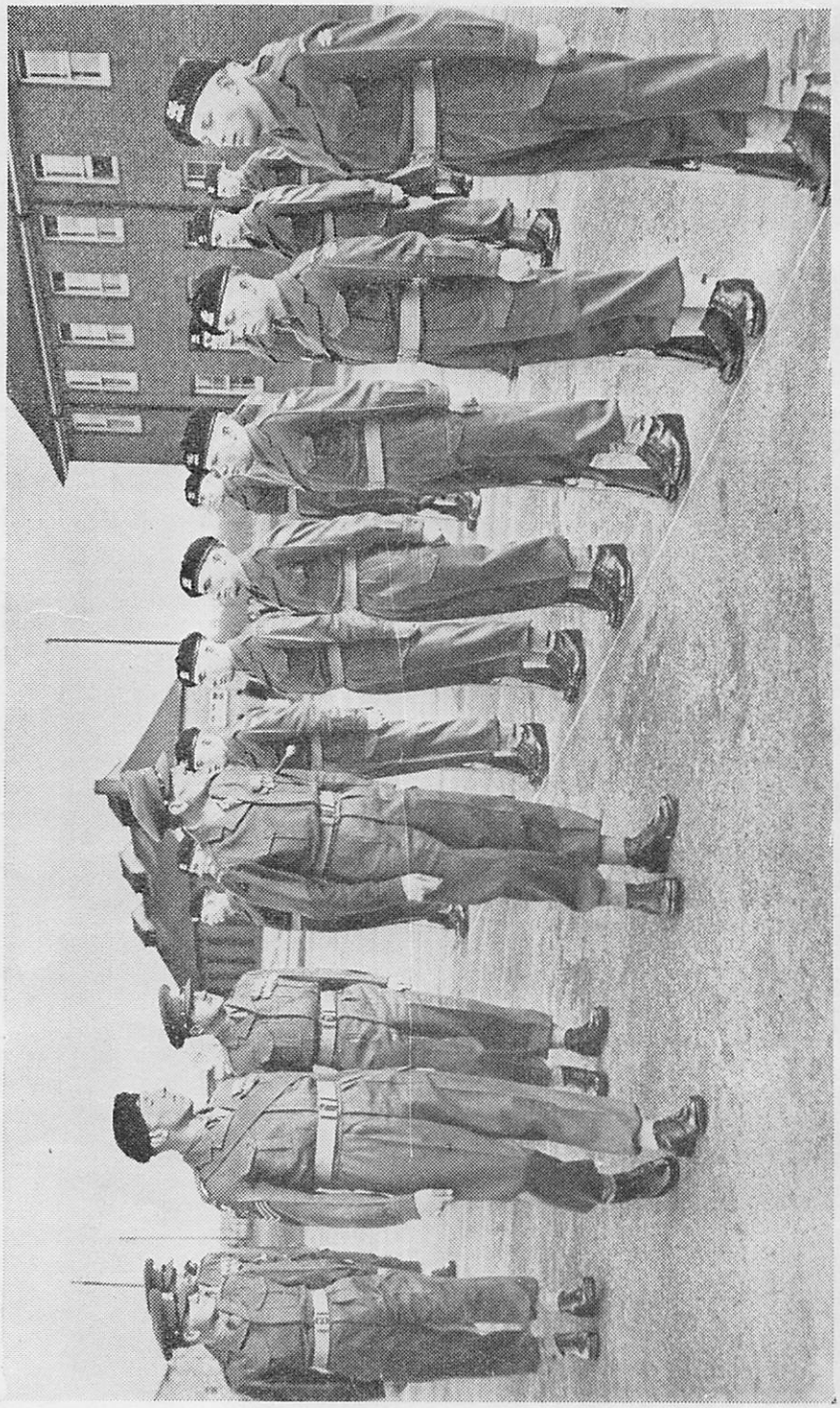
At Ashford things have also been fairly quiet, with only .22 shoots to enliven proceedings. Recently we saw some very good films and we hope that shows of this sort will become a regular feature of our training. We congratulate Sgt. Richardson on his marriage and may all his troubles be "little ones". We have been trying to give some of our doubtful drivers some night driving practice but the weather has prevented their attendance—or could it be cold feet? We hope to carry out the programme when the weather is better.

Congratulations to C/Sgt. White on his fresh promotion; we look forward to seeing him in action at Camp.

Rumour has it that the Company Commander has been putting in some very useful spadework with the 1st Battalion, where Major Collins is now commanding "S" Company. If all goes well there will be the chance of meeting our opposite numbers in the Regular Battalion and exchanging notes.



Recruits and their Families at Tea at The Depot



Lieut.-Col. Grace Inspects Recruits at the Passing Out Parade at The Depot



From: Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,
K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., M.A.

Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee

To: All Serving in Her Majesty's Forces

Subject: SAVE WHILE YOU SERVE

You may say that you find it hard enough to save in "Civvy Street" so how on earth can you do so in the Services? However, if you think about it seriously there is no better time to start—if you haven't already done so. Every unit in all the services "lays on" National Savings facilities and the Unit Savings Officer will be only too pleased to help would-be savers.

I recently retired after many years in the Royal Air Force. I know how valuable a service Forces Savings is giving to both Regulars and National Service personnel, and no matter where you may be stationed you can save a bit from your pay if you want to do so. I also commend Forces Savings for mention by parents and friends to young men who are going into the Services (*and* to young women too, as in the Women's Services there are some of our best savers!)

We have an excellent series of leaflets (shown above) which tell, in simple language, all about Forces Savings. Why not write for a copy of the one which applies. Address your letter to me:—

Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,
H.M. Forces Savings Committee.
1 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

Issued by H.M. Forces Savings Committee



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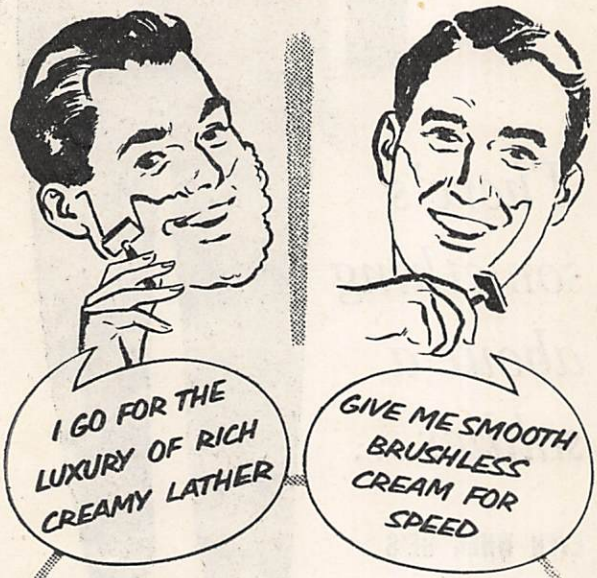
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Past and Present Association

Life Member

1ST TO 31ST JANUARY

Brighton Branch.—Stacey, D. L.

* * *

Annual Members

1ST TO 31ST JANUARY

H.Q. Roll.—Skilton, W., Prescott, C. R.
London Branch.—Hart, G.

* * *

Grants

The total grants from the Benevolent Fund and the World War 1939 Charitable Fund during the month of January, 1955, are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Benevolent Fund	10	0	0
World War 1939 Charitable Fund	31	0	9

* * *

Competitions 1954—1955

DARTS

2nd Round Results: Ashford beat Dover.
Sandwich beat Herne Bay.
Ramsgate (w.o.) Canterbury (scr.).
Medway beat Weald.

SHOOTING

	October	November	December	January
Dover ...	441	408	438	437
Ashford ...	396	429	420	
Ramsgate ...	467	469	468	471
Margate ...	448	456	448	
Canterbury	471	472	478	483
Sittingbourne	352	412	330	338
Sandwich ...	409	428	417	425

* * *

Ashford Branch

Our meeting took place on 5th February, Mr. A. J. Mills being in the Chair. Major Bompus, our President, was present, and also eighteen members.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. W. Beeching to our meeting and we were all very pleased to see him once again as he had not been well enough to attend our meetings for such a long time. We sincerely hope his health continues to improve.

The Minutes were then read and signed. Correspondence was read, which included two letters from Old Age Pensioners who had received their Christmas bag of wood.

Names were then taken for our Branch Darts and Crib Knock-out Competition, which starts after our next meeting, so all members are looking forward to their games.

Our Assistant Secretary was unable to attend owing to an attack of 'flu. Mr. Miles said he would give him a call to see how he was. We all wish him well again.

The raffle followed and Mr. Barham was the lucky member. I heard it mentioned this was a swindle, but nevertheless I'm sure it was fair.

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 20.30 hours.

On January 8th, twenty-four members and wives went to the Dover Branch for the second round of the Darts Competition, and I am glad to say we returned victors. The first game was very close all the way through, and Bert Vant found the double to get us out first. The second game was rather different, as we held a good lead all the way through and this time it was George Skinner who found the winning double. So I would like to thank Dover for a good game and the sporting way in which they accepted defeat. A beer match was then played and once again Ashford won, through C. Mabbs getting double 1. Mrs. Coleman came along with us and we were glad to see her come away with two prizes.

May I, through these notes, thank Dover Branch for a very splendid evening.

A.C.M.

* * *

London Branch

A meeting was held at the "Prince Alfred", Tufton Street, Westminster, on January 15th, 1955, with Mr. B. Billings in the Chair.

The Secretary read the correspondence which included letters of good wishes to all members of the Branch. Just to mention a few, the letters were from W. S. Brown, F. Baldry, A. C. Linsell, H. Russell, Mrs. Coley, Mrs. Austin and others.

Owing to the bad weather, the attendance was rather low but the old regulars were on the spot. It was also very pleasing to see Brigadier E. Foster Hall appear right on the dot.

The meeting got well away, the main item being a resolution put forward by one of the members. Quite a discussion was held on this resolution and this made the meeting one of real interest.

The Secretary received a list of names from Colonel Argles of men leaving the Colours. I hope there will be a good many replies to my letters to them. I can assure them all there will be a great welcome for them at the "Prince Alfred", Tufton Street, so come along lads.

It was very nice to see Messrs. Cotton, Hudd, Wenham, Gould, Hardwicke, Watts, Wright, Priest and the welcome appearance of Mr. B. Richards; very pleased to meet you again, Sir. Also thank you, all you real Buffs, for making the journey on such a night. During the week I rang up our President, Major Enright, who wishes to be remembered to all members of the Branch. The weather is still rather against his health of late, but he is keeping his chin up.

Until next month, good wishes to all Branches.

A.J.S.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

A meeting was held at the Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, on Saturday, February 5th, with Mrs. Coley in the Chair.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

CORRESPONDENCE was read from Mrs. Watts.

REGRETS were received from Mrs. Everitt and Mrs. Watts.

A WELCOME was given to all members on their return who had recently been ill. The Chairman announced that Mrs. Harris was still on the sick list.

Our very best wishes to all sick members.

The Chairman appealed to all members to come along and so strengthen the Ladies' Guild.

It is hoped that a new Honorary Secretary will be appointed at the next meeting.

Raffles were given by Mesdames Taylor, Annan, Waters, Tapp, Love, Cobb and a member.

This being all, the meeting closed.

M.J.D.

* * *

Dover Branch

JANUARY MEETING

317th Meeting of the Dover Branch, held on January 6th at the Eagle Hotel, opened by Chairman Capt. Marsh, M.B.E., at 7.45 p.m.

Minutes read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Letter from Hythe re Darts. Letter from Tom Noakes and Dick Joyner, both sick and not able to attend. Letter from Ashford re visit to play Darts.

All members agreed to be present when Ashford Branch pay us a visit on January 8th.

VISITOR.—D. M. Gardiner, 1st Battalion, paid a visit and was welcomed by the Chairman.

Box Collection, 7/4.

SEMI-FINAL BRANCH DARTS CUP.—Hayward was the winner and meets the winners of Noakes or Holloway.

A six-a-side darts team was then played and the winners were captained by Knockers Marsh.

Meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

FEBRUARY

The Committee met before the monthly meeting and items were discussed.

The monthly meeting opened at 8 p.m. by the Chairman.

Minutes were read and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Letters from the General Secretary, Mr. Moore (Brighton), Mr. Ross (about his sickness), General Secretary (asking to meet Chairmen of the Branches), British Legion (re Service in Garrison Church).

Collection, 8/3 for Branch Funds.

SEMI-FINAL DARTS.—Tom Noakes *v* Tom Holloway. After a good game, Noakes won 2 games to 1, and now meets Hayward in the Cup Final of the Darts.

A visit has been paid to the Sergeants' Mess at Old Park Barracks. Many thanks, R.S.M., for the invitation.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

T.H.H.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

A meeting of the Guild was held on Thursday, February 3rd, at the Belgrave Hall. The weather was kinder to us this month, and we had a record crowd, the largest number for some months now.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed as correct. We didn't have much business to discuss, so we got down to the ever-welcome cup of tea and cakes.

The next item, our usual raffles, and these were kindly brought by various members.

We all sat and had a nice chat; it was so nice and warm and cosy in the Hall we didn't like going home in the cold.

As it is the Annual General Meeting next month, we hope all who can will attend this meeting.

We would also like to point out that we would like anyone else who would care to come along, and join the Guild, we should be so very pleased to welcome them, and can assure them of having good and happy meetings, so here's hoping we can enrol more members next month.

All good things come to an end, so at 4.30 we all voted we had had a good time, and the meeting closed, and we all said our good-byes and went home.

H.M.M.

* * *

Hythe Branch

The annual meeting of the Hythe Branch, The Buffs, was held at "The Star", Hythe, on January26th.

Colonel C. R. Tuff, Vice-President, took the Chair, and the following officers were elected for 1955:—

President, Colonel J. V. R. Jackson; Vice-President, Colonel Tuff; Chairman, Mr. J. T. J. Green; Vice-Chairman, Capt. Fakley; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Hewlett; Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. Thompson.

Committee: Messrs. W. R. and T. J. Frew, J. F. Crook, F. Pocock, R. Hubbard and S. Pile.

The membership now totals 75. During the past year the new members elected included Mr. C. Pargeter (Life), and Messrs. Trice, Carolan, G. Birchett, M.M., Bull, Grocott and R. White.

Ashford Branch visited Hythe in April and a return visit was made in November.

The new Branch Standard was acquired in July, and a Rummage Sale for Branch Funds held in May.

Canterbury was the venue for Reunion Day in August, and the Association's annual meeting in September.

The Branch was also represented by the President and Vice-President at the Welcome Home from Kenya to the 1st Battalion at Dover, in December.

Future activities include a social evening with the local R.A. Association, a Bring and Buy Sale in the Summer, and attendance at Canterbury on the historic occasion of the presentation of new Colours to the Regiment by the Colonel-in-Chief H.M. the King of Denmark, on Monday, May 2nd.

* * *

Medway Branch

Only ten more shopping months for Christmas—better get cracking.

At our Branch meeting on 22nd January we were pleased to meet a newcomer in the person of Mr. A. E. N. Hall, who was accompanied by his wife. Mr. Hall served in the 6th and 8th Battalions from the early part of the First World War until 1917, when, because he had been knocked about a bit, he transferred to the Army Dental Corps with which unit he completed 29 years' service. We welcome you both, Mr. and Mrs. Hall, and sincerely hope that you will be able regularly to attend our meetings, which, I feel sure, you will thoroughly enjoy.

Our President, Mr. Hepworth, was unfortunately unable to be with us and I can only assume that it was the inclement weather that kept him away. Mr. King Holt, our Treasurer, is not at all well again. All members join me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

More cheerful news comes from Mr. Taylor (Drums) who, in a letter to our Hon. Secretary, says that he is still mending but that it is a slow procedure. Mr. W. E. Hutchings, we are pleased to note, has completely recovered from his fall, and our young friend, Mr. Chambers, is no longer plastered—er—perhaps it will be as well if I put that differently, he has had his plaster jacket removed and now wears a steel corset, a distinct mark of improvement.

This year the Branch received just over thirty Christmas Cards and Greetings including one from our Colonel-in-Chief (via his Staff Colonel), the Danish Ambassador, the Denmark and other Branches of the Association, and cards from the local Branches of other service organisations. The cards, etc., made a very bold and cheerful display when set out by our Hon. Secretary, Mr. Brand, for the members to see. (Ashford Branch, please note.)

We now know that we meet Weald Branch in the next round of the Darts Competition, but no date has yet been arranged. Again we shall be at home to our opponents and are looking forward to another happy evening such as we experienced when the Margate Branch was with us in December.

The Branch has accepted an invitation to visit Margate on 26th February and I have to admit that I am feeling a little nervous about it—they are such convivial souls down there. If I am capable I shall include a report on this visit in my next notes.

On Saturday, 29th January, we held our Christmas party. How many were there I know not—well over a hundred—but this I do know, and that is that they all enjoyed themselves. The show did not seem to go with such a swing as our previous parties, but for the life of me I could not put my finger on the cause. There were no stage entertainers this year but Mr. and Mrs. Wadley (of T.V. fame, I understand) gave an exhibition of dancing which included the "Mazurka", the "Blue Tango" and others, all of which was received with great acclaim.

Father Christmas, in the person of Mr. Pardew, M.M., duly arrived on the scene with a huge sack of presents for the youngsters. Much careful preparation assured that each child had a present appropriate to its age.

Mr. Hepworth, our President, spoke to the assembled company in his usual cheerful manner. It always amazes me how he remembers the names of all the persons he desires to mention. He was then kind enough to make presentations of hyacinths to several ladies and to our Chairman, Mr. Cox, and our Hon. Secretary, Mr. Brand, he made gifts which I feel sure will go up in smoke in due course.

Among the recipients was Mrs. Argles, the wife of Colonel Argles, our General Secretary, both of whom we were very pleased to see. The latter, at very short notice, gave a pleasant reply to our President's words of introduction and praise, and at the same time offered the apologies of the Colonel of the Regiment for his unavoidable absence. Somebody, he said, had read in a daily paper about the presentation of Colours to the Buffs in May. If, said the Colonel, you all received a *Dragon* you would have read about that news before the paper was issued. And how true he was, too. I write these notes but how many members of my own Branch will read them? Not many. Yet the cost to a subscriber for one issue of our journal is less than a pint of beer a month, and that, mark you, includes postage which ensures prompt delivery. Come on, chaps, what about it? I am afraid that little piece was a bit of a red herring, but I do not apologise for it.

Our President, who we were very pleased to see, was accompanied by his wife and several members of his family, expressed the thanks of us all to those responsible for arranging the show and making the necessary preparations. To mention some of the names and forget others would possibly cause unpleasantness and so I shall content myself by saying, "Many thanks to all those who gave their time in order to make the show a success."

There were many guests present and a pleasant flash of colour was provided by a sergeant in blues. I noted the flash in the eye of some of the older members when they were looking in his direction, and guessed that their minds were travelling back to some of the days they had spent at various mess functions. Ah, me! Happy memories. The Chairman of the Burma Star Association, Mr. Ford (if I should here have used a military rank I express my regret), was present with his wife. I had a few minutes' interesting conversation with him when he expressed views on the possible amalgamation of all old service organisations.

Only three more months before the Presentation of the New Colours—three months of complete headaches for those responsible for the organisation. The result will be as expected, a perfect show of which we shall all be justly proud.

* * *

Sittingbourne Branch

MINUTES of the 232nd meeting of the Past and Present Association of The Buffs held at the Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne, on Friday, January 7th, 1955. Lieut.-Col. John E. Wills took the Chair and read a letter from the Chairman, Colonel D. J. Dean, V.C., who said that he was sorry he was not able to be present that evening but wished all members a happy and prosperous New Year. Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed as a true record.

ARISING.—Mr. Russell proposed and Mr. Rains seconded that a hearty vote of thanks be recorded to all members of the Ladies' Guild for the magnificent way they worked to make the Children's Party the great success that it was. This was carried unanimously. Colonel Wills said that he could assure members that the children of the Green Porch enjoyed themselves immensely and the Housemother-in-Charge expressed to him her grateful thanks. Mr. Ravensdale proposed that a letter be written to the Ladies' Guild thanking them for all they had done for the Children's Party and how much it was appreciated by our members. The Assistant Secretary said he would write such a letter. This was agreed by all.

Mr. Sinclair said that a bottle of cherry wine was not made available for the Ladies on Christmas Eve as passed at the last meeting, owing to a misunderstanding; whereupon Colonel Wills suggested that they be given two bottles next year.

Colonel Wills asked for a report on the Darts Match held at Weald. Mr. Sinclair said that the members who attended were given a very fine welcome and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Unfortunately we lost the match, but we gave them a good game and it was a near thing. However, we accomplished a great deal, perhaps more important than the match itself "that of getting together, meeting old friends and Buffs and having a good time",

It was further agreed by Weald and ourselves that we should pay them a visit in the summer, making it a country drive during the afternoon and finishing up with them in the evening.

Colonel Wills said that he was very glad to see "Darkie" Rains back with us that evening and asked for news of Wally Ford. He was told that Wally was very ill indeed and asked Bob Russell who was going to visit him next day to convey the best wishes of all members. Mr. Sinclair said that a collection for him was made on Christmas Eve and he took it to him. Wally thanked us and wished us all a Happy Christmas.

Mr. Croucher, our Treasurer, handed us a statement of the cost of the Children's Party, which showed, after deducting money received from raffles, a net total cost of £39, which all members considered most satisfactory.

CORRESPONDENCE.—A letter was read from the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, thanking us for participating in the welcome to the Battalion on arrival at Dover and saying that when the Battalion had settled down he hoped to send selected W.O.s and N.C.O.s to visit us.

A letter was read from the Secretary saying that with a view to getting "new blood" into the Branches he was in future going to send us names and addresses of men in the locality returning to civil life so that we could get in touch with them and interest them in joining the Branch. One name was sent with the letter and the Association Secretary had called upon the person concerned and it was hoped that he would join next month; but he was a young man, studying hard and had very little time to spare.

Another letter from the Secretary asked us not to mark the targets for the Inter-Branch Shooting Competition as some were wrongly marked. The Weapon Training Officer at Canterbury marks the cards and his decision is final.

A letter was read from Colonel Wills in his capacity of Commanding Officer of the Home Guard thanking the members for the most generous gift of £10 to Home Guard funds as passed at the last meeting. Colonel Wills amplified on this letter and also assured members that, in spite of all sorts of rumours regarding the Drill Hall and who was going to occupy it, he knew nothing definite; but a "home" would be found for the Past and Present.

Colonel Wills read extracts from a letter he had received from Colonel Dean in which he said he was not in favour of an Annual Dinner but a Social or Smoking Concert. Mr. Ravensdale proposed a Smoking Concert, wives, etc., being invited. This was seconded by Mr. Frost. An amendment was proposed by Mr. Nairne and seconded by Mr. Hall that we have a Social. Upon being put to the meeting five voted for the amendment and six against. The original proposal was then put to the meeting and seven members voted for the Smoking Concert. It was decided to leave the date for this to be decided at the A.G.M.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.—Colonel Wills said that he, and in all probability Colonel Dean, would not be available to attend the A.G.M. if it was held on the usual date, the first Friday in the month, February 4th, and suggested that it be postponed. This was agreed and all members would be informed of the date.

Mr. Sinclair asked about the Dedication of the Standard and Colonel Wills suggested that this better be left until Colonel Dean's return as he had the matter in hand.

The question was raised as to whether members of the Home Guard, wearing the Buffs badge as many had done for nearly three years, could be admitted as full members of the Past and Present Association instead of honorary members as they are now. Colonel Wills said that he was very much in favour of this and Sittingbourne Branch had in fact voted for it a year ago; but when the matter was raised at Canterbury there were so many arguments for and against that the matter was dropped for the time being. He hoped it would be raised again.

Colonel Wills then wished us all a happy and prosperous New Year and especially those of our comrades who were not here to-night. ("Hear, Hear", from all)

The booby was then drawn, given this month by Mr. Hall and won by Mr. Jackson, raising the sum of 11/6.

Meeting closed at 9 p.m.

* * *

Ramsgate Branch

The Annual General Meeting of the Ramsgate Branch of the Past and Present Association, The Buffs, was held at the "Freemasons' Tavern", High Street, Ramsgate, on Friday, 21st January, 1955. Mr. C. F. Fakley presided, supported by Major A. J. H. Taylor, Captain H. H. Knight, Major H. Martin, Captain N. G. H. Taylor, Lieut. W. Wotton, Messrs. E. H. Swendell, W. Costin, E. Castle and B. E. Knott (Hon. Secretary). As it was the first meeting of the New Year, Mr. Fakley welcomed the members and wished them all good health and luck in 1955. Mr. Fakley expressed his sympathy to their sick members, Messrs. C. Curtis, H. Sheppard and J. Powles and trusted that they would be well in the near future. He also mentioned the sad death of Mrs. Atkins, wife of their Buff Host Dick Atkins. He extended the members' deepest sympathy to Mr. Atkins and family and the members stood for two minutes' silence as a token of respect to their member's late wife.

Mr. Knott, Secretary, presented the year's Balance Sheet and both Branch and Social activities were shown very satisfactory and the Branch finances were in a sound position to start 1955. The Treasurer, Major H. Martin, and the Secretary were thanked by the Chairman for the excellent way in which the details of the Balance Sheet were set out and the members then accepted and approved the financial statement. After both the President and Chairman had thanked the Officers and Committee for the work that they had done in the past year the Officers for the ensuing year were elected.

They were: *President:* Major A. J. H. Taylor; *Vice-Presidents:* Messrs. E. H. Swendell and W. Wotton; *Chairman:* Mr. C. E. Fakley; *Vice-Chairman:* Capt. H. H. Knight; *Treasurer:* Major H. Martin; *Secretary:* Mr. B. E. Knott; *Assistant Secretary:* Mr. W. Joynson; *Auditors:* Messrs. G. Sampson and T. H. Miller.

The General Committee elected were Messrs. W. Jeffreys, B. Kemp, J. Johnson, F. Foad, E. Stead and Sgt. Nash.

The Social Committee elected were Messrs. W. Costin, E. Castle, A. Clayton, H. Cook, F. Histed, and Sgt. Nasn.

Thanking the members for his re-election Major Taylor said that the spirit of comradeship fostered in the Regiment still existed in the Branch. He extended a welcome to the young soldiers to join the Association. It was necessary to recruit the young Buffs to join the Association. This was essential for the survival and progress of the Association. He jocularly remarked that Old Soldiers Do Die (in time) and it was left to the young ones to continue the good work of the Branch.

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Mr. Fakley thanked the members for his re-election and he assured them of his best interest for the welfare of the Branch and said he looked forward to a successful year. With such a good team of Officers and Committee he was sure that 1955 would be a year of progress. It was wonderful to have Major Taylor for the eleventh year as President, no better choice could be made.

Thanking the members for their attendance Mr. Fakley closed a very satisfactory meeting.

B.E.K.

* * *

Canterbury Branch

We offer our humble apologies for the absence of Branch notes for last month, due no doubt to the festive season and the fact that our normal monthly meeting for December which should have been held on Christmas Eve was cancelled at the request of the members.

During the "recess" the 1st Battalion arrived back in England and we were represented by Colonels Reid, King and Knocker at their arrival in Dover. We now look forward to visits by members of the Battalion before their next departure to B.A.O.R., and offer them a very hearty welcome to our meetings.

Heartiest congratulations to one of our very bright and breezy members, Captain A. H. Catt, on his promotion; it is always a pleasure to have him with us.

To another member, "Lofty" Sherman, we offer our deepest sympathy on his great loss. His late wife was taken ill on Christmas Day, passing away the following Tuesday. A telegram of sympathy was sent on behalf of the Branch and the Chairman and Secretary attended the interment in Canterbury Cemetery on January 1st. Mr. Sherman has, we are sorry to say, left Canterbury and moved to Sittingbourne.

Having received a list of thirty members, recently released, from the Secretary of the Association, we are inviting each to our meetings and arranging for a visit to be made by a member of the Branch.

It is with great regret that we have had to give Ramsgate a walk-over in the Darts Competition. At the very last moment, due to illness added to which was the extremely bad weather, we had to wire and say we could not raise a team. So sorry, Ramsgate, that you were inconvenienced and we wish you wins to the Final so that we may challenge you after you have won the Competition.

In March we will have completed our first year as a re-formed Branch and look forward to a bumper gathering for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday, 26th March, 1955. Note the date, please, all Canterbury and District Buffs, and let us try and repeat the gathering which assembled for the Inauguration Meeting called by the Colonel of the Regiment in February, 1954. Many who came to that meeting have never appeared since and we would gladly welcome them again.

At our last meeting it was decided to hold a Birthday Party as near to the Annual General Meeting date as possible to which our wives would be invited. Friday, 1st April has been provisionally fixed for the party and further particulars will be given at a later date by a letter circulated to all members who have attended meetings throughout the year.

We are sorry to hear that Colonel Knocker, our Treasurer, has been under medical care of late and wish him a speedy recovery.

It is gratifying to know that the Presentation of New Colours to the 1st Battalion is taking place in Canterbury on May 2nd and we hope to attend in strength on the great occasion.

Congratulations to our Shooting Team on their fine performance in heading the first three monthly Shoots. Keep it up is our united wish to the team.

A photograph of the grave of the late 11392 Private Donald Cloke, "D" Company, 2nd Battalion, who died at Mussouri, India, on 20th September, 1920, aged 19 years and 9 months, has been found by a member of the Branch, who desires it to be passed to his relatives if their present address can be found. The photograph was taken by a member of the 1st Battalion Boxing Team in August, 1927. We propose to ask Record Office for the last known address of relatives but appreciate that, after such a long time, it may prove a hopeless task.

Although somewhat belated, we wish Buffs everywhere a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

* * *

Folkestone Branch

The evening of the 14th was far from pleasant, but several members turned up for our monthly meeting. Our Chairman was persuaded to stay home. Very wise too. Although his health has been much better of late, there was no need to take unnecessary risks. Bill Lord doesn't seem to make the progress we would wish but perhaps the sun—when we see it—will help. We can only hope so.

I saw Arthur Orchard recently, and I'm glad to say he is well. Although he has been working away from home for a long time now, we still miss him more than we can say. One of those people who can be relied on, you know.

It was a shock to read of the death of Capt. Loyd Hardcastle. I had the honour to be C.S.M. of "C" Company, 1/5th Battalion, when he was in command. I'm sure I am writing for all who were in the Company when I say how much we regret his sudden and early passing. He was a man who was able to get the best out of his men with the least possible fuss. Our sincere sympathy goes to those he has left.

* * *

Sandwich Branch

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Tuesday, January 4th, 1955, at 8 p.m. Major F. W. Tomlinson presided and 15 members were present. Considering the very wintry night the attendance was very pleasing.

The meeting opened with the usual moment's silence. The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and adopted.

Apologies were received from our Vice-Chairman, Lieut.-Col. N. S. Hart, who sent best wishes to all members for 1955, and Mr. W. Crouch and Mr. F. Colyer. A letter from H.Q. was read with reference to keeping contact with ex-Buffs, who had recently left the Service and are now living in the district.

The Chairman stated that he had sent a personal letter to the three men mentioned that were living in this district and had invited them to attend the meeting that evening; so far no reply had been received. Our next move will have to be a personal call as soon as possible.

A letter from the Herne Bay Branch was read with reference to the Dart Match to be played at home this month. It was agreed to arrange the match for Friday, 14th or 21st January.

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VISIT TO MARGATE.—It is now confirmed that we visit the Margate Branch for a social evening on Wednesday, 2nd February. A coach has been booked and 14 seats were booked at the meeting.

Season's Greetings Cards received from Branches and one from a Branch member, Mr. Jack Wood, who is in B.W. Africa, were read and then handed round to members. Ex-Sgt. Wood remarks that *The Dragon* arrives regularly and makes fine reading. He hopes to be in England again sometime in March.

The Hon. Secretary in his Annual Report stated that one member had died and one member had transferred to another Branch. Two new Life Members had been enrolled and four new Annual Members. One Annual Member had now become a Life Member. The present strength of the Branch was 72 Life Members and 16 Annual Members.

The sale of *Dragons* had increased from 14 to 19 copies per month.

Thanks were expressed to the Chairman, Committee and Members for their help and co-operation.

In adopting the report, a vote of thanks was accorded the Hon. Secretary for his very satisfactory report and his services to the Branch.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.—Mr. E. Dinham gave a report on the Statement which was considered very satisfactory. The balance, although small, was nearly double that of last year.

A vote of thanks was accorded the Honorary Auditors, Mr. E. Dinham and Mr. S. Daniels, following which the Report was adopted.

The Election of Officials and Committee was as follows: *Chairman:* Major F. W. Tomlinson; *Vice-Chairman:* Lieut.-Col. N. S. Hart; *Treasurer and Hon. Secretary:* Mr. H. Taylor.

The Committee Members were re-elected *en bloc*: Messrs. R. Bullock, W. Croud, C. Field, P. Harlow, A. Ledner, H. Searbrough, C. Warren, A. Elvery, E. Hart, J. Moxon, S. Daniels. One additional member was elected, Mr. T. Douglass, the retiring Hon. Treasurer. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Douglass for his past services as Hon. Treasurer.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Chairman, Major F. W. Tomlinson, for his valued services to the Branch during the past year. It was also unanimously agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Major J. Tilleard, T.D., thanking him for his help and co-operation regarding the use of the Drill Hall for our meetings, etc.

We should also like to take this opportunity of thanking our hard working Caretaker, Mr. Charley Field, for his ever willing help and co-operation.

* * *

Brighton Branch

Our meeting on 10th January was distinctly poor with only the faithful Carr, Peacock and Guest putting in an appearance.

Allowing that it was the tail end of the last ice age, it wasn't a very good show considering there is a nice warm club room all complete with television, billiards and bar. No members are reported down with colds, except Jimmy Dray had a bit of a chill, but we suspect that was only an excuse for a hot rum nightcap.

Perhaps everyone is saving up their energies for our Branch Dinner on Saturday, March 26th. Will all Branches please note this and all will be welcome—at Emery's Hotel, Queens Road, Brighton, and price will not exceed 6/-. Numbers to Secretary, Brighton Branch, by March 20th, please.

ACHEM.

The Reminscences of an Old Territorial Buff, 1912-1919—
continued from p. 33

When we were anchored at Aden the *Sydney* arrived fresh from her triumph over the *Emden* and was received with lusty cheers from all the ships of the convoy. We were delayed at Aden for the following almost incredible reason. In our convoy was the 5th Battalion of the South Wales Borderers on their way to relieve the regular Battalion there. On reaching Aden it was discovered that no one at the War Office had remembered to warn the regular Battalion of their relief. The wires hummed for a day or two between Whitehall and Aden and it was eventually decided that the Welsh Territorial Battalion was to be carried on with us to Bombay where they encamped for three weeks whilst the regular troops in Aden were packing up for England *en route* for France. It is not easy to determine how much this astonishingly bad piece of staff work at the War Department must have cost the British tax-payer!

At Bombay we entrained early in December for Kamptee, in the very heart of India, halfway between Bombay and Calcutta and one of the hottest climates that could have been chosen for a raw Territorial Battalion straight from Kent. However, excellent health was maintained, there were only two deaths during our stay in Kamptee and the Battalion was well trained and in fine fettle when orders were received that we should proceed to Basra to join the I.E.F. "Q". On reaching Bombay we received the news of Townsend's victory at Ctesiphon and we all feared that Baghdad would be captured by the time we reached Basra but on arrival we heard of the first of our reverses leading to the tragedy of Kut-el-Amara.

It apparently had not occurred to those who were conducting—or attempting to conduct—the campaign in Mesopotamia (Iraq) from 3,000 miles away, that the evacuation of Gallipoli would release the flower of the Regular Turkish Army to thrust us out of Iraq. The details of this disastrous campaign need not be given in personal reminiscences but it is interesting to note that when my name was sent up from Brigade to Corps Headquarters as an ex-Egyptian Civil Servant well conversant with Arabic, I was "turned down" in favour of the Baghdad Jewish interpreters who were looked upon as invaluable. They were, in fact, spies and enemy agents, as I was informed a year later when holding a Political Service appointment in the same place—Ali-el-Gharir.

As a Subaltern I was sent across the Tigris one day to Corps Headquarters to gather the latest official information. This was that a small enemy force of Arabs and Turks had been located (by our solitary aeroplane!) entrenched astride the river at Sheikh Saad, estimated strength, 200 Turks, 1,500 Arabs. With this information we went into action on 7th January, 1916, with what we regarded as an advanced guard skirmish ahead of us. The R.A.M.C. and I.M.S. were informed by General Aylmer, V.C., that they should be prepared for about 100 casualties at the most and that he expected to relieve Kut-el-Amara at the cost of not more than 900 killed and wounded.

Sheikh Saad proved to be a general action lasting three days. On the second day the 5th went into action and lost two-thirds of the Battalion. On that afternoon, on the right bank of the Tigus alone, lay 3,000 killed and wounded with medical arrangements for one-thirtieth of that number. As the Buffs liaison officer with Brigade H.Q. I was immediately behind that magnificent frontal attack which was, by order of the Brigade Commander, to be made "at all costs". I was very proud to hear regular soldiers and signallers attached to Brigade H.Q. say the one to the other—"Did you see the way the Buffs deployed and went into action?"—"Yes, it was magnificent; just as if they were on parade." Never did they waver under a withering fire over a billiard table surface with absolutely no cover.

By April 29th, 1916, we had finally to admit failure and the surrender of Kut-el-Amara took place. On that day Sir Percy Cox, the Chief Political Officer to the Force, having ascertained that my previous experience might prove of service to him, asked for me to be seconded to the Political Service in which I served until my health broke down in May, 1917, and I was invalided to India.

My Political Service was full of interest and not without excitement, such as an ambush on the Hammar Lake, on New Year's Day, 1917, in which I had a very narrow escape, but as these reminiscences do not involve service with the Buffs they will not be of particular interest to readers of *The Dragon*.

To revert to our year in India, life was full of interest as I was Band President of a Band we raised in India, Officer i/c Corps of Drums and i/c Regimental Theatre. We sprung a great surprise on the Battalion by producing "The Frolics" direct from England and Bombay, under assumed names. Great excitement was created by the rumour that some of the fair and lovely "Frolics" had been seen at the Dak bungalow! When the curtain went up and our disguises were finally penetrated we were relieved when we were greeted with riotous applause instead of rotten eggs.

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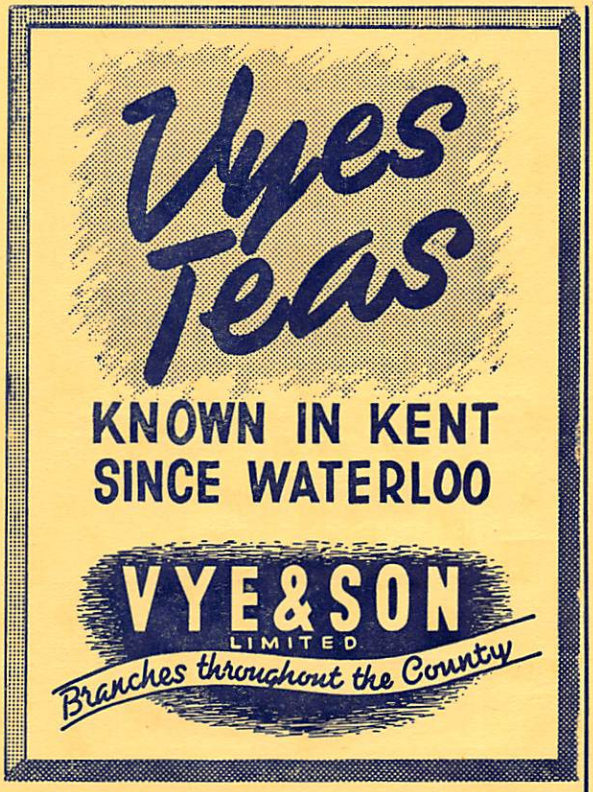
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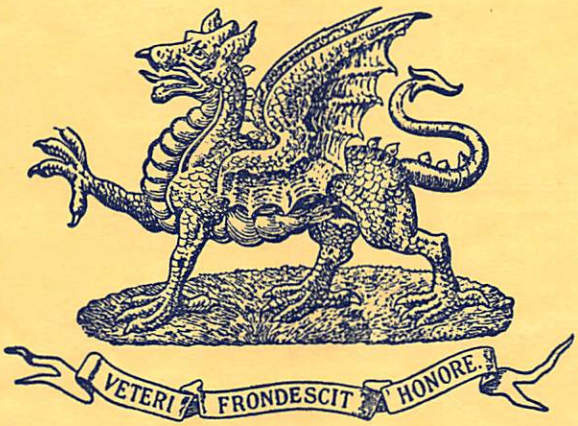
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BRANCHES

	Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1.	1st Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
2.	4th Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
3.	Ashford	Mr. A. Mills	Mr. A. C. Mills, 20 Waterman House, Godfrey Walk, Ashford, Kent	First Saturday in each month, The Invicta Godington Road.
4.	London	Mr. R. W. Billings	Mr. H. J. Scott, 1 Oxford Road, Carshalton, Surrey.	Third Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, 7.30 p.m.
5.	Dover	Capt. E. Marsh, M.B.E.	Mr. C. Collins, "Haven" Meadway, Minnis Lane, River, Dover.	First Thursday in each month, "Eagle Hotel", London Road, Dover, 7.45 p.m.
6.	Weald	Col. E. B. Burns, T.D.	Mr. H. D. Day, 3 Pittlesden Tenterden.	Hawkhurst Sub-area. Third Thursday in each month, British Legion House, Hawkhurst, 7.45 p.m.
7.	Medway	Mr. F. J. Cox	Mr. H. A. J. Brand, 83 Delce Road, Rochester	Third Saturday in each month, The Two Brewers, High Street, Rochester, 8 p.m.
8.	Sittingbourne	Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D.	Mr. L. J. Coward, 75 William Street, Sittingbourne.	First Friday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, 7.30 p.m.
9.	Ramsgate	Mr. C. F. Fakley	Mr. B. E. Knott, 27 Wilfred Road, Ramsgate	Third Friday in each month, Freemason's Tavern, Ramsgate, 8 p.m.
10.	Margate	Mr. B. H. Breed	Mr. J. H. Shakeshaft, 14 Alexandra Road, Broadstairs	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, Hawley Square, 8 p.m.
11.	Hythe	Mr. J. Green	Mr. H. Thompson, 4 Hillside Court, Hythe	Last Wednesday in each month, The Star, Stade Street, 7.30 p.m.
12.	Canterbury	Lt.-Col. E J. Evans	Major S. J. Selway, 153 Sturry Road, Canterbury	Fourth Friday in each month, Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury, 8 p.m.
13.	Herne Bay	Mr. H. Davey	Mr. A. Trice, 23 Queen's Gardens, Herne Bay	Second Monday in each month, British Legion Club, May Lodge, 8 p.m.
14.	Folkestone	Major A. A. West	Mr. H. Fordred, 36 Fernbank Crescent, Folkestone	Second Friday in each month, Guildhall Hotel, 8 p.m.
5.	Sandwich	Major F. W. Tomlinson	Mr. H. Taylor, 19 Paradise Row, Sandwich	First Tuesday in each month, Drill Hall, 8 p.m.
16.	Faversham	Capt. J. Green	Mr. R. C. Croucher, 10 Glebe Houses, Eastling, Faversham	First Monday in each month, Carpenters Arms, Eastling, 7.30 p.m.
17.	Brighton	Capt. R. J. Robertson	Major H. Milton, 118 Queens' Road, Brighton	Second Monday in each month, R.E. Record Social Club, The College, Ditchling Road, Brighton, 8 p.m.
18.	Denmark	Major W. M. Iversen, K.D.	Mr. P. Berendt, Ostergade 22, Copenhagen K.	By Arrangement. Phone Secretary By 8313

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	Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1.	London	Mrs. L. Coley	Mrs. M. J. Dalgleish, "Woodville". Highwood Hill, Mill Hill, N.W.7	First Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, S.W.1, 6.30 p.m.
2.	Dover	Mrs. J. Crookenden J.P.	Mrs. Wraight, 93 Markland Road, Dover	First Thursday in each month, Belgrave Hall, Belgrave Road, Dover, 3 p.m.
3.	Folkestone	Mrs. G. Wood, J.P.	Mrs. Kay Mantell, 5 Page Place, Folkestone	Every other Wednesday, Drill Hall, Shellons Street, Folkestone, 3.30 p.m.
4.	Medway	Mrs. King Holt	Mrs. W. T. Brooker, 67 Malvern Road, Gillingham, Kent	Fourth Tuesday in each month, Foresters' Hall, King Street, Gillingham, 2.30 p.m.
5.	Ashford	Mrs. L. King	Mrs. E. Partiss, 22 Bond Road, South Ashford	Second Wednesday in each month, The Drill Hall, Ashford, 3 p.m.
6.	Sittingbourne	Mrs. M. E. Dean	Mrs. J. Ravensdale, 10 Railway Terrace, Sittingbourne	Third Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall. East Street, Sittingbourne, 6.45 p.m.

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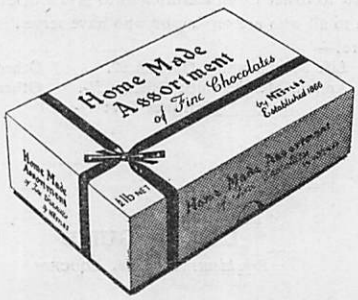
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EDITORIAL

THE Colonel-in-Chief has found that he must make a change in his plans, in consequence of which the Presentation of Colours will now be held on Monday, 9th May at 11 o'clock, and the old Colours will be laid up in the Cathedral at 11 o'clock on the 10th May. The Battalion will afterwards exercise its privilege of marching through the City with drums beating, Colours flying and bayonets fixed. His Worship the Mayor will take the salute at Lady Wootton's Green, Broad Street.

Representative parties from the 1st Battalion are visiting various Branches of the Past and Present Association. These visits will help so much to foster understanding of our aims and objects and can do nothing but good. In addition, Lieut.-Colonel Grace is very kindly visiting groups of Branches to talk about the Battalion's role in Kenya. He will be speaking at Folkestone on the 10th March, Ramsgate on the 18th March, Sandwich on the 31st March, and Rochester on the 15th April.

* * *

We are very much indebted to the Battalion for their interest in Association affairs and new Members continue to join.

Colonel R. F. Pearson has sent the photograph published on page 59. He was at the time Chief Range Officer at the National Rifle Association Meeting at Bisley. During the close of the shoot at 1,000 yards, for the King's Prize, he was watching Miss Marjorie Foster, the eventual winner, whose father served in the Regiment. Sergeant Stock and another member of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada team, were standing beside him, four Buffs together.

* * *

The sunny days of late bring thoughts of summer, even if the wind still chills old and young bones alike. Spring flowers show some foliage to see if they can yet stand the elements. Cricket bats, however, are better left to the comfort of their oily beds, but the longer evenings are a wonderful uplift to morale. It must have been some consolation to Mancunians that even in Australia, three days of a Test Match were lost on account of rain. May 9th is some way off yet, but perhaps we had better start praying now for sunshine, particularly as, since writing this paragraph, snow has returned in ever-increasing quantities, but digging and clearing it is wonderful exercise!

Personalia

LIEUT.-COLONEL J. G. Atkinson writes that he has been in hospital for the fourth time since last July. We send him good wishes for his recovery.

* * *

Congratulations to Major and Mrs. G. Lanning on the birth of a son, and to Capt. and Mrs. S. J. Squire on the birth of a daughter.

Also to Mr. R. A. G. Keown on his marriage to Miss Penelope Taylor.

* * *

News of the death of Capt. R. B. Holman came as a shock to his many friends who were in Canterbury with him during the late war. We offer our sympathy to his wife and family.

* * *

Major and Mrs. B. J. Harris-St. John are living at Homelands, Guildford Road, Fleet, and Major and Mrs. N. D. Poulsen at Oak House, Horsmonden, Nr. Tonbridge.

* * *

A letter from Major Harry Jackson sends news that his wife is at home again and going on well after her operation.

Presentation of Colours to 1st Battalion

ALTERATION OF DATE

THE Presentation will now take place on Monday, 9th May at 11 a.m. on the St. Lawrence Cricket Gound, Canterbury.

Blocks of seats will be reserved for the Regiment but there will be no individual allocations, and there will be car parking facilities on the Ground.

All those attending should be in their seats not later than 10.30 a.m.

It will be appreciated if all retired or serving officers other than those with the 1st Battalion, Depot and 4/5th Battalion would apply to the Administrative Officer of the Depot as early as possible for tickets for themselves and their families. Applications from Branches of the Past and Present Association and from all members of the Regiment not now serving, other than officers, should apply to the Secretary, Past and Present Association, The Buffs.

An official lunch will be held at the Depot which will be attended by the Colonel-in-Chief, the Colonel of the Regiment and Regimental guests, and by officers of the Battalion taking part in the Parade, and all former Regular Battalion Commanding Officers. As places at this lunch will, of necessity, have to be limited it will be appreciated if those officers and their wives who do not receive tickets will please take the alternative buffet lunch. Tickets for one or other of the lunches will be sent with tickets for the Presentation Parade, if required.

Lunch will also be arranged for ex-members of the Regiment other than officers, through the Past and Present Association, the arrangements for which will be notified separately to Branches.

* * *

LAYING UP OF COLOURS

The Service will take place in the Cathedral at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 10th May. Applications for tickets which will admit to the Service should be made in the same way as for the Presentation. It will not be possible on this occasion to allot individual seats but blocks will be reserved for all serving and retired members of the Regiment.

At the conclusion of the Service, the Battalion will march through the City, His Worship the Mayor taking the salute at Lady Wootton's Green, Broad Street.

Personalia—*continued*

BIRTHS

LANNING.—On February 11th, to Elizabeth (*née* Gordon Jackson) and George Lanning, a son (George David).

SQUIRE.—On February 28th, 1955, at Nairobi, Kenya, to Thelma (*née* Hayden), wife of Capt. S. J. Squire, M.B.E., a daughter.

* * *

MARRIAGE

KEOWN—TAYLOR.—On February 19th, 1955, at St. Michael's, Chester Square, London, Robert Anthony Gordon Keown, son of the late Major R. W. Keown and Mrs. Keown, to Penelope Mary Taylor, daughter of Captain and Mrs. R. M. T. Taylor.

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FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE

MAJOR P. J. H. WEIR AND CAPT. P. J. HARBEN, W.R.A.C.

The engagement is announced between Patrick John Henry Weir, M.C., The King's Own Royal Regt., only son of the late Sir Charles Weir, K.C., and of Lady Weir, 14 Vicarage Court, Vicarage Gate, W.8, and Phylis Joan, only daughter of the late Col. H. A. Thewles, D.S.O., The Buffs, and the late Mrs. Thewles, of Ferring-by-Sea, Sussex.

* * *

DEATH

HOLMAN.—On February 25th, at Nethercote, Netherfield, Battle, Richard Boyce Holman, M.C., very dearly loved husband of Bebe.

* * *

Obituary

RICHARD BOYCE HOLMAN

THOSE of us who served at the Depot, later to become 12 I.T.C. during the last war, will mourn the passing of Captain R. B. Holman, M.C., one of a band of good companions.

Dick Holman was educated at The Leys School, Cambridge, where he was Captain of Cricket, Rugby and Hockey. He was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment in the 1914-18 War, was severely wounded in France and won the Military Cross. He was invalided from the Service and went up to Cambridge. No longer able to play the games which made his reputation at school, he turned to lawn tennis, gaining his Half-Blue. He was a member of the Hawks Club and of Rye Golf Club, at which game also he was more than an average performer.

In 1939, in spite of his disability, he managed to get re-employed and served at Canterbury as Garrison Adjutant, where he and his wife endeared themselves to us all. After the war they returned to their charming Tudor cottage near Battle, where their friends were always made so welcome. At the funeral service in the village church, moving tributes were paid by the Dean of Battle to Dick Holman's life of courage and to the work which he and his wife had undertaken, not only in restoring the church, but for their active part in village life.

Dick Holman will be remembered for his kindly disposition and genial good humour and optimism. He had the happy knack of seeing something good in everybody and many of us were proud to have been numbered among his friends.

E.V.A.

* * *

Dragon Club Dinner and Regimental Tea Patry

IN view of the alteration of the dates for the Presentation of New Colours and the Laying-up of the Old, the dinner and tea party will now be held on the 11th May at the United Service Club.

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Future Events

Mar. 26. BRIGHTON BRANCH DINNER. EMERY'S HOTEL, QUEENS ROAD, BRIGHTON.

April 2. WEALD BRANCH DINNER.

May 9. PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO 1ST BATTALION BY THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF (H.M. KING FREDERIK IX OF DENMARK). ST. LAWRENCE CRICKET GROUND.

10. LAYING UP OF OLD COLOURS IN CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.

11. DRAGON CLUB DINNER. UNITED SERVICE CLUB.
REGIMENTAL TEA PARTY.

16. ALBUHERA DAY.

June 18—25. REGIMENTAL CRICKET WEEK.

Aug. 7. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.

Sept. 10. BUFFS GOLFING SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER.

Oct. 8. 6TH (S) BATTALION (1914-18) ANNUAL DINNER.

1st Battalion



LIVING on a hill-top in East Kent in late February, 1955 has made those who have had to endure the conditions reconsider any plans they may have for the future. It would appear that we have been especially singled out, by the Depression or Anti-Cyclone which decides these things, for the most ferocious treatment at a time when fair weather is badly needed. Thus it has been that snow and blizzard in an unbroken spell of hard frost have interfered most awkwardly in our full programme of training, the highlight of which has been the start of the Annual Weapon Training Course. The keenest and most hard-bitten professional, preparing himself for a possible winter war of the future, does not exactly relish lying in the snow, gripping his rifle or machine-gun between numb blue fingers, and trying to see a far-distant target through an aperture filled with snow. Good training maybe, but when your pay depends on the result . . . . . However, be that as it may, a daily fleet of buses has scaled the icy roads to barracks at an early hour to carry "A" and "H.Q." Companies to Hythe, while the remainder of the Battalion await their turn in what we hope will be better conditions. The Colonel and Mrs. Grace anyway made the best of it one day, and were seen on skis trying to imagine they got to Norway that winter after all, while the first Officers' T.E.W.T. (new series) miraculously fell on a perfect, if cold, day of sunshine amid the snowy fields and woods around Shepherdswell.

Many of our readers probably imagine that preparations for 9th May take up a proportion of our time, but we are still very much in the planning stage, working of course in close liaison with the Depot. Fortunately, all problems resulting from the alteration of date have been overcome, and it can now be told with reasonable assurance that the Advance Party leaves for Germany on 13th May, followed by the main body of the Battalion on 14th June. It is also no secret any longer that we are joining 6 Infantry Brigade (Brigadier R. E. Goodwin)—part of 2 Infantry Division—and will be stationed at Wuppertal in the Ruhr.

Thoughts of Kenya still impose themselves upon us from time to time in various ways. Thus we were invited by the Manager of the Odeon Cinema in Dover to attend in strength the first night of the film *Simba*, and arranged a display of captured weapons and other impedimenta in the foyer as a background for both the film and, more important, Colonel J. E. King's recruiting staff. The Mayor and Mayoress attended and were joined by the Commanding Officer and Mrs. Grace, the Brigade Commander, and Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. J. F. Connolly. Our Band played in the orchestra pit for half-an-hour before the film started, so that when we were projected back on to the dusty plateau beneath Mount Kenya (it must have been near Nanyuki), and heard the familiar cries, such as "ngapi watu wa kuchukua chakula?", we were in a receptive mood. To the surprise of many it was a very good film indeed, and, apart from an episode where a lion intervened, we forgave any licence that was taken.

Lectures and talks on our Kenya experiences have also been in demand. The Colonel lectured the Senior Officers' School earlier, while the Second-in-Command accompanied by Lieuts. Ian Minto, Cecil West and Roger Pilcher, endured the worst of blizzards and icy roads to give demonstrations (it was fun to be a District Officer or Policeman for a change) to the School of Military Intelligence at Maresfield. On their way back the latter party found refuge from the snow at Uckfield and Tenterden—and we are more than grateful for the kindness shown—with Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. G. F. Hamilton and Brigadier F. J. Whitacre Allen, all of whom were in great heart. It was a disappointment not to see Mrs. Whitacre Allen, and we hope she is now up and about again.

The Officers' Mess has opened its doors for its first formal guest night, and the P.M.C. and staff did well to cope with over forty to dinner, while on 4th March we entertained over one hundred friends to cocktails. With the Band playing, Colours, Silver and flowers on display, and some very hard work by a number of persons of whom Sgt. Shorter, our Cook-Sergeant, deserves special mention, we felt our guests enjoyed themselves. We certainly did, though we missed one or two familiar faces.

We have been very pleased to start on a series of visits to the Branches of the Past and Present Association at their monthly meetings, and small parties of all ranks have much enjoyed the opportunity to renew former friendships and make new ones. Above all, we hope these meetings will help the younger of us to see how imperative it is to lend our support to our local Branch when one day we settle down to civilian life whether on release, discharge or retirement. The Past cannot flourish without the Present, and the Present must stem from the Past.

Among our visitors we have been very pleased to see Lieut.-Col. J. R. Willows, who lunched one day, and Major Geoffrey Cox looking very fit from his exertions with the Royal Marines. Major-General J. B. Churcher, our present Divisional Commander (3 Inf. Div.), inspected Barracks one day and on a later evening met all the officers in the Mess. We have had Capitaine Bloch of the French Colonial Infantry attached for nearly three weeks on the *Echange au pair* system, and found it very difficult to convince him that Kent is not always snowbound. It is to be hoped that the exchange is reciprocated later by an officer going to our guest's regiment near Versailles.

Welcome to Major Peter Critchley, who has taken over command of "B" Company—his family will join us in Germany; and to Lieut. Michael Ward, who is our new Assistant Adjutant. Farewell and good luck to 2/Lieut. Pip Arnold, who has completed his National Service. Finally, the Adjutant's chair itself has now been vacated by Captain Rusty Thorneycroft, who has embarked on his well-deserved rest by attending an "Atomic, Biological and Chemical Warfare" course. We remind his successor, Captain Derek Willows—with a word of encouragement as well as sympathy—that he is following the conventional if stony road which often leads to greater things.

* * *

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the Mess last submitted a letter to the Magazine much proverbial water has flowed under the proverbial bridge, so we will endeavour to make up for lost months.

We are now firmly placed in our old haunt and once again are getting down to the job of being peace time soldiers in this foreign country called England; but it will be short lived because very soon we will be on our way again.

A very enjoyable Mess warming party was held on the 29th January, and it was very pleasing to see so many old faces again; to look at the empty bottles afterwards one could see that everybody really did "warm" themselves. Sgt. "Clipper" Thurley worked like a trojan ably assisted by C/Sgt. Doug. Ellis at the side door.

There are many members who now look longingly toward the Married Quarters as they go to the Mess for their "Tenses" (the housewives' Elevenses), and who was the member who wanted his tea taken to the office? S/Sgt. Bob Swain emphatically states that he doesn't have time, and this was seconded by other office workers—but to no avail. It is noted that the R.S.M. takes place of honour by the fire when drinking his tea.

Lot's of "fun" was had by members taking part in the Cross-Country run, and a few of the knee caps which were browned by the Kenya sun were seen to blue from the English snow. Of course words of encouragement were given to the runners as they passed the over 37's who were muffled in Greatcoats and (I think) had an electrically heated blanket somewhere on their person. Sgt. Joe Smissen was talking about taking his "canaries" for a run at 0600 hrs. but it hasn't materialised yet.

Some of the members are getting ready for B.A.O.R. and are busy taking lessons in German, so if you happen to pass the Television Room and hear guttural noises coming forth it is only Sgt. Wally Mans taking his pupils—he states they are doing fine.

We were all very sorry to hear of Sgt. Stan Billett's accident and were more than relieved to see him back again although he walks like "Twinkle toes". Cheer up, Stan, it won't be for long.

C.S.M. Bob Sharman has left us for six weeks' rest at the Guards Training Battalion, Pirbright, where he is on a Drill course.

We have, as usual, had our losses and gains and although some of them took place some time ago we would like to mention them—so it's Good Luck and best wishes to Sgt. "Eytie" Ivory, Sgt. Stoakes, Sgt. Vince Baldwin and Sgt. Rea. R.Q.M.S. Excell has gone on paper but he can still be seen working feverishly in the Q.M.'s Department—C/Sgt. Georges Stremes will have left us by the time this goes to press—we will sadly miss his capers on the dance floor very much. To that terrible street called "Civvy" we have lost Sgts. Smith and Willey and our R.E.M.E. stalwart "Bunny" Austin—think again Alan Martin!

We are glad to welcome to the fold Sgt. "Robin Hood" Vaughan, Sgt. Williams, Sgt. Inskip, C/Sgt. Hannaway. Congratulations on your promotion (the wine flowed that evening), W.O.II Rose, who takes over R.Q.M.S.—he is grey already—and C/Sgt. "Bangers" Day who joined us from the Depot. We hope they will be very happy with us.

Sgt. Danny Kay has returned to us from hospital and is looking much better.

Two points to note:—

If any person finds a walrus moustache, please return it to C/Sgt. Newman.

The Band are on leave again!

Before closing these notes, please note that there is, as always, the welcome mat down for anyone passing this way and we will be glad to see you.

STOP PRESS.—SUCCESS! Sgt. Ted Weatherall has given up the ghost and purchased his discharge at last, and we wish him the best of luck in his new venture.

* * *

CORPORALS' MESS

We open these notes for the month amidst the beautiful spring weather of dear old England. The birds are singing in the trees (between gulps of throat tonic) and a glorious white blanket of snow is spread out across the countryside.

Most of us in the Corporals' Mess huddle together and discuss the prospects of training in three feet of snow. The general opinion seems to be "Ugh".

But we start with the arrival at Dover from 28 days of glorious leave, only to find that our sanctuary had not yet been officially opened; *i.e.*, no chairs, tables, etc.

Thus for the first few days we had to queue with the countless others of the Battalion for our "tea and wads". At last, however, came the long awaited day, and we proudly walked into our own Mess. All around us in their majestic splendour were the various articles of furniture. New and unused, just waiting to have tea spilled on them.

We soon settled in, and before long a Mess meeting was the order of the day. With the R.S.M. in the Chair we got down to the task at hand; electing those who were to look after the dozens of jobs that are entailed by a Mess.

Cpl. Wagstaff was elected Mess President, Cpls. Adams and Bates the entertainments "bods", and other spare N.C.O.s found themselves with further tasks. No sooner had we opened than the Corporals' Mess of the Royal Artillery invited us up to their Club for an afternoon of sport, and a social evening. We jumped at the offer, and sallied forth with the aim in mind of showing them how to play football, etc. But sad to say we didn't have the expected effect on the Gunners, and they beat us. Nevertheless, after an excellent meal as their guests, we managed to lick them at darts!—an accomplishment in itself after the remarks overheard during the tournament, *i.e.*, "No, Bill, the board is on THAT wall."

At the time of going to press, we are eagerly looking forward to the Mess Dance, which is scheduled to take place on March 17th.

In the past two weeks or so we have lost some members, who have left us for the rigours of civvy street. These being Cpls. Stone and Knott, plus L/Cpl. Button. We wish them all the best of luck; we shall always be happy to have them visit us at any time.

Of course there have been additions to the numbers in the Mess, and quite a large number too; we welcome them one and all, and trust that they will be around for some time to come.

Now the notes must close, this typewriter is only good for another 500 words anyway. So until next time we say to one and all, "Lots of Luck", keep a look out for this column, because as the all powerful prophet once said, "You ain't seen nuthin' yet."

* * *

"A" COMPANY

It is not often when confronted by a problem in army life that a parallel can be drawn with the lot of the clergyman. The writer of these notes, however, as he sits unhappily at his desk, cannot but help thinking with sympathy of the plight of the parson before his Sunday sermon. He too has to sit regularly at his desk to prepare his notes; and he too depends on inspiration for the originality of his presentation. But whereas the ecclesiastic can, if necessary, have recourse to a book of sermons for his subject matter (we hasten to assure our padre that we would never suspect him of such a practice), the writer of the Company *Dragon* Notes is bound to describe only the activities of the preceding month. In retrospect, the latter appears to have been a bleak period, devoid of any excitement, and with little of interest to report.

After returning unwillingly from leave by Reveille on 19th January, it did not take us long to settle down into the old familiar routine of barrack room inspections and NAAFI breaks, of polishing doorknobs and of week-end passes.

Major McGrath, our Company Commander, now arranges our training programmes with the same thoroughness with which he used to organise our operations in

Kenya. In the stores, C/Sgt. Mannering, unencumbered by tents, barbed wire, and P.W.D. equipment, is finding his job comparatively simple. In fact, L/Cpl. Boxall, his right hand man, is finding time to go on a cadre course shortly, and is being temporarily relieved by Pte. Travers from No. 2 Platoon. In the office, Cpl. Alabaster, who has seen many platoon commanders come and go, resignedly ignores the irresponsible chatter of our present batch of young officers. He has, after all, less than a month more of it to endure. Pte. Vant is being trained to take over from him and is making remarkable progress considering the adverse conditions in which he works. C.S.M. Champion is not so tolerant of the noise, but nevertheless soldiers on.

There is a great temptation to make comparisons between our days in Kenya and those at home, and it is surprising how many of us already feel a certain nostalgia for the old way of life at times. Some of us recently were able to recapture something of the atmosphere of Kenya, when we went to see the film *Simba* in Dover at the kind invitation of the Manager of the Odeon Cinema.

Another reminder was when we heard that 2/Lieut. Turner and Pte. Stone of No. 2 Platoon had recently been summoned to the War Office with the unusual task of supplying background information for a forthcoming B.B.C. play about the fight against the Mau Mau. As we are confident that they were both admirably suited to the shooting of a most adequate line to the authors, we are looking forward to hearing a colourful account of some of the Company's exploits on the air in the near future. We only hope Mr. Turner will spare our blushes by omitting some of his tales from the Kabage woods.

Capt. Gatehouse has recently been appointed Band President. Although it is comforting to know that he is always willing to detail a euphonium player to accompany us on our route marches, we feel that his excuse, "Just off to a piccolo practice", repeated with increasing regularity as he leaves the office, is wearing a bit thin.

Other recent appointments include that of Pte. Bull who has been transferred from No. 1 Platoon to H.Q. Company to be the R.S.M.'s batman. He is not inappropriately named for the job.

Arrivals and departures in the last month have been many. Amongst those we have been sorry to see go on release are Cpls. Beeching and Carpenter, L/Cpl. Vane and Ptes. Webb, Lucchesi, Gearing, Fox and Catherick. We wish them the best of luck for the future.

Sgt. Ivory has left us for a tour of duty at the Depot, where he is by now in his element—drilling recruits on the barrack square.

We have also lost Ptes. Dongworth, Tolley, Meldrum, Jones and Humphrey temporarily to Brigade H.Q., but we hope to see them back before we leave for Germany.

We must welcome to our midst 2/Lieut. Mike Courteney, who will shortly be taking over No. 2 Platoon, and also a draft, ten strong, from the Depot.

Our congratulations go to Pte. Keen and Cpl. Piper (No. 3 Platoon in Kenya) on being brave enough to join the ranks of the "married pads", and to Cpls. Streeter and Carpenter on their engagements. They have obviously realised the truth in one of the officers' pet theories that "it is a married man's army these days", although we cannot say we envy Cpl. Hansen his daily trek over from Canterbury. He claims that Reveille for him is at 5 a.m., and he does not get his breakfast in bed either.

In the field of sport two teams from No. 2 Platoon played each other in the final of the Company Basketball Competition, much to Sgt. Rowland's satisfaction. Another No. 2 Platoon sportsman is Pte. Morley, who has been playing football regularly for the Battalion team.

In conclusion, we are indebted to the Battalion Orderly Room for providing us with a certain amount of idle amusement. A scrutiny of some recent copies of Battalion orders reveals a notice about "Regimental Dairies", and we liked this extract from a B.O. in which the following two soldiers of the new draft from Canterbury (listed alphabetically) were posted to one of the Companies—alas, not our own:—

23045938 Pte. Gilbert, R.
23032096 Pte. Harding, H.

Is it possible that this was merely a coincidence, or are we to suspect that the Adjutant has a sense of humour after all?

* * *

"B" COMPANY

Anyone returning to "B" Company after a year's absence would have to look very hard now to find many he knew. To write out a list of all those who have gone, even during the last month, and to say where they have all gone to, and also to name all the newcomers of the last two months or so, would in itself need a special Supplement of *The Dragon*. However we shall do our utmost to cover as many "arrivals and departures" as possible and hope that those not mentioned will forgive us.

Major Norris left us soon after our leave ended to go down to Devizes on a Senior Officers' Course. At about the same time Captain Charles Hamilton skated off to a Staff job in Austria after only a very short time with us. We extend a very warm welcome to Captain Graham Semmence, who has recently rejoined the Battalion from Malaya: we emphasise the "warm" because he is at present in bed with an attack of influenza. He has taken over Second-in-Command of the Company, and is, while Major Norris is away, acting Company Commander. Lieut. John Davison was not sure for quite a long time whether he should say good-bye, but eventually he too left us to go as M.T.O. to H.Q. 29 Brigade. As his M.T. Sergeant he now has Sgt. Ward, whom we congratulate on his promotion. Numerous others have left us, going either to Division or Brigade. Amongst other news that has been brought to our notice is that Cpl. Marley now waves a very pretty carving knife in the Brigade Officers' Mess.

The newly formed "D" (Training) Company has claimed both C/Sgt. Newman and Sgt. Histed. The former can nowadays be seen wearing immaculate denims and sunglasses (highly polished boots!), while Sgt. Histed wears musketry order (no sunglasses). Also attached to "D" Company at present are L/Cpls. Burns, Collins, Goodrum, Ide and McCluskey. We wish them all the best of luck and success in their course.

We welcome to the Company 2/Lieut. Keith Simpson, who has taken over No. 4 Platoon, and C/Sgt. Hannaway who is now firmly established in the Stores; congratulations too to the latter on his promotion. Also we welcome, rather belatedly, both the new drafts which have joined us since our return home to England.

Coming back from leave we were allowed a settling-in period. The bright, smiling and sun-tanned faces had disappeared, giving way to faces more resembling a poster for "Keep Death off the Road". Maybe people had just had an excess of Christmas and New Year "Good Cheer", for although there is not much suntan left, we do now see the occasional smile. Of course inevitably the "Marriage Stakes" were run during the leave, and both Cpl. Lockwood and Cpl. Williams were running odds on;

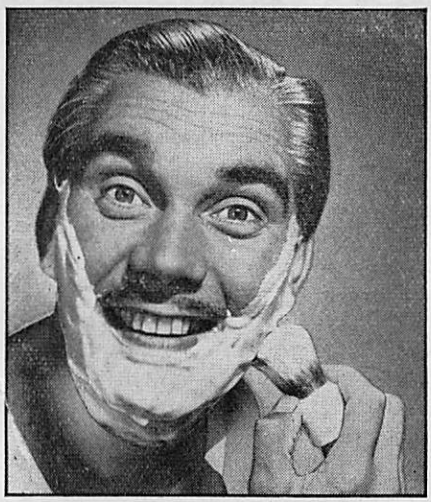
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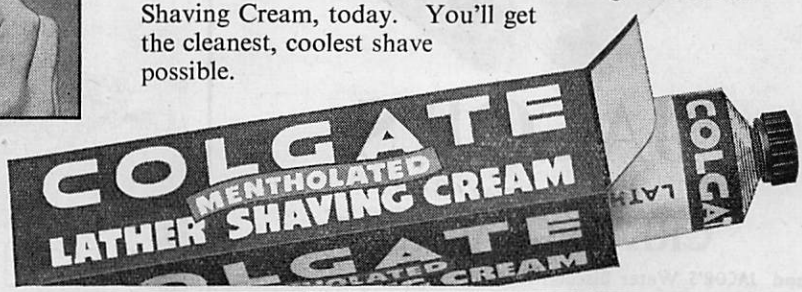


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BRYMAY

SAFETY MATCHES



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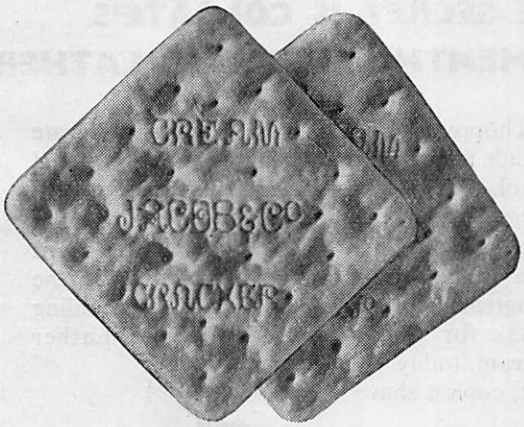


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FINE OLD

FRENCH BRANDY

congratulations to both of them, may their married lives be long and happy. There are still some runners even now, and I know one Platoon Commander who is hoping for at least some wedding cake. From the impression gained when the mail came into the Company Office on 14th February, it looks as though there soon won't be any bachelors left in the Company.

"Individual Training" has occupied our working hours over the past three weeks or so. Our lack of full N.C.O.s has meant our doing the training on a Company basis, using a pool of Instructors gathered from all the Platoons. I think that everyone will admit that none of us are by any means perfect yet. It is going to take a lot of polishing in all phases of soldiering before we achieve anything resembling a gloss.

The Battalion Cross-Country Run should really be left well alone, especially by the author of these notes. Nevertheless, we should congratulate Pte. Wood for coming third out of the whole Battalion, a most commendable effort and an example which many of us would do well to follow. I think, though, that it was just as well that certain men were required for other jobs than running; men having to stay in the Company Office, markers, and especially those who had to check us in. Perhaps, and I emphasise that word, perhaps next time they will run—I quote G. B. Shaw's *Pygmalion*, "Not b—— likely, *I'm* going by taxi"!

Came the snow. The Company Commander retired to bed with influenza and the Company withdrew in good order to the barrack rooms, where training has had to be improvised. "Classification" is drawing nearer, and thoughts are turning to more money or less money whichever the case may be. A last reminder to the superstitious that one cannot shoot with one's fingers crossed, and "Good Shooting" to everyone. All we hope for now is a complete thaw and fine weather. Anyway, by this time next month the results will be out.

* * *

"C" COMPANY

After a long spell of leave, the Company, like the remainder of the Battalion, is now rapidly picking up the threads of soldiering at home again. This includes individual training which is very necessary, especially as we face our annual Range Course at Hythe next month, and many strenuous days of training and exercises in Germany. Our first fortnight's programme has already proved in no uncertain manner how rusty we are, but it has also introduced to many of us, for the first time, such things as the Energa Grenade and 3.5 Rocket Launcher. Many and varied are the forecasts of the fate of the No. 2, who forgets to let go of the Rocket!

We are very pleased to welcome to the Company Major Worts, our new Company Commander, and Captain Carey our 2 i/c. May their stay with us be a long and happy one. What takers that the O.C. will get a new car before leaving for Germany? Captain Carey has rarely been seen (except week-ends) since our return. How does one wangle a "Horses" Course?

Other arrivals have been many, including a draft of twenty from the Depot—too many to name individually—however, Sgt. Parker from Brigade H.Q. and Cpl. Houghton, after eleven years with the Band, deserve mention. Finally, we welcome back once again Lieut. Edgecombe to No. 9 Platoon. His platoon can now often be seen marching and running out of camp at astonishing speeds—their return however is not so fast! Incidentally, congratulations on that other "pip". Now a word for all those that have left us; to Captain Griffin, we hope your new duties as Adjutant of the 4/5th (T.A.) are not too arduous, and that we shall see you again before we leave for Germany. Mr. Baker and Mr. Lunn have also deserted us, the former to the Assault Pioneers, and the latter to "D" (Training) Company. Here's hoping you both enjoy your new jobs, but still remember "C" Company occasionally!

During the last month, as usual, we have had to say farewell to several on release. To Sgt. Smith, who was so nearly persuaded to stay, Sgt. Willey and L/Cpls. Fleetwood, Twyman and Pte. Bartlett. Good luck to you all in "Civvy Street". We have also temporarily lost "Cactus Mac", and Ptes. Herring, Cook and Cosier to Brigade H.Q., but we hope to see them back with us before we leave for B.A.O.R.

Congratulations to Cpl. Hotchkiss and Pte. Philpott on their recent marriages. They certainly didn't waste much time, and the former must also be congratulated on his recent promotion.

The first Battalion Cross-Country Run provided much entertainment and many strange comments were heard during its course. Company H.Q. quite rightly showed the way with Pte. Bloomfield coming second and Pte. Randle eleventh, while the Company Commander, after starting for a leisurely afternoon's perambulation, found himself running to keep warm! So far no one has been able to find out what position he finished! Incidentally, who was the Sergeant who got stuck in the wire?

Thanks to many hours of hard work, of improvisation, and "light fingeredness" on the part of Lieut. Edgecombe, the Company has a new serviceable rifle rack in the Company Stores. But to watch C/Sgt. Denny's face when the Q.M. and Clerk of Works walked in, when essential but highly illegal holes were being bored in the walls, was well worth the possible threat of barrack damages.

To end these notes, it would be wrong not to say, in spite of those who are trying hard to volunteer for Malaya and other overseas stations, how grand it is to be back in our own country, and particularly our own county. For the majority at least it makes week-ends and 48 hours an easy trip home.

* * *

SUPPORT COMPANY

Phoenix-like, Support Company arises anew out of the ashes of the late "D" Company, little, I may say, if at all changed from those gay, bold, dashing days when, if we read our local newspapers aright, each and every one of us was daily chased from parade grounds by herds of ravening rhinocerous and elephant. Those days, when, always single handed, we shot numerous Mau Mau each morning before breakfast.

Let it be said at once that it is not without certain misgivings that the erstwhile scribe of "D" Company has taken up the pen of "Support, per ardua ad whatsit". The Mortar and Machine-Gun Platoons are much the same, though slightly greater in numbers, Nos. 11 and 12 Platoons have suffered a metamorphosis and have now become the Anti-Tank and Assault Pioneer Platoons.

And lo. It was said from on high: "Thou art an Anti-Tank gunner and thou an Assault Pioneer", and, oddly enough, they art.

Our Order of Battle now reads:—
Company Commander: Major Hugh Collins.
2 *i/c:* Lieut. Ian Minto.
C.S.M.: C.S.M. Sharman.

C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. Ellis.
Mortar Platoon: Lieut. Ian Minto, Sgts. Lyons and Cock.
Machine-Gun Platoon: Lieut. Cecil West, Sgts. Anderson and Morrish.
Anti-Tank Platoon: Lieut. Roger Pilcher, Sgt. Colyer.
Assault Pioneer Platoon: Lieut. Ron Baker, Sgt. Page.

Let us begin this new chapter by saying, "Good-bye, good luck and keep in touch with us" to all those who have just left for higher and perhaps better things, some to civilian life and some to other duties. C.S.M. Middleton has gone to "D" (Training) Company and Ptes. Lambert, Luck Smithers, Stamp and Beard to Brigade and Divisional Headquarters. The list of civilians is unhappily quite large; Cpls. Knott, Stone and L/Cpl. Button from the Mortar Platoon, Cpl. Keddy and Pte. Little from the Machine-Gun Platoon with L/Cpl. Gibbons hovering on the brink waiting for the flag to drop. The Anti-Tank Platoon have lost four worthies, Ptes. Giles, Humphries, Spillett and Wickings with Terry and Chandler waiting for the green light. The Assault Pioneers have lost Pte. Pottle and the Company Stores Cpl. Hanmore and Pte. Coombs.

The list of new arrivals is legion and it is only possible here to say how pleased we are to see them all and to hope that they will enjoy a long and happy stay with us.

Training of divers kinds proceeds apace, in fact more apace than we can really cope with, but perhaps we shall realise some of the results on the Classification Ranges at Hythe next month or on the training areas in Germany—or even at the desk of the Education Office at a later stage.

Sport has already played its part in keeping us busy (besides general Battalion activities) when for instance we were a very narrow second to H.Q. Company on the Cross-Country Run. Next month this will take on a slightly grimmer aspect as we start to compete for Company honours in the shape of a silver trophy which, as yet, has not been bought. This, perhaps, will afford a happy excuse for the Company Commander and the 2 i/c to visit Garrard and Co. and procure a suitably inscribed egg-timer or perhaps a silver-plated "thingamabob" for removing stones from horses' hooves. Perhaps the Company Commander's tastes have changed in the last three or four months, but a visit to the "Windmill" might almost be worked in as well.

We are working closely with the 4/5th Battalion Support Company and have managed to arrange various visits. Next month we hope to go to Lydd Ranges and shoot with them. They have been extremely helpful and have lent us all types of kit and stores which we lack at the moment owing to our weird and wonderful "staging" scale.

We close on the note that perhaps all this snow and ice only reminds those who, with nostalgic yearning, recall the days when they slept on the "snow line" and "the water in their waterbottles was frozen every night". That is one story that the local news hounds failed to get.

* * *

THE SIGNAL PLATOON

The Platoon arrived back from disembarkation leave, along with the rest of the Battalion, on 19th January and has now settled down to life in Old Park Barracks.

Before we left Kenya all our stores were withdrawn, consequently a complete new scale has been received. This kept Sgt. Pooley and Pte. Booth, the storeman, busy for several days unpacking and checking numerous items of equipment both large and small. When this had been completed Sgt. Pooley calmly informed the R.S.O. that he reckoned there was about £3,000 worth of stores on charge.

Shortly after our return nine of our N.S. men left us to return to civilian life and to all of them we wish the very best of luck in the future. To compensate their loss we welcome into the Platoon several young hands and also Cpl. Rodmell, who was last with the Platoon in Hong Kong.

The young hands are all attending a 6 week cadre course which is intended to bring them up to classification standard, and we hope in our next month's notes to report that they have all been successful.

* * *

THE M.T. SECTION

As the snowy weather continues one looks back on Kenya with its hot sunshine with a certain amount of affection. The M.T. Office is as usual in the coldest room available in the barracks and for a couple of days after his arrival the M.T.O. could be seen huddled up at his desk in a greatcoat with collar turned up bemoaning his lot. He has since got hold of a "Valor" lamp which he practically sits on.

Since our last notes we have lost two stalwarts in W.O.II Sharman, now C.S.M. "S" Company, and Sgt. Crooks, who left us in January for civvy street. We all appreciate the sterling work they did. In their places have arrived Sgt. Vaughan from the T.A. and Sgt. Williams from the Depot and we sincerely hope their stay will be a long and happy one.

The M.T. Section has changed considerably. The following left us in January: Cpls. Healy, Curd and Edwards, L/Cpls. Dunford, Davis, Bryant and Richardson and Ptes. Fryer, Stockbridge, Marsh, Austen, Davis and Roxburgh. They are all sadly missed. In the way of replacements we welcome Ptes. Webb, Spragg, Hadlow, Shaw, Jordan, Holmes, Jolley and Laws.

* * *

THE BAND

With the coming of February and yet more atrocious weather, we find that these are hardly the conditions to follow our musical careers with a warm heart. Eyes look to the Bandmaster to create a Bassoon or Tuba complete with an internal heating plant, or a de-icing contraption to enable Boy MacIntyre to appear *above* the snow.

It is very interesting to note these days the seemingly regular appearance of a new face and the absence of an old one. Whilst we bid farewell to Bandsmen Chisnall, Roberts, King and Cpl. Houghton, we welcome Bandsmen Reed, Richards and Bowles, and Boys McIntyre, Jarrad, Randall, Trevor and Barnes. We sincerely hope that they will be very happy with us and enjoy their musical careers in the Regiment.

The appearance of our instruments and all the Band kit now possesses an immaculate lustre after a practically complete overhaul. By far the most interesting proposed addition to the Band property is a set of embroidered Banners. We hope to have these in use for performances during the Trooping of the Colour period as they will add the finishing touch to the appearance of the Concert Band. It is with great sincerity that we appreciate the interest of the Commanding Officer in this matter, also the generosity of the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes of the Battalion and those of the Depot in presenting a number of these Banners.

Our sporting activities are rather curtailed these days by the weather, but Sgt. Pullman still does the round with his "blue-book" and collects the shillings. All the same, our sports kit still does us proud, especially the recent acquisition of a set of soccer boots. The P.R.I.

has provided the boys with hobbies and the musical wing now experiences model aircraft zooming round the passages or "Picasso" Randall getting enveloped in buckets of oil-paint!

Beware at any time of entering the Band Practice Room whilst Sgt. "Grundig" Coppins is recording with his machine. You may be asked to provide off-stage applause or (though you may not know it!) have your conversation recorded; you have been warned.

Most warmly we congratulate Cpl. Munns on his marriage and wish him all the very best for the future, yet another to join the "Canterbury Pilgrims" *à la* Warren and Reynolds.

Of course all eyes look forward to the Trooping of the Colour Parade, as it is realised what standard is required. We observe the Bandmaster deep in thought many times and over-hear his mutterings such as "Double-forte in the Dannebrog", "What, no Advance in Review Order", or "You've got your music upside down, boy!"

In conclusion we would like to welcome Captain H. R. Gatehouse (and his smile) in his capacity as Band President. We are sure he will soon adapt himself to an Opheclide, Viola da Gamba or Sackbut and be able to translate "Allargandos", "dolorosos" and "pizzicatos".

* * *

THE DRUMS

The strength of the Corps is now the unbelieveable number of 34; on paper it looks terrific and no doubt it will be the same on parade before long—it won't be for the want of trying if it is not.

Since our return to England some of our stalwarts have left us and needless to say we miss them very much. Corrigan, Roberts and Swain have just recently gone, Allen and Mahoney have only a few weeks to do. To make up for this serious blow we have had posted to us Ptes. Evans, Rooke, Sedgwick, Lancaster, Sausby, Morris and Streeting with the hopes that they will make the grade; they are all settling down well and enjoying themselves.

We offer our congratulations to Drummer Harding on joining the ranks of the married; all the best to him and his wife and may all their troubles be little ones. Also to L/Cpl. Olerenshaw on his engagement to his Kenya pen friend; they are due to tie the knot in the near future. I believe the invitation is open to all Drummers wherever they are.

Sanderson and Wiles are both thrilled at the thought of having a medal to carry around, the only trouble is it will make them one-sided.

We now take it in turns with the Band to do Guard Mounting parades, but as most of our flutes are away for repairs it handicaps us. Burgoyne spends his time making loud noises with the cymbals and Peanut still plods along whistling over the top.

Everybody is on a week's leave, so they don't know what is in store for them when they return—the little matter of firing the Annual Range Course at Hythe, from 5th to 12th March, and it's no use thinking the markers will help them out. I can see some stars shining brightly for a while.

Cpl. Dipper has been playing football for Whitstable "A"; it wouldn't surprise us to see Tom Whittaker down here before long. I should like to congratulate Pte. Allen on his winning the final of the Kent Senior A.B.A. Championship.

To all those concerned, the Lillywhites are certs. for the Cup and League.

Regimental Museum

THE CRIMEA EXHIBITION

PREPARATIONS for this Exhibition are now nearly completed.

Captain Sydney Maiden paid a special visit to Canterbury from his home in Essex and spent nearly a week at the Depot while working on a large mural painting measuring 13 feet by 4 feet to form the background to the staging. Taking some of his ideas from coloured prints in the Museum, he has produced what one can imagine to have been a typical scene in the Crimea during the Spring and Summer. It was thought to be unnecessary to paint a picture of the conditions during the winter which, from all accounts, must have been very similar to the weather we have experienced in England during the last few weeks.

Apart from any other items of interest in the Exhibition, this mural is well worth a visit on its own.

The Regiment is fortunate in possessing a number of the effects of General Sir Frederick Francis Maude, V.C., which include a ceremonial sword presented to him on 5th March, 1856 by the inhabitants of the County of Fermanach and the Borough of Enniskillen in recognition of his services in the Crimea; the tunic he wore when Assistant Adjutant-General at Gibraltar from July, 1861 and other items of his uniform and equipment. Our thanks are due to the Colonel of the Regiment, who was able to secure the loan of General Maude's Victoria Cross and medals from his grandson, Brigadier E. F. Maude, and his family, together with other mementoes of his services. The V.C. and medals are still on the bar with the original ribbons as they were no doubt worn by General Maude while still serving.

Major Tomlinson has obtained the loan of the medals and decorations of Lieut.-General Sir Charles van Straubenzee by the kindness of his nephew, Major-General Sir C. van Straubenzee, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., and his family, who also presented a photograph of his uncle, when a Colonel in the Crimea, seated on the ground surrounded by officers and N.C.O.'s of The Buffs.

Colonel van Straubenzee commanded The Buffs at Malta and in Greece and took the Regiment to the Crimea in April, 1855. Within a few days of landing he was appointed to command a brigade known as the Separate Brigade, to which The Buffs were posted.

I had previously given a very faded copy of this photograph to the Museum, but I had not known the names of the officers and N.C.O.'s in the group. These were on a paper pasted on the back of the gift now received and add considerably to its interest.

Also shown in the Exhibition is the silver cup, known as the Crimea Cup, presented by the officers of the Regiment to commemorate the services in the Crimea War. Depicted on a silver plate on one face of the plinth is the action of Private Lynch carrying a badly wounded sergeant out of action under heavy fire from a Russian picquet.

It would take too much space to catalogue all the medals, pictures, and other exhibits, but it is hoped that the Exhibition may prove of interest especially commemorating, as it does, the centenary of The Buffs in the Crimea.

MAU-MAU

By the kind co-operation of Lieut.-Colonel H. R. Grace and the 1st Battalion we have now on show in the Museum trophies of the hunt of the Mau-Mau, examples of uniform and equipment worn on service in Kenya, maps of the large area of operations covered by the Battalion and some interesting photographic records of Mau-Mau "Generals" and others.

Touching again on the Crimea Exhibition, I had planned to produce a brochure of the events leading up to the War with Russia and the actions of The Buffs in the Crimea together with Orders of Battle, lists of casualties, honours and awards and a few reminiscences of the campaign. Major Tomlinson kindly read and corrected the proofs (and my spelling mistakes) and rendered valuable advice. Fortunately I obtained an estimate before placing the order and was horrified to find the present day cost of printing, augmented as it is by the addition of Purchase Tax. With the addition of the making of blocks for a few illustrations the estimate came to approximately £200 for the publication of 1,000 copies of the pamphlet. Needless to say, the idea had to be dropped.

However, a clear and comprehensive history of the period and the story of the part played by the Regiment in some detail is to be found in Volume 1814 to 1914 of our Historical Records by C. R. B. Knight, while in the Appendix is to be found the list of officers who disembarked at Balaclava on 2nd May, 1855 and the list of decorations and awards.

In conclusion, I should like it to be known that in order to stage any special display in the very limited accommodation in the Museum involves a great deal of work in reorganizing the existing arrangement of groups and the removal into store of a number of exhibits. While I supply the ideas, Captain Blackwell does the lion's share of the work. Luckily he is very long-suffering, whatever he may think or say as I drive away to the warmth and comfort of my house.

G.R.H.

* * *

The Army Museums Ogilby Trust

by Bernard Fergusson

THE other day an officer in one of our oldest regiments was asked by an officer in one of our youngest corps whether his regiment celebrated annually the anniversary of its raising. He replied loftily: 'Not annually: only once in every hundred years'. In no other Army in the world could such an answer have been given. Ours is unique in the continuity of its corps and regiments, and in its father-to-son tradition. Officers of other armies have often commented wistfully and enviously on this particular aspect of our heritage. It is something which is lacking even from the French Army, whose every regiments has its *Salle d'Armes*, and in which every effort is made to foster a sense of descent from the glories of Napoleon and beyond.

The principal that the British Army is based upon the regimental system has lately been enunciated afresh in the highest quarters. So much for the sinister mutterings behind the arras that the regimental system is antiquated, out of tune with the modern conception of an army, doomed and done for. There has never yet been a good soldier, let alone a great one, who has not retained a sense of vocation nourished by a sense of romance. The soldier to whom his profession has become merely a source of bread and butter, or of bully stew, is a weak link as well as a pitiable person. Fire in the belly is essential to the profession of arms, and tradition is the proper fuel with which to stoke it. In the British Army it is through the channels afforded by the regiments and corps that this fuel flows naturally; there is no need for it to be pumped. Between wars, tradition is of the first importance, for it is in the opening stages of every war, in the days of the defiles, that the strain comes; and often then there is little beyond tradition to keep you fighting. A sense of tradition breeds in one the realization that in the very worst of battles one is actually making history. 'Highlanders!

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Remember Egypt!' called out Sir John Moore at Corunna; some day another General may call out 'Highlanders! Remember Crete!'

It was the munifícence of the late Sir James Caird which established the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, one of the most rewarding places of pilgrimage within fifty miles of London. Sir James Caird was a great Scotsman whose lifelong interest was in ships and blue water. Hitherto there has been no equivalent of the National Maritime Museum for the Army. The Army's treasures are displayed in such places as the Royal United Service Institution in Whitehall, the United Services Museum in Edinburgh Castle, the Imperial War Museum in Lambeth, the Royal Military Academy museum at Sandhurst. And in regimental and corps museums up and down the country, trophies and articles rich in regimental history are jealously preserved and proudly displayed by those to whom they properly belong. That is as it should be: for nobody wants to filch or entice away from Carlisle or Armagh or Perth or Woolwich the possessions of The Border Regiment, or The Royal Irish Fusiliers, or The Black Watch, or the Royal Regiment of Artillery, in order to lump them all together in one vast central pleasure dome, to gratify some bureaucratic Kubla Khan.

Some of these regimental museums are already of a high standard, well stocked, well housed and well organized. Others suffer from lack of space, or of a suitable building. The War Office has given very considerable help, but funds have always been limited; and although it is up to regiments to raise their own funds for this purpose, housing has always been a difficulty. Furthermore, the last few years have seen more and more old country houses being broken up, and their contents dissipated, with the result that there has been a sad leakage through the sale-rooms of historic material—pictures, trophies, documents, rare books and sketches, maps, personal accountrements of famous soldiers—for lack of either a central authority or the necessary funds to acquire them.

A momentous event has now happened. Colonel R. J. L. Ogilby, D.S.O., D.L., Colonel of The London Scottish, and formerly both of the 2nd Life Guards and of the 4th Dragoon Guards, has endowed a Trust, to be known as The Army Museums Ogilby Trust, with the great sum of a hundred thousand pounds as its nucleus. Far from competing with the regimental and other museums already mentioned, the primary object of the Trust is defined as being 'the encouragement, equipment, care and maintenance of existing regimental and army museums'. The trustees are enjoined to provide and pay for technical assistance and expert advice; to offer the services of experts in arrangement, maintenance and display; and to give on occasion financial help where the museums are open (as they should certainly all be) to the public. They are also empowered to help other museums with recognized military sections, to organize exhibitions and lectures, and to further the objects of the Society for Army Historical Research. Another object, specifically expressed, is perhaps the key to the whole project: 'to increase interest in the promotion and fostering of regimental and military tradition'.

The trustees on whom these charges are laid, apart from Colonel Ogilby himself, are the Rt. Hon. Lord Kindersley, C.B.E., M.C.; General Sir Gerald Templer, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel of The Royal Irish Fusiliers; Brigadier Sir Henry Floyd, Bt., C.B., C.B.E., Colonel of the 15th/19th Hussars; Mr. L. E. Buckell, and Mr. R. G. L. Rivis.

The Trust has another, and slightly more long-term, object. This is a scheme for a central National Army Museum, which will be the counterpart in many respects of the Maritime Museum at Greenwich. It is hoped that this old dream may at last be realized; but it will be complementary to the rest of the scheme, and not in any way competing with it. Not only will it help to stem the leakage through the sale-rooms, which has too often been a *Drang nach Westen* beyond the Atlantic. It will exhume a great many valuable and historic objects from drawers and boxes, from under dust-sheets and from remote attics. Others with resources more slender than Colonel Ogilby, but with the same passionate belief in the importance of regimental tradition and in the value of visible and tangible history, will want to associate themselves with his Trust. They will have a chance to do so, for the Trust is open to receive further capital sums; and anyone interested in this great conception should write to Colonel R. J. L. Ogilby, D.S.O., D.L., at 22 Down Street, London, W.1.

I have been privileged to see a copy of the Declaration of Trust which gives effect to all this. Its language is as dry and dusty as lawyers can make it, like a Palestine *wadi* in August, with its hereinafters and aforesaids and notwithstandings and inasmuchaswhiches; but when one imagines what horizons it opens up, it is as glorious as a canto of *Marmion*, or a burst of martial music. It is not given to many men to be able to do what Colonel Ogilby has done. by a generous stroke of singular vision he has put both the past and the future in his debt.

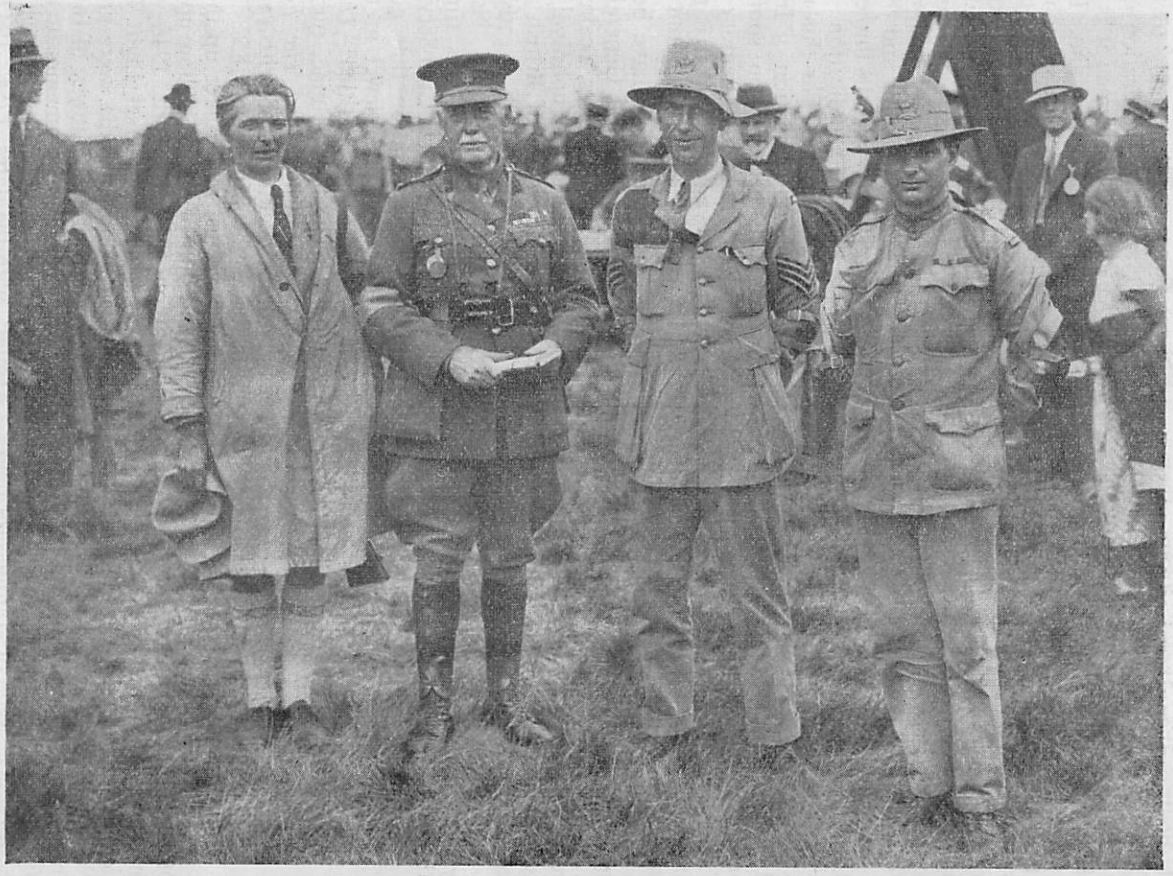
"Forty Years On"

I WAS interested to read in the January, 1955 *Dragon* the letter from Major Tomlinson on the subject of Christmas at Winchester, 1914. This reminded me of the officers' dinner on Christmas night at Magdalen (pronounced Morn) Hill camp. They were assembled in the anteroom marquee and, dinner having been announced, were about to move into the dining-room marquee, when the half gale accompanied by hail and sleet that was raging, suddenly developed into a full gale. The tent pegs embedded in the churned-up quagmire yielded to this extra pressure as loose teeth do to a dentist's forceps. It would make a good story to say that all the officers were enveloped in the billowing canvas which was set on fire by the pressure oil lamps, and that they crawled out from a blazing inferno. But actually the two marquees collapsed comparatively slowly, and there was just time for everybody to get clear. We all thought that that was the end of 1914 Christmas dinner for us, but not a bit of it. The most important part of the Officers' Mess cookhouse, a large sheet of corrugated iron, had stood firm, and, on the leeward side of this, the Officers' Mess cook continued to prepare Christmas fare at 1914 standards. In single file as we passed him he heaped our plates with the good things of those days. Then each officer found for himself as sheltered a place as was possible on that bare windswept hill, and, sitting with his back to the gale and hail that cut one's face like a whip-lash, consumed an excellent Christmas dinner! I wish I could remember the name of that imperturbable cook. Perhaps he is still alive and may read these lines. The same gale blew away the Field Post Office tent at Magdalen Hill camp, and thousands of letters, many of them containing postal orders, were whirling round like leaves before an autumn gale, and few were recovered. The majority were trodden into the mud. The writer in his summer wanderings sometimes passes this salubrious spot and, perched thereon nowadays is a housing estate! He wonders whether the workmen excavating the foundations were mystified to come across numerous scraps of envelopes, etc., addressed to "X.Y.Z., 2nd Battalion The Buffs".

The Battalion marched from Winchester to Southampton docks, and one remembers with gratitude the many kind local inhabitants on the outskirts of Southampton who ran alongside the marching battalion offering cups of tea. The Regular Army was popular in those days with the epic of Mons and the final stemming of the first German onrush at the First Battle of Ypres fresh in people's minds. After a rough Channel crossing, we disembarked at Havre, and by nightfall found ourselves marching up that very steep hill that overlooks Havre. On top was a tented camp, part of which was already occupied. The occupants put out their heads and shouted out "Are we downhearted?". The customary reply in those early days was a hearty "Naow", but on this occasion they got "Yes—we something well are!". Those heads thereupon vanished back into their snug tents. It was customary at that stage of the war to say, quite erronesously, as it turned out, that the worst horrors of war were endured on the way up to the battlefields. This brings to mind the night the Battalion arrived at Bombay terminus after a four-day train journey from Southern India. It was too late to embark that evening, and there were no staging arrangements, so the order was "Bivouac where you are", *i.e.*, on the platform! There were no blankets, and it was not because of cold that one desired them, but to impose them between one's body and that concrete platform. It was impossible to sleep. Not only were there myriads of mosquitoes, but hordes of local inhabitants were squatting about the platforms clearing their throats and expectorating. It is the custom of these people when making a rail journey to arrive at the station of departure many hours before their train is due to depart. One amusing episode of the rail journey up to Bombay was that when our troop train halted at a certain junction, a mail train going in the opposite direction, also stopped there. On it was a much-loved officer who is, alas! no more, who was returning from leave in U.K. Of course he was hauled on to the troop train. Unfortunately, he had grown a bushy "Kaiser" moustache during his leave. Now "Big Willie" and "Little Willie" were most unpopular just then, having recently ravaged Belgium. So the Senior Subaltern dealt with the situation. He also, alas! is no longer with us. The much loved officer was firmly held down while the Senior Subaltern with a pair of scissors snipped off ONE handlebar! At that time, a Senior Subaltern was one of the Seven Pillars of Wisdom, and somebody who counted very much in the running of a battalion—as far as the young officers were concerned anyhow.

We and a battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment embarked on *S.S. Ultonia*. She was a Cunard ship designed to take Italian emigrants from Naples across the cold North Atlantic route. She was centrally heated throughout, and the heat could not be turned off, *i.e.*, as soon as the fires were lit in the furnaces the heat was on in every cabin, dining-room, corridor,

Bisley, **1933** (see Editorial)



Miss Marjorie Foster, Colonel R. F. Pearson (late The Buffs), Sgt. Stock (Queen's Own Rifles of Canada), ——

etc. Also, every porthole was sealed up for the black-out. The first fortnight of the voyage across the Indian Ocean and Red Sea was like a Turkish bath, and made us feel the cold of Magdalen Hill camp all the more when we got there. We were escorted as far as Aden by a Japanese destroyer. Although out of range of German U-boats, the threat from their marauding fast light cruisers was real. One of these, the *Emden*, had a good run for her money, and, after bombarding Madras, Penang, and a few other places, and sinking much shipping, was herself destroyed at the Cocos Keeling Islands. For the Royal Navy it must have been like looking for a needle in a haystack to have to run this raider to earth, as, in those days, air reconnaisance was inadequate to cover the vast spaces of the Indian Ocean, and, of course, radar did not exist. The only encounter with submarines came when we arrived off Cape Ushant and were about to make our run in to Plymouth. We suddenly altered course to due West, and steamed thus for three hours before turning about and reaching Plymouth by hugging the South Cornish coast. This avoiding action was taken as U-boats were lying in wait in the Channel for our convoy, and there would have been no 28th Division had they caught us—nearly a dozen large liners.

Those were light-hearted days when it was easy to take everything as a joke, and very few then realized that humanity was getting on the move once more, and the old order was being swept away never to return. Even now nobody knows whither it is all leading.

D.A.W.

* * *

R.W.A.F.F.

ALL Officers and ex-Officers who have at any time served with the Royal West African Frontier Force are reminded of the existence of the R.W.A.F.F. Dinner Club. A reunion dinner is held annually in London, that for 1955 taking place in October and for 1956 probably in May. The type of commission held by an Officer or ex-Officer (*i.e.*, regular, short service, emergency, N.S., etc.) is immaterial, the sole requirement of membership being service with West African troops in any part of the world. Further particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, R.W.A.F.F. Dinner Club, Bisterne, Normandy, Nr. Guildford, Surrey.

Round and About

By the Tramp



IT is eight years since the British Raj ceased to operate in India. Already to the younger generation of our countrymen it is ancient history and, I fear, little of our achievement is remembered except by those who knew the vast sub-continent through service or residence. The hasty manner of our going and the disastrous results immediate on our abdication are dim memories here at home. For this reason some record of our long occupation of India is to be welcomed. It is perhaps too soon for a full appraisal of it, but 'while memory serves' it is well that those who knew what it really meant should let us learn something about it.

Soldiers' memories there have been and will be in plenty. One such was General Sir Francis Tuker's *While Memory Serves*, a calm but graphic and moving account of the upheaval immediately preceding the departure of British Forces from India and Pakistan. I have already referred to and recommended this book. Now I would like to welcome another; this time from the point of view of the Indian Civil Service, the great administrative organisation that governed and controlled the 'brightest jewel in the Imperial Crown'. The book is entitled: *The Men Who Ruled India*. The first volume, published some two years ago, was called *The Founders* and dealt with the beginnings of British rule and went on as far as the Mutiny of 1857. The second, which I have just read, takes up the story after the conclusion of the Rebellion up to the final moment on February 28th, 1948 when the 1st Battalion of The Somerset Light Infantry, the last British troops in India, were presented with a silver model of the Gateway of India inscribed with the words: 'To commemorate the comradeship of the soldiers of the British and Indian Armies', with the dates, 1754—1947.

THE GUARDIANS

This second volume is called appropriately *The Guardians*, for that in two words was the well understood function and burden of many famous and more comparatively unknown men who formed the greatest administrative unit

that history has ever known. It is an absorbing book and, as the author says, not about systems of government but about the men who did the work. The great ones all get their mention; Bartle Frere, John Jacob, Sir George Clerk, Merewether, Lyall and others. But it is the obscure district officers who are the real heroes. Not that any of them would have accepted that description. Their life, their daily duties and their difficulties are well conveyed in this absorbingly interesting book. The author, Philip Woodruff, writes from intimate knowledge of his subject. He was an Indian civilian who experienced many of the things he describes with humour and level-headed judgment. The book abounds in diverting stories which I would like to quote if I had room to do so. One of these stories concerns F. B. Simson of The Bengal Civil Service who retired as Commissioner of Dacca in 1872. He 'was sitting one day in his court when a villager entered carrying the mangled leg of his son. This he laid before the Court.

'What sort of a ruler are you?' he cried . . . What are you doing here arguing with lawyers when a tiger is eating my son?' The magistrate saw his point and left his court and shot the tiger. In this way and in many others was earned the honourable title so freely bestowed on the rulers of India by the peasants of India. 'Protector of the Poor' was no empty description of the men who kept going the vast and intricate machinery of government. The system they inaugurated, and polished during the long occupation, was handed over, a finished product, to those who now have to cope in their own fashion with the task. We shall know in time how well these pupils learned the lesson of those whom they so often called 'usurpers'.

AMRITSAR

I wonder how many people in Britain could answer the question: 'Who was Brigadier-General Dyer and what connection had he with the city of Amritsar?'. In April, 1919, serious disturbances occurred in this city of the Punjab, among other places. From April 10th to the 12th a frenzied mob ruled the city. The railway station, post offices, banks and town hall were attacked and burnt. Europeans were murdered. Chaos reigned. On the 11th, General Dyer arrived in the City and took charge. He immediately issued orders against public meetings and warned that meetings would be fired on. On the 13th with a small force of 50 rifles and 40 men with *kukris* he came upon a crowd which different accounts say was between 5,000 and 20,000 in number. In the enquiry that followed the incident, General Dyer said that he gave orders to his men to fire on the mob in order 'to preserve the force under his command'. 1,650 rounds of ammunition were fired and over 300 people were killed and over a thousand were wounded. ' That evening', writes Philip Woodruff, 'the city was quiet'. Dyer was attacked for undue severity, not only by Indian politicians but also by certain sections of the Press in Britain. After what was known as the Hunter Commission he was retired from the Army but a large number of his fellow-countrymen subscribed to a fund to recompense him for his broken career and to mark a scuse of what he had done to 'save India' from the horrors of a second Mutiny. Philip Woodruff gives a balanced but brief account of this incident which thirty-five years ago aroused so much feeling both for and against the General, not as part of his record of the work of the Indian Civil Service but to show what its effect was on British officials who felt that no longer could they rely on support of their actions in crises. Few people who had not experienced what Dyer did, that is who had not faced a huge mob mad with lust for blood and loot, could imagine his feelings in Amritsar that day and the ordeal of his decision to open fire. One thing that particularly inflamed opinion in certain circles in Britain was an order that Dyer gave, after the shooting, that any Indian passing along a street where an English woman missionary had been attacked and left for dead should crawl upon his hands and knees. This was considered injurious to the dignity of the victims of the order. This order was rescinded shortly afterwards by the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, presumably on the same grounds. That it was perhaps an order inexpedient on political grounds is no doubt correct, but to those who had seen the mutilated body of the missionary it was not so unreasonable. Nevertheless it told against Dyer in the minds of those who incline to see indignity in capital or any other punishment of brutal criminals with little thought for their hapless victims.

GRATUITOUS TRIBUTE

Woodruff quotes a singular tribute to the British from the pen of an Indian, Nirad Chaudhuri, in his book *Diary of An Unknown Indian*, published after Independence was granted to India and Pakistan. He wrote: 'To the memory of the British Empire in India, which conferred subjecthood on us but withheld citizenship, to which every one of us threw out the challenge *Civis Britannicus sum*, because all that was good and living within us was made,

shaped, and quickened by the same British rule'. That's not bad as a testimonial and the men who earned it got very small rewards for their work and many of them lie in forgotten graves up and down the country they served.

AFTER THE TESTS

English superiority over the redoubtable Australians was confirmed by the unhappily curtailed final Test at Sydney. It is a long time since this was so, and it proves that there is no need to make drastic changes in our county cricket programme as the Jeremiahs were urging not so long ago. Few would withhold three hearty cheers from Hutton for his successful leadership of a good team. Even so, and in spite of Tyson and Statham's bowling (and not forgetting Wardle in the last Test) and the batting of May, Cowdrey, Compton and the captain himself, this is the poorest Australian side I can recall. It is well to remember that they will return to their former greatness and we shall have to look to our laurels ere long.

ENGLAND *v* FRANCE

I watched this match on T.V. and what a game! Disappointed as I and thousands of others were that we did not win, how well the Frenchmen earned their victory. And now for the Calcutta Cup against a Scotland refreshed by two great victories after long lean years. I'd give a good deal to be at Twickenham, for this (or is it to be at Murrayfield? I can't remember).

* * *

Regimental Gazette

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY, 1955, DATED FRIDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Capt. M. A. O'B. ffrench-Blake (153842) to be Maj., 10th Jan., 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 1955, DATED TUESDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lts. J. A. Rymer-Jones (426996) and G. J. B. Edgecombe (426867) to be Lt., 6th Feb., 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY, 1955, DATED FRIDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

THE BUFFS.—22928526 Cadet Michael Kevin Courtney (439108) to be 2nd Lt., 18th Dec., 1954.

Old Brigade News

THE Old Brigade send good wishes for a speedy recovery to Mrs. Carter (the widow of the late Captain Ernie Carter), who at the time of writing is lying seriously ill in hospital.

* * *

We regret to hear that our old pal Billy Everitt is about to go back to hospital. Billy has not been too well lately and we sincerely hope that he will soon recover his former health.

* * *

Snowball Manning is no better or worse, but his legs will not let him walk far. He sends his best wishes to all his old friends.

* * *

Councillor Ted Swendell, notwithstanding his many Council activities, never misses a Ramsgate Branch Meeting. He tells us that the Ramsgate Branch is going strong but would like to see (like we all want) the younger brigade come along and keep the flag flying.

* * *

We heard recently from that young-looking old Buff, George Cobb, who has reached over 70 years—he looks 40 years. George on sentry was the first to spot "Cronge's" flag of truce at Paardeburg, just 55 years ago. He tells us that poor old Dusty Roullier is full of pain but never grumbles.

* * *

Reading Medway Branch news, the name of the President, Mr. Hepworth, brings back memories of 2nd Battalion Athlone days, when he was Sergeant. He must be a very old Buff and one who will remember the Carter family with affection. Our congratulations.

* * *

We hear that Captain Norman Linwood is still keeping very fit and still the fine Buff we knew him to be in the days gone by.

* * *

We regret to hear of the death of Mr. A. B. Arnold, who served with the 5th and 8th Battalions during the 1914 War. He resided off Eaton Square, and was a fine member of the London Branch. Our deep sympathy to his family.

* * *

We recently heard from Colonel C. Vaughan, O.B.E., who is keeping fit and well, and sends his best wishes to all old friends.

* * *

It is wonderful to think that so many old Buffs aged from 70 to 90 years are in touch with each other. They often recall their square-pushing days as barrack-room youngsters, often not out of their "teens". Will it be the same in 60 to 70 years' time?

J.E.E.

Watch for these Films

A STAR is Born. Seventeen or more years ago this picture was first made, and was a brilliant production. It is a story of Hollywood. An unknown show-girl is encouraged and taught by the reigning star, a worthless charmer who marries her. She soon outshines him. He takes to drink and she loyally strives to uphold his reputation. For those who, like the writer of these notes, saw the original production more than once, it is difficult to imagine that the wistful charm of Janet Gaynor, or the sensitive acting of Frederic March as the fallen star, could be equalled. They need have no fear. This film with its crispness, satire and glimpses of the cruel disappointments of the film world is again brilliantly handled. Judy Garland and James Mason, who now play the parts, rise to great heights. The former can always bring a catch to the throat; at the preview, after one of her songs, the critics burst into applause. Her performance has an added poignancy when one thinks of her own temporary eclipse, and this triumphant return to films. The film is directed by George Cukor.

Raising a Riot. That most engaging English actor, Kenneth More of *Doctor in the House*, is now in this film as a Naval Officer on leave, who is left in charge of three children. Mandy Miller is the eldest child. It is full of funny situations but never farcial because of the certain touch of Kenneth More. For those living locally it is interesting to know that the scenes of the old mill were shot at Barham.

Seven Samurai. A Japanese film for which dwellers in the provinces may watch in vain. It is the story of the defence of a village in the 16th century by hired soldiers. It is at times blood curdling, but there are moments of great beauty, as in other Japanese films.

Desiree. With Marlon Brando and Jean Simmons, is a story of Napoleon and Desiree Clary, who married General Bernadotte and became Crown Princess of Sweden. It is rather Hollywood history but if one enjoys a bit of 'sumshousness' and can bear to hear Desiree called 'Daisy Ray', a pleasant entertainment. Marlon Brando is always an interesting actor.

A Prize of Gold. Quite a good story of bullion stealing. Exciting and well acted by Richard Widmark, Mai Zetterling and Nigel Patrick.

Just a note again on films not to be missed. Everyone in London is going to see *Carmen Jones*, the modern version of *Carmen*, with negro cast.

For those who liked *Oklahoma* and *Annie Get Your Gun, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* with its quite wonderful dance sequences.

Also a word about Judy Halliday, whose latest film, *Pffft* is released. She is indeed as good as the critics say; the impact of her personality is like that of Danny Kaye. She is so clever one can scarcely believe it!

M.M.A.



Skill—What Is It?

THE dictionary defines skill as "expertness" and nobody expects to become expert at anything without a good deal of practice. Yet so often a man who is a recognised tradesman in one or other of the Services decides, on taking his discharge, to discard his skill and start all over again in a new direction.

To be a "Representative" seems to have a strange allure to those who know nothing about it. To them it is, apparently, not to be a salesman but to be something much more important. Important, but quite easy to be, or so they think. In fact, Salesmen, or Representatives to be as flattering as we can, are pretty near born and not made. In addition to a great deal of personality, ability to talk when necessary and, more important still, to know when to stop talking—which means the ability to size people up quickly and know how to tackle them—a salesman has to have a very real knowledge of the thing he is trying to sell. His is a hard task, anyway. Is the attraction that he is out and about, travelling around?

Why does a man experienced in one direction want to start all over again in a new one? Does he dislike the idea of being either behind a desk or a bench all day? Are regular hours of work and play, day after day and month after month, an unpleasant thought? Shift-work too is unpopular. It is inevitable in many industries and becoming more and more prevalent, but night shifts usually carry better pay than day. Unfortunately these snags are inseparable from civil life.

What does this add up to? If you're a skilled man on the point of leaving the Service think very hard before throwing away your skill. You've lost it, because for years now you've been overseeing other people? Well, get a refresher course and get it back. You'll be lucky indeed if you start straight away overseeing other people in civil life, but if you get back your skill and show you've got it, it won't be long before you work your way up again. You had to do that in the Service, and you'll have to do it again as a civilian, but it shouldn't take you long. To start in a new direction means really starting at the bottom.

Regular Forces Employment Association,
62 Victoria Street,
London, S.W.1.

4/5th Battalion



RECENT issues of Part I Orders have been graced with a facsimile of the Regimental Badge, which coming from the pen of our versatile Quartermaster is yet another proof that his talents are not entirely confined to the hockey field. It is likely that this new heading will become a permanent feature.

The event of the month was of course the wedding of Major Frank Neville. Major John Tilleard and Captain Nigel Taylor represented the Battalion at both the Civil and Church ceremonies and later more ably assisted in the rigours of the reception, which extended into the early hours of the following day. If reports are to be credited, a very high degree of fluency in French was attained and the prospect that orders at Camp this year will also be in French is very likely. They will be understood more clearly (and even acted upon) than if given out in English! The battalion representatives were met at Ostend on the return journey by the Chief of Police, who had also run the gauntlet of the reception and were thus quickly passed through the Customs and then passed out! A suitably inscribed gift is being made to Major and Mrs. Neville by members of the Officers' Mess.

The Clerk of the Weather has not been at all kind lately and Company Training has been carried out under most trying conditions. We are indebted to the Officer Commanding, 14 Command Workshops for the use of a tank for our experiments in this novel field. Many harsh words must have been said about the delights of tank riding compared with the joys of boating; the fact remains that it can be done and all that remains to be solved is the problem of "marrying-up" with the armour. That, as the instructor always says, comes in a later lesson.

With "Spearhead I" successfully negotiated, we can look forward to the forthcoming Battle of the Bulge with greater confidence. The M.M.G. Platoon Commander was heard to remark subsequently that heresies were not obviously confined to him; he awaits his banishment with calm—and three days' reserve rations for use whilst on the bridge.

April will see another Officers' Training Week-end at Margate and the better weather we expect then will be of advantage to Company Training generally. From then on we shall be very much occupied with Rifle and Bren classification and with preparations for Camp.

To the Permanent Staff we welcome Sgt. Stoakes from the 1st Battalion and he succeeds Sgt. Partridge in the Herne Bay and Whitstable areas.

* * *

"A" COMPANY

It was very nice to see R.Q.M.S. Excell again at Willson's Road recently; although only a flying visit, we hope to see something of him in the future now that he has returned from the land of the Mau Mau.

Congratulations to the following on their promotions: Sgts. Christian, Evans and Saffery, Cpls. Mirams and Pottle and L/Cpl. MacWilliam: may they all do well.

Congratulations also to Cpl. and Mrs. Mirams on the arrival of a bonny daughter.

Sandwich is again in the news with C/Sgt. Couzens embarking on a Driving Instruction Course and the W.R.A.C. opening a Centre there. The report that only tea may be had in the Canteen is quite without foundation.

Sgt. Dean had a nasty encounter with another vehicle whilst driving the Company jeep but recovered sufficiently to embark later on a much more dangerous journey in the wilds of Birchington. Despite conflicting directions received from Captain Klean and other would-be helpers the assault course to Briar Cottages was successfully negotiated, but alas the gentleman for whom the money was destined was out!! Such are the rigours of the Territorial Army.

Members of the M.M.G. Platoon recently spent an exciting Sunday awheel. The ford was quite impassable after snow and so that is an experience to come; as is reasonable weather in which to endure Captain Morgan's draughty stands for his many problems *en route*. A week-end in March is being spent at Lydd with Support Company and C.S.M. Gabriel is already busily engaged on the important "Q" matters connected with such a visit.

The Company training week-end was marred by arctic weather again, but at least the tank was able to come down for our Infantry-Tank enterprises; Sunday was spent at Sandwich taking part in a waterborne exercise.

* * *

"B" COMPANY

We have just completed another Company training week-end at Wemyss Barracks with "C" Company, who are to be included with us in the near future. We were hoping that the tank from Command Workshops would assist in preparing us for the rigours of Infantry-Tank exercises at Camp in July; unfortunately the icy roads prevented it from taking part and we were forced to resort to indoor training, which it seems was nonetheless appreciated.

* * *

"C" COMPANY

At the end of this month we shall be saying "Good-bye" with very deep regret to Sgt. Partridge. For most of his stay in the Battalion he has had the difficult job of running Herne Bay and Whitstable Drill Halls, with two Companies and N.S.M.'s week-ends to cope with. His unfailing cheerfulness has made him a most popular P.S.I. with the men. We all wish him the very best of luck in the future.

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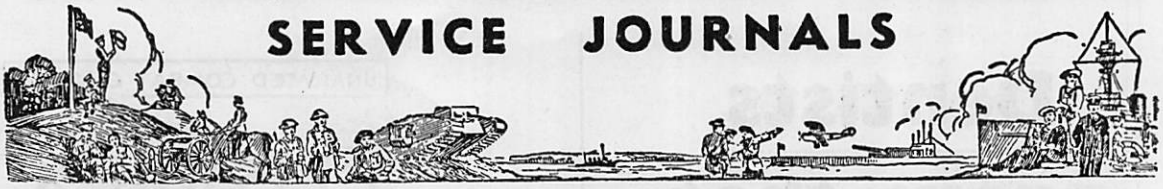


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In his place we welcome Sgt. Stoakes from the 1st Battalion. His task will not be easy but we shall do all we can to help him.

We offer our hearty congratulations to Sgt. and Mrs. Thundow on the birth of a daughter and to Pte. Radford on his recent marriage.

In training our thoughts are turning towards Annual Camp and Infantry-Tank co-operation. With the aid of 14 Command Workshops we hope to put in a little practice work in this connection.

* * *

"D" COMPANY

In the first instance, we should like to put it on record that the recent phenomenal sales of water wings by sports stores in this area have absolutely no connection with our impending training with assault boats. There's nothing like scotching rumours before they materialize.

By the time this is in print we are fervently hoping that "the voice of the turtle" will have been heard and that our present weather will be merely an unpleasant memory.

The advent of Spring usually brings out the poetry which lies dormant in our souls. One of our contributors (who states that he's going to keep his head well down) has offered the following lines which he wrote in Folkestone immediately after the War and which he dedicates to The Leas.

"Where cannons reared their ugly heads and belched
defiance to the skies,
Where men died and broken bodies bled, so that people
such as you or I
Could live and laugh and love at ease, without informer
or Secret Police to please,
That's where the golden daffodil grows, arching its head
as if surprised
That the mantle of snow which preceded its birth had
gone;
Disclosing slit trench and gunsite long disused,
Old Mother Earth whose breasts were badly bruised
might well attempt to garland her wounds in dignity
and pride,
We salute you, golden daffodil, remembering the Hell you
strive to hide."

Can any of the other Companies compete in this field?

* * *

"S" COMPANY

The Mortar Platoon have spent much of the past month on carrier training, obviously with an eye on the future since the carrier will be their sole means of transport at Camp this year. Under the eagle eyes of Sgts. Allen and Jones great progress has been made in driving and it is hoped that some of us will be able to take our driving test under the M.T.O. at Lydd in March when we have a National Service week-end there. We have also had a very good film show put over by the Battalion operator, Pte. Taylor, who since he went on his Projectionist's course must be one of the busiest men in the unit. We have a couple of .22 rifle matches at the end of the month and hope to be able to give a good report of ourselves in the next issue.

So far as the Assault Pioneer Platoon is concerned, the chief event of the month was a week-end at Sandwich putting-over assault boating to "A" Company personnel. The team was most capably led by Sgt. Babbage and Cpl. Bourne. Ptes. Dallen and Lambert braved the elements on a 50 mile journey to Sandwich; a jeep with snow drifting over the bonnet is not the best way of travelling nor for spending a week-end's leave. However, the job was well done and we are sure the efforts put in by the four stalwarts was not wasted. All we can say is let us have some more volunteers with the same spirit and good show, Assault Pioneers.

At Ashford we held a 17-pdr. training day for young N.C.O.s so as to be sure of future instructors. We enjoyed having some N.C.O.s from the 1st Battalion present on this occasion. They joined in the instruction and we hope to see these welcome visitors again at a later date. Congratulations to Sgt. Smith on his promotion. He will have the chance to drink his own health at Lydd on 19th and 20th March with the other members of the Mess. Three of our N.C.O.s attended the cadre held at Canterbury and all agreed that it was most instructive. We had more success with the K.T.A. postal shoot this year, and are now in second place in the first half with a score of 578. We confidently expect to finish first on completion of the competition; other Companies, please note! Finally, we must congratulate our now late C/Sergeant on his promotion to C.S.M.; he will have his hands full at Lydd without a doubt.

* * *

Beneath Bell Harry



SINCE our last contribution the main events have been a Passing Out Parade, another Home Guard Week-end and two successes in sport.

Lt.-Col. Grace took the Passing Out Parade, and one local paper gave the occasion the sub-title "Kenya Colonel Impressed". Lt.-Col. H. P. Williams also visited us on the same day.

The snow did its best to make invisible the demonstration slit trenches prepared for the Home Guard Week-end, but at the last minute the weather relented to reveal the trenches in their full earthy splendour. Sgt. Ivory and his demonstration team performed with great aplomb. L/Cpl. Knight is specially to be commended on his acting ability when he bluffed the enemy sentries into letting his patrol pass through.

Our congratulations go to Pte. Linford and Cpl. Carney. Pte. Linford came in first in the Eastern Command Cross Country Run; it will be recalled from our last number that he was third in the Home Counties Event. We wish him the best of luck in the Army Cross Country Race later this month. We also congratulate Cpl. Carney on winning the Welterweight in the Home Counties District Boxing Meeting.

The recent cold weather has caused so many vehicles to seek shelter in the Drill Shed that the place now resembles a second-hand car dealer's in Great Portland Street, and if one is lucky on muster parade one can just squeeze a platoon between the Griffin Greengrocer's van at one end and the motor bicycle combination at the other. Heating for the whole shed is provided by Lieut. Dracopoli's paraffin lamp dangling in front of the radiator of his veteran A.C. Talking of cars, Lieut. Tennent recently had an unpleasant experience. Coming out of the cinema one night, he discovered a villian in the act of removing the engine from his car parked in the cinema car park. Why a sleeker model was not chosen for this act of pilferage remains a mystery.

* * *

W.O.'S AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Slowly the winter months are passing, and if the weather does not make any improvement as at the time of writing these notes, I am afraid that the cricket bats, at the moment being carefully nursed, will get dry rot from want of use.

The past month has been quite a busy one; we managed to get a game of hockey in against the officers, and considering the R.S.M. was away drilling the cadets at the time (sabotage) the result of 2—2 was a fair one, although the R.Q.M.S. considered we had the better of the game. Colonel Connolly, who played for the Officers, received a nasty knock on the head, and had to receive medical treatment, but we are pleased to hear that the Colonel is now fit again.

Sgt. Reil of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada was a most welcome guest of the Mess during the month, and we are hoping he will look us up before returning to his unit in Canada. Maybe in the near future we shall have the opportunity of attending courses in Canada, and see more of our Allied Regiment.

The R.S.M., W.O.s and Sergeants of 1 Buffs kindly invited us over to a family gathering, and a very nice time, and many friends met during the evening.

By the time that these notes are in print, two members of the Mess will be almost hooked, namely Sgt. Cain and Sgt. Patterson. We old stagers have done our best to enlighten them in many matters, but to date with no result. I expect the billiards table will get mouldy after 26th March; still, the best of luck to them both from all of us.

We said "Good-bye" to C/Sgt. Day during the month on his being posted to 1 Buffs, our loss being the 1st Battalion's gain. We welcome in his place C/Sgt. Stremes, D.F.M. Recent arrivals also are Sgt. Ivory and Sgt. Rea: may their stay be a happy one; we won't say a long one, as, quite rightly, the tours are of two years duration in future.

The following were awarded the African General Service Medal: R.S.M. H. S. White, C/Sgt. Webb, W.O.II Diamond, W.O.II Chapman, Sgt. Recton, Sgt. Baldwin, Sgt. Haylett and Sgt. Ivory for service in Kenya.

At the moment, a games tournament is in full progress and full results will be in the next issue of notes.

In conclusion, may we wish all Buffs everywhere the best of luck and good health, and hoping to see many friends of the Past and Present Association at the Presentation of Colours on 2nd May, 1955.

P.S.—It is rumoured that Sgt. Stone is after the hand of a fair young lady, but has not yet found the courage to pop the question.

* * *

No. 1 COMPANY

The ritual of tolling out the old and ringing in the new continues with a change of Colour-Sergeants and the departure of Mr. Ward. Mr. Ward will be widely remembered for his mastery of detail and keen enthusiasm for .22 shooting. C/Sgt. Day in all his time with the Company was known for a meticulous efficiency combined with a human consideration and an extreme common sense.

Sgt. Bean is filling the breach while awaiting C/Sgt. Stremes' arrival has been harrassed to a level slightly less than human.

As regards sport the Company has excelled itself. Cpl. Carney fought his way to become Welter Weight Champion of District; and Pte. Linford over an arduous snow-covered course won the Command Cross-Country Championship.

For prowess in other fields we congratulate L/Cpl. Brown on the birth of a baby daughter.

Mr. Tennent has taken charge of sport in the Company and the rumour that he intends to make the permanent staff healthy and fit by a vigorous game of football once a week has caused a certain number of raised eyebrows.

The weather continues temperamental and the Company in general uneventful.

* * *

Correspondence

KIND EDWARD VII'S HOSPITAL FOR OFFICERS

15 Ormond Yard,
Duke of York Street,
London, S.W.1.
February, 1955.

Dear Sir,

Will you once again allow me, through your Journal, to call attention to King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers (Sister Agnes'), Beaumont House, Beaumont Street, W.1.

The extension, which we opened last January, has indeed proved its worth, as 538 Army Officers were received as patients during 1954, of these sixty-three were Serving Officers, who as you know are entitled to free nursing and maintenance in the shared rooms.

The Samaritan Fund, which we started in 1952, has again proved its usefulness and was encroached upon to the extent of nearly Two thousand pounds during last year. I think it is generally agreed that our work is meeting a vital need.

As is known this Hospital has been disclaimed by the Minister of Health and is therefore entirely dependant on voluntary support. Subscribers, who are entitled to special rates, are asked to pay £1 yearly by Bankers Order, which can

be obtained from the Honorary Appeal Secretary, 15 Ormond Yard, Duke of York Street, S.W.1, who will also be pleased to receive very much needed donations.

All officers, serving and retired, permanent and temporary, are eligible for admission.

Yours very truly,

J. B. ADAMS.

* * *

26 Oswald Road,
London, S.W.17.
26th September, 1954.

The Editor, "The Dragon".

Dear Sir,

THE GREEN DRAGON

I should be interested to know the origin of the colour green given to our Regimental Badge. If, as one is led to believe, the "Dragon" originates from the armoural bearings of the "House of Tudor", then the colour of that Dragon was red.

J. E. ENRIGHT, Major.

(We refer Major Enright to pages 678 *and* 682 *of the Regimental History*, 1814-1914.—*Editor.)*

* * *

80 Waltham Avenue,
Guildford, Surrey.
4th March, 1955.

The Editor, "The Dragon".

Dear Sir,

A para. under "Personalia" in the last issue of *The Dragon* caught my eye—ref. to Major H. Hobbs, aged 91, still in Calcutta. Your doubt about many remembering him I agree with BUT Harry Hobbs and I are very close friends. I first met him in Calcutta in 1889—66 years ago when he was 25 and I 19. I was then in 1st Battalion The Buffs in Fort William, Calcutta, and a ripe friendship sprang up which is still kept up. By the same post as I received my copy of *The Dragon* I received from my old friend a copy of his latest book, *Scraps from My Diaries*, just written from Calcutta, where he has been in business for over 70 years. I want to say here, The Buffs have no more loyal supporter than Major Hobbs. He loves the Regiment and yet he never was in its ranks.

Yours, etc.,

ERIC DUNGEY (2152).

Past and Present Association

Associate Life Members

1ST TO 28TH FEBRUARY

H.Q. Roll.—Gray, Robert, Friedlos, R. D., Pearson, R., O'Leary, C., Woodrow, V., Parker, E. S., Denny, F., Martin, K., Swinney, V., Greening, H.

London Branch.—Arnold, P. H., Gilham, F.

Denmark Branch.—Haxthausen, H. M.

* * *

Annual Members

1ST TO 28TH FEBRUARY

H.Q. Roll.—Ruddom, J., Pottle, R., Lee, D., Simmons, G. C., Foad, M. D., Turner, B., Weller, R. T., Blackman, D. B., Langridge, G. A., Barber, K. M., Jones, E. G.

London Branch.—McGarry, James.

Margate Branch.—Klean, Capt. P. H.

* * *

Grants

The total grants from the Benevolent Fund and the World War 1939 Charitable Fund during the month of February, 1955, are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Benevolent Fund	31	10	0
World War 1939 Charitable Fund	34	0	0

* * *

Donations

	£	s.	d.
Major G. A. E. Chapman	3	0	0
Cricket Week Ball (final instalment)	50	0	0

* * *

Shooting Competition

Results to date are as follows:—

Dover.	October-February		2,172
Denmark.	October-November		691
Ashford.	October-March		2,615
Ramsgate.	October-January		1,875
Margate.	October-December		1,352
Canterbury.	October-January		1,904
Sittingbourne.	October-January		1,432
Sandwich.	October-February		2,119

* * *

Medway Branch

On the 5th February we had the pleasure of entertaining the representatives of Weald Branch when they came to Rochester to play us in the second round of the Darts Competition. At the start it looked as if we were in for a real display of fireworks for our first three throwers, Blakelock, Jenkins and Eldridge, scored 100, 76 and 98 respectively. The Medway team never really got their breath back after this initial rush and the remainder of the first game was very quiet; indeed, it took five throws to score the final 38 by which time Weald required less than 100. Five of our opponents made scores of note in this game, Palmer 60, Colvin 60, Watson 60, Saunders 83 and Jameson 100. Jenkins (Medway) threw the double 19 to win the first game for the home team.



Medway Branch Party

by permission of "Rochester and Chatham News"

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There's the famous
Nestlé's Milk Chocolate in
the red-and-gold wrapper,
Nestlé's Superfine Chocolate
and Assorted Chocolates
of excellent quality
in various
attractive packings

and other
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CARRY ON MUNCHING WITH

Sun-Pat

THE WORLD'S FINEST SALTED NUTS

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Famous for fine Quality

"Nell Gwyn" Regd.

Obtainable from NAAFI stores everywhere



The Marmalade with the delicious tenderised peel!

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and

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NO ADDED PRESERVATIVE OR COLOURING MATTER

World Renowned

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AND
FARNE BRAND
Quality Foods

Here are a few of them obtainable at all N.A.A.F.I. Stores

Fish and Meat Pastes in glasses and tins—numerous varieties. Canned Fish of all description—Herrings in Tomato, Fresh Herrings, Kippers, Mackerel, Cod Roe, Herring Roe, Baked Rolled Herrings, etc., etc.

Canned Sweet Puddings, Canned Soups, all sizes.
"Tyne Brand" Sliced Sweet Chutney
"So-Taist-Ee" Extract.
"Tyne Brand" Mint Sauce.
"Rocambert" French Mustard.
"Tyne Brand" Horseradish Cream.
"Country Garden" Celery Cheese Spread.
Stuffed Pork Roll.

"For People of Good Taste"

To P.R.I.s.: Write for full list of products for all catering purposes, obtainable from N.A.A.F.I., to Tyne Brand Products Ltd., North Shields.

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LAMBETH, S.E.1

Try BURMA SAUCE
Every drop is of full flavour
Ask for White–Cottell's
Worcester Sauce

FOR EVER Barker & Dobson
CAMEO CHOCOLATES
REGAL FRUIT DROPS



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GLASGOW, C.4
TIMBER MERCHANTS SAWMILLERS
DOUGLAS 7331 (7 Lines)

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· CIGARS ·
MILD HAVANA FLAVOUR



Bassett's
ORIGINAL
ALLSORTS

MACKENZIE'S
Sherries & Ports
"The Best of the Bunch"
20 · EASTCHEAP · LONDON · E·C·3

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PLAIN & UNIVERSAL MILLING
MACHINES, SUNDERLAND GEAR
PLANERS AND VICES
SHIPLEY - - YORKS.

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INDIAN MANGO
Quite Right
NOTHING BETTER
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The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay
— INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670 —



HUDSON'S BAY
JAMAICA RUM

In A.D. 1775 the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay arranged the first shipment of rum into the Bay aboard the H.B.C. ship "Sea Horse"

Ask for it at N.A.A.F.I.

In the second game we really did run away despite Palmer's 62 and Saunders' 75 and 73 (the latter is a bit of a menace and it was a good thing for Medway that the opposing team did not comprise six members of the same calibre) for Weald. Blakelock started off with another "ton" (100) and Eldridge, Attwood and Boorman scored respectively 119, 79 and 74. Our score was reduced to 48 when Jenkins, that dead-eye finisher, went to the board and flicked in a single and double sixteen to win the second game and second round for Medway. Weald took their beating in a way to be expected of a Buff. Smiling all over their faces they were loudest in the applause that followed.

At the conclusion of the second game an orderly state of chaos seemed to obtain. Lots of "eats" were provided, so much, in fact, that the stewards were saying, "*Please* have another sandwich." What I like so much about the food that our Committee produces is that it is always so nice and fresh, delicately cut and tastefully served. No doorsteps, thank you. And here I can quite appropriately say "Thank you" to those responsible for the arrangements which undoubtedly pleased everybody.

The inner man satisfied, it was decided to put a second team against Weald. Our tails were up, however, and again we beat them the first two games out of three. But did they mind? Not in the least. They were out for an evening's enjoyment, the same as our own members were, and by gum they had it. I went home about 10 p.m., so if there were any speeches I did not hear them—which may, or may not, have been to my advantage. I always think that the visitors play under a handicap—they have travelled some distance and are playing on strange ground with unfamiliar surroundings. Well played, Weald, better fortune next year.

Our next opponents may be interested to note that in the second game our team averaged 50 points per throw. A bit of intimidation, this, but it may work.

It will undoubtedly be remembered that we had some typically February weather in the middle of the month, temperatures below freezing point, an inch or so of snow and slush and a biting wind from the north-east. You will therefore understand that I was very agreeably surprised to find that we numbered 19 members at our monthly meeting.

We have now received a list of other ranks who reside in North-East Kent and who have recently left the Colours. Unfortunately most of them reside as far distant as Northfleet and Dartford, but at least three live within the Medway Towns and to these was sent an invitation to attend our meetings. On reading this, I suppose Colonel Argles, our General Secretary, will say, "Written invitations are of little use—personal contact is what is required." Agreed, and this is being attended to at our next meeting when a Sub-Committee will be elected for that very purpose.

Since commencing these notes I have been informed that on 5th March we go to Ashford to meet that Branch in the semi-final of the Darts Competition. We are very much looking forward to this trip because we always have a very jolly evening when we go there. And may the best team win.

Our Chairman, Mr. F. Cox, gave a very full report of the conference that took place at Canterbury on Saturday, 12th February. All Branches will receive a similar report and so it would be superfluous of me to give a detailed reference to what took place. So far as the presentation of the new Colours to the Regiment is concerned we were pleased to note two important items. Firstly, that there is to be a rehearsal for the Standard Bearers and their Escorts who are to form the Guard of Honour, and, secondly, that the Standard and Escort of the Denmark Branch is to be present on the parade. To use a colloquialism, I think that latter is a smashing effort.

Another and most pleasing item was that Colonel Grace, O.C. 1st Battalion, had offered his time and services to lecture Branches on the contemporary history of the Regiment. This splendid idea is exceedingly generous of him, particularly when it is considered that he must have many commitments during the short time at his disposal between now and when the Battalion again leaves England. Canterbury, Herne Bay and Sittingbourne Branches are joining us for the occasion which has tentatively been fixed for Friday, 15th April. We feel flattered that they have chosen to come to us and look forward to seeing them. Colonel Grace will provide food for thought, we shall supply food for the inner man.

None the less pleasing is the knowledge that an officer and four other ranks are to attend a Branch meeting to see how its business matters receive attention. I understand that all Branches are to receive similar visits. On these occasions, if we are not very careful, we shall be able to compare, at first hand, the Chitral Campaign with the Kenya Risings. Marvellous what a glass of wallop will do. No date has yet been fixed for this visit but no doubt it will be arranged to the satisfaction of all. Whoever may come from the Battalion can be sure that they will be extremely welcome.

The unfortunate predicament of the two A.D.C.s and their missing Calcutta Sweep ticket, mentioned in last month's *Dragon*, reminded me of what happened many years ago.

I was stationed at Calabar, Nigeria, and one day the C.O. sent for me and explained that the Armourer Staff Sergeant, who was then inaccessible in "bush", had drawn a horse in the Governor's Cup Sweep. The owners of the horse offered to purchase a half share of the ticket stating that the horse would be withdrawn if their offer was not accepted. The C.O. pointed out that as the Armourer Staff Sergeant was a member of *my* Mess *I* must make the decision.

What would you have done, chums? Incidentally, the horse won the race.

Our visit to Margate Branch on the 26th February was successful from every angle. The coach started picking up the members at about 5 p.m., travelling via Gillingham, Chatham, Rochester, to the Running Horse (Maidstone), where we had arranged to meet our Hon. Secretary, Mr. Brand. A short halt was called to inspect the tavern (very nice in the lounge) and to taste its wares, and then off we went via Pennington Heath to join the main road again at Key Street, a little west of Sittingbourne, and then on to the Drill Hall, Hawley Square, Margate, arriving at about 7.45 p.m., where we were met by a goodly group of Margatonians and their wives.

I was a member of Margate Branch for some years and so it can be understood on this, the first occasion I had been there for 15 years, that many memories of the past came flooding back to me. The happy times I had spent in the hall; the faces of old friends who were not present—some never to return; the rush and bustle of our Territorial comrades in the early stages of the last war; the C.D. post in the gardens opposite and the bombs that dropped near; all combined to subdue a feeling of natural elation at my return and I was pleased to have a few moments of silent reflection.

What pleased me most about the evening was that a programme had undoubtedly been prepared for our entertainment—nothing had been left to chance in the "we'll muddle through" atmosphere which is so often prevalent on such occasions—and so the evening went

with a swing without obtrusive organisation being evident. Thank you very much, Margate, for a really fine evening. We enjoyed the fun and games, the refreshments were delightful—and here a "Thank you" to the ladies who, I feel sure, must have played a major part in their preparation—and the range shooting was an undoubted brainwave which gave a few of us much pleasure. I am not forgetting, of course, that the range had to be cleaned up and the rifles attended to—always remember the old instruction, "Treat your rifle as you would your wife, rub it over with an oily rag every night."

To conclude these notes I would say to those members of our Branch who are a little under the weather, "Keep your pecker up, Spring is nearly here and with it you will, I hope, be able to get out and about again and visit us at the monthly meetings."

* * *

Sittingbourne Branch

MINUTES of the 233rd meeting of the Past and Present Association of The Buffs held at the Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne, on Friday, February 4th. Councillor Mount took the Chair and apologised for the absence of Colonel Dean, V.C., J.P., and Lieut.-Col. Wills; 11 members were present. Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed as a true record.

ARISING.—The Chairman enquired about the health of Wally Foord and was told by Bill Sinclair that he was still very ill, but was a little better on some days. The Assistant Secretary said that a Television set had been installed at Wally's home to give him a little pleasure at the expense of the Branch. The Assistant Secretary explained how this came about. He was standing in the bar on Friday night and said that he had seen Wally and there was very little we could do for him, he was eating very little and it was only oxygen that appeared to keep him going, of which he used three cylinders a week. As he was lying in bed all the time and time dragged he thought that if we could hire a T/V. Set for say three months to get him through the winter he would enjoy it. Those present immediately said, "That's a good idea and it is what we should do." Next morning the Assistant Secretary saw Mrs. Foord and Wally's doctor who were both in agreement and thought it would bring him a lot of pleasure. The Assistant Secretary immediately got in touch with Mr. Edgar Nailor, who was most sympathetic and said he would waive his installation fee of £5 and one year's agreement and put the set in that day, if possible, for 10/- a week. Colonel Dean and Lieut.-Col. Wills were contacted and were in full agreement. Whereupon the order was given, the set was actually working in Wally's bedroom within eight hours and he was overcome with gratitude for our kindness. Mr. Bob Russell said that he would like it recorded in the minutes how much we appreciated the thought of Mr. Grant in installing a T/V. Set and for seeing the job through. Seconded by Mr. Banks and carried unanimously. Mr. Starkes proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be sent to Mr. Nailor for his kindness and the efficient way he had carried out the installation. This was seconded by Mr. Banks and carried unanimously. The Assistant Secretary said that he did not think the cost of the licence or the rental for the T/V. Set for three months would become a charge upon the Club funds as he had so many offers of financial help from individual members. Mr. Banks had given 10/- to cover the first week's rental and Mr. Ted Croucher £1. Any further donations would be gratefully received or we might decide to start a weekly subscription list for the purpose.

A.G.M.—It was decided that this be held on March 4th and this fact advertised in the *East Kent Gazette* as well as being sent by post to all members likely to miss the advertisement. Items for inclusion on the agenda should be sent to the Assistant Secretary as soon as possible.

SMOKING CONCERT.—Proposed by Mr. Ravensdale that this be held on March 19th at 7.30 p.m., seconded by Mr. Starks and carried. It was agreed that a Sub-Committee be appointed for this and the following were chosen: Messrs. Mount, Russell, Jackson, Ravensdale and Sinclair.

Bob Russell proposed and Bill Sinclair seconded that all members should be circularised of the date and time for the Smoking Concert along with the notice of the A.G.M. (*carried*). A discussion followed concerning the charge to be made for the Smoking Concert. It was proposed by Mr. Hall that single tickets should be 2/6 each, seconded by Mr. Allen and carried.

It was proposed by Mr. Banks and seconded by Mr. Wigg that we have a draw on the night of the Smoking Concert. This was carried, whereupon Mr. Jackson said he would give one prize and Mr. Russell said he would give another. In addition, Mr. Jackson said he would make one cake a month to be raffled to help the Branch Funds. This was appreciated by all. It was decided to leave the engagement of the Concert Party to the Sub-committee, but in the meantime Mr. Wigg and Mr. Jackson would get quotations from entertainers they knew and would advise the Sub-committee. All other details concerning the Smoking Concert would be left for the Sub-committee to decide.

CORRESPONDENCE.—A letter was read from Wally Foord addressed to the Chairman, Committee and Fellow Members in which he asked us to accept his sincere appreciation for the wonderful gesture of the installation of a Television set in his bedroom. "I can't get over the pleasant surprise and I say a big thank you for the kindness of you all, Believe me to remain, Yours gratefully, Walter B. Foord, late 3148 The Buffs."

BOOBY.—There being no other business the Booby was drawn, given this month by Mr. Hall and won by Mr. Ravensdale, raising the sum of 10/-.

Meeting closed at 9 p.m.

SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING held on Wednesday, 9th February, 1955.

It was decided that the engagement of the Concert Party be left to Mr. Jackson.

2/6 Entrance Fee to include refreshments.

Assistant Secretary to write to Ladies' Guild to ask if they would undertake the supply of refreshments and the Club would reimburse them.

Assistant Secretary to type Admission Tickets.

Present: Messrs. Russell, Mount, Jackson, Ravensdale, Sinclair and Grant.

* * *

Ramsgate Branch

The monthly meeting of the Ramsgate Branch of the Past and Present Association, The Buffs, was held at Headquarters, "Freemasons' Tavern", High Street, Ramsgate, on Friday, 18th February, 1955. Mr. C. F. Fakley presided, supported by Major A. J. H. Taylor, Major H. Martin, Captain N. G. H. Taylor, Lieut. W. Wotton, Councillor E. H. Swendell and Mr. B. E. Knott (Branch Secretary).

Mr. Fakley welcomed Officers and members and gave an especial welcome to Lieut. G. P. Turner and his party of seven ranks of the 1st Battalion, The Buffs, from Dover. This Officer and ranks came on a visit to Ramsgate so as to have an insight of the workings and activities of the Past and Present Branches. Mr. Fakley said Ramsgate was pleased and honoured to be the first Branch to welcome Lieut. Turner and his party. These young soldiers had recently returned to England after service in Kenya. Ramsgate was a live Branch and Mr. Fakley said that he trusted Ramsgate would give these present soldiers a good impression of how Branches function.

The Chairman expressed the Branch's sympathy with their sick members, Messrs. Curtis, Sheppard and Setterfield, and wished them a speedy recovery to good health.

Apologies for absence were received from Captain K. Speakman, Captain H. Knight, Messrs. J. Johnson and F. Histed.

Colonel H. R. Grace, O.C. 1st Battalion, The Buffs, would be paying a personal visit to Ramsgate. He was attending the Branch's next meeting on March 18th. They looked forward to hearing some of the Colonel's interesting experiences in Kenya.

Mr. Knott, Branch Secretary, stated that Ramsgate (Home) were to play Sandwich in the Semi-Final of the Branches' Darts Competition.

The presentation of the New Colours to 1st Battalion, The Buffs, by the Colonel-in-Chief, H.M. King Frederik of Denmark, on the 9th May, 1955, will be at 11 a.m. on St. Lawrence Cricket Ground, Canterbury. Past and Present Association Standard Bearers and Escorts were attending the ceremony. Ramsgate representatives would attend and more details would be given next month.

Mr. E. Hougham was elected as Branch representative on the British Legion Service Committee.

Before closing the Meeting both Major Taylor and Mr. Fakley thanked Lieut. Turner for visiting the Branch and requested him to thank Colonel Grace for his permission. Their visit had been most pleasant and welcome and Ramsgate looked forward to further visits.

Major H. Martin, who had recently retired after 40 years' service in the Buffs, also expressed his pleasure in meeting young members of his Regiment and he coula see by their smart standard and appearance that they were keeping up the tradition of the Buffs.

Lieut. Turner in a brief response thanked Ramsgate Branch for their pleasant evening. It was the first meeting that he had ever attended and his party and he had very much enjoyed themselves. He would certainly attend Branch meetings, also encourage Buffs to join the Association.

After the business proceedings refreshments were served by Buff Host Dick Atkins.

B.E.K.

* * *

Dover Branch

The monthly meeting of the Branch was held at the Eagle Hotel on Thursday, 3rd March, 1955. Chairman, Capt. Marsh, M.B.E., opened the meeting at 7.35 p.m.

Minutes were read by the Secretary, these were accepted and signed.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Letters from Capt. West, re visit of Lieut.-Col. Grace, also letters from General Secretary, on same matter, also letter re visit of 1st Battalion to our monthly meetings. These were debated on and arrangements re the same were agreed to.

It was agreed that the sum of £2 be subscribed to fund for Denmark members' visit.

Percy Barker reported attending the funeral of a very old Buff aged 84 years (Mr. Pilcher). Mr. Barker attended at the request of Colonel Crookenden as our representative.

Parcel given by Harry Saunders and won by Percy Barker realized the sum of 17/-. Box Collection 8/-; both amounts for Branch Funds.

Eighteen members present. Mog Hollands still away sick.

The Darts Final was not played; one member, Ernie Hayward, was not able to be present—try again next meeting.

Names were taken for visit to Canterbury.

T.H.H.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

The Annual General Meeting of the above Guild was held on Thursday, February 3rd, at Belgrave Hall, Belgrave Road, 18 members being present. We were very pleased to welcome Mrs. Willings, who has been unable to attend for such a long time, as she is now living at Wingham, and unable to visit us so often now, and we hope to see her more often now the brighter weather is coming.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed as correct.

Our Treasurer then read the report of Balance Sheet, and we were all very pleased and satisfied with the cash we have in hand; a very good year's savings attained.

We then had a very amusing sing-song, led by our Chairman, Mrs. Crookenden, and Mrs. Clark.

We all settled to our ever welcome tea and cakes and biscuits and was much enjoyed by all, especially on such a cold day.

There were three Raffles, given by Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Johncock and Mrs. Noakes, and won by Mrs. Crookenden, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Smith.

It was proposed that we talk about and try and decide at our next meeting when and where we are having our outing this year, as we had no time to discuss it to-day.

Officers re-elected to serve us again for the coming year were as follows: *Chairman:* Mrs. Crookenden. *Vice-Chairman:* Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Stevens. *Secretary:* Mrs. Wraight. *Treasurer:* Mrs. Collins. *Committee:* All as before.

We thanked all Officers and Committee for the splendid work they had done for us in the past, knowing they will do as much for us in the future.

Names were given in of those ladies who are going to Folkestone next week to hear a talk about Kenya, and also of those wishing to go to Canterbury on May 9th.

As the time had come for us to go, the meeting was closed and we all went home after a lovely meeting.

Ashford Branch

A good attendance of members were present for our monthly meeting, including our President, Major Bompus, and Chairman, A. J. Mills.

The meeting was opened with the reading of the Minutes for the previous meeting, which were then signed. Correspondence was then read and discussed. We were sorry that London Branch were unable to arrange a visit for this month owing to rather short notice, but we will be only too pleased to welcome them later on. We were glad to have our Assistant Secretary back with us again, after being laid up with 'flu. A letter was read from Gus Tompsett, who is 77 years young, saying he is still unable to get about much. The Secretary was asked to send him a hundredweight of coal.

The final list was completed for our Darts and Crib contest, so after our next meeting some keen competition should take place.

Members were glad to know that Captain Barrett and four O.R.s were visiting us later on in the evening from the 1st Battalion, although a 'phone message was sent to say they had broken down. Nevertheless, they arrived in good time. The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

We then got ready for the semi-final of the Darts Competition, with Medway Branch, who arrived in force. After a general welcome all round the Darts Contest was started, and Medway showed better form, and won the first leg. Off we went again, and I think if Medway could have got the double, without bad luck, it would have soon ended. Anyhow, Ashford kept pegging away and thanks to Ossie Masters with a double 5, we won the second leg. The third and final leg was rather a repetition of the first, and Medway gradually drew well in front, and won. I would like to say "Thanks, Medway" for a good contest, and we all wish you the best in the final.

Sandwiches and refreshments were then had, after which Captain Barrett of the 1st Battalion gave a short, but interesting talk on the activities and operations of the 1st Battalion whilst in Kenya.

Our darts team then played the 1st Battalion members at darts and we won quite comfortably. We were all very glad to have the 1st Battalion members with us, and only hope they enjoyed it as much as we did having them with us.

The evening ended at closing time, after a very enjoyable evening spent.

A.C.M.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

A meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, 9th, Mrs. King in the Chair. Minutes of the last two previous meetings were read and signed. The Chairman was pleased to welcome members back after an absence of three months (unfortunately owing to illness of our Secretary and several members having left us recently, owing to ill health and age). We wish them all better health in the near future with the summer to look forward to. Over our cup of tea and the usual raffles we had quite a nice afternoon. With thanks to Mrs. Beeching, and Mrs. Skinner for their kind gifts, the Meeting closed at 4.30 p.m. for home and a nice fire.

L.K.

Margate Branch

February has been a welcome return to social activities. On the 2nd, Sandwich Branch paid us a visit, and were entertained in the Club Room at the new Home Guard Centre in Harold Road, Cliftonville. It was a most enjoyable evening; at least, I am sure we of Margate Branch found it so, and we trust that our visitors did also.

The inevitable Darts matches, of course, were the principal amusement, but, in addition, table tennis, in which surprising skill was manifested by one or two players (and some not so expert by one or two others), shove ha'penny, at which we lost the competition but won some friendly games afterwards, were also played. It wasn't all games, to be sure. There was plenty of reminiscence—"Do you remember?" and "When I was in ——." Some of the ladies, after a friendly game or two of darts (there were two boards in use) gathered round the piano and sang. Others just gathered round the fires.

Then on the 26th we welcomed our friends from Medway Branch, this time at the Hawley Square Drill Hall. Again it was a grand evening, the time passing so rapidly, that it seemed we had to speed them on their long, cold homeward journey all too soon. The usual darts games were soon in progress at one end of the Club room, and judging by the amount of cheerful noise emanating from the contestants, must have been pretty close ones. At the farther end of the room "House" was the principal attraction. I don't mean that there was complete segregation between two sections. Far from it! I think that members and friends of both Branches got together pretty thoroughly.

Now, of course, we are looking forward to returning both visits. These inter-Branch meetings keep friendships, old and new, alive. We should like to see more of it.

* * *

The Branch A.G.M. was held on Wednesday, March 2nd, at the Drill Hall, Hawley Square, and am pleased to note that a few more members than usual attended. May we hope that they will continue to support the Branch in all future events. Two of the most important items on the agenda were the proposed move of H.Q., and the election of Officers and Committee for the year.

After a fair amount of discussion on the first matter, a vote was taken and a majority were against moving, so we can dig our heels in and continue to make ourselves comfortable for a while longer, and still be able to make use of the billiards table, I hope.

Now we come to the election of Officers and Committee. Our able and efficient Chairman, Mr. J. Breed, and Secretary, Mr. J. Shakeshaft, were persuaded to continue in office for a further period and also the Treasurer, Mr. S. Gander. A small Committee of five members was elected to help them on their way. Unfortunately, I cannot give their names as I did not take any notes, as I did not expect to be doing these notes, so was totally unprepared. Mr. R. H. Harman was elected as President.

Our old stalwart Mr. W. E. Baily was again elected as Branch Standard Bearer, and two members to act as escort.

Now for future events, social and otherwise. We are hoping to be able to entertain Canterbury Branch sometime in April, and members will be duly notified of this as soon as the Secretary hears from the said Branch, which date they can manage.

Also Major Jarman has invited the Margate Branch to pay a visit to the Home Guard in Harold Road for an evening's entertainment, the date to be arranged later. We hope all members will bear these items in mind, and make a good show when the time comes.

This is about all I can memorise at the moment, so I hope any member who was at the meeting won't criticise too much on what I have left out.

H. T. ONGAR.

* * *

Folkestone Branch

I'm sure we are in for a really good evening on March 10th, when Lieut.-Col. Grace is coming to tell us the Kenya story as he saw it; and who better qualified than he to do so? Ashford, Dover and Hythe Branches are joining us for the occasion, so we should be a full house. Those of you who know "The Guildhall" can easily imaging how jolly we are going to be. Mrs. Harris leaves nothing to chance where the comfort of her patrons and their friends is concerned. Those of you who don't know it, should look in on our meeting night. After that you will be looking forward to the next time.

Our Annual General Meeting was to have been in March but this has been postponed till April for obvious reasons, so please will members turn up in force for this. Our last monthly meeting was fairly well attended again, but once more the weather was unkind. We still look forward to a full room.

When this happens we can easily arrange for the larger room. This event would give untold pleasure to all, I know. Our Chairman would be delighted to look on a "sea of faces". Well! Wouldn't you? So much more pleasant and interesting than chairs.

At present May 9th seems some way off, but when these notes appear it will be much closer. Given fine weather this will surely be a Red Letter Day for the Regiment and the whole of East Kent. I wonder if the St. Lawrence Ground ever had such a spectacle before.

I hear there is a good chance of the Darts Final taking place at Old Park again this year. Here's thanking the Depot Staff in anticipation, because I have not by any means forgotten last year. Far from it. Surely one of the best "do's".

I would like to end these notes by saying how pleased we are to hear that our President is so much better in health. Our sincere wishes for the future, Sir!

* * *

Sandwich Branch

On Friday, 28th January, we were very pleased to welcome to our Headquarters about 30 members and their ladies of the Herne Bay Branch, the occasion being for the Darts match which had previously been arranged to take place on Friday, 14th January, but owing to the dangerous conditions of the roads they were unable to make the journey. The teams having lubricated their joints with some of "Charley's" special brew, soon started play. At first the game was fairly even then Sandwich got away to win the first leg; in the next game the Branch took the lead and held it to win quite comfortably, so we live to fight another round. A very enjoyable evening came to a close at 10.30 p.m.

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Tuesday, February 1st, 1955, at 8 p.m. Very few members were present. Major F. W. Tomlinson presided and the meeting opened with the usual moment's silence.

Apologies were received from our Vice-Chairman, Lieut.-Col. L. S. Hart, Mr. A. Beecham and Mr. A. Ledner. There being no correspondence to discuss, the next item on the Agenda was Reports.

A report was given on the Darts match as reported above. The Chairman in his remarks said it was a very pleasant evening, but he regretted that so many of our members, other than those who had a 'bus to catch, left before our guests had departed.

VISIT TO MARGATE.—Notice was given that the coach would be leaving the Market Place on Wednesday, 2nd February, at 7.45 p.m., for our visit to the Margate Branch. There were still a few vacant seats. We should be going to the new Home Guard Headquarters in Harold Road.

An invitation had been received from the Sandwich Branch, The British Legion, to attend their next monthly to be held on Wednesday, 16th February, at 7 p.m., when a talk would be given by Mr. Frank Rose, J.P., on the History of Sandwich. According to reports this should be most interesting, even to local "Yellow Bellies". Several members present signified their intention of attending.

An invitation was also received from the Sandwich Branch of the R.A.F. Association to visit their H.Q., The Windrock Club, for a social evening, for preference on a Friday evening.

It was unanimously agreed to accept this kind invitation, but to leave the date open until we hear of the result of the draw for the Darts Semi-Final.

On Wednesday, 2nd February, about 20 members and their ladies made the journey to Margate for a social evening with the Margate Branch at the new Home Guard H.Q. in Harold Road, where we were made very welcome and comfortable and enjoyed a very good evening. Several members of our darts team were able to put in a little practice, as were also some of the ladies; it was quite amusing to watch how some of them throw their darts. However, they scored very well, only to lose on that double finish. Ten-thirty p.m. came all too soon. Thanks were expressed and an invitation extended for a return visit in the very near future.

* * *

Brighton Branch

Nothing to report from this winter sports resort as only one faithful Buff turned up for our February gathering and in case he gets mobbed at our next meeting, he shall be nameless.

Bookings have started for our Annual Dinner on Saturday, 26th March, and already we have a promise of a contingent from the London Branch—it won't be too late when these notes appear, so all please come along to Emerys Hotel, Queens Road, Brighton.

No cases of sickness reported so far and all seems set for a full meeting on 14th March (we hope).

ACHEM.

* * *

London Branch

The monthly meeting was held at the Prince Albert, Tufton Street, Westminster, on Saturday, 20th February, 1955, with Mr. B. Billings in the Chair.

Apologies were read from Brigadier Foster Hall, M.C.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read, accepted and signed.

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Business of the Branch then got under way and a second reading of a Resolution was read. This was one of the main topics of the evening and the outcome was that the Branch will discontinue the parade on Horse Guards Parade for our march to the Cenotaph. Owing to so small an attendance in latter years, it was beginning to become farcical. The wreath will, of course, be laid on the Cenotaph but, as stated, without ceremony.

The Chairman, who attended a Meeting at Canterbury, gave out details for the Branch in the forthcoming ceremony of the Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion at Canterbury on 9th May, 1955. Let me say that members were very impressed by the honour Colonel Grace has achieved in including the Branches in this great ceremony. Let's hope everything will go according to plan.

The President of the Branch, Major Enright, still keeps in the best of spirits, always trying to help in any way he can. He wishes to be remembered to all the old warriors. Although the weather was really bad, the attendance was grand and looking round I noticed Messrs. Cobb, Captain Emery, Messrs. Priest, Lewis, Watts, Wright, Wenham, Hardwicke, Perry, Billy Hudd, and Joe Loss. Also it was very nice to see Major Darkie Clover and Jim Redman both looking extremely fit. Hope to see them many more times. That's just a few names; I just cannot remember all their names, but a few of the lads from the 141st were in attendance. Very nice to meet them. Keep coming and bring your pals along; you will always be welcome at the Prince Alfred. I hope for bigger things to come along when the weather gets better. So a very interesting Meeting came to a close. So here's wishing all Branches the very best of luck from all Members of the London Branch.

H.J.S.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

A meeting was held at "The Prince Alfred" Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, on Saturday, March 5th, 1955, with Mrs. Coley in the Chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

CORRESPONDENCE was read from Mrs. Harris.

REGRETS were received from Mrs. Cousins, Mrs. Odell, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Everett, Mrs. Yapp, Mrs. Harris. The Chairman announced Mrs. Harris was still ill, also Mts. Odell had been ill.

Our very best wishes to all sick members and trust they will soon be restored to health again.

We have not been able to appoint a new Hon. Secretary yet, but hope to do so next month.

Raffles were given by Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Waters and a member.

The Chairman asked members who intended going to Canterbury for the Presentation of New Colours to the 1st Battalion by H.M. the King of Denmark to give their names in to Mr. Ricketts.

This being all, the meeting closed.

L. E. COLEY,
Chairman.

PRESENTATION TO MRS. DALGLEISH

After the meeting Mrs. Dalgleish was presented with a beautifully fitted handbag from the Guild by Mrs. Taylor, our oldest member, who made a very suitable speech.

L.E.C.

Canterbury Branch

The monthly meeting was held on 25th February, and the usual number of "stalwarts" came along to enjoy a very pleasant evening. We are very fortunate in being able to hold our meetings in the Club Room of the 4/5th Battalion and we owe a great debt to the R.S.M. and Sgt. Bell for always having the Club warm and very comfortable for us. We have now been established for 12 months and it has been a very successful year. We have banded together quite a number of really keen members who can be seen regularly at all our meetings. Our only one regret is that more Past and Present members do not come along to join in our activities. Canterbury, the home of The Buffs is "alive" with ex-members of the Regiment but their number is only equalled by their seeming lack of interest. After all, we ask nothing from them except the privilege of their company once a month. I wonder if that is too much to ask?

The Branch shooting team is going "great guns" and are very enthusiastic. By all reports they are well in the lead in the Inter-Branch Competition and hope to scoop the Cup. Possibly when the weather improves many more members will avail themselves of the opportunity to have a shoot. The Miniature Range in the Depot is allotted to the Branch every Friday evening and any member who wants to "keep his eye in" is more than welcome to come along.

I regret that at least two of our members have not been too well during the month. Our Chairman, Colonel Evans, caught a chill and spent a week in bed and Colonel Knocker, the Treasurer, has again been troubled with a painfully bad back. We were pleased to see them at our Meeting looking somewhat better but evidently not really absolutely fit. We have another casualty to report, Bert Halladay, the one and only Bert, slipped on the ice during a recent bad spell and injured his shoulder. We all hope he will soon be right again and that no bones were broken. We are also very glad to see Hoppo and Garrett looking so fit after their bad spells of a few weeks ago.

We are looking forward to visiting the Medway Branch on 15th April, when Colonel Grace, 1st Battalion, will be giving a talk on the Battalion's activities in Kenya. We have had a long standing invitation to visit Medway and we are very pleased at this opportunity of hearing Colonel Grace's interesting experiences and also meeting old friends.

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch is being held on Friday, 25th March, and we hope as many members as possible will attend. There is much to discuss, including election of officers for the ensuing year, so we look forward to seeing a goodly number of members present.

It is great news that the Colonel-in-Chief, H.M. The King of Denmark, will present new Colours to the 1st Battalion on the St. Lawrence Cricket Ground, right on our very doorstep. It will give so many Buffs the opportunity of seeing the ceremony. It would be interesting to know how many Buffs will be able to attend who were on parade in Rangoon when the present Colours were presented to the Battalion and who, possibly, will be able to attend the Cathedral Service for the "Laying-up" of these Colours. How time flies and how "ancient" we all become.

* * *

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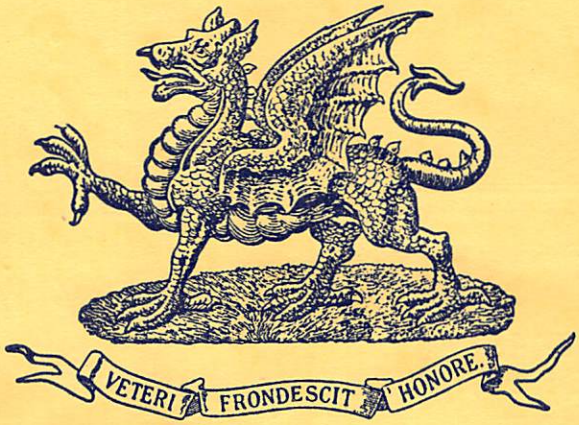
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Lieutenant-Colonels

Grace, H. R. ... ... O.C. 1st Bn.

Majors

Jelf, A. G. ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Officer i/c Field Records, FARELF.
Harris-St. John, B. J. ... D.A.A. & Q.M.G., H.Q., Aldershot
Lewis, P. J. ... ... T/Lt.-Col. MA Copenhagen.
Bailey, N. T. ... ... Gold Coast Regt. T.C.
Yates, G. H. A. ... ... Nottingham U.T.C.
Edlmann, E. L. C., *M.C.* ... 1st Bn.
Rawlings, A. C., *M.B.E.* ... Depot C.R.M.P.
Horley, B. M. ... ... 1st Bn.
May, J. F., *M.B.E.* ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Ministry of Supply.
Ravenhill, R. A. C. ... DAAG, G.H.Q., E. Africa.
Plumptre, P. B., *M.B.E.* ... 6 Travelling Wing.
Dendy, R. H. ... ... O.C. Depot.
Majendie, A. E. ... ... Att. Depot
Lucas, J. P. ... ... Colonial Prisons, Kenya.
Norris, N. F. H. C. ... 1st Bn.
Crichton, R. F., *M.C.* ... 5 Nigeria Regt.
McGrath, B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Blaxland, W. G. ... ... Hospital, U.K.
Gay, A. W. ... ... KAR Depot, E. Africa.
Montgomery, D. ... ... Depot.
Morgan, F. de R., *M.C.* ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q. Malaya.
Poulsen, N. D. ... ... 1st Bn.
Cox, E. G., *M.C.* ... ... R.M. Officers' School, Lympstone.
Collins, H. A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Critchley, L. P., *M.B.E.* ... 1st Bn.
Worts, J. B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Court, D. N. ... ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q. E. Africa.
Gordon-Wilson, N. F., *M.B.E.* 3 Bn. Para. Regt.
Nash, J. P. ... ... G.S.O. 3 L/AW War Office.
ffrench Blake, M. A. O'B. 19 Bde. Hong Kong.

Captains

Semmence, R. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Iliffe, R. O. ... ... 2 Malay Regt.
Hadshar, G. ... ... T/Maj. DAAG H.Q. Nigeria District.
Dunglinson, W. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Barrett, D. P. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dent, J. E. ... ... T/Maj. 4/5th Bn.

Captains—*continued*

MacDonald, E. W. ... G.S.O. 3, (SD) G.H.Q. East Africa.
Marshall, F. ... ... W.O.S.B. Barton Stacy.
Dubois, G. E., *M.C.* ... 6th Bn. K.A.R., East Africa.
Peckham, A. D. ... ... Malay Regt.
Squire, S. J., *M.B.E.* ... H.Q. East Africa.
Thorneycroft, F. E. ... 1st Bn.
Willows, D. A. ... ... Adjt. 1st Bn.
Wilson, P. F., *D.F.C.* ... Glider Regt., 2nd TAF., B.A.O.R.
Hamilton, C. M. ... ... H.Q. B.T.A.
Gatehouse, H. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Griffin, C. J. ... ... Adjt. 4/5th Bn.
Webber, J. W. ... ... T/Maj., ADC to Fld. Marshal Montgomery.
Pim, A. H. E. ... ... 2 Gold Coast Regt.
Stratford-Tuke, R. A. F. ... 1st Bn.
Brigstocke, W. F. ... ... G.S.O. 3, Ind. Para. Bde. Gp.
French, B. G. J. ... ... 6 KAR, E. Africa.
Lees, H. D. ... ... 7 KAR, E. Africa.
Dalgliesh, A. R. F. ... Somaliland Scouts.
Grugeon, J. D. ... ... Adjt. Depot.
Mullins, G. O. ... ... 3 Bn. Parachute Regt.

Lieutenants

Minto, I. G. ... ... 1st Bn.
West, C. T. F. ... ... 1st Bn.
Ward, M. W. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dracopoli, M. P. St. F. ... Depot.
Tennent, H. C. L ... ... Depot.
Mitchell, P. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Pilcher, R. A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Baker, R. W. M. ... ... Boys Bn.
Rymer-Jones, J. A. ... Airborne Forces Depot.
Edgecombe, G. J. B. ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants

Lunn, J. M. ... ... 1st Bn.
Lea, R. ... ... 1st Bn.

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Kille, W. E. ... ... Maj., 1st Bn.
Catt., A. H. ... ... Capt., 4/5th Bn.

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*Ford, E. N., *M.C.* ... ... Leave U.K.
Todman, N. E. H. ... ... E. Anglia District.
*Carey, R., *M.C.* ... ... Att. Depot

Captains

Robertson, R. J. ... ... H.Q. Nigeria District.
*Elliott, N. ... ... Aldershot District.
*Ransley, E. J., *M.C.* ... 1st Bn.
McGrath, G. A. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
*Fakley, J. F. ... ... P.S.O., H.C.B. Depot.
*Butcher, D. A. T. ... ... East Africa Training Centre.
Marshall, J. V. ... ... S.P.S.O. Staff.

Lieutenants

Barlow, W. B. ... ... Inf. Div. Pro. Coy.
Davison, J. H. ... ... 1st Bn.

Lieutenants—*continued*

Kirby, J. A. ... ... Movement Control Pool, H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Hicks, E. M. G. ... ... U.K. Leave.
Prentice, J. R. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
Froom, A. F. F. ... ... 6 Armd. Div. Coln. R.A.S.C., B.A.O.R.
Durban, J. M. M. ... ...

2nd Lieutenants

Hodges, J. D. ... ... ERE Singapore.
Courtney, M. ... ... 1st Bn.
Hardy, J. E. ... ... 1st Bn.
Cross, K. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Jakob, F. J. ... ... West Africa.

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Rowcliffe, T. A., Major ... MELF.
Stone, J. H., Capt. ... ... B.A.O.R.
Senior, N., Major ... ... H.Q., N.A.G., B.A.O.R.
Corps, J., Capt. ... ... 16 Coy., R.A.S.C.

* Extended Service Officer.

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2nd Lieutenants

Naldrett-Jays, R. C. ... 1st Bn., N.R.R.
Klyberg, C. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Wilkins, G. C. ... ... Accra, West Africa.
Wright, R. P. ... ... 1st Bn.
Edgeley, P. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Turner, G. P. ... ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants—*continued*

McGowan, M. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Simpson, K. T. ... ... 1st Bn.
Parker, P. W. M. ... ... West Africa.
Shephard, J. N. ... ... 1 KAR.
Wilcox, R. D. ... ... 23 KAR.
Bowen, S. ... ... West Africa.

4/5th Battalion

Hon. Colonel

Col. D. J. Dean, *V.C.*, *T.D.*, Woodcourt, 1 Park, Avenue, Sittingbourne Kent.

Lieutenant-Colonel

Hews, G. R. D., *M.C.*, *T.D.*

Majors

Dent, J. E. (Trng. Major)
Alexander, U. H. B., *M.B.E.*
Prestige, J. T. R.
Tilleard, J., *T.D.*
Neville, F. G., *M.C.*
Plunkett, P. N. P.
Balding, C. E. E

Captains

Griffin, C. J. (Adjt.)
Beaumont, M. J. P.
Klean, P. H.
Morgan, R. J. S., *M.C.*

Lieutenants

Crowdy, R. E. L.
Roper-Curzon, Hon. J. C. I. (A/Capt.)
Kelly, G. D. S.
Pury, J. D. de
Whiting, D. A.
Thomas, J. H.
Nye, R. T.
Bennett, R. G.
Morlock, P. J.
Sanger-Davies, A.
Oliver, C. P.

Quartermaster

Catt., A. H., Capt. (QM)

Chaplain

The Rev. J. E. Robinson

Medical Officer

Capt. F. P. Cassidi, R.A.M.C. (attd.)

Territorial Army National Service List

Lieutenants

Applegate, E. J.
Snowden, A. G.
Howland, N. M.
Tilley, T. A.
Waterman, R. R.
Labbett, M.
Taylor, D. C.
Vallins, J.
Johnson, R. F.
Holloway, R. G.
Finn, W. C.,

Staff and Command

Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B.*, *C.B.E.*	D.M.I., War Office.	Col. (T/Brig.) R. W. Craddock, *C.B.E.*, *D.S.O.*	I.D.C.
Brigadier T. H. Spear, *O.B.E.*	Mil. Attache, Saigon.	Col. (T/Brig.) F. W. B. Parry	Comd. Sierra Leone and Gambia Dis.
Col. (T/Brig.) M. P. D. Dewar, *M.B.E.*	D.D.M.P. (A), War Office.	Col. (T/Brig.) R. F. Parry, *M.C.*	Comdg. 3rd Inf. Bde., Arab Legion.

Lieut.-Colonels (Employed List)

Lieut.-Col. H. P. Williams, *O.B.E.*	G.S.O.I, Inf. Dte., War Office.	Lieut.-Col. J. G. Atkinson, *O.B.E.*	C.O., 2 Malay Regt

Lieut.-Col. J. F. Connolly, *D.S.O.*, Chief Instructor, S. of Inf., Hythe.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

1st Battalion

R.S.M. Turmaine, F.
B.M. Sharpe, T.
R.Q.M.S. Rose, J.
C.S.M. Callaway, R.
C.S.M. Sharman, R.
C.S.M. Champion, R.
C.S.M. Clifton-Sprigg, H.
C.S.M. Middleton, J.
C.Q.M.S. Denny, F.
C.Q.M.S. Ellis, D.
C.Q.M.S. Day, S.
C.Q.M.S. Mannering, D.
C.Q.M.S. Newman, P.
Sgt. (O.R.S.) Mans, W.
D/M. Gardner, E.
Sgt. Smissen, J.
Sgt. Larkin, F.
Sgt. Anderson, C.
Sgt. Lyons, B.
Sgt. Morrish, E.
Sgt. Weatherall, P.
Spt. Jephcott, H.
Sgt. Colyer, A.
Sgt. Simmonds, R.
Sgt. Page, A.
Sgt. Harris, F.
Sgt. Kay, M.
Sgt. Bird, H.
Sgt. Woodrow, V.
Sgt. Histed, W.
Sgt. Martin, A.
Sgt. Wright, R.
Sgt. Thurley, R.
Sgt. Spiers, E.
Sgt. Gibson, J.
Sgt. Townsley, J.
Sgt. Streeter, E.
Sgt. Billett, S.
Sgt. Rowland, K.
Sgt. Cock, C.
Sgt. Pooley, L.

Depot The Buffs

R.S.M. White, H.
R.Q.M.S. Howe, W
C.S.M. Chapman, G.
W.O. II Excell, F.
C.S.M. Diamond, R.
C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Webb, C.
C/Sgt. Belcher, E.
C.Q.M.S. Stremes, G., *D.F.M.*
Sgt. Laker, J.
Sgt. Haines, E.
Sgt. Bryant, A.
Sgt. Ivory, L.
Sgt. Rea, R.
Sgt. Cain, D.
Sgt. Bean, G.
Sgt. Raine, R
Sgt. Harrison, W.
Sgt. Recton, T.

4/5th Battalion (T.A.)

Permanent Staff

R.S.M. Faulkner, G. T.
C.S.M. Fagg, G.
C.S.M. Seymour, J.
Sgt. Partridge, R.
Sgt. Miller, C.
Sgt. Porter, J.
Sgt. Dean, D.
Sgt. Stoakes, A.
R.Q.M.S. Harwood, E.
C.S.M. Chapman, W.
C.S.M. Gabriel, J.
C/Sgt. Trinkwon, A.
C/Sgt. Couzens, W.
Sgt. Bell, J.
Sgt. White, R.
Sgt. Hurlow, R.
Sgt. Babbage, W
Sgt. Wraight, S.
Sgt. Neaves, C.
Sgt. James, A.
Sgt. Bass, R.
Sgt. Williams, E.
Sgt. Thundow, W.
Sgt. George, M.
Sgt. Saunders, G.
Sgt. Richardson, H.
Sgt. Cope, H.
Sgt. Hewitt, C.
Sgt. Chidwick, E.
Sgt. Allen, A.
Sgt. Jones, A.

Regimental Appointments

Administrative Officer—Depot The Buffs Secretary: Canterbury Cricket Week Club Dragon Club Regimental Committee	Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker
Curator: Regimental Museum	Lieut.-Col. G R. Howe
Secretary: Past and Present Association, The Buffs Executive Committee Editor: The Dragon	Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles

The Past and Present Association

Headquarters: Depot, The Buffs. Telephone: Canterbury 4764. *Chairman:* Brigadier G. J. Nicholson, C.B.E. *Secretary:* Lt. Col. B. V. Argles.

BRANCHES

Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1. 1st Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
2. 4th Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
3. Ashford	Mr. A. Mills	Mr. A. C. Mills, 20 Waterman House, Godfrey Walk, Ashford, Kent	First Saturday in each month, The Invicta Godington Road.
4. London	Mr. R. W. Billings	Mr. H. J. Scott, 1 Oxford Road, Carshalton, Surrey.	Third Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, 7.30 p.m.
5. Dover	Capt. E. Marsh, M.B.E.	Mr. C. Collins, "Haven" Meadway, Minnis Lane, River, Dover.	First Thursday in each month, "Eagle Hotel", London Road, Dover, 7.45 p.m.
6. Weald	Col. E. B. Burns, T.D	Mr. H. D. Day, 3 Pittlesden Tenterden.	Hawkhurst Sub-area. Third Thursday in each month, British Legion House, Hawkhurst, 7.45 p.m.
7. Medway	Mr. F. J. Cox	Mr. H. A. J. Brand, 83 Delce Road, Rochester	Third Saturday in each month, The Two Brewers High Street, Rochester, 8 p.m.
8. Sittingbourne	Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D.	Capt. C. A. Grant, The Firs, Key Street, Sittingbourne.	First Friday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, 7.30 p.m.
9. Ramsgate	Mr. C. F. Fakley	Mr. B. E. Knott, 27 Wilfred Road, Ramsgate	Third Friday in each month, Freemason's Tavern, Ramsgate, 8 p.m.
10. Margate	Mr. B. H. Breed	Mr. J. H. Shakeshaft, 14 Alexandra Road, Broadstairs	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, Hawley Square, 8 p.m.
11. Hythe	Mr. J. T. J.Green	Mr. H. Thompson, 4 Hillside Court, Hythe	Last Wednesday in each month, The Star, Stade Street, 7.30 p.m.
12. Canterbury	Lt.-Col. E J. Evans	Major E. R. Chambers, 59 Hillside Avenue, Canterbury Canterbury 5118	Fourth Friday in each month, Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury, 8 p.m.
13. Herne Bay	Mr. H. Davey	Mr. A. Trice, 23 Queen's Gardens, Herne Bay	Second Monday in each month, British Legion Club, May Lodge, 8 p.m.
14. Folkestone	Major A. A. West	Mr. H. Fordred, 36 Fernbank Crescent, Folkestone	Second Friday in each month, Guildhall Hotel, 8 p.m.
5. Sandwich	Major F. W. Tomlinson	Mr. H. Taylor, 19 Paradise Row, Sandwich	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, 8 p.m.
16. Faversham	Capt. J. Green	Mr. R. C. Croucher, 10 Glebe Houses, Eastling, Faversham	First Monday in each month, Carpenters Arms, Eastling, 7.30 p.m.
17. Brighton	Capt. R. J. Robertson	Major H. Milton, 118 Queens' Road, Brighton	Second Monday in each month, R.E. Record Social Club, The College, Ditchling Road, Brighton, 8 p.m.
18. Denmark	Major W. M. Iversen, K.D.	Mr. P. Berendt, Ostergade 22, Copenhagen K.	By Arrangement. Phone Secretary By 8313.

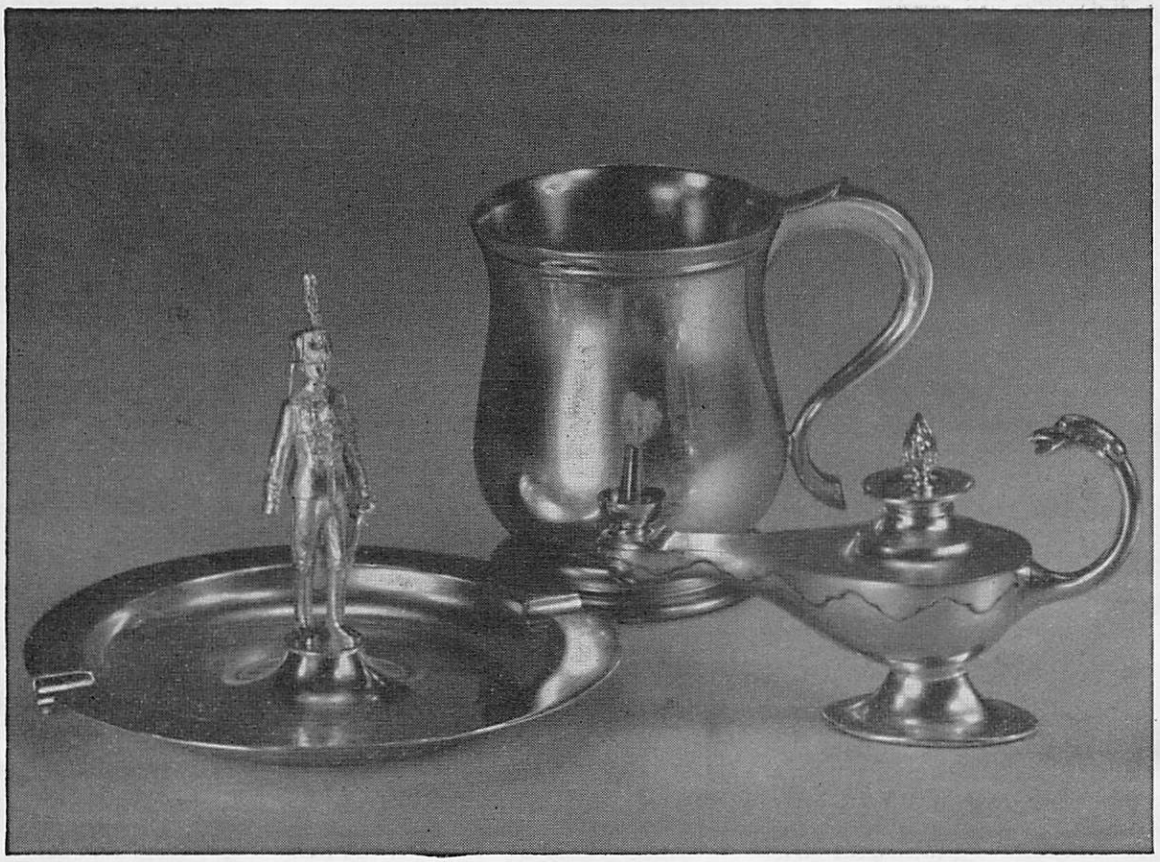
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Membership is open to all who are serving or who have served in The Buffs.
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Entrance Fee: 1/-

LADIES' GUILD

President: Mrs. V. Boucher

Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1. London	Mrs. L. Coley	Mrs. F. Tucker, 12 Chestnut Close, Oakwood, London, N.14	First Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, S.W.1. 6.30 p.m.
2. Dover	Mrs. J. Crookenden J.P.	Mrs. Wraight, 93 Markland Road, Dover	First Thursday in each month, Belgrave Hall, Belgrave Road, Dover, 3 p.m.
3 Folkestone	Mrs. G. Wood, J.P.	Mrs. Kay Mantell, 5 Page Place, Folkestone	Every other Wednesday, Drill Hall, Shellons Street, Folkestone, 3.30 p.m.
4 Medway	Mrs. King Holt	Mrs. W. T. Brooker, 67 Malvern Road, Gillingham, Kent	Fourth Tuesday in each month, Foresters' Hall, King Street, Gillingham, 2.30 p.m.
5. Ashford	Mrs. L. King	Mrs. E. Partiss, 22 Bond Road, South Ashford	Second Wednesday in each month, The Drill Hall, Ashford, 3 p.m.
6. Sittingbourne	Mrs. M. E. Dean	Mrs. J. Ravensdale, 10 Railway Terrace Sittingbourne	Third Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne, 6.45 p.m.



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EDITORIAL

ALTHOUGH the retirement of Sir Winston Churchill had been expected, the news, when it came, was of personal loss. So long had he been at the helm, in the stormiest years, that one seemed rudderless. To a soldier, Winston Churchill's life has been one of the great stories of our time. We shall never fail to remember his inspiring leadership. May he and Lady Churchill enjoy many years yet of happiness and contentment.

* * *

The Colonel of the Regiment has lately taken the opportunity of spending some of his busy time with the Regiment. On the evening of 25th March, he dined with the 1st Battalion. Many of the officers wore Mess Dress, as did the Colonel of the Regiment, which to us older ones brought back such happy memories, and to both young and old a sense of traditional pride and well-being. The next day he inspected the Battalion, and took the Salute at the March Past. On 1st April, he took the Passing Out parade at the Depot.

* * *

The winter competitions of the Past and Present Association have now nearly ended. It looks as if Canterbury Branch are the winners of the Shooting. Sandwich and Medway will compete in the final of the Darts, which once again will be held at Canterbury on Saturday, 4th June. We expect another big gathering.

Herne Bay and Weald Branches have held dinners this month, both very successful. The Secretary, Past and Present Association, attended both, and the Weald dinner was attended also by the Colonel of the Regiment, Lieut.-Col. Grace, who spoke of the Battalion in Kenya, and by Lieut.-Col. Hews.

* * *

It is hoped to produce a special Presentation of Colours number of *The Dragon* as the May number, and, if plans materialize, the Tramp will write his impressions of the Parade and also of the Laying-up Ceremony. The number will include pages of photographs, and will be devoted almost entirely to these two ceremonies.

* * *

In view of this, the Tramp has been excused his contribution this month. Your Editor hopes that he may have created some interest by his article on S.S.A.F.A., of which he is County Honorary Secretary. In any case, in view of the lack of the National Press, there will be more time to read *The Dragon*.

* * *

Denmark has been celebrating the birth, 150 years ago, of Hans Andersen, and during a recent afternoon Broadcast from Denmark, listeners heard the voice of H.M. King Frederik IX.

* * *

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS

It is important that all attending the parade should arrive in good time. No admission to the parade ground will be possible after 10.30 a.m.

Presentation of Colours to 1st Battalion

THE Presentation will take place on Monday, 9th May, at 11 a.m., on the St. Lawrence Cricket Ground, Canterbury.

Blocks of seats will be reserved for the Regiment but there will be no individual allocations, and there will be car parking facilities on the Ground.

All those attending should be in their seats not later than 10.30 a.m.

It will be appreciated if all retired or serving officers other than those with the 1st Battalion, Depot and 4/5th Battalion would apply to the Administrative Officer of the Depot as early as possible for tickets for themselves and their families. Applications from Branches of the Past and Present Association and from all members of the Regiment not now serving, other than officers, should apply to the Secretary, Past and Present Association, The Buffs.

An official lunch will be held at the Depot which will be attended by the Colonel-in-Chief, the Colonel of the Regiment and Regimental guests, and by officers of the Battalion taking part in the Parade, and all former 1st Battalion Commanding Officers. As places at this lunch will, of necessity, have to be limited it will be appreciated if those officers and their wives who do not receive tickets will please take the alternative buffet lunch. Tickets for one or other of the lunches will be sent with tickets for the Presentation Parade.

Lunch will also be arranged for ex-members of the Regiment other than officers, through the Past and Present Association, the arrangements for which will be notified separately to Branches.

* * *

LAYING UP OF COLOURS

The Service will take place in the Cathedral at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 10th May. Applications for tickets which will admit to the Service should be made in the same way as for the Presentation. It will not be possible on this occasion to allot individual seats but blocks will be reserved for all serving and retired members of the Regiment.

At the conclusion of the Service, the Battalion will march through the City, His Worship the Mayor taking the salute at Lady Wootton's Green.

Personalia

VERY sincere congratulations to Captain R. Carey on promotion to Major.

* * *

Captain J. H. Stone, now with B.A.O.R., writes that he is looking forward to seeing the 1st Battalion.

* * *

We were sorry to hear that Lieut.-Col. E. Hudson Allen has been in King Edward VII Hospital, but glad to say is progressing well.

* * *

The very welcome news has been received that Major W. G. Blaxland intends to be at the Presentation of Colours Parade and at the Dragon Club Dinner. Although he will be in a wheeled chair, it will be wonderful to have him back amongst us again.

* * *

We shall welcome from the Danish Branch, Past and Present Association, Major Lippmann and his wife, and Mr. Kai Weeke, both of whom will be here for the Presentation of Colours.

* * *

Miss Patricia Rickards has given up her appointment as Assistant to the Secretary, Past and Present Association, in view of her impending marriage. We thank her for a year's very efficient service. In her place, the work will be shared by Mrs. P. Lawson and Mrs. M. Manthorpe, who will each work half the week, so that there will be no lack of continuity or efficiency.

* * *

We much regret to report the death of Mr. J. J. Day of Tenterden St. Michael's on 27th March, in Ashford Hospital, at the age of 71. Mr. Day served in 5th Battalion, The Buffs, in the 1914-18 War and both his sons and his son-in-law served in the Regiment. The eldest son served in the 5th Battalion in France, North Africa and Italy, where he was killed when a C.S.M. The second son, Mr. D. Day, was with the 4th Battalion and then served, as a Sergeant, with the 2nd Battalion in France and North Africa. He then joined the Special Air Service Regiment, serving in Dalmatia. He is now Honorary Secretary of Weald Branch, Past and Present Association, and R.S.M., 23rd Battalion Kent Home Guard. The son-in-law, Mr. Beaney, was with the 1st Battalion in India and North Africa. We offer our sympathy to the late Mr. Day's wife and family.

* * *

We have just heard of the birth of a son to Major and Mrs. Vere Collins, upon which event our heartiest congratulations.

BIRTH

WRIGHT.—On February 25th, 1955, at B.M.H., Hostert, B.A.O.R. 34, to Rosemary (*née* Rennison), wife of Captain Michael Wright—a son.

* * *

DEATH

GREENWAY.—On March 14th, 1955, Major Charles Durnford Kelynge Greenway, late The Buffs, in his 85th year.

* * *

Obituary

CHARLES DURNFORD KELYNGE GREENWAY

b. 7th July, 1870; d. 14th March, 1955

SO passes, full of years, another of the good companions who served with the 2nd Battalion in the South African War; and, by an odd coincidence, six of these came from Harrow: himself, Major Dauglish, Dick Marriott, Jim Ronald, Philip Flower and Eric Norman—good companions indeed.

From Harrow Greenway joined the 6th Royal Irish Rifles and was gazetted to the Buffs in 1891. After strenuous days at Aldershot and Chatham came pleasant times at Athlone and Kilkenny and then Brighton—until war broke out in 1899. As luck would have it he was chosen to remain at Cape Town with details and only rejoined the Battalion at Bloemfontein—after the fighting in which the 6th Division so distinguished itself.

Except for a tour of duty at the Depot, he remained with the 2nd Battalion until he resigned his commission at Singapore in 1912. In 1914 he was recalled to the Colours and posted to the Middlesex Regiment in which he served with great gallantry, losing a leg and being twice mentioned in despatches. The loss of a leg circumscribed his activities very considerably for he was never able to accustom himself to the use of an artificial limb.

As a company commander Major Greenway was thoroughly efficient and soon put the present writer—fresh from Oxford and with no previous training, on the right lines as regards military matters and regimental traditions. Never out of temper he was the most delightful and interesting companion; very well read, full of anecdotes and quotations and with a supreme sense of humour.

F.W.T.

Future Events

May 9. PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO 1ST BATTALION BY THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF (H.M. KING FREDERIK IX OF DENMARK). ST. LAWRENCE CRICKET GROUND.

10. LAYING UP OF OLD COLOURS IN CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.

11. DRAGON CLUB DINNER. UNITED SERVICE CLUB.
REGIMENTAL TEA PARTY.

16. ALBUHERA DAY.

June 4. FINAL, INTER-BRANCH DARTS COMPETITION. DEPOT, CANTERBURY.

21-26. REGIMENTAL CRICKET WEEK.

Aug. 7. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.

Sept. 10. BUFFS GOLFING SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER.

30. BUFFS OFFICERS' RE-UNION CLUB DINNER. CONNAUGHT ROOMS.

Oct. 8. 6TH (S) BATTALION (1914-18) ANNUAL DINNER.

* * *

Cricket Week
21st June—26th June

Tues. *v* Simon Langton School, 14.30.
Thurs. *v* Queen's Own, at the Depot, 11.30.
Fri. *v* Royal Fusiliers, at the Depot, 11.30.
Sat. *v* Band of Brothers, at the Depot, 11.30.
Sun. *v* Shepway Stragglers, at the Depot, 11.30.

We will be very short of players again this year. Anybody wishing to play in any of the matches please write to O.C., Depot, The Buffs.

* * *

Regimental Reunion, 1954
89th L.A.A. Regt., R.A.

THE following attended the Reunion:—R. Bevis, Lieut.-Col. H. C. Cory, M.C., B. P. Edwards, M. Gilbert-Lodge, D. S. Hunter, R. W. W. Howell, R. M. Keane, H. J. Nicholls, J. Rissen, J. Sherwood, R. B. Skinner, Lieut.-Col. J. R. Willows, L. P. Whatley, Lieut.-Col. M. Gilford, O.B.E., E.R.D., D. Nichols-Marcy.

1st Battalion



THE central event of the past month has been the visit by the Colonel of the Regiment on 25th and 26th March—his first official visit to the Battalion since he became our Colonel. He attended a Regimental Guest Night in the Officers' Mess as principal guest, and the following morning inspected and addressed the Battalion on parade, after which he visited the Sergeants' Mess and met the families. The evening in the Officers' Mess had an added significance, for it provided the long-awaited opportunity to present the Regiment—represented by the General—with a silver statuette. This gift—depicting a soldier of the Second World War—brings up-to-date the collection of statuettes which has for so long added lustre to the silver of our Officers' Messes. It is a gift from the officers of the 1st Battalion, 1953/54, and it was therefore especially pleasing that its presentation should have been witnessed —among our other guests—by Lieut.-Col. J. F. Connolly. Absent donors will be further pleased to hear that also present were Messrs. Christopher Hodgson and Alan Vincent, who represented the many who, having served the Battalion in Kenya, have since gone their various ways. We were honoured, too, to have as our guests that night the following: Brigadier J. G. Nicholson, C.B.E., Brigadier M. P. D. Dewer, M.B.E., Lieut.-Col. G. R. D. Hews, M.C., Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker, Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles, and Major R. H. Dendy. The General, after replying to the Commanding Officer, handed the statuette back to us for safe keeping, so that it now stands guard alongside its illustrious predecessors.

Next morning we mustered a parade of over 500 strong, and in a wind of gale force received the General with customary salute. After his inspection he addressed us, reminding us that we live at the start of a new chapter in military history, and that we must adapt our ideas and our training as soldiers to new conditions of warfare—as our forebears had done when gunpowder replaced the arrow, or the horse made way for the engine. His words were an encouragement to us, both for what we had achieved in the near past, and for what we faced in the future.

The parade ended with a march past, before which the General decorated Bandmaster Sharpe with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. The Regimental Colour—on its last parade before 9th May—was carried by 2/Lieut. J. M. Lunn.

* * *

The Company and other notes which follow tell the reader the tale of our further activity, which goes on as previously planned.

Our welcome goes to Major Derek Poulsen, who takes over H.Q. Company, while we have with regret said good-bye to Lieut. Ronald Baker, who has gone to the Infantry Boys' Battalion at Plymouth, and to Lieut. John Rymer-Jones and 2/Lieut. Patrick Parker who have fallen for the lure of parachuting.

It was good to see Major Arthur Majendie for a short visit, even though he is disappearing again shortly—this time to the R.A.F. Staff College.

The spectre of "nuclear" warfare and "streamlined Battalions" is giving fresh impetus to many things in many directions, and thus it has been that exercises and short courses have taken away for varying periods the Commanding Officer (to Hounslow), the Second-in-Command (to Chatham), Major Hugh Collins (to Catterick and Aintree), and—perhaps stretching it a bit—Lieut. Ian Minto (to London), while Capt. Bill Dunglinson with a fair-sized party of younger Officers and N.C.O.s are off to Hythe to learn about the new self-loading rifle with which we shall one day be armed.

However, with Easter almost here and our thoughts inevitably looking beyond it to the coming events of May and June, we can find a sort of consolation in having to tackle first things first.

* * *

SERGEANTS' MESS

Once again pen goes to paper in an attempt to write the happenings of the last month, but believe it or not we have had a very peaceful time—it is believed to be the lull before the storm.

There have been quite a few new faces in the Mess and we would like to welcome Sgt. Partridge and Sgt. Cain from 4/5th Battalion and Depot respectively—their stay will be a happy one we know.

The Crowns and Stripes have been in the news lately and congratulations go to C/Sgts. Day and Hannaway on their promotion to C.S.M., Sgt. Partridge (who is now C/Sgt.) and also to Sgts. Adams, Yuill, Wagstaff and Munns.

It is very sad to see old faces and it was with regret that we said good-bye to C.S.M. Kemp. He has left us to be a "sailor" on the short sea trips plying between Harwich—Hook of Holland. We wish him the very best of luck in his new venture and know that he will look after the members when they go to BAOR.

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CREAM

STOPS
TOOTH
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BEST!

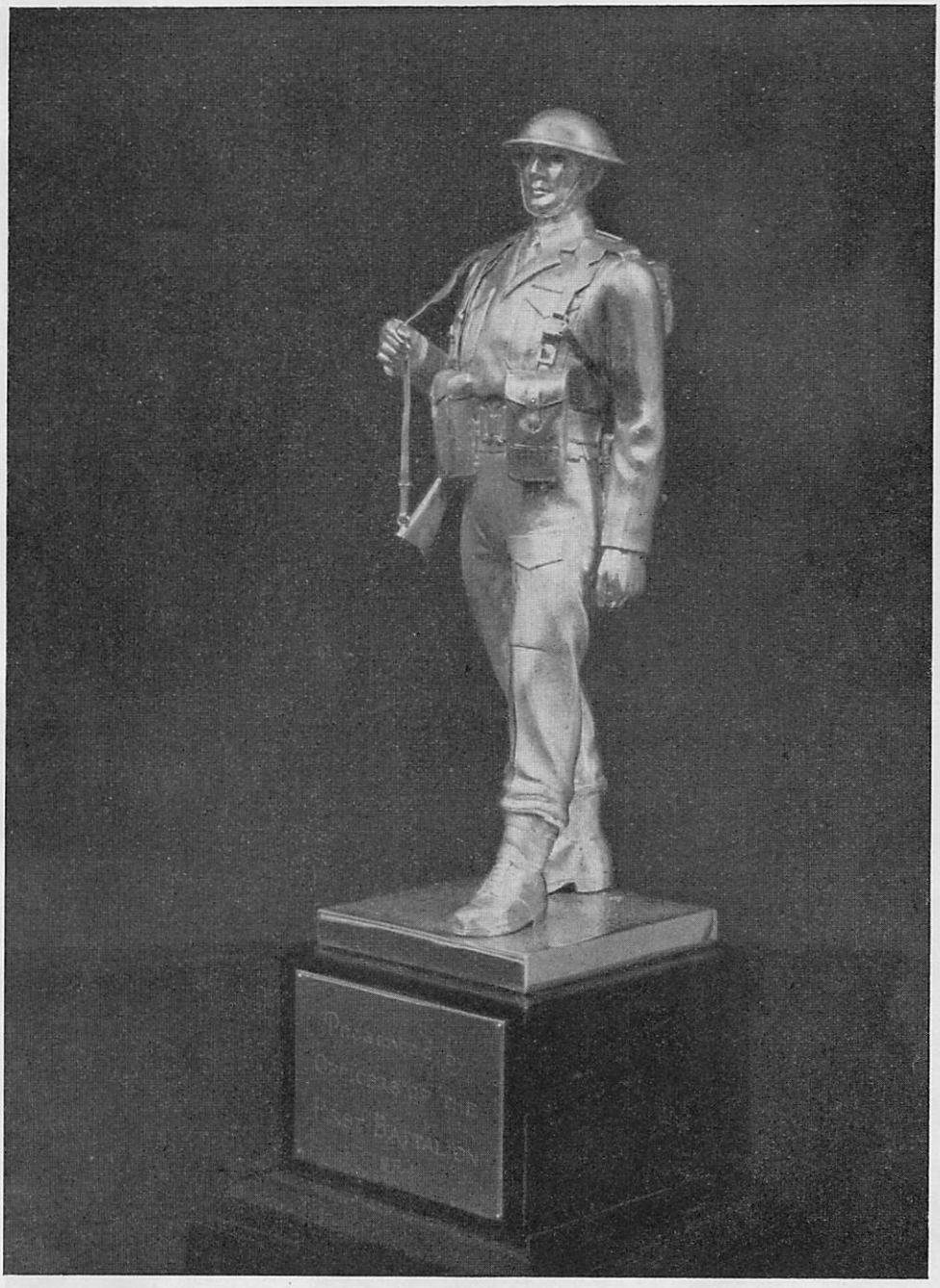


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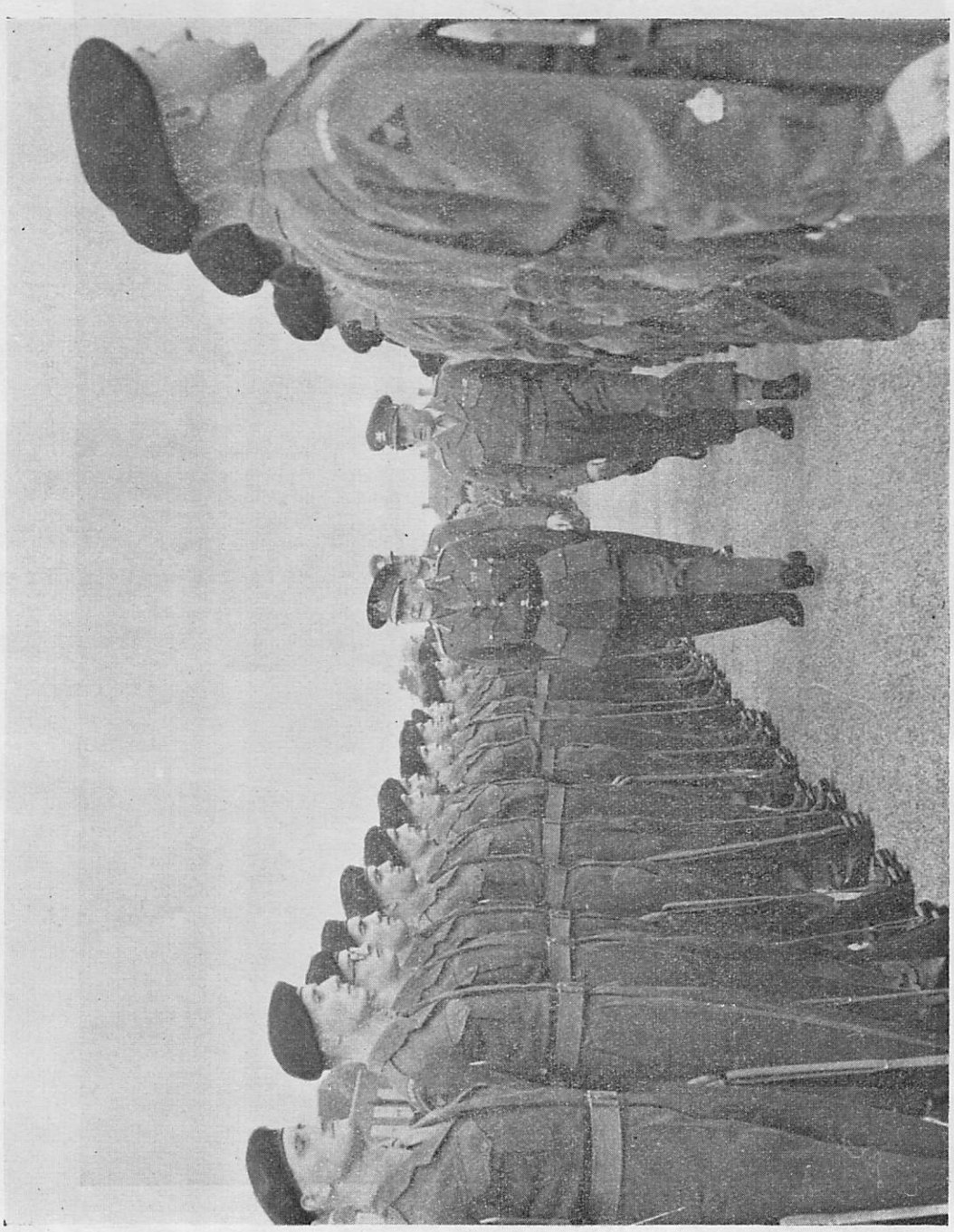
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KEEPS TEETH SPARKLING WHITE
—BREATH ALWAYS FRESH!



[*Lambert Weston & Son, Ltd., Dover*

A soldier of the second World War—statuette presented to the Officers' Mess



[*Kent Photos, Dover*

The Colonel of the Regiment, Maj.-Gen. V. Boucher, C.B., C.B.E. inspecting 1st Battalion, Old Park Barracks, Dover, 26th March, 1955

C.S.M. Middleton, acting in his capacity as P.M.C., is doing fine. We sometimes get cake with our tea in the morning, but some of the married members come in and devour the majority of it—they must be starving at home. (Apologies to their good ladies!)

Sgt. Bill Histed has extended to complete 12 years, but I don't think the £100 will go very far, because if you happen to open his locker you can see rows of Silvikrin. Sgt. Stan Billett has mysterious 'phone calls, and the general belief is that they originate from Hastings; just put two and two together and what do you get—Accident, Hospital—nice nurses. That is only a guess, mind you!

We must congratulate Bandmaster Sharpe on receiving the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and would like to remind him there are only another 18 years to do before he gets the bar to it.

In the near future we are having the annual shoot to find out who will be the champion and also who will receive the wooden spoon. If we are not all "wooden spoonners" we will contemplate challenging the Officers.

In conclusion, we wish all former members all the very best of luck and hope that some of them will come along and see us.

* * *

"A" COMPANY

The principal feature of this month, which otherwise has been a continuation of individual training, was the Company's week of firing on the open range at Hythe. Unfortunately we picked quite the worst possible week as far as the weather was concerned—snow, blizzards and a very cold North-Easterly wind made conditions for shooting most unpleasant. A gallant effort was made the first day to fire off a few details between the intermittent blizzards which transformed firers into snowmen and turned hands and faces blue with cold. After two hours we had to surrender to the weather and return to Barracks. The following day was called off as reports from Hythe said that the range was covered in deep snow drifts and the sky gave no signs of any improvement; this, however, did not relieve us from being up and about at the crack of dawn as in fact we were for the whole week. We finally managed to get in three days' shooting the instructional courses after clearing the snow from the firing points and battling against stormy winds.

Owing to the severe frosts at nights the roads in the early morning were quite treacherous and it was often necessary to send the buses on a detour to avoid the Folkestone Hill. One morning the Company Commander in his champ and the C.S.M. with his ammunition party in a three-ton lorry very much regretted their decision to go the short way via Folkestone Hill. The hill was covered in ice and the champ got out of control, turning round several times in the road and finishing up on the other side of the road on the footpath. Luckily the vehicle did not turn over and a very shaken Company Commander and driver got out just in time to see the 3-ton lorry, which had been behind them, sliding down the hill with the back wheels locked; the driver lent out of his cab window to shout a rather obvious "I can't stop, Sir!". Fortunately, the road was clear and control of the vehicle was regained at the bottom.

The following week we performed butt duties for "B" Company to shoot. The change in the weather was quite remarkable and it could not have been better for shooting. We were very jealous, but did get one day to shoot our rifle classification course as "B" Company did not require the range the whole week. We congratulate Cpls. Winter, Powell, L/Cpl. Cullen and Pte. Baldwin on classifying as "Marksmen".

Ptes. Ingle, Castle, Barnes, Bishop and Francis attended a Battalion Cadre for junior N.C.O.'s and they all did extremely well and have been recommended to retain their local lance-corporal stripes which were granted for the duration of the course. L/Cpl. Ingle is to be congraulated on being placed first in the cadre course and also for classifying as a "Marksman" with the L.M.G. This was the second junior N.C.O.'s cadre run by the Battalion here at Dover. On the first course we had only two passes—L/Cpl. Cullen and L/Cpl. Pennells. However, we also then took the first place. Our congratulations to L/Cpl. Cullen on this achievement.

The Company Commander thought he was going to have a holiday at Catterick attending a Senior Officers' Signals Course. However, this did not materialise as the Second-in-Command, Captain Harold Gatehouse, announced that he was going into Shorncliffe hospital to have some long outstanding treatment. It appears that he is rather upset that there are no female nurses at the hospital. We all wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to his early return to the fold.

Cpl. Alabaster, our faithful Company Clerk, has left us on release after five years' service. We shall miss him in the Company Office and wish him the very best for his future civilian career.

2/Lieut. Graham Turner, after considerable devoted service to the Company, leaves us to join Anti-Tank Platoon of Support Company to learn something of their work under Lieut. Roger Pilcher, also an ex-"A" Company Officer. It is understood that Graham Turner will be going to the Anti-Tank Platoon of the 4/5th Battalion when he joins them for his T.A. service.

Cpl. Miles has left us for the Depot. We are sorry to lose him, but hope he will enjoy his new job.

Ptes. Tassell and Coleman have left us on release and we wish them the best of good fortune for the future.

* * *

"B" COMPANY

We would like to take this opportunity of welcoming to the Company Major L. P. Critchley, M.B.E., who recently came to us from Sandhurst. We sincerely hope that his stay with us will be a long and enjoyable one. Also we welcome the many other newcomers who are, we regret, too numerous to mention by name, but our welcome is not any less warm in consequence.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Hannaway on his promotion from Colour-Sergeant, and to C/Sgt. Partridge, who was promoted to take over in the Stores; also to No. 6 Platoon's new Sergeant, Sgt. Yuill.

The Annual Range Course at Hythe has featured prominently in our programme during the past few weeks, entailing an early Reveille for one and all. Morale was maintained throughout this strenuous period of training by the stentorian tones of our erstwhile C.S.M.—"Get covered off from the left". In passing, we regret to report that C.S.M. Kemp has now left us to sort out "Q" Movements at Harwich. Before he left, however, he treated us to a "Sherpa Tensing" on Folkestone Hill.

Sgt. Yuill has finally decided to take the proverbial plunge into matrimony. When these notes appear in print we hope that he will already be established in nuptial bliss. We seize this occasion to wish both him and his bride every happiness.

We feel that No. 6 Platoon Commander's promotion came just in time to save the platoon from bankruptcy. The imagination boggles at the thought of representatives from the united paint company removing Tables 6 ft. folding flat in lieu of payment for goods received by the

platoon. It would seem that the only course left open to our friends and neighbours would have been to flee under cover of darkness to their kinsmen in "S" Company, there to wield a paint brush and bumper unmolested.

We take much pleasure in congratulating No. 5 Platoon on winning the Company Football Competition by the magnificent scores of 5—0 and 10—0.

Since the arrival of C.S.M. Hannaway we have enjoyed the unique experience of two ex-paratroopers giving us the "old stuff" together. The other stalwart being that well-known character in the Company, Sgt. Spiers.

At the time of going to press we are looking forward to the Easter Break and the Presentation of New Colours which follows close behind.

* * *

"C" COMPANY

Practice for the two big parades and the Annual Classification at Hythe have taken up a great deal of our time this month. In addition we have been indulging in that favourite pastime of all keen (?) soldiers—*i.e.*, Battle Efficiency Tests. Never exactly easy, in many cases these tests turned out to be Endurance trials as well. The weather man did his worst and those who passed can consider themselves in the "Superman" class.

The Annual Classification produced some good shooting despite gale force winds blowing as only they can on the Hythe seafront. At one time, shooting at 500 yards was abandoned when it was found that an aim off of one target width (or was it two?) was required. And *who* was the N.C.O. who got fifteen red flags for *one* shot? Never mind, Sgt. —— (no names, no pack drill), you were not the only one. The display after some of the rapid practices would have warmed the hearts of Messrs. Bulganin, Molotov and Kruscev. And by the way, there was another Sergeant who discovered that not only can one get red flags but grenades make a much bigger bang when primed!!!

A visit to the Past and Present Association at Margate was made by Lieut. Greville Edgecombe and members of the Company. It transpired that they were rather better at darts than shooting. Oh, fie! Nevertheless, it is recorded that No. 9 Platoon Commander had a free fish and chip supper as a result.

Promotions, arrivals and departures were a feature of this month. We say hail and farewell and good hunting in Civvy Street (via a Parachute Course) to Lieut. Patrick Parker, L/Cpl. Pay and Ptes. Underwood, Lewis, Brown and Slyfield on their release. Pte. Gould (28) has been attached to Brigade H.Q. and we hear that his brother is angling hard to follow suit. Off to the teeming jungles of Malaya and another gong went the Wyatt twins, the Tilbury brothers, and Ptes. Jeal and Bushell (386). Good luck, and remember, although it may be a bit hotter than Kenya, at least there are no rhinos!

Our congratulations to Sgt. Wagstaff on promotion to his present rank and to L/Cpls. Walsham, Russell, George and Barnard on their newly acquired "tapes".

We extend a warm welcome to 2/Lieut. Hardy, who steps into the breach as Commander of No. 7 Platoon—and no doubt a permanent place in next season's Rugger XV. Others we welcome into the Company are Ptes. Gibbs, Lee, Sacre, Herbert, Graham, Coate and Rix (look out, Parrett, storekeeping in his blood).

In the field of sport Pte. Bloomfield was outstanding when he put up a splendid performance by being first Buff home in the cross-country team race against Dover College.

And last but not least our hearty congratulations to the Company Marksmen:—

L.M.G.: 2/Lieut. Hardy, Ptes. Atkins, Tyler, Herbert, Bloomfield.

Rifle: C/Sgt. Denny, Pte. Tilbury (66).

* * *

"D" (TRAINING) COMPANY

The Company is now in full swing. The storemen have at last stopped being carpenters, having finished the many different types of target frames, and training stores, which were required. Cadre training programmes and syllabi, both detailed and block, have been rolling off the Orderly Room machines in great style. To date, we have completed two potential N.C.O.'s courses, and the subalterns and full N.C.O.'s of the Battalion have been shown the sort of training which can be organised within a Company immediately prior to the firing of the Annual Classification Courses.

At present, we are engaged in teaching the cream of the Battalion junior N.C.O.'s their responsibilities, both in barrack and in battle. Also, short courses on the 3.5 rocket launcher and Energa grenade launcher, the platoon anti-tank weapons, are in progress. Due to our sojourn in Kenya there are still many soldiers in the battalion who have never set eyes on these weapons, so the importance of this teaching cannot be exaggerated.

We have been slightly upset by the continuous bad weather, which has forced us to do much indoor instruction. I hope that by the time the next series of these notes are written, the weather, at least, will provide no impediment to instruction.

While writing these notes and peering out of the window for inspiration, I was lucky enough to see a 3.5 R.L. team approaching at high speed in a Champ. Alas! as the Champ came to a sudden halt with a view to disgorging the team into action, there seemed to be a slight error of judgment on the part of the No. 1 as he was last seen leaving the vehicle complete with his R.L. via the windscreen, which suddenly took on a rather changed appearance. "C'est la guerre."

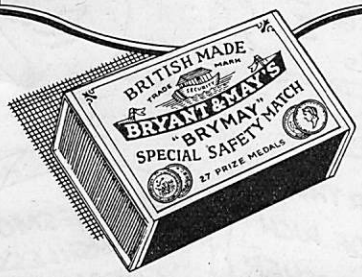
The parade held for the Colonel of the Regiment on 26th March went off in fine style, and considering our total strength, we were well represented on parade, 2/Lieut. James Lunn having the honour of carrying the Regimental Colour. After numerous protestations on his part regarding the possible risk of the Colour being torn asunder by the high wind, he was at last persuaded to take up his position on parade with Colour flying. Alas! his movement into position was accompanied by the sound of tearing cloth, as the Colour tried to release itself from the pike. There was a sequel to this story in which Lunn did not come off best. Perhaps that was his first and last venture in this field!!!

It seems to be the thing to publish an Order of Battle. Not to be outdone in this respect, here goes:—

Company Commander: Captain W. Dunglinson.
2 *i/c:* Lieut. P. J. Mitchell.
?: 2/Lieut. J. Lunn.
C.S.M.: C.S.M. Middleton.
C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. Newman.
Sergeant-Instructors: Sgts. Jephcott, Harris, Histed.
Clerks and Storemen: Ptes. Forward, Jones, Barber, Langridge.
Batmen: Ptes. Sayer, Williamson, Knight.

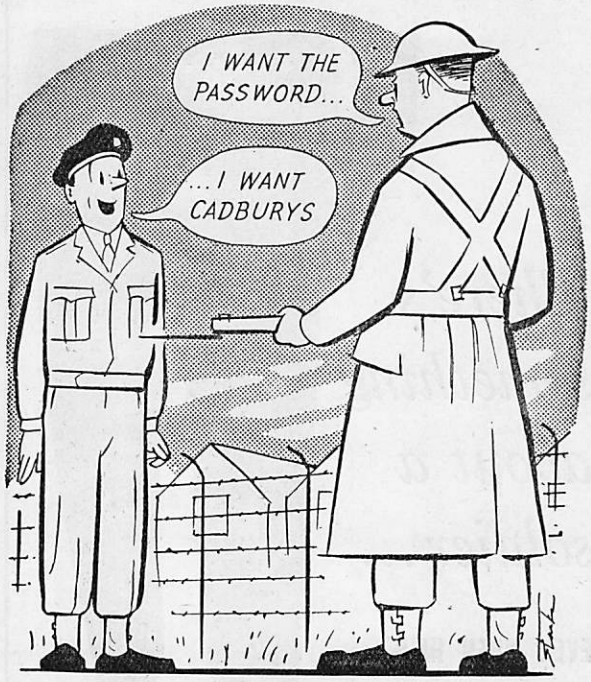
As will be seen from the above, there are still a number of situations vacant. Rumour has it that we may be out of business shortly as our particular organisation is not catered for in Nuclear Warfare. However, we like to think this will not be the case.

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"SP" COMPANY

This month has proved to be a fairly uneventful one, with the accent very much on the weather. We have been largely "snowed down" for the past three weeks or so. When surveying the unbroken white blanket laid around us, the "murram red" and greenery of Kenya seems a far cry.

Very shortly the Company is due to fire its Annual Range Course at Hythe, so with Spring at last in the air and in our hearts we can be confident of some good shooting. Already butt marking for "C" Company is keeping two platoons a day busy. The 0500 hours Reveille that the butt parties have to suffer must remind them of some of the more wearisome operations in Kenya.

Major Collins, our O.C., has left us for a two weeks' Signals Course at Catterick. C.S.M. Sharman has temporarily left us for a drill course at the Brigade of Guards Depot at Caterham. Sgt. Anderson of the M.G. Platoon is holding the fort against all newcomers whilst he is away. We would like to welcome Capt. Thorneycroft to our fold. He has recently vacated the Adjutant's chair to become our Company 2 i/c. We have had little chance to see him, however, as he has gone off on an ABC (Atomic, Biological and Chemical) Warfare Course. Doubtless he will come back to us saying that we are all doomed men, and that to dig monstrous trenches at break-neck speed is the only answer.

We also welcome 2/Lieut. Turner from "A" Company, who is studying the Anti-Tank Gun for his T.A. service.

Lieut. Minto is off for five days on a Military Law Course in London. From the number of manuals and pamphlets he took with him he should be able to impress the authorities of his learned intentions.

We would like to congratulate Cpl. Adams on his promotion to Sgt., L/Cpl. Fisher to P/A/Cpl., L/Cpl. Stapley to Local Cpl., and Ptes. Mansell and Muggridge to L/Cpl. Well done, and carry on the good work.

L/Cpl. Baverstock has taken the plunge and "signed on". L/Cpl. Mansell has committed himself even more deeply and has got married. Along with our congratulations we wish him and his wife every happiness. Cpl. Craven has just left us for a Small Arms Course at Hythe. Doubtless he will return and baffle us all with his new found science and the wonders of the FN.300 rifle.

On the training side little has happened of note. It is going ahead steadily except perhaps for the Anti-Tank Platoon Carrier Driving, which is proving to be somewhat expensive in Brigade H.Q. ¼-ton trailers. The Anti-Tank Platoon has also spent a week-end at Lydd Ranges training with the 4/5th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.). The liaison was both instructive and pleasant. We hope we will be able to see more of them. The Company has by now completed its P.E. tests and the horrors of the 9-mile "bash" are behind us.

Thanks to the weather, there is nothing to report on the sporting side. Now the snow has gone we hope to be able to make up for lost time.

Lieut. Pilcher and four men from his platoon have spent a very enjoyable evening with the Herne Bay Past and Present Association. A very pleasant time was had by all, and the Company held its own in the darts, snooker and beer drinking.

We welcome Pte. Miller to the Company from Canterbury. On the losses side we have to say good-bye to L/Cpl. Gibbons, L/Cpl. Crust, Ptes. Chandler, Clark, Hammond, Hemingway, Terry and Walker on demob. Good luck to you all in Civvy Street.

H.Q. COMPANY

THE DRUMS

Everybody has been busy preparing for the C.O.'s Admin. Inspection which takes place tomorrow (Monday 21st).

Now we all know that there is nothing new in Admin. Inspections, just a little bother now and again. The only thing that worried us was that we had a rehearsal on Saturday afternoon, and to think that it clashed with the Big Event of the season, the event that all sports lovers had been waiting for. The Lilywhites were playing at home and there we were pounding the square! I ask you, friends, is that justice? No wonder they lost!

We are still very busy preparing for the 9th of May. The side-drummers have been dreaming about "Molendoff's" slow troop and can just about play *Semper Fidelis* backwards. It doesn't sound so bad, anyway. As regards *Grenadiers*, it's a case of hoping for the best, but I feel sure they will make the grade.

A great welcome was given to Sgt. Simmonds on his return to the fold after a long holiday at the Depot. He has already got well into his stride and he will, no doubt, be grey-headed before long.

The firing, I'm afraid, was a failure. Firstly the weather was against us from the start. The first day we managed to reach the range alright, but it was snowing so hard that it was impossible to see the target. We stuck it for two hours and to our surprise one man managed to hit the red flag!

The one thing we did enjoy was the ride down (no 3-tonners for us, East Kent buses only). Everybody made a bee-line for the single decker; I wondered why and found out it had a wireless on it.

After a week of snow in our eyes, we finally managed to finish our practice shoot but still have to classify.

Everybody is still wondering what "Watch and Shoot but don't fire" means. I forgot to tell you we were with "A" Company. "Nuff said!"

The Colonel of the Regiment is visiting us on Saturday, so another good time is expected and, seeing the Lilywhites are playing at home again, we can start sweating.

Tex Mahoney has just left for Civvy Street. We will all miss him very much as he was the life and soul of the party. All the best, Tex. We hope the crackling is still waiting for you.

Owing to so much bad weather just recently, sport has been restricted but we managed to get in one game against the Messing Staff, winning 5—1.

As you know, the Band is still with us. We are the greatest of friends for a while. It is rumoured that they are going to do a fire picquet. When they do that, the Drums will turn out and play them to the Guard Room; but between ourselves we have yet to be beaten at football and I don't suppose we ever shall.

* * *

ODE TO THE KIT INSPECTION

Have you ever had that terrible feeling
When your socks are all in need of repair,
And you have no laces or blacking
And no hair brush for doing your hair.
It's then that the words "Kit Inspection"
Bring fear to the hearts of us all,
And Moat feels that he would like to borrow a dollar
Or do a trip over the wall.

So McGuinness and Burgoyne start round on the borrow
To their mates in another platoon.
And at the N.A.A.F.I. that night for some supper, Moyse
Knocks off a knife, fork and a spoon.
Then Wilding stands to his kit like a hero without any
socks to his feet.
And we say to ourselves that next pay day we will make
our kit complete.
And with a shudder we all stand there and pray that the
officer's
Gaze will not fall on our scruffy holdall,
Or we might stop a nice seven days.

* * *

Q.M.'S STAFF

Since the last call for *Dragon* notes reached this department so many changes in staff have taken place that it is safest to say a simple good-bye to the old and welcome the new. These notes, however, will be incomplete without a special word of welcome to R.Q.M.S. Rose, who has arrived from the Depot. The Q.M. has been observed to swing his arms just that little higher since his arrival, and to take into permanent wear anklets web (gaiters to you). Not that his arrival has meant the departure (yet) of R.Q.M.S. Excell, whose exuberant charm will continue to bemuse all and sundry until the Battalion goes to Germany. A great pity both R.Q.M.S.'s cannot accompany the Battalion to Germany, to the immense gratification of those charitable souls who love to remind us that the Battalion enjoys the services of *two* R.Q.M.S.'s.

The expression "We didn't do it like that in Kenya" is losing its sting. Everybody seems to have settled down to enjoy the week-ends between the weeks' work.

Cross-country running, weapon training and guard drill mixed with drill parades, fire drill and weeks away at the seaside to fire the Annual Course makes it quite difficult to find time to write weekly passes. Most people seem to manage.

Spring is in the air, rooks are building nests and most of the staff seem to be expecting an increase in the family.

* * *

SIGNAL PLATOON

The classification cadre has been continuing throughout the month and it is hoped that on March 23rd that all the students will qualify as classified signallers.

The "old hands" have been down to Hythe Ranges with "A" and "B" Companies and all managed to classify.

Pte. Vipan has been ably holding the fort as Signal Office Clerk during the absence of L/Cpl. Simonon, who with a happy leer, departed on 14 days' leave at the beginning of the month.

Our main achievement has been our supply of Commanding Officer's Stick Orderlies. On only one occasion has the Platoon failed to provide the Stick Orderly on a Battalion H.Q. Guard in which they were represented. The sole failure occurred when the Guard was mounted during a heavy snow storm and everybody was reduced to a common level of frozen misery. One of the signallers on this Guard still staunchly maintains that he was the smartest man before the elements beat him.

* * *

THE REGIMENTAL BAND

Hello again from the Regimental Band. This month offers considerably less news than that of last. However, here we go.

First of all, congratulations to Bandsman Fuller (*one* of our Band Anglers), who caught a 29 lb. pike in the Vauxhall lakes in Canterbury. This being a club record caused quite some anxiety in the City. It was entered in the *News of the World* Fish of the Week Competition, gaining second place, unluckily being beaten by something like an average of .75. Better luck next time, Fats. Many people still envy you.

Band engagements this month seem extremely plentiful. The Dance Orchestra once again are proving themselves very popular in Kent and have played in no fewer than ten dance halls since returning from Kenya. The Military Band are also working hard, mainly rehearsals for the forthcoming Presentation of Colours. We will of course give you more details of this parade later on.

I know you will all be pleased to know that Bandmaster Trevor L. Sharpe received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal when Major-General Boucher addressed the Battalion on March 26th. A well-earned medal by Mr. Sharpe after a long period of loyal service. Congratulations from all members of the Band.

Congratulations are also extended to the following N.C.O.'s and Bandsmen who have been promoted during the last month:—

To Sergeant: 6300564 Cpl. Munns, R.
To Corporal: 6300577 L/Cpl. Gornall, E., 6300580 L/Cpl. Young, A.
To Lance-Corporal: 6300566 Bdsm. Jones, R., 6300578 Bdsm. Dark, R.

This month we hope to enlist a few more Band Boys and possibly a few more Bandsmen, so for their benefit and for the members that have recently joined us we will end with one or two of the Military Band Commandments:

1. Thou shalt not blow sour notes and then, by contemptuous grimace, falsely accuse thy neighbour.
2. Two hours thou shalt labour and do thy tooting and in the time that cometh before rehearsal shalt not make divers weird noises, which are like unto a miasmatic cacophony, but diligently reserve thy wind for the performance of the true labours at the proper time.

* * *

The Bayeux Memorial

THE Memorial, constructed by the Imperial War Graves Commission to the design of Mr. P. D. Hepworth, F.R.I.B.A., is situated in the South-West outskirts of Bayeux. The land on which it stands has been given by the Town in memory of the 1,837 soldiers who are honoured on the Memorial. It faces the entrance to the Bayeux War Cemetery, with a fine view of Bayeux Cathedral to the East.

The Memorial, which is of classical design, is approached across a wide grass forecourt, from which steps lead up to the building itself. The roof is supported by four columns, bearing names engraved on Portland stone panels. Flanking these columns at either end are shelters containing further name panels and an inscription in English and French, in the following words:—

THE NAMES OF THE
SOLDIERS OF THE
BRITISH COMMONWEALTH
AND EMPIRE
WHO FELL IN THE
ASSAULT UPON THE
NORMANDY BEACHES
OR IN THE
SWEEP TO THE SEINE
BUT TO WHOM
THE FORTUNE OF WAR
DENIED A KNOWN
AND HONOURED GRAVE
ARE RECORDED UPON
THESE WALLS
6TH JUNE—29TH AUGUST 1944

On a frieze above the columns is carved in Latin these words:—

"NOS A GULIELMO VICTI VICTORIS PATRIAM LIBERAVIMUS"

which may be translated as:—

"WE WHOM HE CONQUERED HAVE SET FREE THE LAND OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR".

More than four thousand of their comrades of all the Services are commemorated by individual headstones on graves in Bayeux War Cemetery, and an analysis of the numbers commemorated on the Memorial and in the cemetery is given on page 104.

* * *

SSAFA

IN order that all soldiers' wives, whose husbands are overseas, should know where to turn should they need help, the War Office is producing a special card which will be issued by units to all men proceeding overseas to pass on to their wives, setting out what SSAFA can do and giving the name of the nearest SSAFA representative and the address.

Thus does SSAFA continue to "champion the cause of Forces families".

It is just 70 years ago, in 1885, that Colonel Sir James Gildea founded what was then known as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association for the purpose of looking after the wives and families of men who were being sent abroad to form the Second Egyptian Expeditionary Force. In a letter to *The Times*, dated 14th February, 1885, the then Major Gildea drew attention to recent regulations under which, although provision had been made "for the relief of the widows and orphans of our soldiers and sailors who may be killed or die of disease or wounds in war, a further responsibility and duty now devolves on the country to see that the wives and children of those ordered on active service be not forgotten or that the cry of poverty and want be not added to that of suspense and anxiety".

The seed then sown has grown into the great association, the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmens' Families' Association, with its 1,500 branches throughout the United Kingdom and overseas and its experienced army of 15,000 voluntary workers.

Notwithstanding the great advance in the conditions of service since 1885 and the advent of the welfare state, there is still much to do in the solution of many diverse family problems of the serviceman, particularly those which arise from the inevitable separations of service life. No government department could give the time and sympathy, the personal service and human understanding that is possible in a voluntary association such as SSAFA.

During the years, the work has developed from its original rather limited sphere of dispensing charitable grants, to the much wider sphere of general welfare. Ex-service families are now included and SSAFA voluntary workers are looked upon as friends and advisers in every sort and kind of problem. Moreover, soon after World War II, at the request of the War Office, SSAFA gladly undertook the work of Army welfare, with all its complexities, chief among which is the question of applications for compassionate postings and discharge. All such cases are invariably passed to SSAFA for investigation and report.

Those responsible for administering Service Benevolent Funds owe a great debt to SSAFA which acts as Almoner for such funds and disburses, to the best advantage, grants made to applicants. The care, understanding and reliability of reports submitted by SSAFA eases the burden of Benevolent Fund treasurers who are thus able to get a clear-cut picture of the true state of affairs in the home. When statutory sources of help have been used to the full, SSAFA is often able to add help from its own funds and also to do much to bridge delays by giving that prompt help which emergency distress demands.

In May, 1941, the War Office asked SSAFA to form an Overseas Enquiry Service, which was given strong financial assistance from the Treasury. Early in 1944, SSAFA ladies, recruited and trained in the United Kingdom, were sent to North Africa. These ladies wore uniform and were granted the equivalent status of officers in the Army. By August, 1945, no less than 221 persons were employed by SSAFA overseas. The value of this staff overseas as advisers has been great and at the request of the Services, they are still being maintained in BAOR, the Far East and MELF.

It is not always realised that the care of Service families in garrisons abroad, and at home, up to the passing of the Health Act, has been undertaken by the SSAFA Nursing Service, the aim being to provide care for the families of serving men of the three Services. The cost of the seventy odd Nursing Sisters in Commands overseas is now borne by the Service Department concerned, but they still remain under the control of SSAFA. At the request of the High Commissioner for Malaya, this Service has also been provided for the families of men of the Malay Regiment and the Malay Police.

Springbok House, Chelmsford, a gift to SSAFA from the people of South Africa, is a children's home to cater for the need of families in sudden emergencies, such as the mother being taken ill or having to go to hospital; the maximum length of stay for the children being about four weeks.

The SSAFA Married Families Club at Nevern Square, London, opened during the war, is proving a great boon to Service and Ex-Service men visiting London with their wives and families. The charges are very moderate in the club, which is confined to those below commissioned rank, though lately, if room permits, officers and their families have been accommodated.

Nor does SSAFA forget the families of officers who have died. In 1886, the Officers' Branch was established and three years later, SSAFA built Queen Alexandra's Court, a block of 79 flats at Wimbledon, which are

occupied rent free, "by deceased officers' widows and elderly unmarried daughters of limited means". By its Charter, the Officers' Branch cannot draw on the general funds of SSAFA but has to rely entirely upon donations earmarked for this Branch.

As to finance, except for a Treasury grant in respect of specific work undertaken at the Government's request by the Overseas Service and the cost of the Nursing Service, which is now borne by the State under the terms of the National Health Act, SSAFA is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. More than £150,000 must be raised annually.

The story of SSAFA is a fascinating one, the extent of its work not always being known or appreciated.

The Service and Ex-Service family would find life much more difficult without SSAFA's sympathetic ear or guiding hand, and certainly the funds of Service organizations might otherwise go to the undeserving.

E.V.A.

* * *

Watch for these Films

BAD Day at Black Rock. A tense story of a stranger alighting from a train (the first to stop for four years) at a settlement in the Middle West. This business man (Spencer Tracey) is looking for someone, and the anxiety of the inhabitants for him to leave is the beginning of his suspicion of a mystery, and his quiet insistence on solving it. Spencer Tracey's performance is magnificent, and the whole film powerful and gripping and balanced—Director John Sturges.

The Night my Number came up. A British film from Ealing Studios, the story founded on fact. One of the passengers in an aircraft has dreamt that it will crash. The film follows the flight, and the reactions of those on board. All the acting is good; Michael Redgrave as an Air Marshal, with Alexander Knox, Denholm Elliott, George Rose, and Nigel Stock, who is outstanding as the pilot. Well directed, with crisp dialogue by R. C. Sherriff.

That Lady. Those who read Kate O'Brien's book may be interested in this film. It is an elaborate historical film in a Spanish setting, with romance, a bull-fight and a fine study of King Philip II by Paul Schofield. Olivia de Haviland is rather handicapped by having to wear a patch over one eye, but manages to be an attractive and clever woman.

The Country Girl. This is the film title of the adaptation of Clifford Odet's play *Winter Journey*. It is the story of a broken-down actor attempting a come-back. It is never clear until near the end of the story whether his wife is helping or hindering him. The climax of the play was most dramatic. Bing Crosby plays the actor, and Grace Kelly drops her glamour to become a plain and middle-aged woman as the wife. William Holden plays the stage director fighting for the success of his play.

Young at Heart. Some years ago there was a charming, sentimental, but not sugary, film called *Four Daughters*, which was a great success. This has been remade as a musical picture, with Doris Day and Frank Sinatra, who has made great strides as an actor. Ethel Barrymore makes an effective sketch of a sporting Aunt. Very pleasant entertainment.

M.M.A.

* * *

Regimental Gazette

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1955, DATED FRIDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1955

INFANTRY

EMERGENCY COMMISSION

THE BUFFS.—Lt. H. Hudson (303338) is removed from the Army 1st October, 1954, on conviction by the Civil Power.

REGULAR ARMY—NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. S. J. Freebairn-Smith (435214) resigns his commn., 25th February, 1955.

THE BUFFS.—23017999 Cadet Richard David Willcox (439430) to be 2nd Lt., 8th January, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1955, DATED FRIDAY, 11TH MARCH, 1955.

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

CLASS III

THE BUFFS.—Lt. A. J. Snowden (409240) from T.A. Nat. Serv. List to be Lt., 2nd March, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1955, DATED FRIDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1955

INFANTRY

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

THE BUFFS.—Capt. F. C. F. Davis (328236), having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the T.A. Res. of Offrs., 19th March, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1955, DATED TUESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY—NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—23026761 Cadet Simon Bowen (439656) to be 2nd Lt., 22nd January, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

CLASS III

THE BUFFS.—Lt. B. Eccles (409755) from T.A. Res. of Offrs. Nat. Serv. List to be Lt., 1st March, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

Beneath Bell Harry



OUR main item of news this month was the Passing-Out Parade of Toulouse and Peninsula Platoons taken by the Colonel of the Regiment. April 1st broke the long winter tradition and enabled the recruits' parents, an encouraging assembly of about a hundred and sixty, to watch the parade without undue discomfort. The Band was there in strength, to play on the actual parade and at the tea in the NAAFI afterwards. The loud hailer equipment enabled General Boucher, in a stirring address to the recruits, to make at the same time one or two effective points to the parents sitting behind him. It may be of interest to readers that of the 51 recruits in the parade, 11 were Regulars, 33 were National Servicemen, and 7 were National Servicemen who had transferred to Regular Engagements during their period at the Depot.

On March 27th a Parade Service was taken in the Garrison Church by Padre Walter Evans, who has become a regular and very welcome visitor to the Depot.

There were many people delighted to see him when Sgt. Perry put in a brief reappearance at the Depot after his long spell in hospital. He looked as though his treatment had done him a great deal of good.

Two notable weddings were those of Sgt. Patterson and Sgt. Cain. The reception for the latter took place in the C.O.'s house and was attended by 50 guests. We wish both Sgt. Patterson and Sgt. Cain the best of luck for the future.

The Depot had the following successes at Sport. At Rugger, The Depot beat the 1st Battalion, 22 points to 3, and the Intelligence Corps 19—9. At Hockey they beat the Battalion 6—0.



Kentish Gazette

The Colonel of the Regiment takes the Passing Out Parade at the Depot.

4/5th Battalion



THOSE who were able to attend the second Brigade Exercise, "Spearhead II", must count themselves fortunate in hearing a most absorbing talk on Korea by Major-General Alston-Roberts-West, C.B., D.S.O., who commanded the Commonwealth Division and is now Director, Territorial Army. It was a wonderful experience to listen to such a speaker and to hear a refreshingly new treatment of ways to fight battles; to win wars clearly calls for more complicated mathematics involving the two units committed and one in reserve—or should there be a fourth unit somewhere?

"Spearhead II" gave us an opportunity of meeting representatives from 1/2 Lothians and Border Horse with whom we shall be operating in July and we had the benefit of their knowledge in dealing with the many problems set during the course of the week-end. It was a trifle alarming to discover a general pre-disposition on their part to make the Infantry walk to Ell Barrow; a natural reluctance which was firmly overcome. Many other units in the Division were represented at the exercise, including that hitherto mythical set-up 1 A.S.S.U. (T.A.) which appeared in the form of a half-tracked monster in charge of a very able Staff Sergeant who was able to explain it all away. Major Loakman, R.A., of our affiliated Battery was much in evidence and we look forward to his company at Margate later this month.

The proceedings at the week-end were enlivened by the receipt of Major John Prestige's intriguing telegram which the Commanding Officer nearly submitted as his solution to one of the more difficult problems; the result of the promised staff conference is awaited with interest.

"D" and "S" Companies have had further training week-ends blessed this time with better weather. Representatives from the 1st Battalion participated in activities at Lydd, when Lieuts. Roger Pilcher and Cecil West braved the rather spartan conditions and with N.C.O.s and men from the A/Tank and M.M.G. Platoons helped considerably in training. Judging from the clouds of smoke rising high over the range the Mortars were having something of a field day as well.

Major Pelham Plunkett is at Warminster where doubtless he will take a little time off from tactical problems in order to have a crafty look at the ground to be covered by our main scheme at camp; Major Charles Balding has returned from a rather sub-zero stay at Hythe, whilst Lieut. Philip Morlock is at Chatham coping with the rigours of an Infantry Assault Pioneers' course.

Congratulations go to L/Cpl. Farmer of "C" Company for his bout in the finals of 44 Division Boxing Competition.

The Detachment of the Signwriting Corps which has recently set up its pitch in the Quartermaster's office is completing its quota of Tac signs and other novelties, not without interruption, however, as your Correspondent understands that the production "norm" is being allowed to flag whilst rival demands for gaily-annotated file covers are dealt with.

Reference has already been made to possible events following the breaking-up of A.A. Command and in the Sittingbourne and Faversham areas things are moving fast and an accession of strength there is rapidly becoming an accomplished fact.

April will see the Territorial Officers' Ball at Margate and the Training Week-end at Hawley Square; W.O.s and N.C.O.s have a Training Week-end in May to study problems arising from "Spearhead II". All are overshadowed to a very great extent by the Presentation Parade early next month.

* * *

"A" COMPANY

At Sandwich, C/Sgt. Couzens is continuing his M.T. Course and C.S.M. Gabriel presides on the range; the Corps of Drums are in session at Margate and the M.M.G. Platoon give the P.S.I. grey hairs at Ramsgate.

The month has been fairly quiet, with only the Machine Gunners away at Lydd for their Training Week-end. The weather was good although cold and there was a heavy frost on the Saturday night. These climatic conditions *might* explain the rather curious scores on the following morning; other explanations are, of course, the effects of a rather heavy social evening at the British Legion Club or the delayed action of the drive down. Sgt. "Twinkle-toes" Dean accompanied us and with the Company Commander demonstrated just how exhausting a square dance could be! We enjoyed having representatives from the 1st Battalion with us on the Sunday and hope they too enjoyed their shoot.

Rumour has it that Mr. Bingham's enlistment has been approved at long last and it would not be inappropriate therefore if we officially welcomed him to Ramsgste; he is no stranger to us and full circle again for we shall have another W.O. I keeping a fatherly eye on our activities.

We welcome L/Cpl. Rye from the Sandwich detachment and look forward to seeing him frequently; similarly, Pte. Collins is back in harness once more. "Almost-a-policeman" Jones has been seen in Ramsgate and is understood to be nearing the end of his course of instruction; we hope to see him very shortly and certainly before he takes to his beat.

Sgt. Hurlow and C/Sgt. Couzens attended the Methods of Instruction Course which took place recently; they seem to be hiding their respective lights under bushels, or perhaps are merely at work on some piece of instructive ingenuity which will startle us all.

Pte. Baker of the Parachute Regiment, who has been doing drills with this Company, will be leaving shortly on taking up an appointment nearer London. We wish him the best of luck in the future.

* * *

"B" COMPANY

During the past month we have been sorry to say farewell to Sgt. Partridge, who has been our energetic and excellent P.S.I. for the last two years. We presented him and his charming wife with an inscribed cigarette box and lighter and sincerely hope that they both enjoy their new posting; at the same time we welcome Sgt. Stoakes from the 1st Battalion.

Any minute now it is anticipated that 516 "G" Battery, R.A., at Faversham will join us and rapidly become conversant with the fathomless mysteries of infanteering.

* * *

"C" COMPANY

This month's main item to report is the farewell party for Sgt. Partridge. Both "B" and "C" Companies combined on the 3rd March to give Sgt. Partridge and his wife a good send off on their departure to Dover. Major P. N. P. Plunkett presented them with an inscribed cigarette box and lighter. He then warmly expressed his appreciation for the hard work Sgt. Partridge had put in towards the training and well-being of both "B" and "C" Companies. Needless to say, these remarks were seconded by every one of us. It is the wish of us all that he will meet with rapid promotion on his joining the 1st Battalion at Dover.

The other main item of the month was the day's firing on Conyer Ranges, when the Company combined with the Volunteers of the R.A. (T.A.) unit from Sittingbourne and Faversham, who in the very near future will become Buffs.

We welcome as our new P.S.I., Sgt. Stoakes from the 1st Battalion, and sincerely hope that his stay with us will be a long and happy one.

* * *

"D" COMPANY

At the time of writing, isolated patches of rather dirty looking frozen snow are still holding out against the gentle but firm pressure of somewhat milder temperatures. By the time this appears in print, we'll all have forgotten the rigours of Winter and meanwhile what we are looking forward to is seeing the Company turn out in strength again at our next spell of outdoor training.

The N.C.O.'s who attended the recent Cadre at Canterbury have returned to our midst like giants refreshed. Could it be that Canterbury has attractions other than the barracks?

To C/Sgt. Chidwick and Sgt. Rumble we offer our heartiest congratulations on their well-merited promotion, and we can rely on C/Sgt. Chidwick as a tower of strength at Camp.

Whilst on the subject of this year's Camp, we'd like to thank Major Dent for the most interesting discourse which he delivered to us and which has made several of the chaps start marking off their calendars, in anticipation of the 3rd July.

A new word has been heard in the Canteen of late, Mildred. It's a name which has some significance for a certain senior N.C.O., but whether it is that of a girl, a new weapon or a species of Mickey Finn, we are as yet quite clueless. However, in the fullness of time we shall no doubt hear all about it.

* * *

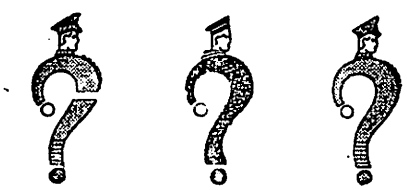
"S" COMPANY

The Anti-Tank Platoon have spent a rather quiet March with only the N.C.O.'s Cadre to liven things up. As the weather has been very rough, outdoor training has been held up. Sgt. Wraight and L/Cpl. Fedder have been on the new B.A.T. Course and we hope they both found it interesting and will soon be able to put it over—if and when we get the gun to train on! We hope that when members of the 1st Battalion Anti-Tank Platoon visit us at Lydd they will bring along a BAT for us to see. Another N.C.O.'s Week-end was held on 5th and 6th March and personnel from Dover attended their third and final week-end. As the weather improves and the evenings draw out, we hope to continue with driving instruction and so make good our depleted ranks. Between now and Camp we shall also be losing quite a few of our regular attenders, among whom are Cpl. Chacksfield, L/Cpl.s Hall and Balchin (our Clerk and Storeman respectively), all owing to pressure of work finding it to their disadvantage to re-enlist. We are sorry indeed to lose them and wish them the best of luck.

As the weather brightens we shall be dropping in attendances as most of the farm-workers will be hard put to it this year to get the crops in. The Drill Hall Shoot organised by the K.T.A. has not been a successful one so far as we are concerned; with such few attenders during the Winter everyone would have to get a "possible" to come anywhere near a first placing. Scores returned so far have been good, so let us hope that a few more new faces turn up in the closing stages of the competition.

The Mortar Platoon have been shooting in the .22 Competition and some very good scores were obtained. The Company team was in second place in the first half of the shoot and it may be that we shall pull it off when the final scores are announced. Two of our N.C.O.'s returned from a week-end cadre at Canterbury minus their voices as the result of their efforts under the R.S.M. They are now in full cry and none the worse for their adventures. The end of the month will see the Company at Lydd and we hope this time that the weather will be kind enough to permit firing to take place. More news of that in next month's notes.

* * *



DURING 1954 the number of jobs filled by men and women registered with the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen (Regular Forces Employment Association) was 23,081 men and 287 women, a total of 23,368.

It cannot be repeated too often that the Association, working on behalf of ex-Regulars of the Navy, Army and Air Force, provides a nationwide service to them through its net-work of fifty odd Branches. It is perhaps as well to stress also that opportunities of employment are not confined to vacancies occurring in the territory covered by each Branch as there is a system of circularisation by the Head Office throughout the organisation. By this means, three times a week, unusual vacancies, especially those for which accommodation is provided both at home and overseas, are broadcast and particulars of suitable applicants collected and submitted for the consideration of the prospective employer.

It may be of interest that of the 23,081 men placed in 1954, 8,822 were soldiers and 37 were from your Corps/Regiment.

Regular Forces Employment Association,
62 Victoria Street,
London, S.W.1.

* * *

Correspondence

3 Wrights Road,
South Norwood,
S.E.25.
Tel.: LIV. 3662.
4th March, 1955.

To The Editor, "The Dragon",
The Buffs, Canterbury, Kent.

Dear Sir,

Can it be made possible, through *The Dragon*, to publish some details concerning Pensions, etc., which would be of interest to readers who, from time to time, would like a ruling or advice on any particular subject.

Army Orders and White Papers are published shewing alterations or new conditions to pensions, etc., which do not, as a rule, come to the notice of the individual concerned and perhaps the information could be obtained and published in *The Dragon*.

Some of the subjects I refer to are as follows:—

(1) LONG SERVICE PENSIONS.

For those pensioned before 1948 there has been no increase, and a pensioner receives the same pension as originally granted.

For those pensioners who re-enlisted in 1939 a small increase was given for the extra six years' service, with a small increase for promotion gained during the war.

It appears that those L.S. pensioners who were released in 1946 and afterwards did not qualify for the new increases in pensions. It is realised that the Royal Warrant at the time contains regulations which govern the awards, no provision being made for the increased cost of living is embodied in these regulations.

It is now understood that increases in L.S. Pensions are made at the age of 60 years, according to means, also (*a*) those who were invalided from the service or (*b*) those who are permanently incapacitated from engaging in regular full time employment. A L.S. Pensioner under 60 years of age, and who did not serve in the 1939 War is receiving the same pension, as originally granted, despite the increased cost of living, etc., and is also taxed as Earned Income.

(2) WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

The pensions granted to Widows of Officers and W.O.s I, has now been extended to all ranks with Long Service.

This only applies from 31st August, 1950.

Although the older pensioner wholly agrees with the present day soldier receiving higher pay, pensions, and a gratuity, it is felt that something should be done for the pensioner who was unlucky enough to complete his service before much needed improvements came into force, especially those who served in two wars and spent most of their service abroad.

When the increase of Disability, Old Age, National Assistance, etc., was made recently, no mention was made for any improvements for the L.S. Pensioner, so it appears that the case of the L.S. Pensioner is a forlorn hope, both in the case of Officers and Other Ranks; perhaps it is considered that as most pensioners are in employment there is no need for increases. One has only to read the newspapers to notice the continual increases granted to Government departments without much difficulty. It would be interesting to know why this continued refusal for L.S. Pensioners, both Officers and Other Ranks, for similar treatment is always turned down, as this has been brought to the notice of M.P.s and Associations without result.

Yours sincerely,
A. T. FARROW,
Captain.

* * *

Old Brigade News

WE are pleased to say that Mrs. (Erny) Carter is now out of hospital, but still under treatment. Her grateful thanks to all who wrote to her and to all enquirers.

* * *

We much regret to say that Jimmy Dray, who was so fit and well, has had a sudden breakdown in health which started with ear trouble. He recently chopped up one ton of logs in his garden

from Mobiles



Napoleon's pertinent remark that an army marches on its stomach remains true for all time. But the fighting man is no longer dependent upon the resources of the country in which he campaigns. Today, it is the vital role of the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes to provide a catering service to Her Majesty's Forces, wherever they may be. For this purpose Naafi has a skilled buying organisation that samples, tests and purchases all necessary requirements which are despatched to Naafi establishments the world over.

to Messing



H.M. Forces are catered for from their nearest centre which may be a canteen, a club, one of a fleet of between 400-500 mobile canteens, or a messing store. Moreover, the payment of cash rebates and discounts and the provision of clubs and other amenities give to the Forces direct benefits from

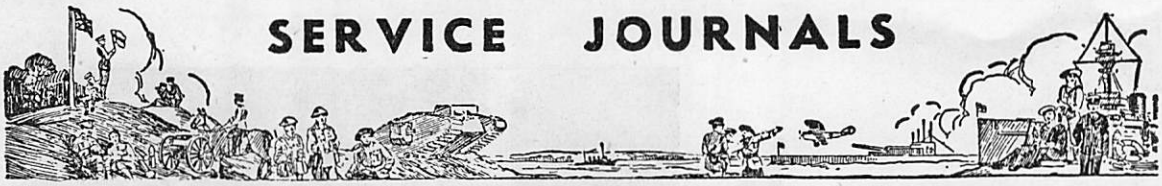
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NAAFI

The official canteen organisation for H.M. Forces.

Imperial Court, Kennington, London, S.E.11.

THE FOLLOWING FIRMS SUPPORT SERVICE JOURNALS



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Turkish & Virginia
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the Scots Word for
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Meltonian
SHOE CREAMS
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make life sweeter!

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COAL TAR SOAP
IDEAL FOR TOILET, BATH AND NURSERY

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WE HELP TO FEED THE NATION

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Eldorado
The CREAM *of Ice Cream*



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The only way to get it *surgically* clean and free from Dandruff, Scurf and other root-clogging deposits is regular washing with
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Shampoo
Enough for several shampoos in 1½ bottle



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'BUTLER'
HIGH CLASS MACHINE TOOLS
for
PLANING— SHAPING— SLOTTING.
The Butler Machine Tool Co., Ltd., H'fax

Parkinson's
DONCASTER
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OLD FASHIONED HUMBUGS
AND OTHER VARIETIES



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GENUINE MADRAS
CURRY POWDER
Peacock Brand
FROM ALL GOOD GROCERS AND STORES

For Your Enjoyment
Callard & Bowser's
Celebrated "Thistle Brand"
BUTTER-SCOTCH
Famous since 1837

PARK DRIVE
CIGARETTES
FOR PLEASURE

and been overdoing it for his 80 years of age. He writes, "I am now only able to potter about." Well, Jimmy, keep smiling and the happy days will be with you again.

* * *

Snowball Manning informs us that if it were not for his legs, he would not be too bad. Unfortunately, we cannot indent for legs for old soldiers. The only ones available are those we "pull".

* * *

We have no further news about Bill Elvey, Donkey Warren or Bob Knott. Let us trust that "no news is good news".

We recently heard from Colonel Miles Beevor, who has had a bad cold. Let us all hope the perishing cold winter has now passed and the coming sunshine will rid us of all our ills.

* * *

The Old Brigade have had no news of Colonel J. V. R. Jackson of late and trust the Colonel is in good health and keeping as fit as ever. Hythe recalls happy memories not only to the Colonel but also to the writer of these notes.

* * *

We hear from Councillor E. Swendell, who informs us that the Ramsgate Branch is going strong, and although the Old Brigade are always in evidence, the Young Brigade are keen and eager to carry on.

* * *

We much regret to hear of the death of Mr. Pilcher in last month's *Dragon* at the age of 84. So passes another grand old Buff.

* * *

We should like news of Sgt. Beerling and Doughy Baker, whom we understand reside in Canterbury.

* * *

The writer of these notes would like all ranks of the Old Brigade to drop him a line—your name in *The Dragon* may make another Old Buff say, "Fancy the old —— being still alive!"

* * *

Write to Major J. E. Enright, 26 Osward Road, Upper Tooting, London, S.W.17. Thank you!

J.E.E.

Past and Present Association

Associate Life Members

1ST TO 31ST MARCH

H.Q. Roll.—Dutch, G., Streeting, B., Hart, C. F., Olerenshaw, H. M., Gates, C. R., Marsh, P. F., Nicholson, D.

* * *

Annual Members

1ST TO 31ST MARCH

H.Q. Roll.—Blackman, D. B., Jones, E. G., Barber, K. M., Langridge, G. A.

Margate Branch.—Klean, Capt. P. H.

* * *

Grants

The total grants from the Benevolent Fund and the World War 1939 Charitable Fund during the month of March, 1955 are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Benevolent Fund	50	0	0
World War 1939 Charitable Fund	46	10	0

* * *

London Branch

The London Branch met at the Prince Alfred, Tufton Street, Westminster, on Saturday, 19th March, 1955, with Mr. R. Billings in the Chair.

The correspondence was read. This included a letter of welcome to our 1st Battalion guests from our President, Major Enright.

The highlight of this meeting was the visit to the Branch by the Second-in-Command of the 1st Battalion, Major Edlmann, M.C. What a wonderful talk he gave us on some of the experiences of the 1st Battalion in Kenya. All the members and ladies were very interested and from them all let us say thank you, Sir.

This really was a grand night for the Branch; a good attendance, including new faces we were seeing for the first time, namely Mr. Katley, Mr. Barker, Mr. Dykes. We hope to see these grand chaps many more times. Mr. Barker very kindly gave to the Branch a book entitled *Men of Kent, Kentish Men* for members to read. Brigadier Foster Hall, M.C., brought along a booklet of what has been held at the Tower of London in the past year. This contained a splendid sentence about the London Branch Book of Remembrance.

On looking round, it was nice to see Mr. Rampling and Mr. Richards looking fit and well. Also present were George Hardwick, Charlie Wenham, Bert Perry, Messrs. Wright, Watts, Cousins and many more; also the old stalwarts Mr. Cobb, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Everitt, Mr. Lewis, Captain Woodcock, Captain Emery, Jock Clayton and others.

Nice to see Mr. and Mrs. Sharp again; hope all their troubles will soon turn out right again. Sorry to hear Jim Collins has been having some domestic troubles; hope to see them all clear of their worries in the near future.

The item that is uppermost in the minds of all members is the Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion. So many would like to get to this great Parade but owing to different circumstances find it impossible to make the journey. Bad luck, chaps!

Major Enright wishes to be remembered to all his old pals, also to all his younger pals. He is hoping to get to Tufton Street as soon as he feels well enough, when he is hoping to meet a lot of new faces. So come on, chaps, the third Saturday in any month—"Rendezvous" Prince Alfred, Tufton Street, Westminster, time, 7 p.m.

Mr. Odell was not present at our last meeting. He was in bed with 'flu. Sorry to hear about this, but he will be here at our next meeting, looking fit and well, we hope.

It was nice to see Mrs. Coley, Chairman of our Ladies' Guild, looking very well. Also present were Mrs. Odell, Mrs. Reckitts, Mrs. Cousins, Mrs. Hardwick and many others.

So coming to the end of a very entertaining evening, let us just say thank you to Mr. Lewis for bringing along the lovely cheese rolls; also to Mr. Watts and Mr. Wright for the good work they put in. So until next month, all best wishes to all Branches from all of us at Tufton Street.

H.J.S.

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Ladies' Guild

Minutes of the meeting of the Ladies' Guild held at the Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on Saturday, 2nd April, 1955.

A meeting was held at the Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on Saturday, 2nd April, 1955, with Mrs. Coley in the Chair.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

The Chairman announced the appointment of a new Honorary Secretary, Mrs. J. Tucker, in place of the retiring Honorary Secretary, Mrs. M. J. Dalgleish, and expressed pleasure in welcoming back a number of members who had been sick, mentioning Mrs. Hogben, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Streeten, Mrs, Cousins and Mrs. Everitt.

The Chairman read a letter of appreciation and thanks from the retiring Honorary Secretary, referring to the presentation made to her at the last meeting, and acknowledging the very apt speech made on this occasion by Mrs. Taylor; Mrs. Dalgleish sent her very best wishes to members of the Guild and her regrets at not being able to attend the meeting. Letters were also read from Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Harris.

The amended date of the visit to Canterbury for Presentation of Colours to the Regiment by His Majesty the King of Denmark was the 9th May. Members were asked to note the date, and to give their names to Mrs. Ricketts if they had not already done so and still wished to join the party.

The Chairman asked that members would at all times give her the fullest possible support and co-operation in her chairmanship of the Guild.

Raffles during the evening realised £2 6s. 0d., the prizes being given by Mrs. Annan, Mrs. Streeten, Mrs. Waters, Mrs. Yapp, a Member, and the Corner Table. Mrs. Love presented the Chairman with a mallet for her personal use in calling order at meetings.

Mrs. Odell said that Mrs. Jackson would be celebrating her Golden Wedding on the 24th April and on behalf of the Guild expressed sincere wishes both to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson for a very happy Golden Wedding Day.

That being all, the meeting closed.

Weald Branch

We in the Weald don't bother the Editor of *The Dragon* much, but this month we actually have something to record.

On March 17th we were privileged to welcome a party from the 1st Battalion, Captain Stratford Tuke and five Other Ranks, who very kindly came all the way from Dover to our monthly sub-branch meeting at Hawkhurst. In spite of their only member who came from this part of the world taking the wrong road in our Wealden by-ways, they arrived bang on time at the British Legion Hall, Hawkhurst. Unfortunately, the contingents from Cranbrook and Goudhurst did not turn up—apparently something of great importance locally suddenly occurred, but there was a most regrettably small party to welcome the 1st Battalion contingent.

We owe an apology to the 1st Battalion, who went to so much trouble, but all that can be said is that the few of us who were present together with a few ex-service men from the British Legion had a most enjoyable evening listening to Capt. Stratford Tuke's clear and most interesting talk on the 1st Battalion's activities in Kenya, and in talking to the rest of the party. For us it was a most enjoyable evening.

On Saturday, April 2nd we held our postponed annual dinner at the George Hotel, Cranbrook. Unfortunately again our numbers were less than we had hoped for—illness and old age are taking their toll and unfortunately the Kent County Council most inconsiderately decided to hold their elections on the day we had selected, a long time ago, for our dinner, and they never even consulted us! This took away at least two of our stalwarts.

But 34-35 of us had a most enjoyable evening, and were delighted to have as our guests the Colonel of the Regiment, Lieut.-Col. H. R. Grace (Commanding 1st Bn.), Lieut.-Col. R. Hews (O.C. 4/5th Bn.), and Lieut.-Col. E. Argles (Secretary of the P. & P.). It was the first time we had had three "live" soldiers with us. It was very good of them to come such a long way to us.

Our Chairman (Colonel E. B. Burns, T.D., D.L.) proposed the Loyal Toast, and the health of the Colonel-in-Chief, and of the Colonel of the Regiment. Major-General Boucher replied for the Regiment in an entertaining and informative speech and gave us an outline of plans for the Presentation of New Colours and Laying Up of the Old Colours. Brigadier Allen proposed the health of the visitors and then Colonel Grace replied and gave us a most interesting talk on the 1st Battalion's activities in Kenya. His lucid talk was very much appreciated and led to many questions. We were also much interested in some of the exhibits he shewed us.

It was a most enjoyable evening—many said it was the best they had been to, and we are sure that Col. Grace would have been pleased to hear some of the remarks made by members about his talk.

We have only two regrets—firstly that there were not more of us at the dinner; and secondly that the early departure of last buses for various destinations did not give us time to hear Col. Rodney Hews and Col. Argles telling us about the 4/5th Battalion and the Past and Present.

We were glad to see our Chairman (Colonel Edgar Burns) looking well and in such good form, and also to see again among us our late Secretary (Mr. E. Betts) after his long illness. We would take this opportunity of thanking him for all his good work as Secretary of the Branch and wish Mr. D. Day, his successor, good luck in the job.

Medway Branch

I am hoping that the old saying will prove true and that the month of March will go out like a lamb. When readers pick up this issue of our journal it is very doubtful if many will give thought to the probability that some of the notes were written as early as the 6th March. But such is the case in this instance, and as I sit here a North-Eastern wind is tearing across the chimney tops giving me a shiver with its roar and bustle, whilst this morning's snow has all but disappeared. Sitting, as I am, with my back to the window, I can see only the cheerful blaze in the fire grate and so can easily forget what is taking place outside. That blaze, however, cost eight and something a hundredweight—over eight pounds a ton!! I can remember my father giving me two golden sovereigns to pay the coalman's bill for a ton of "best kitchen nuts". I believe it was called that, and, on making the payment, receiving a good sum of silver in change. One must avoid political issues in such notes as these, but when in this morning's papers I saw it mentioned that there is the possibility of the price of coal increasing, I could not help but wonder if the people concerned give full consideration to the economic implications at stake. Heating, I suppose, is one of the main foundation stones of a nation's internal economy—outside of agriculture (directly applied) almost everything is dependent upon it. What a political lever.

But I am digressing. The reason for my early start on these notes is that yesterday we played in the semi-final of the Darts Competition and unless I note the facts now maybe they will slip my memory before the end of the month.

The game was played against Ashford Branch on their ground (or board) and I must say that they did everything possible for our comfort and entertainment. We met in what was the place of meeting of the original Ashford Branch. It provides ample accommodation for Branch meetings but, like our own room, proved a little inadequate when augmented by about thirty guests. Nevertheless we had a wonderful time which was enhanced by the arrival of Captain Barrett and four O.R.'s of the 1st Battalion. Although these representatives of our serving members were not able to see the way a Branch runs its normal business at least they had an insight into our social activities—maybe a useful seed of propaganda was sown quite inadvertently. Captain Barrett, at the invitation of the Ashford Branch, gave a very interesting talk which was very much appreciated. And now for the darts report.

Three games had to be played before a decision was reached. We won the first and the last of the games, and although the last game was a bit of a runaway, Ashford still wanted 279 when we went out. The result was always in doubt until the last dart had been thrown, for in the second game, Ashford wanted 409 when Medway required only 111, and yet Ashford won that game.

The first time to the board our Captain, Tom Blakelock, showed what a great sport he is, he refused to throw his darts in the 20's and preferred to score three 1's. A smashing start which did not deter the other members of our team. Our next three players, Jenkins, Eldridge and Attwood, scored 111, 98 and 60 respectively, to be followed a little later by a 60 and 99 by our captain (who realised that his first exhibition had caused his G.C.B. to slip a bit) and by 66 (Jenkins) and 81 (Eldridge), Attwood finishing this game by scoring a single 6 and a double 4 to get the required 14. Ashford progressed steadily through this game and wanted only 91 at the end. Mills scored a magnificent 135, whilst Beech secured 60, Masters 80 and Bant 66.

Whilst the following members of Medway team made scores as shewn against their names (Jenkins 60, Attwood 60 and 100, Blakelock 60 and Eldridge 81), Ashford plodded steadily along and won the second game. Colman (60) was the only member of the Ashford team to make a score of note.

In the final game, the chief contribution to the Ashford score was made by Skinner with 72 and Mills with 81, each of our members, with one exception, making a score of 60 or more during the game, and the honour of throwing the winning dart fell to Slippery Boorman. Defeated but not disgraced, Ashford, and thanks very much for a lovely evening and for your good wishes to us in the final, which you have generously said you intend to support. Things got quite musical towards the end—songs and dancing—it was obvious that up to that stage all had partaken of at least one "tonic so far" (I apologise for that!).

During our outing, one of our ladies gave an extraordinary display of acrobatics and displayed remarkable hidden qualities. Unfortunately this performance was not pre-announced and so was given before a very small audience.

We were very pleased to give two Ashford members a lift for several miles on their way home. When they left us there was a blizzard blowing. I asked how far they had to go and was told, "Oh, only about two miles". They're tough, these fellows from the middle of Kent!

And so we are in the final of the competition. I know not who our opponents will be, but I understand that we will meet them at Canterbury some time during May.

Without poaching on the preserves of another writer, may I recommend the book *Little Cyclone*, by Airey Neave. It is a factual story of the creation and maintenance of an escape route to Spain from Belgium and France for Allied servicemen. Truth is stranger, and sometimes stronger, than fiction. One can but marvel at the courage of some of the persons named in the story.

On the 16th March five of our members attended St. Barnabas' Church, Gillingham, to pay our last respects to a dear friend and loyal Buff, William King Holt, who, I regret to announce, died on the 9th after a long illness. He had been Treasurer of the Branch for more than a score of years and had, during that time, gained the esteem, respect and affection of all those with whom he came into contact, and must, I feel sure, have had the gratifying testimony of a good conscience.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the widow, Marie M. J. Holt, who has always taken the keenest interest in the Ladies' Guild, in her irretrievable loss.

The deceased served with a commission during the First World War—he was the chief cashier at Westminster Bank, Rochester.

About twenty-six members attended our meeting on the 19th. This should have been our Annual General Meeting but, owing to the death of our Treasurer, the accounts were not prepared—the general meeting was therefore deferred to April.

We were told that London Branch would not, after all, be joining us on the occasion of the lecture to be given by Lieut.-Col. Grace, 1st Battalion, but that Sittingbourne Branch would be coming, together with Canterbury and Herne Bay. The lecture is to take place at Southill Barracks, Chatham, on the 15th April.

Many things were discussed, including further information on the subject of the presentation of the New Colours to the 1st Battalion, Regimental Diaries, darts, etc. We were told that the British Legion (Chatham), who run the bar for us at our Christmas Party, had donated £2 from the profits to our Benevolent Fund. This is indeed a very fine gesture and we are very grateful to them. They have extended an invitation to our Branch to be present at their social to be held on the 26th and some of our members have been very pleased to accept.

Mr. W. G. Stewart (Leslie to the members of the old 2nd Battalion Sergeants' Mess) has been appointed Branch Treasurer vice Mr. King Holt, and Messrs. Boorman and Hall have been appointed auditors for the year. Talking of figures reminds me of the two male centipedes who were lounging by a rock when a lady centipede passed. Said one to the other, "What a lovely pair of legs, pair of legs, pair of legs . . . . ".

Our Secretary, Mr. Brand, was instructed to invite one Officer and four O.R.'s of the 1st Battalion to attend our April meeting. They will be very welcome and it is hoped that their attendance will provide for them the answers they desire on how a Branch is run. They will undoubtedly come equipped with book and pencil in their left breast pocket.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

Our Annual Meeting was held in January and all the officers were re-elected for the ensuing year.

Our February meeting was postponed owing to illness and the bad weather, but we had a good meeting and whist drive on Tuesday, 22nd March, which ended with tea and cakes.

The Ladies of the Guild would like to express their sincere sympathy to Mrs. King Holt in the loss she has sustained in the death of her husband.

Some of our members hope to attend the presentation of New Colours in May.

* * *

Canterbury Branch

It was very gratifying to have a large gathering for our Annual General Meeting on 25th March, 55 in response to a letter sent to all members who had supported the Branch throughout the year.

After the Minutes of the First Annual Meeting had been read and the Secretary's Annual Report adopted, we proceeded to elect officials for the next year. The Chairman explained that in his opinion, the members should elect a new Chairman to give others a chance, and that for his part, he was prepared to stand down. The Secretary associated himself with the Chairman's remarks and made the same offer.

Colonel Roscoe-Reid, M.C., was re-elected President of the Branch and we take this opportunity of thanking him for his efforts on our behalf during the past year. Having assumed the Chair for the election of Chairman, the President addressed the meeting, referring to the good work of the Chairman and Committee over the past year.

The Branch officials appointed were:—

Chairman:	Lieut.-Col. E. J. Evans.
Vice-Chairman:	Lieut.-Col. J. E. King, D.S.O.
Secretary:	Major H. E. Chambers.
Treasurer:	Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker.
Committee:	Messrs. Fisk, Mould, Garrett and Sgt. Phillips.
Social Committee:	Major Selway, Messrs. Hopkins, W. Kidder, F. Kidder, Fox and Freelove.
Auditors:	Capt. A. H. Catt and Mr. Mould.
Standard Bearer:	Mr. F. Kidder.
Escort:	Messrs. Punnett and W. Kidder.

Messrs. W. Bigg, D.C.M., F. Kidder and W. Kidder were elected to be our representatives on the Canterbury Carnival Committee for 1955.

Congratulations to our Branch Shooting Team, who, we understand, have emerged victorious in the Inter-Branch Shoot, 1954-55.

Judging by the number of applications for tickets, the Branch should be well-represented at the Colour Presentation ceremony, and the Laying-up of Colours the following day.

By the time these notes appear in print, our First Birthday Party will be but a dream. Forty to fifty members and wives have signified their intention of being present, which points to a pleasant family party.

We are looking forward with pleasure to meeting the representatives of the 1st Battalion at our April meeting.

The formation of a Social Committee will, it is hoped, enable our darts, and bat and trap teams to get organised, and we hope to take on the 1st Battalion representatives at our April meeting at both these games. Perhaps we may be able to persuade nearby branches to take us on at both these games. Any offers? We can provide bats, traps and what have you, besides an excellent club room.

A coach-load of members and wives are paying a visit on the kind invitation of Medway Branch to their meeting on 15th April to listen to the talk by Colonel Grace. Thanks a lot, Medway; we are looking forward very much to our meeting with you and to hear about the 1st Battalion activities in Kenya.

* * *

Folkestone Branch

On Thursday, March 10th, Major Edlmann came to tell us about the 1st Battalion and Kenya. What a pity so few turned up for what I consider was one of the most interesting talks I have heard at any time.

One Hythe member came and he received a good welcome. I regret not remembering his name. Tom Holloway—that evergreen Buff—and Messrs. Marsh and Collins represented Dover Branch. Ashford did not make it, much to our disappointment. Our local newspaper gave a very good report of the event, being most considerate of the speaker's wishes concerning certain of the anecdotes. I need hardly add that all of us had a most enjoyable evening. Ernie Little was delighted that it should have coincided with one of his free evenings. Jack Buensod came along and informed us that he had to become an in-patient once more of the Royal Masonic Hospital. I've lost count of the times he has been in as such, but he takes it very much in his stride. All the best, Jack! Bill Lord, I'm sorry to say, gets about very little and seems to make hardly any progress.

I was very interested to read "The Reminiscences of an Old Territorial Buff 1912—1919" by H. Massie Blomfield. That night at Amesbury after "The March". Yes! we certainly did get wet. In fact, I don't remember being very dry from the Saturday previous. Sunday at Andover was particularly damp, and, if my memory serves me right, it also rained when we were staying near Swingate, just out of Dover. Not a particularly dry August, I believe, even in those days.



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With reference to the 5th Battalion Band being in attendance for the Service in the Cathedral on August 23rd, I'm sure the narrator will forgive me making a correction. They were winners on numerous occasions at the Crystal Palace contests, but of the Military Band Section, which section, I believe, has been in abeyance since then. What a band it was to be sure. Alas! not many of the members are with us today. One could almost call it a band of "Happy Families" or, with apologies, a musical Band of Brothers. Thornes—first because Bill was B.M.—Barnes, Jones and Pictons. By the way, I see that Bill Barnes celebrated his golden wedding recently. Heartiest congratulations. The Popular Band Concerts in Ashford Corn Exchange were indeed popular.

Our R.S.M. was none other than Jim Hawkins, aided and abetted as R.Q.M.S. by that much smaller but none the less significant Tim Rylott.

I agree that Kamptee was warm, especially when the punkahs ceased to swing, say about 2 a.m. Jim Hawkins had been there before—not in a previous existence. A bearer with the extra memory those people seem to possess recognised him at once, on our arrival. I presume, of course, that the bush telegraph had been in operation.

I did not spend the whole of the Summer there, leaving during the monsoon with the draft of 40 and Lieut.-Col. Burns—then Lieutenant, and later with his batman to become a P. of W. at Kut. Simmonds, I believe, died in captivity.

May I be allowed to recall a most amusing episode in connection with the above Band prior to 1914. During the evening of the day of one band contest—I forget which year—we mere privates were, in company with many others waiting to see the result posted in a certain shop window. All at once a "terrible" rumour spread around. Result: 1, Ashford Railway Works; 2, 5th Buffs. This was unthinkable, and it was not till some time later that we were able to toddle home with a great deal of relief. The order of finishing had been reversed.

Oh, yes, the Railway Works Band was pretty good, too, with W. Street as Bandmaster at that time. Incidentally, many will remember yet another good Band in the district. Kent County Industrial School, with Mr. Clinton as Director. Many of these boys joined the Regular Army Bands, particularly The Buffs and The Queen's Own R.W.K.

* * *

Sandwich Branch

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Tuesday, March 1st, 1955, at 8 p.m. Major F. W. Tomlinson presided and ten members were present. The meeting opened with the usual moment's silence. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. Arising from the Minutes was the report on the visit to the British Legion Headquarters for the talk given by Mr. Frank Rose, J.P., on the early history of Sandwich and the Cinque Ports. This was most interesting and very much appreciated.

Apologies were received from our Vice-Chairman, Lieut.-Col. N. S. Hart, who we regret to say has not been well enough to get round and about much lately. Cheer up, Sir! Somewhere the sun is shining and who knows!

Included in the correspondence was a letter from the Ramsgate Branch with reference to our meeting them in the Darts Semi-final, which is to be played off at Ramsgate sometime before the 16th April. The date suggested was Saturday, 12th March, but unfortunately this would not suit several of the team and several alternative dates have been sent for them to choose from.

The Chairman announced that the date fixed for the visit of the O.C. 1st Battalion The Buffs, Lieut.-Col. H. R. Grace, was Thursday, 31st March, when he would be talking on their experiences with the Mau-Mau in Kenya. The Guildhall had been booked for the occasion and the Mayor of Sandwich, Cr. J. J. Thomas, Major-General J. D. Erskin, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Lieut.-Col. L. V. Prescott Westcar, D.S.O., and local organisations had been invited to attend. After the talk there would be a social evening. Arrangements had been made to have a bar and light refreshments would be served. Several members have kindly promised prizes for a competition. Mr. A. Elvery would be M.C., and music would be by the M. H. Woods Trio and the Poulders Garden Handbell Ringers would be giving a turn. We are all looking forward to a very interesting and pleasant evening.

Our darts match with the Ramsgate Branch has now been fixed for Friday, March 25th, and we are looking forward to a good game and jolly evening.

On the 31st March, as Colonel Grace had promised to come and talk about Kenya and Mau-Mau, it was decided to make that the first item of a social evening to be held at the Guildhall. A license was taken out and music (including handbell ringers) arranged. Guests included the British Legion, the R.A.F. Sergeants' Mess, members of the Windsock Club, the Mayor of Sandwich, Colonel Prescott-Westcar, Colonel Howe, Colonel and Mrs. Willows and R.S.M. White. Colonel Grace's talk was listened to by over a hundred members and their guests and was very much appreciated. Refreshments were then handed round and music and dancing were the order of the day; and thus a very pleasant evening was spent.

* * *

Brighton Branch

A good, well-attended monthly meeting for March, about a dozen members turning up and of course it had to rain.

We are sorry to report that Jimmy Dray has taken to his bed—working too hard on his allotment, we suspect, but we all wish him a complete recovery soon.

The following are also on light duty:—Colonel Hamilton, Ben Molkenthin and J. Hessey—we hope they will soon be M. & D.

Nearly thirty sat down to our Annual Dinner on 26th March and we were very pleased to welcome Messrs. Billing, Grant, Gould and Gould Junior from London Branch and Mr. Colman from the Ashford Branch—truly a gallant effort on another wet night. Even the Secretary managed it after the Boat Race, but we all thought he looked "part worn", so allowed him to catch the 9.30 p.m. train home. The others all stayed until much later and we believe and hope thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We were very pleased to see our two new members also at the dinner—Messrs. Benzie and Stacey, and we hope they will be regular attenders at our monthly meetings.

ACHEM.

* * *

Ashford Branch

Our meeting commenced at 7.15 p.m. on Saturday, 2nd April, our Chairman, Mr. A. J. Mills, being present, and also sixteen members.

Minutes for the previous meeting were read by the Secretary and were then signed as correct. Correspondence was then read, which included a letter from Mr. Tompsett, thanking members for the hundredweight of coal which was sent to him from the Branch. We are all pleased to know he is improving in health.

The notification of the Presentation of Colours was then read and discussed. Our Standard Bearer, George Skinner, with his Escort will be attending the rehearsal on 7th May. He has been busy getting the Standard Sling up to a high polish. For the actual Presentation, twenty members will be attending from this Branch, so we are all hoping for some real Kentish sunshine for this big occasion.

The draw for our Darts and Crib Competition was made by Messrs. Vant, Skinner and Earl. When the results were made known, several typical barrack-room remarks echoed around the room.

The Chairman then presented our Sports Cup to Mr. J. Blake as winner of the previous Crib contest.

With no other business, the meeting was closed at 8.15 p.m., after which several members played off the respective darts games. Our oldest member, Bill Mankelow, knocked out the one and only Bert Vant. G. Skinner did the same with J. Blake, and Bill Beeching dashed the Secretary's hopes by beating him. In the Crib contest, Mr. Earl soon ended again the Secretary's hopes, so now he can sit back and watch the rest.

A.C.M.

* * *

Sittingbourne Branch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.—The Annual General Meeting of the Sittingbourne Branch of the Past and Present Association of The Buffs was held at the Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne, on Friday, March 4th, 1955. Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D., J.P., presided over the meeting, supported by Lieut.-Col. J. E. Wills and Mr. Mount. About 30 members were present.

MINUTES of the last meeting were read and with a slight alteration were signed as a true record.

CORRESPONDENCE.—A letter was read from the Secretary of the Ladies' Guild saying that they would be very pleased to provide the refreshments for the Smoking Concert. Letters were also read from Capt. H. S. Lee-Roberts and Jock Herbert saying how sorry they were at not being able to attend, but they sent their best wishes.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.—In the absence of Mr. Coward, our Secretary, it has fallen to me as Assistant Secretary to present the report of the year's working of the Sittingbourne Branch of the Past and Present Association of The Buffs. I have been actively engaged in the Secretary's work since October; but, in some respects, the report must, of necessity, be incomplete. For instance, in last year's report our membership stood at 161. How it stands at this moment I cannot say; but the real hard core are as active as ever, except that, I very much regret to say, two of our oldest members, Mr. R. Brown and Mr. F. Streetfield, have passed away during the year. A wreath was sent on behalf of the Branch to each and representatives of the Branch attended the funerals. Sickness unfortunately has overtaken some of our members during the year; but all, with the exception of Wally Foord are, I am glad to say, on the road to recovery. Wally is permanently in bed as the direct result of wounds received in World War I, and indications at present are that he may not get up again; but Wally is a man of tremendous will-power and fortitude and with the approach of better weather we hope we may see him strolling out again and paying us a visit. In the meantime, for a period of three months, the Branch have installed a Television set in his bedroom and I can say that it is bringing him much enjoyment.

Visits.—A number of visits to Branches have been made during the year. In March to Weald Branch to play them in the semi-final of the Darts Competition, which we won and had a most enjoyable evening. On April 10th about 50 members went to Canterbury on the occasion of the Inter-Branch Darts Match Final. It was a wonderful evening and we carried away the Cup. On October 16th about 25 members visited the London Branch, where a very enjoyable evening was spent, and we saw the presentation of their Standard by Lieut.-Col. Argles. On December 11th we again visited Weald Branch to play them at darts in the first round, and although they turned the tables on us and we lost, they entertained us magnificently.

Social.—Our Annual Dinner held on March 27th was a huge success. As usual we held a Children's Party on December 4th to which children of the Home Guard who are honorary members of our Club were invited as well as orphans from the Green Porch at Milton. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and all received a present from Father Christmas. The Ladies' Guild undertook the provision of the Children's Tea as well as refreshments for the Adults in the evening, and to them we owe a big debt of gratitude, for they are always happy to help us in anything we undertake where they can be of assistance. Mr. Cherrison won the Branch Individual Darts Cup; runner-up, Mr. Wigg.

Standard.—In June our Branch Standard was handed over by Lieut.-Col. Argles to our Vice-Chairman, Lieut.-Col. Wills. This has already been carried on a few occasions. At the Remembrance Day Service at Canterbury on August 8th, Armistice Sunday at Milton and on the occasion of welcoming home the 1st Battalion at Dover from service in Kenya. The Standard has yet to be dedicated and it is hoped that this ceremony will be carried out at Holy Trinity Church in the very near future. Bill Sinclair was unanimously appointed Standard Bearer for one year from November 5th, 1954.

Bar.—During the year the Club Bar has been operating at a very much reduced price of drinks, yet we have made a very satisfactory profit and have been able to present to the Home Guard, who use the bar quite a lot, the sum of £10.

TREASURER'S REPORT.—Mr. Ted Croucher said that he had been unable to prepare a complete report in time for the meeting. However, No. 1 Account had a credit balance of £17 13s. 10d. and No. 2 Account showed a gross profit of £110 6s. 7d. This was considered to be a very satisfactory state of affairs and was one of our most successful years. Mr. Ravensdale proposed and Mr. Raines seconded that the Report be accepted. This was carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.—*Chairman:* Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D., J.P. *Vice-Chairman:* Lieut.-Col. J. E. Wills. *Second Vice-Chairman:* Mr. Mount. *Secretary:* Capt. C. A. Grant. *Assistant Secretary:* Mr. W. R. Sinclair. *Treasurer:* Mr. Ted Croucher. *Sick Visitor:* Capt. C. A. Grant. *Committee:* It was proposed by many members that the Committee as elected last year be re-elected *en bloc.* This was carried unanimously. There was, however, one vacancy, and this was filled by Mr. Nairne. The Committee therefore consists of:—Lieut.-Col. Lynden-Bell, Messrs. Wigg, Russell, Frost, Spice, Ravensdale, Hall and Nairne.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Future.—The Chairman said that owing to the eventual closing down of 516 L.A.A. Regiment, it was almost certain the 4/5th Buffs would take over the Drill Hall at Crown Quay Lane and the Home Guard the Drill Hall in East Street. In that event the Home Guard would

require the Club Room we occupied and run their own bar. The question of the monthly meeting place for the Past and Present would also arise and he thought, without doubt, that the Crown Quay Drill Hall when the 4/5th Buffs were in occupation was the obvious place. The Past and Present were out to get new members, especially young members, and to be in close contact with 4/5th Buffs was our best chance. We could not expect new members to come to the Drill Hall in East Street, in fact they may not even know we existed; we had to go after them at their regular meeting-place. When the Home Guard took over the bar they had already expressed their willingness to accept our members as honorary members so that we should not lose the association we had with East Street Drill Hall, which we looked upon as our home. Also, there is little doubt that 4/5th Buffs would offer our members honorary membership of their club at Crown Quay when it started. Although on the face of it, it looked rather an upheaval, that was not so. We had worked very closely with the Home Guard for three years, indeed, many of our members were also members of the Home Guard, all it really amounted to was a happy family arrangement, and we must be prepared for this to take place at any time.

1st Battalion Colours.—New Colours were to be presented to the 1st Battalion The Buffs by His Majesty the King of Denmark on May 9th and we, together with other Branches, have been asked to send a representative party consisting of the minimum of Standard Bearer and two Escorts. It was a Monday, and he wondered who would be able to go. Members suggested our regular Standard Bearer, Bill Sinclair. Bill immediately said he would be proud to go and only sickness would prevent him. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Dunk, our regular Escorts, said they would also like to go, and all three said they would attend the rehearsal on Saturday, May 7th at 4 p.m. The Chairman said that any other members who could manage to attend would be welcome.

Smoking Concert.—The Chairman said that this was all fixed for Saturday, March 19th. As we had already heard, The Buffs Ladies' Guild were arranging for the refreshments. One Officer and three Other Ranks were coming from the 1st Battalion as our guests, and we had sent invitations to a number of local celebrities. A very good Concert Party had been engaged and he hoped that as many members as possible would attend and have a good evening.

Dedication of Standard.—We had come up against a few snags with regard to the Dedication of our Standard. Whereas we had hoped to have a large parade in combining with the 4/5th Buffs arrival and the start of the Home Guard Recruiting Week; it had now been decided that the 4/5th Buffs would be adopted by the Local Council and the ceremony would be performed by the Vicar of St. Michael's, and the Home Guard had postponed their Recruiting Week. We wanted our own Vicar, the Rev. R. D. d'E. Meredith to dedicate our Standard at Holy Trinity, and so we should have to have a small parade of our own after an ordinary Sunday Service.

Visit to Medway Branch.—Lieut.-Col. H. R. Grace, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, was visiting a number of Branches to give a talk on his experiences in Kenya and was visiting Medway Branch on April 15th at 7.30 p.m. This was the Branch nearest and most convenient for us to visit and all members would be welcome to go and hear Col. Grace. The talk would be very interesting and the trip well worthwhile. Members were asked to add their names to the list in the bar as soon as possible so that the necessary size coach could be hired. The cost would be about 2/- per head.

Television for Sick Member.—The Chairman said that the Branch had performed a very fine act in hiring for one of our oldest and very sick members a television set to bring him some enjoyment. He had visited Wally, who was full of appreciation for this kindly act. We had now to decide the best method by which the hiring could be paid. The Secretary reported that he had received the sum of £2 10s. 0d. from individual members and had been promised more. Mr. Nairne suggested that we pass the hat round that evening. This received unanimous approval. Mr. Warner suggested that a plain box be kept in the bar so that members could make a contribution from time to time. Mr. Banks proposed that a box be placed in the bar and the proceeds used to help any sick member. This was seconded by Darkie Raines and carried unanimously.

The collection made produced the sum of £6 2s. 0d. which, with the £2 10s. 0d. already in hand, made a total of £8 12s. 0d.

Presentation of the Branch Darts Cup.—The Chairman congratulated Mr. Cherrison on winning the Darts Cup and made the presentation. Mr. Frost proposed that a small memento be given to the Winner and Runner-up. This was agreed by all.

BOOBY was then drawn, given by Jim Ravensdale and won by Darkie Raines, raising the sum of 14/6.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

* * *

MINUTES of the 234th Meeting of the Past and Present Association of The Buffs held at the Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne, on Friday, April 1st, 1955. Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D., J.P., presided over this meeting. About 12 members were present. Minutes of the last meeting were read, passed and signed as a true record.

TREASURER'S REPORT.—The Treasurer said he had now had time to go more deeply into the financial state of the Branch and produced figures for all to see—the money we had received and the way it had been spent. The result showed that in the No. 1 Account we had a balance in the bank of £77 19s. 8d., and No. 2 Account showed a net profit of £3 15s. 9d., so that in all we had over £100 plus our Bar stock of about £50. We had spent a lot of money during the year, £119 in all. The Chairman said he thought this a most satisfactory state of affairs, but because we had this money we must not spend it wastefully as the bar may close down at any time and this was our greatest source of income. He said he was sure all members appreciated the hard work Mr. Croucher had put in preparing this balance sheet. Mr. Sinclair proposed a vote of thanks to the Hon. Treasurer. This was seconded by Mr. Dunk and carried unanimously.

SMOKING CONCERT.—The Chairman said he thought that we would all agree that the Smoking Concert was a great success, although it was not attended by as many members as we should have liked. The talk on Kenya by Lieut. Mitchell was most interesting and the catering by the Ladies' Guild carried out most excellently and for a very modest sum. Bob Russell said he would like to see it recorded in the Minutes and a letter sent to the Ladies' Guild saying how much we appreciated their work in providing the refreshments. This was agreed by all and the Secretary said he would write a suitable letter.

DEDICATION OF STANDARD.—Col. Dean referred to his remarks at the Annual General Meeting and suggested we get down to a date for having our Standard dedicated. Mr. Raines suggested May 1st after the normal evening service, and this met with the approval of all members. Col. Dean said he would get in touch with the Rev. Meredith and ascertain if this date was suitable.

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1704—1814 and 1814—1914
by C. R. B. KNIGHT
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1919—1948
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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BUFFS
by E. FOSTER HALL
Revised edition - 2/6 Post free

"DRUMS AND DRUMMERS"
by G. R. HOWE
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PRESENTATION OF 1ST BATTALION COLOURS.—The Secretary explained the arrangements being made to attend the parade of the Presentation of the Colours to the 1st Battalion by His Majesty the King of Denmark. A list was on the notice board and he asked members to add their names as soon as possible and in any case the list would have to close by April 9th as he had to report the attendance to Canterbury. If sufficient numbers were going, he would order a coach, otherwise members would have to make their own way to the St. Lawrence Cricket Ground, where the parade was being held.

VISIT TO MEDWAY BRANCH.—A question was raised whether Ladies could go, and the Secretary said he would ring the Secretary of Medway Branch and find out and put the information on the notice board. It seemed likely they would be welcome. He was ordering a 26-seater coach and although it wasn't yet full to capacity he thought it would be and had already advised Medway Branch that approximately 30 members would be attending. As they were supplying refreshments, he asked members to put their name on the list as soon as possible so that he could give a more accurate figure.

BOOBY was then drawn, given this month by Darkie Raines and won by Capt. Grant, raising the sum of 8/-.

MEETING closed at 8 p.m.

* * *

Ramsgate Branch

Through your valuable columns may I on behalf of officers and members convey our sincere thanks and appreciation to Colonel Grace for his most interesting talk on the 1st Battalion activities in Kenya. Every member enjoyed the excellent description given by the Colonel and we look forward to the pleasure of meeting Colonel Grace again.

Also I must thank Sandwich Branch for bringing a good muster of members and ladies to visit us to play off the semi-final of darts. They were a splendid team and beat us by two straight legs, and Ramsgate wishes them every success in the final. If Mr. Becham is in the same form, they are sure to win. His 69 in three darts was a beautiful finish. A sporting team and a good game.

We must thank them for the Captain's "Wallop". We did have the consolation of winning the gallon.

I trust Mr. Bundock slept comfortably that night. It was nice to see him and others of the old 6th "S" Battalion again. Old "Jeff" sends his regards.

Now for the meeting report:—

The part his men played in the campaign to stamp out the reign of Mau Mau terrorism during their service in Kenya was described by Lieut.-Col. H. R. Grace, Officer Commanding the 1st Battalion The Buffs, addressing Ramsgate Branch of the Past and Present Association, The Buffs, at the Freemasons' Tavern.

Colonel Grace told the meeting: "Don't have any two doubts about it—the Mau have sunk lower than any animal yet discovered.

"In their utterly repulsive and revolting oaths, they have in some bestial and unbelievable way sunk humanity far below the level which any animal would ever dream of sinking to", he declared.

But he stressed emphatically that the Mau Mau movement had absolutely nothing to do with Communism. Had they been receiving any aid from the Reds, he said, they would have been equipped with far better weapons than those he exhibited at the meeting—primitive, home-made firearms equally dangerous to user and foe.

Out of the seven Kenya provinces, only two were affected by the movement—the Rift Valley and the Central Province. The Mau Mau was mainly based in two large areas, the jungle of Mount Kenya and the Aberdare Mountains jungle. Inevitably, Nairobi was the centre of the movement.

Describing the conditions under which The Buffs served during their 20 months in the colony, Col. Grace said they had to contend with extremes of hot and cold and the great physical strain of operating at high altitudes, often in dense jungle 8,000 ft. or 11,000 ft. up.

The Mau Mau movement started in the Kikuyu tribe back in 1948, but it did not burst out into the open until 1952. Recruits were dragooned into its ranks and forced to take "utterly dreadful and repulsive oaths".

It was divided into two parts—active and passive wings. Members of the active wing—"the real jungle wallahs"—had three objects. The first was the subjection of the whole of the Kikuyu race to their way of thought and bringing the whole tribe under their repulsive flag.

Their second object was the elimination by one means or another of Europeans; and the third was to rule Kenya by themselves. But Col. Grace maintained that they had not even begun to achieve their first object.

"It was a strange sort of war, because the chaps we were fighting were not, in fact, fighting us", he said.

The passive wing of the movement were thousands of underground helpers, living primarily in native reserves, who supplied food, ammunition, shelter and recruits.

Much of their job was passing on information, he went on. "Because of their numbers they were the finest intelligence organisation the world has ever seen. No body of my soldiers could set foot outside their camp without the news getting round that something was on."

The Mau Mau, said Col. Grace, had failed to achieve even their first aim because of unrelenting pressure by the Government, security forces and the Kenya police. When The Buffs first arrived, gangs of 200 terrorists were commonplace. When they left after 20 months, a gang of five was a rarity—the only thing Mau Mau were interested in was survival.

Of their 20 months' service in the colony, the Battalion spent about 15 in operations against the terrorists. In that time they were responsible for eliminating just over 300 "hard core" terrorists and the capture of just under 200, most of them with weapons.

"One could spend days and nights on end following a track and maybe seeing a fleeting glimpse of a Mau through the jungle. Then one would come on a recently vacated hide, only to find not a sign of a living thing", he continued. "Often the tangible results of a tremendous amount of effort, sweat, thought and planning were absolutely zero."

But under these frustrating conditions, he thought The Buffs record was a first-class effort. And they sustained only one fatal Mau Mau inflicted casualty.

"It was wonderful training for platoon and section commanders, teaching them self-reliance, resourcefulness and cunning, the ability to look after themselves and the men under them, and the ability to shoot quickly from the hip", continued Col. Grace. He added, amid laughter, "But we did not have much time or opportunity for parade ground stuff."

Answering questions, Colonel Grace said the morale of the Mau Mau was deteriorating and the number of underground helpers had seriously decreased. He felt it would not be long before the shooting war came to an end. The emergency would then end and the trouble in the colony could be looked after capably by the Government and Kenya Police.

The Chairman, Mr. C. F. Fakley, said Past and Present members were proud to know that the Regiment had done its duty and done it well.

The General Secretary of the Association, Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles, said the ceremony of presenting new colours to the 1st Battalion would now be held on 9th May instead of 2nd May. The Past and Present Association had agreed to form a guard of honour to welcome the Colonel-in-Chief. It was thought to be the first occasion the Association had been officially recognised at such a ceremony. The old colours would be laid up in Canterbury Cathedral the following day.

It was announced that the Branch would play Sandwich at home in a darts semi-final on Friday. A reunion dinner was planned for November.

At the next Ramsgate Festival of Remembrance, said the Chairman, it was hoped to arrange for either The Buffs Depot or the 4th (T.A.) Battalion to give a demonstration.

* * *

Margate Branch

The Branch Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 6th at the Drill Hall, Hawley Square, with Mr. H. Breed in the Chair, with our Secretary and the usual old faithfuls present.

It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. P. Kennett of Durban Road, Margate on March 14th, who was a very well-known and popular member of the Branch. We shall all miss him very much.

Before the business was dealt with, the Chairman requested members to stand in silence, to the memory of Mr. Kennett.

The meeting commenced with the Minutes being read and passed as correct. The correspondence included a letter from Canterbury Branch suggesting a date some time in May for a visit to Margate for a social evening. Our worthy Secretary has been requested to reply offering a choice of dates. May we all hope for a most successful evening and a hearty welcome to Canterbury Branch whenever they can make the date.

We are hoping to be able to extend the Branch social activities in the future, and in view of this it has been proposed that we invite the British Legion Club to a social evening on April 27th. Anyhow, our Secretary has the matter in hand.

I have been asked by the Chairman and Secretary to thank the members of the 1st Battalion, who visited the Branch on March 9th, and hope they were not too disappointed at not seeing more of our members present.

May we also take this opportunity to wish the Battalion the best of luck on their coming tour of duty in Germany.

The main business of the meeting disposed to matters relating to the Colours Presentation on May 9th. Our Standard Bearer and Escorts have been given their instructions, and we hope that as many members who are free to do so will attend. Tickets for seats and lunches will be available and can be obtained from the Branch Secretary on application.



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Herne Bay Branch Dinner

Herne Bay Branch

At last our scribe has found some news and at our last meeting when we had 20 members attend, we also were delighted to entertain a detachment of one Officer and eight Other Ranks from the 1st Battalion. Lieut. Pilcher gave us a short account of the Battalion's activities in Kenya, which caused a good many later comments amongst the older members or how they used to treat such things. After refreshments, darts and snooker were played between the Present and Past members, whilst the remainder gave advice. A very pleasant evening came to an end all too soon, and we hope the party have happy memories of the visit.

On the 19th we held our Annual Dinner and Lieut.-Col. Argles was our guest for the evening. This proved a bumper success and our thanks were due to Mr. Errey, the Legion Steward, who arranged the dinner and entertainment afterwards. We know it was a success when you see the old members dancing "Knees up, Mother Brown" with the entertainers.

Speeches were cut short, but were witty even with "Arry Boy" and we regret our President being unable to attend, but a few nice words were said on his behalf by our Vice-President, Capt. Gammon.

Lieut.-Col. Argles also gave us a few words of advice, etc., and said how sorry the Colonel of the Regiment was not to be able to attend.

On the 4th April we hope to muster a good number of names to make the visit to Canterbury on the 9th May.

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The Bayeux Memorial—*continued from p. 87.*

ANALYSIS OF NUMBERS

	Bayeux Memorial		Bayeux War Cemetery				
	Army	*Navy*	*Army*	*Air Force*	*Merchant Navy*	*Civilians and Others*	*Totals*
United Kingdom	1,566	318	3,419	182	14	1	5,500
Canada	270	—	160	21	—	—	451
Australia	—	1	—	16	—	—	17
New Zealand	—	1	—	7	—	—	8
South Africa	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
France	—	—	1	—	—	3	4
Allied	—	5	26	1	4	5	41
Enemy	—	—	351	16	—	102	469
Non War Graves	—	—	—	—	7	—	7
Entirely Unidentified	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	1,837	326	3,957	243	25	112	6,500

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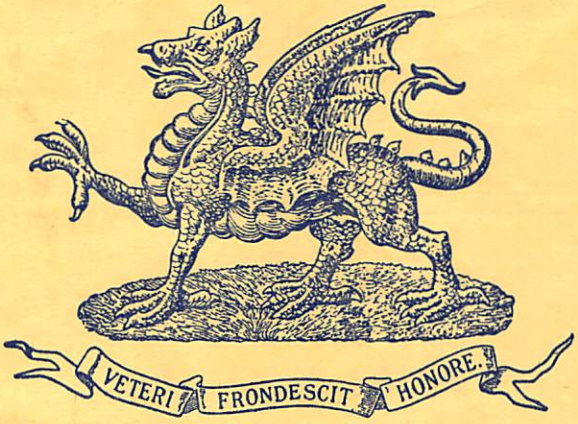
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Majors

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Harris-St. John, B. J. ... D.A.A. & Q.M.G., H.Q., Aldershot
Lewis, P. J. ... ... T/Lt.-Col. MA Copenhagen.
Bailey, N. T. ... ... Gold Coast Regt. T.C.
Yates, G. H. A. ... ... Nottingham U.T.C.
Edlmann, E. L. C., *M.C.* ... 1st Bn.
Rawlings, A. C., *M.B.E.* ... Depot C.R.M.P.
Horley, B. M. ... ... 1st Bn.
May, J. F., *M.B.E.* ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Ministry of Supply.
Ravenhill, R. A. C. ... DAAG, G.H.Q., E. Africa.
Plumptre, P. B., *M.B.E.* ... 6 Travelling Wing.
Dendy, R. H. ... ... O.C. Depot.
Majendie, A. E. ... ... R.A.F. Staff College
Lucas, J. P. ... ... Colonial Prisons, Kenya.
Norris, N. F. H. C. ... 1st Bn.
Crichton, R. F., *M.C.* ... 5 Nigeria Regt.
McGrath, B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Blaxland, W. G. ... ... Hospital, U.K.
Gay, A. W. ... ... KAR Depot, E. Africa.
Montgomery, D. ... ... Depot.
Morgan, F. de R., *M.C.* ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q. Malaya.
Poulsen, N. D. ... ... 1st Bn.
Cox, E. G., *M.C.* ... ... R.M. Officers' School, Lympstone.
Collins, H. A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Critchley, L. P., *M.B.E.* ... 1st Bn.
Worts, J. B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Court, D. N. ... ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q. E. Africa.
Gordon-Wilson, N. F., *M.B.E.* 3 Bn. Para. Regt.
Nash, J. P. ... ... G.S.O. 3 L/AW War Office.
ffrench Blake, M. A. O'B. 27 Bde. Hong Kong.

Captains

Semmence, R. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Iliffe, R. O. ... ... 2 Malay Regt.
Hadshar, G. ... ... T/Maj. DAAG H.Q. Nigeria District.
Dunglinson, W. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Barrett, D. P. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dent, J. E. ... ... T/Maj. 4/5th Bn.

Captains—*continued*

MacDonald, E. W. ... 1st Bn.
Marshall, F. ... ... W.O.S.B. Barton Stacy.
Dubois, G. E., *M.C.* ... 6th Bn. K.A.R., East Africa.
Peckham, A. D. ... ... Malay Regt.
Squire, S. J., *M.B.E.* ... H.Q. East Africa.
Thorneycroft, F. E. ... 1st Bn.
Willows, D. A. ... ... Adjt. 1st Bn.
Wilson, P. F., *D.F.C.* ... Glider Regt., 2nd TAF., B.A.O.R.
Hamilton, C. M. ... ... H.Q. B.T.A.
Gatehouse, H. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Griffin, C. J. ... ... Adjt. 4/5th Bn.
Webber, J. W. ... ... T/Maj., ADC to Fld. Marshal Montgomery.
Pim, A. H. E. ... ... 2 Gold Coast Regt.
Stratford-Tuke, R. A. F. ... 1st Bn.
Brigstocke, W. F. ... ... G.S.O. 3, Ind. Para. Bde. Gp.
French, B. G. J. ... ... 6 KAR, E. Africa.
Lees, H. D. ... ... 7 KAR, E. Africa.
Dalgliesh, A. R. F. ... 1st Bn.
Grugeon, J. D. ... ... Adjt. Depot.
Mullins, G. O. ... ... Adjt. 3 Bn. Parachute Regt.

Lieutenants

Minto, I. G. ... ... 1st Bn.
West, C. T. F. ... ... 1st Bn.
Ward, M. W. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dracopoli, M. P. St. F. ... Depot.
Tennent, H. C. L ... ... A.D.C. to G.O.C., H.C.D.
Mitchell, P. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Pilcher, R. A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Baker, R. W. M. ... ... Inf. Boys Bn.
Rymer-Jones, J. A. ... Airborne Forces Depot.
Edgecombe, G. J. B. ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants

Lunn, J. M. ... ... 1st Bn.
Lea, R. ... ... 1st Bn.

Quartermasters

Watts, E. H. F. ... ... Maj., Depot.
Kille, W. E. ... ... Maj., 1st Bn.
Catt., A. H. ... ... Capt., 4/5th Bn.

Chaplain Rev. E. W. Evans, C.F.

Paymaster Major B. M. Green, R.A.P.C.

Short Service Commissions

Majors

Broadley, A., *M.B.E., T.D.* War Office.
*Ford, E. N., *M.C.* ... ... Leave U.K.
Todman, N. E. H. ... ... E. Anglia District.
*Carey, R., *M.C.* ... ... 23 KAR

Captains

Robertson, R. J. ... ... H.Q. Nigeria District.
*Elliott, N. ... ... Aldershot District.
*Ransley, E. J., *M.C.* ... 1st Bn.
McGrath, G. A. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
*Fakley, J. F. ... ... P.S.O., H.C.B. Depot.
*Butcher, D. A. T. ... ... East Africa Training Centre.
Marshall, J. V. ... ... S.P.S.O. Staff.

Lieutenants

Barlow, W. B. ... ... Inf. Div. Pro. Coy.
Davison, J. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Cross, K. J. ... ... 1st Bn.

Lieutenants *continued*

Kirby, J. A. ... ... Movement Control Pool, H.Q., B.A.O.R
Hicks, E. M. G. ... ... 1st Bn.
Prentice, J. R. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
Froom, A. F. F. ... ... 6 Armd. Div. Coln. R.A.S.C. B.A.O.R.
Durban, J. M. M. ... ...

2nd Lieutenants

Hodges, J. D. ... ... ERE Singapore.
Courtney, M. ... ... 1st Bn.
Hardy, J. E. ... ... 1st Bn.
Jakob, F. J. ... ... West Africa.

Quartermasters

Rowcliffe, T. A., Major ... MELF.
Stone, J. H., Capt. ... ... B.A.O.R.
Senior, N., Major ... ... H.Q., N.A.G., B.A.O.R.
Corps, J., Capt. ... ... 16 Coy., R.A.S.C.

* Extended Service Officer.

National Service Officers

2nd Lieutenants

Naldrett-Jays, R. C. ... 1st Bn., N.R.R.
Wilkins, G. C. ... ... Accra, West Africa.
Wright, R. P. ... ... Depot.
Edgeley, P. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Turner, G. P. ... ... 1st Bn.
McGowan, M. H. ... ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants—*continued*

Simpson, K.T. ... ... 1st Bn.
Parker, P. W. M. ... ... Airborne F.D.
Shephard, J. N. ... ... 1 KAR.
Wilcox, R. D. ... ... 23 KAR.
Bowen, S. ... ... West Africa.

4/5th Battalion

Hon. Colonel

Col. D. J. Dean, *V.C.*, *T.D.*, Woodcourt, 1 Park, Avenue, Sittingbourne Kent.

Lieutenant-Colonel

Hews, G. R. D., *M.C.*, *T.D.*

Majors

Dent, J. E. (Trng. Major)
Alexander, U. H. B., *M.B.E.*
Prestige, J. T. R.
Tilleard, J., *T.D.*
Neville, F. G., *M.C.*, *T.D.*
Plunkett, P. N. P.
Balding, C. E. E

Captains

Griffin, C. J. (Adjt.)
Beaumont, M. J. P.
Klean, P. H.
Morgan, R. J. S., *M.C.*

Lieutenants

Crowdy, R. E. L.
Roper-Curzon, Hon. J. C. I. (A/Capt.)
Kelly, G. D. S.
Pury, J. D. de
Whiting, D. A.
Thomas, J. H.
Nye, R. T.
Bennett, R. G.
Morlock, P. J.
Sanger-Davies, A.
Oliver, C. P.

Quartermaster

Catt.. A. H., Capt. (QM)

Chaplain

The Rev. J. E. Robinson

Medical Officer

Capt. F. P. Cassidi, R.A.M.C. (attd.)

Territorial Army National Service List

Lieutenants

Applegate, E. J.
Snowden, A. G.
Howland, N. M.
Tilley, T. A.
Waterman, R. R.
Labbett, M.
Taylor, D. C.
Vallins, J.
Johnson, R. F.
Holloway, R. G.
Finn, W. C.,

Staff and Command

Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B.*, *C.B.E.* ... ... D.M.I., War Office.
Brigadier T. H. Spear, *O.B.E.* Mil. Attache, Saigon.
Col. (T/Brig.) M. P. D. Dewar, *M.B.E.* ... ... D.D.M.P. (A), War Office.
Col. (T/Brig.) R. W. Craddock, *C.B.E.*, *D.S.O.* I.D.C.
Col. (T/Brig.) F. W. B. Parry Comd. Sierra Leone and Gambia Dis.
Col. (T/Brig.) R. F. Parry, *M.C.* ... ... Comdg. 3rd Inf. Bde., Arab Legion.

Lieut.-Colonels (Employed List)

Lieut.-Col. H. P. Williams, *O.B.E.* ... ... G.S.O.I, Inf. Dte., War Office.
Lieut.-Col. J. G. Atkinson, *O.B.E.* ... . C.O., 2 Malay Reg:
Lieut.-Col. J. F. Connolly, *D.S.O.*, Chief Instructor, S. of Inf., Hythe.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

1st Battalion

R.S.M. Turmaine, F.
B.M. Sharpe, T.
R.Q.M.S. Rose, J.
C.S.M. Callaway, R.
C.S.M. Sharman, R.
C.S.M. Champion, R.
C.S.M. Clifton-Sprigg, H.
C.S.M. Middleton, J.
C.Q.M.S. Denny, F.
C.Q.M.S. Ellis, D.
C.Q.M.S. Day, S.
C.Q.M.S. Mannering, D.
C.Q.M.S. Newman, P.
Sgt. (O.R.S.) Mans, W.
D/M. Gardner, E.
Sgt. Smissen, J.
Sgt. Larkin, F.
Sgt. Anderson, C.
Sgt. Lyons, B.
Sgt. Morrish, E.
Sgt. Weatherall, P.
Spt. Jephcott, H.
Sgt. Colyer, A.
Sgt. Simmonds, R.
Sgt. Page, A.
Sgt. Harris, F.
Sgt. Kay, M.
Sgt. Bird, H.
Sgt. Woodrow, V.
Sgt. Histed, W.
Sgt. Martin, A.
Sgt. Wright, R.
Sgt. Thurley, R.
Sgt. Spiers, E.
Sgt. Gibson, J.
Sgt. Townsley, J.
Sgt. Streeter, E.
Sgt. Billett, S.
Sgt. Rowland, K.
Sgt. Cock, C.
Sgt. Pooley, L.

Depot The Buffs

R.S.M. White, H.
R.Q.M.S. Howe, W
C.S.M. Chapman, G.
W.O. II Excell, F.
C.S.M. Diamond, R.
C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Webb, C.
C/Sgt. Belcher, E.
C.Q.M.S. Stremes, G., *D.F.M.*
Sgt. Laker, J.
Sgt. Haines, E.
Sgt. Bryant, A.
Sgt. Ivory, L.
Sgt. Rea, R.
Sgt. Cain, D.
Sgt. Bean, G.
Sgt. Raine, R
Sgt. Harrison, W.
Sgt. Recton, T.

4/5th Battalion (T.A.)

Permanent Staff

R.S.M. Faulkner, G. T.
C.S.M. Fagg, G.
C.S.M. Seymour, J.
Sgt. Partridge, R.
Sgt. Miller, C.
Sgt. Porter, J.
Sgt. Dean, D.
Sgt. Stoakes, A.
R.Q.M.S. Harwood, E.
C.S.M. Chapman, W.
C.S.M. Gabriel, J.
C/Sgt. Trinkwon, A.
C/Sgt. Couzens, W.
Sgt. Bell, J.
Sgt. White R.
Sgt. Hurlow, R.
Sgt. Babbage, W
Sgt. Wraight, S.
Sgt. Neaves, C.
Sgt. James, A.
Sgt. Bass, R.
Sgt. Williams, E.
Sgt. Thundow, W.
Sgt. George, M.
Sgt. Saunders, G.
Sgt. Richardson, H.
Sgt. Cope, H.
Sgt. Hewitt, C.
Sgt. Chidwick, E.
Sgt. Allen, A.
Sgt. Jones, A.

Regimental Appointments

Administrative Officer—Depot The Buffs
Secretary: Canterbury Cricket Week Club
Dragon Club
Regimental Committee
} Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker

Curator: Regimental Museum — Lieut.-Col. G R. Howe

Secretary: Past and Present Association, The Buffs
Executive Committee
Editor: The Dragon
} Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles

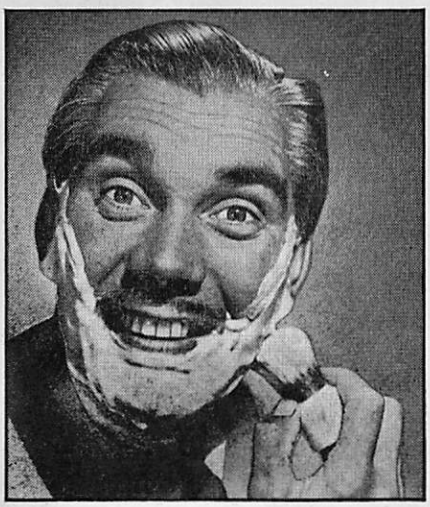
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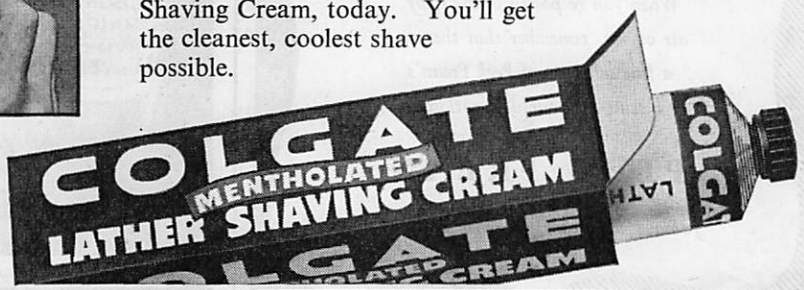


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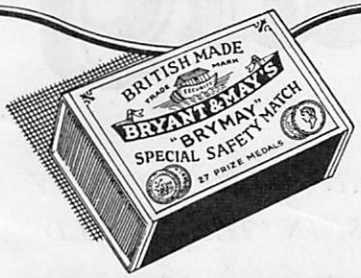
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Colonel-in-Chief, The Buffs

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EDITORIAL

VETERI FRONDESCIT HONORE. On 1st May, 1572, Queen Elizabeth I reviewed, in Greenwich Park, some 3,000 "most likely and active persons" from among the Trained Bands of London, after which Captain Thomas Morgan picked out a Company of 300 which he took to the Netherlands on active service. So The Buffs were born.

On the 16th May, 1811, the Regiment won undying fame at the Battle of Albuhera. Forty-three years later, again in May, the Regiment arrived in the Crimea. On 16th May, 1906, the 1st Battalion received new Colours at the hands of the Lord Mayor of London. Now, in May again, for the first time in the history of the Regiment, the 1st Battalion has received new Colours at the hands of our Royal Colonel-in-Chief, in our own home.

We respectfully offer our humble thanks and appreciations to His Majesty for honouring the Regiment on this historic occasion.

It is interesting to record that this is the first time that the Branches of the Past and Present Association have been specially represented at a Presentation of Colours Parade, and we welcomed particularly the representatives of our Danish Branch, Major O. Lippmann and Mr. Kai Weeke.

This number of *The Dragon* tells the story of the Presentation of these new Colours, and of the Laying-Up in the Cathedral of the old Colours presented in 1932 in Burma by Sir Charles Innes.

We are indebted to an Old Buff, and a faithful contributor to *The Dragon*, Captain Sydney Maiden (The Tramp) for his description of the Parade which has evoked universal praise. He also painted and inscribed the menu cards at the luncheon table occupied by the Colonel-in-Chief, a special one of which, signed by His Majesty, the Colonel of the Regiment and former Commanding Officers present will be placed in the Museum.

All the arrangements for the large number of guests both at the Royal luncheon and at the various buffets were carried out by N.A.A.F.I., for whom no praise could be too high.

We wish also to thank those who so kindly placed photographs at our disposal for reproduction on the pages which follow.

In order that this number might be devoted to the 1st Battalion, all our regular Contributors as well as the Depot, the 4/5th Battalion and the Branches, Past and Present Association, very kindly agreed to forego their notes this month, and we wish to acknowledge this gesture.

The week's festivities included an Officers' Ball, a very happy family affair which old and young enjoyed together. Our Danish guests, Major and Mrs. Lippmann, who attended, made many friends.

There were also a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Ball at which Mr. Kai Weeke was present, as well as an Other Ranks Colour Dance.

* * *

Since going to print, in addition to those published, many other letters of congratulation and appreciation have been received, which will be included next month.

On Parade

Commanding Officer:
Lieut.-Colonel H. R. Grace

No. 1 Guard
Major L. P. Critchley, M.B.E.
Captain F. E. Thorneycroft
Captain E. J. Ransley, M.C.

No. 2 Guard
Major N. D. Poulsen
Lieut. I. G. Minto
Lieut. M. W. Ward

No. 3 Guard
Captain D. P. R. Barrett
2/Lieut. M. H. McGowan
2/Lieut. K. T. Simpson

No. 4 Guard
Captain R. A. F. Stratford-Tuke
2/Lieut. R. P. Wright
2/Lieut. M. K. Courtney

Officers for the Colours:

Old: Lieut. C. T. F. West
Lieut. G. J. B. Edgecombe

New: Lieut. R. A. Pilcher
2/Lieut. R. Lea

Field Officers handing the New Colours to His Majesty:
Major E. L. C. Edlmann, M.C.
Major N. F. H. C. Norris

Stick Orderlies to His Majesty:
Lieut. R. W. M. Baker
2/Lieut. J. M. Lunn

A.D.C. to the Colonel of the Regiment:
Captain D. A. Willows

Regimental Sergeant-Major ...	...	R.S.M. F. Turmaine
W.O. in Charge of Old Colours	...	C.S.M. R. Callaway
Colour Party, Old Colours ...	...	C/Sgt. D. Ellis, C/Sgt. D. Mannering
W.O. in Charge of New Colours	...	C.S.M. S. Day
Colour Party, New Colours ...	...	C/Sgt. P. Newman, Sgt. C. Anderson
Bandmaster	...	Bandmaster T. L. Sharpe, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.
Drum-Major	...	Drum-Major F. Larkin

Order of Ceremony

Event	*Music*
The Battalion marches on in column, headed by the Band and Drums, and forms line.	Bugle Marches: "Bab-el-Mandib" "Georgia"
The Colonel of the Regiment arrives and is received with a General Salute.	"Cavalry Brigade"
H.M. The King of Denmark, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, arrives and is received with a Royal Salute.	The Danish National Anthem
His Majesty inspects the Battalion.	"Mollendorf's Parade March" "Figaro"
Trooping of the Old Colours: Slow March by Band and Drums. Quick March by Band and Drums. No. 1 Guard takes station as Escort. Old Colours received on parade. Slow March by Old Colours and Escort.	"Aida" "Semper Fidelis" "British Grenadiers" The National Anthem "Kong Christian" "The Men of Kent"
The Old Colours are marched off for the last time.	"Auld Lang Syne"
The New Colours are uncased and the drums piled.	
The New Colours are consecrated by the Chaplain-General, the Rev. V. J. Pike, C.B., C.B.E., M.A.	
The two Senior Majors hand the New Colours to His Majesty, who presents them to the two Officers of the Colour Party.	
His Majesty addresses the Battalion.	
The Commanding Officer replies.	
The New Colours are received with a General Salute and marched into the centre of the Battalion.	The National Anthem
The Battalion marches past His Majesty.	"Fanemarsch" The Buffs Regimental March
The Battalion re-forms line and gives a Royal Salute.	The Danish National Anthem
His Majesty departs.	
The Battalion marches off.	"Scotland the Brave" "The Great Little Army"

Presentation of Colours

Some impressions of the Great Parade

by The Tramp

SINCE what follows may be read by many who were privileged to witness the impressive and moving ceremony on the St. Lawrence Ground on May 9th, some justification of the writer's apparent presumption in recording, at the Editor's behest, his own impressions may be called for. Everyone who was present on the unique occasion will have his or her own personal memories of an unforgettable experience. One man's record is as good, or imperfect, as another's. Those who in their time have taken part in an important military spectacle have one over-riding advantage; they know what "the finished job" has meant in planning, hard work and strenuous preparation. The smooth efficiency of the achievement, the "art that conceals art", is the result of careful training, assiduous practice and punctilious attention to detail. These factors are only dimly perceived by the layman but without them the final show should be just another parade.

THE OPENING STAGES

When the 1st Battalion, led by its Band and Drums in No. 1 dress, marched on to the ground, the great concourse, which had waited with anxious eyes fixed on the uncertain sky from which a little earlier rain had been falling, knew that it was to see something worth while. The immediate impression was one of superb precision. It was a good beginning which none of the later evolutions of the elaborate ceremonies were to belie. When shortly before 11 a.m. the Colonel of the Regiment mounted the dais, which was draped with the Regimental Colours, to receive the General Salute, we had the first sign that the handling of arms was to equal the precision and cohesion of the marching. The young soldiers, over 60% of whom were National Servicemen, showed what intensive training can achieve. There was a veteran quality about the presenting of arms and, in the opinion of more than one old soldier near the writer, this was "first class drill".

THE SUN SHINES

Meanwhile the sky had perceptibly brightened with a promise, faint until then, of some sunshine to relieve the prevailing grey of the sky and the dark greenness of the superb turf. Punctually to the hour The King arrived, preceded by two Yeomen Warders from the Tower of London, both Old Buffs and former Regimental Sergeant-Majors, wearing their rich Tudor uniforms of scarlet and gold and carrying halberds, and by the two officers acting as stick orderlies to His Majesty. The King was attended by the Colonel of the Regiment and by Prince Georg of Denmark and an Aide de Camp. The ship's bell of the *St. Lawrence* had been rung by a Sergeant and the King mounted the dais to be received with a Royal Salute, the Danish Royal Standard having been broken at the flagstaff. The time-honoured ceremonial had begun. The sun appropriately chose this moment to break through the clouds, lighting up the whole scene and glinting the steel of the bayonets of the guards drawn up in line in the distance.

ONE OR TWO PICTURES

It would be tedious to the reader to attempt to describe in detail all that followed. One or two pictures which will always stay in the mind may suffice from the progression of the solemn ritual. Those moments especially concerned with the Colours themselves naturally take precedence. In them the significance of the ceremony resided. These evolutions aroused the shivers up and down the spine and the smarting of the eyes which few would be ashamed to admit. The stately passage of the Old Colours as they were trooped past the rigid ranks of the Battalion to the moving strains of *Auld Lang Syne*, which died away as the escort marched them off the ground, was a dramatic and heart-searching moment. There followed the dignified and solemn religious service of the Consecration of the New Colours by the Chaplain-General, who was accompanied by the Battalion Chaplain and clergy of other denominations robed in their respective vestments. And finally came the climax of the ceremony; the Presentation by the King of the New Colours to the kneeling subalterns. The speeches by the King and by the Officer Commanding the Battalion in reply were models of their kind. Both were admirably composed and spoken. It might not be thought invidious to say that the Commanding Officer's reply, delivered without notes, was a *tour de force*. His personality obviously inspired the whole parade.

THE FINAL MOMENTS

The concluding stages, in particular the March Past the saluting base, brought into the closer view of the spectators the perfection of the drill. In other and more spacious days the Battalion would have been in full dress; scarlet

tunics and brass-badged and spiked helmets would have enlivened the scene. On this day all was done in khaki battle-dress, which not even its most ardent advocates could describe as resplendent. The blue beret, too, is hardly headgear of distinction. Moreover, the officers of the past would have carried swords. Today, in contrast with the other ranks, they swung unencumbered arms. That these limitations were barely noticeable is the measure of the success of the ceremonial.

COMPLIMENTS

In these random notes of an historic occasion it is not seemly in an obscure if ardent spectator to proffer "bouquets". Nevertheless an Old Buff, with many memories of past parades, may be permitted to voice congratulations from admiring spectators to all who worked to make this great day in Regimental history so memorable.

THE SETTING

The setting, the famous old County Cricket ground with which The Buffs have long had happy associations, could not have been bettered. The turf, zealously and anxiously cared for by the county groundsman, was in splendid condition, while the surrounding trees served as a delightful frame to the arena. The fresh green of the new leaves of Spring seemed to symbolise the "frondescit" of the Regimental motto. The County Cricket Club which put this almost sacred piece of turf unreservedly at the disposal of the Regiment deserves and will receive the warmest thanks for its public-spirited co-operation. How admirable and praiseworthy also were the Police and Regimental arrangements for the comfort and convenience of the spectators and of the traffic to and from the ground.

THE OLD AND NEW

For the older spectators there was necessarily a nostalgic element in the proceedings. More than one present could recall comparable parades as far back as 1906. The representatives of the Past and Present Association, with their Branch banners, who lined the drive from the gates of the ground to the Pavilion, included many who had been on earlier notable parades. The boys of the Cadet Battalions who were brought to see how things were done must have been enthralled and inspired. The young National Servicemen who composed the majority of the guards on parade can hardly fail to recall with pride, long after they have returned to civil life, that they took part in this parade.

VALUES

What is the real value of the ceremonial we witnessed? Beneath the pageantry and display lie the importance of tradition and continuity in a time of rapid change and uneasy transition.

The Old Colours, having served their purpose, go to the Warriors' Chapel to hang beside other banners in the Regimental shrine. The New Colours will be carried until they too, like Buffs who come and go, retire in the nature of things, from the active ranks. "The Old Order changeth giving place to the New", and new leaves are put forth with each succeeding Spring.

It was a privilege to be there on this day of May nearly four hundred years since, with the formation of the Trained Bands of London, the long history of the Regiment began in other Elizabethan days. The gracious presence of the Colonel-in-Chief, as well as that of several Danish Old Buffs, emphasised once more the long and greatly prized association with the Kingdom of Denmark. May 9th, 1955 is a day which will live long in Regimental history.

HIS MAJESTY THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF'S ADDRESS

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today as your Colonel-in-Chief, to see for myself, for the first time, the battalion of which I have heard so much and of which I and the whole Regiment are so justly proud.

I am especially glad to be present at this ceremony this morning since it is one which neither my father nor my grandfather, during the years they were your Colonels-in-Chief, ever had occasion to attend.

You are part of a regiment which is one of the oldest and most distinguished in the British Army and one whose record is great. The Regiment's history can be traced back for 383 years and, during that long life, battalions of the Regiment have fought in all parts of the world. The battle honours which adorn these Colours begin with the Battle of Blenheim and end with the 1914-18 War. In due course the battle honours won during the last war—in Europe, Africa and Asia—will be added to their number.

It is a source of great pride to me to recall that, during the Second World War, my countrymen fought shoulder to shoulder with you in the ranks of The Buffs and that a flourishing Branch of the Past and Present Association exists in Copenhagen today.

Everywhere that the Regiment has fought they have shewn those qualities of disciplined courage, endurance and loyalty which are the hallmark and the proud tradition of a first-class British Regiment.

You, in the 1st Battalion, have recently had the opportunity of carrying on that tradition during the twelve months you spent in Kenya. It has come as no surprise to me, or to anyone else who is present here today, to learn that you made the most of that opportunity.

These New Colours which I, as your Colonel-in-Chief, now present to you, are the symbols of the tradition of which I have spoken. I hand them over to you, Colonel Grace, knowing that you and the Battalion will jealously guard not only the Colours themselves, but all that they stand for. In so doing you will ensure that, for as long as the British Army endures, the name of The Buffs will, in the words of the Regimental motto, "continue to flourish in its ancient honour".

LIEUT.-COLONEL GRACE'S REPLY

Your Majesty, from all of us in the Regiment it is a source of the utmost pride and pleasure that today we have the great privilege and honour of having you, Sir, present in our midst as Colonel-in-Chief, and especially so on a memorable occasion such as this.

We, too, remember with pride the gallant Danes who fought with such distinction in our ranks during the Second World War, and we send greetings to the Copenhagen Branch of the Past and Present Association of which Your Majesty has made mention.

It is most pleasing to see here today some of those who were present at the ceremony in 1906, when new Colours were presented to the 1st Battalion by the Lord Mayor of London on the parade ground of the Honourable Artillery Company. In every way as welcome are those, witnessing this morning's parade, who took part in the ceremony in 1932, when the Colours which we have trooped for the last time this morning were presented to the Battalion, in Rangoon, by H.E. Sir Charles Innes, at that time Governor of Burma. It is a matter of much regret to us all that Sir Charles and Lady Innes were unable to be present to witness today's parade.

Since that January day in 1932 those Colours have journeyed far with the Battalion in its numerous and world-wide travels. In India and Palestine before the war and, since 1948, in Hong Kong, the Sudan, the Suez Canal Zone and, for certain brief periods, in England, those colours have always and everywhere been the centre of the Battalion's life, of its pride and of its honour. To those who have served with those colours in those places it is a sad moment when the time comes to say farewell. It is altogether right and fitting that such symbols of Regimental honour and pride should be destined to be carried tomorrow to Canterbury Cathedral, where they will hang in that spiritual home of the Regiment, the Warriors' Chapel.

Now, to take their place, the Battalion has these new Colours which you, Your Majesty, have so graciously presented to us and which you, Canon Pike, have consecrated. It will be the bounden duty and pride of all Buffs, present and future, to honour and revere these new Colours and, should the occasion arise, to add still further to their glory and their renown.

On behalf of all ranks of The Buffs, I beg to thank you, Your Majesty, most deeply and warmly for the honour you have paid the Regiment today and for the part you have played on this great and unforgettable morning. It is the sincere wish of us all in the 1st Battalion that today is only the first of many occasions on which we shall be honoured by your presence.

* * *



Yeomen Warders Twyman & Belsen attended His Majesty at The Dais

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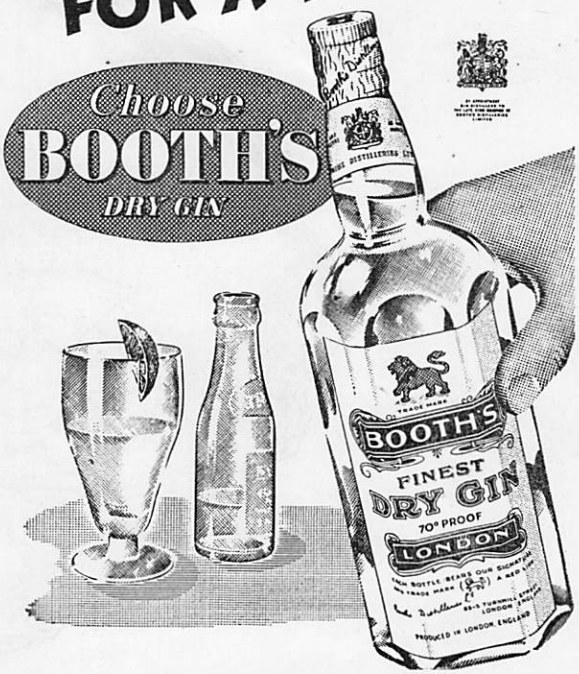


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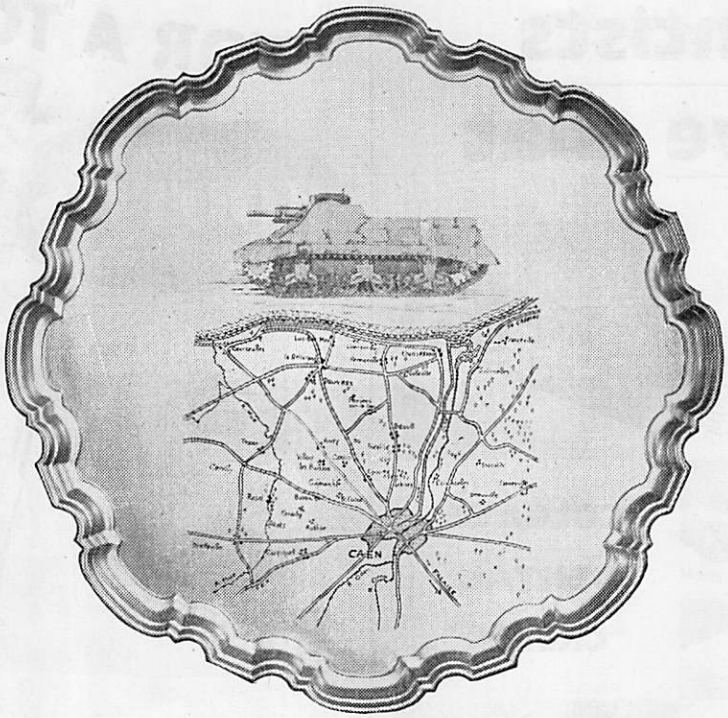
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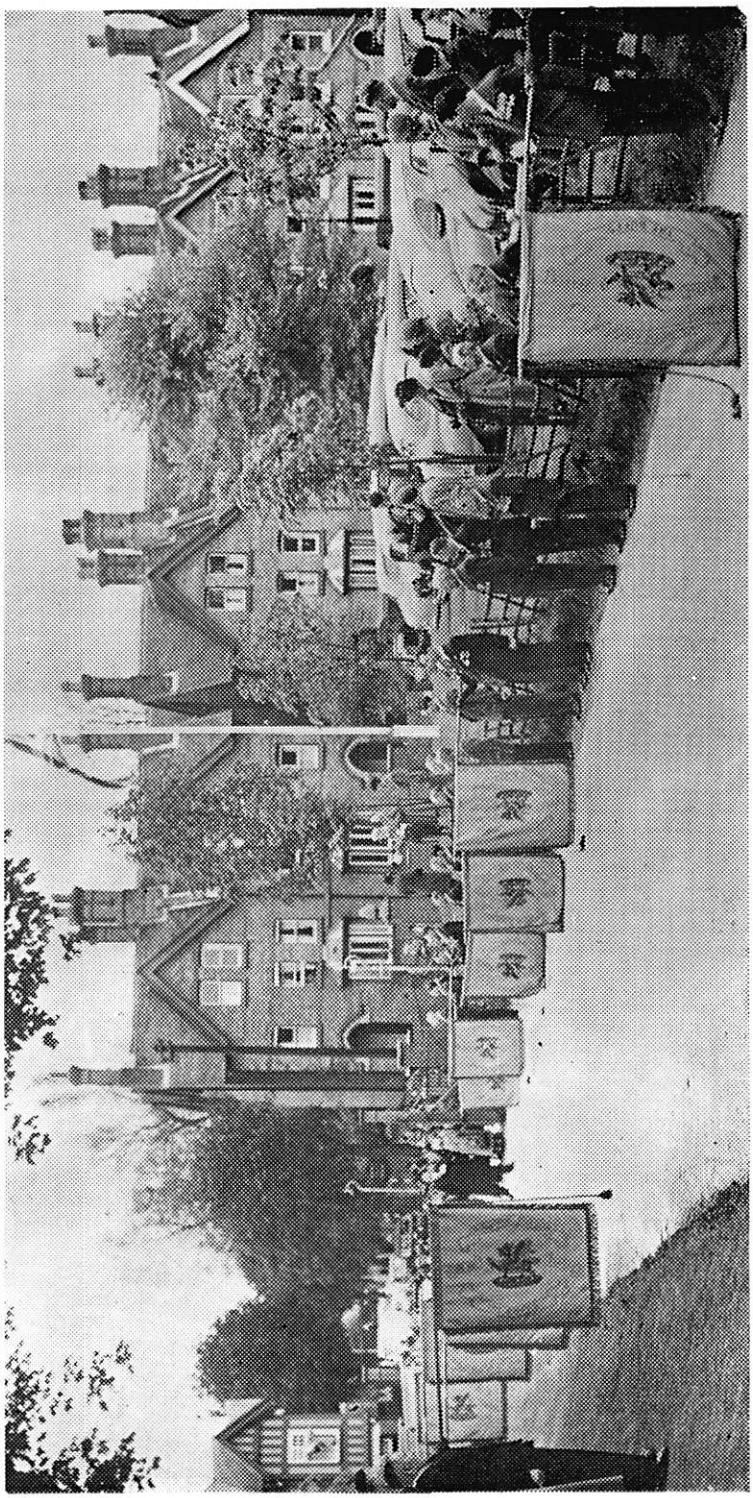
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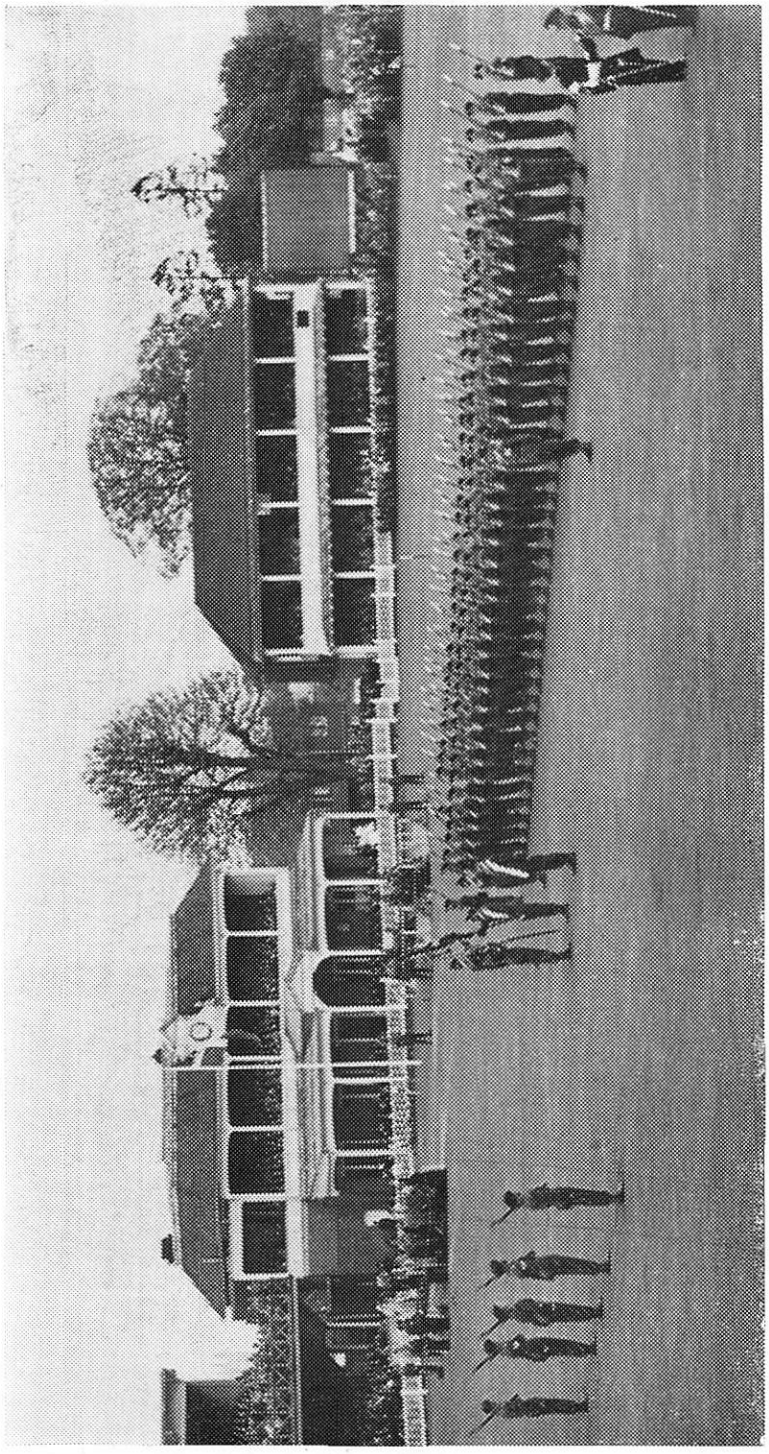
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Standard Bearers of the Past and Present Association Salute His Majesty on Arrival at the Parade [*Kentish Express*



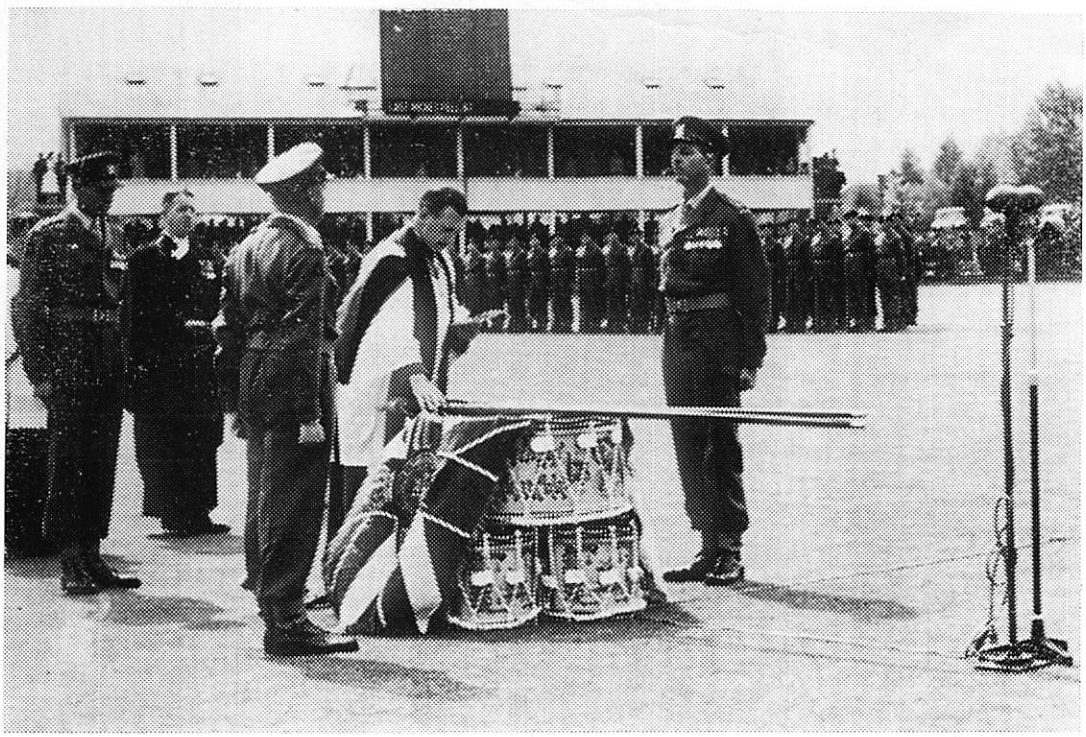
[*Kentish Gazette*

The Old Colours are Received on Parade



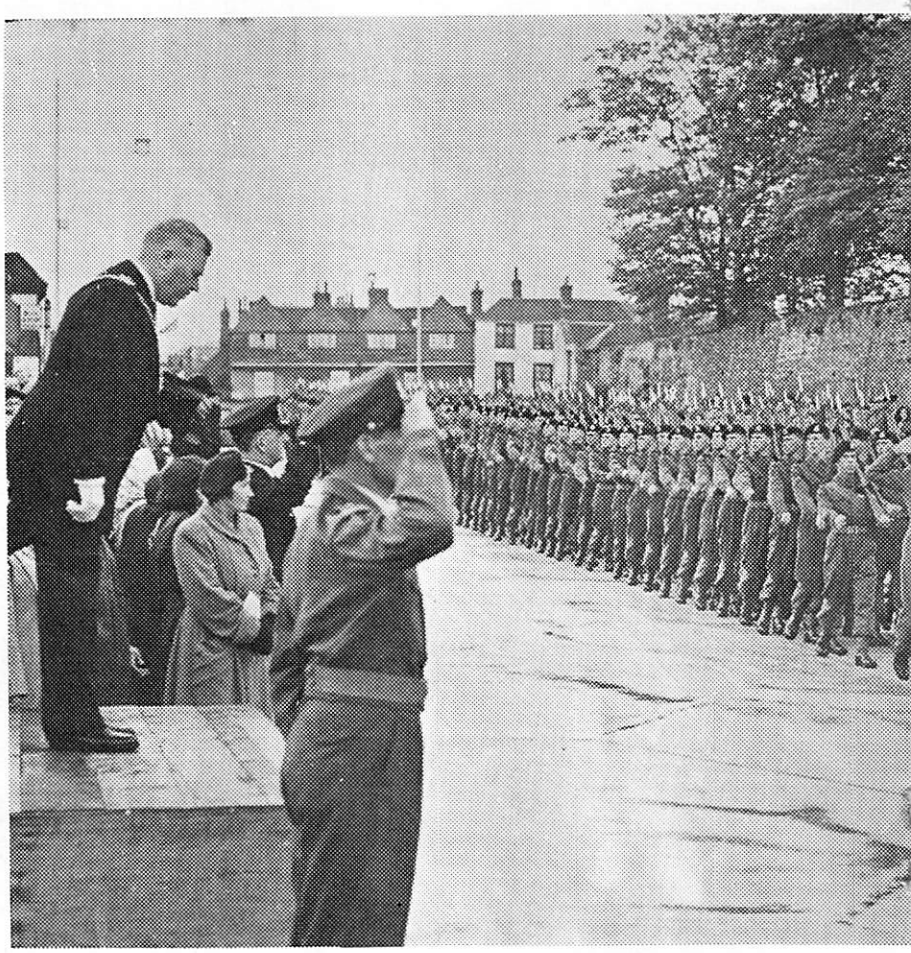
[*Kentish Express*

His Majesty inspects the Battalion



[*Kentish Gazette*

The Chaplain-General Consecrates the New Colours



His Worship the Mayor takes the



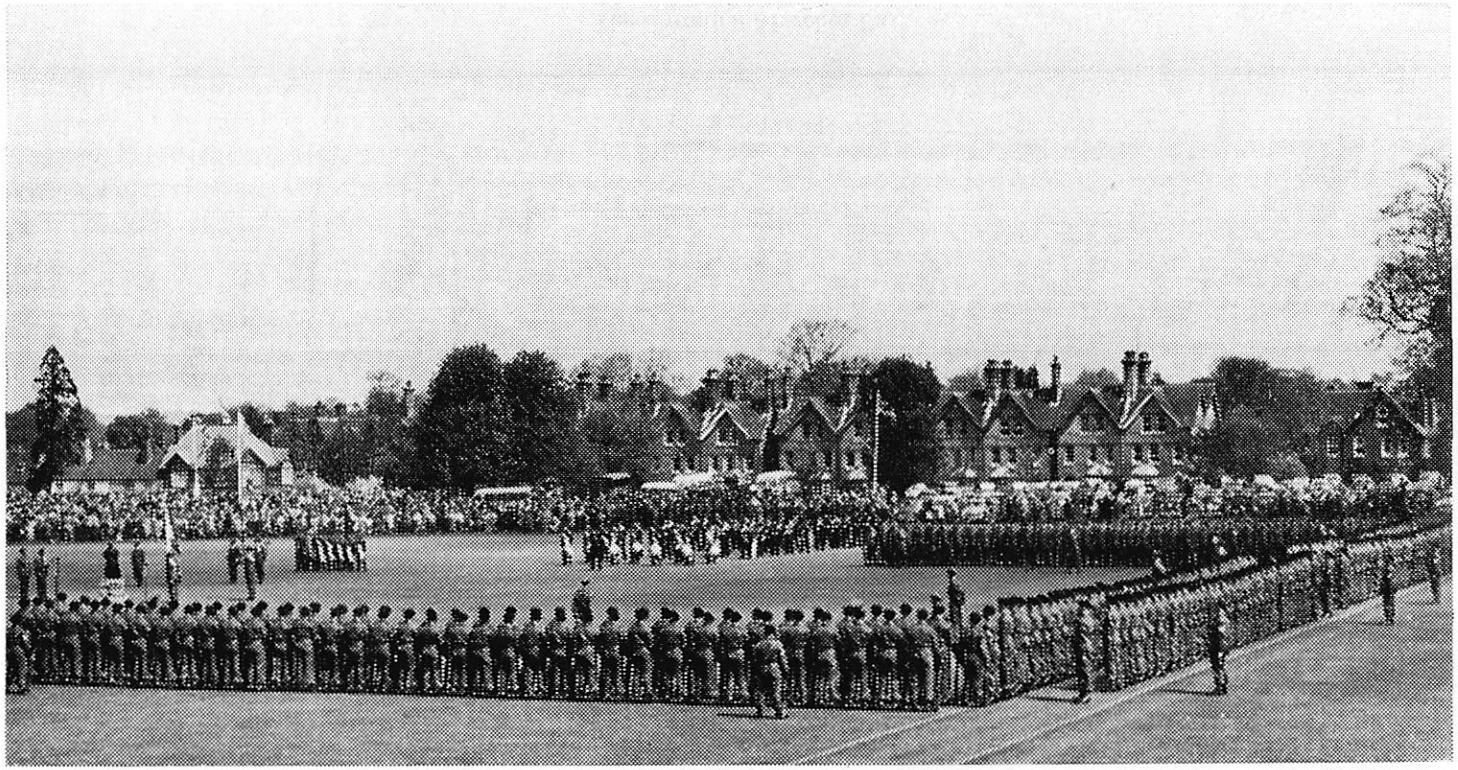
[*Kentish Express*

Salute at the March through the City



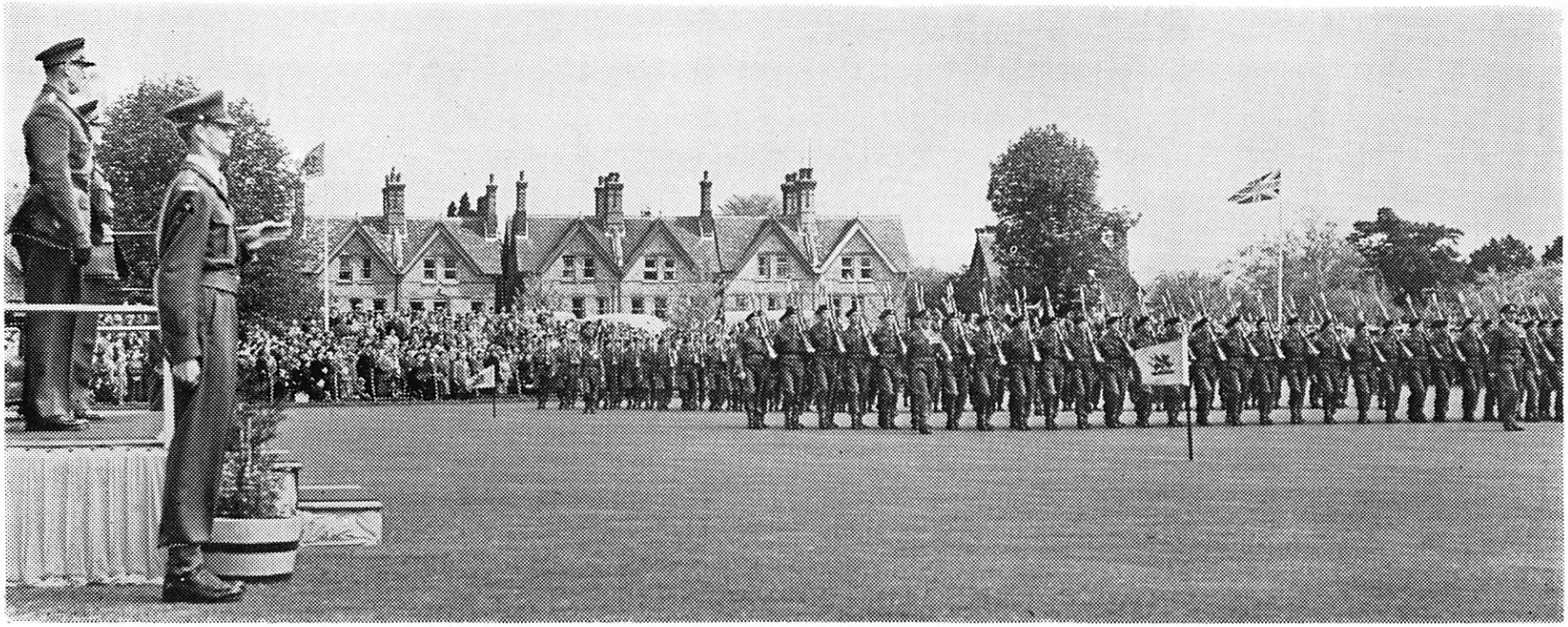
[*Kentish Gazette*

Lt. R. A. Pilcher receives the Queen's Colour



[*Kentish Gazette*

View of the parade. (His Majesty addressing the Battalion).

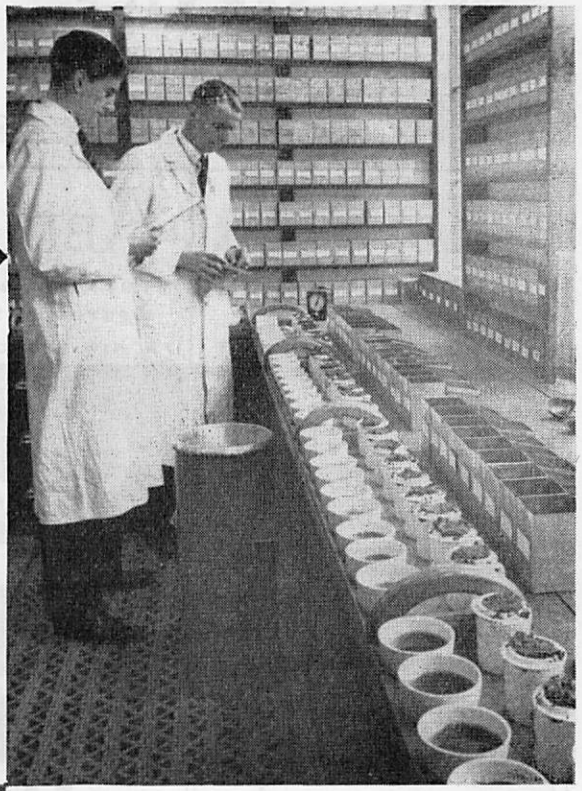


[*Kent Messenger*

The Battalion Marches Past

from Tea

to Tobacco





A cigarette and a cup of tea—two of the minor pleasures of life. but such as few would be without. This is as true of the members of Her Majesty's Forces as of most of us.

As the official caterers to Her Majesty's Forces, Naafi has the task of ensuring that a cup of tea and a cigarette are always readily available.

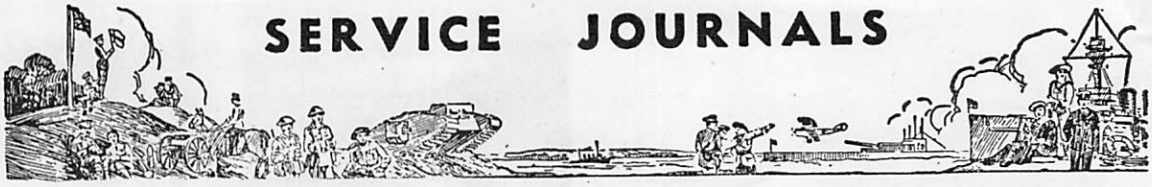
So it is that Naafi serves more than 154,000,000 cups of tea a year and is one of the biggest buyers of tobacco in the United Kingdom. Behind the scenes, the vast network of Naafi's buying, testing, sampling and distributing organisations deliver blended teas and tobaccos and cartons of cigarettes wherever Servicemen and their families may be.

To see that Servicemen and women enjoy to the full their tea and tobacco is but one of the many and varied duties of....

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[*Kentish Gazette*

Chairmen of Branches were presented to His Majesty

The Laying up of the Old Colours

A VERY full congregation which included the Mayor and Sheriff, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Assistant Chief Constable, and all ranks of the 1st Battalion with their relatives and friends attended the Cathedral Church of Christ for the Service on Tuesday, 10th May, which was conducted by the Vice-Dean, the Rev. Canon A. O. Standen, assisted by the Regimental Chaplain, the Rev. E. W. Evans, C.F. The Lesson, taken from Chapter 2 of the First Epistle of Peter, was read by the Colonel of the Regiment. The Regimental Band accompanied the singing of the National Anthem and the hymns "All people that on earth do dwell", "Now thank we all our God", "Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven".

The Old Colours remained under guard in St. Augustine's Chapel until the Colour Party moved forward from the West Door, while the Regimental Slow March was played.

Having received the Colours from Lieut.-Colonel Grace for safe keeping, the Vice-Dean placed them upon the altar, later to be hung in the Warriors' Chapel, the spiritual home of the Regiment.

No ceremony in our glorious Cathedral can fail to inspire. Watching the earnest young faces of the Battalion who had borne their Colours so proudly through the City to the laying up, one felt that these days of reverend homage and beauty will remain with them all their lives. "This story will the good man teach his Son . . . . . and stand a tip-toe when this day is nam'd."

E.V.A./M.M.A.

* * *

March Through City

AT the conclusion of the Service, the Battalion exercised its privilege as Freeman, of marching through the City with drums beating, Colours flying, and bayonets fixed, the Mayor taking the Salute at Lady Wootton's Green.

It was fitting that P.C. Hunt—formerly Sergeant The Buffs—should head the march.

Special Order of the Day by the Colonel of the Regiment

1ST BATTALION THE BUFFS

I EXTEND to All Ranks of the 1st Battalion my warmest congratulations and my grateful appreciation for their superb bearing on the occasion of the Presentation of New Colours by the Colonel-in-Chief, on May 9th, and on the march through the City of Canterbury on May 10th, 1955.

The drill and steadiness of the Battalion were beyond praise and both parades will have added a new chapter to the Regiment's honourable history.

The farewell to the Old Colours to the tune of *Auld Lang Syne* and their reverend laying-up in the Cathedral the next day were most moving ceremonies. The receiving of the New Colours into the ranks to the strains of the National Anthem was a symbol of rededication and of high hope for the future.

There were some who did not actually take part in the parades and whose tasks were not spectacular. Without their work behind the scenes, however, these two great days could not have been the success they were. I thank them too.

We, who have not the good fortune to be serving with the Battalion, are very proud of you all.

V. BOUCHER,
Major-General,
Colonel of The Buffs.

May 10th, 1955.

* * *

Special Order of the Day by the Colonel of the Regiment

DEPOT THE BUFFS

TWO great days in the history of the Regiment—the Presentation of New Colours to the 1st Battalion and the laying-up of the Old Colours in Canterbury Cathedral—have just passed.

Before and during those days All Ranks of the Depot have been called upon to take an onerous part in the work involved. You have housed and fed the Battalion and you have been responsible for the detailed arrangements for a

multitude of functions. For the tremendous success of those functions you must bear a great share of the praise.

As usual the Depot has answered every call that has been made upon it. We, who were privileged to be present at the parades in whatever capacity, are deeply grateful to you all.

V. BOUCHER,
Major-General,
Colonel of The Buffs.

May 10th, 1955.

* * *

Order of Dannebrog

HIS Majesty The Colonel-in-Chief honoured the following Officers and Warrant Officers:—

Major-General V. Boucher, C.B., C.B.E.
Brigadier J. G. Nicholson, C.B.E.
Lieut.-Colonel H. R. Grace.
Lieut.-Colonel G. R. D. Hews, M.C., T.D.
Major R. H. Dendy.
Major (Q.M.) W. E. Kille
Major (Q.M.) E. H. F. Watts
W.O. I F. Turmaine
W.O. I H. White
W.O. I G. Faulkner

* * *

W.O.II (Drill Sgt.) D. Lynch, D.C.M. Irish Guards

ALL ranks of the 1st Battalion will have reason to remember Drill Sergeant Lynch, whose expert touch and encouragement did so much to produce the superb display given by the Battalion. He would, however, be the first to admit that the keenness was there as a basis and it gave him much pleasure, we know, to watch the result on the great day.

Drill Sergeant Lynch was one of the youngest Warrant Officers in the Brigade of Guards when promoted to that rank. He received the Distinguished Conduct Medal for particularly outstanding gallantry, was taken prisoner in Italy and escaped through Switzerland.

At a pleasant little ceremony after the Presentation of Colours Parade, Lieut.-Colonel Grace presented him with a silver cigarette box from all ranks of the Battalion as a token of thanks and appreciation.

Appreciations

THE Colonel of the Regiment and the Officer Commanding 1st Battalion wish to express their thanks to the many friends who have written such kind letters on this historic occasion.

The following are a selection of letters received, among many others, from those who attended the Parade:—

The War Office,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.
11th May, 1955.

From the Adjutant-General to the Forces.

My dear Val,

I write to you as the Member of the Army Council whom you kindly invited to the Ceremony of the Presentation of New Colours by His Majesty, King Frederik IX of Denmark, at Canterbury.

I should like to congratulate the Regiment on the very high standards achieved on this great occasion. The whole ceremony went without a hitch and this is a great tribute to those who organized it so successfully. The standards of drill, turnout and bearing were universally high. The whole occasion was marked, if I may say so, by the great spirit of the Regiment which was shown not only by the troops on parade, but also by the past members of the Regiment who were present.

The day, so rich in Regimental tradition, has left impressions which will live long in the minds of all those who were privileged to attend the parade.

May I also thank you for the warm hospitality of the Regiment. It was extremely kind of you all to look after so many so well.

Yours sincerely,
CAMERON NICHOLSON.

Major-General V. Boucher, C.B., C.B.E.,
Director of Military Intelligence,
The War Office, London, S.W.1.

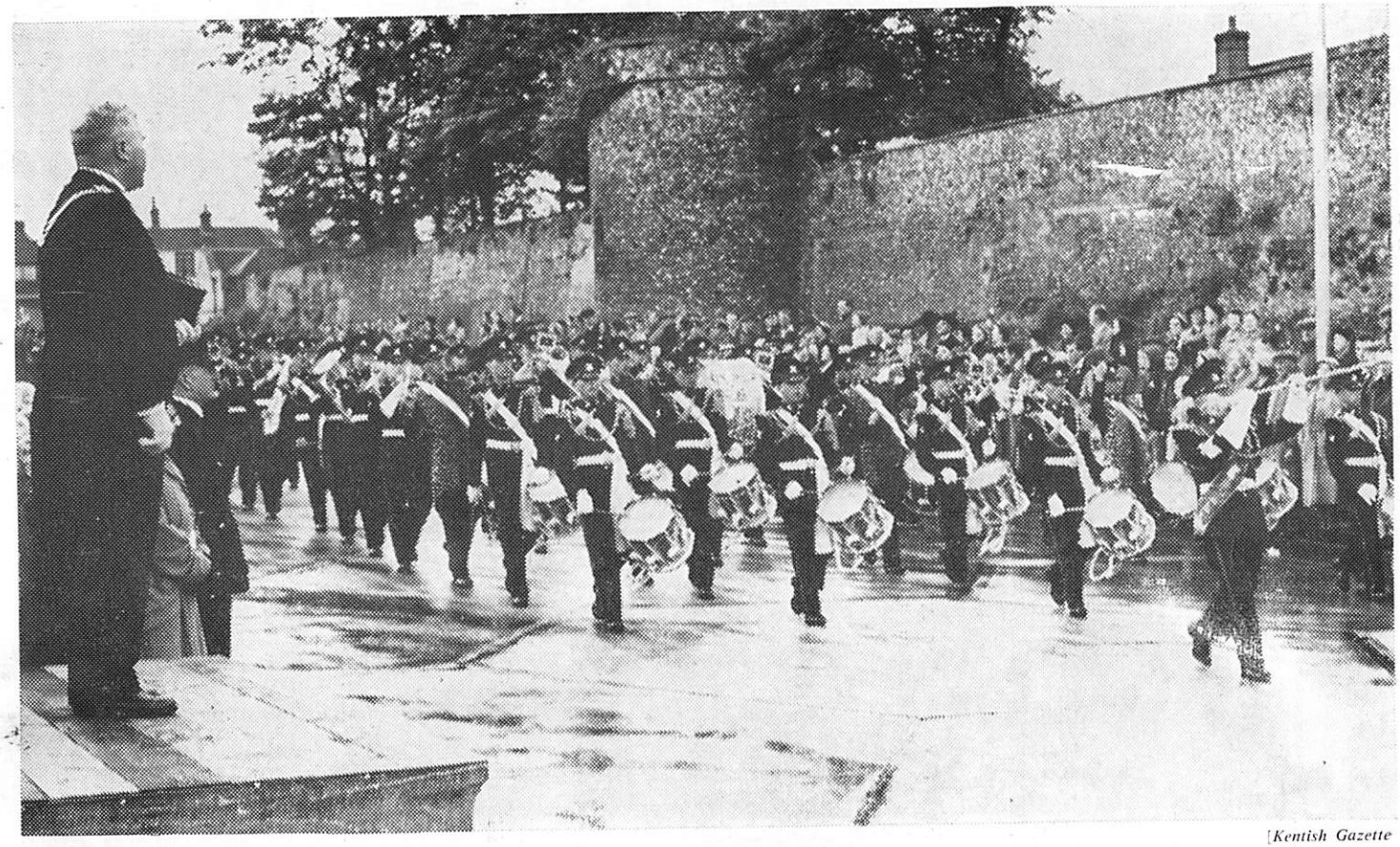
* * *

29 Pont Street,
S.W.1.
10th May, 1955.

From the Danish Ambassador.

My dear Major-General,

My wife joins me in thanking you and the Officers of The Buffs most sincerely for inviting us to the Presentation of Colours at Canterbury yesterday.



[*Kentish Gazette*

The March through the City

We were both very happy to have an opportunity of attending this most beautiful and impressive ceremony which will linger for long in our memory.

Believe me, my dear Major-General,

Yours sincerely,

STEENSEN LETH.

Major-General V. Boucher, C.B., C.B.E., K.I.Dhg.,
Colonel of The Buffs,
The War Office, Whitehall, S.W.1.

* * *

Hall Land,
Slinfold,
Nr. Horsham,
Sussex.
13*th May*, 1955.

From The Lord Lieutenant of Kent.

My dear General,

Lady Cornwallis and I both feel that we should write and thank you, and through you Colonel Raymond Grace, Major Dendy and everyone else who contributed to giving us two such wonderful days with The Buffs. The Colour Presentation Parade and the Laying-up Ceremony in the Cathedral were both quite splendidly carried out. It was not only a privilege but a delight to witness such perfection. It is quite obvious that The Buffs' standard on parade is just as high as it has always been, and may I humbly be allowed to congratulate you all.

My wife particularly wants me to say thank you for the privilege that was accorded to her of witnessing it all.

I feel terribly proud of my part in having sent the Colonel of The Buffs to the Regiment, and apparently some others as well.

I ended up on Tuesday evening by being told by the Governor of Canterbury Prison that I had also taught him at Sandhurst!!!

With all good wishes and many thanks to your wives and to yourselves,

Yours sincerely,

CORNWALLIS.

Major-General V. Boucher, C.B.E.,
Depot The Buffs,
New Infantry Barracks,
Canterbury.

Chairman's Room,
County Hall,
Maidstone.
May 11*th*, 1955.

From The Chairman, Kent County Council.

Dear General Boucher,

I feel I must write and tell you how much I valued the honour and privilege of the invitation from you and the Officers and Other Ranks of The Buffs to attend your wonderful Ceremony at Canterbury last Monday. I found it hard to decide what called for the greatest admiration—the magnificent performance of the Ceremony, the perfect Staff work, or the friendly welcome. At any rate, your guests will never forget the occasion, and as one of them I desire to thank you and the Regiment for a very perfect day.

Yours sincerely,

W. ROLFE NOTTIDGE.

Major-General V. Boucher, C.B., C.B.E.,
Colonel of The Buffs.

* * *

Marden Farm House,
Well,
Basingstoke,
Hampshire.
10*th May*, 1955.

From Major-General J. Y. Whitfield, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.,
Colonel, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Dear Boucher,

I did not get a chance to thank you in person yesterday, so I am writing a short line to tell you how much I enjoyed everything, and how greatly I admired the way everything was done.

An occasion such as your Regiment was celebrating is always a moving ceremony, and I cannot conceive the precision and dignified detail being bettered. It stirred in me all the elements of chivalry and beauty, and I feel greatly privileged to have been present.

I need scarcely add that the luncheon afterwards nourished the body as magnificently as the Parade had the spirit, and my wife equally with myself came home the better for our moving experience.

Thank you very much indeed for all the kindness which we received from so many.

Yours very sincerely,

JOHN WHITFIELD.

Major-General V. Boucher, C.B., C.B.E.,
Colonel, The Buffs,
The War Office, London, S.W.1.

Oakley House,
Woodchester,
Gloucestershire.
13*th May*, 1955.

The Editor, "*The Dragon*".

Dear Sir,

May I, as one of many who were honoured by an invitation, be allowed to thank through your columns the Colonel of the Regiment, the Officers Commanding the 1st Battalion and the Depot for their kind and generous hospitality on Monday, 9th May.

Of all the important episodes in the peace-time history of the Regiment, the Presentation of Colours on Monday and the Laying-up Ceremony on Tuesday last must surely have been unique, not only by reason of the honour conferred on us by the Colonel-in-Chief, but by the unprecedented number of Past and Present Buffs who gathered together for the occasion.

Recalling many notable parades in the past, including the Albuhera Centenary in Dublin in 1911, I can remember none on which the standard of drill was higher than on the St. Lawrence Ground on May 9th nor the organization better than throughout these two days' many events.

Yours faithfully,
H. C. T. STRONGE.

* * *

The following are a selection from letters, written by the pupils of County Primary School, Chartham Hatch, who with other schools took advantage of the invitation to watch the full rehearsal on Saturday, 7th May:—

Dear Sir,

Thank you for inviting us to see you practise. It was very, very good. I liked the band best of all. The drums were the best.

With love from
JONATHAN WISEMAN.

* * *

9*th May*, 1955.

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for inviting us to see The Buffs. I enjoyed it very much. The part I liked best was when they all marched round the field. Their Colours were beautiful. On the way to the field some of The Buffs passed us. We waved to them and they waved back. I hope everybody enjoyed it.

Yours sincerely,
ANN KIDD.

9*th May*, 1955.

Dear Sir,

Thank you so much for letting us come to see The Buffs on Saturday. It was very nice. The soldiers all stood as still as statues. The part I liked best was the band. They were very good indeed. I am sure that everyone enjoyed it. The Chaplain had a very clear voice indeed.

Yours sincerely,
JUDITH MAYES.

* * *

Acknowledgements

WE acknowledge with sincere thanks the friendly and willing co-operation of all those individuals and bodies, both Civil and Military, who helped to make our two memorable days so successful and so happy.

* * *

Personalia

WE congratulate Major J. W. Webber on his engagement to Rosemary, daughter of the Rev. W. H. Maundrell, R.N., and Mrs. Maundrell, of Archery Square, Walmer.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Maundrell (*née* Furley) are very old friends, and before he took Orders he was a master at the King's School, and a first class cricketer and hockey player. He was often at the Depot.

* * *

John Morgan, still "in oil", seems to be comfortably established at Dubai, Trucial Coast, Persian Gulf, in an air-conditioned house and all.

* * *

We are sorry to hear that Lieut.-Colonel G. E. F. Oliver has been suffering pain as a result of displaced vertibrae, and is shortly to go into hospital for treatment.

* * *

We also have heard with great regret that Major A. W. Andrews is very ill and in bed. He was allowed, however, to watch the Presentation of Colours from his car, parked specially.

* * *

Brigadier J. F. Whitacre Allen has given up command of the 23rd Battalion, Kent Home Guard. We understand that later he and Mrs. Allen will be going abroad on a holiday lasting some months.

A letter has come from R. E. Meredith, lately of the 1st Battalion. It is interesting to know that both he and Alan Vincent, another 1st Battalion Officer, are at Trinity College, Cambridge, together.

* * *

Major and Mrs. Webster's daughter, Rosemary, has left on a six months' tour of Australia with the Old Vic Company, starring Robert Helpman and Katharine Hepburn, in a repertory of three Shakespearean plays.

* * *

We all enjoyed seeing Major W. G. Blaxland, who was present not only at the parade, but at the Officers' Ball and The Dragon Club Dinner and Regimental Tea Party.

* * *

BIRTH

COLLINS.—On April 12th, 1955, to Marian and Vere Collins—a son.

* * *

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

MAJOR J. W. WEBBER AND MISS R. E. MAUNDRELL

The engagement is announced between Major James William Webber, The Buffs, only son of Lieut.-Col. H. A. C. Webber, O.B.E., Royal Marines (Retd.) and Mrs. Webber, of "Huntley", Hawkesdown, Walmer, Kent, and ,Rosemary Evelyn, younger daughter of the Rev. W. H. Maundrell, Royal Navy (Retd.) and Mrs. Maundrell, of 16 Archery Square, Walmer, Kent.

* * *

MARRIAGES

BICKERSTETH — CLEVELAND-STEVENS. — On April 20th, 1955, at St. John's, Hurst Green, Oxted, by the Bishop of Salisbury, assisted by the bridegroom's father; the Rev. John Monier Bickersteth, of Hurst Green Parsonage, Oxted, younger son of the Rev. Canon E. M. Bickersteth and the late Mrs. Bickersteth, to Jane Rosemary, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cleveland-Stevens, of Gaines, Oxted, Surrey.

* * *

Cricket Week
21st June—26th June

Tues. *v* Simon Langton School, 14.30.
Thurs. *v* Queen's Own, at the Depot, 11.30.
Fri. *v* Royal Fusiliers, at the Depot, 11.30.
Sat. *v* Band of Brothers, at the Depot, 11.30.
Sun. *v* Shepway Stragglers, at the Depot, 11.30.

We will be very short of players again this year. Anybody wishing to play in any of the matches please write to O.C., Depot, The Buffs.

* * *

Regimental Tea Party

11TH MAY, 1955

THOSE present at the Tea Party held on Wednesday, 11th May, were:—

Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. E. H. Allen, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. E. V. Argles, Major and Mrs. W. G. Blaxland, Major-General and Mrs. V. Boucher, Captain and Mrs. L. P. Causton, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. D. C. Coates, Major and Mrs. E. G. Cox, Major and Mrs. F. G. Crozier, Major and Mrs. R. H. Dendy, Major E. L. C. Edlmann, Mrs. E. H. Finch Hatton, Mrs. H. Findlay, Mrs. R. S. Goff, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. H. R. Grace, Captain and Mrs. C. J. Griffin, Mrs. I. Temple Hirst, Mrs. Hefford, Mrs. Hyslop, Brigadier and Mrs. E. Foster Hall, Major and Mrs. B. J. Harris-St. John, Colonel J. V. R. Jackson, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. H. S. Knocker, Lieut.-Col. D. S. and Mrs. Lister, Mrs. Guy Lee, Mrs. F. A. J. E. Marshall, Major and Mrs. B. McGrath, Major and Mrs. D. Montgomery, Major-General and Mrs. H. de R. Morgan, Captain H. C. Morley, Major and Mrs. N. F. H. C. Norris, Mrs. J. McB. Ronald, Lieut.-Col. T. Roscow Reid, Major-General Hon. and Mrs. G. Scarlett, Mrs. L. Howard Smith, Colonel and Mrs. E. F. D. Strettell, Mrs. A. B. Thomson, Major and Mrs. R. W. M. Webster, Colonel and Mrs. C. J. Wood, Miss Jane Walters.

* * *

Dragon Club Dinner

At the dinner, the same evening, the Colonel of the Regiment brought a personal message from the Colonel-in-Chief, whom in company with Lieut.-Col. H. R. Grace and Major E. L. C. Edlmann, he had earlier seen off at Liverpool Station. Later in the evening the following message was received from His Majesty:—

"*Major-General Boucher, United Service Club, London, W.*1.

Please convey my sincere thanks to my Officers for the very kind message. I will long cherish the memory of that historic day in Canterbury.

FREDERIK R.,
Col.-in-Chief."

Those present at the dinner were:—

Lieut.-Col. E. H. Allen, Brigadier J. F. Whitacre-Allen, Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles, Captain D. P. R. Barrett, Major J. S. Blanford, Major W. G. Blaxland, Major-General V. Boucher, Lieut.-Col. E. P. C. Bruce, Lieut.-Col. D. C. Coates, Major H. A. Collins, Lieut.-Col. J. F. Connolly, Major E. G. Cox, Major L. P. Critchley, Major F. G. Crozier, Captain A. R. F. Dalgliesh, Major R. H. Dendy, Lieut. M. P. St. F. Dracopoli, Major E. L. C. Edlmann, Captain H. R. Gatehouse, Major N. F. Gordon-Wilson, Lieut.-Col. H. R. Grace, Captain C. J. Griffin, Captain J. D. Grugeon, Brigadier E. Foster-Hall, Lieut.-Col. B. E. Hammond Davies, Major B. J. Harris-St. John, Lieut.-Col. N. E. Hoare, Colonel J. V. R. Jackson, Lieut.-Col. J. E. King, Colonel C. R. B. Knight, Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker, 2/Lieut. R. Lea, Lieut.-Col. D. S. Lister, Lieut.-Col. J. F. May, Major B. McGrath, Brigadier A. D. McKechnie, Major D. Montgomery, Major-General H. de R. Morgan, Captain H. C. Morley, Captain G. O. Mullins, Lieut. I. C. Minto, Brigadier J. G. Nicholson, Major N. F. H. C. Norris, Major N. D. Poulsen, Captain C. M. Reay, Lieut.-Col. T. R. Reid, Brigadier N. D. Rice, Major-General Hon. G. Scarlett, Lieut.-Col. E. S. Scott, Colonel E. F. D. Strettell, Captain R. G. H. Semmence, Colonel C. R. Tuff, Major J. W. Webber, Major R. M. Webster, Lieut. C. T. F. West, Lieut.-Col. H. P. Williams, Lieut.-Col. J. R. P. Williams, Lieut.-Col. J. R. Willows, Captain P. F. Wilson, Colonel C. J. Wood, Lieut. M. W. Ward, Major J. B. Worts.

* * *

THE 1st Battalion held a Regimental Week-end lately, when friends and relatives of those serving were entertained.

The following letter of appreciation speaks for itself:—

Letter to the Platoon Commander, The Anti-Tank Platoon, 1st Battalion The Buffs.

Dear Sir,

I would like to convey to you the thanks of my wife, my youngest son and myself for the great pleasure and hospitality we received on April 16th. Our thanks to yourself and all ranks whom we met during our visit. We were very much impressed by all we saw and learnt and also by the high standard of efficiency and conduct by members of the Regiment.

Although I was not in The Buffs myself, I have some pleasant memories of the 1st Battalion from 1912-18 when serving with the East Yorkshire Regiment in the same Brigade. My present occupation also puts me in touch with The Buffs, for in my work as a mason I am interested in the upkeep of the Warriors' Chapel.

I felt that I wanted to write this letter and trust that it will give you some pleasure to receive it.

Yours,

E. ROGERS,

Mason to the Dean and Chapter.

43 Zealand Road,
Canterbury.

* * *

Regimental Gazette

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1955, DATED FRIDAY, 1ST APRIL, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY—SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

THE BUFFS.—Capt. R. Carey, M.C. (380147), to be Major, 1st April, 1955.

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 15TH APRIL, 1955, DATED TUESDAY, 19TH APRIL, 1955

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D. (21378), late R.P.C., retires, having attained the age limit of liability for recall, 19th April, 1955.

INFANTRY

TERRITORIAL ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Lt. G. D. S. Kelly (412198) is granted the acting rank of Captain, 23rd March, 1955.

2nd Lt. (Actg. Lt.) J. H. Thomas (418620) to be Lt., 20th April, 1955, with seniority 4th May, 1953.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 26TH APRIL, 1955, DATED FRIDAY, 29TH APRIL, 1955

INFANTRY

The Buffs.—The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the award of the Territorial Efficiency Decoration upon the following officer:—

Capt. (A/Maj.) F. G. Neville, M.C. (267202).

* * *

Future Events

June 4. FINAL, INTER-BRANCH DARTS COMPETITION. DEPOT, CANTERBURY.
21-26. REGIMENTAL CRICKET WEEK.

Aug. 7. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.

Sept. 10. BUFFS GOLFING SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER.
30. BUFFS OFFICERS' RE-UNION CLUB DINNER. CONNAUGHT ROOMS.

Oct. 8. 6TH (S) BATTALION (1914-18) ANNUAL DINNER.

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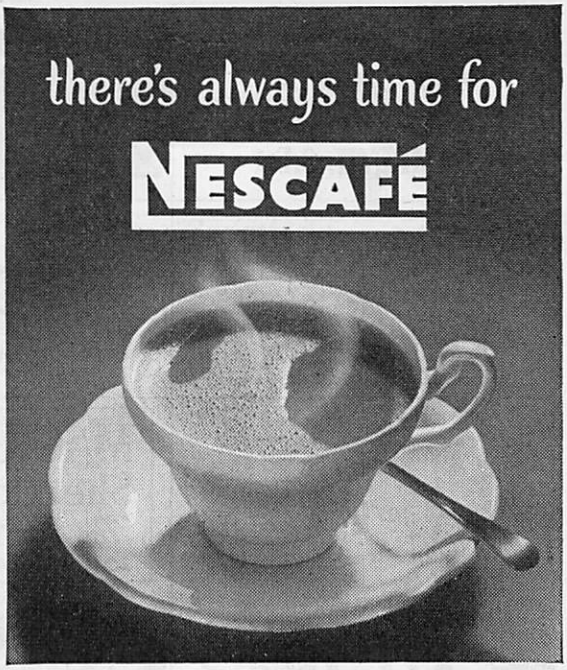
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Canterbury Branch.—Piddock, C., Cassley, J. P.

* * *

Donations

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:—

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Buffs Golfing Society	2	11	0
W.O.s and Sergeants' Ball	9	11	0
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* * *

Grants

The total grants from the Benevolent Fund and the World War 1939 Charitable Fund during the month of April, 1955, are as follows:—

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World War 1939 Charitable Fund	45	3	2

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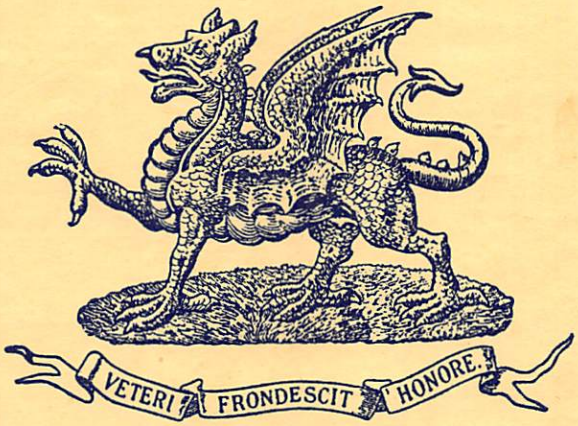
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Colonel: Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B.*, *C.B.E.*, 8 Longport, Canterbury

Lieutenant-Colonels

Grace, H. R. ... ... O.C. 1st Bn.

Majors

Jelf, A. G. ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Officer i/c Field Records, FARELF.
Harris-St. John, B. J. ... D.A.A. & Q.M.G., H.Q., Aldershot
Lewis, P. J. ... ... T/Lt.-Col. MA Copenhagen.
Bailey, N. T. ... ... Gold Coast Regt. T.C.
Yates, G. H. A. ... ... Nottingham U.T.C.
Edlmann, E. L. C., *M.C.* ... 2 i/c Inf. Boys Bn.
Rawlings, A. C., *M.B.E.* ... Depot C.R.M.P
Horley, B. M. ... ... 1st Bn.
May, J. F., *M.B.E.*... ... T/Lt.-Col., Ministry of Supply.
Ravenhill, R. A. C. ... DAAG, G.H.Q., E. Africa.
Plumptre, P. B., *M.B.E.* ... 6 Travelling Wing.
Dendy, R. H. ... ... O.C. Depot.
Majendie, A. E. ... ... R.A.F. Staff College
Lucas, J. P. ... ... Colonial Prisons, Kenya.
Norris, N. F. H. C. ... 1st Bn.
Crichton, R. F., *M.C.* ... 5 Nigeria Regt.
McGrath, B., *M.C.*... ... 1st Bn.
Blaxland, W. G. ... ... Hospital, U.K.
Gay, A. W.... ... ... KAR Depot, E. Africa.
Montgomery, D. ... ... Depot.
Morgan, F. de R., *M.C.* ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q. Malaya.
Poulsen, N. D. ... ... 1st Bn.
Cox, E. G., *M.C.* ... ... R.M. Officers' School, Lympstone.
Critchley, L. P., *M.B.E.* ... 1st Bn.
Worts, J. B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Court, D. N. ... ... G.S.O. 2, G.H.Q. E. Africa.
Gordon-Wilson, N. F., *M.B.E.* 3 Bn. Para. Regt.
Nash, J. P. ... ... G.S.O. 3 L/AW War Office.
ffrench Blake, M. A. O'B. 27 Bde. Hong Kong.

Captains

Semmence, R. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Iliffe, R. O. ... ... 2 Malay Regt.
Hadshar, G. ... ... T/Maj. DAAG H.Q. Nigeria District.
Dunglinson, W. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Barrett, D. P. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dent, J. E. ... ... T/Maj. 4/5th Bn.

Captains—*continued*

MacDonald, E. W. ... 1st Bn.
Marshall, F. ... ... W.O.S.B. Barton Stacy.
Dubois, G. E., *M.C.* ... 6th Bn. K.A.R., East Africa.
Peckham, A. D. ... ... Malay Regt.
Squire, S. J., *M.B.E.* ... G.H.Q. EastAfrica.
Thorneycroft, F. E. ... 1st Bn.
Willows, D. A. ... ... Adjt. 1st Bn.
Wilson, P. F., *D.F.C.* ... Glider Regt., 2nd TAF., B.A.O.R
Hamilton, C. M. ... ... H.Q. B.T.A.
Gatehouse, H. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Griffin, C. J. ... ... Adjt. 4/5th Bn.
Webber, J. W. ... ... T/Maj., ADC to Fld. Marshal Montgomery.
Pim, A. H. E. ... ... 2 Gold Coast Regt.
Stratford-Tuke, R. A. F. ... 1st Bn.
Brigstocke, W. F. ... ... G.S.O. 3, Ind. Para. Bde. Gp.
French, B. G. J. ... ... 6 KAR, E. Africa.
Lees, H. D. ... ... 7 KAR, E. Africa.
Dalgliesh, A. R. F. ... 1st Bn.
Grugeon, J. D. ... ... Adjt. Depot.
Mullins, G. O. ... ... Adjt. 3 Bn. Parachute Regt.

Lieutenants

Minto, I. G. ... ... 1st Bn.
West, C. T. F. ... ... 1st Bn.
Ward, M. W. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dracopoli, M. P. St. F. ... Depot.
Tennent, H. C. L ... ... A.D.C. to G.O.C., H.C.D.
Mitchell, P. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Pilcher, R. A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Baker, R. W. M. ... ... Inf. Boys Bn.
Rymer-Jones, J. A. ... Airborne Forces Depot.
Edgecombe, G. J. B. ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants

Lunn, J. M.... ... ... 1st Bn.
Lea, R. ... ... 1st Bn.

Quartermasters

Watts, E. H. F. ... ... Maj., Depot.
Kille, W. E. ... ... Maj., 1st Bn.
Catt., A. H. ... ... Capt., 4/5th Bn.

Chaplain Rev. E. W. Evans, C.F.

Paymaster Major B. M. Green, R.A.P.C.

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Majors

Broadley, A., *M.B.E.*, *T.D.* War Office.
*Ford, E. N., *M.C.* ... ... Leave U.K.
Todman, N. E. H. ... ... E. Anglia District.
*Carey, R., *M.C.* ... ... 23 KAR
Robertson, R. J. ... ... H.Q. Nigeria District.

Captains

*Elliott, N. ... ... Aldershot District.
*Ransley, E. J., *M.C.* ... 1st Bn.
McGrath, G. A. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
*Fakley, J. F. ... ... P.S.O., H.C.B. Depot.
*Butcher, D. A. T. ... ... East Africa Training Centre.
Marshall, J. V. ... ... S.P.S.O. Staff.

Lieutenants

Barlow, W. B. ... ... Inf. Div. Pro. Coy.
Davison, J. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Cross, K. J. ... ... 1st Bn.

Lieutenants—*continued*

Kirby, J. A. ... ... Movement Control Pool, H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Hicks, E. M. G. ... ... 1st Bn.
Prentice, J. R. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
Froom, A. F. F. ... ... 6 Armd. Div. Coln. R.A.S.C. B.A.O.R.
Durban, J. M. M. ... ...
Hodges, J. D. ... ... ERE Singapore.

2nd Lieutenants

Courtney, M. ... ... 1st Bn.
Hardy, J. E.... ... ... 1st Bn.
Jakob, F. J.... ... ... West Africa.

Quartermasters

Rowcliffe, T. A., Major ... MELF.
Stone, J. H., Capt. ... ... B.A.O.R.
Senior, N., Major ... ... H.Q., N.A.G., B.A.O.R.
Corps, J., Capt. ... ... 16 Coy., R.A.S.C.

* Extended Service Officer.

National Service Officers

2nd Lieutenants

Naldrett-Jays, R. C. ... 1st Bn., N.R.R.
Wilkins, G. C. ... ... Accra, West Africa.
Wright, R. P. ... ... Depot.
Edgeley, P. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Turner, G. P. ... ... 1st Bn.
McGowan, M. H. ... ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants—*continued*

Simpson, K.T. ... ... 1st Bn.
Parker, P. W. M. ... ... Airborne F.D.
Shephard, J. N. ... ... 1 KAR.
Wilcox, R. D. ... ... 23 KAR.
Bowen, S. ... ... West Africa.
Hordern, P. J. C. ... ... 1st. Bn.

4/5th Battalion

Hon. Colonel

Col. D. J. Dean, *V.C.*, *T.D.*, Woodcourt, 1 Park, Avenue, Sittingbourne Kent.

Lieutenant-Colonel

Hews, G. R. D., *M.C.*, *T.D.*

Majors

Dent, J. E. (Trng. Major)
Alexander, U. H. B., *M.B.E.*
Prestige, J. T. R.
Tilleard, J., *T.D.*
Neville, F. G., *M.C.*, *T.D.*
Plunkett, P. N. P.
Balding, C. E. E

Captains

Griffin, C. J. (Adjt.)
Beaumont, M. J. P.

Captains

Klean, P. H.
Morgan, R. J. S., *M.C.*

Lieutenants

Crowdy, R. E. L.
Roper-Curzon, Hon. J. C. I. (A/Capt.)
Kelly, G. D. S.
Pury, J. D. de
Whiting, D. A.
Thomas, J. H.
Nye, R. T.
Bennett, R. G.

Lieutenants

Morlock, P. J.
Sanger-Davies, A.
Oliver, C. P.

Quartermaster

Catt., A. H., Capt. (QM)

Chaplain

The Rev. J. E. Robinson

Medical Officer

Capt. F. P. Cassidi, R.A.M.C. (attd.)

Territorial Army National Service List

Lieutenants

Applegate, E. J.
Snowden, A. G.
Howland, N. M.
Tilley, T. A.
Waterman, R. R.
Labbett, M.
Taylor, D. C.
Vallins, J.
Johnson, R. F.
Holloway, R. G.
Finn, W. C.,

Staff and Command

Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B.*, *C.B.E.* ... ... D.M.I., War Office.
Brigadier T. H. Spear, *O.B.E.* Mil. Attache, Saigon.
Col. (T/Brig.) M. P. D. Dewar, *M.B.E.* ... ... D.D.M.P. (A), War Office.
Col. (T/Brig.) R. W. Craddock, *C.B.E.*, *D.S.O.* Brig. A/Q Southern Command.
Col. (T/Brig.) F. W. B. Parry Comd. Sierra Leone and Gambia Dis.
Col. (T/Brig.) R. F. Parry, *M.C.* ... ... Comdg. 3rd Inf. Bde., Arab Legion.

Lieut.-Colonels (Employed List)

Lieut.-Col. H. P. (temp. Col.) Williams, *O.B.E.* ... ... W.O.S.B. Barton Stacey
Lieut.-Col. J. G. Atkinson, *O.B.E.* ... ... C.O., 2 Malay Regt
Lieut.-Col. J. F. Connolly, *D.S.O.*, Chief Instructor, S. of Inf., Hythe.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

1st Battalion

R.S.M. Turmaine, F.
B.M. Sharpe, T.
R.Q.M.S. Rose, J.
C.S.M. Callaway, R.
C.S.M. Sharman, R.
C.S.M. Champion, R.
C.S.M. Clifton-Sprigg, H.
C.S.M. Middleton, J.
C.Q.M.S. Denny, F.
C.Q.M.S. Ellis, D.
C.Q.M.S. Day, S.
C.Q.M.S. Mannering, D.
C.Q.M.S. Newman, P.
Sgt. (O.R.S.) Mans, W.
D/M. Gardner, E.
Sgt. Smissen, J.
Sgt. Larkin, F.
Sgt. Anderson, C.
Sgt. Lyons, B.
Sgt. Morrish, E.
Sgt. Weatherall, P.
Spt. Jephcott, H.
Sgt. Colyer, A.
Sgt. Simmonds, R.
Sgt. Page, A.
Sgt. Harris, F.
Sgt. Kay, M.
Sgt. Bird, H.
Sgt. Woodrow, V.
Sgt. Histed, W.
Sgt. Martin, A.
Sgt. Wright, R.
Sgt. Thurley, R
Sgt. Spiers, E.
Sgt. Gibson, J.
Sgt. Townsley, J.
Sgt. Streeter, E.
Sgt. Billett, S.
Sgt. Rowland, K.
Sgt. Cock, C.
Sgt. Pooley, L.

Depot The Buffs

R.S.M. White, H.
R.Q.M.S. Howe, W
C.S.M. Chapman, G.
W.O. II Excell, F.
C.S.M. Diamond, R.
C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Webb, C.
C/Sgt. Belcher, E.
C.Q.M.S. Stremes, G., *D.F.M.*
Sgt. Laker, J.
Sgt. Haines, E.
Sgt. Bryant, A.
Sgt. Ivory, L.
Sgt. Rea, R.
Sgt. Cain, D.
Sgt. Bean, G.
Sgt. Raine, R
Sgt. Harrison, W.
Sgt. Recton, T.

4/5th Battalion (T.A.)

Permanent Staff

R.S.M. Faulkner, G. T.
C.S.M. Fagg, G.
C.S.M. Seymour, J.
Sgt. Partridge, R.
Sgt. Miller, C.
Sgt. Porter, J.
Sgt. Dean, D.
Sgt. Stoakes, A.
R.Q.M.S. Harwood, E.
C.S.M. Chapman, W.
C.S.M. Gabriel, J.
C/Sgt. Trinkwon, A.
C/Sgt. Couzens, W.
Sgt. Bell, J.
Sgt. White R.
Sgt. Hurlow, R.
Sgt. Babbage, W
Sgt. Wraight, S.
Sgt. Neaves, C.
Sgt. James, A.
Sgt. Bass, R.
Sgt. Williams, E.
Sgt. Thundow, W.
Sgt. George, M.
Sgt. Saunders, G.
Sgt. Richardson, H.
Sgt. Cope, H.
Sgt. Hewitt, C.
Sgt. Chidwick, E.
Sgt. Allen, A.
Sgt. Jones, A.

Regimental Appointments

Administrative Officer—Depot The Buffs
Secretary: Canterbury Cricket Week Club
Dragon Club
Regimental Committee
} Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker

Curator: Regimental Museum — Lieut.-Col. G R. Howe

Secretary: Past and Present Association, The Buffs Executive Committee
Editor: The Dragon
} Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles

The Past and Present Association

Headquarters: Depot, The Buffs. Telephone: Canterbury 4764. *Chairman:* Brigadier G. J. Nicholson, C.B.E. *Secretary:* Lt. Col. E. V. Argles.

BRANCHES

	Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1.	1st Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
2.	4th Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
3.	Ashford	Mr. A. Mills	Mr. A. C. Mills, 20 Waterman House, Godfrey Walk, Ashford, Kent	First Saturday in each month, The Invicta, Godington Road.
4.	London	Mr. R. W. Billings	Mr. H. J. Scott, 1 Oxford Road, Carshalton, Surrey.	Third Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, 7.30 p.m.
5.	Dover	Capt. E. Marsh, M.B.E.	Mr. C. Collins, "Haven" Meadway, Minnis Lane, River, Dover.	First Thursday in each month, "Eagle Hotel", London Road, Dover, 7.45 p.m.
6.	Weald	Col. E. B. Burns, T.D.	Mr. H. D. Day, 3 Pittlesden Tenterden.	Hawkhurst Sub-area. Third Thursday in each month, British Legion House, Hawkhurst, 7.45 p.m.
7.	Medway	Mr. F. J. Cox	Mr. H. A. J. Brand, 83 Delce Road, Rochester	Third Saturday in each month, The Two Brewers, High Street, Rochester, 8 p.m.
8.	Sittingbourne	Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D.	Capt. C. A. Grant, The Firs, Key Street, Sittingbourne.	First Friday in each month Drill Hall, East Street, 7.30 p.m.
9.	Ramsgate	Mr. C. F. Fakley	Mr. B. E. Knott, 27 Wilfred Road, Ramsgate	Third Friday in each month, Freemason's Tavern, Ramsgate, 8 p.m.
10.	Margate	Mr. B. H. Breed	Mr. J. H. Shakeshaft, 14 Alexandra Road, Broadstairs	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, Hawley Square, 8 p.m.
11.	Hythe	Mr. J. T. J. Green	Mr. H. Thompson, 4 Hillside Court, Hythe	Last Wednesday in each month, The Star, Stade Street, 7.30 p.m.
12.	Canterbury	Lt.-Col. E J. Evans	Major E. R. Chambers, 59 Hillside Avenue, Canterbury Canterbury 5118	Fourth Friday in each month, Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury, 8 p.m.
13.	Herne Bay	Mr. H. Davey	Mr. A. Trice, 23 Queen's Gardens, Herne Bay	Second Monday in each month, British Legion Club, May Lodge, 8 p.m.
14.	Folkestone	Major A. A. West	Mr. H. Fordred, 36 Fernbank Crescent, Folkestone	Second Friday in each month, Guildhall Hotel, 8 p.m.
5.	Sandwich	Major F. W. Tomlinson	Mr. H. Taylor, 19 Paradise Row, Sandwich	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, 8 p.m.
16.	Faversham	Capt. J. Green	Mr. R. C. Croucher, 10 Glebe Houses, Eastling, Faversham	First Monday in each month, Carpenters Arms, Eastling, 7.30 p.m.
17.	Brighton	Capt. R. J. Robertson	Major H. Milton, 118 Queens' Road, Brighton	Second Monday in each month, R.E. Record Social Club, The College, Ditchling Road, Brighton, 8 p.m.
18.	Denmark	Major W. M. Iversen, K.D.	Mr. P. Berendt, Ostergade 22, Copenhagen K.	By Arrangement. Phone Secretary By 8313

The Association exists to foster Comradeship and to give a helping hand to those in distress.

Membership is open to all who are serving or who have served in The Buffs.

Subscription rates are:—

Life Membership: Officers £2. Other Ranks £1

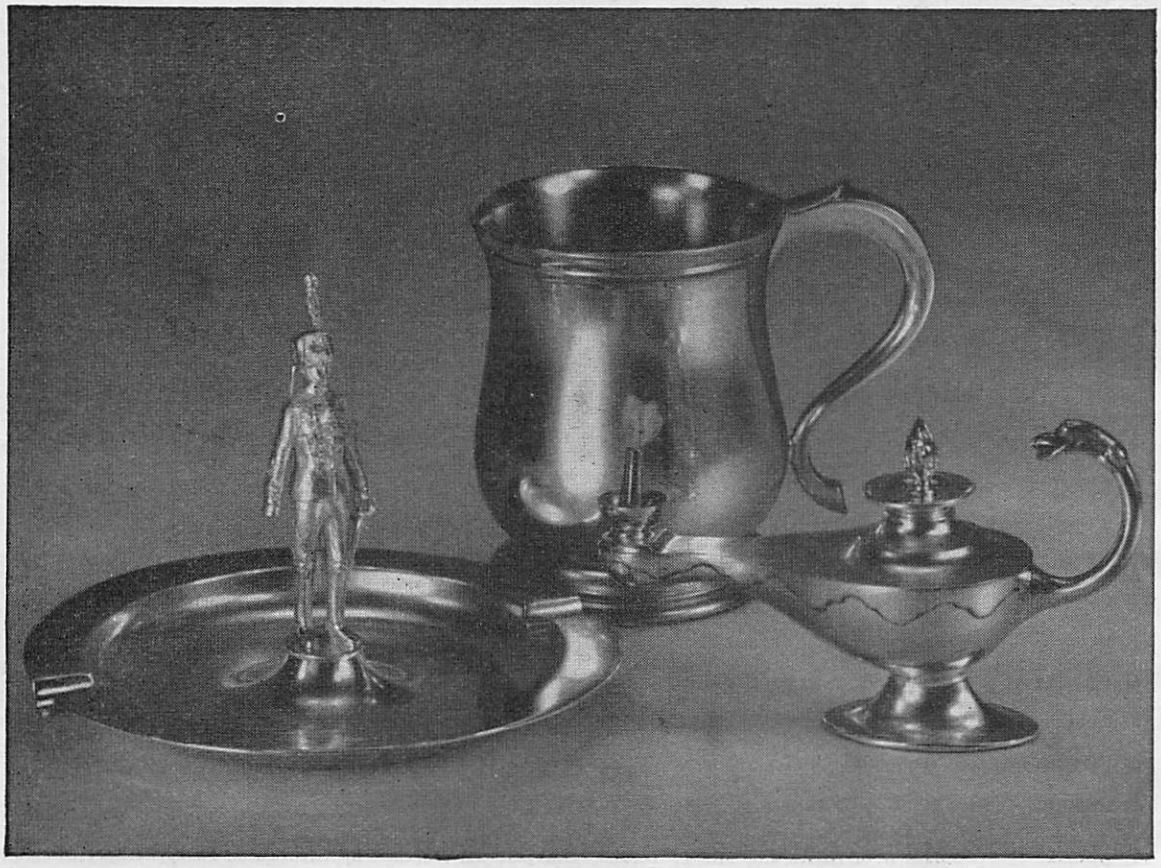
Annual Membership: Officers 5/-. Other Ranks 2/6.

Entrance Fee: 1/-

LADIES' GUILD

President: Mrs. V. Boucher

	Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1.	London	Mrs. L. Coley	Mrs. J. Tucker, 12 Chestnut Close, Oakwood, London, N.14	First Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, S.W.1. 6.30 p.m.
2.	Dover	Mrs. J. Crookenden J.P.	Mrs. Wraight, 93 Markland Road, Dover	First Thursday in each month, Belgrave Hall, Belgrave Road, Dover, 3 p.m.
3.	Folkestone	Mrs. G. Wood, J.P.	Mrs. Kay Mantell, 5 Page Place, Folkestone	Every other Wednesday, Drill Hall, Shellons Street, Folkestone, 3.30 p.m.
4	Medway	Mrs. King Holt	Mrs. W. T. Brooker 67 Malvern Road, Gillingham, Kent	Fourth Tuesday in each month, Foresters' Hall, King Street, Gillingham, 2.30 p.m.
5.	Ashford	Mrs. L. King	Mrs. E. Partiss, 22 Bond Road, South Ashford	Second Wednesday in each month, The Drill Hall, Ashford, 3 p.m.
6.	Sittingbourne	Mrs. M. E. Dean	Mrs. J. Ravensdale, 10 Railway Terrace Sittingbourne	Third Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne, 6.45 p.m.



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EDITORIAL

SINCE our last number, letters of thanks and appreciations have continued to arrive in connection with the Presentation of Colours parade. Some of these are published in this number; others, owing to limitations of space, must be acknowledged in this Editorial. Lieut.-Col. Grace is deeply conscious of the kind sentiments expressed, especially by retired officers, to whom the parade meant so much, by Mrs. Guy Lee and Mrs. Findlay, and by Brigadier J. W. Harrison of the Australian Army Staff and Colonel Conrad J. Herlick of the U.S. Air Force. Past and Present Association Branches have asked that their thanks be conveyed to the Officer Commanding 1st Battalion.

* * *

Another major event in the social life of the Regiment was the safe launching into matrimony of Captain John Grugeon and Miss Patricia Rickards, at the pretty little church of Bishopsbourne. The reception was in the Gymnasium of the New Barracks, which had been beautifully transformed for the occasion. Major-General Boucher, proposing the health of the bride and bridegroom, gave some illuminating revelations on the devotion to the bride's mother and aunts by the young officers of his day, adding that two of them were, in fact, captured by the Regiment. We welcome Patricia, in her turn, to the Regiment, and wish them both every happiness. The wedding cake, made by Mrs. Dendy, was a present from her and Major Richard Dendy.

* * *

Greetings, on the occasion of Albuhera Day, were exchanged between the Colonel of the Regiment, all ranks 1st Battalion, and the Past and Present Association.

Another big evening took place at the Depot on Saturday, 4th June, when some 350 members and their ladies, from the Branches, turned up for the Inter-Branch Darts Final. We were very pleased to welcome also members of the 1st Battalion and Depot. The Regimental Band played during the evening, their last engagement before leaving for Germany. After some very close games, Sandwich just beat Medway by 3 legs to 2.

In the unavoidable absence of the Colonel of the Regiment, Major Dendy presented the trophies for the Shooting, Darts and Fishing Competitions held during the winter months. We very much appreciated the sporting spirit of the Danish Branch in entering the postal shooting competition under difficult conditions.

This Darts Final night seems to be firmly established as one of the chief events of the Association year.

Once again, we acknowledge our debt to R.S.M. White and to Mrs. White and Mrs. Phillips, for their untiring help in organising the evening.

* * *

By the time these notes are in print, your Editor and his wife will have escaped for a short spell of leave.

* * *

Many favourable comments have been received on the May *Dragon*, which is appreciated. There are still some copies available for those whom it may interest.

* * *

Also before our next number is published, the 1st Battalion will have left us again. We have very much enjoyed seeing so much of them and our best wishes go with them. Germany is not, after all, so far away.

Personalia

IT gave a great deal of pleasure to all their friends to see Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Lewis, who accompanied the Colonel-in-Chief from Copenhagen. They were both in great form though we saw them for all too short a time.

* * *

Colonel W. H. Rowe writes that the following celebrated Albuhera Day by dining together in Nairobi:—

Captain H. Massie Blomfield, Major R. A. C. Ravenhill, Major D. Court, Captain S. Squire, Lieut.-Col. G. H. Mitchell, Major H. Jackson, Major J. Lucas, Major D. G. Mitchell, Major W. Blandford-Griffith, Mr. G. Morgan, Captain D. Butcher, Mr. W. J. Barber, Major C. N. Wilson, Mr. Nyhuus, Colonel W. H. Rowe.

Major A. W. Gay and Mr. Paddy O'Hagan were unfortunately unable to attend. The oldest Buff present was Mr. Barber, who joined the Volunteers in the last century.

Major R. A. C. Ravenhill was an efficient Chairman, and we gather that the whole evening was a great success.

* * *

Captain and Mrs. J. D. Grugeon wish to express their sincere thanks to the Officers of the Regiment for the splendid Wedding gift.

* * *

Two letters recently from Colonel A. J. D. Rose give the information that he has been ill again, and in hospital in Northern Ireland. This is all the more unfortunate so soon after his appointment with the Governor of Northern Ireland. We hope to hear better news shortly, and in the meantime he would welcome letters from his friends, which may be addressed "c/o Government House, Hillsborough, Northern Ireland".

* * *

Mr. C. A. Adkins, an old Buff, who served with the 6th Battalion in the 1914/18 War, and was sometime Batman to Major (then R.S.M.) Andrews at Multan with the 2nd Battalion, would be grateful to hear from any old friends. His address is 89 Caversham Road, London, N.W.5. Mr. Adkins these days is a cripple and house-bound.

* * *

It is with deep regret that we have heard of the death of Major J. I. H. Friend, and we offer sincere sympathy to Mrs. Friend and to her family. Lieut.-Col. Crookenden represented the Colonel of the Regiment at the funeral.

Our congratulations to Capt. R. J. Robertson on promotion to Major, and to 2/Lieuts. Cross and Hodges to Lieutenant.

* * *

Lieut.-Col. G. R. Howe has sold his house "The Green" and will be leaving Wingham at the end of June, when his temporary address will be: Kent and Canterbury Club, The Elms, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent.

* * *

We offer congratulations to Colonel A. A. E. Merlott-Chitby on becoming C.B.E.

* * *

DEATH

FRIEND.—On Monday, May 16th, 1955, James Irvine Hatfeild Friend, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., of Scots Hall, Smeeth, and Northdown, Thanet, very dearly loved husband of Louie and devoted father of Mary, Jean, Robby, Sheilah and Annette.

* * *

Obituary

MAJOR JAMES IRVINE HATFEILD FRIEND, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P.

THE death of Irvine Friend has come as a sorrow to his many friends. The son of the late Mr. J. T. Friend, and a brother of Lieut.-Col. R. S. I. Friend, he came from one of the oldest families in Kent.

Educated at Malvern and Downton Agricultural College, he had a wide knowledge of agriculture in all its aspects and was a pioneer in many of the improvements in common use to-day. He was an honorary life governor of the Kent County Agricultural Society, of which until November last year he was Chairman of Council.

Major Friend also took a great interest in hospital buildings and services and was at one time Chairman of Margate Hospital. He was an active Churchman.

He served in the Royal East Kent Yeomanry and won the M.C. in World War I. In the late war he served with the 6th Battalion, The Buffs, and later as Second-in-Command of the 70th Battalion.

He will be remembered as a sportsman, being well known as a member of the Committee of the East Kent Hunt, and of the Band of Brothers Cricket Club.

He leaves a widow, a son who farms at Market Drayton, and four daughters, three of whom are abroad.

PROFESSOR HUMPHREY RAIKES

A personal note

News reached England from South Africa that Humphrey Raikes had died in Johannesburg during April.

He had for many years been Principal of Witwatersrand University and was 64. During the First German War he served in The Buffs, having joined the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion at Dover from Cambridge at the outbreak. He was posted from there to the 1st Battalion, then at Rue du Bois, near Armentierès. It was here that I knew him when we were both very junior subalterns. He was in Colonel (then Captain) R. S. I. Friend's Company.

Humphrey Raikes was probably the most erudite Buff in all the history of the Regiment. At Cambridge he was a distinguished scholar and his subsequent appointment, shortly after the end of the 1914-18 War, to the Headship of the Witwatersrand University was proof that his intellectual attainments and administrative capacity were acknowledged in high quarters. I remember him as a tall, loose-limbed, cheerful young man whose scholarship sat easily upon him and who was affectionately regarded by his brother officers of all ranks.

He had, while serving at Armentierès, a somewhat singular experience. Leaving the trenches one night, on relief, with his platoon he was walking down the stretch of railway track from Rue du Bois to Desplanques level crossing when he felt a blow on his back. He was carrying his pack and thought that someone behind him had bumped rather heavily into him in the darkness. On arriving at his company billet in the town he removed his pack and felt a certain dampness on his back. So he removed his service dress jacket and found that the dampness was due to blood and, as he realised this, a bullet fell out of his clothing.

He had, in fact, been hit by a spent bullet, many of which used to hum and moan down that stretch of line. His well-filled pack had served to dull the impact and had preserved his life. The wound was superficial and as far as I remember, he was not away from his company for long.

There will be many, even after all these years, who will remember Humphrey Raikes as a most agreeable young officer and as a personality of no mean stature.

S.M.

COLONEL G. GULLAKSEN

Denmark Branch is very sorry to record the death of a good friend of The Buffs Past and Present Association, Colonel G. Gullaksen, Copenhagen. Colonel Gullaksen died in his home of a cerebral hemorrhage on the 3rd January, 1955.

Colonel Gullaksen started his service in the Danish Army in 1908. The main part of his period of service he worked in the General Staff, later as a Captain and the Head of the Intelligence Service from 1930 to 1936. Within this period he had one of the greatest and best experiences of his life, when from June to September, 1935, he was called out to a study visit to 2nd Battalion, The Buffs, which at that time was in St. Lucia Barracks, Bordon Camp. The C.O. of the Battalion was the late Lieut.-Col. A. B. Thomson; the Adjutant was Captain T. H. Spear. The summer in 1935 was characterized by the "Silver Jubilee" and the preparations for the King's Review on the 13th July and the big manoeuvre of the autumn. The then Captain Gullaksen felt well at home in the 2nd Battalion. Private Girling was his batman and assisted him in the best way. The Officers of The Buffs were exceptionally willing to help their Danish guest, and he made friends with several of them. It was a special pleasure and honour for him when the officers of The Buffs appointed him "Permnent Honorary Member of their Mess".

Among the officers who at that time served in the 2nd Battalion can be mentioned Majors G. F. Hamilton, N. D. Rice; Captains R. B. Sandilands, H. F. G. d'Arcy Symonds, G. E. Sankey; and the Lieutenants B. H. Craig, R. W. Craddock, E. L. C. Edlmann, F. H. Howard and B. M. Horley.

In 1942 Gullaksen was appointed a Colonel.

The 2nd World War interrupted the connection between Gullaksen and his British friends.

After Dunkerque he succeeded in connecting one of the P.O.W.s, Major E. L. C. Edlmann. By forwarding "Red Cross" gift-parcels to his British friend the Colonel tried to express his solidarity with the Buffs.

By a curious coincidence the friendship with Major Edlmann was later further strengthened as the Major happened to fill the post of British Military Attaché in Copenhagen.

Through Major Edlmann, Colonel Gullaksen got into connection with "The Past and Present Association's Denmark Branch" in which he was at first admitted as a general member and later had the honour of being appointed "Associate Life Member".

The funeral of Colonel Gullaksen took place from Trinitatis Church in Copenhagen. Among others the following were present: The Head of the Danish Army, the present British Military attaché in Copenhagen, Lieut.-Col. P. J. Lewis, and the Denmark Branch was represented by the President, the Secretary and the Standard Bearer, with Standard.

* * *

Remembrance Sunday 1955

REMEMBRANCE Sunday will be on 7th August. The usual arrangements will be made for the Service in the Cathedral, and for the Re-union afterwards. The parade this year will take place from the Depot, New Infantry Barracks. Instructions will shortly be circulated to all Branches of the Past and Present Association.

It is requested that officers and their families who intend to be present will apply for tickets for the Cathedral and for lunch (5/- per head) to the Secretary, Past and Present Association, and *not* as in previous years to the Administrative Officer.

We would remind those other than officers, and those not attached to any Branch, that a limited number of tickets for the Cathedral will be available from the Secretary, Past and Present Association, also tickets for a carton lunch (4/- per head). All requests for lunch tickets should be accompanied with remittances.

* * *

Future Events

June 21-26. REGIMENTAL CRICKET WEEK.
July 24. LONDON BRANCH BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE SERVICE, CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST. PETER AD VINCULA, H.M. TOWER OF LONDON. SERVICE, 11 A.M.
Aug. 7. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.
Sept. 10. BUFFS GOLFING SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER.
24. LONDON BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE, DUKE OF YORK'S H.Q., CHELSEA. Book in now.
30. BUFFS OFFICERS' RE-UNION CLUB DINNER. CONNAUGHT ROOMS.
Oct. 8. 6TH (S) BATTALION (1914-18) ANNUAL DINNER.

Regimental Gazette

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 29TH APRIL, 1955

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Col. A. D. McKechnie, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C. (41986), late H.A.C., reverts to unemployment, 1st May, 1955, and is granted the hon. rank of Brigadier.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 3RD MAY, 1955

INFANTRY

TERRITORIAL ARMY—NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. J. P. Robinson (431733) from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List, Suffolk, to be 2nd Lt., 16th March, 1955, with seniority 24th October, 1953.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 10TH MAY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY—SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

THE BUFFS.—22922916 Cadet John Edward Hardy (440656) to be 2nd Lt., 5th March, 1955.

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 13TH MAY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

THE BUFFS.—Capt. R. J. Robertson (243906) (Emp. List 4) to be Maj., 26th April, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Capt. N. G. Anderton (320026) from R.A., to be Capt., 1st May, 1955, with seniority 15th December, 1950.

Capt. J. A. Usher (141543) from R.A., to be Capt., 1st May, 1955, with seniority 9th September, 1952.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 17TH MAY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

CLASS III

THE BUFFS.—The undermentioned Lts. from T.A. Nat. Serv. List to be Lts., 17th May, 1955, retaining their present seniority:—

E. J. Applegate (411744); D. P. Johnstone (411754); A. D. Conyers (412298).

Lt. C. G. S. Paterson (411737) from T.A. Res. of Offrs. Nat. Serv. List to be Lt., 17th May, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

* * *

Cricket Week 21st June—26th June

Tues. *v* Simon Langton School, 14.30.
Thurs. *v* Queen's Own, at the Depot, 11.30.
Fri. *v* Royal Fusiliers, at the Depot, 11.30.
Sat. *v* Band of Brothers, at the Depot, 11.30.
Sun. *v* Shepway Stragglers, at the Depot, 11.30.

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. . . at work



. . . at play



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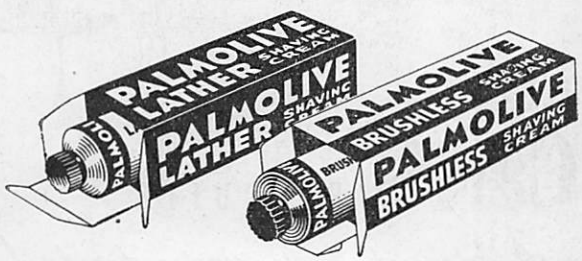
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EVEN WHEN HE'S OUT OF UNIFORM

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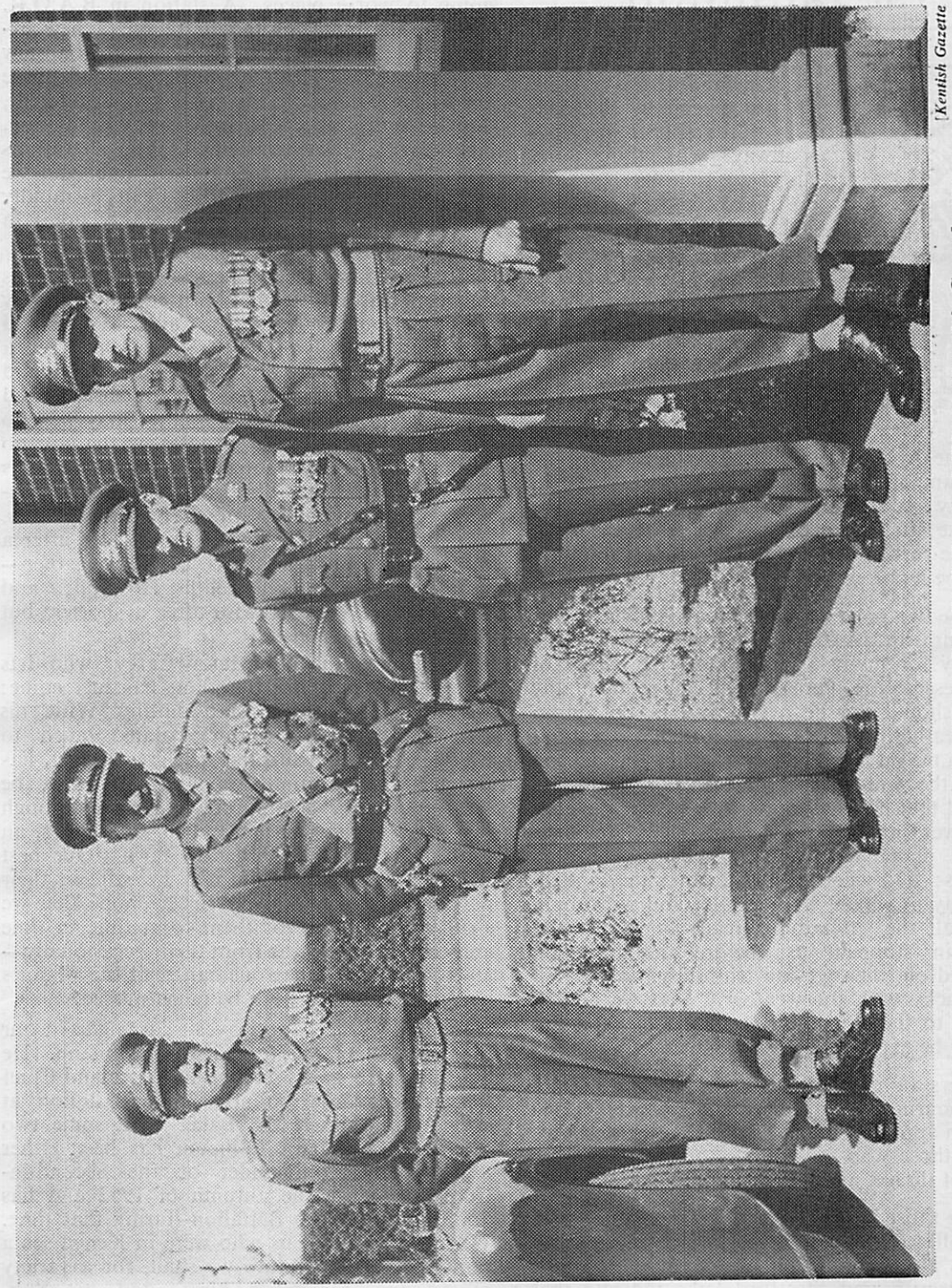
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[*Kentish Gazette*

His Majesty The King of Denmark with Lt.-Col. P. J. Lewis, Military Attaché, Copenhagen and Lt.-Col. H. R. Grace and Major E. L. C. Edlmann, former Military Attachés.

1st Battalion



OUR brief sojourn in England will have come to an end by the time these words appear in print; as always with things one enjoys the time has gone all too quickly and that is particularly true of the last six weeks or so of our stay in Dover.

It would be as much of a chore for this writer as it would be a bore for any reader to go over, at this late stage, the happenings to and within the Battalion since the April issue of this Journal. The most important of those happenings were covered in the May issue and a word of thanks is due here to those subscribers who withdrew their claim to space so that the events of May 9th and 10th could be reported upon.

Those two great days were the highlight of our six months in the County and will remain in the memory for many a long day. One aspect of the Presentation Parade that, more than any other, should not be overlooked is, of course, the weather. When one considers that at 11.35 a.m. on Monday, May 2nd—the day on which the Colonel-in-Chief had originally intimated that he was coming—there was a cloudburst over Canterbury which put the St. Lawrence ground under water within the space of ten minutes; and when one remembers the miraculous way in which, a week later and with more than half the spectators already in their seats, the rain stopped just before the Battalion marched on, then we can truthfully say that we were lucky with the weather. That we all got soaked to the skin the next day was, after all, only to be expected with a climate such as ours.

Letters of congratulations and good wishes came pouring in immediately afterwards; some of them appeared in the last issue, others in this. To all those who so kindly wrote, a very warm word of thanks and appreciation.

Since those days the Advance Party has taken itself off to Wuppertal. Letters received from Majors Norris and Kille and Captains Barrett, Thorneycroft and Stratford-Tuke indicate that the take-over from 2nd Battalion, Durham Light Infantry, is so far going well, that Keightley Barracks leaves a good deal to be desired but that, taking it for all in all, we might well be going to worse places. A station in B.A.O.R. will be, for many of the Battalion, a new experience. A new part of the world, a new language, new faces, new customs—all these are to be savoured, to say nothing of a different, and in some respects a new, way of soldiering. That we can adjust ourselves to these alterations is a matter not of doubt but of time, and we shall do well to make our adjustments as rapidly as possible. Time—and the monthly notes in this journal—will tell how we are faring.

That same march of time has brought arrivals and departures since the April edition. A very warm welcome back goes to Capts. MacDonald and Dalgliesh, who have rejoined us after a spell of, respectively, Staff duty and Somaliland Scouting; the former has already disappeared on a Signals Course and the latter may well do the same, but for M.T. purposes, in the not too distant future. An equally warm welcome is extended to Messrs. Hicks and Hordern, respectively Short and National Service Officers. Captain Gatehouse returned to the fold after a protracted and—as far as one can gather—profitless stay in Shorncliffe Hospital; and Major Horley did likewise after a shorter, but equally pointless, visit.

Departures include Major Carey, who has returned whence the Battalion has just come; we wish him good Mau-hunting With his K.A.R. Battalion. Major Collins, much to everyone's intense surprise and great regret, has resigned his Commission and will also be returning in the near future to Kenya—though for a less warlike reason and to, one hopes, an untroubled area—in order to farm. Our best wishes go with both him and his wife in their new venture and the very sincere hope that we shall get a glimpse of them from time to time and that we shall hear from them occasionally—always assuming that one can read the Major's writing! They will both be much missed.

A family which also leaves a large gap in our ranks is that of Major and Mrs. Edlmann. He has left us to go as Second-in-Command/Chief Instructor at the Infantry Boys Battalion at Plymouth, whither Mr. Baker went some two months ago. Major Edlmann has been either a Company Commander or the Second-in-Command since the autumn of 1952 and has done much for the Battalion during that time. Whenever those of us who were in Kenya see a rhinoceros in the future we shall, for a variety of reasons, remember him; and his Sub-Editorials, appearing month by month in these pages, have rightly earned much praise. To him

and his family we send our very best wishes for a happy and successful tour of Devonshire.

The General Election did not appear to stir either the imagination or the enthusiasm of the Battalion; when one considers that not more than approximately one-quarter of them are allowed to vote, and that of that quarter probably fifty per cent don't bother anyway, such a state of affairs is hardly surprising.

The Railway strike, on the other hand, upset quite a number, for all sorts of reasons. Those returning from leave found it difficult to do so; those having urgent business in London inevitably found the roads congested with slow-moving traffic; some of the families had the annoyance of sailing-date postponements and lengthy and irksome journeys; and R.Q.M.S. Rose had kittens on numerous occasions in his efforts to get the baggage and the stores away to their correct destinations. What a terrifying thing it is that a mere 67,000 men should be able to bring such tragic dislocation and disruption to the whole nation and how lucky it is for the whole nation that the Army doesn't ever go on strike.

The inclusion of such a highly unoriginal thought as that clearly indicates that it is time this article was brought to an end. Before doing so, however, let this correspondent send a most sincere word of good wishes and thanks to all those who have in any way befriended the Battalion during their stay in Dover, and to those who have been kind enough to come and see us and to entertain us. It is very much to be hoped that those who are thinking of coming to the Continent, on business or pleasure bent, will remember that we are at Wuppertal and that our address is B.A.O.R. 9. Be sure that you will receive as warm a welcome there as we were given in East Kent.

AU REVOIR.

* * *

Correspondence

Extract from letter:—

British Embassy,
Copenhagen.
May 18th, 1955.

My dear Raymond,

The purpose of this letter is mainly to congratulate you on the great success of your own ceremony at Canterbury. I know from Peter Lewis and many other sources, including *The Times*, how brilliantly the parade was conducted and how much of the credit goes to you. From my point of view this is important in its bearing on Anglo-Danish relations. His Majesty the King has himself told me since his return how impressed he was, how much he enjoyed the occasion and how successful it was from his point of view. You of course know all this, but it was nice to hear it from that source here in Copenhagen, particularly in view of your past connexion with this Embassy.

It is quite evident that the bond between the Danish Royal House and The Buffs has been still further cemented and thereby an important contribution made to Anglo-Danish relations. Thank you also so much.

Yours ever,
ERIC BERTHOUD,
H.M. Ambassador.

Lieut.-Col. H. R. Grace,
1st Battalion, The Buffs,
Old Park Barracks,
Dover, Kent.

* * *

British Embassy,
Copenhagen.
June 3rd.

To The Editor, "The Dragon".

Dear Sir,

At the Annual General Meeting of the Denmark Branch on 17th May I was requested to convey to you and to the Regiment the deep appreciation of the Branch as a whole for affording the Branch the opportunity of sending to Canterbury two of its Members to take part in the arrangements for the Presentation of new Colours to the 1st Battalion by H.M. The King of Denmark on May 9th. I was requested also to add the thanks of those two Members for the great hospitality and kindness they were shown during their stay in Canterbury.

Yours, etc.,
P. J. LEWIS,
Lieut.-Col.

* * *

From Major-General Hon. P. G. Scarlett, C.B., M.C.

My dear Raymond,

May I send you and your Battalion a line of congratulations on the magnificent parade we were honoured to witness.

Everyone I have met has been full of admiration for all those who took part in the ceremony and for the perfect arrangements and the help they received from the Officers and others who were not on parade.

The beautiful service in the Cathedral was most touching and effective and it was most sad that you were not rewarded with good weather for the March through the City.

Our best thanks from myself and my wife for all your great kindness and hospitality.

Wishing you and the Battalion the best of luck and all success.

Yours ever,

G. SCARLETT.

* * *

From Colonel B. J. D. Lumsden, O.B.E.

Depot Royal Marines,
Deal, Kent.
10*th May*, 1955.

Dear Colonel,

I would like to tell you how impressed I was with the splendid parade of your Battalion yesterday for the Presentation of New Colours.

I have taken part in and witnessed almost a dozen similar ceremonies and I have not seen it done better or with more dignity and precision. Furthermore the organisation was excellent and an example to us all even down to the control of those tricky though valuable gentlemen of the Press!

I feel sure that all who were privileged to witness the parade will not forget the spectacle and you may congratulate yourselves on bringing so much credit on the Service generally as well as your Regiment in particular.

Thank you very much for asking my wife and myself.

Yours sincerely,

BRUCE J. D. LUMSDEN.

* * *

From Major-General F. R. G. Matthews, C.B., D.S.O., Director of Infantry.

The War Office,
London, S.W.1.
10*th May*, 1955.

My dear Raymond,

I would like to thank you very much indeed for asking me to your Presentation of Colours. I would like once again to say to you how very impressed I was with the excellence of the Parade in every detail, and in particular I would like to congratulate you yourself on your most superb performance, by far the best I have seen by any Commanding Officer.

Many congratulations to you and your Officers and Warrant Officers of the 1st Battalion.

Yours ever,

MARK MATTHEWS.

Canterbury.
10*th May*, 1955.

To Officer Commanding, The Buffs.

Dear Sir,

Your Band and those troops of yours should be sent on tour throughout the Country, which I feel sure would be the finest inducement for recruiting.

In short, they were simply magnificent.

I am sure there were many lumps in some of the Old Campaigners' throats that witnessed this thrilling event. What a Band, and what precision. Congratulations, Sir.

From

AN EX-REGULAR FOR 12 YEARS,
and loved every minute of it.

* * *

Dean House,
Hindon,
Wilts.
12*th May*, 1955.

To The Editor, "The Dragon".

Dear Sir,

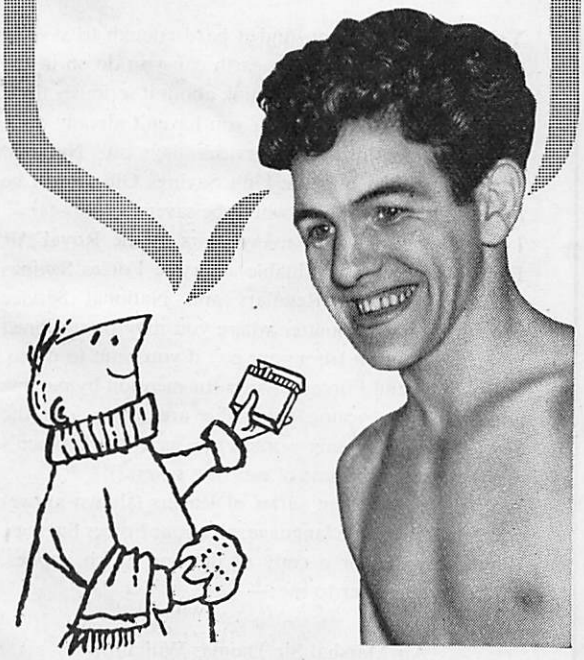
It will interest those of your readers who served in the 1st Battalion in 1940 and 1941 to hear that at the recent superbly executed Ceremony of Presentation of Colours, by pure chance I was seated next to Major Seymour of the Rhodesian Forces, who is on a short visit to this country. When the Rhodesian Contingent arrived in the Middle East, they were split up into parties and attached to various regular units for training. Our party, about 50 strong, all of European stock, joined us at Jebel Kanaan in Northern Palestine, whence we had been sent for a period of intensive training after our first spell at Mersa Matruh. The Rhodesians were attached to "D" Company, then commanded by the late Captain Geoffrey Mount. By their enthusiasm, efficiency, and exemplary discipline, they rapidly became a great asset to the Battalion. On most exercises they performed the rôle of "enemy", chiefly because of their difference in dress—they wore slouch hats. As is often characteristic of overseas troops, they displayed great ingenuity, and the Battalion had to keep very much on its toes to be up to all their ruses, with enormous benefit to all. After their withdrawal from the Battalion, a few remained on, notably their Commander, Captain Edgar Kenny, who, unfortunately, was killed near Tobruk. Also, after the Battle of Alamein I came across the Battalion, and Captain (now Major) Denis Butt was still with them, and came through safely.

Yours, etc.,

DENNIS WILKINS.



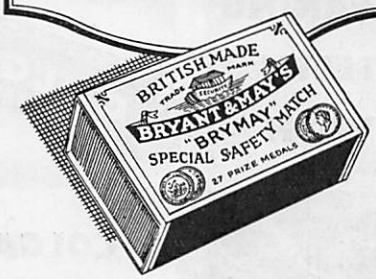
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BRYMAY SAFETY MATCHES

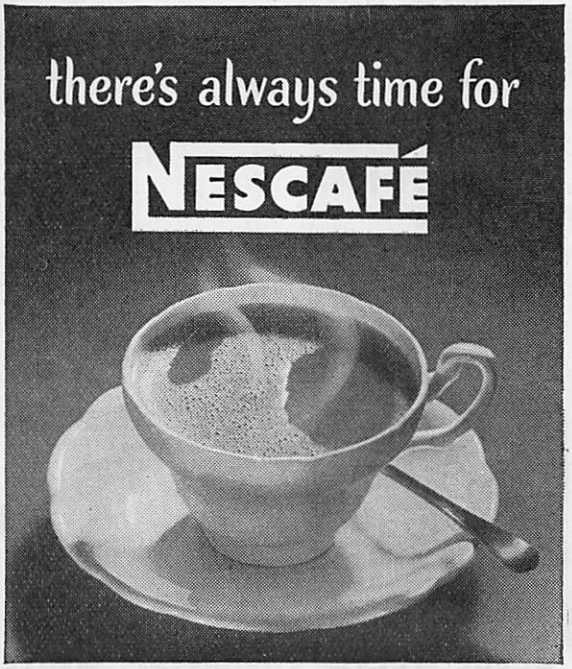


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STOPS TOOTH DECAY BEST!



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— BREATH ALWAYS FRESH!



From: Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,
K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., M.A., J.P.
Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee

To: All Serving in Her Majesty's Forces

Subject: SAVE WHILE YOU SERVE

You may say that you find it hard enough to save in "Civvy Street" so how on earth can you do so in the Services? However, if you think about it seriously there is no better time to start—if you haven't already done so. Every unit in all the services "lays on" National Savings facilities and the Unit Savings Officer will be only too pleased to help would-be savers.

I recently retired after many years in the Royal Air Force. I know how valuable a service Forces Savings is giving to both Regulars and National Service personnel, and no matter where you may be stationed you can save a bit from your pay if you want to do so. I also commend Forces Savings for mention by parents and friends to young men who are going into the Services (*and* to young women too, as in the Women's Services there are some of our best savers!)

We have an excellent series of leaflets (shown above) which tell, in simple language, all about Forces Savings. Why not write for a copy of the one which applies. Address your letter to me:—

Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,
H.M. Forces Savings Committee.
1 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

Issued by H.M. Forces Savings Committee

The Officers' Ball

WHAT a magnificent scene this was! Assuredly there has been nothing like it in the Regiment for many years. Indeed, it was a unique and historic climax to the stirring ceremonies of the day described so vividly last month by "The Tramp".

As though by some magic artifice, the Depot gymnasium was transformed into a sumptuous ballroom. Only a few days before, no doubt, immature and panting recruits—or "trainees" as the modern jargon goes—had been put through their paces under the pungent criticism of their P.T. instructors. But now all signs of involuntary exertion had been banished. Wall bars, where in one's youth one hung in serried ranks like meat in a butcher's shop, had been concealed beneath tasteful draperies. The mute horse, and parallel bars, and other instruments of torture, had been stabled elsewhere. In their place colourful tables had been set out along the walls on each side and chairs set beside them. On the long wall, facing the entrance, no less than three pairs of Colours were draped to make a noble and inspiring picture that can never again be repeated. These were the Old Colours, trooped that morning and laid up in the Cathedral the following day; the New Colours; and the 2nd Battalion Colours presented in London during Lieut.-Col. John Crookenden's command in 1928. Alas, these are at present in abeyance awaiting the raising once more of the 2nd Battalion. When this will be no one can say, but may it not be long deferred. At one end the 1st Battalion's excellent dance orchestra, looking very smart in blue, had assembled on a dais.

Such was the setting of the stage on which this great family party of past and present officers of the Buffs, with their ladies, gathered in a joyful re-union by the kind invitation of the Regiment.

Old Buffs had struggled into bemedalled tail coats which in some cases had hung unused for many a day in wardrobes. Perhaps they were a little tight across the shoulders and still carried a faint whiff of moth balls. Young Buffs—and amongst these we venture to include the Colonel of the Regiment—blossomed forth once more in the almost forgotten mess kit of pre-war days. Some of the more senior of these officers might have been heard exclaiming with delight that this was the very same jacket he had worn as a subaltern on joining. Perhaps it is just as well that mess jackets are not buttoned across the front!

It is far beyond the power of this poor hack to describe the ladies' dresses. That is a woman's province. Men are more concerned with the general impression. Let it be said at once that this was rapturous. It is not tactful in female company to turn back the clock too far, but if an old timer may say so, it was indeed a pleasure to meet the wives of officers whom one had known in the outposts of our quondam Empire before the war (the second war, of course) and to observe how lightly Time had touched them.

Soon the floor was filled with dancing couples, and it was noteworthy that the charming and vivacious wife of the Colonel of the Regiment was to be observed entering fully into the gaiety of the evening and giving a lead to all.

It was amusing to note that when the orchestra, no doubt in deference to the veterans present, struck up a waltz the younger entry, for the most part, took to their seats whilst the veterans footed it on the floor. Ah me! What memories this recalled, this dreamy waltz! Later, when some dirge was played, the youngsters came into their own again and shuffled round whilst their elders watched and imbibed.

The clock galloped on at breakneck pace, and it must have been well after midnight when Lieut.-Col. Grace gave the girls a thrill and everyone the greatest pleasure by accompanying the orchestra with a solo, thus proving that he can sing every bit as well as he can recite. Despite the plaudits of the whole audience, nothing would induce him to give us an encore.

When the night seemed still young our hosts intimated that bacon and eggs were obtainable in the Troops' dining hall across the way. This was evidently a tactful mode of speeding the reluctantly parting guests. But for the most part they took the hint, and soon the long tables, set possibly for the first time with white napery, began to fill up with hungry revellers who were quickly served with liberal portions.

The eyes of many an old soldier must have nearly popped out of his head at the mere sight of this delectable *salon de manger*. It will be recalled that these new barracks were completed just before the war in Lieut.-Col. Howe's day. A couple of years later the Germans dropped a bomb in the very centre of the dining block and demolished it a quarter of an hour after some two hundred men had left it. Phoenix has arisen on its ruins, and the new bird is the very latest thing in men's dining halls with model kitchens which would be a housewife's dream, hot plates and serving hatches all complete. No longer do troops sit on hard benches at scrubbed wooden tables. The most modern steel chairs are

provided, whilst the table tops are of some composite in tasteful colours. The cream walls of the hall are embellished with clever sketches of soldiers in period uniforms. If the food served to the young soldiers matches the hall there should be a rush to join the Buffs.

Without a doubt sheaves of appreciative letters will have poured into the Colonel of the Regiment's letter box from grateful guests; but here is an opportunity not to be missed of expressing on behalf of all past officers their appreciation and heartfelt thanks to their serving brother officers for the great hospitality and immense enjoyment they gave on this historic and memorable occasion which will be long remembered.

R.T.

* * *

Kenya Notes

THESE short notes from Kenya are written in the hope that they may be of interest to members of the 1st Battalion.

Two major forest operations have taken place—Operation "Hammer" in the Aberdares, and Operation "First Flute" in Mount Kenya. The latter operation was named after the winner of the Kenya Derby, owned by Mr. Charles Fernandes of Mweiga, who will be remembered by "A" Company for his hospitality and kindness to them when stationed in his area. His horse was a popular win at 5—1, and the operation itself was equally successful.

During Operation "Hammer", the H.Q. camp of Dedan Kimathi was found high in the bamboo forest West of Kabage. It was a remarkable camp, and contained the "Parliament Building" of the Mau-Mau. Four jeep loads of documents were recovered, which have been of great use and interest. The approaches to the camp were guarded by about twenty well-sited sentry posts, and it is hardly surprising that it was never discovered by companies of the Battalion who operated in the area, though at times patrols must have been very close to it.

The situation in Kenya has greatly improved in the last few months, and should not be judged by isolated acts of terrorism which still occur. Lieut.-General Lathbury has succeeded General Sir George Erskine as C.-in-C.; the Devons, Black Watch and Inniskillings have gone, to be replaced by the K.O.Y.L.I., Royal Irish Fusiliers and Gloucesters, and the K.S.L.I. are due shortly to relieve the 5th Fusiliers. So one is inclined to see a lot of new faces in our old haunts around Thomsons Falls, Nyeri and Nairobi, though 1 Buffs is still remembered with affection by all our old friends, particularly in the settled areas of Thomsons Falls and Mweiga.

All the exiles from the Regiment now in Kenya (and there seem to be a large number of them) were very disappointed to have missed the great occasion of the new Colours presentation by our Colonel-in-Chief, but we all followed the news of it on the B.B.C. and in the newspapers with pride. On Saturday, 14th May, a Buffs Dinner was held at Muthaiga Club to celebrate the occasion, which by now I hope will have been reported elsewhere in *The Dragon*.

The Regiment is still represented at G.H.Q. by Major Ravenhill, wrestling with African manpower, golf and bridge; Major Court, managing to get some golf and tennis; and Capt. Squire, who in between shopping and feeding bottles to his infant daughter does something in "A" Branch. Major Lucas is still performing his obscure duties with the Prison Department, and one sees occasionally the K.A.R. types such as Tony Gay and Duncan Lees.

It is of interest to recount an operation recently carried out by the G.H.Q., I.S. Battalion, which is a unit of volunteers from such blunt-end organisations as G.H.Q., Kahawa Depot, and Pay and Records Office. This band of week-end warriors (which included David Court and Stuart Squire) under command of Lieut.-Col. Robert Butler (R.W.K.), on one Sunday recently, scuppered an entire gang of 16 terrorists on the Rift Valley escarpment, including a Mau-Mau "General" and "District Officer", recovering a rifle and a shot gun amongst several weapons. This was the largest single success by security forces for several months. It is now rumoured that as a mark of respect, the brigades are going to change into khaki drill!

On this note, we all send our best wishes to the 1st Battalion for an enjoyable trip to Germany, where we hope their reputation will be as high as it was in Kenya.

* * *

Woolwich Searchlight Tattoo, 1955

THE third Woolwich Searchlight Tattoo will take place at Woolwich Stadium, London, from the 21st-24th September, 1955, at 7.30 p.m. each evening with a special daylight performance at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, 24th September. This year's programme promises to be even more spectacular than the previous year.

Round and About

By the Tramp



ONE of the advantages of being a 'displaced' or 'homeless' person, in the narrowest sense, is the opportunity it affords of enjoying the company of friends who take pity upon one's 'footloose' state. It is also very flattering to think that people can be troubled, in these far from easy days, to have visitors planted on them for even short spells. Be that as it may, we have lately enjoyed such hospitality in Hampshire (where, incidentally, we seem likely to live) and in East Anglia. These widely separated parts of England are as dissimilar as they can be in many respects, but they have one characteristic in common; they are both largely agricultural counties. This to me means two things, attractive landscape and delightful rural architecture. It also means that the 'peasantry' (if one may use the word in these days) in both places have that grace and charm which we are so accustomed to in our part of Kent. People say all this is on the way out, owing to Radio, Television, Petrol, Swing and the rest of the benefits of modern progress. But I can still detect it even in the younger generation.

SET A SNOB . . .

At a recent session of the B.B.C. programme "Any Questions?" a member of the audience asked if the panel was agreed about the alleged difference between the people in the North and South of England. Its implication was that down South people are stuffier and less friendly. This was denied by three of the members of the panel but one, a politician of, shall we say, a 'progressive' (to use their own term) type, dissented from his colleagues and said there was still too much 'forelock touching' in the South. He went on, as such people tend to do, to talk of snobbery. It was familiar stuff, rather reminiscent of the criticisms of saluting in the Services. I was therefore delighted when Lady Violet Bonham Carter demolished the advanced gentleman's argument with the crisp phrase: "It takes a snob to find a snob." From the audible reaction of the audience that shrewd blow was highly appreciated.

WHAT'S HIS LINE?

On our way up to East Anglia by train just before the strike began, we went into the restaurant car for tea and found ourselves sitting next to an Indian gentleman and lady. He was a burly man of rather striking appearance wearing a small moustache with curled ends and a small "Imperial" beard. She was a handsome lady with a light complexion and dark liquid eyes and long black hair. Very soon we got into conversation; I with the bearded gentleman and my wife with the lady. I found that he was a Pakistani Mohmand from Peshawar and we were very soon in the full flood of talk. He had interesting things to say about his warlike people, the permanent quality of the British traditions in the Pakistan Army, the names of Regiments, uniforms and battle honours being highly honoured and prized. He said he himself had served as a warrant officer in the Frontier Rifles in the Italian Campaign. As he was talking I wondered if he were just a tourist 'doing' Britain. It was not until pressure of seating space in the restaurant car obliged us to bid each other good-day that I learned from my wife, whose conversation with the lady had been more particularized, that the Mohmand gentleman was a magician and the lady, from Central India, a dancer in partnership with him in a Music Hall turn. They were on their way to an East Coast seaside resort to fulfil a week's engagement.

I should never have guessed their occupation and I am not yet sure whether the revelation of its nature was an anti-climax or not. Magic and India, that's fair enough. But a Mohmand dispensing magic in a Great Yarmouth Music Hall—well, I suppose it's reasonable enough when you come to think of it.

A COUNTY SHOW

My interest in rural pursuits, and agriculture in particular, is to say the least that of an outsider. I like the look of farms and fields but I never want to play any active part in husbandry. Still less now that farming has become a form of advanced engineering. For this reason I do not ordinarily put aside everything to go to an Agricultural Show. I once attended one in the dim past and I can recall to-day my complete lack of interest in the proceedings. So the other day when my host announced that he had tickets for the Suffolk County Show near Lowestoft I wondered if the intervening years would modify my views of these things. The attendance on the day we went was upwards of 20,000 and I have seldom seen more motor cars and buses parked together. The weather

was good, if a bit cool, and the arrangements for traffic and seating superbly organised. Our seats in the Grand Stand gave us an excellent view of the arena. We arrived to find jumping in progress. I am always amazed at the skill of riders who contrive to retain their seats on enormous horses as they sail over gates, fences, walls and what not. But I find my amazement and interest decreasing as the competition proceeds on its leisurely course.

'Leisurely' is, incidentally, the word for all the proceedings. Nothing is hurried and the lengthy waits between events do not seem to irk the well dressed, prosperous looking bowler-hatted assembly. For me a little relief was afforded by a marching display by the Band of the Royal Marines in their white helmets which are striking enough but somewhat incongruous in the English climate. They were presumably designed for wear in the Mediterranean or the Tropics and have become fixed on the heads of this *Corps d'élite*. Their marching as usual was excellent and all the more admirable in view of the length of the grass in the arena which hid the boots of the Band throughout their display.

ROYAL PATRONAGE

This particular Show was graced by the presence of the Queen Mother, who to the interest and delight of Suffolk people motored through many decorated little villages to the Show ground and presented trophies to winners of various events. The demonstrations of loyal affection towards Her Majesty were perfectly spontaneous and the absence of bodyguards and police was a sign that we still differ from most foreign nations in the matter of the necessity for the protection of Important People.

* * *

Military Essay Competitions, 1955/56

(*a*) The Bertrand Stewart Prize Essay, 1955 (sponsored by the Army Quarterly). General conditions for the Essay are contained in A.C.I. 661/1954.

(*b*) George Knight Clowes Memorial Prize Essay, 1956 (sponsored by the Army Quarterly). Closing date 8th January, 1956. See A.C.I. 479/1954.

(*c*) Gold Medal and Trench Gasgoigne Prize Essay, 1955 (sponsored by the R.U.S.I.). Closing date 15th November, 1955. See A.C.I. 142/1955.

Buffs Golfing Society

SPRING MEETING

ROYAL ST. GEORGE'S

23rd and 24th April, 1955



A VERY enjoyable meeting was held in fine weather. We were glad to welcome two new players, Lieut. Michael Ward and 2/Lieut. Richard Lea, both from the 1st Battalion, and to have visits from Col. Hart, Col. Connolly—unable to play himself, and Major Tomlinson.

The Results were as follows:

BRINKMAN CUP (Match Play).—M. de J. Creswick (6) at the 19th. Runner-up, Major D. Montgomery (4).

REEVES CUP (Scratch).—Major D. Montgomery, 171.

LYNDEN BELL TROPHY (Bogey).—Brigadier M. P. Dewar (11), 2 up.

BAIRD CUP (Eclectic).—M. de J. Creswick (6), 76 — 3 = 73.

TREVOR CUP (Eclectic).—Major D. Montgomery (4), 72 — 2 = 70.

KENWARD CUP (Senior Medal).—M. de J. Creswick (6), net 80.

NILGIRI CUP (Junior Medal).—Major R. Dendy (18), 96 — 18 = 78. Won on last 9 holes after tie with Lieut.-Col. Crookenden.

COUPE DES LAPINS.—Major J. Tilleard (22), 8 down.

FOURSOMES TROPHY (Stableford).—Brigadier M. P. Dewar, Lieut.-Col. H. R. Grace.

* * *

HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE GOLF MEETING

CANTERBURY

5th May, 1955

The meeting was run this year by the Buffs. Four regiments entered teams and 21 players took part. There was a strong wind blowing and the course was playing longer than usual. The team event which was on handicap was won by the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, The Queens runners-up, The Buffs third and the East Surreys in last place.

The Buffs team was as follows:—

Lieut.-Col. N. R. Reeves (3); Major D. Montgomery (4); Lieut.-Col. J. May (12); Capt. R. C. Lancaster (14); Lieut.-Col. N. Hoare (18); Major R. Dendy (18).

Individual Prizes were won as follows:—

HANDICAP PRIZES. — Major R. Moss (Q.O.R.W.K.), 96 — 24 = 72.

RUNNER-UP.—Major Hulme (Q.O.R.W.K.), 92 — 18 = 74.

SCRATCH.—Major R. Page, 76.

FOURSOMES (Stapleford).—Lieut.-Col. Wingfield-Stratford and Major Page (Q.O.R.W.K.), 32 points.

RUNNERS-UP.—Lieut.Col. N. Reeves and Major D. Montgomery, 31 points.

* * *

MATCH *v* QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT

WROTHAM HEATH

12th May, 1955

Although a team of eight was lined up, only five players were finally able to play. However, by dint of "borrowing" from the other side a match was made of it and a thoroughly enjoyable day's golf was had by all.

In the Singles, Major D. Montgomery beat Lieut.-Col. H. Scott, and Lieut.-Col. H. R. Grace halved with Lieut.-Col. Wingfield-Stratford. The other Singles and the Foursomes were lost by the Buffs.

* * *

ARMY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

MUIRFIELD

16th—20th May, 1955

The following team was lined up to represent the Buffs in the Army Golf Championship:—

Major D. Montgomery (Captain), Lieut.-Col. H. R. Grace, Brigadier M. P. D. Dewar, Lieut.-Col. J. May, Major R. Dendy.

Disaster struck before the team was fully assembled. Poor Lieut.-Col. John May was putting on the practice putting green of the course—and had not even played a full golf hole—when he bent down to pick up a ball, there was a sharp click, and a slipped disc was the result. This was on the Sunday morning preceding the Championship. Frantic telegrams were despatched to Lieut.-Cols. Reeves and Scott, in a last desperate attempt to rally them to Muirfield. But the decision that they had given in January when first approached could not be altered as both were heavily committed in other spheres. The replies to the telegrams arrived too late to check the departure of the fifth member of the team speeding North in his A30.

The fact that the Buffs were the only Line regiment from south of the border to enter a team at all had drawn murmurs of approval at the Annual Meeting of the Army Golfing Society on the Monday evening. Therefore it was decided to play the team, one man short, against the Royal Scots, the team that had been drawn in the second round after a first round bye.

The Royal Scots had a formidable team. It consisted of a Scratch player—Major Bucher, the present Midlothian Champion—and a group of low handicap players. Major Dendy, now our fourth, was lined up against a vigorous, hard hitting National Service officer with a handicap of 5.

The Buffs team might have fared worse. Major Montgomery was beaten by 5 holes. Lieut.-Col. Grace was beaten by Lieut.-Col. Broughton by 2 holes. Brigadier Dewar brought honour to the side by beating Major McQueen, handicap 5, by 1 hole, and Major Dendy was by no means disgraced by his 7 hole defeat.

Even with the handicap of 18 holes down before play even started, the Buffs team fared better than one other team, who shall be nameless, which entered the lists five men strong.

There is no doubt that, under the revised arrangements concerning representation in the team competition, The Buffs could enter a team capable of taking on that of any other regiment. With next year's meeting at Royal St. George's, it is earnestly hoped that we shall be able to raise such a team.

* * *

Army Art Society

THE Society, which exists to encourage art in the Army and Sister Services, is holding its 24th Annual Exhibition in London during October, 1955.

All ranks of the Army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, past or present, permanent or temporary, may submit works for consideration.

The Society is an entirely unofficial organisation, and for several years very successful exhibitions have been held in London each autumn. These afford an opportunity for service artists to find out if their work is up to the required standard, and to compare their work with others.

Intending exhibitors are invited to apply after the 10th May for particulars. Applications should be addressed to: Hon. Secretary, Army Art Society, Mrs. Cuthbert Orde, 1 Durham Place, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

Beneath Bell Harry



THE Presentation Ceremony having rightly occupied last month's issue of *The Dragon*, it is now two months since our notes last appeared. The hectic week before the Colour Ceremony, tents shooting up all over the place, painters administering final touches, pathways being reconstructed, turf laid, all that now seems very much a matter of the past. Things can, in fact, be said to have returned to normal.

We wish Captain John Grugeon and his charming bride, who were married on 21st May, 1955, every happiness and good fortune. During the Adjutant's temporary absence the chair is capably occupied by Captain Gerard McGrath. Lieut. Hugh Tennant has now left us to be A.D.C. to the District Commander. We hope we shall often see him in his new rôle, and we welcome Lieut. John Prentice to No. 1 Company in his place. We were sorry, indeed, to say good-bye to Sgt. Bean, who is joining the ranks of the Metropolitan Police. We congratulate Sgt. Parker, Cpls. Barrell, Addy and McNeill on their recent promotion.

The Depot Staff was recently further divested of its normal complement by the departure northwards of Major Dendy and Major Montgomery in pursuit of the elusive little white ball.

* * *

CRICKET

The cricket season is now in full swing and a good game between Punniar and Sevastopol Platoons opened the season. Knight (6 wickets for 6 runs), Mackett (36 runs out of a total of 79 by his side), Lewington, Sparkes and Burgham distinguished themselves.

Below are the results of recent Depot matches, and notes by our cricketing correspondent:—

DEPOT THE BUFFS (H.C.B.D.) *v* R.A.F., MANSTON

Played at Canterbury on 4th May, 1955

R.A.F., Manston

Raynard, b Bunker	0
Marsh, lbw, b Nelson	0
Littlefield, c Knight, b Nelson	20
Islip, b Nelson	33
Potter, b Bunker	13
Bryant, b Pearson	0
Cox, lbw, b Pearson	0
Gannaway, lbw, b Pockett	7
Cottee, b Pearson	19
Walter, b Bunker	3
Ogden, not out	9
Extras	7
Total	113

Bowling

Bunker 3 for 13; Nelson 3 for 23.

Depot The Buffs (H.C.B.D.)

Hogg, lbw, b Islip	14
Howe, c Potter, b Ogden	2
Mackett, b Walters	10
Murphy, c Cottee, b Walters	1
Nelson, c Cottee, b Walters	0
Bunker, b Gannaway	19
Pearson, run out	4
Bellingham, b Cox	23
Thomas, b Ogden	1
Lewington, b Ogden	0
Knight, not out	0
Extras	3
Total	77

Bowling

Walters 3 for 4; Ogden 3 for 22.

DEPOT THE BUFFS (H.C.B.D.) *v* H.Q., HOME COUNTIES DISTRICT

Played at Canterbury on 11th May, 1955

H.Q., Home Counties District

Blundell, b Prentice	2
Chandler, c Bellingham, b Knight	10
Neill, c Nelson, b Prentice	0
Watkinson, c Howe, b Prentice	0
Rawkins, c Garfitt, b Pearson	6
Rigly, c and b Prentice	9
Hughes, c Nelson, b Prentice	0
Farley, c Howe, b Pearson	19
Church, c Howe, b Bellingham	0
Elliott, c Nelson, b Bellingham	2
Fenerty, not out	0
Extras	0
Total	48

Bowling

Prentice 5 for 8; Pearson 2 for 9.

Depot The Buffs (H.C.B.D.)

Hogg, b Hughes...	0
Howe, c Church, b Rigby	8
Garfitt, run out	0
Prentice, c Neill, b Rigly	0
Falkley, c and b Rigly	0
Mackett, c Blundell, b Rigley	8
Nelson, lbw, b Rigly	0
Knight, b Hughes	0
Bellingham, b Rigly	2
Thomas, c Neill, b Hughes	1
Pearson, not out	5
Extras	3
Total	27

Bowling

Rigly 6 for 14; Hughes 3 for 11.

DEPOT THE BUFFS (H.C.B.D.) *v* R.A.P.C.

Played at Canterbury on 25th May, 1955

1ST INNINGS

R.A.P.C.

Elgin, b Bunker	0
Cohen, lbw, b Pearson	3
McGovern, b Pearson	3
Robinson, b Pearson	0
Smith, c Knight, b Pearson	0
Charles, b Bunker	2
Walker, c Hogg, b Prentice	13
Weaver, lbw, b Pearson	0
Gilham, b Prentice	0
Price, b Prentice...	0
Cockerton, not out	0
Extras	0
Total	21

Bowling

Pearson 5 for 14; Prentice 2 for 3.

Depot The Buffs (H.C.B.D.)

Watts, b Price	2
Hogg, c Walker, b Price	8
Garfitt, b McGowan	1
Murphy, lbw, b Price	1
Clayson, b McGovern	1
Pearson, b Price...	0
Prentice, run out	0
Howe, c Walker, b Price	4
Knight, st Robinson, b Smith...	5
Thomas, b McGovern	0
Bunker, not out...	3
Extras	1
Total	25

Bowling

Price 5 for 11; McGovern 3 for 14.

2ND INNINGS

R.A.P.C.

Elgin, run out	42
Cohen, b Watts	1
McGovern, run out	1
Robinson, b Watts	4
Smith, st, b Pearson	25
Charles, b Pearson	4
Walker, not out...	1
Price, Gilham, Cockerton, Weaver — Did not bat	
Extras	2
Total (6 wickets)	80

Bowling

Watts 2 for 29; Pearson 2 for 5.

Depot The Buffs (H.C.B.D.)

Watts, c Robinson, b Smith	8
Pearson, b Clayson	5
Garfitt, c Robinson, b Gilham	4
Murphy, not out	40
Prentice, run out	16
Thomas, Howe, Clayson, Bunker, Knight, Hogg — Did not bat	
Extras	9
Total (4 wickets)	82

Bowling

Smith 1 for 16; Gilham 1 for 7.

We started the season badly and lost our first two games. The bowlers have done all that has been required of them: it is the batsmen who have failed. Our defeat by the R.A.F., Manston, would have been an absolute rout, but for partnership of Bunker and Bellingham who proved that the bowling could be hit. Between them they scored more than the rest of the side put together. Having skittled out H.Q., Home Counties District for a meagre 48, we expected a comfortable win by several wickets, but our expectations proved wrong, all the batsmen failed again—not one reached double figures and six failed to score at all. This, however, was not our worst performance. Our batting against R.A.P.C., Canterbury, failed once more. Faced with a total of 21, we had scraped together only 18 when our last man went to the wicket. Fortunately, Bunker again came to our rescue and he and Knight stayed at the wicket until we had passed our opponents' total. It is hoped that the improved batting shown in the second innings of this game will be continued throughout the rest of the season.

E.H.F.W.

* * *

BOXING

An interesting Inter-Platoon Novices' Boxing Competition was held recently, one of the best, and a fight most appreciated by the audience being that between Sowerby and Burgham. The fights were most capably handled by Sgt. Parker. The winners were Sevastopol Platoon, who beat Punniar Platoon 28 bouts to 9.

4/5th Battalion



TO those of the younger generation, the Presentation Ceremony early in May was very moving and truly a grand experience; it was an honour to have a representative detachment on parade on that occasion. Our congratulations to all those who took part and in particular to the Commanding Officer on the Order of Dannebrog conferred upon him by King Frederik.

There are occasions during any war when the Infantryman, that Jack-of-all-Trades, is called upon suddenly to become a Gunner, a Tank Driver or something equally obstruse; similarly the sausage machine works in reverse as specialists from all services take up arms as Infantrymen. So it has been with the eventual break-up of A.A. Command; the following Officers have already been transferred from R.A. (T.A.) and are joining their respective Companies:—

Major F. D. C. Cobb, T.D., H.Q. Company (attached "Sp" Company).
Captain J. A. Usher, H.Q. Company.
Captain A. J. Scott, "Sp" Company.
Captain W. D. Baddeley, "A" Company.
Captain N. G. Anderton, "B" Company.
Captain A. H. Blackbourn, T.D., "C" Company.

All these, and the men they have brought with them may be sure of a very warm welcome. It is interesting to record that one numbered above, Captain A. H. Blackbourn, T.D., was a pre-war member of the Battalion and having returned to the fold will join the Whitstable Detachment with whom he previously served.

Many of the new-comers attended the Week-end Exercise at Margate, where the problems which will confront us at Ell Barrow were thrashed out on the model as "Spearhead III". Syndicates were busy in their respective rooms on the Saturday and Sunday, recovering it has been suggested from the aftermath of the Annual Ball but more probably cribbing the Directing Staff's solutions from the ample precis issued by Brigade Headquarters at the conclusion of the previous exercises. There was a particularly lucid period on the Sunday when problems of tank co-operation were dealt with under the guidance of Major Reade, Hussars, who made a journey from Headquarters, 56 Armoured Division (T.A.), to give us the latest technical information. The privations of some of our number in an hotel, which shall be nameless, were unbelievable, but all too clearly were designed to equip officers for the worst possible phases of "Dover Castle"—although we suspect that Moggie Catt will at least have his bed made nightly even in the field! Major Frank Neville, M.C., on special pass for the Saturday evening, was presented with a suitably inscribed cigarette box as a Wedding Gift from members of the Officers' Mess.

Several Officers took part in the Brigade Headquarters exercise "Early Dawn". An apt description of climatic conditions in that particular part of Sussex eludes your Correspondent; sufficient is it to say it was cold and wet. Higher Control, heavily disguised in Paratroop jackets and a variety of pullovers got away to a cracking start with a spate of signals about real issue meat. Subsequent exchanges were rather indifferent, probably as the result of the many vehicles which bogged down. Captain Chris Griffin succeeded in rescuing the Rover from the quagmire but had the gravest doubts about the advisability of shoes under such conditions.

We appear to have emerged fairly successfully from the recent C.I.V. Inspection and much hard work was put in by Companies in preparing vehicles for it.

A major development after Camp will be the re-deployment of "Sp" Company from the Weald to Deal and Dover, where new premises have been taken over. The Company will then be disposed as follows:—

Company H.Q., Mortar and Pioneer Platoons at Deal, with detachments at Cranbrook and Tenterden;

A/Tank Platoon at Dover;

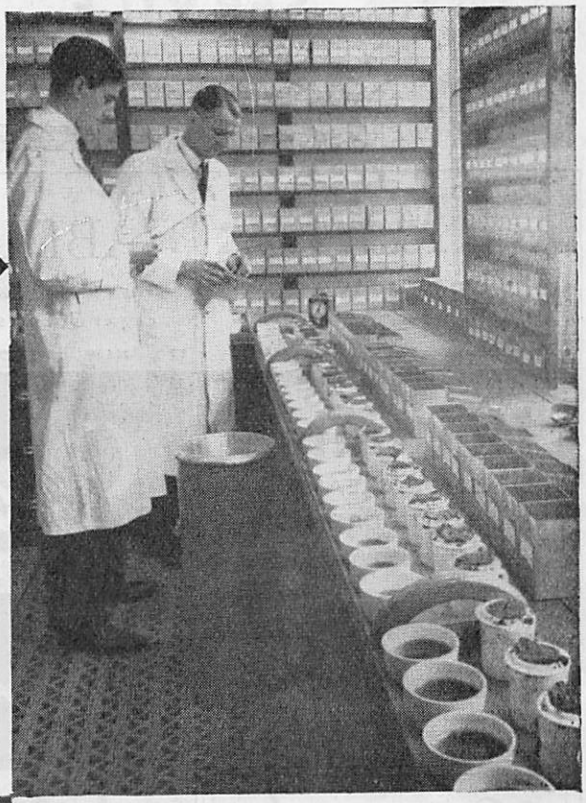
M.M.G. Platoon at Sandwich, with possibly a detachment remaining at Ramsgate.

Other changes consequent on the decision to re-deploy this Company involve the establishment of "B" Company at Sittingbourne and a Platoon of "D" Company at Ashford.

In the meantime all thoughts are centred on Camp and there is already the inevitable bustle of preparation. Whether or not the State of Emergency will affect our move remains to be seen.

from Tea

to Tobacco





A cigarette and a cup of tea—two of the minor pleasures of life, but such as few would be without. This is as true of the members of Her Majesty's Forces as of most of us.

As the official caterers to Her Majesty's Forces, Naafi has the task of ensuring that a cup of tea and a cigarette are always readily available.

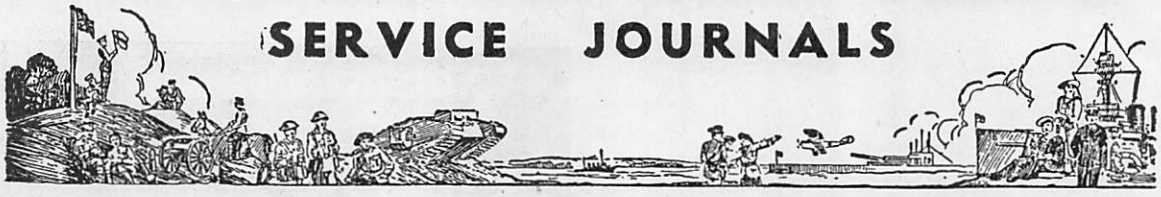
So it is that Naafi serves more than 154,000,000 cups of tea a year and is one of the biggest buyers of tobacco in the United Kingdom. Behind the scenes, the vast network of Naafi's buying, testing, sampling and distributing organisations deliver blended teas and tobaccos and cartons of cigarettes wherever Servicemen and their families may be.

To see that Servicemen and women enjoy to the full their tea and tobacco is but one of the many and varied duties of....

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PARK DRIVE
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FOR PLEASURE

"A" COMPANY

This month has been a very busy one with the Annual Range Course to be fired, preparing vehicles for the C.I.V. Inspection, clothing exchanges preparatory to Camp and various ceremonial parades of one sort or another to contend with.

The Ramsgate Detachment did trojan work in getting the vehicles ready for inspection and the fifteen shilling word used by Cpl. Mirams when he discovered he had cleaned the Company Jeep by mistake is readily forgiven.

Sandwich had another successful social evening at which members from both Ramsgate and Margate were present, in addition to the W.R.A.C.

L/Cpl. Coleman has taken over his pride and joy in the shape of one of the company trucks although early difficulties with petrol have curtailed his roadwork.

Messrs. Lambert and Harding's box of tricks proves highly entertaining at Ramsgate; the photographs used for taking coincidences have been thoroughly inspected by the M.M.G. Platoon Commander but his suspicions have only been allayed temporarily and he is sure that a far better selection of the Suez Canal variety is available when he is not there.

It is nice to be able to welcome officially R.S.M. Bingham of H.Q., 44 Division. For some long time he has been prowling about, rather disconsolate in civilians, but now fully-fledged he takes his rightful place and we wish him a long and happy stay. He seemed a trifle subdued after his recent Divisional Headquarters exercise and probably wishes he had not luxuriated for quite so long in the Coast Artillery.

NOTICE.—The apparition in crash helmet, work ticket and "L" plates is *not* to be mistaken for Sgt. Dean; he has engaged a double to undertake all trick riding decreed by Higher Authority.

* * *

"B" COMPANY

All members of this Company who watched the Presentation Parade have expressed their admiration of the smartness and precision of the 1st Battalion. Sgt. Cope represented "B" Company in the 4/5th Battalion Detachment.

Our next Company Week-end is at Lydden Spout when we hope to improve upon the results obtained at last year's classification.

* * *

"C" COMPANY

This month our Volunteer strength has been further depleted by the loss of Pte. M. Smith (to Merchant Navy) and Pte. Cornelius (not re-signed). We are sorry to lose these two stalwarts, especially as they have been members of our .22 Rifle Team for several years.

Sgt. Thundow and L/Cpl. Pressley represented the Company in the 4/5th Battalion Detachment at the Colour Presentation at Canterbury. Other members of this Company who watched the Parade were impressed by the smartness and bearing of the 1st Battalion. Congratulations, 1st Battalion, on a really first class show.

* * *

"SP" COMPANY

The A/Tank Platoon had a successful training week-end at Lydd, followed shortly afterwards by full-charge firing early in May. On both occasions the weather was kind to us and proceedings went off without a break. Firing was rather slow in getting under way, but after a while things began to warm up and we had approximately 33% hits—which is good for the personnel who had not fired before and therefore took a little time to settle down to actual firing.

We were represented at the Presentation Parade by C.S.M. White and Sgt. Wraight and we hope they enjoyed the ceremony as did those who were spectators only. Next month we shall be going to Lydden Spout to fire the Bren and Rifle Course.

For the Mortar Platoon things have been rather quiet although we have succeeded in getting out and about in the lighter evenings. Driving instruction is the order of the day, mainly with an eye to the Divisional Exercise at Camp. Sgt. Miller recently disappeared again for a quiet week at Canterbury training Army Cadet Force personnel; we hope he enjoyed himself (?). We have now started handing over mortars and stores to Sgt. Kay, the new P.S.I. to operate at Deal in the near future whilst our own P.S.I. is at Sittingbourne Drill Hall. Congratulations to Ptes. Fisher and Weatherly on their recent marriages.

The spell of good weather has meant a decline in attendances for the Assault Pioneer Platoon and generally things have been rather quiet. Congratulations to Sgt. Babbage on his rosette for long service with the Battalion. We did well to win the miniature range competition and must look to our laurels in the future because there is sure to be some keen challenges.

* * *

The Federation Regiment

by General Sir Gerald Templer,

G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O.

I HAVE recently had the honour of being appointed Colonel of the Federation Regiment. As many readers will know, this Regiment is largely officered in the higher ranks by British Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s. I think, therefore, that it will be of interest to readers to know a little bit about them.

Until quite recently it was impossible for any inhabitant of Malaya to join any branch of the Armed Forces of that country unless he was a Malay by birth. Since only approximately 45% of the inhabitants of the Federation of Malaya are Malays (the remainder being Chinese, Indians, Pakestanis, Ceylonese and Eurasians) this obviously presented a good many political problems in view of the fact that this little country is on its way to self-government, within—so we all hope—the British Commonwealth of Nations. It was obviously untair that more than 50% of the inhabitants of the country were unable to take part in any way in its defence, when at the same time we were telling them that it was their duty to owe a hundred per cent. allegiance to that country.

The plan took a good deal of making, since the idea was, of course, a strange one in Malaya. However, the difficulties were got over and the first recruits for this new Regiment started to form up on the 15th September, 1952, in Taiping,

a delightful town in the State of Perak. The 1st Battalion of the Regiment is now fully operational, which reflects a great deal of credit on all concerned. It may seem that it has taken a long time to get even one battalion going, but when the Regiment started to form, there was obviously not a single officer, warrant officer or N.C.O. available from any community other than the Malays. From the beginning it was decided that we must stick as rigorously as possible to the racial split which it was decided should be 40% Malay, 40% Chinese and 20% others. On the present total establishment of 729 All Ranks this should produce 292 Malays, 292 Chinese and 145 others. In point of fact the strength to-day is 294 Malays, 286 Chinese and 148 others, and I reckon this is very good. The Regiment to-day should have 18 Malay, 18 Chinese and 10 other Sergeants and above. Actually it has got 21 Malays, 6 Chinese and 9 others in these categories. But considering that we had to start with recruits on the square that is not bad either.

It obviously takes a longish time to produce officers from nothing. To-day the Regiment has 13 seconded British officers, 3 Warrant Officers and 3 Sergeants with it. There are also 21 Asian officers of which 3 are Malay, 10 Chinese and 8 other races and at Sandhurst there are now 22 cadets of the Federation Regiment, the vast majority of whom come from races other than Malays. There are a further 4 cadets at the Officer Cadet School at Eaton Hall, Chester. I have seen a good deal of the boys at Sandhurst and they are doing admirably. One, a young Ceylonese, is a Junior Under Officer and is also one of the star turns in the Sandhurst Rugger side. I hope it will be possible for the cadets of the Federation Regiment to do a short attachment to a Depot of a British unit before they return to Malaya at the end of their training in this country. In the course of time Officer Training will be carried out at the Federation Military College in Malaya. A good start has already been made with this, but it will be some few years before it is functioning properly, and in a position to accept the full responsibility for training the young officer entry both of the Malay Regiment and of the Federation Regiment. And so for the next few years the young officers for these two regiments will continue to be trained in the United Kingdom.

To-day the Federation Regiment handles the recruiting and training of the other small multi-racial units which were started at the same time, *i.e.*, The Federation Armoured Car Regiment, Federation Signals, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and so on.

Financial considerations permitting, it is the intention to raise a second battalion and a third battalion of the Federation Regiment in the next few years. The experiment is a very exciting one and it has got off to a very good start. Those who know the difficulties in a country containing a multi-racial society will appreciate how fine a thing it is for a country of that sort to have a unit or units of young men, of different religions and different communities, all living together in the same barrack rooms, eating the same food, and getting on with each other like a house on fire.

I am very proud of having played a part in the raising of this Regiment. And also very proud of being its Colonel. But for some years to come its success will depend to a great extent on the British Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants seconded to it under the liberal terms of A.C.I. 484/54.

There are likely to be vacancies in all ranks in the near future and anyone who is interested can find out details on writing to Lieut.-Col. T. H. Trevor, O.B.E., 1st Battalion, The Federation Regiment, Butterworth, P.W., Malaya.

* * *

Old Brigade News

WE were pleased to hear from Jack (Doughy) Baker of Canterbury and to know he is in fairly good health. He brought back memories of the day one had to "scrum" to get something to eat and cook it in one's canteen on the open Veldt.

* * *

Another nice letter from Jimmy Dray, whom old hands will remember as 2nd Battalion Master Cook. He tells us that he is under strict M.O. orders and has given up all gardening and other pursuits. Jimmy has led a very active life and is remembered as a very fine thrower of the "Shot".

* * *

George Cobb went to Canterbury for the Presentation of Colours and writes, "To see the 1st Battalion manoeuvre made me feel proud to be a Buff."

* * *

Victor Henson sends his good wishes to old friends and particularly to Captain Woodcock and the 4th Battalion.

* * *

We were delighted to hear from Bob Knott of Dartford, but sorry to hear that neither his eyes nor his legs are as good as he would like. His best wishes to Billy Beall and all old comrades of the 1st and 2/5th Battalions.

Some of Nestlé's good things — at your NAAFI



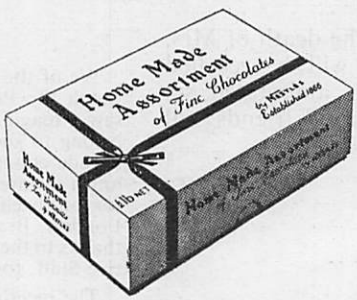
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(N13)

Dusty Roullier sends his best wishes to Jimmy Dray, Bill Elvey, Billy Everitt and Benny Field. Dusty keeps smiling and never lets aches or pains get him down.

* * *

Donkey Warren writing from Coombe Martin, Devon, tells us that he has not been out of doors for over eight months. His best to Snowball, Molly, and all other old timers of the 1st Battalion. We all trust that Donkey will soon be on the mend.

* * *

We have had a cheery letter from Colonel Orwin, who tells us that Jack Brooker has not been too well in health. He hopes to pay Bert Tester a visit when he shortly goes to Brighton. He tells us that Sam Martin (late Major and Quartermaster) is living at Broadstairs.

* * *

We hear that Chocolate Taylor is not too well again and wish him all the best for recovery. Chocolate will be best remembered as an old Drummer in the 2nd Battalion about 60 years ago.

* * *

Our best wishes to Ted Swendall, Old Jeff, Tommy Tutt, W. J. Stanger, Captain Linwood, Snowball Manning and all other fine old Buffs.

* * *

We deeply regret to hear of the death of Mrs. Field, the wife of Benny. It will be recalled that Mrs. Field had both legs amputated six months ago. To Benny all his old friends will share his sorrow over his great loss.

J.E.E.

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Past and Present Association

Life Members

1ST TO 31ST MAY, 1955

H.Q. Roll.—Winnert, J., Shaw, J. H.
Ashford Branch.—Chapman, E.
Canterbury Branch.—Hubbard, J. A.
London Branch.—Coveney, E. G.
Medway Branch.—Hall, A. E. N.

* * *

Annual Members

1ST TO 31ST MAY, 1955

Canterbury Branch.—Spillet, R.
Ramsgate Branch.—Herbert, C.

* * *

Associate Members

1ST TO 31ST MAY, 1955

London Branch.—Christiansen, H., Mr. Gould.

* * *

Grants

The total grants from the Benevolent Fund and the World War 1939 Charitable Fund during the month of May, 1955, are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Benevolent Fund	46	0	0
World War 1939 Charitable Fund	39	16	0

* * *

London Branch

We of the London Branch, who were lucky enough to watch the Presentation of Colours to our 1st Battalion saw a magnificent show. It made one feel very proud to belong to such a Regiment. No words could praise this Parade enough. On our return to the Depot, a splendid lunch awaited us, in fact nothing was too much trouble for our welfare. So, just let me say on behalf of the London Branch, "Well done, 1st Battalion." Many thanks to the Depot Staff, Colonel Argles, and Administrative Staff, for the work that was put in, on our behalf.

The meeting at Tufton Street in April was Election of Officers night. The Chairman, Secretary and Committee were returned, and Mr. J. Wright was elected Vice-Chairman. Mr. J. Goss, 1st Battalion, and Mr. G. Hardwick, 141st R.A.C., were elected to serve on the Committee.

This was a grand night, a splendid attendance with more new faces, Mr. Sayers, 1st and 2nd Battalions, Mr. Gillham, 1st Battalion. We hope to meet these grand chaps many more times. What's more, old Tommy Taylor turned up, looking very fit and well. It's really nice to see these "old uns" right back in harness.

The Chairman told us of a visit he had from Mrs. Williams, wife of Captain Williams, who was on leave from the Argentine.



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We were very pleased once again to shake the hand of Mr. Johnson, who paid us a visit from Ramsgate—always a welcome waiting for you at Tufton Street, Sir.

Our President, Major Enright, sends his best wishes to all members.

We were all sorry to hear about Billy Everitt going into hospital for an operation, but I can now say that it was successful, and that he is home, looking quite well.

On the first Saturday in May, I attended the Ladies' Guild, and what a lovely evening, quite a good attendance, with all their heart and soul in their business. Well done, ladies. Also, hearty congratulations to their late Secretary, Mrs. Dalgleish, on presenting her husband with two bonnie lasses. The very best of luck and health to them all.

Now to our May Meeting. This really was a great show, with more new faces, Eric Coveney, son of the late Bill Coveney, D.C.M., Mr. King of the 1st Battalion, also Mr. Williams, 1st Battalion, and some old faces, Mr. Skinner, Mr. Hart, Mr. E. Hart and Mr. Beverley. We are very pleased to meet you all again. Bert Perry 'phoned apologising for not being able to attend.

It was very nice of Mr. Joe Goss to take over the duties of Standard Bearer for the Branch, and we can be assured of Joe giving his best. Members really appreciate your good work, Joe.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, accepted and signed, and correspondence was read. It is wonderful, some of the letters one receives from old Buffs, turned 80 years of age some of them. Jimmy Dray, for instance, who was, up to a few weeks ago, gardening, chopping logs, etc. He has a break-down, also suffers from an ulcer, but he just states "I am just taking all this in my stride, like a good Buff." Then Victor Hewson, who has been through so many operations, says, "Always remember someone is worse off." It really is wonderful, and we all wish you youngsters the very best of health and happiness.

The next item of the Meeting was the Laying of the Wreath on the Cenotaph, on our next meeting night, June 18th, at 6 p.m. We meet under the Arch in King Charles' Street, Whitehall, at 5.45 p.m. The suggestion of a Chelsea Pensioner to lay the Wreath was appreciated by all members present, and we are hoping to have a good attendance.

The next item was our Book of Remembrance Service to be held in the Chapel Royal, Tower of London, on July 24th (Sunday). We are out for a record attendance. The Rev. La Porte Payne, M.B.E., T.D., M.A., will conduct the Service, and the Rev. P. B. Clayton ("Tubby"), M.C., D.D., C.H., will preach. Time, 10.30 a.m. at the Tower.

Just before the meeting closed, the Chairman (Mr. B. Billings) handed me a note, which read, "Mr. and Mrs. Timms, Child born 18th May, Vivienne Roberta." Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Timms, from all members of the London Branch.

To conclude these notes, I must just mention a few more names, which might bring back memories to some readers: Messrs. Cobb, Joe Goss, Jim Redman, Sam Lewis, Captain Woodcock, Captain Emery, Messrs. Billy Cotton, Sharp, Cousens, King, Turner, Wenham.

The Chairman having closed the Meeting, we asked the ladies to join us for an hour of Tombola, all members thanking Mr. Lewis for the wonderful eats he supplied.

So, good wishes to all Branches from the London Branch.

H.J.S.

Ladies' Guild

Minutes of the meeting of the Ladies' Guild held at The Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on Saturday, 7th May, 1955.

A meeting was held on Saturday, 7th May, with Mrs. Coley in the Chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

The Chairman congratulated the new Secretary on the published minutes of the previous meeting, and said she was pleased that the office had been filled.

A Greetings Telegram had been sent to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson on the occasion of their Golden Wedding on 24th April, reading as follows:—

"The Buffs Ladies' Guild send you their sincere congratulations and best wishes for your Golden Wedding Anniversary. Their loving thoughts are with you on this occasion and they trust you will look forward serenely and happily to your Diamond Jubilee."

A Greetings Telegram had also been sent to Mrs. Jean Dalgleish on the occasion of the birth of her twin daughters on 30th April, as follows:—

"The Buffs Ladies' Guild send you their love and sincere congratulations on the arrival of your infant daughters and trust the future will hold abundant joy and happiness for you all."

In addition to the telegram, flowers and magazines had been sent to Mrs. Dalgleish on behalf of the Guild; the Chairman read a letter of thanks from Mrs. Dalgleish and expressed her personal gratitude to Guild members for the many kindnesses shown to her daughter since she had been in hospital.

Cigarettes and flowers had also been taken to Mr. Billie Everett, who had recently undergone a serious operation. For some reason known only to the postal authorities, Mr. Everett's letter of thanks to the Guild had not reached the Secretary in time for the meeting. Mrs. Everett, however, thanked the Guild very sincerely on behalf of her husband, who she said was making very good progress. She added a special note of thanks to two members who had travelled many miles (in very bad weather) to take the flowers to the hospital.

Messages of greeting to the Guild and regretting their inability to be present were received during the evening from Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Bean.

The Chairman said that at the last meeting she had forgotten to announce that Mrs. Yapp's daughter had been ill; she expressed the Guild's hope that the little girl would soon be quite well again.

Mrs. Coley was pleased to see her great friend, Mrs. Cotton, back with the Guild again; she hoped that she was fully recovered now.

The financial year was nearing its close and the Chairman asked for nominations for a new Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer, and that members would send their nominations to the Secretary before the next meeting.

Raffle prizes of a hand-knitted scarf, a duchesse set, a box of chocolates and forty cigarettes were given by Mrs. Annan, Mrs. Watts, a Member and Mrs. Tucker, and realized a total of £1 13s. 0d.

Mrs. Jackson provided a very pleasant surprise during the evening. She brought along a great chunk of her Golden Wedding Cake, sufficient to provide a piece for every Guild member present.

That being all, the meeting closed.

... AND A NOTE OR TWO

Main topic of conversation for the evening was the arrival of Mrs. Jean Dalgleish's baby daughters; Jean is making satisfactory progress after her ordeal; one little baby is in the ordinary Baby Ward, the other wee mite is still in the Premature Wing. And Mrs. (Grandmother) Coley looks much relieved now that the affair is over, and as though a great weight has been lifted from her mind.

Mrs. Jackson showed extreme thoughtfulness in bringing along a cake-knife to cut the Golden Wedding Cake—what a charming gesture, and what a delicious cake.

Many members were looking forward eagerly to their visit to Canterbury on May 9th, and those who were to be left behind were regretting that, for one reason or another, they would not be able to join the party.

The personal present made to the Chairman at the last meeting can no longer be termed an ordinary wooden mallet. It has been professionally (and very tastefully) decorated and finished in Guild colours, and is now a very handsome and much-prized Gavel!

Members were pleased to see Mrs. Cotton looking so fit and well after her long absence. She is happy in a new catering job, and is looking forward to her touring summer holiday.

* * *

Medway Branch

On 15th April we had the pleasure of welcoming representatives of Canterbury and Sittingbourne Branches to join us in listening to a talk by Colonel Grace on the subject of the 1st Battalion's activities during its twenty months' stay in Kenya. And very interesting and informative it was, too. If I was any good at drawing cartoons I should do something in keeping with the remark "Colonel Grace was supported by the three Branch Chairmen" for I feel that those words on their own may lead to some misapprehension. Mr. F. Cox, our Chairman, commenced the proceedings by submitting apologies from various members for their absence, welcoming the other two Branches and introducing the Colonel. I thought, at first, that he was going to conclude his remarks by saying, "Ladies and Gentlemen, pray silence for Grace", but no, he used quite formal terms instead.

As all Branches have had the opportunity of listening to this lecture I feel that it would be superfluous for me to give its context in detail, but I must remark that I noticed that the Colonel introduced his subjects in close conformity with the sequence in which operational orders are given. First we were put on the map and given a clear picture of our area of responsibility, etc., then came "the enemy", his object, arms and morale, followed by our own and supporting forces, objective and method. The Colonel omitted to say, "Synchronise" but he did ask, "Any questions?" An altogether successful and profitable evening.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hutchings deserve all the thanks they received for the preparation of the hall and refreshments, all of which was much appreciated by our visitors and members alike. I should like those friends of Mr. Hutchings, who so readily gave a hand behind the bar, to realise that whilst nothing may have been said to them personally, we do acknowledge their help in this manner. Our thanks, too, to our ladies for passing the refreshments so gracefully so that all were happy in mind and body.

We held our Annual General Meeting the following evening when twenty-four were present—not bad, that, considering we met on two successive evenings. I had to attend a meeting in London, unfortunately, and so was unable to be present, but my number two, Tich Eldridge, has let me have the "gen"—I have, however, been taught to be cautious and so I will add "E. & O.E."

Our President, Mr. Hepworth, and Mr. Roberts sent letters of apologies for absence. We sincerely hope that they will be able to be with us next month. Mr. (Tony) Richards and Mr. Daniels were again with us after long illnesses—it must have been grand to see them again after such a long time. And then we have a new member, a Mr. Ashby, from Tonbridge. I regret that I have no more details at the moment concerning this member so must see what I can do about this next month.

If my memory is correct we have met Sandwich Branch twice before in the Darts Competition and were beaten by them on both occasions. On 4th June, at Canterbury, we again meet them, this time in the final of this season's competition. We hope to send the Sandwich home without its filling, in other words, we hope to knock the stuffing out of them.

The Branch has accepted the kind invitation of the Royal Artillery Association to be present at a Church Service to be held at St. Paul's Church, Chatham, on Sunday, 22nd May. Our Standard will be on parade, of which further details will be issued later.

Mrs. M. Holt, the widow of our late Treasurer, who served this Branch in that capacity for twenty-nine years, kindly sent us a new Regimental tie which was auctioned and the proceeds given to the Branch funds. Thank you very much, Mrs. Holt, it was very thoughtful of you. Another item which realised 14/6 for the Branch funds was a draw for a box of "Whimsies". (What on earth a "whimsey" is I am really at a loss to say.)

I have never previously published the names of Branch Officers, but perhaps they may be of interest to members of other Branches and so, appended hereto, is a list of those elected to serve us during the current year.

President: Mr. H. Hepworth. *Vice-President:* Mr. M. J. Street. *Chairman:* Mr. F. J. Cox; *Vice-Chairman:* Mr. W. E. Hutchings. *Secretary:* Mr. H. A. J. Brand. *Assistant Secretary:* Mr. P. V. Pardew, M.M. *Treasurer:* Mr. W. G. Stewart. *P.R.O.:* Me. *Committee:* Messrs. T. F. Blakelock, F. C. Eldridge, A. E. N. Hall. *Standard Bearer:* Mr. P. V. Pardew, M.M. *Escort to Standard:* Messrs. F. C. Eldridge, J. V. Thirsk.

These, I believe, will be the last notes published before the 1st Battalion leaves for Germany, so may I say, on behalf of this Branch, to all our serving members, "*Bon voyage*, and the best of luck. When you are on leave, please remember to pop in and see us—the third Saturday of the month at the Two Brewers, Rochester. You will be very welcome."

JUNE, 1955

On 6th May we held our monthly meeting and were pleased to have about twenty members with us. Letters of apology for absence of six of our regulars, including Mr. Hepworth, our President, were read. Various reasons kept them away, but it is hoped that they will be able to attend next month.

Mr. Daniels, an old member of this Branch, has again joined our ranks. We extend a very hearty welcome to him and trust that he will remain on the active list for many years to come. He served with the 7th Battalion from 1914 to 1919.

The Branch has been invited to attend the Morning Service Parade held under the auspices of the Mayor Elect of Chatham, and the Annual Church Services of the Royal Artillery Association and R.A.S.C. Association. The invitations have been accepted and the Branch Standard will be carried. As these events will take place either before or very soon after the next issue of *The Dragon* I shall not give greater detail.

The subject of having our own standard "dedicated" or "blessed" was once again discussed. It was agreed to let the matter rest on the table until our next meeting, meanwhile, our Hon. Secretary, Mr. Brand, is to enquire of Headquarters how the matter now stands, the reason for this being that it is understood that one Branch of the Association has had its standard "dedicated".

The Branch accounts for the year 1954-55, having been audited, were presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. G. Stewart. They were received and approved by the members present. The Hon. Treasurer was thanked for his services.

An old bogey was once again resurrected. It has always been agreed that too much time is taken up at Branch meetings with business discussions, leaving too little time for social activities. The problem is, how to obviate this. Our Committee has never been exercised to the full so in future the executive is to meet half-an-hour before the Branch members assemble when, it is hoped, the fat will be chewed from the bone, thus enabling recommended action to be presented to the Branch meeting. Whether this method will solve the problem remains to be seen.

These notes, of necessity, are brief as they are to be tacked on to the end of those for last month, but I do not think I can conclude without a mention of the great ceremonies that took place at Canterbury on 9th and 10th May. As an old soldier I enjoyed every moment of it—I was thrilled to the core with everything I saw and feel that it would be invidious to give preference to any particular item. The whole show was excellently organised and ably carried out. This Branch congratulates and thanks everybody, whether on parade or off, who helped to make the celebrations the success they were. The "Past" is justifiably proud of the "Present".

* * *

Ladies' Guild

The monthly meeting of the Medway Buffs Guild was held on Tuesday, 26th April. An enjoyable afternoon was spent at whist, after which tea was provided.

Discussions and arrangements took place with regard to our 21st Birthday Party and also various outings contemplated during the summer.

The monthly meeting of the Medway Ladies' Guild was held on Tuesday, 24th May.

Our Chairman, Mrs. Holt, reported that a very enjoyable day had been experienced when we saw the King of Denmark present new Colours to the Buffs. Several of our members made a personal visit to the Buffs Chapel in the afternoon.

Arrangements were made for our Annual Outing, this year to Eastbourne on 14th June.

A Whist Drive was held after the business and an enjoyable time ensued.

After a cup of tea the meeting closed.

Denmark Branch

CHRISTMAS MEETING.—On 6th December, 1954, Denmark Branch called the members for a Christmas Party and they were asked to be accompanied by the ladies. It was a pleasure to the Committee to see how many of the members who had accepted the invitation and appeared, and I do not think that any of the persons present were sorry for having come. Among our guests we had the pleasure to see the British Military Attaché, Lieut.-Col. P. J. Lewis, and Mrs. Lewis. We started the Christmas Meeting with coffee and cakes. While we had the coffee one of the members suggested that we should send a Christmas Greeting to two of the ex-British Military Attachés, who we have been pleased to meet in Denmark Branch, namely Colonel Grace and Major Edlmann. All the guests present signed the Christmas card.

When we had finished the coffee we started a tombola where there were many fine prizes, which had been given to Denmark Branch by the several members. After this tombola it was arranged that the ladies present should show how good they were at shooting. The result was beyond the most sanguine expectations of the Committee, because there seldom has been seen so many "full eyes", that the Committee thought over whether we the next year should let the ladies take part in the shooting competition against the English Branches instead of those who have shot the last competition, as the results have not been particularly good. Altogether it was a nice Christmas Party.

In January we had no meeting.

FEBRUARY MEETING.—On Tuesday, 1st February, we had our February Meeting. During this meeting we saw several pictures, which Kay Weeke had procured, as the original programme had to be cancelled at the last moment. Also this time the Committee was pleased to see many of the members.

MARCH MEETING.—To this meeting the Editor, Mr. Stig Jensen, O.B.E., had promised to be present. Surely there are not many Englishmen who know Editor Stig Jensen, but I can tell you that he conducted the receipt of the weapons which were thrown down with parachutes from the English aeroplanes during the war. It was a very interesting talk Stig Jensen gave, and he told many thrilling experiences which he had had as the head of this receipt. There is no space here for reproducing these experiences, but all the members listened silently. After the talk Stig Jensen answered several questions from the members. After the talk the shooting took place.

APRIL MEETING.—On 5th April Denmark Branch had their last meeting in this season. On this meeting there was shown several pictures, which were borrowed from the British Embassy. The pictures covered Greenland, over Scotland to London and ended in South England. It was some beautiful pictures, and furthermore we saw a new copy of *Trooping the Colour*. After these pictures the shooting season ended. The five selected firers for the Inter-Branch Competition fired the last shooting as well as our own Competition in Denmark Branch ended.

The three best ones from the Denmark Branch Competition were, Preben Berendt, Geill-Rasmussen and Haxthausen. These winners will, at the general meeting, which will take place in May, be presented with the prizes, and Preben Berendt will be presented with the Challenge Cup given by Colonel Grace for keeping one year.

It is rumoured here in Copenhagen that 1st Battalion of The Buffs shall be stationed in Germany. The Committee hope that if some of our friends will spend a leave in Copenhagen that they then will contact the Committee, as we should be very pleased to see them at our meetings, which will start again in the autumn, 1955, as well as we can fix them up for the night.

* * *

Canterbury Branch

Although I have contributed to *The Dragon* in many ways and under many *nom de plumes*, I have never written Past and Present Notes before, and so I crave your indulgence and tolerance for any falling off of the standard that has been set by the previous writer. That gentleman has established the Branch once again within the Journal covers and rightly deserves our thanks for his contributions.

On 15th April a 'bus load of Members with their ladies proceeded to Chatham and there with the Medway and Sittingbourne contingents they enjoyed a most illuminating and interesting talk of the 1st Battalion activities against the Mau-Mau terrorists in Kenya. This talk was given by Colonel Grace, the Commanding Officer of the Battalion, whom we wish to thank most heartily, for apart from the talk aspect, there is the time element involved, for Colonel Grace has the extensive worry of the Trooping of the Colour Ceremony and moving his Battalion to Germany in the next few weeks. Talks such as these and the display of modern weapons by Colonel Connolly (now of the Small Arms School) do much to bring about an active spirit of Regimental *esprit de corps* and helps to keep us "old timers" acquainted with the problems of the present-day younger soldiers.

Our proximity to the Depot and 4/5th Battalion area gives us certain regimental facilities which perhaps other Branches do not enjoy, but to sit back and accept them as an automatic bonus would be wrong. It might here be appropriate to thank Major Dendy and R.S.M. White of the Depot for the wonderful spirit of co-operation and social facilities they bestow upon our Branch, also, too, to thank Lieut.-Col. Hews and the Staff of the 4/5th Battalion for their kindness in providing us with a comfortable Meeting Room.

Reverting to our Chatham trip, we must thank Mr. Cox of that Branch and his fellow members for the excellent "eats" and arrangements made for our evening out. We hope to reciprocate shortly.

At our meeting on 22nd April we mustered a very useful number of "bods", which was fortunate, for we had the pleasure of entertaining Lieut. Simpson and five young Buffs from the 1st Battalion. They were a smart, likeable set of youngsters and it wasn't long before they realized that we were far from being ogres. Our business was rushed through and the "fratting" promptly started. In the end we introduced them to our speciality, to wit, Bat and Trap. Here they soon developed poise and skill (for I am sure the game was new to them) and they took on all comers including a group of "Gunners" who happened to be sharing the Drill Hall. About the only thing they did not mix with was the usual Euchre school clients—and who could blame them—for it means being acquainted with such expressions as "pole squatting", "Marking Time" and "Ruffs the opening". Anyway, it was a nice evening for everyone and we hope that the lads will remember our Club Room and visit us again. Our Chairman "Fathered" them right from the beginning and put them soon at ease—it is not everyone's ability to be so receptive socially.

A move to try and promote a Branch Outing to visit the Royal Tournament was discussed and it is to be hoped that the pioneers of this project will be successful.

The Chairman also asked us to sound our Spouses on the possibility of re-forming the Ladies Guild in the area. I believe our locality can produce some very loyal lady supporters, so it looks as if this proposition will become an achievement. More of this anon.

Owing to the non-publication of Branch notes for the month of May and the fact that the Regimental Journal for that month was wholely devoted to photos and descriptions of the 1st Battalion receiving their new Colours, I feel that I am not capable of amplifying or describing the wonderful and historic occasion in detail.

I am certain that I voice the feelings of the Branch in this belated reference by congratulating Colonel Grace and every Officer, N.C.O. and man of the Battalion for their most creditable bearing and turn-out on this parade. A creditable and historic day for the serving troops and spectators alike. To many of us our minds were taken back to Rangoon when in January, 1932, our present Chairman had the honour of training the 1st Battalion for the ceremony of receiving the Colours from the then Governor of Burma. We also desire to thank the many people connected with the organization and administration of this excellent ceremony and for the social facilities extended to all Branches—full marks to these people, whom more often than not have to remain "behind the scenes", with little thanks.

A last word and that is to thank Messrs. F. and W. Kidder and Punnett for their services with our Standard, as part of the Guard of Honour afforded to our Colonel-in-Chief.

Finally, I propose to introduce one member of our Branch in the form of a "Who's Who" monthly. The order of appearance will be according to my whim and data available, but I am certain the Branch will be pleased to be associated with my first choice.

"BABU."

WHO'S WHO AT THE CANTERBURY BRANCH

No. 1—MR. A. ARGRAVE

Mr. Argrave is not a "pukka" Buff, having been a civilian all his life, yet it is difficult to find a more loyal member of the Regiment. From time immemorial Alf has loyally supported the social activities of every Branch of Regimental activity, and has always been a most ardent Sergeants' Mess supporter. Dance, Whist Drive or Tombola are equal attractions.

Alf commenced work in the actual tailor's shop that still stands in the Old Infantry (Depot) Barracks when 17 years of age in the year 1909. He was originally a "Civilian Subordinate" working in conjunction with the Sergeant Master Tailor, but from 1914 Alf became effective in his own right as a War Office Contractor and it is his humble opinion that he now heads the list in seniority of approved Army Contractors.

Commencing under Major Hulke and serving now under Major Dendy, Alf has seen no less than a dozen different Depot Commanders.

During that time he has worked upon the original "Red" uniforms, the Service Dress, the Battle Dress and now the No. 1 Dress and as a side line has fitted thousands with Tropical Drill, Jungle Green, Blue Patrols and "Mallaby Deelys" (I remember these, but my spelling may be at fault). He has also tackled Hunting Kits, Civilian Police Clothing (including full ceremonial for Chief Constables) and Cadet uniforms.

One cannot estimate the many thousands of Buffs who have been clothed or prepared for draft by this zealous worker for in the old days almost every regular Buff must have passed through his shop, but available statistics for this War show that some 50,000 men (not all of the Regiment) were initially fitted by him.

Amongst that number Alf is proud to include 300 Danes who enlisted into our Regiment. Newspaper cuttings also indicate that he clothed the first Militia lad!

His workshop has seen little change since 1909 and had it not been for a bomb hurling a gravestone through the roof, one could have said that the building was unaltered in more ways than one, for our friend enjoys a bit of a muddle.

To execute his fitting parades Alf has hiked over almost every yard of W.D. ground in and around Canterbury and has had to visit detachments and Drill Halls throughout Kent by tumbling in and out of awkward Army vehicles—no mean effort when one realizes that Alf is handicapped with a major disability that involves the use of crutches for every pace he takes. However, our friend is plucky and game and seeks no sympathy in this respect, and this seems the appropriate time to delve into his personal characteristics.

His hobbies include all card games, but Euchre is his real meat. He will throw a dart, spot the gee-gees or do Cricket Scorer for the Sergeants. Strangely enough he enjoys (or has enjoyed) swimming. His prodigious memory can produce an unrivalled collection of names, dates and anecdotes associated with the Old Depot. His vices are snuff-taking, driving dangerously in an Invalid Chair (for a short time) and challenging fit Sergeants to a race across the Depot Square. He enjoys a "natter" and an Ale. His dislikes are against freshly made Lance-Corporals wanting their first stripe sewn on within ten minutes, and Q.M.s who attempt to check his Inventory of accommodation stores.

Foreign service includes an odd visit to the Continent!

"BABU."

* * *

Dover Branch

DEATHS.—Percy S. Beerling, aged 82 years, S. African Veteran, 2nd Battalion. Died March 22nd, 1955.

Mrs. Tong, wife of C.Q.M.S. Tong, 1st Battalion, aged 78 years. Died 8th March, 1955.

Mrs. W. Frost, wife of W. H. Frost, 1/4th Battalion, aged 71 years. Died 5th May, 1955.

Correction of Death report July 7th, Borrett should read B. Borrett, aged 86 years, not 68.

MONTHLY MEETING NOTES, THURSDAY, 6TH APRIL

Minutes were read and confirmed.

Correspondence from General Secretary re visit of Colonel-in-Chief; Mr. Banks re two sick members, Cascoll and Pilcher.

The Chairman was not able to be present, and the opening was made by T. Noakes (*Vice-Chairman*).

The Branch Darts Cup Final was played and the Cup won by Ernie Hayward, who beat Tommy Noakes by 2 games to 1.

Nineteen members present.

Box Collection, 8/1, for Branch funds.

MAY 5TH

The Chairman again was absent, this time with a slight accident at work, and it was agreed that John Deal be asked to take the Chair. Meeting opened at 8 p.m.

Minutes were read.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Letter re arrangements for Colour Parade at Canterbury, also for Banner Bearers and Escort.

The monthly *Dragons* were issued.

Two new members were present, Mr. Tong and Mr. Hussey, and were given a hearty welcome by the Chairman. Twenty-five members present.

Box Collection, 10/-. Meeting closed 9.45 p.m.

MEETING, JUNE 2ND

Chairman opened the meeting at 8 p.m.

Minutes read and were accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Letter re Mr. Ellen. Correspondence sent to General Secretary for consideration. Letter from Ashford Branch re Mills (our Dover member). Many thanks, Ashford Secretary, also his wife, for visits to hospital. Letter from Clarabutt asking for a *Dragon* of the visit of Colonel-in-Chief; he is also in hospital.

New members present, Mr. Pendle, 2nd Battalion, and then he was sent to Gloucesters in Korea; Mr. Watts, 2nd Battalion; both were soon made at home and old times were talked about.

Seventeen members present. Collection, 5/6.

T.H.H.

* * *

Sandwich Branch

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Tuesday, April 5th, 1955, at 8 p.m. Major F. W. Tomlinson presided, and among the 22 members present was Mr. Jack Wood, a Life Member of the Branch, who was given a very hearty welcome. Ex-Sgt. Jack Wood is home on holiday from Kumasi, B.W. Africa, and returns about the end of July.

CHANGE OF MEETING NIGHT.—It has been agreed to change our meeting night from Tuesday, to the first Wednesday in the month. Members, kindly note.

A report was given on the Darts Match held at Ramsgate on Friday, March 25th, when 35 members and ladies were made very welcome by the Ramsgate Branch. The teams, having refreshed themselves, very soon got down to business. The first leg was fairly even, but finished with a win for Sandwich. The next game was very soon over for our scores were very high and with Ramsgate requiring 306 and Sandwich 69, Bert Beecham kindly obliged. The teams then played for the gallon, which was won by Ramsgate. At 10.30 p.m. we left for home after a very enjoyable evening.

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, May 4th, 1955, at 8 p.m. Major F. W. Tomlinson presided and 21 members were present. The meeting opened with the usual moment's silence.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

Apologies were received from Lieut.-Col. N. S. Hart and Messrs. J. Moxon, A. Beecham, W. Spicer and J. Wood.

A letter from Headquarters was read stating that the Darts Final had now been fixed to take place at the Depot on Saturday, June 4th.

It was stated that 65 seats had already been booked for this event and more names were still coming in. It was agreed that a third coach be engaged.

Final details were given of the arrangements made for the Presentation of the New Colours to the 1st Battalion on Monday, May 9th, by our Colonel-in-Chief, H.M. The King of Denmark, and tickets were issued. Our coach would be leaving at 9 a.m.

No coach had been arranged for Tuesday, May 10th, when the Old Colours were being Layed Up and members can best make their own arrangements by the Service buses.

Notice was given that, at the request of the Editor, no Branch notes would appear in the May issue of *The Dragon* as this was to be a special Presentation of Colours Number of photographs and a description of the Parade of the Presentation and Laying Up. Members requiring extra copies were requested to order early to save disappointment.

An invitation from the Sandwich Old Tyme Dance Club was before the meeting, and accepted, for Members and their ladies to attend a social evening at St. Peter's Hall on Thursday, May 12th, at 7.30 p.m.

On Monday, May 9th, 32 members and ladies managed to make the journey to Canterbury to witness that never-to-be-forgotten Presentation of the New Colours. It was a wonderful sight and made one more proud than ever to be a Buff. The lads were just fine.

The arrangements for the carton lunch were well organised and enjoyed, and on behalf of those of our members present we say "Thank you".

It was a very great honour and privilege for our Vice-Chairman, Lieut.-Col. N. S. Hart, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. Taylor, to represent the Branch on the occasion of the Parade at the Depot when our Colonel-in-Chief, H.M. The King of Denmark, shook each member by the hand. It was a moment of great honour and pride never to be forgotten.

We were very pleased to have had the pleasure of meeting our members of the Denmark Branch. May this be the forerunner of many more meetings.

* * *

Folkestone Branch

Anything which may have happened during the month to affect the Branch was completely overshadowed by the Presentation of new Colours to the 1st Battalion, and the Laying-up of the Old Colours in Canterbury Cathedral. So much has been written about both these events by far abler persons than myself that I do not propose to try to emulate them. Perhaps I may be allowed to quote the Military Correspondent of *The Times* who reported, "the guard gave a superb trooping of the Old Colours". That certainly leaves nothing that I can say.

As one writing in *The Dragon* said, "it left a certain mistiness of the eyes which none need be ashamed of".

No, I will not even attempt to write what I thought of it all. I just could not do it.

Of course I must say how much we all appreciated the wonderful arrangements made for us at the Depot. That lunch was great, and came at a time when we were all in the mood to do it justice.

Our "Thank you" to all concerned is indeed very sincere.

Since last writing we have held our Annual General Meeting. There are no changes to report for one good reason.

I regret to say that our old friend Bill Lord died during April, after a long and trying illness. He was a most regular attendant at our meetings and we have lost a good Committee man.

And now for June 4th when I'm sure a good evening is in store for all who can get there.

* * *

Faversham Branch

Well, here we are at last with a few notes from Faversham. On 4th April we had the special privilege of welcoming a party from the 1st Battalion, Mr. Turner and five other ranks, who kindly made the journey all the way from Dover to our monthly meeting. Owing to them having taken a wrong turning they were a little bit late for the meeting, arriving about the middle of it, so they got a little insight into the working of a Branch. Owing to our members being so scattered and transport being a problem there was a very small party to meet them, I am sorry to say.

After greetings and apologies on our part were over we had a very nice speech from Mr. Turner, which was replied to by our worthy Secretary, Chinny, with a few appropriate words.

With the closing of the meeting we adjourned to the big room where we entertained our visitors to a darts match which they won, afterwards having a nice social evening which everyone thoroughly enjoyed, with sandwiches and plenty of Wallop to go with them provided by our worthy host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Arend, to whom a hearty vote of thanks was accorded in the usual way.

As all good things must come to an end, we saw our visitors off on their return journey with everybody happy and taking our Faversham members back to Faversham in their truck with them. We wish them the best of luck wherever they may be.

R.C.C.

* * *

Brighton Branch

Nothing much to report from this seaside resort, but five braves did turn up for the meeting on May 9th and had a chance of seeing part of our wonderful parade at Canterbury on the T.V.

It was a poor substitute for the real thing, which was truly magnificent, and from the point of view of one who had carried those very Colours which were trooped for the last time, a very moving ceremony indeed.

Jimmy Dray remains on the sick list, but is up and getting around slowly again—we all hope this progress will continue.

The wife and family of our Branch Chairman, Captain R. J. Robertson, are waiting passage to Nigeria to join him and we all wish them *bon voyage*.

ACHEM.

* * *

Ramsgate Branch

The monthly meeting of the Ramsgate Branch of the Past and Present Association, The Buffs, was held on Friday, 20th May, 1955, at the "Freemasons' Tavern", High Street, Ramsgate.

Mr. C. F. Fakley, Chairman, presided, supported by Major A. J. H. Taylor, T.D., Major H. Martin, M.B.E., Councillor E. H. Swendell and Mr. B. E. Knott, Branch Secretary.

Continued on p. 158

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Mr. Fakley welcomed Officers and Members, also expressed the Branch's sympathy with their sick members, Messrs. H. Sheppard, C. Curtis and S. Taylor. He wished these members a speedy recovery to good health.

The Chairman also thanked Mr. Hogben and the Branch Secretary, Mr. Knott, for organising the Ramsgate Representation of over 60 members and their wives on the occasion of the visit of H.M. The King of Denmark, who recently presented New Colours to the 1st Battalion The Buffs.

The invitation to the Branch to attend Mayor's Sunday Parade had been accepted and Branch Representatives and Standard Bearer would attend.

Mr. Fakley stated that a coach had been booked for Ramsgate for the Association Darts Final at Canterbury between Sandwich and Medway Branches on 4th June, 1955. He hoped a good muster of members and ladies would attend. Ramsgate was especially interested as Sandwich beat Ramsgate in order to reach this Final. Mr. Hougham stated that Branch Dinner arrangements were in hand and the Dinner Committee were meeting in the near future to discuss details of price, rendezvous, etc., and the results would be ready at the next Branch meeting.

Mr. Hogben, Shoot Captain, stated that the Rifle Team had had a successful season and the team had closed the winter season but would restart in August.

Being no other business Mr. Fakley closed a very satisfactory meeting and refreshments were served by Buff host Dick Atkins.

B. E. KNOTT,

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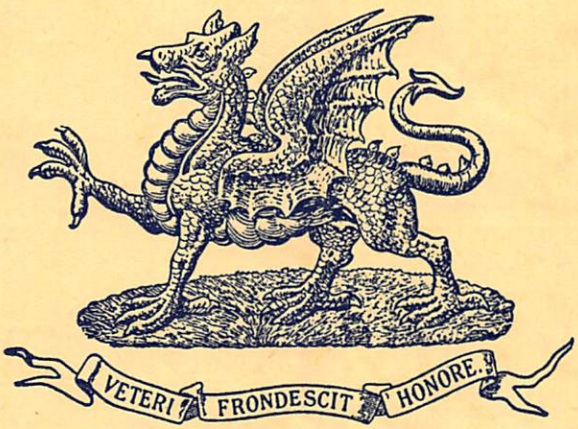
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Majors

Jelf, A. G. ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Officer i/c Field Records, FARELF.
Harris-St. John, B. J. ... D.A.A. & Q.M.G., H.Q., Aldershot
Lewis, P. J. ... ... T/Lt.-Col., M.A., Copenhagen.
Bailey, N. T. ... ... Gold Coast Regt. T.C.
Yates, G. H. A. ... ... Nottingham U.T.C.
Edlmann, E. L. C., *M.C.* ... 2 i/c/Chief Instructor Inf. Boys' Bn.
Rawlings, A. C., *M.B.E.* ... Depot C.R.M.P.
Horley, B. M. ... ... att. Depot.
May, J. F., *M.B.E.* ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Ministry of Supply.
Ravenhill, R. A. C. ... D.A.A.G., G.H.Q., E. Africa.
Plumptre, P. B., *M.B.E.* ... 6 Travelling Wing.
Dendy, R. H. ... ... O.C., Depot.
Majendie, A. E. ... ... R.A.F. Staff College.
Lucas, J. P. ... ... Colonial Prisons, Kenya.
Norris, N. F. H. C. ... 1st Bn.
Crichton, R. F., *M.C.* ... 5 Nigeria Regt.
McGrath, B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Blaxland, W. G. ... ... Hospital, U.K.
Gay, A. W. ... ... K.A.R. Depot, E. Africa.
Montgomery, D. ... ... Depot.
Morgan, F. de R., *M.C.* ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q., Malaya.
Poulsen, N. D. ... ... Course, U.K.
Cox, E. G., *M.C.* ... ... R.M. Officers' School, Lympstone.
Critchley, L. P., *M.B.E.* ... 1st Bn.
Worts, J. B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Court, D. N. ... ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q., E. Africa.
Gordon-Wilson, N. F., *M.B.E.* 3 Bn., Para. Regt.
Nash, J. P. ... ... G.S.O. 2, M.13, War Office.
ffrench Blake, M. A. O'B. ... 27 Bde., Hong Kong.
Iliffe, R. O. ... ... 2 Malay Regt.

Captains

Semmence, R. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Hadshar, G. ... ... T/Maj., D.A.A.G., H.Q., Nigeria Dist.
Dunglinson, W. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Barrett, D. P. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dent, J. E. ... ... T/Maj., 4/5th Bn.
MacDonald, E. W. ... ... Course, U.K.

Captains—*continued*

Marshall, F. ... ... W.O.S.B., Barton Stacy.
Dubois, G. E., *M.C.* ... 6th Bn. K.A.R., East Africa.
Peckham, A. D. ... ... Malay Regt.
Squire, S. J., *M.B.E.* ... H.Q., East Africa.
Thorneycroft, F. E. ... 1st Bn.
Willows, D. A. ... ... Adjt., 1st Bn.
Wilson, P. F., *D.F.C.* ... Glider Regt., 2nd T.A.F., B.A.O.R.
Hamilton, C. M. ... ... H.Q., B.T.A.
Gatehouse, H. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Griffin, C. J. ... ... Adjt., 4/5th Bn.
Webber, J. W. ... ... T/Maj., A.D.C. to Fld. Marshal Montgomery.
Pim, A. H. E. ... ... 2 Gold Coast Regt.
Stratford-Tuke, R. A. F. ... 1st Bn.
Brigstocke, W. F. ... ... G.S.O. 3, Ind. Para. Bde. Gp.
French, B. G. J. ... ... 6 K.A.R., E. Africa.
Lees, H. D. ... ... 7 K.A.R., E. Africa.
Dalgliesh, A. R. F. ... 1st Bn.
Grugeon, J. D. ... ... Adjt., Depot.
Mullins, G. O. ... ... Adjt., 3 Bn., Parachute Regt.

Lieutenants

Minto, I. G. ... ... 1st Bn.
West, C. T. F. ... ... 1st Bn.
Ward, M. W. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dracopoli, M. P. St. F. ... Depot.
Tennent, H. C. L. ... ... A.D.C. to G.O.C., H.C.D.
Mitchell, P. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Pilcher, R. A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Baker, R. W. M. ... ... Inf. Boys' Bn.
Rymer-Jones, J. A. ... Airborne Forces Depot.
Edgecombe, G. J. B. ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants

Lunn, J. M. ... ... 1st Bn.
Lea, R. ... ... 1st Bn.

Quartermasters

Watts, E. H. F. ... ... Maj., Depot.
Kille, W. E. ... ... Maj., 1st Bn.
Catt, A. H. ... ... Capt., 4/5th Bn.

Chaplain: Revd. E. W. Evans, C.F.

Paymaster: Major B. M. Green, R.A.P.C.

Short Service Commissions

Majors

Broadley, A., *M.B.E.*, *T.D.* War Office.
*Ford, E. N., *M.C.* ... ... Leave, U.K.
Todman, N. E. H. ... ... E. Anglia District.
*Carey, R., *M.C.* ... ... 23 K.A.R.
Robertson, R. J. ... ... H.Q., Nigeria District.

Captains

*Elliott, N. ... ... Aldershot District.
*Ransley, E. J., *M.C.* ... 1st Bn.
McGrath, G. A. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
*Fakley, J. F. ... ... P.S.O., H.C.B. Depot.
*Butcher, D. A. T. ... ... East Africa Training Centre.
Marshall, J. V. ... ... S.P.S.O. Staff.

Lieutenants

Barlow, W. B. ... ... Inf. Div. Pro. Coy.
Davison, J. H. ... ... Depot.
Cross, K. J. ... ... 1st Bn.

Lieutenants—*continued*

Kirby, J. A. ... ... Movement Control Pool, H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Hicks, E. M. G. ... ... 1st Bn.
Prentice, J. R. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
Froom, A. F. F. ... ... Depot.
Hodges, J. D. ... ... E.R.E., Singapore.

2nd Lieutenants

Courtney, M. ... ... att. Depot.
Hardy, J. E. ... ... 1st Bn.
Jakob, F. J. ... ... West Africa.

Quartermasters

Rowcliffe, T. A., Major ... M.E.L.F.
Stone, J. H., Major ... B.A.O.R.
Senior, N., Major ... ... H.Q., N.A.G., B.A.O.R.
Corps, J., Capt. ... ... 16 Coy., R.A.S.C.

* Extended Service Officer

National Service Officers

2nd Lieutenants

Naldrett-Jays, R. C. ... 1st Bn., N.R.R.
Wilkins, G. C. ... ... Accra, West Africa.
Wright, R. P. ... ... Depot.
McGowan, M. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Simpson, K. T. ... ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants—*continued*

Parker, P. W. M. ... ... Airborne F.D.
Shephard, J. N. ... ... 1 K.A.R.
Wilcox, R. D. ... ... 23 K.A.R.
Bowen, S. ... ... West Africa.

4/5th Battalion

HON. COLONEL

Col. D. J. Dean, *V.C.*, *T.D.*, Woodcourt, 1 Park Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

Hews, G. R. D., *M.C.*, *T.D.*

MAJORS

Dent, J. E. (Training Major)
Alexander, U. H. B., *M.B.E.*
Prestige, J. T. R.
Tilleard, J., *T.D.*
Neville, F. G., *M.C.*, *T.D.*
Plunkett, P. N. P.
Balding, C. E. E.
Cobb, F. D. C. (Unattached List)

CAPTAINS

Griffin, C. J. (Adjutant)
Beaumont, M. J. P.
Klean, P. H.

CAPTAINS—*continued*

Morgan, R. J. S., *M.C.*
Kelly, G. D. S.
Usher, J. A.
Anderton, N. G.
Blackbourn, A. H., *T.D.*
Scott, A. J.
Baddeley, W. D.

LIEUTENANTS

Crowdy, R. E. L.
Bennett, R. G.
Nye, R. T.
DePury, J. D.
Whiting, D. A.
Thomas, J. A.
Oliver, C. P.
Morlock, P. J.

N.S. LIST

LIEUTENANTS

Tilley, T. A.
Howland, N. M.
Waterman, R. R.
Johnson, R. F.
Taylor, D. C.
Holloway, R. G.
Finn, W. C.
Vallins, J.

2ND LIEUTENANTS

Robinson, J. P.
Klyberg, C. J.

QUARTERMASTER

Catt, A. H., Capt.

CHAPLAIN

The Revd. J. E. Robinson

MEDICAL OFFICER

Capt. F. P. Cassidi (R.A.M.C.)

Staff and Command

Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B.*, *C.B.E.*	D.M.I., War Office.	Col. (T/Brig.) R. W. Craddock, *C.B.E.*, *D.S.O.*	Brig. A/Q Southern Command.
Brigadier T. H. Spear, *O.B.E.*	Mil. Attache, Saigon.	Col. (T/Brig.) F. W. B. Parry	Comd. Sierra Leone and Gambia Dis.
Colonel (T/Brig.) M. P. D. Dewar, *M.B.E.*	D.D.M.P. (A), War Office.	Col. (T/Brig.) R. F. Parry, *M.C.*	Comdg. 3rd Inf. Bde., Arab Legion.

Lieut.-Colonels (Employed List)

Lieut.-Col. (T/Col.) H. P. Williams, *O.B.E.*	W.O.S.B., Barton Stacey.	Lieut.-Col. J. G. Atkinson, *O.B.E.*	C.O. 2 Malay Regt.

Lieut.-Col. J. F. Connolly, *D.S.O.*, Chief Instructor, S. of Inf., Hythe.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

1st Battalion

R.S.M. Turmaine, F.	C.Q.M.S. Anderson, C.	Sgt. Colyer, A.	Sgt. Streeter, E.
B.M. Sharpe, T.	C.Q.M.S. Mannering, D.	Sgt. Simmonds, R.	Sgt. Billett, S.
R.Q.M.S. Rose, J.	C.Q.M.S. Newman, P.	Sgt. Page, A.	Sgt. Rowland, K.
C.S.M. Sharman, R.	C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Mans, W.	Sgt. Harris, F.	Sgt. Cock, C.
C.S.M. Champion, R.	Sgt. Smissen, J.	Sgt. Bird, H.	Sgt. Pooley, L.
C.S.M. Middleton, J.	Sgt. Larkin, F.	Sgt. Woodrow, V.	S.Q.M.S. Marsden, C. (R.A.P.C.)
C.S.M. Ellis, D.	Sgt. Lyons, B.	Sgt. Histed, W.	
C.S.M. Day, S.	Sgt. Morrish, E.	Sgt. Cain, D.	Sgt. Swain, R. (R.A.P.C.)
C.Q.M.S. Partridge, R.	Sgt. Weatherall, P.	Sgt. Wright, R.	
C.Q.M.S. Denny, S.	Sgt. Jephcott, H.	Sgt. Townsley, J.	

Depot The Buffs

R.S.M. White, H.	C.S.M. Diamond, R.	Sgt. Laker, J.	Sgt. Raine, R.
R.Q.M.S. Howe, W.	C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Webb, C.	Sgt. Bryant, A.	Sgt. Harrison, W.
C.S.M. Chapman, G.	C.Q.M.S. Stremes, G., *D.F.M.*	Sgt. Ivory, L.	Sgt. Recton, T.
W.O. II Excell, F.	C/Sgt. Belcher, E.	Sgt. Rea, R.	Sgt. Spiers, E.
W.O. II Gallaway, R.	C/Sgt. Clifton-Sprigg, H.	Sgt. Cain, D.	Sgt. Parker

4/5th Battalion (T.A.)

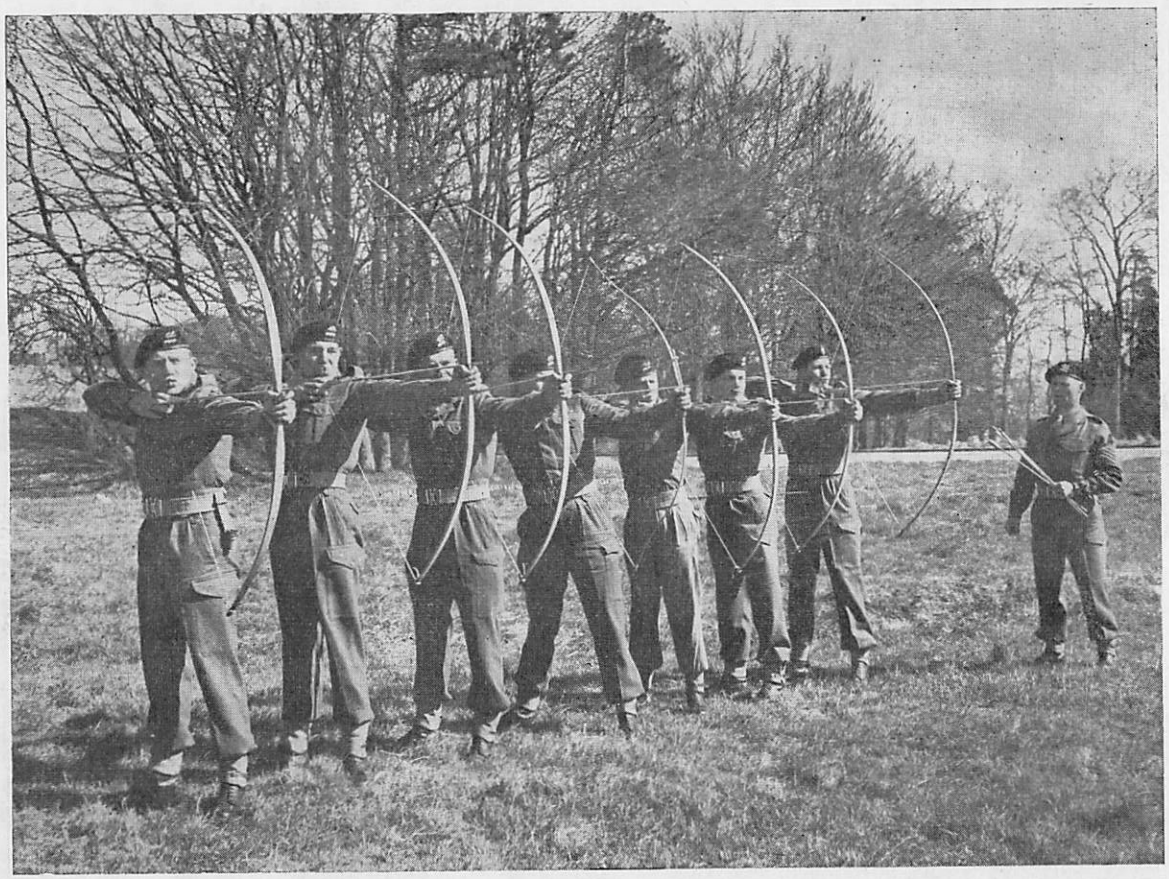
PERMANENT STAFF

R.S.M. Faulkner, G. T.
C.S.M. Fagg, G.
C.S.M. Seymour, J.
Sgt. Miller, C.
Sgt. Porter, J.
Sgt. Dean, D.
Sgt. Stoakes, A.
Sgt. Kay, M.

R.Q.M.S. Harwood, E.	Sgt. James, A.	Sgt. Saffery, D.
C.S.M. Chapman, W.	Sgt. Bass, R.	Sgt. Rumble, L.
C.S.M. Gabriel, J.	Sgt. Williams, E.	Sgt. Christian, W.
C.S.M. White, R.	Sgt. Thundow, W.	Sgt. Smith, W.
C.S.M. Rogers, W.	Sgt. George, M.	Sgt. Evans, S.
C.S.M. Antrichan, G.	Sgt. Saunders, G.	Sgt. Bradford, R.
C/Sgt. Trinkwon, A.	Sgt. Richardson, H.	Sgt. Cozens, L.
C/Sgt. Couzens, W.	Sgt. Cope, H.	Sgt. Dennis, P.
C/Sgt. Chidwick, E.	Sgt. Hewitt, C.	Sgt. Dennis, R.
C/Sgt. Wing, T.	Sgt. Allen, A.	Sgt. Erridge, D.
C/Sgt. Figgett, G.	Sgt. Jones, A.	Sgt. Stockdale, J.
C/Sgt. Bond, E.	Sgt. Pattenden, R. (Drum-Major)	Sgt. Todd, H.
Sgt. Bell, J.		Sgt. Godley, D.
Sgt. Hurlow, R.	Sgt. Drury, F.	Sgt. Hayward, A.
Sgt. Babbage, W.	Sgt. Blakeney, H.	Sgt. Southern, J.
Sgt. Wraight, S.	Sgt. Hughes, C.	Sgt. Joiner, W.

Regimental Appointments

Administrative Officer—Depot The Buffs Secretary: Canterbury Cricket Week Club Dragon Club Regimental Committee	Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker
Curator: Regimental Museum	Lieut.-Col. G. R. Howe
Secretary: Past and Present Association, The Buffs Executive Committee Editor: *The Dragon*	Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles



1st Battalion "Bowmen" receive instruction from Sergeant F. Shaw

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EDITORIAL

SUMMER seems to be following its now almost expected pattern, and clouts have been cast with some reluctance. Nevertheless, there have been a few lovely days, but these, like the weather prophets' showers, have been scattered. Two such lovely days were enjoyed by your Editor at the Lords Test Match, where one saw cricket quite at its best. A wicket to bring out the finest qualities of both batsmen and bowlers, favouring neither one more than the other, and played as if all were enjoying the game.

* * *

Those who saw the Royal Tournament this year must have been most impressed. It is difficult each year to pick out any particular item for special mention. The old favourites, for instance the Royal Naval Field Gun Competition, still create great excitement. This year, the drums of the Pakistan Police Band aroused some of the loudest applause. They were magnificent. The Instructors from the Army School of Physical Training performed gymnastics for which a high salary would have been paid by many Music Hall managers, and the ladies of the W.R.N.S. in their neat gym. costumes were a delight in their almost Ballet movements.

* * *

Another highlight of recent weeks was the eighteen massed bands, in full dress uniform, which took part in the S.S.A.F.A. Tattoo at the White City. A coach party, organised by the ladies of the Welfare Committee at the Depot, enjoyed a very successful trip to see it.

* * *

Remembrance Sunday will soon be here again, and this year the parade will form up at our new home on St. Martin's Hill. Whilst some may regret the old familiar route by way of Military Road, it is better that the present be brought more into the annual pilgrimage, and the Depot as it is now is, after all, Regimental Headquarters, and one feels that the Branches of the Past and Present Association are now quite familiar with our new home.

* * *

The preacher on this occasion at the Service in the Cathedral will be Canon A. O. Standen, the Vice-Dean.

* * *

By permission of the O.C., 1st Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment, their Band will play.

* * *

We would remind those who have not already done so, to let the Secretary, Past and Present Association, have your requirements without delay for the Cathedral and Lunch on Remembrance Sunday.

* * *

We renew in this number our monthly contribution "Watch for these Films". Owing to their annual training, this year on Salisbury Plain, the Sub-Editor, 4/5th Battalion, regrets that no notes will appear this month, but we shall look forward, with interest, in August, to news of their doings.

* * *

We publish on another page a photograph of the 1st Battalion "Bowmen". While fighting Mau Mau, many of the soldiers became interested in the use of bows and arrows, and whilst at Dover formed an Archery Club. We hope to have further news of this interesting development in later editions of *The Dragon*.

Personalia

THE Colonel of the Regiment has been appointed to Washington, U.S.A., where he and Mrs. Boucher will be going next year for a spell of duty. The news will give pleasure to us all, though we shall deplore their temporary absence.

* * *

Brigadier and Mrs. M. P. D. Dewar will also be leaving us for Paris, where Brigadier Dewar is to take up an appointment with S.H.A.P.E.

* * *

Major E. L. C. Edlmann has become Chief Instructor and Second-in-Command of the Infantry Boys' Battalion. His address is Infantry Boys' Battalion, Plumer Barracks, Plymouth.

* * *

We were sorry to say good-bye to Major and Mrs. H. Collins. He has decided to give up the Army, and will be returning to Kenya to farm. Our best wishes to them both. They thank all past and present officers of the Regiment so very much for their magnificent Wedding present. Their temporary address is c/o Barclay's Bank (D.C. & O.), Nairobi, Kenya, E. Africa.

* * *

We offer our deep sympathy to Captain A. D. M. Hilton and his family on the death of his wife.

* * *

Major and Mrs. Harris-St. John thank all Officers of the Regiment for the magnificent wedding present which they will always treasure and which already has a place of honour in their drawing room, where it has been much admired.

* * *

Colonel W. H. Rowe writes from Kenya:—

I have just received my copy of the Colour Presentation *Dragon*, and after reading it through from beginning to end, I feel I must congratulate you and all concerned on this particular number of the Regimental magazine which will remain a treasured possession of mine. Its production and photographs are excellent in every way and it will always be a regret that I could not be at the Parade and other Regimental functions.

One of the older Buffs salutes you all everyone who contributed to making two wonderful days of Regimental history.

All kindest regards and Salaams to all whom I know, now at Canterbury.

Our congratulations to Colonel H. P. Williams on promotion to that rank, and Captains R. O. Iliffe and J. H. Stone on promotion to Major. Also to Major and Mrs. J. P. Nash on the birth of a son, and to Captain and Mrs. Pim on the birth of a daughter. Captain Pim was recently involved in a nasty accident in West Africa, when a two-ton lorry turned over and trapped him. Happily, he received no serious injuries.

* * *

We congratulate also Mr. and Mrs. Wallace (*née* Susan Parry) and Mr. and Mrs. St. John Bavin (*née* Susan Dean) on their marriages.

* * *

Finally, Lieut.-Col. A. O'B. ffrench Blake on his appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant for the County.

* * *

We are sorry to record the death at Maidstone on 8th June of Mr. Amos, who served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions, and left the Army in 1928 after 22 years' service.

* * *

It was nice to meet Mr. A. D. Cornes when he called in. He is in England on holiday from Australia. His address whilst here is 114 Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7. He is one of a number of Buffs now living in Australia.

* * *

Captain and Mrs. Sydney Maiden have found a new home; their address is Applemead, Well Lane, Swanmore, Nr. Southampton. Captain H. Morley recently lunched with Captain and Mrs. Maiden and many old memories were revived.

* * *

BIRTHS

NASH.—On June 12th, at Louise Margaret Hospital, Aldershot, to Winifred (*née* McClintock), wife of Major J. P. Nash, The Buffs, a son (Martin).

* * *

PIM.—To Tony and Pamela Pim at Taborachi Hospital, Gold Coast, on 21st June, 1955, a daughter (Anna Marie).

* * *

DEATHS

BUNTING.—On June 15th, 1955, Ernest Gray Bunting, husband of Ethel Gray Bunting, 6 Hawkins Road, Folkestone, aged 74 years.

* * *

HILTON.—On July 1st at Willowdown, Harbledown, peacefully, Beryl, beloved wife of A. D. M. Hilton.

Obituary

ERNEST GRAY BUNTING

IT was with deep regret that we heard of the sudden passing of Ernest Gray. He died, as he had lived, quietly and unassumingly, and was laid to rest in St. Martin's Churchyard, Cheriton, on June 20th. Among those at the Service were Brigadier H. McNab, who knew Gray so well when he was Brigade Major at Shorncliffe in the thirties; Captain Vere Collins of the Shepway Stragglers C.C.; Mr. Jack Godden of Folkestone C.C. and Mr. W. Brunger, who served with him in the 1/5th Battalion in Mesopotamia during World War I.

Gray had a distinguished career as groundsman, sportsman and coach, which I believe he started at Tonbridge School at the age of 14. He was for a time at Winchester, where he married the wife to whom he was so devoted, and at Shorncliffe where he remained for 37 years.

First and foremost was his ability as a squash and racquets player, being in the top flight of these most strenuous games for a number of years, with some notable victories to his credit.

Older officers of the Buffs will remember him at Shorncliffe as player and coach. His knowledge was of inestimable value to both beginners and players who freely asked his help and advice which was just as freely given.

Perhaps he did not shine so much in the cricket world as a player, but his knowledge of the game had to be experienced to be appreciated. His services as umpire were much sought after at all times. Proof of his value—if any could be needed—is the fact that he stood for Shepway Stragglers for 5 years, and would not have discontinued then but for the fact, that, to quote his own words, "I can't hear as well as I used to, and I should hate to give a wrong decision and make a mess of things." How typical of him. We, who were privileged to be numbered among his friends—enemies he had none—mourn the loss of one who surely left this world the better for having lived in it.

* * *

Remembrance Sunday 1955

REMEMBRANCE Sunday will be on 7th August. The usual arrangements will be made for the Service in the Cathedral, and for the Re-union afterwards. The parade this year will take place from the Depot, New Infantry Barracks. Instructions have been circulated to all Branches of the Past and Present Association.

It is requested that officers and their families who intend to be present will apply for tickets for the Cathedral and for lunch (5/- per head) to the Secretary, Past and Present Association, and *not* as in previous years to the Administrative Officer.

We would remind those other than officers, and those not attached to any Branch, that a limited number of tickets for the Cathedral will be available from the Secretary, Past and Present Association, also tickets for a carton lunch (4/- per head). All requests for lunch tickets should be accompanied with remittances.

* * *

Future Events

July 24. LONDON BRANCH BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE SERVICE, CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST. PETER AD VINCULA, H.M. TOWER OF LONDON. SERVICE, 11 A.M.

Aug. 7. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.

Sept. 10. BUFFS GOLFING SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER.

17. PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

24. LONDON BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE, DUKE OF YORK'S H.Q., CHELSEA. Book in now.

30. BUFFS OFFICERS' RE-UNION CLUB DINNER. CONNAUGHT ROOMS.

Oct. 8. 6TH (S) BATTALION (1914-18) ANNUAL DINNER.

29. 1/4TH BUFFS (1914/1919) RE-UNION DINNER. DRILL HALL, ST. PETER'S LANE, CANTERBURY. Further details will be announced later.

* * *

Regimental Gazette

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 20TH MAY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. J. D. B. Hodges (431871) to be Lt., 6th May, 1955.

2nd Lt. K. J. Cross (431190) to be Lt., 25th May, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 27TH MAY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

THE BUFFS.—Lt. J. M. M. Durban (427803) relinquishes his commn., on account of disability, 26th May, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 27TH MAY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Capt. R. O. Iliffe (359205) to be Maj., 29th May, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Maj. F. D. C. Cobb, T.D. (78672), from R.A., to be Maj., 1st May, 1955, with seniority 1st May, 1947, and is placed on the Unattd. List.

The undermentioned Capts. from R.A., to be Capts., 1st May, 1955, with seniority on the dates shown:—

A. J. Scott (267053), 20th March, 1949; A. H. Blackbourn, T.D. (78966), 1st September, 1950; W. D. Baddeley (321455), 6th April, 1952.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 7TH JUNE, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

THE BUFFS.—Capt. (Qr.-Mr.) J. H. Stone (356560) to be Maj. (Qr.-Mr.), 20th May, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 17TH JUNE, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—23064331 Cadet Peter John Calveley Hordern (441121) to be 2nd Lt., 2nd April, 1955.

1st Battalion



COMPANY notes have been omitted this month as everybody in the Battalion has been concerned in the same thing: our move to B.A.O.R. The Advance Party somehow managed to get away, complete, from Old Park Barracks on Friday, 13th May. No one ever quite understood how the Quartermaster managed this on top of all the work he had to do for the Colour Parade and it is reported that he was shouting his final instructions to the Rear Party as the train pulled out from Dover.

After an uneventful journey, in spite of the somewhat sinister date, the Advance Party arrived at Wuppertal Station on the afternoon of 14th May, to be met by Brigadier R. E. Goodwin, C.B.E., D.S.O., who commands 6 Infantry Brigade and is our new Brigade Commander. The 2nd Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry, had gone to considerable trouble to ensure comfort and an easy reception for everyone.

Keightley Barracks, where the Battalion can hope to spend a considerable portion of its time whilst stationed in Germany, are particularly well appointed Barracks, albeit requiring a coat of paint. Originally built for the German Army, they were used as a Hospital during and after the war. They have been occupied by British Battalions for some five years and have all the facilities that a Regular Battalion can possibly ask. Companies find themselves accommodated in large Barrack Blocks, Headquarters and Support Company getting a Block for themselves and the Rifle Companies a Block between two. C/Sergeants and others concerned with looking after stores are pleased to find plenty of storage space. Company Commanders are also pleased to find plenty of room for offices, lecture rooms, quiet rooms and so on. The Sergeants' Mess, while not being on a grand scale, occupies the top floor of another Block and is particularly well appointed and of a size that suits the number of living-in members. The only complaint raised by our Padre, Walter Evans, was that the Garrison Church had been consecrated St. Cuthbert's; his attempts to get this changed to St. Augustine's have so far failed.

The Cooks have now found their way about the vast array of equipment in the Battalion Cookhouse and it is a pleasure to be able to see that the whole Battalion can sit down to a meal at the same time. NAAFI continue to provide their normal service in a well appointed, though rather small, canteen. So far no one has come to serious grief from sampling too many different varieties of German beer at the same session, but time will tell no doubt. There is also a small Club run by Mrs. Harris of the W.V.S., where indoor games such as Billiards and Ping-Pong can be played, where newspapers can be read in peace and where gramophone recitals can be heard on certain evenings. The M.T.O., originally somewhat strained at having to take over more vehicles than either he or any of his staff had ever seen lined up before, is now beginning to realise he is not too badly off; garage accommodation exists for every vehicle in the Battalion. The R.S.M.'s face lit up with joy on arrival when he saw that the barrack square was just as large as the one at Old Park Barracks.

The Officers' Mess, which is some 200 yards outside the Camp, was built after the war. It is a comfortable enough building which, once it has been redecorated, will look very nice.

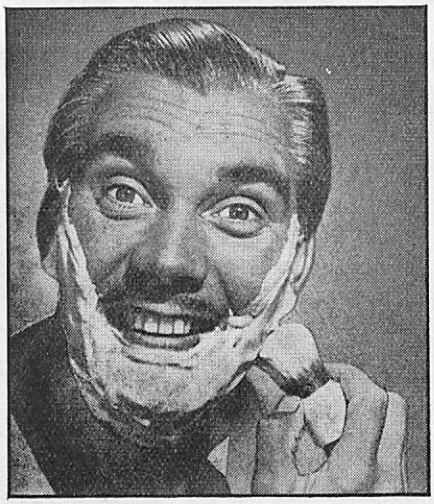
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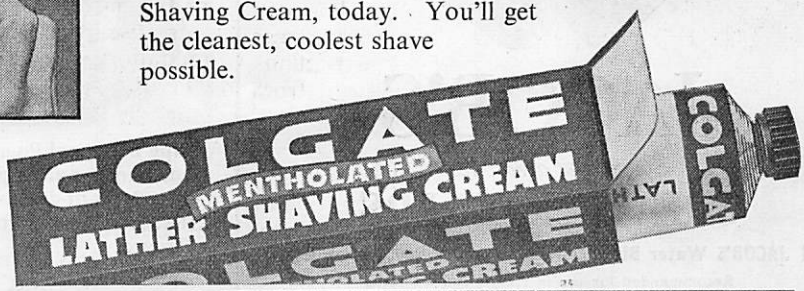


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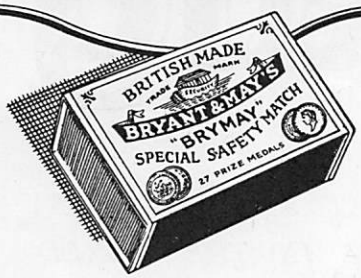
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THE MATCH FOR THE BRITISH FORCES

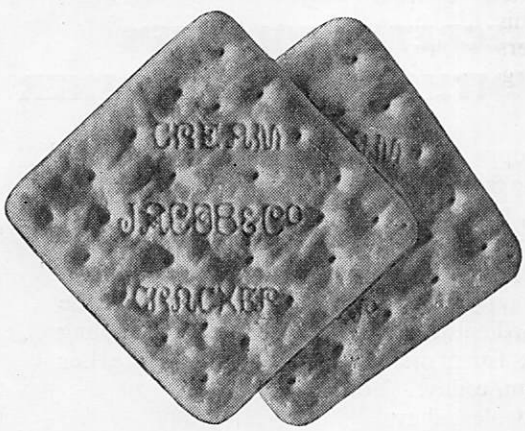
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A GLASS-AND-A-HALF OF MILK IN EVERY HALF POUND

Ask for the Best



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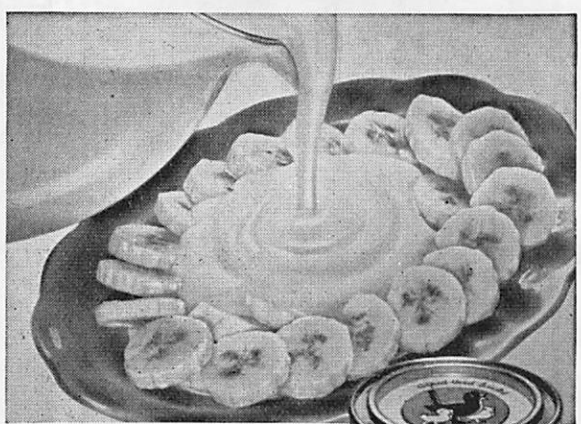
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CREAM CRACKERS

and JACOB'S Water Biscuits *with the nutty flavour people like*

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Sweet and complete with cream-smooth custard!



Ripe bananas! Pour on custard and bananas are a proper pudding. M-m-m-delicious! Be sure it's Bird's cream-smooth Custard.

STILL ONLY 1/6½



Within 400 yards of Barracks we have two Football Pitches, a Hockey Pitch and a Rugger Pitch, so there will be no excuse for the Battalion not improving on their present standard in these games—a standard which, for a variety of reasons, is nothing like as high as it ought to be.

When the Advance Party arrived, a month before the main body, they were able to take their time in finding their way about and in taking over the vast amount of stores and equipment which, it appears, is the rule in B.A.O.R. As usual, the most overworked man was the Q.M. It was for him a new experience to have to take over some 60 married Quarters and to march in the Families of the Battalion. Families arrived in two's and three's every other day, in spite of the Rail Strike and the difficulties of filling in the numerous forms necessary to ensure any movement at all between England and Germany. The majority of families are being accommodated in newly built Quarters close to Barracks, and by the end of this year there will be a few, if any, families still living in requisitioned houses. The new Quarters that have been and still are being built are of a high standard and are completely equipped, even down to 50 clothes pegs to go on a clothes line which is also supplied. No fires, a gas cooker and central heating stoked by a Boilerman make a housewife's job in Germany considerably easier. That the Quarters were a lot better than some people expected has been evidenced by the number of people who changed their minds and are now bringing their Families out here.

The Battalion's departure from Dover on 14th June was uneventful and not particularly spectacular. A long convoy of civilian buses, loaded with soldiers, can never be a spectacular sight and buses it was as there were no trains running on the day the Battalion moved. Major-General J. B. Churcher, C.B., D.S.O., Commander of 3 Inf. Div., came to say farewell to the Battalion. The crossing from Harwich to the Hook of Holland was made in the *Empire Parkeston*, and Capt. Eric Ransley, the Senior Officer travelling on the ship, presented the Captain with a plaque on which was mounted the Regimental Badge.

The Main Body arrived at Wuppertal in two trains, to be greeted with typical Wuppertal weather. For the first train the clouds were well down and visibility was virtually nil. By the time the second train arrived, the clouds had turned into fine rain. In spite of this unpleasant reception weather, the Main Body seemed to get settled into Barracks in a very short space of time. We have already had a visit from our new Brigade Commander, who spoke to the whole Battalion and later to the Officers and Sergeants, giving us the form in Germany and telling us what he particularly requires us to do in this coming training season. By the time these notes are in print, we shall also have had a visit from our new Divisional Commander, Major-General J. H. O. Wilsey, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. 2 Infantry Division has for this training year been told to try out an experimental organisation and Companies are now sorting themselves out. Certain specialist Platoons will have to learn to march once more, as they have for the time being been dispensed with. The Drums are learning to handle a pick and shovel in addition to their musical instruments. In fact, the whole Battalion is a hive of activity, as new load tables are worked out and the loading of ourselves and our vehicles perfected before we go out on our first piece of training with 8 Royal Tanks in the middle of July.

Farewells this month go to Major and Mrs. Horley, and 2/Lieuts. Graham Turner and Peter Edgeley. Also to W.O.II Calloway, who has been with the Battalion since 1949 and has served in the Regiment for 24 years; W.O.II Excell, who has served with the Regiment for 22 years, and Sgt. Gardner with 25 years' service, who are now at the Depot pending release. Sgt. Spiers has gone to Eaton Hall O.C.S. and Sgt. Martin is going to the K.A.R. To them all we wish the very best of good fortune wherever the Army and/or civil life may lead them.

Congratulations to Sgts. Parker and Knight on their recent marriages, also to C/Sgt. Ellis on his promotion to W.O.II and to Sgts. Anderson and Jephcott on promotion to C/Sergeant.

* * *

Kenya Notes

WELL before these notes appear in print, the War Council's surrender offer to the terrorists will have been withdrawn. Over 800 terrorists have surrendered since 18th January, and this is a fair answer to critics of the offer, when one considers the effort needed to eliminate such numbers by other means in the forest.

The success of the new forest tactics in employing lightly-armed well-led tracker-combat teams is illustrated by the fact that over 1,300 terrorists have been killed this year. There is little doubt that the terrorist movement is on its last legs, and the situation is so greatly improved that a feeling of optimism about the end of the Emergency is justified.

Angela Rowe, the charming daughter of Colonel W. H. Rowe, was a member of the rescue party which ascended the Mawenzi peak of Mount Kilimanjaro after the tragic crash of the Dakota airliner last month. The party had a gruelling climb, as the aircraft had crashed into the side of a precipice on the top of the mountain, and unfortunately all the occupants were killed.

* * *

The young daughter of Captain and Mrs. Stuart Squire was christened last month in Nairobi. At a very pleasant party after the ceremony, we were all pleased to see Captain Rex Carey, who had arrived the day before *en route* to 6 K.A.R. in Dar-es-Salaam, and brought us a good deal of Regimental news.

* * *

We have all been very pleased to receive our copies of the Colours Presentation number of *The Dragon*, and congratulate the Editor and all concerned in its preparation. We are also very grateful to Padre Evans for sending copies of the programmes which have been distributed to all Buffs exiles in Kenya.

* * *

Before leaving this country, the 1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers received the Freedom of the City of Nairobi, on behalf of all British Infantry battalions which have served here. Another pleasant and historic ceremony has been the presentation of new Colours by H.E. The Governor at Mitchell Park to the 3rd, 5th, 7th and 23rd K.A.R. The African soldiers' love of ceremonial was exemplified in their fine bearing and drill on this parade, and altogether it was a very pleasant day for us all, including a garden party at Government House after the parade.

* * *

It is always agreeable to visit H.Q., 39 Infantry Brigade, at Nanyuki and to meet still so many soldiers wearing our cap badge, who stayed behind as drivers and in other duties when the Battalion left last year. However, by March next year there will not be many serving Buffs left in Kenya, and the country will have to get on as best it can without them.

* * *

Major Ravenhill will soon be returning to the bosom of the Regiment, with a much longer golf handicap as a result of expensive lessons from a professional, which have induced a banana-shaped drive invariably ending up in the thick rough. Another member of the Regiment, however, won last month's G.H.Q. Golf Competition, and promptly had his handicap reduced by 3 strokes. He was not actually accused of cheating by misrepresenting his handicap, but the implication was there.

* * *

Correspondence

12 Chestnut Close,
Oakwood,
London, N.14.
7th June, 1955.

To Major-General V. Boucher, C.B., C.B.E.,
Colonel, The Buffs.

Sir,

At a meeting of the London Branch of the Buffs Ladies' Guild held on Saturday last, I was requested, on behalf of the Guild members, to write to you in the following terms.

Those members of our Guild who were fortunate enough to be included in the party which travelled to Canterbury on 9th May for the Presentation of New Colours by His Majesty, the King of Denmark, sincerely appreciate the privilege of being permitted to attend this Ceremony.

They were unanimous in agreeing that the occasion was one of such emotional depth that its significance will remain sacred in their memories for all time.

Our members were delighted with the arrangements made for their comfort and they feel that the conduct of the whole Ceremony was nothing short of magnificent, reflecting superb organisation and complete co-ordination on the part of everyone connected with the proceedings.

To you, Sir, our members tender their heartfelt thanks for the great privilege accorded to them.

Yours faithfully,

(MRS.) J. TUCKER,
Hon. Sec., Buffs Ladies' Guild

* * *

51 Grasmere Gardens,
Belmont,
Harrow Weald,
Middlesex.
19*th May*, 1955.

To the Secretary.

Dear Sir,

I have to-day been informed by the Handicapped Welfare Officer of Harrow Weald that the Past and Present Association, The Buffs, have kindly contributed toward the expenses of a summer holiday for me.

continued on p. 166

Buffs Golfing Society



SINCE the publication of the 1955 Handbook, five new Members have joined the Society. They are:—

P. ARNOLD, Chasewood, Chasewood Avenue, Rowantree Road, Enfield.

MAJOR F. D. C. COBB, 25 King Street, Margate.

J. H. DAVISON, 1st Battalion, The Buffs.

R. LEA, 1st Battalion, The Buffs.

BRIGADIER E. J. L. SPEED, M.C., Knowlton Court, Nr. Canterbury.

M. W. WARD, 1st Battalion, The Buffs.

To all these we extend a hearty welcome.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:—

1. A. G. SIMON, Ominla, Pilgrim Close, West Humble, Nr. Dorking.
2. BRIGADIER H. P. P. ROBERTSON, O.B.E., 118 Ormonde Court, Upper Richmond Road, Putney, S.W.15.

MATCH *v* WOODPECKERS

This match was played on 8th May at New Zealand G.C. As usual we received a hearty welcome from our friends here. The weather proved kind and we all enjoyed the now proverbial hospitality of the Woodpeckers in what is undoubtedly one of our most popular fixtures. The result was a satisfactory one as it resulted in four matches each.

Morning

Woodpeckers		*Buffs*	
R. H. Twining & C. G. Randolph (4 and 2)	1	Lt.-Col. J. F. May & Major D. Montgomery	0
Capt. C. Lamarque & A. R. F. Kingscote	0	Major D. Boyd (2 & 1) & Major W. R. H. Browne	1
T. G. Fetherstonhaugh & Sir J. Howard ...	0	Lt.-Col. J. Crookenden & Capt. M. B. Baron (1 up)	1
R. Coyte & L. G. O. Hutchison (4 & 2) ...	0	Capt. C. Lummis & Major I. A. Pearson	1

Afternoon

R. H. Twining & C. G. Randolph (5 & 3) ...	1	Major Montgomery & Major Browne ...	0
A. R. F. Kingscote & Howe (6 & 4) ...	1	Major Boyd & Capt. Pearson	0
Fetherstonhaugh & Howard	0	Capt. Lummis & Capt. Pearson (3 & 1) ...	1
R. Coyte & L. G. O. Hutchison (4 & 2) ...	1	Capt. A. Coates & Capt. Baron	0

The Summer Meeting of the Society was played at New Zealand Golf Club on June 19th.

Owing to the restrictions placed on Medal play it was impossible to play for the Sinclair Tankard as planned at the last Annual General Meeting.

So it is that with the happiest memories it has been decided to seek other pastures in Kent on which to hold our future Summer Meetings. As soon as the new locality is fixed it will be announced in these notes.

Though slight rain fell during the day it was hardly enough to mar the pleasures of the Meeting.

Six Pairs formed up and the winners under Stableford scoring were Major D. Montgomery and Captain Bollon, with a score of 33. The runners-up were Captain W. Lamarque and Lieut.-Col. J. Crookenden, with a score of 29½.

By the time this appears in print the matches *v* Rye G.C. at Littlestone on 26th June and at Rye on July 2nd will have been played. Then comes the match *v* Liphook on July 10th and *v* Canterbury G.C. on July 24th.

J.C.

MATCH *v* RYE G.C.

On July 2nd this now annual event was played on those superb links adjacent to Camber. It would be difficult to exaggerate the difficulties, each hole having its own problems for the golfer to solve. Our hosts extended their usual bountiful hospitality which was much appreciated. The result of the match was as under.

Lieut.-Col. Crookenden playing a single in the morning was beaten by 6/5 by Colonel C. Hill and by 1 hole in the afternoon by F. Davenport Jones.

Morning

Buffs		*Rye G.C.*	
R. Burn & Major D. Montgomery (4 & 3)	1	Capt. M. J. Evans, R.N. & L. T. Dunnit ...	0
Capt. M. C. Bollon & Lt.-Col. J. May (5 & 4)	1	Capt, J. Leslie Smith & Col. G. Blackwell ...	0
R. C. Lancaster & Major R. Dendy ...	0	D. Murton Neale & Lt. Col. Davenport-Jones	1

Afternoon

R. Burns & Major D. Montgomery ...	½	Capt. M. J. Evans, R.N. & L. T. Dunnit ...	½
Capt. M. C. Bollon & Lt.-Col. J. F. May...	0	Capt. J. Leslie Smith & Col. G. Blackwell (1 up)	1
R. C. Lancaster & Major R. Dendy ...	0	D. Murton Neale & Col. G. V. W. Hill (2 & 1)	1
	2½		3½

Watch for these Films

IN resuming these notes, it is possible that some of the films selected may already have been shown in some districts, but a few of the best of the last two months have been chosen, and we should catch up with the latest releases by next month.

Marty. Won the Grand Prix at Cannes Festival. It is a simple picture about two unglamorous and lonely people who find happiness together. It is touching, but no cheap sentiment, and beautifully acted by Ernest Borgnine and Betsy Blair, and minor characters also perfectly drawn. Directed by Delbert Mann.

The Dam Busters. A commemoration of Wing-Commander Guy Gibson's heroic raid on the Mohne and Eder Dams. Concentration is on the scheme, its conception, preparation and achievement, and not so much on the human element, except for the character of the scientist, Dr. W. N. Wallis, played by Michael Redgrave with great skill. The airmen are part of the scheme, and the detachment with which they are viewed makes the successful, though tragic end, less heart-rending than it might have been. Michael Henderson directed, and the script is written by R. C. Sheriff.

The Ship that died of Shame. Taken from Nicholas Montserrat's story of a ship with a proud war record, being used for base purposes in peace, and how she literally dies of shame. Well acted by Richard Attenborough, Roland Culver and George Baker—but the ship is the heroine.

The Beach. A satire on social behaviour, when a lady of easy virtue, posing as a widow, takes her little girl to a respectable seaside hotel for a holiday. The dialogue is French, and this is one of the most interesting new films in London.

A Kid for two Farthings. A warm-hearted, charming film made by Carol Reed. The characters, each cherishing a dream, revolve round an old Jewish tailor, delightfully played by David Kossoff. Petticoat Lane and the East End, with a touch of poetry, and much wit.

The Prisoner. The story of an inquisition and forced confession of a Cardinal, who is resisting Totalitarianism. Fine acting by Jack Hawkins as the Inquisitor and Alec Guinness as the Cardinal.

Rififi. A French thriller which may reach the provinces. It deals with the intricate planning for the execution of a robbery in Paris. It won the award for direction at the Cannes Festival.

M.M.A.

Correspondence—*continued from p. 164*

I would like to tender my grateful thanks to them for this and to let them know how much I appreciate their action. As it is very many years since I had a holiday, naturally this means a great deal to me and shall be looking forward to it very much.

Thanking you once again, with best wishes to my old Regiment.

Yours sincerely,

MALCOLM DYER,
Late Bandsman 7979.

Beneath Bell Harry



THE Cricket Week, contrary to all expectation, produced five enjoyable matches and only on one occasion was the team out for under 100 runs.

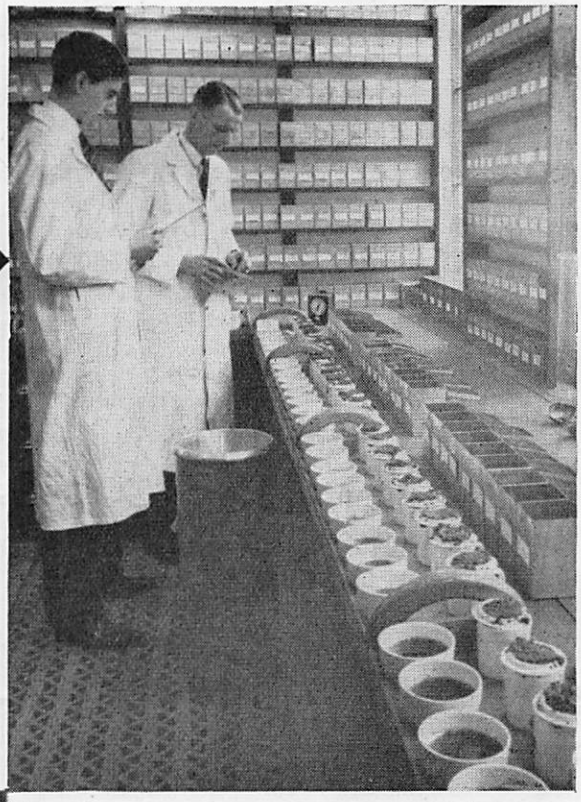
Two matches were played in the first half of the week, one against Littlebourne and the other against Simon Langton School; both were defeats for the home side.

Our county rivals produced a strong side which would have been less formidable had not lapses in fielding allowed the beneficiaries to make 49 and 50 respectively. John Davison bowled untiringly to take 5 wickets for 58 whilst John Prentice took 4 for 36. Set to make 153 to win, we suffered a severe setback when Roy French was out lbw in the first over. Thence followed a dreary procession of dismissed batsmen until John Prentice, playing a true Captain's innings, and Mackett took the score from 50 for 8 to 100 for 9 before Mackett was caught at the wicket. The innings closed at 100, Prentice having made 38 not out.

On the Friday, the Royal Fusiliers amassed 225 for 6, a seemingly impossible total for the Regiment to reach. However, our opening batsmen showed great determination and a concentration hitherto found lacking and produced the highest first innings total of the week, but the remainder could not follow their splendid example and only two more batsmen could reach double figures, and ten wickets fell for 121 runs.

from Tea

to Tobacco





A cigarette and a cup of tea—two of the minor pleasures of life. but such as few would be without. This is as true of the members of Her Majesty's Forces as of most of us.

As the official caterers to Her Majesty's Forces, Naafi has the task of ensuring that a cup of tea and a cigarette are always readily available.

So it is that Naafi serves more than 154,000,000 cups of tea a year and is one of the biggest buyers of tobacco in the United Kingdom. Behind the scenes, the vast network of Naafi's buying, testing, sampling and distributing organisations deliver blended teas and tobaccos and cartons of cigarettes wherever Servicemen and their families may be.

To see that Servicemen and women enjoy to the full their tea and tobacco is but one of the many and varied duties of....

...this many sided **NAAFI**

The official canteen organisation for H.M. Forces, Imperial Court, Kennington, London, S.E.11.

Famous for fine Quality

"Nell Gwyn" Regd.



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The Marmalade with the delicious tenderised peel!

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FRESH FRUIT JAMS by Crosbie's

NO ADDED PRESERVATIVE OR COLOURING MATTER

World Renowned

TYNE BRAND
AND
FARNE BRAND
Quality Foods

Here are a few of them obtainable at all N.A.A.F.I. Stores

Fish and Meat Pastes in glasses and tins—numerous varieties, Canned Fish of all description—Herrings in Tomato, Fresh Herrings, Kippers, Mackerel, Cod Roe, Herring Roe, Baked Rolled Herrings, etc., etc.

Canned Sweet Puddings, Canned Soups, all sizes, "Tyne Brand" Sliced Sweet Chutney, "So-Taist-Ee" Extract, "Tyne Brand" Mint Sauce, "Rocambert" French Mustard, "Tyne Brand" Horseradish Cream, "Country Garden" Celery Cheese Spread, Stuffed Pork Roll.

"For People of Good Taste"

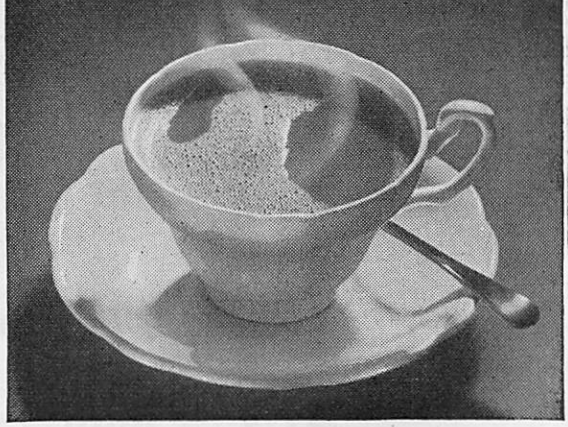
To P.R.I.s.: Write for full list of products for all catering purposes, obtainable from N.A.A.F.I., to Tyne Brand Products Ltd., North Shields.

LOUIS DESROCHES & Cº



FINE OLD
FRENCH BRANDY

there's always time for
NESCAFÉ



pure coffee made right in the cup

ANOTHER OF NESTLÉS GOOD THINGS

139

The Saturday game against the Band of Brothers provided the Regiment with its solitary victory of the week—a magnificent achievement as it was against probably the strongest side. This was our first win over B.B. since the war and can be attributed to a good team effort.

We welcomed Max Gilford, our week-end skipper, Vere Collins and Bill MacDonald for this game and this gave the side a stronger, more balanced look.

Max Gilford won the toss and elected to bat. Harris and Mackett gave promise of another good start, but at 20 Mackett gave the bowler an easy return catch. Robin Wright making his first runs of the week took the score along briskly, as did Vere Collins in very good form. A slump in the middle order was disappointing but John Davison and Bill MacDonald with some brisk hitting restored our grip on the bowling and we finished with the respectable total of 176.

When the B.B. started, Bill MacDonald gave us an early fillip by getting one of the openers in his first over and we never let up. Quick changes in the bowling by Gilford produced results and batsmen were never allowed to settle down. After Max himself and Mackett had taken another five wickets between them, MacDonald and John Prentice returned to rout the tail. Highlight of this was a brilliant diving catch at mid-on by John Grugeon, who flung himself forward at a ball going very fast and held it inches from the ground, thus vindicating himself in all but the Depot Commander's opinion of the libellous statements made about his fielding. A most enjoyable game played in the very best amateur spirit.

Sunday provided yet another entertaining match, this time with the Shepway Stragglers. Winning the toss, Max Gilford put the visitors in to bat and by lunch five wickets had fallen for 72 and hopes were high for yet another victory. However, on resumption of play Denne took the score along to 126 for 6 before being bowled by Mackett. The last four wickets fell for 31 runs and the home side were set to make 158 to win.

The innings opened somewhat disastrously for two wickets were lost in the first over, Mackett being brilliantly caught by Reiss off Woodhouse before scoring and Wright out to an equally brilliant catch from the following ball. French at No. 4 joined Harris and appeared to be batting with complete confidence and aggression until being bowled by McCausland for 11. 18 for 3 appeared a disastrous total when V. Collins joined Harris and things looked somewhat gloomy when Harris was out at 25 and A. Majendie was bowled with the following ball. Players and spectators alike feared that all would be over by tea. Fortunately Gilford and Collins stayed together until the former was run out with the score at 51. John Prentice coming in at No. 8 soon mastered the bowling and this partnership gave heart to all Buffs until Collins was bowled by yet another unplayable ball from McCausland. From this point Prentice attacked the bowling with spirit and was nobly supported by Greenfield, McDonald and Willy in succession; carrying his bat he had made 55 out of 126—a satisfactory ending to an enjoyable week.

In closing we should like to thank Lieut.-Col. Gilford for captaining us so nobly over the week-end, Majors Greenfield and Majendie and Capts. McDonald and Collins for journeying so far to play.

THE BUFFS *v* Q.O.R.W.K. REGIMENT

Q.O.R.W.K.

Capt. Clarke, c Fakley, b Davison	14
Capt. Howlett, b Mackett	49
Lieut. Curtis, c Wright, b Davison	0
Lieut.-Col. Keenlyside, c Harris, b Davison...	7
Capt. Shearburn, b Davison	50
Capt. Clements, lbw, b Prentice	7
Lieut. James, c Wright, b Prentice	4
Capt. Austin, b Prentice	5
Major Thomas, b Prentice	3
Pte. Boone, b Davison	3
Pte. Pride, not out	2
Extras	9
Total	152

Bowling

Lieut. Davison 5 for 58; Lieut. Prentice 4 for 36; Pte. Mackett 1 for 16.

The Buffs

Major Watts, c Clarke, b Clements	8
Capt. French, lbw, b Shearburn	0
L/Cpl. Harris, lbw, b Clements	4
Lieut. Hodgson, c Curtis, b Shearburn ...	1
Lieut. Davison, c Boone, b Shearburn ...	7
Lieut. Edgley, lbw, b Shearburn	6
Pte. Mackett, c Boone, b Shearburn	20
Lieut. Wright, lbw, b Clements	4
Capt. Fakley, st Howlett, b Clements ...	4
Lieut. Prentice, not out	38
Capt. McGrath, lbw, b Shearman	0
Extras	12
Total	100

Bowling

Capt. Shearburn 6 for 37; Capt. Clements 4 for 32; Pte. Pride 0 for 19.

THE BUFFS *v* SHEPWAY STRAGGLERS

Shepway Stragglers

C. I. A. Mathieson, c Collins, b McDonald	5
W. J. S. Fletcher, run out	19
A. J. P. Woodhouse, lbw, b Mackett	7
R. Neame, b Gilford	4
T. Denne, b Mackett	56
W. M. Reiss, b Gilford	3
R. Leigh-Pemberton, c Prentice, b Gilford	25
R. A. Clarkson, run out	3
R. C. S. Barclay, b Mackett	3
C. E. McCausland, not out	13
R. S. Fletcher, b Gilford	10
Extras	9
Total	157

Bowling

McDonald 1 for 18; Mackett 3 for 46; Gilford 4 for 40.

The Buffs

D. C. Harris, b McCausland	8
A. B. Mackett, c Reiss, b Woodhouse	0
R. P. Wright, c Leigh-Pemberton, b Woodhouse	0
R. French, b McCausland	11
V. Collins, b McCausland	22
A. Majendie, b McCausland	0
M. Gilford, run out	11
J. R. Prentice, not out	55
G. Greenfield, c Barclay, b Clarkson	5
L. W. McDonald, b Woodhouse	0
G. T. Willy, b Woodhouse	0
Extras	14
Total	126

Bowling

Woodhouse 4 for 21; McCausland 4 for 24; Clarkson 1 for 15.

THE BUFFS *v* BAND OF BROTHERS

The Buffs

D. C. Harris, c Moulesdale, b Woodhouse	22
A. B. Mackett, c and b Smallwood	9
R. P. Wright, lbw, W. J. S. Fletcher	32
V. Collins, st Pearson, b R. S. Fletcher	34
M. Gilford, b Smallwood	7
J. R. Prentice, c Neame, b Woodhouse	6
G. Greenfield, b R. S. Fletcher	8
J. H. Davison, st Pearson, b R. S. Fletcher	23
L. W. McDonald, b Smallwood	13
J. D. Grugeon, not out	0
G. T. Willy, lbw, b R. S. Fletcher	0
Extras	22
Total	176

Bowling

Smallwood 3 for 52; A. I. P. Woodhouse 2 for 14; R. S. Fletcher 4 for 50; W. J. S. Fletcher 1 for 27.

Band of Brothers

G. D. S. Davies, c Willy, b Gilford	10
J. G. Moulesdale, c Davison, b McDonald	0
A. J. P. Woodhouse, c Willy, b Mackett	6
P. R. B. Neame, b Mackett	14
C. I. A. Mathieson, b Gilford	2
W. J. S. Fletcher, b Mackett	17
B. Tassell, b Prentice	7
G. T. Pearson, b McDonald	31
A. B. Norman, not out	2
P. J. C. Smallwood, c Grugeon, b Prentice	0
R. S. Fletcher, b Prentice	2
Extras	2
Total	93

Bowling

L. W. McDonald 2 for 14; J. R. Prentice 3 for 4; M. Gilford 2 for 37; Mackett 3 for 28.

THE BUFFS *v* ROYAL FUSILIERS

Royal Fusiliers

Lieut. Connington, c Greenfield, b Wright	59
Capt. Merrell, c Willey, b Prentice	23
Capt. Marriot, c Matchett, b Prentice	45
Pte. Rushton, lbw, b Mackett	2
Lieut. Garfit, b Prentice	6
Lieut. Smart, not out	43
Pte. Wadd, st Willy, b Prentice	0
Pte. Foster, not out	29
Pte. Phillips, Lieut. Martin, Sgt. Hooper } Did not bat	
Extras	18
Total (6 wickets)	225

Bowling

Lieut. Prentice 4 for 88; Pte. Mackett 1 for 58; Lieut. Wright 1 for 14.

The Buffs

Pte. Mackett, lbw, b Foster	26
L/Cpl. Harris, b Marriott	34
Lieut. Hodgson, b Foster	4
Greenfield, c Rushton, b Foster	11
Capt. French, lbw, b Marriott	5
Lieut. Prentice, b Smart	30
Lieut. Wright, b Marriott	0
2/Lieut. Edgley, c Martin, b Marriott	2
Lieut. Davison, b Smart	0
Lieut. Dracopoli, b Martin	1
Willey, not out	4
Extras	4
Total	121

Bowling

Pte. Foster 3 for 30; Lieut. Smart 2 for 19; Capt. Marriott 4 for 47; Lieut. Martin 1 for 21.

* * *

Since our last notes the main events of interest have been the Passing Out Parade on 27th May, the departure of the 1st Battalion on 13th June, the Home Counties Rifle Meeting on the same day, and Cricket Week, 20th-26th June.

The Passing Out Parade was taken by the District Commander, Major-General R. C. M. King, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E. The Regimental Band performed for the last time in the foreseeable future in this ceremony. We hope that this is a suitable opportunity for thanking Bandmaster Sharpe and his Band for doing so much to make

this and the earlier passing out parades and the parents' teas that followed such successful occasions. The weather was very uncertain; in fact in order to save the drums from the drizzle that was falling the Band was at first positioned in the drill shed. But the day was another example of the weather relenting at the last minute, and for the actual march past the sun gleamed on bayonets and the parents were able to put away their umbrellas. Sevastopol and Punniar Platoons, whose passing out parade this was, managed to raise, by the time the draft left the Depot, from a total of 58 National Servicemen "possibles", 16 who chose to convert to Regular engagements.

We wish the very best of luck to the Battalion at the start of their tour in Germany. We will miss the friendly exchange of visits between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

* * *

No. 1 COMPANY

June began with a flourish of sunshine only to resort to the standard English summer of rain and wind. The training of recruits continued uninterrupted by the rail strike. One Platoon Sergeant, however, is disappointed by this. For several nights of late he has been training as a sleeping car attendant.

The Company Permanent Staff shooting team, while not achieving complete success, surprised everybody, and not the least the Training Officer, by obtaining 5th place in the Brigade Shoot. The recruits team also came 5th, and considering the early stage of training is to be congratulated. The Adjutant, on a busman's holiday from the Orderly Room, threw three highly successful grenades, to scoop a win. Detailed results were as follows:—

OPEN COMPETITION.—Runner-up, Cpl. Ward; 6th, Lieut. Dracopoli and Sgt. Wilson.

RECRUITS.—13th, Pte. Hadlow; 16th, Ptes. Mitchell and Powell.

STEN SHOOTING.—Equal Runner-up, Pte. Powell.

POOL BULL.—Equal winners, Sgt. Recton and Cpl. Ward.

GRENADE THROWING.—Equal winner, Capt. Grugeon.

C.S.M. Chapman, recently returned from leave, says what with gardening and taking the twins to school, Muster Parade presents less problems.

Cricket has begun in earnest and the whack of the willow is never too distant from the hard pressed Company Office Staff, peering discreetly from a partly opened office window.

This month sees the departure of the 1st Battalion to Germany, and with them the latest recruits to pass out. We wish them all the best of luck and we shall follow closely their various activities in Germany. Cpl. Bromige recently left us for a new life in Civvy Street. All of us extend our wish for his happiness and success in the future.

Recent boxing training, watched and enjoyed by the C.O., proved to break all rules in the book. Marciano would be green with envy had he witnessed it. The spirit shown was admirable if not so original as some of the holds. I wonder why Sgts. Wilson and Ivory rejected the C.O.'s request for them to give a demo. bout? Could it be the necessary saving of energy for dancing lessons?

CRICKET

This month, following a disastrous start, our batting gradually improved. As a result of the game against Simon Langton School, we discovered L/Cpl. Harris. He is an attractive left handed bat who should score many runs for the Depot. Pte. Mackett has found his confidence both at batting and bowling. Lieut. Prentice although he has not had the best of luck when playing for the Depot, did very well with the bat during the Regimental Cricket Week. Details of the week will be found elsewhere in *The Dragon*.

* * *

Round and About

By the Tramp



AFTER nearly fifteen years we returned lately to stay in a part of England which means a great deal to us. This is what is known as the "Isle" of Purbeck, westwards of Swanage in Dorset. We first went to this comparatively unspoilt country nearly a quarter of a century ago when Hitler was just a rather comic name that used to crop up in news of a restless Europe. Our particular village had been "discovered" only by a few people who guarded its relative remoteness—a little selfishly, perhaps, but also with a thought for its real inhabitants. Since then, with the rapid increase of motor traffic, it has been rather too accessible and it has become a place to be visited by holiday-makers from the nearby seaside resort of Swanage which has long been given up to the entertainment and exploitation of townsfolk from all parts of Britain, so that in the 'peak season' the voices to be heard are chiefly those of Midlanders and North Country people in search of a change of scene and air. As a result the cove in which we used to bathe in comparative seclusion is now at times overpopulated and the little inn where we used to forgather of an evening with the uncomplaining locals is submerged, especially at week-ends, by visitors thirsting for refreshments. This is good chiefly for the landlord and the brewers whose trade flourishes. Moreover, a great R.A.F. Radar Station was sited nearby just before the outbreak of the recent war. Huge masts and pylons now dominate the landscape west of our

village. But the village itself is less affected by these developments than one would expect and it remains a pleasant and highly desirable spot.

PURBECK 'MARBLE'

For hundreds of years the staple industry of the locality has been the quarrying of a particular form of stone well adapted to building purposes and until recently all houses were constructed of it. This stone is not only of great strength and durability but it also looks extremely well and weathers beautifully. Latterly other less pleasing materials more economical than Purbeck 'marble' have crept into use but the prevailing colour is the lovely grey and honey hued stone which is also used, in great thick slabs, for roofing.

The landscape, like all that of Dorset, is undulating. Except in the deep and sheltered valleys there are few trees and these are of the hard bitten windswept sort that lean away from the Sou'-westerly gales.

CORFE

A few miles from our village in a gap between two great whale-backed downs lies the gray little village of Corfe, dominated by the splendid ruins of its historic castle. Here during the Civil War occurred one of the most famous sieges of that unhappy struggle. It was owned and defended by the Bankes family and for many months withstood all the efforts towards its reduction by the Parliamentary forces. In the absence of her husband, who was fighting for King Charles in the North, Lady Bankes directed the defence with great skill and resolution. She scorned all offers of surrender and, being amply supplied with ammunition, food and water, she held out against repeated assaults until base treachery inside the walls let the hitherto baffled and exasperated Cromwellians in. The heroic defenders suffered grievously when the Castle fell and the fortress itself was duly "slighted" by the Parliamentary forces. To "Slight" was a euphemism for destruction of Prussian-like malignity but so strong was the fabric that it took months to reduce it by blast and fire to the impressive ruin it is to-day. The holiday-makers who now picnic happily on the grass knoll on which the Castle remains stand are for the most part blissfully unconcerned with the tragic happenings of those bitter times, but there are probably still living in the village below the Castle descendants of men and women who knew the horrors of civil war only too well.

BOOKS ABOUT DORSET

During the weeks I was there lately I was fortunate enough to find in the local branch of the excellent County Library Service two books which helped me to appreciate the past of the place I was in. One was Sir Frederick Treves's *Dorset* in the "Highways and By-ways" series, published by Macmillan and Company. I have long been a fervent admirer of this series of County guides, all of which are admirably written and as admirably illustrated by famous artists. I consider the Dorset volume to be the high-water mark of the whole set which covers England, Wales and Scotland. It is packed with useful information, local legends and historical detail, all most palatable and entertaining. Treves was a famous surgeon of the late 19th and early 20th century. It was he who performed the operation on King Edward VII when the King was suddenly stricken with appendicitis a few days before his Coronation was due to take place.

Treves seems to have been an unusual man and deserves recognition for his literary as well as his surgical skill. I would like to quote from the book but space forbids. I do, however, recommend it to anyone who is contemplating a visit to Dorset and I would pick out his gorgeous account of the visit of King George III and family to Weymouth when they not only popularised that resort but also the delectable and health-giving practice of sea-bathing.

THOMAS HARDY

Dorset, of course, is intimately associated with this great writer who was born in the County at Rockhampton and lived and died near Dorchester. The other book I found in the County Library branch was Evelyn Hardy's biography of the writer. This in my view is so good that it should lead many people to read the works of a man who died not long ago but whose fame has, in the way of things, been temporarily dimmed during the last few troubled years. I intend to read *Tess of the Durbervilles*, *The Return of the Native* and *The Trumpet Major* again as soon as possible.

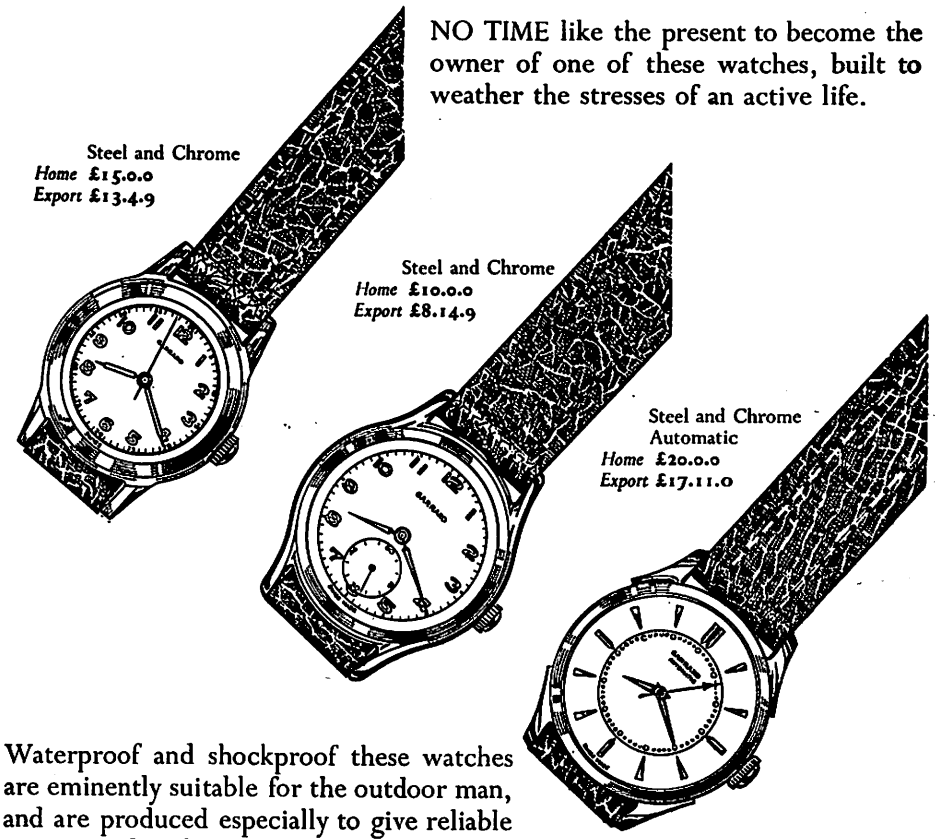
BISHOP FURSE AND THE SHELLS

The news of the death of this eminent man made surprisingly little stir the other day, but not only was he a literally towering figure in the Church—he was well over 6 feet tall and broadly built withal—but he once was at the centre of a political storm which brought a change of Government in Britain. It was in 1915 that Michael Furse, then Bishop of Pretoria, paid a

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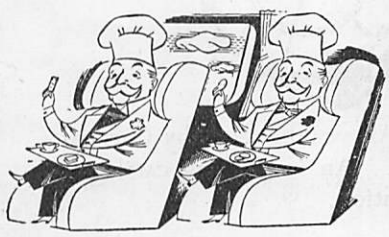
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visit to the British lines on the Western Front in France and Flanders. While there he learned at first-hand something of the disabilities of the British Armies owing to the acute shortage of shells for the supporting guns. He wrote an article which a London newspaper published hastening the fall of Mr. Asquith's Ministry and stimulating the subsequent drive to improve the supply of munitions.

I wonder if Colonel Norman Hart will remember that he and I were walking near Rue du Bois, near Armentieres, one day in the Spring of 1915 when we met Bishop Furse who stopped to ask us the way to some place on his itinerary. Colonel Hart had known the Bishop well in South Africa when serving as A.D.C. to his father, General Sir Reginald Hart, V.C., Governor of, I think, Natal in the years immediately preceding the First German War. We had a short conversation during which the Bishop mentioned his concern regarding the shell shortage. Needless to say, Colonel Hart, then a Captain, was very reserved in his remarks on the subject but we were both surprised a few days later to read the Bishop's printed comments in the newspaper and relieved that no specific mention was made of our conversation. "Security" was less consciously applied in that war but we were both Regular Officers and aware of the need for caution in discussing military matters even with distinguished and trustworthy civilians.

Bishop Furse was a man of powerful personality as well as physique and throughout his life was outspoken and forthright in his expressed views. His part in the ventilation of the shell shortage was criticised in some quarters at the time, but few could doubt his integrity and honesty of purpose in this or in any other of the controversies in which he was from time to time involved. This chance meeting on a road in Northern France forty years ago has remained vividly in my mind ever since and the report of the Bishop's death at the age of eighty-one brought it back most forcibly to me.

JOIN THE

PAST AND PRESENT

ASSOCIATION

Past and Present Association

Life Members

1ST TO 30TH JUNE, 1955

H.Q. Roll.—Sharman, R. L. S., Speight, P. W.

Ramsgate Branch.—Bingham, A. J.

* * *

Annual Members

1ST TO 30TH JUNE, 1955

London Branch.—Hart, E. A.

Dover Branch.—Wakefield, T. W., Pendle, M. R.

Herne Bay.—Castle, G., Johnson, W.

Ramsgate Branch.—Cayley, H. W.

* * *

Associate Members

1ST TO 30TH JUNE, 1955

London Branch.—Arnold, A. B., Arnold, J. S.

* * *

Grants

The total grants from the Benevolent Fund and the World War 1939 Charitable Fund during the month of June, 1955, are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Benevolent Fund	65	11	4
World War 1939 Charitable Fund	21	15	0

* * *

London Branch

After laying our Wreath on the Cenotaph on Saturday, 18th June, we returned to the Prince Alfred, Tufton Street, for our Meeting. It was really grand to meet such old stalwarts as Mr. E. Hart, Gabby Saunders, 9130 Taylor, Tommy Taylor and Mr. Cotton, also Mr. Everitt, who is looking quite fit again after his recent operation. A few of the younger lads whose names I will mention are Billy Hudd, Bert Perry, George Hardwick, Turki Watts, Eric Coveney and Messrs. Turner, Sharpe and Skinner. It was also very nice to see again Mr. Crooknorth, Tich Burville, Mr. Ravenscroft and Joe Goss. They will all be on Parade at the Tower of London on July 24th. I have mentioned a few names, but many more attend at Tufton Street on the third Saturday of each month, so have a look in, and meet some of these grand chaps.

Just a few words about our Cenotaph Service. Although a small number attended, it was a great show. Joe Goss carried the Standard, and Tommy Taylor the Wreath. The police stopped all traffic, and it was so quiet that everyone could hear those immortal words spoken by Mr. Tommy Taylor who laid the Wreath. Our ladies were with us to pay homage and join in the simple, but moving, Service.

I know all members of the Branch wish to thank Bert Perry for the outstanding work he is so successfully doing for us in his spare time, calling personally on younger Buffs and getting them to call in at Tufton Street.

I would like to mention a recent message I received from a Buff, Mr. Norman, a Chelsea Pensioner, aged 84. It was "To all members of the London Branch, I send my very best wishes. Sorry that I have not been able to get along of late, but I am now minus my other leg, but pleased to say I am now better and very happy, and hope to pay a visit in the very near future."

Our President, Major Enright, sends his best wishes to all members, and hopes to pay us a visit.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Benny Fields.

If any Buff should be in London on Sunday, 24th July, the Branch will be at the Tower of London for their Book of Remembrance Service, at 11 a.m.

To any member interested, the Branch are holding their Annual Dinner and Dance on September 24th, 1955. We are hoping to break all records this year, so come along and join the crowd. Price 12/6.

Also, do not forget to book for Canterbury on Sunday, August 7th, 1955. Coach seats, 10/6. Book early.

So, good wishes to all Branches from the London Branch, and hope to see you all at Canterbury.

H.J.S.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

Minutes of the meeting of the Ladies' Guild, held at the Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on Saturday, 4th June, 1955.

A meeting was held at the Prince Alfred Restaurant on Saturday, the 4th June, with Mrs. Coley in the Chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

A letter from Mrs. Watts was read, regretting her inability to attend for health reasons, and Mrs. Coley said that Mrs. Dalgleish also apologised for her non-attendance, for reasons (two) which would be appreciated by the members. A letter was also read from Mr. Everett, thanking members of the Guild for their gift and their kindness to him during his stay in hospital.

It was with very great pleasure that the Chairman announced that a baby daughter, weighing 7 lb. 8 oz., was born to Mrs. Joan Timms on 18th May, and it was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to her. Baby is named Vivien Roberta, and both mother and daughter were making excellent progress.

At the special request of the Secretary of the London Branch, the attention of Guild members was drawn to the Service of Remembrance to be held in the Chapel Royal of St. Peter Ad Vincula, H.M. Tower of London, on Sunday, 24th July, at 11 a.m. and the Laying of the Wreath at the Cenotaph on 18th June. It was noted that Remembrance Day at Canterbury is to be observed on 7th August and that the Annual Dinner and Dance of the London Branch is to take place on 24th September.

It was agreed by all the members who had made the journey to Canterbury for the Presentation of Colours Ceremony that a letter of appreciation should be sent to Mr. Ricketts, who had organised the coach party and supervised the luncheon arrangements so efficiently. The Chairman remarked that the Ceremony was one of great emotional depth and would live for ever in the memories of those fortunate enough to witness it. The Guild members greatly appreciated the honour of being permitted to witness so historic an occasion and it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Colonel of the Regiment recording this appreciation. It was further agreed that a letter of appreciation be sent to the Albanian Coach Company, asking them to convey to the driver of the coach the Guild's very sincere appreciation of the courteous and helpful way in which he carried out his duties throughout the day.

The Chairman said that no mention had yet been made of any arrangements for a Dinner for the Ladies' Guild this year. One member suggested that this might be held around Christmas-time, and that the arrangements might be similar to those on the last occasion; this was agreed.

The Secretary reported that she had not received any nominations for Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Treasurer, and the members present unanimously agreed that the present officers be re-elected. The Chairman, in a word or two addressed to members of the Committee, said she would like to impress upon them that it was really their duty to resign from office, or at least to tender their resignations, if they could not manage to attend the monthly meetings of the Guild, unless, of course, such absence was due to illness, holidays, etc.

A very great welcome was given to Mrs. Austin after her long absence and the Chairman expressed the extreme pleasure of all members at having her with them again. Now that she was fully recovered, it was hoped that she would keep fit and that she would be seen frequently at meetings. The Chairman also extended a welcome to Mrs. Hogben and said she was pleased to see her again.

Mrs. Collins, who has been ill and who has also had various members of her family ill during recent months, sent a message apologising for her absence and saying she hoped to get along to the meetings again soon.

Raffle prizes were given by Mrs. Annan, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Walters, A Member and Mrs. Tucker, and realized a total of £1 17s. 0d.

That being all, the meeting closed.

* * *

Medway Branch

The Darts Final has come and gone, and we offer our hearty congratulations to Sandwich Branch on winning once again. It was as finely contested a game as I have ever seen. First leg to Sandwich, second and third to Medway, and the two final legs to the winning team. As these legs were 1001 up it must have been quite a physical strain to the players—and if any non-playing readers laugh at the thought of throwing a dart being tiring I would suggest that they try it out.

Colonel Argles, our General Secretary, covered the whole field when he addressed us at the close of the competition immediately preceding the presentation of the various trophies by Major Dendy, O.C. Depot, and so I will add but a simple "thank you" to all those who helped to make the evening the success it was, the Band and its pianist, the Bellringers (from Sandwich), the refreshment and bar counter assistants, the scorer and the many others.

I rather think that the excellent show put on for our benefit in 1954 led some to expect a little more organised entertainment, but nevertheless all seemed to enjoy themselves and once again it proves that the Darts Competition is successful as a social organiser. By the way, Sandwich had a coach and a half for its team and supporters, I was told, the remaining half a coach being reserved to take back the darts trophy. They have now taken "Jus Dartius" as their motto.

We had our usual branch meeting on 18th June (flaming June) but the number of members present was not as heavy as usual. Several matters were discussed, including

the dedication of the Branch Standard about which serious local enquiries are now to be made. The meeting was preceded by a Committee meeting which completed most of the business for the Branch. This allowed the Branch members to start their social evening before 9 p.m. and was a vast improvement.

Having no "padding" this month these notes will be concluded with the hope that I shall be able to do a little better next time.

* * *

Sittingbourne Branch

Two months' news this time, owing to the Presentation of Colours, at which the Branch was strongly represented. Amongst those present were our Chairman, Colonel D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D., J.P., Lieut.-Col. P. Lynden-Bell, Capt. C. A. Grant (our Secretary) and about 35 other members. The Standard Bearer was Bill Sinclair and the escorts Mr. Dunk and Mr. Jackson. All who attended returned rejuvenated with the feeling "Once a Buff, always a Buff (and proud of it)" still holds good.

On May 15th our Standard was at last dedicated at Holy Trinity Church, Sittingbourne, by the Rev. R. D. D'E. Meredith during evensong. The lessons were read by Col. D. J. Dean. The Padre gave us an inspiring sermon, pointing out that our Standard symbolised Courage, Loyalty and Brotherhood—qualities which were needed not only in the Service, but in every walk of Christian life. Many members, including the Chairman, Vice-Chairman (Lieut.-Col. J. E. Wills, commanding 10th Kent (Sittingbourne) Home Guard Battalion), the Secretary, and Messrs. Jock Herbert, attended, as well as the Chairman and representatives of the British Legion.

The 235th and 236th meetings of the Branch were held on the first Fridays of May and June as usual, and there was a fair attendance both times, under the presidency of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. Since these notes will not appear until July, when most of the news will be stale, we give only extracts from the minutes as follows:—

MAY.—Members expressed appreciation of the talk by Lieut.-Col. Grace on the experiences of the 1st Battalion in Kenya and of the hospitality of Medway Branch who acted as hosts.

A sample miniature cup and medal were approved as prizes for the winner and runner-up of the Branch Darts Cup.

It was agreed to give a bottle of port to Mr. Jock Herbert, who was sick. Jock has since written to thank our members for their kind gift.

Colonel Dean said he had recently returned from a visit to Ypres, in Belgium, and attended the special Services at the British Memorial Church of St. George's there, held on the Patronal Sunday, April 24th, which is the nearest to St. George's Day, April 23rd. Members who lost relations and comrades in the Ypres Salient in the First World War would be comforted to know that the many cemeteries have been restored and are beautifully kept, and every grave well cared for by British ex-service men gardeners. The Last Post is still being sounded every evening at the Menin Gate in memory of our comrades who lie by their thousands in known and unknown graves and there is a large brass tablet in St. George's Church, behind the Altar, with our Regimental Badge and Name engraved on it.

JUNE.—The Chairman welcomed back the Treasurer, Mr. Ted Croucher, who has had yet another operation. All members will wish him a quick and permanent recovery. Other sick members who have our sympathy and best wishes are Mr. Wally Foord, Mr. Warner and Mr. Harry Ives.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.—Several members, including those in the Home Guard, are taking part in the British Legion Carnival on July 6th. We will give a report in our next notes. All eyes are now turned on Remembrance Sunday for which we hope to have a large muster. In this connection we should like to see more of our large number of non-attending members. Out of 160 on our books, there are fewer than 40 who turn up at the Club. Roll up now and show yourselves, Buffs!

* * *

Margate Branch

I am afraid that this month's notes will be rather brief.

At the meeting held on May 4th at the Drill Hall, Hawley Square, Mr. R. H. Harman stated that the member of the British Legion Club who attended the social on April 27th enjoyed the evening very much.

We had hopes of hearing from Canterbury Branch in respect to our invitation to Margate, but must assume that they could not fix on a suitable date.

It was proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Doughty for his contribution to Branch funds.

Now for Colours day. I am sure that all who were present will agree that this was a most impressive ceremony, and the organizing for the event was perfectly done and we of Margate Branch say "Well done" to the people concerned.

As for the 1st Battalion, we say "Well done, lads", and good luck in all their future duties.

Our June meeting was held a week ago, but there was not much business on the agenda, and as the summer season has now begun in earnest our social activities will be curtailed until September, when we hope to put up a full list of events for the winter months.

H.D.

* * *

Canterbury Branch

I am writing these notes soon after our meeting which we held on Friday, 27th May, but when they are due to be submitted or will be published is beyond me for with the non-publication of notes for May, I have become somewhat "thrown out of gear" as the Taxi Driver said when his fly-wheel went through the roof of the Cab.

Last month, of course, offered a bumper crop of events to write about but this month news is more or less of a routine nature. This perhaps then is a suitable time to tell our outlandish readers where we meet and who looks after our interior economy.

We have a comfortable hutted building adjoining the main Drill Hall in St. Peter's Street, kindly loaned to us by the members of the 4/5th Battalion, T.A., for our meetings and we are allowed to trespass into the Drill Hall itself for the game of Bat and Trap, etc. Our inner room and heating facilities are ably looked after by Sgt. Bell of the same Battalion, and so, in such Regimental surroundings, we feel sure that any visitor in our area on the fourth Friday of each month, will feel completely at ease and greatly welcomed by our members.

About 25 members booked in for this last meeting of ours, this included some newer faces, so we are in the healthy condition of keeping about an average of two dozen keen and regular attenders, and seeing a few new

faces each month. These numbers may not appear impressive, nevertheless we seem to be solid and friendly enough.

As a means of a change of entertainment for the hour or so after the meeting proper, it has been suggested that talks or organised social events might be laid on, and, accordingly, for the first try out, Bob Barham gave a short talk on P.O.W. adventures in Italy. This was good for a chuckle in places and without any other merits, it kept the euchre "erbs" away from their cards.

At long last we managed to secure a booking for the Drill Hall and our competent Committee, under short notice, laid on a Dance for 28th May. Unfortunately, this clashed with my private arrangements and since that date I have been domiciled in Chatham for the duration of the Railway Strike, so I am unable to give further details. Next month's notes should have the full story.

Lieut.-Col. Argles graciously honoured us with his attendance for the evening of the meeting and sounded us on one or two points relating to the Annual Service of Remembrance. To humour all Branches, his evenings must be run to a strict roster. Our Chairman congratulated him on his efforts of admin. in connection with the 1st Battalion Trooping Ceremony and now I would like to express our thanks in writing for the excellent *Dragon* of May.

Gleaning through the Dover paper I see that the arrival of the 1st Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, almost coincides with the departure of our own 1st Battalion for Germany. This is a great pity for the two Regiments have that happy knack of soldiering in harmony apart from the Regimental connection at Albuhera.

There must be many who remember that historic joint Trooping of the Colour at Kilia in 1923, also their Canteen which was open to us all, disguised as an English Pub. with the name (I believe) of "White Rose" on a sign outside. In good hearted rivalry we set up our own Inn sign—to wit, "The Green Dragon, 1572". In more later years we again enjoyed the hospitality of our loyal friends when they were hosts on the Railway station in India to the Officers, Sergeants and O.R.s of the 1st Battalion who were departing that country for Palestine in 1938. We are again linked with them in the Home Counties Brigade Group, but that is not the same as a union at Dover.

"B.A.B.U."

STOP PRESS

Our first Dance, held in the Drill Hall, Canterbury, was a great success and Branch funds benefited to the extent of over £27. Thanks are due to those members who came along to assist the Committee and a special word of thanks to Mesdames Hopkins, Garrett and Kidder who organised a very successful lucky draw. We were, indeed, fortunate to have the Dance Band of the 1st Battalion for the occasion, always an attraction throughout East Kent.

We would like to congratulate Colonel Argles, R.S.M. White and his cheerful band of helpers, who arranged the Darts Finals so successfully on 4th June. Everyone present had a grand time, and no doubt a fuller report will appear elsewhere.

WHO'S WHO AT THE CANTERBURY BRANCH
No. 2—MR. J. W. HOPKINS

Mr. Hopkins is first and foremost a 1st Battalion character, having served almost continuously from 1920 until 1938 with that Battalion—in his early days a mere tea boy in the Pioneers Shop and graduated slowly to the appointment of Pioneer Sergeant, which became effective in 1930. This last War saw Mr. Hopkins again at the Depot and forsaking the Plane for the Rifle and Bayonet he carried on throughout the War as C.S.M. His official soldiering is now ended, but Jack has never got far away from the Buff atmosphere for he is now R.Q.M.S. of the Home Guard Battalion in Canterbury and his work brings him in daily contact with the Depot.

"Hoppo", as he is known by the rank and file, must be one of the last individuals to hold the appointment of Pioneer Sergeant in an Infantry Battalion, and I suppose the present-day soldier would have some difficulty in associating the many tasks that were routine duties to our versatile "Chips". He was Coffin Maker and Undertaker to the Battalion in India—ran around with gigantic Fire Escapes and taught people Bricklaying at Gibraltar—built 30 yds. Ranges and maintained Swimming Baths in Burma, and wherever the Battalion was stationed he built super Dragon Crests with Battle Honours outside the Guard Room. Two-ply kit boxes for personnel repatriated to the U.K. and the gimmicks for an Albuhera Day. Coney Island side-shows were his speciality.

In addition to all this, Jack found time to play a Mandoline (or was it a Banjo) in the Regimental Cinema at the Bareilly "flicks", attain a "danker" standard in football and hockey with more creditable marks for tennis.

"Hoppo" has always been in the social light of the Mess and is a strong supporter of the present Branch. He is a keen card player and enjoys Bridge and Euchre to the hilt. Whilst serving, our friend found time to be an active and useful member of the Battalion Shooting team. Nowadays he keenly supports the Branch .22 Rifle Club, and when at a loose end he will pass an hour at fresh or sea water fishing. His dislikes were originally Kit Inspections and Cross-Country Running, but nowadays these are limited to any person pipping him on the "Dart Ladder", or beating him at "Slosh"!

A breast of Medals, including the M.S.M.

"BABU"

* * *

Folkestone Branch

At our monthly meeting on June 10th we had some enthusiastic young members of the 1st Battalion who were on a few hours' pass prior to going to Germany. What augurs well for the future, is the fact that they are Folkestone lads and keen members of the Association. They certainly enjoyed their visit and were assured by our Chairman that we in our turn had enjoyed having them. I'm sure they will be an asset to the Branch when their period of Service is over.

Some of us went to Canterbury for the Darts Final on June 4th. A most interesting final with the result in the balance until the last dart of 5 legs. As we have read of this in the last issue of *The Dragon* I need say no more except that we had a jolly good evening.

We have recently lost a very old member of the Branch—Jack Vallantine. He had been ill for a very long time and died in St. Mary's Hospital where he had been a patient. He was a founder member of "D" Company Club and took a very keen interest in anything to do with the Association or the Club. We were represented at the Service in the Parish Church by Major West, Mr. Jack Mercer and Mr. Len Bryson, Mr. Phil Waters and others represented "D" Company Club.

As I write these notes I am told that another Life Member has passed on—Jim Baker, more often referred to as "Saturday". Don't ask me why, I haven't the faintest idea, neither has my informant. He seldom

attended a Past and Present meeting in recent years, but could usually be seen "checking up" on Saturday evenings in the Club.

Now for August 7th when I sincerely hope we shall have a much better muster than of late.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

The Annual General Meeting of the Ladies' Guild was held on Wednesday, June 22nd, at the Drill Hall, Shellon's Street, with 30 members attending.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

The Treasurer presented the yearly balance sheet, which was found to be satisfactory.

The Treasurer, Secretary and Committee were given thanks, from the Chairman, and members present, for all the good work they had put in during the past year.

Regret to say Mrs. R. G. Wood resigned the position as Chairman.

Mrs. Coote of Hythe was elected Chairman. Mrs. West Vice-Chairman. Mrs. Mantell still remains Secretary for the tenth year. Mrs. Haisell, our Treasurer, we regret to say, also resigned, after nine years' good service. Mrs. Brockway was elected Treasurer. All other Committee were re-elected *en bloc*.

We did not have much other business to discuss, so we followed with our usual game of whist which we always enjoy, following that with tea and cakes.

We are all looking forward to Sunday, July 24th, to a Country Drive, with our husbands and friends, then on to Ramsgate for a show at the Granville Theatre, then back home.

* * *

Sandwich Branch

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, June 1st, 1955, at 8 p.m. In the absence of the Chairman, our Vice-Chairman, Lieut.-Col. N. S. Hart, presided and 24 members were present. The meeting opened with the usual moment's silence, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

Apologies were received from Messrs. G. Matcham, J. Wood and R. Rowan.

Correspondence from Headquarters was read and discussed.

A report was given on the Parade and the Presentation of the new Colours to the 1st Battalion at which 30 members and their ladies attended.

DARTS FINAL.—The Hon. Secretary stated that 85 seats had been booked and three coaches engaged for the occasion, but, unfortunately, to-day news had been received from the proprietor that two of the coaches had been commandeered for the Army owing to the Rail Strike. He was doing his best to arrange other transport for us, and we could only hope for the best and keep our fingers crossed.

SUGGESTED VISIT TO DENMARK.—M. A. Elvery proposed that we discuss the possibility of arranging a trip to Denmark for a holiday next summer. It was considered that if sufficient numbers could be obtained the cost would not be much more than a holiday in England.

Following a discussion, it was agreed to obtain more detailed information regarding the cheapest and best method of travel, etc., and discuss the matter further at the next monthly meeting.

On Saturday, June 4th, 80 members and their ladies made the journey to the Depot for the Re-union and Darts Final. On our arrival we were welcomed by the sound of sweet music played by the 1st Battalion Band; this was indeed a very pleasant surprise and very much enjoyed. It was very pleasing to see such a good muster of members present and to meet and talk with old pals. There was quite a lot of leg pulling as to who was going to take the Cup home, but no bets were taken. However, it was a very exciting and long match and anybody's game until Charley Willis got going with his last three darts and so winning us the Cup. Thank you, Charley, and thank Medway for giving us such a good sporting game. May we meet again next season.

May we also thank you, Mr. Secretary, the R.S.M. and all those who worked so hard to arrange and give us such a pleasant and enjoyable evening.

* * *

Brighton Branch

A good month and a fairly good attendance at the monthly meeting, although one or two members still on the sick list, including Ben Molkenthin and Jimmy Dray.

The Secretary picked out another perfect day for his garden party and twenty-five members, friends and relations turned up, including Mr. Gould and his soldier son (on leave from Germany) from London.

Everyone voted the cider better than last year and we think a good time was had by all.

The proceedings were brought to a close by a charming speech of thanks by Mr. M. de J. Creswick and an enormous bunch of flowers presented to Mrs. Milton on behalf of all members.

We must also congratulate Mr. M. de J. Creswick on winning so many of the Golf Prizes thus keeping Brighton's name up in the Golfing world.

ACHEM.

* * *

Ashford Branch

Our meeting took place on 2nd June, 1955, at the Invicta, our President, Major Bompas, being present, and A. J. Mills taking over his role as Chairman. Twenty members were also present. Before the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman gave a hearty welcome to Gus Tompsett, who has been unable to attend for a long period owing to leg trouble. Gus then replied how glad he was to be able to be back amongst the boys once again.

The Chairman then opened the meeting, and the Secretary read the minutes for the previous meeting, which were then signed. Correspondence was then read, and discussed. As the London Branch wish to visit us for a social evening in September, it was decided to ask them to bring only one coach load owing to us being restricted in accommodation. I do hope they will understand, and no ill feeling will be caused.

Ted Stace then arranged for the Branch to play Bat and Trap against the Beaver Road Club, next Sunday. They, by the way, are champions of Kent. So The Buffs look like fighting a stern battle; still, I'm sure it will be played in a very friendly spirit.

Names were taken for members who wish to go to Canterbury on August 7th, and thirty-two seats were booked, so it looks as though a bumper party will be attending. All we hope, it is a nice day.

Several members mentioned that they will have to cut their corns and bunions in readiness for the march to the Cathedral. Still, they will make it alright. One thing, it is down-hill going.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 20.15 hrs.

The raffle was then made and W. Miles and A. Filmer were the winners.

We were sorry to hear that Mrs. Coleman was in bed with a high temperature, after her return from a conference at Blackpool, and all wish her a speedy recovery.

A few members then gave the Darts Board a tuning up, whilst the remainder gave their farewell. Bill Manklow still looks very well. O. Masters is still up to the usual mark of wit; as for B. Vant, he was off for his spell of night duty. G. Skinner departed with his hands full of empty glasses; he won't ever change. H. Coleman departed to attend to his wife, and A. Janes left with the evening's takings, to be stowed away.

A.C.M.

* * *

Ramsgate Branch

There was a good attendance of members at the monthly meeting of the Ramsgate Branch of the Past and Present Association, The Buffs, held at Headquarters, "Freemasons' Tavern", High Street, Ramsgate. Mr. C. F. Fakley presided, supported by Major H. Martin, Mr. E. H. Swendell and Mr. B. E. Knott, Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Fakley welcomed Officers and members and expressed his pleasure at the number of members present, but at the same time with such a strong membership as the Ramsgate Branch had, he still hoped for better support, every individual member's support and interest meant progress.

Mr. Fakley expressed his sympathy to their sick members, Messrs. C. Curtis, H. Sheppard, H. Martin and Mr. S. Taylor and wished them a speedy recovery to good health.

Ramsgate Branch were the winners of the yearly Association Fishing Competition, also runners-up in the Shooting Competition. The Chairman congratulated Mr. Castle (Fishing Captain) and Mr. Hogben (Rifle Captain).

Mr. J. Johnson was welcomed back to the meeting after an absence of eight months in London.

Mr. Johnson in a brief reply expressed his thanks for the welcome and said that he was pleased to be with old friends and comrades again.

Mr. R. Atkins presented the Branch with three picture photos of the recent visit of the King of Denmark, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment.

The Chairman on behalf of the Branch thanked Mr. Atkins for his excellent gift.

Being no other business Mr. Fakley closed a very satisfactory meeting. Refreshments being served by Buff Host Dick Atkins.

Old Brigade News

WE recently heard from Bert Tester, who appears to be again fairly fit. He mentioned that he visited Jimmy Dray at Burgess Hill, who is settled in his new cottage.

* * *

Also from Geo. Cobb, who tells us that our old pal Dusty Roullior was a little easier from pain. We sincerely hope Dusty will improve. He has borne his lot with Buff fortitude.

* * *

Colonel R. W. Orwin appears to be keeping fit and sends his good wishes to all. He has heard from Jack Brooker, whose health unfortunately is not too good. Pleased to hear that a slight improvement has recently taken place.

* * *

Sam Martin (late Major and Q.M.), 1st Battalion, is, we are informed, now living in Broadstairs.

* * *

Bill Elvey sends his good wishes to all his old pals and mentions Bert Tester, Benny Field, Jimmy Dray, Billy Everitt, Geo. Cobb and others. He says, "I can give no cheerful news about myself." Well, Bill, the summer is coming which we trust will cheer you up notwithstanding your 85 years of age.

* * *

The Old Brigade will regret to hear of the passing of Cpl. Beerling—a Boer War veteran—who died recently in Dover. We remember him well in "B" Company, 2nd Battalion.

We hear from Donkey Warren that he has not been out of his home for eight months and sends his good wishes to all, particularly Snowball, Jock Clayton, Benny Field, Molly Marshall, Ginger Orwin. He writes, "How I do miss my old pals." We feel sure you do, Donk.

* * *

The Old Brigade wish the 1st Battalion God Speed and a peaceful time in its forthcoming departure for yet another tour of duty overseas.

J.E.E.

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BRANCHES

Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1. 1st Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
2. 4th Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
3. ASHFORD	Mr. A. Mills	Mr. A. C. Mills, 20 Waterman House, Godfrey Walk, Ashford, Kent	First Saturday in each month, The Invicta Godington Road.
4. LONDON	Mr. R. W. Billings	Mr. H. J. Scott, 1 Oxford Road, Carshalton, Surrey.	Third Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, 7.30 p.m.
5. DOVER	Capt. E. Marsh, M.B.E.	Mr. C. Collins, "Haven" Meadway, Minnis Lane, River, Dover.	First Thursday in each month, "Eagle Hotel", London Road, Dover, 7.45 p.m.
6. WEALD	Col. E. B. Burns, T.D.	Mr. H. D. Day, 3 Pittlesden Tenterden.	HAWKHURST SUB-AREA. Third Thursday in each month, British Legion House, Hawkhurst, 7.45 p.m.
7. MEDWAY	Mr. F. J. Cox	Mr. H. A. J. Brand, 83 Delce Road, Rochester	Third Saturday in each month, The Two Brewers, High Street, Rochester, 8 p.m.
8. SITTINGBOURNE	Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D.	Capt. C. A. Grant, The Firs, Key Street, Sittingbourne.	First Friday in each month Drill Hall, East Street, 7.30 p.m.
9. RAMSGATE	Mr. C. F. Fakley	Mr. B. E. Knott, 27 Wilfred Road, Ramsgate	Third Friday in each month, Freemason's Tavern, Ramsgate, 8 p.m.
10. MARGATE	Mr. B. H. Breed	Mr. J. H. Shakeshaft, 14 Alexandra Road, Broadstairs	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, Hawley Square, 8 p.m.
11. HYTHE	Mr. J. T. J.Green	Mr. H. Thompson, 4 Hillside Court, Hythe	Last Wednesday in each month, The Star, Stade Street, 7.30 p.m.
12. CANTERBURY	Lt.-Col. E J. Evans	Major E. R. Chambers, 59 Hillside Avenue, Canterbury Canterbury 5118	Fourth Friday in each month, Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury, 8 p.m.
13. HERNE BAY	Mr. H. Davey	Mr. A. Trice, 23 Queen's Gardens, Herne Bay	Second Monday in each month, British Legion Club, May Lodge, 8 p.m.
14. FOLKESTONE	Major A. A. West	Mr. H. Fordred, 36 Fernbank Crescent, Folkestone	Second Friday in each month, Guildhall Hotel, 8 p.m.
5. SANDWICH	Major F. W. Tomlinson	Mr. H. Taylor, 19 Paradise Row, Sandwich	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, 8 p.m.
16. FAVERSHAM	Capt. J. Green	Mr. R. C. Croucher, 10 Glebe Houses, Eastling, Faversham	First Monday in each month, Carpenters Arms, Eastling, 7.30 p.m.
17. BRIGHTON	Capt. R. J. Robertson	Major H. Milton, 118 Queens' Road, Brighton	Second Monday in each month, R.E Record Social Club, The College, Ditchling Road, Brighton, 8 p.m.
18. DENMARK	Major O. Lippmann	Mr. P. Berendt, Ostergade 22, Copenhagen K.	By Arrangement. Phone Secretary By 8313

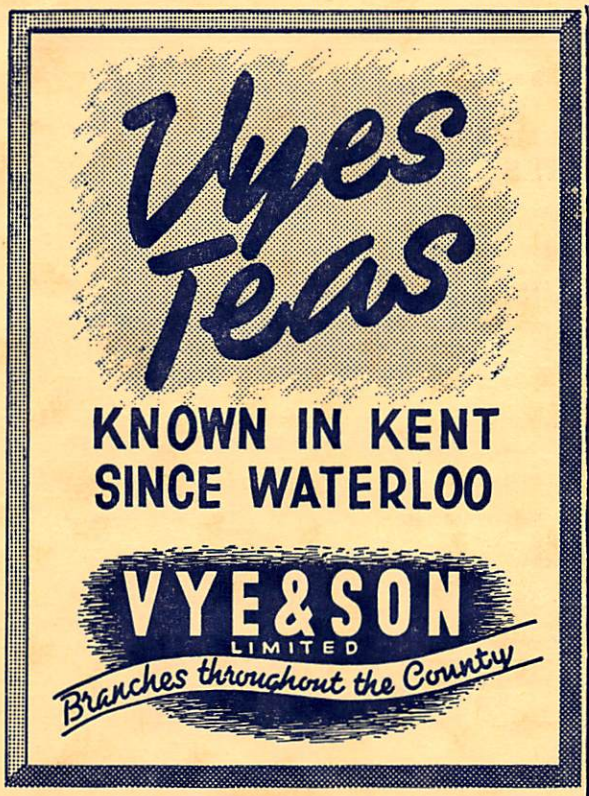
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Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1. LONDON	Mrs. L. Coley	Mrs. J. Tucker, 12 Chestnut Close, Oakwood, London, N.14	First Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, S.W.1. 6.30 p.m.
2. DOVER	Mrs. J. Crookenden J.P.	Mrs. Wraight, 93 Markland Road, Dover	First Thursday in each month, Belgrave Hall, Belgrave Road, Dover, 3 p.m.
3. FOLKESTONE	Mrs. Coote	Mrs. Kay Mantell, 5 Page Place, Folkestone	Every other Wednesday, Drill Hall, Shellons Street, Folkestone, 3.30 p.m.
4. MEDWAY	Mrs. King Holt	Mrs. W. T. Brooker, 67 Malvern Road, Gillingham, Kent	Fourth Tuesday in each month, Foresters' Hall, King Street, Gillingham, 2.30 p.m.
5. ASHFORD	Mrs. L. King	Mrs. E. Partiss, 22 Bond Road, South Ashford	Second Wednesday in each month, The Drill Hall, Ashford, 3 p.m.
6. SITTINGBOURNE	Mrs. M. E. Dean	Mrs. J. Ravensdale, 10 Railway Terrace, Sittingbourne	Third Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne, 6.45 p.m.



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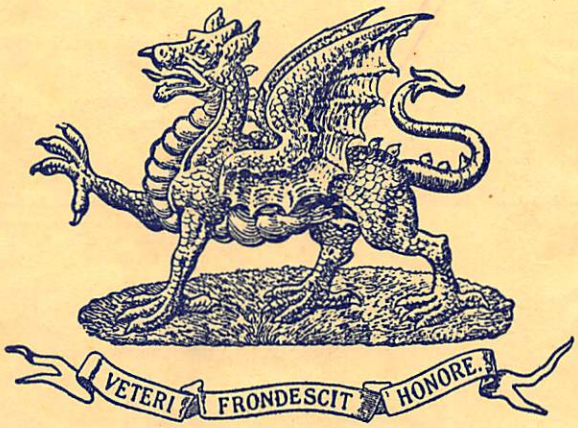
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Lewis, P. J.	T/Lt.-Col., M.A., Copenhagen.
Bailey, N. T.	Gold Coast Regt. T.C.
Yates, G. H. A.	Nottingham U.T.C.
Edlmann, E. L. C., *M.C.* ...	2 i/c/Chief Instructor Inf. Boys' Bn.
Rawlings, A. C., *M.B.E.* ...	Depot C.R.M.P.
Horley, B. M.	att. Depot.
May, J. F., *M.B.E.*	T/Lt.-Col., Ministry of Supply.
Ravenhill, R. A. C. ...	D.A.A.G., G.H.Q., E. Africa.
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Dendy, R. H.	O.C., Depot.
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Critchley, L. P., *M.B.E.* ...	1st Bn.
Worts, J. B., *M.C.*	1st Bn.
Court, D. N.	G.S.O. 2, H.Q., E. Africa.
Gordon-Wilson, N. F., *M.B.E.*	3 Bn., Para. Regt.
Nash, J. P.	G.S.O. 2, M.13, War Office.
ffrench Blake, M. A. O'B. ...	27 Bde., Hong Kong.
Iliffe, R. O.	2 Malay Regt.
Hadshar, G.	D.A.A.G., H.Q., Nigeria Dist.
Dunglinson, W. G. H. ...	1st Bn.

Captains

Semmence, R. G. H. ...	1st Bn.
Barrett, D. P. R.	1st Bn.
Dent, J. E.	T/Maj., 4/5th Bn.
MacDonald, E. W.	Course, U.K.
Dubois, G. E., *M.C.* ...	6 K.A.R., East Africa.
Peckham, A. D.	Malay Regt.
Squire, S. J., *M.B.E.* ...	H.Q., East Africa.
Thorneycroft, F. E. ...	1st Bn.
Willows, D. A.	Adjt., 1st Bn.
Wilson, P. F., *D.F.C.* ...	Glider Regt., 2nd T.A.F., B.A.O.R.
Hamilton, C. M.	H.Q., B.T.A.
Gatehouse, H. R.	1st Bn.
Griffin, C. J.	Adjt., 4/5th Bn.
Webber, J. W.	T/Maj., A.D.C. to Fld. Marshal Montgomery.
Pim, A. H. E.	2 Gold Coast Regt.
Stratford-Tuke, R. A. F. ...	1st Bn.
Brigstocke, W. F.	G.S.O. 3, Ind. Para. Bde. Gp.
French, B. G. J.	6 K.A.R., E. Africa.
Lees, H. D.	7 K.A.R., E. Africa.
Dalgliesh, A. R. F. ...	1st Bn.
Grugeon, J. D.	Adjt., Depot.
Mullins, G. O.	Adjt., 3 Bn., Parachute Regt.

Lieutenants

Minto, I. G.	1st Bn.
West, C. T. F.	1st Bn.
Ward, M. W.	1st Bn.
Dracopoli, M. P. St. F. ...	Depot.
Tennent, H. C. L.	A.D.C. to G.O.C., H.C.D.
Mitchell, P. J.	1st Bn.
Pilcher, R. A.	1st Bn.
Baker, R. W. M.	Inf. Boys' Bn.
Rymer-Jones, J. A. ...	3 Bn. Parachute Regt.
Edgecombe, G. J. B. ...	1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants

Lunn, J. M.	1st Bn.
Lea, R.	1st Bn.
Reid, J. R. W.	Course, U.K.
William, R. T. P.	Course, U.K.

Quartermasters

Watts, E. H. F.	Maj., Depot.
Kille, W. E.	Maj., 1st Bn.
Catt, A. H.	Capt., 4/5th Bn.

Chaplain: Revd. E. W. Evans, C.F.

Paymaster: Major B. M. Green, R.A.P.C.

Short Service Commissions

Majors

Broadley, A., *M.B.E., T.D.*	War Office.
*Ford, E. N., *M.C.*	Leave, U.K.
Todman, N. E. H.	E. Anglia District.
*Carey, R., *M.C.*	6 K.A.R., East Africa
Robertson, R. J.	H.Q., Nigeria District.

Captains

*Elliott, N.	Aldershot District.
*Ransley, E. J., *M.C.* ...	1st Bn.
McGrath, G. A.	H.C.B. Depot.
*Fakley, J. F.	P.S.O., H.C.B. Depot.
*Butcher, D. A. T.	East Africa Training Centre.
Marshall, J. V.	S.P.S.O. Staff.

Lieutenants

Barlow, W. B.	Inf. Div. Pro. Coy.
Davison, J. H.	Depot.
Cross, K. J.	1st Bn.
Kirby, J. A.	Movement Control Pool, H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Hicks, E. M. G.	1st Bn.
Prentice, J. R.	H.C.B. Depot.
Froom, A. F. F.	Depot.
Hodges, J. D.	E.R.E., Singapore.

2nd Lieutenants

Courtney, M.	att. Depot.
Hardy, J. E.	1st Bn.
Jakob, F. J.	West Africa.

Quartermasters

Rowcliffe, T. A., Major ...	M.E.L.F.
Stone, J. H., Major ...	B.A.O.R.
Senior, N., Major	H.Q., N.A.G., B.A.O.R.
Corps, J., Capt.	16 Coy., R.A.S.C.

* Extended Service Officer

National Service Officers

2nd Lieutenants

Naldrett-Jays, R. C. ...	1st Bn., N.R.R.
McGowan, M. H.	1st Bn.
Simpson, K. T.	1st Bn.
Wilkins, G. C.	Accra, West Africa
Wright, R. P.	Depot
Parker, P. W. M.	Airborne F.D.
Shephard, J. N.	1 K.A.R.
Wilcox, R. D.	23 K.A.R.
Bowen, S.	West Africa.
Hills, D.	1st Bn.
Brice, A.	1st Bn.
Johnson, P.	1st Bn.

4/5th Battalion

HON. COLONEL

Col. D. J. Dean, *V.C.*, *T.D.*, Woodcourt, 1 Park Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

Hews, G. R. D., *M.C.*, *T.D.*

MAJORS

Dent, J. E. (Training Major)
Alexander, U. H. B., *M.B.E.*
Prestige, J. T. R.
Tilleard, J., *T.D.*
Neville, F. G., *M.C.*, *T.D.*
Plunkett, P. N. P.
Balding, C. E. E.
Cobb, F. D. C. (Unattached List)

CAPTAINS

Griffin, C. J. (Adjutant)
Beaumont, M. J. P.
Klean, P. H.

CAPTAINS—*continued*

Morgan, R. J. S., *M.C.*
Kelly, G. D. S.
Usher, J. A.
Anderton, N. G.
Blackbourn, A. H., *T.D.*
Scott, A. J.
Baddeley, W. D.

LIEUTENANTS

Crowdy, R. E. L.
Bennett, R. G.
Nye, R. T.
DePury, J. D.
Whiting, D. A.
Thomas, J. A.
Oliver, C. P.
Morlock, P. J.

N.S. LIST

LIEUTENANTS

Tilley, T. A.
Howland, N. M.
Waterman, R. R.
Johnson, R. F.
Taylor, D. C.
Holloway, R. G.
Finn, W. C.
Vallins, J.

2ND LIEUTENANTS

Robinson, J. P.
Klyberg, C. J.

QUARTERMASTER

Catt, A. H., Capt.

CHAPLAIN

The Revd. J. E. Robinson

MEDICAL OFFICER

Capt. F. P. Cassidi (R.A.M.C.)

Staff and Command

Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B.*, *C.B.E.*	D.M.I., War Office.	Col. (T/Brig.) R. W. Craddock, *C.B.E.*, *D.S.O.*	Brig. A/Q Southern Command.
Brigadier T. H. Spear, *O.B.E.*	Leave U K	Col. (T/Brig.) F. W. B. Parry	Comd. Sierra Leone and Gambia Dis
Colonel (T/Brig.) M. P. D. Dewar, *M.B.E.*	D.D.M.P. (A), War Office.	Col. (T/Brig.) R. F. Parry, *M.C.*	Comdg. 3rd Inf. Bde., Arab Legion.

Lieut.-Colonels (Employed List)

Lieut.-Col. (T/Col.) H. P. Williams, *O.B.E.*	W.O.S.B., Barton Stacey.	Lieut.-Col. J. G. Atkinson, *O.B.E.*	C.O. 2 Malay Regt.

Lieut.-Col. J. F. Connolly, *D.S.O.*, Chief Instructor, S. of Inf., Hythe.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

1st Battalion

R.S.M. Turmaine, F.
B.M. Sharpe, T.
R.Q.M.S. Rose, J.
C.S.M. Sharman, R.
C.S.M. Champion, R.
C.S.M. Middleton, J.
C.S.M. Ellis, D.
C.S.M. Day, S.
C.Q.M.S. Partridge, R.
C.Q.M.S. Denny, S.

C.Q.M.S. Anderson, C.
C.Q.M.S. Mannering, D.
C.Q.M.S. Newman, P.
C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Mans, W.
Sgt. Smissen, J.
Sgt. Larkin, F.
Sgt. Lyons, B.
Sgt. Morrish, E.
Sgt. Weatherall, P.
Sgt. Jephcott, H.

Sgt. Colyer, A.
Sgt. Simmonds, R.
Sgt. Page, A.
Sgt. Harris, F.
Sgt. Bird, H.
Sgt. Woodrow, V.
Sgt. Histed, W.
Sgt. Cain, D.
Sgt. Wright, R.
Sgt. Townsley, J.

Sgt. Streeter, E.
Sgt. Billett, S.
Sgt. Rowland, K.
Sgt. Cock, C.
Sgt. Pooley, L.
S.Q.M.S. Marsden, C. (R.A.P.C.)
Sgt. Swain, R. (R.A.P.C.)

Depot The Buffs

R.S.M. White, H.
R.Q.M.S. Howe, W.
C.S.M. Chapman, G.
W.O. II Excell, F.
W.O. II Gallaway, R.

C.S.M. Diamond, R.
C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Webb, C.
C.Q.M.S. Stremes, G., *D.F.M.*
C/Sgt. Belcher, E.
C/Sgt. Clifton-Sprigg, H.

Sgt. Laker, J.
Sgt. Bryant, A.
Sgt. Ivory, L.
Sgt. Rea, R.
Sgt. Cain, D.

Sgt. Raine, R.
Sgt. Harrison, W.
Sgt. Recton, T.
Sgt. Spiers, E.
Sgt. Parker

4/5th Battalion (T.A.)

PERMANENT STAFF

R.S.M. Faulkner, G. T.
C.S.M. Fagg, G.
C.S.M. Seymour, J.
Sgt. Miller, C.
Sgt. Porter, J.
Sgt. Dean, D.
Sgt. Stoakes, A.
Sgt. Kay, M.

R.Q.M.S. Harwood, E.
C.S.M. Chapman, W.
C.S.M. Gabriel, J.
C.S.M. White, R.
C.S.M. Rogers, W.
C.S.M. Antrichan, G.
C/Sgt. Trinkwon, A.
C/Sgt. Couzens, W.
C/Sgt. Chidwick, E.
C/Sgt. Wing, T.
C/Sgt. Figgett, G.
C/Sgt. Bond, E.
Sgt. Bell, J.
Sgt. Hurlow, R.
Sgt. Babbage, W.
Sgt. Wraight, S.

Sgt. James, A.
Sgt. Bass, R.
Sgt. Williams, E.
Sgt. Thundow, W.
Sgt. George, M.
Sgt. Saunders, G.
Sgt. Richardson, H.
Sgt. Cope, H.
Sgt. Hewitt, C.
Sgt. Allen, A.
Sgt. Jones, A.
Sgt. Pattenden, R. (Drum-Major)
Sgt. Drury, F.
Sgt. Blakeney, H.
Sgt. Hughes, C.

Sgt. Saffery, D.
Sgt. Rumble, L.
Sgt. Christian, W.
Sgt. Smith, W.
Sgt. Evans, S.
Sgt. Bradford, R.
Sgt. Cozens, L.
Sgt. Dennis, P.
Sgt. Dennis, R.
Sgt. Erridge, D.
Sgt. Stockdale, J.
Sgt. Todd, H.
Sgt. Godley, D.
Sgt. Hayward, A.
Sgt. Southern, J.
Sgt. Joiner, W.

Regimental Appointments

Administrative Officer—Depot The Buffs Secretary: Canterbury Cricket Week Club Dragon Club Regimental Committee	Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker
Curator: Regimental Museum	Lieut.-Col. G. R. Howe
Secretary: Past and Present Association, The Buffs Executive Committee Editor: *The Dragon*	Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles

The Past and Present Association

Headquarters: Depot, The Buffs. Telephone: Canterbury 4764. *Chairman:* Brigadier G. J. Nicholson, C.B.E. *Secretary:* Lt. Col. B. V. Argles.

BRANCHES

Branch	Chairman	Secretary	Meeting Dates and Places
1. 1st Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
2. 4th Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
3. Ashford	Mr. A. Mills	Mr. A. C. Mills, 20 Waterman House, Godfrey Walk, Ashford, Kent	First Saturday in each month, The Invicta Godington Road.
4. London	Mr. R. W. Billings	Mr. H. J. Scott, 1 Oxford Road, Carshalton, Surrey.	Third Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, 7.30 p.m.
5. Dover	Capt. E. Marsh, M.B.E.	Mr. C. Collins, "Haven" Meadway, Minnis Lane, River, Dover.	First Thursday in each month, "Eagle Hotel", London Road, Dover, 7.45 p.m.
6. Weald	Col. E. B. Burns, T.D.	Mr. H. D. Day, 3 Pittlesden Tenterden.	Hawkhurst Sub-area. Third Thursday in each month, British Legion House, Hawkhurst, 7.45 p.m.
7. Medway	Mr. F. J. Cox	Mr. H. A. J. Brand, 83 Delce Road, Rochester	Third Saturday in each month, The Two Brewers, High Street, Rochester, 8 p.m.
8. Sittingbourne	Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D.	Capt. C. A. Grant, The Firs, Key Street, Sittingbourne.	First Friday in each month Drill Hall, East Street, 7.30 p.m.
9. Ramsgate	Mr. C. F. Fakley	Mr. B. E. Knott, 27 Wilfred Road, Ramsgate	Third Friday in each month, Freemason's Tavern, Ramsgate, 8 p.m.
10. Margate	Mr. B. H. Breed	Mr. J. H. Shakeshaft, 14 Alexandra Road, Broadstairs	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, Hawley Square, 8 p.m.
11. Hythe	Mr. J. T. J.Green	Mr. H. Thompson, 4 Hillside Court, Hythe	Last Wednesday in each month, The Star, Stade Street, 7.30 p.m.
12. Canterbury	Lt.-Col. E J. Evans	Major E. R. Chambers, 59 Hillside Avenue, Canterbury Canterbury 5118	Fourth Friday in each month, Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury, 8 p.m.
13. Herne Bay	Mr. H. Davey	Mr. A. Trice, 23 Queen's Gardens, Herne Bay	Second Monday in each month, British Legion Club, May Lodge, 8 p.m.
14. Folkestone	Major A. A. West	Mr. H. Fordred, 36 Fernbank Crescent, Folkestone	Second Friday in each month, Guildhall Hotel, 8 p.m.
15. Sandwich	Major F. W. Tomlinson	Mr. H. Taylor, 19 Paradise Row, Sandwich	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, 8 p.m.
16. Faversham	Capt. J. Green	Mr. R. C. Croucher, 10 Glebe Houses, Eastling, Faversham	First Monday in each month, Carpenters Arms, Eastling, 7.30 p.m.
17. Brighton		Major H. Milton, 118 Queens' Road, Brighton	Second Monday in each month, R.E. Record Social Club, The College, Ditchling Road, Brighton, 8 p.m.
18. Denmark	Major O. Lippmann	Mr. P. Berendt, Ostergade 22, Copenhagen K.	First Monday in each month.

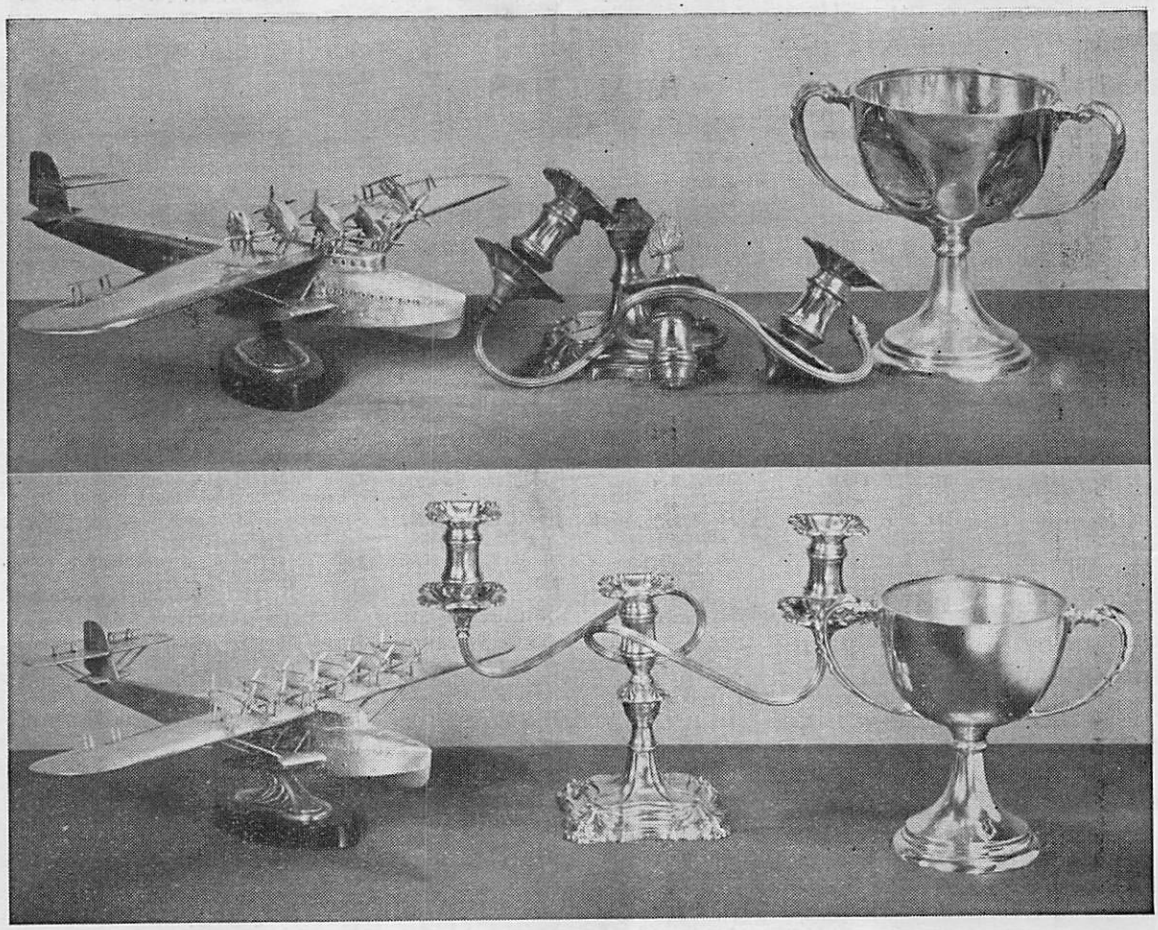
The Association exists to foster Comradeship and to give a helping hand to those in distress.
Membership is open to all who are serving or who have served in The Buffs.
Subscription rates are:—

Life Membership: Officers £2.	Other Ranks £1
Annual Membership: Officers 5/-.	Other Ranks 2/6.
Entrance Fee: 1/-	

LADIES' GUILD

President: Mrs. V. Boucher

Branch	Chairman	Secretary	Meeting Dates and Places
1. London	Mrs. L. Coley	Mrs. J. Tucker, 12 Chestnut Close, Oakwood, London, N.14	First Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, S.W.1. 6.30 p.m.
2. Dover	Mrs. J. Crookenden J.P.	Mrs. Wraight, 93 Markland Road, Dover	First Thursday in each month, Belgrave Hall, Belgrave Road, Dover, 3 p.m.
3. Folkestone	Mrs. Cagte	Mrs. Kay Mantell, 5 Page Place, Folkestone	Every other Wednesday, Drill Hall, Shellons Street, Folkestone, 3.30 p.m.
4. Medway	Mrs. King Holt	Mrs. W. T. Brooker, 67 Malvern Road, Gillingham, Kent	Fourth Tuesday in each month, Foresters' Hall, King Street, Gillingham, 2.30 p.m.
5. Ashford	Mrs. L. King	Mrs. E. Partiss, 22 Bond Road, South Ashford	Second Wednesday in each month, The Drill Hall, Ashford, 3 p.m.
6. Sittingbourne	Mrs. M. E. Dean	Mrs. J. Ravensdale, 10 Railway Terrace, Sittingbourne	Third Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne, 6.45 p.m.



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No. 669 AUGUST, 1955 Price: One Shilling

EDITORIAL

MUCH has happened since our last Editorial, the most important being the brilliant spell of weather which has added so much to the gaiety of August. As usual our tent was very full during the Cricket Week on the St. Lawrence Ground. Many Regimental faces were, however, missing this year, it being impossible for many who made the journey, in some cases long ones, for the Presentation of Colours Parade, to come this way so soon again. Those of us who are lucky to live near the scene of activities enjoyed with our large number of guests much good entertaining. Perhaps the slowness of some of the cricket made a good enough excuse to talk and drink rather than to watch. It was fun to see again those two accountants of the Turf, Lieut.-Cols. Guy Oliver and John Connolly together over the mid-day editions, ably assisted by Major Arthur Majendie. Mrs. Knocker again did the flower arrangements with her usual skill and taste; we should like to express our thanks to Colonel R. S. Mount and Mr. L. A. Mount for their generous gifts of carnations not only in the tent, but also for the Cathedral for Remembrance Sunday.

* * *

This year the parade on Remembrance Sunday started at our own home in the New Barracks. A good muster, though not perhaps as large as in some years, was inspected by the Colonel of the Regiment before marching to the Cathedral. We were very fortunate to have the Band from the Royal Marines School of Music to play and we thank the Officer Commanding Royal Marines, Deal, most sincerely for his kindness.

In the Cathedral, the Royal Marines Orchestra, conducted by Senior Commissioned Bandmaster A. E. Stagg, played for the Service, accompanied by Mr. Malcolm Tyler on the organ. Last Post and Reveille were sounded by five Royal Marine buglers and the final fanfare was played on their memorial trumpets, seven in number. The Colonel of the Regiment read the lesson, which this year was taken from the second chapter of the Book of Esdras. Canon A. O. Standen preached a most inspiring sermon and we are most grateful to him. The hymns were *Holy, Holy, Holy*, during which the Branch Standards were carried up the main aisle followed by the Mayor and Mayoress and Clergy, *O Valiant Hearts* and *Soldiers of Christ Arise.*

It was generally agreed that the Service on this occasion was one of the most moving and inspiring we have known, and we thank once again the Royal Marines School of Music for their magnificent help. Lieut.-Col. Vivian Dunn, Principal Director of Music, and his wife were our guests at the Service and at lunch, as well as Bandmaster and Mrs. Stagg. Mrs. Findlay again arranged the flowers at the Warriors' Chapel, towards which Mr. Hepworth, President of Medway Branch, made a generous contribution. We thank them both.

* * *

"The Tramp" writes begging us to excuse him from contributing this month. He has nothing, he says, to record except the tedious business of moving in to a new home which bores our readers even more than it does him. We hope he will rejoin us next month.

The Officers' Re-union Club Dinner will be held on 30th September at the Connaught Rooms. Following the success of last year's function it is hoped that not only will all those who attended turn up again but will each recruit a friend to share this annual "get-together". Lounge suits are the order, so come along from the office and meet old friends.

* * *

Finally, we give notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Past and Present Association will take place on Saturday, 17th September at the Depot. The accounts for the year 1954/55 are published in this number.

* * *

Personalia

WE record with very deep regret the death of Major A. W. Andrews, M.B.E., D.C.M. He had been in indifferent health for many months. We offer his daughter and sons our sincere sympathy. Lieut.-Col. Howard Smith represented the Colonel of the Regiment at the funeral.

* * *

We have heard also of the death in May of ex-C.S.M. A. J. Whaley, and to his widow and family also we extend our deep sympathy.

* * *

Mr. J. R. Marchant writes that his father, Mr. J. E. Marchant (4423), died last month in his 81st year. He saw service in the Boer War with the 2nd Battalion, and again in World War I. Since his retirement he was a Civil Servant and was an Air Raid Warden in World War II. Our sympathy goes to his son and relatives.

* * *

We were sorry to hear that Brigadier Whitacre Allen had been in King Edward VII Hospital for an operation. He reports progress and hopes to go to Osborne to convalesce later this month.

* * *

Mrs. A. M. Barker has kindly made a gift to the Depot of a table cloth woven in very fine damask, featuring portraits of many of the Crimean generals, which has belonged to the family of the late General J. N. Sergent since 1858.

* * *

Rev. John A. Baden and his wife from Monkton, Indiana, the Anglican priest in whose parish is Brigadier Maude, visited the museum last month to see General Maude's medals and other trophies.

Lieut.-Col. Oliver has received news in a letter from Mr. Sydney Constantinidis of his recent marriage in Athens, upon which our very hearty congratulations. Mr. Constantinidis was Greek Liaison Officer to the 1st Battalion and was very thrilled to read the May *Dragon* and accounts of the Presentation of Colours. He sends his good wishes to all his friends and a special message to Major Blaxland.

* * *

We extend a welcome to 2/Lieuts. Griffiths and Redfern on posting to the Regiment. They have joined the 1st Battalion.

* * *

Congratulations to Majors G. Hadshar and W. G. H. Dunglinson on promotion to that rank, also to Lieut.-Col. G. R. D. Hews to substantive rank.

* * *

We congratulate also Major J. P. Lucas on being Mentioned in Despatches for Distinguished Service in Kenya, and Major N. D. Poulsen on being made M.B.E. for Services in Malaya.

* * *

Major D. N. Court writes from Nairobi that he and his family expect to come home in March or April next year and are looking forward to some Regimental occasions.

* * *

Cupid's arrow has struck at Major R. A. C. Ravenhill and we congratulate him on his engagement to Miss Elizabeth Illingworth.

* * *

Colonel W. H. Rowe writes that his youngest son, Jeremy, whom many knew in his "squawking" days, is now with the 1st Glosters as a sergeant in the Kenya Regiment and his eldest son Ian is Signals Officer in the same Regiment.

* * *

At the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst on 28th July at which the salute was taken by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, the following were present: Brig. and Mrs. M. P. D. Dewar, Lieut.-Col. G. R. Howe, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. T. Roscow Reid, Sandy and Mary, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. G. Williams (late Dogra Regiment and R.A.R.O., The Buffs), Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. J. E. King, Major and Mrs. R. W. M. Webster. An old friend of the Regiment, Lieut.-Col. Prescott-Roberts (late R.A.S.C.), was also present. He is Jimmy Reid's godfather. Both Jimmy and Tom Williams passed out into the Regiment.

BIRTHS

DALGLEISH.—With great pleasure we announce that on April 30th, 1955, at The Middlesex Hospital, London, W.1, Mrs. Jean Dalgleish (former Secretary of the London Branch Ladies' Guild) presented to her husband, Jock, twin daughters. Catherine Ann (the elder) weighed 4 lb. 9 oz. and her sister, Lucy Alicia, weighted 5 lb. 5 oz.

* * *

TIMMS.—On 18th May, 1955, Mrs. Joan Timms, wife of Robert ("Jack") Timms, and daughter of Mr. Robert Billings, became the very proud mother of baby daughter Vivien Roberta, who weighed 7 lb. 8 oz.

* * *

ENGAGEMENT

MAJOR R. A. C. RAVENHILL AND MISS E. ILLINGWORTH.

The engagement is announced between Major Richard Ravenhill, The Buffs, son of Captain and Mrs. M. H. Ravenhill, of Mont Felard, Jersey, and Elizabeth, daughter of Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. H. S. Illingworth, of Naro Moru, Kenya.

* * *

DEATH

ANDREWS.—On August 8th, peacefully at his home, 209 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Major A. W. Andrews, M.B.E., D.C.M., late The Buffs and R.A.S.C., beloved father of Roland, Joan and Trevor.

* * *

Obituary

MAJOR A. W. ANDREWS, M.B.E., D.C.M.

Born 20th January, 1888—Died 8th August, 1955

IT would need a far more able pen than mine to do justice at short notice to the Service to his Country and to his Regiment of Major A. W. Andrews, better known to his older friends and comrades as Drummy and to the later generation as Bill.

Indeed could his life story be properly written it would serve as an inspiration and example to the youth of to-day and to many a young soldier.

He was born on 20th January, 1888, in the village of Green Street in the County of Kent where the house of his birth may still be seen. His parents were simple, hard-working country folk. His father worked on a nearby farm with the basic wage of a farm labourer of those days of 15/- a week, but being a "horseman" or more strictly speaking a stud groom, he received an addition of 3/- a week for his specialist work. His mother's time was fully occupied with running the house and cooking for her large and growing family but yet found time to join her neighbours in fruit picking and hopping, which then also constituted the family outing and annual holiday. His grandmother lived with the family and busied herself largely in making and mending the children's clothes. Bill retained a lasting memory of this grand old lady, of her cheerful disposition, her patience and sound advice.

As soon as he was old enough he was packed off to the village school, but he never took kindly to the classroom and was far happier in boyish activities in the open air and in the life of the country. The school classes being larger than they are even to-day in many village schools and the attendance registers not so carefully kept or inspected, it was a simple matter to act the part of a truant with the result that he never learned to read or write as a school boy.

At about the age of nine he got his first part-time job with the local baker, who also had a milk round. Getting up at 5 a.m., he would harness up the pony and trap, collect the bread from the night's baking and the milk from the local farm and drive round his district with the combined delivery of bread and milk. Back for a quick breakfast at 8 a.m. and so to put in a fleeting appearance at school.

And so his young life continued. Always keen to earn a bit here and there, always alert minded and physically active until at the age of 11 or 12 he was doing a man's job in a brickfield. It is here that we see his character forming, as he was not satisfied with one branch of the work but insisted on studying the complete progress of brickmaking from beginning to end.

It was exactly this characteristic which we find again many years later, when in 1923 he became Quartermaster; he insisted on working through all branches of his office until he had made himself master of each and the whole.

The period of the war in South Africa inspired him and his young friends to the greatest pitch of enthusiasm, bringing to the surface the ever present spirit for travel and adventure.

At the end of August, 1902, his uncle, an old regular soldier of The Buffs, called up from Section D of the Reserve to rejoin the Regiment in 1899, returned from the war.

Night after night the boys would listen to his stories of the fighting, marches, bivouacs, block houses, armoured trains, of the country and

wild animals, real or imaginary, met with on the Veldt, which no doubt lost nothing in the telling. These yarns put the final match to his ambitions and his determination to "go for a soldier".

His adventures and efforts to join the Army would fill a chapter in themselves. Towards the end of August, 1902, when not yet 15 years old, he went to the Recruiting Office at Chatham, but was obviously far below the necessary standard in height and weight for enlistment. The Recruiting Sergeant told him, not unkindly, to go home to his mother and grow up, but seeing his disappointment suggested that he should join the Militia for a time, as he said, to fatten up and develop when he would soon reach the necessary standard for the Regulars. Taking this advice as the next best thing in becoming a soldier he soon found himself at the Depot at Canterbury to undergo the initial period of Militia training.

Returning to his work in the brickfields the call to the Colours was never absent from his mind. Knowing that it would be useless to apply to the recruiting offices at Chatham or Canterbury where he was too well known, he decided to try at Maidstone. On 27th November, 1902, he rose early. His old grandmother was up to give him a good hearty breakfast. Giving him the last twopence from her purse and with her blessing young Bill started out to face the world and the Army. This time he was fortunate in finding a recruiting sergeant willing to stretch the tape measure, add the necessary pounds to the scale and the additional years to his age and thus he found himself enrolled as a regular soldier in The Buffs and once again on his way to Canterbury.

Posted to 1st Battalion, then at Dover, he carried out the normal duties of a soldier until being transferred to the Corps of Drums. Here again the spirit of the brickfields asserted itself and not being satisfied just to beat a drum he determined to master all the instruments and music of the Corps of Drums with the fixed intention of becoming the Drum-Major or Sergeant Drummer as the appointment was then called. This ambition was achieved in 1910 when he soon became one of the smartest and efficient Sergeant Drummers of his day.

In the meantime he had taken full advantage of the Regimental School and had obtained his Third and Second Class Certificates of Education.

Being an outstanding athlete he soon started to collect numbers of trophies at Battalion sports meetings, eventually becoming Army Champion at his distances.

To Harrismith, Hong Kong, Singapore and Wellington, Madras with the Battalion, the First World War found him serving as a Platoon Sergeant and C.S.M., when his gallantry and steadfast duty earned him the D.C.M. and Mention in Despatches.

On the re-formation of the 2nd Battalion at the close of the war he was promoted to R.S.M., which rank he held with distinction until gaining a well-earned promotion to Quartermaster in 1923. While always a strict disciplinarian, there can be few men who had a greater respect for his officers, combined with a sympathetic outlook towards the N.C.O.s under his charge. Many a young N.C.O. owed his success to the instruction, sound advice and guidance imparted by Bill Andrews.

The qualification of the First Class Certificate of Education for promotion to Warrant Rank was in abeyance in 1919, but re-introduced later in 1920 or 1921. As an example to his Senior N.C.O.s and to satisfy his own conscience Bill determined to take and pass the examination. Working under the most trying conditions of climate and heat at Multan, in Mesopotamia and Aden he faced up to his self-imposed task, passing at his first attempt with flying colours. Except for the training manuals which he studied from cover to cover he had not read an English book until faced with the set book for the First Class Certificate which he learned almost off by heart.

An amusing anecdote is worth recalling when during an inspection of barracks the Commanding Officer suggested that the Corporals' Room should be supplied with more books in its library. "Books," said R.S.M. Andrews and using his favourite expression, "what the damned hell do they want books for, ain't they got their manuals?"

It would weary the reader to trace the story from the date Andrews was promoted Quartermaster in 1923 until his final retirement from the Service in 1948 which is already well known to his many friends.

In conclusion, one cannot do better than to quote from a speech by Major-General Sir John Kennedy when as Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion at Portland he attended the farewell dinner and social evening given by the Sergeants' Mess to Andrews on his promotion to Quartermaster and cross posting to the 1st Battalion coupled with C.S.M. Upson on leaving the Colours to civil life.

"You all know far better than I do the record of these two Warrant Officers: the R.S.M. a first class soldier and splendid athlete, the C.S.M. a first class soldier . . . But above all they are both the best type of Englishmen and best type of soldiers of the Buffs.

"When Sergeant-Major Andrews asked me what advice I could give him in taking up his new job, I said no advice is necessary because you already have the two qualities essential to success in any job—Industry and Honesty. We know that good men do live after them and the influence and example of these two men will live for many years in this Battalion.

"In their going we are suffering a great loss and we are soldiers enough, whatever our experiences have been to feel the deepest respect for men who have done their job fearlessly and honestly and always for the good of the Battalion."

And so "fades away" another old soldier, a fine old Buff and a nature's gentleman. His passing is mourned by his friends, but his name will never be forgotten while they still live and meet together; while his sincerity of purpose, the achievement of his aims and ambitions through hard honest endeavour, his loyalty to his officers and unfailing help to those placed in his charge will continue to inspire those now facing the realities of life.

G.R.H.

* * *

AN APPRECIATION

I suppose I knew Bill Andrews as well as any older officer in the Regiment.

A fine hard character, with a good sense of humour and a fine sense of duty. Extremely loyal, he just couldn't let you down.

Always keen on the Drums, I knew him first at Dover with the 2nd Battalion Citadel, 1903-05. Then in Harrismith, and later in Middleburg, Transvaal and Standerton, when he was C.O.'s Mounted Bugler with the 5th M.I. till May, 1908. In South Africa, and later in Hong Kong and Singapore, he developed his running prowess and became an outstanding Miler, Half-Miler and, later, Quarter-Miler. A truly fine sportsman, with superb guts, he was almost unbeatable.

Later, in May, 1914, when I became Adjutant, 2nd Battalion, in Wellington, Madras, I found my old friend Drum-Major, and a really smart one he was. With Bandmaster Hewitt, he worked up some new Drums, Bugle and Band marches, which were successfully performed on the polo ground, to the entertainment of the garrison.

With 2nd Battalion in France and Belgium, Bill did fine work in the trenches, when, alas, the Battalion collected many kicks and no halfpence. He was then a C.S.M. and became R.S.M., I think, in Salonika. I next met him in Connaught Barracks, Dover, in May, 1918. About 1923, he was promoted Lieut.-Quartermaster and right well did he earn this coveted step. In September, 1929, I found Bill well established as Q.M. with 1st Battalion in Bareilly, as ever, doing his stuff with 100% efficiency and putting his whole soul into the successful running of the Q.M.G.'s Equipment Economy campaign. He left India for Home Service before we moved into Burma, November, 1930, so I did not have the pleasure of his pleasing personality during the period of my command.

Au revoir, Old Soldier, we will surely miss you. You have left many good friends behind, and the happiest of memories.

J.V.R.J.

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Future Events

Sept. 10. BUFFS GOLFING SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER.
17. PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
24. LONDON BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE, DUKE OF YORK'S H.Q., CHELSEA. Book in now.
30. BUFFS OFFICERS' RE-UNION CLUB DINNER. CONNAUGHT ROOMS.

Oct. 8. 6TH (S) BATTALION (1914-18) ANNUAL DINNER.
22. 4/5TH BUFFS (1939-45) DINNER. COUNTY HOTEL, 7 P.M.
29. 1/4TH BUFFS (1914/1919) RE-UNION DINNER. DRILL HALL, ST. PETER'S LANE, CANTERBURY. Further details will be announced later.

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4th Indian Division Officers' Reunion Club

THE Annual Dinner will be held at the United Service Club, 116 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, on Saturday, 22nd October, 1955, at 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. Dress will be Dinner Jackets or Lounge Suits.

Officers wishing to attend should notify the Hon. Secretary, Lieut.-Col. D. A. Beckett, D.S.O., Staff College, Camberley, by 8th October, enclosing 27/6 and a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

1st Battalion



THE process of settling down is now officially over and the Battalion is fully involved in the B.A.O.R. Training Season. To prepare us for this we received a visit from Major-General J. H. O. Wilsey, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. 2 Infantry Division, who told us of our future activities. The General spoke to the whole Battalion on the square, and afterwards to the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants in the Education Centre.

Shortly after his visit the Battalion—less a few who obviously have influence in the right quarter—moved by road and rail to the Training Area at Sennelager, near Paderborn. Camped in some very pleasant beech woods on the edge of a somewhat blasted heath, life was quite enjoyable albeit strenuous for five days. "A" and "Sp" Companies disappeared for three days each to Paderborn where they were royally entertained and instructed by 8 Royal Tanks. "C" Company managed to hide themselves very successfully from all but the most watchful eyes in a wood which they shared with swarms of horse flies.

All Companies put in some very useful training with the tanks, and Battalion Headquarters were constantly on the move, either setting up in the field or being led astray in the dark while moving from one location to the next. Opinions varied as to whether or not we were "tactical", and the alertness of one member of R.H.Q. was such that the password "Lightning Strike" became modified during the night to "Thunderbox".

After a day's rest on the 17th we moved to Haltern Ranges on the 18th and here again the Battalion was split up. Companies once more carried out Company training, and Battalion Headquarters dug themselves in further than ever.

After a frantic day of digging, tree-cutting and generally despoiling the surrounding woods and countryside, the Headquarters disappeared from sight to spend several hours underground praying for the time when they would be allowed to emerge once more.

At the end of our stay in Haltern a 24-hour exercise was held in which the whole Battalion took part. The exercise—attack and consolidation by a Battalion—ended at mid-day on Friday, 22nd, and on the morning of the 23rd we returned to Wuppertal.

The road party, one might have thought, would have had a clear run back, a mere 55 miles along a clearly signed route. The leading vehicle, however, followed hopefully by five others, was seen driving through the wrong part of Wuppertal in the wrong direction. So much for the convoy leader's map-reading!

Earlier in the month the Battalion trials for the Brigade Patrol Competition were held and five rather harrassed looking Subalterns were to be seen roaming the Barracks with blackened faces, muttering such things as "Reconnaisance", "Warning Order", "Snatch Party" under their breath. Patrols from each Rifle Company and Support Company entered for the competition, which was won in the Battalion by Lieut. Roger Pilcher and the Anti-Tank Platoon. From this they went on to compete against patrols from 1 R.U.R. and 1 Suffolk, and after a great deal of hard work they gained second place. Their prisoner, whom they snatched on the patrol, is reported to be still in hospital, suffering from shock, concussion and a damaged leg.

The holiday spirit is once more upon us for a short spell and some of the more fortunate ones have managed to book seats on a special plane bound for England where they will spend August Bank Holiday at home.

Our social life in the Battalion has not so far been very full, although one or two die-hards have been seen coming back to the Officers' Mess in the early hours of the morning.

On 7th July a Regimental Guest Night was held to which the Brigade Commander was asked. After dinner we were able to see films of the Presentation of Colours to the Battalion, both in May of this year, and in Rangoon in 1932.

One of the main activities of the Officers' Mess recently has centred round moustaches. Both Derek Willows and Greville Edgecombe have been siezed with despair and have cut theirs off, while O.C. "C" Company can be seen walking round with a frown of concentration as he grows a luxurious growth for all he is worth. Cecil West, too, has started to sprout, but neither of these two have so far managed to compete with Bill Dunglinson's or Ian Minto's magnificent achievements.

We have been glad to welcome back Lieut. Ken Cross who, after a spell at Brigade Headquarters in England, has at last returned to us. Our new arrivals this month are 2/Lieuts. Redfern and Griffiths, who arrived just in time to take part in our activities at Sennelager and Haltern.

Congratulations this month go to Major Dunglinson and Captain Minto on their promotions, and also to Cpls. Hansen and Lincoln on their promotion to Sergeant.

By the time these notes are in print we shall have returned from another ten days out of Barracks, this time at Sennelager for the whole period. It has been rumoured that even Captain Eric Ransley is being prised out of his excellent Gift Shop to accompany us this time. If we are as fortunate with the weather as we were during our last ten days away we should have a very pleasant time.

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CORPORALS' CLUB

I would like, first of all, to welcome to our club the new members who have recently joined us, to congratulate the more fortunate members who have risen in the world since our last time of going to print. We must also particularly bid our congratulations and farewells to Sgt. Hansen, who has recently left us for obvious reasons; and we would all like to say that we feel he has achieved a very worthy promotion.

Three months have slipped by without the appearance in *The Dragon* of the usual Corporal Club's notes. Consequently a great deal has happened, a great many faces have changed and a very new light has been thrown on the scene of Corporals' Club activities. The change of location from Dover to Wuppertal has forced us to consider a far wider range of amusements, especially as one cannot rush homeward at the week-end. To date, however, we have been able to achieve little as we are waiting for the club to have its "face lifted"; and does it need it! When this is completed, we hope to arrange a programme of interesting events, from darts matches with our opposite numbers in the Brigade with beer all round, to quiet evenings for wives and families of our married members. But all this will have to wait until the "brush and turps men" have done their stuff in a big way.

One point I should like to mention which is of interest to our junior members, and seems to be causing untold mental chaos due to its complexity, is the subject of "Substantive L/Cpl.". Well, lads, all this means is that your name is placed on the Home Counties Brigade Seniority Roll for the purpose of keeping a check on rank seniority with a view to promotions, and that you retain your rank of posting.

I think, then, that it is "Cheerio" for the time being, with all of us looking forward to another month of "fun and games", or should I say Schemes?

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"A" COMPANY

Most company scribes will undoubtedly have been relieved that no literary effort has been required from them for the last three numbers of *The Dragon*. The day of reckoning has now come, though, and it is harder than usual to put pen to paper and to know quite where to begin.

There have naturally been many comings and goings since May, and it would be tedious to list more than a few of them.

Amongst the officers, we were sorry to lose Lieut. Robin Wright to the Depot before we left for Germany. He and his charming wife have promised to visit us when they come motoring on the Continent later this year, and we shall look forward to seeing a familiar MG approaching at speed along the cobblestones from Dusseldorf.

Lieut. Mike Courtney was last heard of languising in Shorncliffe Military Hospital, where he was receiving treatment for an eye complaint. Most of us had taken it for granted that the condition was the result of a surfeit of late nights and riotous living, but apparently the dermatologists think they know better. Lieut. Courtney was expecting to be posted to Kenya, where he intends to settle, and so if he does not return to the Company, we wish him the best of luck for the future. In any event we shall scan the columns of "Beneath Bell Harry" with interest for further news of him.

Incidently, the Depot can hardly be said to be still "Beneath Bell Harry" since it moved to the top of St. Martin's Hill—unless it is spiritually so. Looking further through the pages of *The Dragon*, it is even more surprising to find the "Old Contemptible" that continues to illustrate the first paragraph of the 1st Battalion Notes. Surely it is time that this old warrior was retired, to smoke his pipe peacefully beside his own fireside, and a soldier from the present day detailed to take over his duties? May one also hope that the Tramp will one day wave to us from Milestone 10? Or that someone will dare to shout "Fore" at the venerable member of The Buffs Golfing Society, who has spent so many years manfully sizing up to swing at the ball that presumably lies most awkwardly placed at his feet?

After this uncalled-for digression, back to the task in hand, to welcome Lieut. Eric Hicks and Sgt. Morrish to our midst. They are now both with No. 1 Platoon. The former, fresh from serving in Malaya with the Gurkhas, is no longer allowed to lead a route march at a rifle pace, for the proceedings tend to develop too quickly into a road walk and run. Sgt. Morrish, soon after his arrival, had the misfortune to lose his waterbottle cork. However, someone with a guilty conscience, appalled at the thought of the Sergeant staggering over the desert without a drop to drink, thoughtfully posted him a replacement, and enclosed a short note of apology as well.

Our congratulations to Sgt. Hansen, recently promoted, and now commanding No. 2 Platoon. His predecessor was Sgt. Rowland, one of the Company's old stagers, whom we are very sorry to have had posted to "D" (Trg.) Company. It is a consolation to remember that only the best instructors are good enough to train the new drafts when they arrive, and as Sgt. Cain of No. 3 Platoon has also just left to do the same job, we feel it is an honour to have had two Sergeants chosen from the Company. Let's hope that "D" (Trg.) Company will send us the best recruits in the future, as some form of repayment.

Pte. Poulter has returned once more to No. 2 Platoon, having had, he says, more than enough of "batting". He is anxious to get down to some real soldiering.

A new arrival from the staff of the Depot is Cpl. Batchelor, whom we welcome to No. 3 Platoon. He is now making himself felt as Acting Platoon Sergeant.

Pte. Harding of No. 3 Platoon is reported to have an unnatural attraction for water. Not only does he drink more of it than is good for him, but he also takes every available opportunity of washing himself in it—so much so that he recently had to report sick, having worn most

of the skin off his face through excessive scrubbing. His platoon commander is seriously considering recommending him for a Water Duties Course.

With the advent of the exercise season, a number of specialists are attached to the Company on training. Two of these, in whom we are all particularly interested, are our cooks, Ptes. Nicholson and Burke. They both come in for their share of adverse criticism, but both have performed commendably well under the C/Sgt.'s able supervision. The only casualty from our recent ten-day spell of training out of camp was Pte. Foley. He broke one of his front teeth on a particularly tough compo biscuit. As no insurance company provides cover against this sort of thing, the only course appears to be to claim compensation from the Messing Officer.

L/Cpl. Boxall is back in the Stores, where he has proved irreplaceable, after a time with No. 3 Platoon. He and Pte. Dale sleep in the dungeons below our barrack block, buth both remain remarkably cheerful about it.

In the field of sport we have played our next door neighbours, "B" Company, at hockey and cricket. The hockey resulted in a hard fought draw, but we were fortunate enough to win the cricket. Our stars on this occasion were Pte. Mace, who struck the ball well in a spirited innings, and Pte. Fisher, who took five good wickets with his wily slow bowling.

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"B" COMPANY

"Arm virumque cano". Due to the Parade held on the 9th May, and our subsequent move to Germany in June, some of the information contained in this month's *Dragon* notes will be somewhat outdated, and rather dulled with age, but to keep our readers in touch with events which have occurred during the past six or eight weeks within the Company, we shall include some old, as well as some not so old, news.

This is an opportune moment to welcome the new draft which arrived from the Depot just before Whitsun. This generous supplement to our then rather depleted Company strength, has now settled in and is already taking a large part in our numerous activities. Having thus given out greetings to all newcomers, it is our less agreeable task to say farewell to the members of the Company who have now left us to take up their position in civilian life. we wish them every success and much happiness in their new surroundings. This seems an appropriate juncture at which to congratulate Sgt. Spiers upon his new appointment as an instructor at Eaton Hall O.C.S., where no doubt he will be putting potential Platoon Commanders "in the picture". We should also like to congratulate all the junior N.C.O.s who have received their first stripes recently. It is to them that we look for our future leaders and instructors, and we would seize this opportunity to encourage them to continue in the way in which they have begun, taking a keen and active interest in the Company and in the Battalion as a whole. Having mentioned the junior N.C.O.s fairly fully, it is now our pleasure to speak briefly about two of our now not so junior N.C.O.s, Cpls. Milledge and Mahoney, who, we are pleased to relate, have received their second stripes.

Before leaving England, it was our privilege to go on a route march accompanied by the Company Commander and his dog. We were pleased to have the Company Commander, but "Magic" was generally regarded with disfavour. Perhaps we are guilty of having viewed her presence with jaundiced eyes, rather than through rose-tinted spectacles.

Be that as it may, in the course of a mere ten miles, "Magic" managed to call upon herself the unwelcome attentions of a herd of cows, and place the life of a perfectly inoffensive chicken in the gravest danger. That is, provided you consider a complete set of healthy molars being sunk into its neck, as a grave danger.

We now reach one of the high spots of our chronicle of events, namely the move to Germany. Leaving Dover on Tuesday morning, we spent several enjoyable hours travelling by coach to Harwich. This entailed journeying through London, where on several occasions we were extremely doubtful if we would reach Harwich at all, or at least without visiting some other more interesting parts of our native land, say Newcastle-on-Tyne, or Portsmouth. However, all credit to those who organised the move in that we arrived at Harwich in a body and on time. Imagine our joy upon reaching the quay when we were received by our former Company Sergeant-Major (W.O. Kemp). The following morning, having landed at the Hook, our day was yet again brightened by the activities, or lack of them, by our own Company Sergeant-Major Hannaway, who, as the train drew gently out, was seen standing alone on the platform, a solitary representative of martial strength upon the barren concrete wastes.

Since we have taken up our position at our new station we have enjoyed several varied forms of entertainment. A cricket team has been organised, which so far as played two games, one against "A" Company and the other with the Signals Platoon. The results in both cases were, regretably, not in our favour, but with the motto of *Nil Desperandum* ever on our lips, we look for bigger and better things in the future.

In the middle of July we departed to Sennelager for ten days' relaxation in the open air. Here our time was usefully employed by leaping on and off Centurions, and in the words of the C.S.M., "roaring around the khuds". To round off the month's activities, we are looking forward to a short break for August Bank Holiday before once again disappearing into the wilds of North Germany for some more "alfresco entertainment".

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"C" COMPANY

In connection with mobilisation practice, the Company had an attempt at loading its entire kit onto three vehicles and their trailers. Much to everyone's surprise, it all went on, but not before the sky took one look at the stacks of kit, blankets, etc., not to mention men, and decided to soak the lot. It was learned with some awe and apprehension, that both Ptes. Mattholie and Beer had been taken on strength of the M.T. So far, "C" Company has been preserved from their tender mercies, but how long can that last?

Shortly after this, the whole Company, including L/Cpl. Sedgewick protesting other engagements, went off on a 10-mile route march, with a night out after it. Naturally it rained again. The camp was by a lake and for a short time modesty was thrown to the winds and nearly everyone swam. *Sunday Pictorial* reporters might have mistaken it for a scene on the Devon coast.

Most of the night was taken up by patrolling against the Anti-Tank Platoon, in which the score was Sgt. Colyer and three of his men captured against one, rather battered, Pte. Cowley.

Sennelagar and Haltern were next on the Training Menu. Speaking of menus, who was the C/Sgt. who invented a recipe for an explosive, waterproof pudding! One only wonders what would have happened if somebody had actually eaten it. Sennelagar taught everybody that it was alright for the "Tank Barons" except when it came to cleaning guns and daily maintenance, but if you were an

infanteer, and wanted to avoid a grilled undercarriage, you need asbestos pants. The smell of sizzling flesh was everywhere and someone's anguished cry of "Thank God they aren't cannibals in this country" seemed very appropriate.

At Haltern the Company dug in. It was fascinating to see the expressions, half awe, half hope and prayer, as the trenches got deeper and deeper and still only sand came out. It was just too good to be true. However, everything has its drawbacks, as Pte. Brayshaw found when they dug him up from a collapsed ruin for the third time. The finished product, showed with some pride, faintly resembled a home-made shell-hole.

Sgt. Parker celebrated his 22nd birthday in traditional style by crawling through a sewer into a field containing an enraged bull (also a rather friendly domestic cow) by way of an electric wire fence. And a good time was had by all. Another birthday on the same day was Mr. Hardy's. Perhaps not the best way to spend a twenty-first! but, judging by the amount of beer bought by No. 9 Platoon that night, it was reasonably celebrated.

The Company finally returned to Wuppertal on Saturday 23rd in a fair state of collapse, and are preparing themselves, asbestos pants and all, for another session next month.

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"S" COMPANY

Since our last contribution to *The Dragon* a certain amount of water has flower under the proverbial bridge. Sufficient to say on the now exhausted subject of the Colour Parade that this Company provided, almost exclusively, the Escort and judging from all reports reasonably well at that. After the festivities and jollifications we had a week's leave and spent the remaining odd week or so packing up, flapping over the railway strike and bidding touching farewells to our favourte taverns in and around Dover.

And so to Germany. Apart from a rather cramped and ignominious motor-bus journey to Harwich, we had a comfortable crossing and train journey, to arrive in Wuppertal in a dark and drizzling atmosphere. However, the local saying that all babies born in Wuppertal are born with umbrellas in their hands has proved to be a slight exaggeration. If we had been told that they are born waring ponchos or adapted "frogmen" suits we might have believed it. On more than one occasion during the last few weeks the sun has shone, so it is not so bad as we thought.

Various changes have taken place within the Company and there has been much "coming and going". The first major change was that the almost newly resurrected Anti-Tank and Assault Pioneer Platoons and the old Mortar Platoon have found themselves once more to be rifle platoons, this time with the style and titles of Nos. 18, 19 and 17 Platoons. The M.M.G. Platoon has, in theory anyway, gone to H.Q. Company, and the company's designation is now "S" Company. Oh, well!

The "great outdoors" and the life rugged has been featuring on the training bill of fare. This will no doubt be seen from all the other contributions this month so we will say no more about it except that during our ten days at Paderborn and Sennelager we learnt with regret how indifferent the efforts of the A.C.C. prove to be when they reach the mess-tin after a hard day and a long wait. The Company had a very enjoyable two or three days living and working with the 8 R.T.R. They are an excellent bunch of fellows. The original desire and enthusiasm to become bank-men faded pretty rapidly when one discovered that even though these chaps did drive everywhere, including to the NAAFI, that one is prone to end any battle closely resembling a badly over-fried egg. The general opinion within the Company was that if we do sometimes wear ourselves another half-inch shorter on long marches, it is better that day in the end.

The Company recently provided two patrols to take part in the Battalion Patrol Competition and we are delighted to report that No. 18 Platoon under Lieut. Roger Pilcher carried the day and are even at this very moment, we hope, on the verge of clearing the board in the Brigade Competition.

Next week we again depart for that home from home, Sennelager, which can only be Bagshott Heath in disguise. It has been rumoured that the only weapon one requires in an infantry battalion is a large "shovels digging", bright, clean and slightly oiled. This time the Mortar and M.M.G. Platoons are going to have an opportunity to fire during a platoon demonstration, so things are looking up.

On the sporting side, apart from the odd company football and cricket match there is little to report. We did play some water-polo and soft-ball against "A" Squadron 8 R.T.R., but the results were more or less equal.

Next month we hope to be able to report that the Mortar Platoon has bombed a large herd of ravening elephants out of the woods into "Charlie" Company area and that the M.M.G. Platoon have not wiped out all the spectators during our demonstration.

* * *

CRICKET

It is a long time since the 1st Battalion has been able to make mention of a cricket match. The last match we played was in Kenya when the Devons confounded our optimism so thoroughly. Prior to that the last matches the Battalion played were in Egypt in 1952.

However, we have at least made a rather tentative if belated start to the season. A number of players selected purely on "book" form were included in a Brigade Trial match. Pte. Coate bowled notably well and most of our players showed favourably despite lack of practice. The following actually played in this trial:—Lieut.-Col. Grace, Captains Thorneycroft and Gatehouse, Lieuts. West and Hicks, 2/Lieut. Hordern, L/Cpl. Straker, Ptes. Coate, Morley, Ledger and Fisher.

We played our first match on our home ground which we share with the Suffolks, on Sunday, 31st June *v* 1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards. It was an enjoyable and interesting game for players and spectators alike, and produced a closer finish than at one stage appeared likely; in fact both captains had justification in claiming the extra quarter of an hour to make a decision. It is a pleasant ground with a fine fast matting wicket and the boundary perhaps a trifle short behind the stumps at either end; at any rate, it was tempting to aim for the straight six and one can remember two glorious sixes from Lieut.-Col. Grace, another a-piece from Lieut. West and L/Cpl. Straker, and when our opponents batted, 2/Lieut. Smiley achieved a further two.

We won the toss and batted first. Our innings was built round an attractive 62 runs from the Colonel following an opening knock of 25 from Pte. Ledger, who bats most promisingly at No. 1. Thereafter we succumbed rather more rapidly than was seemly or warranted by the state of the game. Major Worts and Lieut. West at least did not waste time at the wicket while collecting their handful of runs but the sudden demise of what should have been a strong tail was not expected. However, 133 was still quite a total to be gained with one eye on the clock and against fairly brisk fielding and this was the task facing our opponents after tea.

Lieut. Gordon-Lennox refused to be unsettled or hurried despite a few early departures from the other end and saw his side through while scoring an unbeaten 73. Pte. Coate and Pte. Pool both bowled well and in the end Pte. Coate caused our opponents to wonder whether in fact they had sufficient batsmen to keep Gordon-Lennox company. Pte. Ledger had previously surprised our opponents with a swift pick-up and accurate throw to knock down the stumps. The match was lost by two wickets and with a few minutes of extra time in hand, but it was a useful introduction to cricket out here against a very capable side. The scores and details are appended below.

On August Bank Holiday we had the annual Officers *v* W.O.s and Sergeants' match. This was somewhat one-sided but was played under a pleasant Bank Holiday atmosphere on a sunny afternoon when the result scarcely mattered. Suffice that the Officers scored 147 fairly swiftly with the Colonel, Major Worts, Captain Gatehouse and Lieut. Ward scoring over 20, and the W.O.s and Sergeants in their two innings mustered the same total despite some very friendly bowling and fielding. C/Sgt. Partridge, Bandmaster Sharpe and Sgts. Colyer and Yuill were among those who fared the more successfully. Again the details of the match are shown below.

1ST BN. *v* 1ST BN. THE GRENADIER GUARDS

The Buffs

Pte. Ledger, c Smiley, b Gordon-Lennox	25
Capt. Gatehouse, lbw, b Jefferson	1
Capt. Thorneycroft, lbw, b Jefferson	0
Lieut.-Col. Grace, b Smiley	62
Major Worts, b Taylor	14
Lieut. West, b Taylor	12
Pte. Coate, b Linford	0
Pte. Pool, b Linford	0
L/Cpl. Straker, b Linford	6
Pte. Vipan, b Taylor	0
2/Lieut. Hordern, not out	0
Extras	13
Total	133

Bowling

Linford 3 for 27; Taylor 3 for 3.

The Grenadier Guards

Lieut. Gordon-Lennox, not out	73
Sgt. Starkey, c Hordern, b West	1
2/Lieut. Illingworth, c Hordern, b Coate	10
Major Giles, b Pool	2
2/Lieut. Greenwood, lbw, b Coate	0
Gdsm. Templeman, run out	17
2/Lieut. Smiley, c Ledger, b Grace	20
Sgt. Linford, b Coate	0
2/Lieut. Jefferson, lbw, b Coate	1
Gdsm. Taylor, not out	0
Gdsm. Crovere, did not bat	
Extras	12
Total (8 wickets)	135

Bowling

Lieut.-Col. Grace 1 for 15; Lieut. West 1 for 15; Pte. Coate 4 for 33; Pte. Pool 1 for 16.

OFFICERS *v* W.O.s AND SERGEANTS

Officers

Capt. Barrett, b Lyons	9
Capt. Gatehouse, c Fletcher, b Rowlands	24
Capt. Thorneycroft, b Lyons	11
Lieut.-Col. Grace, c Histed, b Rowlands	22
Major Worts, lbw, b Manns	24
2/Lieut. Lea, lbw, b Colyer	7
Lieut. Ward, b Sharpe	21
Capt. Stratford-Tuke, lbw, b Manns	9
2/Lieut. Redfern, run out	3
Lieut. West, c Rowlands, b Sharpe	8
2/Lieut. Hordern, not out	0
Extras	11
Total	147

W.O.s and Sergeants

1st Innings

Sgt. Yuill, b Redfern	0
Sgt. Histed, lbw, b Redfern	1
B.M. Sharpe, b Lea	16
C/Sgt. Manns, b Redfern	0
Sgt. Fletcher, lbw, b Gatehouse	1
C/Sgt. Partridge, b Barrett	32
Sgt. Mills, st Hordern, b Barrett	7
C/Sgt. Mannering, run out	0
Sgt. Colyer, not out	6
Sgt. Rowland, c West, b Barrett	9
Extras	7
Total	79

2nd Innings

Sgt. Yuill, lbw, b West	10
Sgt. Histed, b Gatehouse	6
B.M. Sharpe, not out	15
C/Sgt. Manns, c Grace, b West	1
Sgt. Fletcher, b Thorneycroft	10
C/Sgt. Partridge, b West	0
Sgt. Mills, b Thorneycroft	0
C/Sgt. Mannering, b Thorneycroft	1
Sgt. Colyer, b Grace	16
Sgt. Rowland, c Worts, b Thorneycroft	1
Extras	4
Total	68

* * *

Called Up

I HAVE just read a book entitled *Called Up*, being the personal experiences of sixteen National Servicemen, told by themselves.

Edited with an introduction by Peter Chambers and Amy Landreth.

While the editors have attempted to give a different opening gambit to most of the stories I should imagine they were taken down, probably in shorthand, during personal interviews with the men concerned and based on a series of set questions such as: Age, home and home life, occupation of father, schooling and/or employment prior to call up, ambition or intention

for future life, first impressions on call up, basic training, further service, demob. and finally views on National Service generally, the value of it to the young men of the Country and to the narrator personally.

Some of the stories are quite entertaining, but several rather poor.

The general tone brings out the character of a cross section of the youth of to-day which seems to be Socialistic in outlook, resentment of discipline and of being commanded.

While most of the sixteen viewed the unknown Army life with a certain amount of trepidation, they realized that the service had to be done and decided to face up to it and to get through it with as little trouble to themselves as possible, making the best of a bad job.

Few of those selected for the book seemed to show any ambition in the service, to be inspired by the history and tradition of the Army or of their Regiment or to look far beyond the four walls of the barrack room or their own immediate service and employment. The early training with an atmosphere of just turning something through and out of a machine and a kind of void which seemed (throughout these stories) to have existed between the regulars and conscripts, may account for this feeling to some extent.

But the Instructors must have been faced with a difficult task in attempting to inspire a suspicious and unwilling pupil and those who entered into their period of service with a feeling of resentment if not of indignation at the whole proceedings.

Knowing what a fine job many young National Service men have done on active service in Korea, on the Suez Canal, in Kenya and elsewhere; how they have shown up to advantage on Guards and ceremonial parades as well as their regular soldier comrades and how not a few have decided to "take on". I cannot but feel that *Called Up* gives a somewhat unreal and untrue picture of the bulk of National Service men.

If I am correct in the methods employed in extracting the stories, the questions put in a slightly different way might have resulted in somewhat diverse answers, while an examination over a larger field might have produced a happier representation of the bulk of the young men of our country which I still believe exists.

While I found *Called Up* somewhat depressing reading, it has not shaken my confidence in the youth of to-day.

Of one thing, however, I am certain, which is that the Army and Army Life should be afforded far greater and favourable publicity than it is given to-day so that our young men would not face their Call Up with a feeling of fear of a great unknown.

I have enlarged on my review of *Called Up* because it has given me an idea for *The Dragon.*

If suitable "agents", with a knowledge of shorthand if possible, could interview some of our old Buff Soldiers (while they still exist) I am sure we could extract many interesting and historically valuable stories. These could be suitably edited and reproduced month by month under some such heading as "Old Soldiers never die . . .".

In due course the Editor of *The Dragon* could produce the best in book form—produce a best seller and make his fortune!

G.R.H.

* * *

Watch for these Films

THERE are no films this month which have aroused any great enthusiasm and so the selection given is what seem likely to be the most enjoyable.

First, there are two musicals for which there was no space last month.

Daddy Long Legs. The musical version of Jean Webster Booth's evergreen story has now been screened. It has been a book, a play, a film (probably twice, I seem to remember Mary Pickford in one) and now this musical. It never fails to please, and with Fred Astaire and Leslie Caron, should do so again.

Brigadoon. With its lovely tunes and dancing, has now been filmed, with that expert dancer, Gene Kelly.

Doctor at Sea. A sequel to Richard Gordon's *Doctor in the House*, and rather more farcical, and though perhaps one misses Kenneth More, there are very good performances by everyone, including James Robertson Justice, Dirk Bogarde, Maurice Denham, Brenda de Banzie.

The Bed. An interesting episodic French film, each part by a different director. Four travellers seeking a bed recall others they have known.

Soldier of Fortune. It struck one when reading this story by E. Gann, that it would make a good film. The setting is in Hong Kong, and the story of a wife who seeks her husband who is in Communist hands in China, with the help of an ex-gangster, played by Clark Gable. For those who admire him, he has still got something, and the views of Hong Kong and Harbour are beautifully photographed, and enough to send one to this film.

Escapade. A not so good film version of a very good play.

Continued on page 191.

Buffs' Golfing Society



THE match versus Liphook Golf Club took place on Sunday, 10th July. It is a long way for many of us, but I think all will agree that it is well worth the journey. Personally I always enjoy playing there, provided of course that the weather is fine, and I well remember one soaking day there. The course is both sylvan and delightful to the eye and gives a sense of seclusion. It comes as almost a shock when one has to cross the main Petersfield road, as one does twice during the round, with its procession of roaring motor cycles and cars speeding along.

On this occasion the Buffs Golfing Society registered a win. We all appreciated the hospitality extended to us and left fervently hoping that we would again repeat the visit next year. Score as under.

J.C.

MATCH *v* LIPHOOK GOLF CLUB

SINGLES

Liphook		*The Buffs*	
D. P. Cooper ...	0	Major D. Montgomery (2 up)	1
R. B. Gotch (halved) ...	½	Major de J. Creswick (halved)	½
I. S. Walker (9/7) ...	1	Lt.-Col. J. May ...	0
H. M. Lushington ...	½	Lt.-Col. J. Crookenden	½
E. M. P. Williams ...	0	Maj. I. A. Pearson (3+1)	1
R. F. Ingram (5/4) ...	1	Major R. H. Dendy ...	0
F. A. Blackwood ...	0	Lt.-Col. N. E. Hoare (4/2)...	1
Total ...	3	Total ...	4

FOURSOMES

Gotch & Macbeth ...	0	Montgomery & Creswick (4+3) ...	1
Walker & Williams (5/3)	1	May & Dendy ...	0
Ingram & Blackwood ...	½	Pearson & Hoare ...	½
Total ...	1½	Total ...	1½
Grand Total ...	4½	Grand Total ...	5½

Result: The Buffs won 5½ to 4½ by one hole

* * *

A most enjoyable day was spent on 24th July when the B.G.S. played the Canterbury G.C. Unfortunately the holidays prevented a full team to be paraded. How different one ruminated from the day when on October 21st, 1927, the third day of the Autumn Meeting had to be cancelled and a team was raised by Douglas Grant and a match was played on the Canterbury Course, with fourteen a side. It is interesting to read that at the same Meeting there were forty-three entries at Royal St. George's! And browsing through the album, no fewer than thirty played together at Canterbury in July of the same year. Those were indeed "the Days"!

This time the 24th of this year of grace we totalled "seven". The lack of numbers, however, did not alter the fact that it was a lovely day and the course was playing at its best. Personally, I did not have a bad lie the whole way round.

Our opponents were wonderful hosts and gave us a very hearty welcome. The results of the match were as under.

Though our numbers are languishing, I feel that a few more of the very friendly matches will keep the Society from expiring. Once the spur to play matches is removed I feel that the Society will slowly, perhaps, but none the less surely sink into oblivion.

J.C.

MATCH *v* CANTERBURY G.C.

FOURBALL

Canterbury G.C.		*The Buffs*	
W. G. Heath & K. W. Jeffery ...	0	Major D. Montgomery & M. C. Bollon (3/2)	2
R. W. Jones & W. C. Hammond (1 up)	2	A. G. Simon & I. A. Pearson ...	0
R. L. Stanford & C. Hadfield (2/1) ...	2	Major R. H. Dendy & F. Allnutt	0
Total ...	4	Total ...	2

SINGLES

Canterbury G.C.		*The Buffs*	
W. G. Heath	½	Major D. Montgomery	½
R. W. Jones	1	M. C. Bollon ...	0
W. C. Hammond ...	1	A. G. Simon	0
R. L. Stanford	½	I. A. Pearson ...	½
C. Hadfield	½	Major R. H. Dendy ...	½
K. W. Jeffery	½	Lt.-Col. J. Crookenden	½
Total ...	4	Total ...	2

Result: Canterbury G.C. won by 2 matches

* * *

AUTUMN MEETING

September 10th and 11th at DEAL

HAVE YOU ENTERED YET?



THE BUFFS PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

For the year ending 31st March, 1955

THE BUFFS PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1955

31st Mar., 1954		Expenditure	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£	£			
		Salaries:—		
149		Secretary	269 6 8	
329		Clerks	325 9 5	
478			594 16 1	
50		Acting Secretary—Expenses ...	– – –	
—	528			594 16 1
	22	Telephone		30 6 4
	99	Printing, Postage, Stationery and Office Cleaning		92 3 11
	31	Audit Fee		31 10 0
	3	Cheque Books		1 0 0
	15	Annual General Meeting Expenses		24 18 4
	40	Travelling Expenses—Secretary ...		58 15 0
	9	Miscellaneous Expenses		11 6 11
	—	Presentation—Mrs. Rigden ...		4 10 0
	10	Grant—Formation of Canterbury Branch		– – –
	5	Addressing Machine		– – –
	27	Typewriter		– – –
	789			849 6 7
		Less Administration Expenses of Funds:		
		Allocated:		
2		Building Fund ...	1 1 0	
–		War Memorial Fund ...	2 2 0	
3		Officers' War Memorial Fund	3 3 0	
		Apportioned:		
186		Benevolent Fund ...	217 6 10	
186		*Dragon* Newspaper ...	191 0 2	
112		World War Charitable Fund	130 8 1	
19		Cottage Homes ...	21 14 8	
19		Central Fund	21 14 8	
—	527			588 10 5
	262	*Net Administration Expenses* ...		260 16 2
7		Badges	13 4 8	
5		Income Tax	5 8 0	
4		Loss on Sale of Ties	6 11 4	
6		Miscellaneous Expenses	6 1 3	
—		Grants	5 0 0	
—	22			36 5 3
	74	*Excess of Income over Expenditure*		– – –
	358			£297 1 5

31st Mar., 1954		Income	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£	£			
	27	Donations		50 0 0
		Subscriptions:—		
110		Battalions, The Buffs	17 7 6	
		Branches:		
2		London...	3 0 0	
1		Dover	1 10 0	
1		Weald	2 6	
1		Medway	3 7 6	
5		Sandwich	3 15 0	
7		Ramsgate	5 12 6	
1		Hythe	6 7 6	
2		Herne Bay	2 0 0	
1		Folkestone	5 0	
1		Brighton	2 6	
3		Faversham	1 2 6	
6		Ashford	1 0 0	
7		Sittingbourne	6 7 6	
—		Canterbury	5 0	
72		Miscellaneous	88 19 6	
—	220			141 4 6
	22	Day of Remembrance		12 0 5
	4	Badges		9 1 0
	59	Interest on Investments		59 7 8
	2	Profit on Sale of Motor Car Badges		2 9 6
	9	Interest on Post Office Savings Account		9 3 1
	14	Refund Coronation Tickets ...		– – –
	1	Sundry Receipts		– – –
	—	*Excess of Expenditure over Income*		13 15 3
	358			£297 1 5

THE BUFFS PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1954 £	£	LIABILITIES	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		Capital Account:—		
	3,153	As at 1st April, 1954		3,404 1 8
		Add Appreciation in Value of		
177		Investments	– – –	
74		Excess of Income over Expenditure	– – –	
—	251		– – –	
	3,404			3,404 1 8
		Less Depreciation in Value of		
—		Investments	33 1 2	
		Excess of Expenditure		
—		over Income	13 15 3	
—	—			46 16 5
	3,404			3,357 5 3
		Sundry Creditors:—		
12		Cottage Homes	– – –	
—		War Memorial Fund	1 17 0	
—		Expense	62 6 0	
—	12			64 3 0
	3,416			£3,421 8 3

31st Mar., 1954 £	£	ASSETS	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		Investments at Market Value:—		
656		£605 8s. 10d. L.C.C. Stock 3% 1962/67	645 9 6	
1,399		£1,465 10s. 9d. Consolidated Stock 4%	1,384 18 8	
87		£100 War Stock 3½% ...	85 10 0	
119		£133 Savings Bonds 3% 1965/75	117 14 1	
432		£499 4s. 8d. Conversion Stock 3½%...	426 16 11	
—	2,693			2,660 9 2
		Current Assets:—		
		Sundry Debtors:—		
58		Benevolent Fund	217 6 10	
—		Cottage Homes	20 5 3	
15		Building Fund	1 1 0	
75		*Dragon* Newspaper ...	171 1 10	
21		Colonel of The Buffs Central Fund	21 14 8	
73		World War 1939 Charitable Fund	130 8 1	
4		Officers' War Memorial Fund, 1939/45	7 2 0	
5		Sale of Ties	11 12 6	
3		Car Badges...	2 15 0	
—		Subscriptions Account ...	17 0 0	
21		*Stock of Ties*	6 1 0	
46		*Stock of Motor Car Badges* ...	33 7 0	
		Cash at Bank and in Hand, Past and Present Association Combined Accounts:—		
		Current A/c 1,078 2 8		
		Deposit A/c 30 13 7		
		P.O. Savings Bank A/c 375 7 4		
		Cash in Hand 12 8		
			1,484 16 3	
		Less Cash held on behalf of the:		
		Benevolent Fund ... 1,144 13 7		
		Cottage Homes 218 18 9		
			1,363 12 4	
402				
—	723		121 3 11	
				760 19 1
	3,416			£3,421 8 3

THE BUFFS BENEVOLENT FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1954		EXPENDITURE	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£	£			
182		Loans		– – –
442		Grants		426 8 11
33		Pensions		42 14 0
186		Past & Present Association—Share of Administration Expenses ...		217 6 10
		Donations:—		
6		Royal School for Daughters of Army Officers	5 5 0	
5		Royal Military Benevolent Fund	5 5 0	
5		S.S.A.F.A.	30 5 0	
5		Forces Help Society	5 5 0	
5		Royal Albert School, Camberley	5 5 0	
25		N.A.E.S.S.A.	25 0 0	
2		Shaftesbury Homes	2 2 0	
11		Royal School for Soldiers' Daughters	10 10 0	
5		The Officers' Association ...	5 5 0	
5		Union Jack Hostel	5 0 0	
3		Sir Beachcroft Towse Ex-Service Fund	3 0 0	
4		Officers' Endowment Fund Corps of Commissionaires	4 0 0	
5		Royal Cambridge Homes ...	5 5 0	
5		British Limbless Association ...	5 0 0	
5		St. Dunstan's	5 5 0	
6		Gordon Boys' School	5 5 0	
—	102			126 17 0
4		Disbursements re Change in Investments		– – –
2		Miscellaneous Expenses		– – –
1,392		*Excess of Income over Expenditure*		390 10 2
2,343				£1,203 16 11

31st Mar., 1954	INCOME	£ s. d.
£		
233	Donations	197 10 6
106	Subscriptions	101 0 0
477	Interest on Investments	512 8 2
250	Interest, Buffs Regimental Fund	249 18 6
1	Interest on Deposit Account	5 11
216	Repayment of Loans made prior to 1st April, 1954	61 15 10
5	Grants Refunded	10 0 0
6	Donations in Memory of Major A. J. Peareth, dec'd.	– – –
49	Service of Remembrance	51 17 8
1,000	Army Benevolent Fund	– – –
—	Income Tax Refunded	19 0 4
2,343		£1,203 16 11

THE BUFFS BENEVOLENT FUND

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1954 £	£	LIABILITIES	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		Capital Account:—		
13,438		As at 1st April, 1954 ...		15,638 17 9
809		*Add* Appreciation in Value of Investments ...	— — —	
1,392		Excess of Income over Expenditure ...	390 10 2	
	2,201			390 10 2
	15,639			16,029 7 11
	—	*Less* Depreciation in Value of Investments ...		247 7 9
	15,639			15,782 0 2
		Sundry Creditor:—		
58		Past & Present Association		217 6 10
	£15,697			£15,999 7 0

31st Mar., 1954 £	£	ASSETS	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		Investments at Market Value:—		
1,784		£2,050 War Stock 3½% ...	1,752 15 0	
589		£617 3s. 6d. Consolidated Stock 4%	583 4 7	
445		£526 15s. 4d. British Transport 3%, 1978/88 ...	439 17 0	
225		£230 Funding Stock 2½%, 1956/61	219 13 0	
1,680		£1,942 8s. 9d. Conversion Stock 3½%	1,660 15 8	
63		£68 City of Quebec Stock 3½%	62 18 0	
4,055		£3,431 4s. 1d. Savings Bonds 3%, 1960/70 ...	4,054 11 0	
1,971		£2,090 6s. 11d. Savings Bonds 3%, 1965/75 ...	1,849 19 2	
691		£742 12s. 0d. L.C.C. Stock 3%, 1962/67	679 9 7	
2,325		£2,384 13s. 5d. Savings Bonds 3%, 1955/65 ...	2,277 7 2	
1,000		£1,000 Defence Bonds 3½%	1,000 0 0	
	14,828			14,580 10 2
		Loans made during year ...	504 18 3	
		Less Repaid	254 0 0	
				250 18 3
		Current Assets:—		
		Sundry Debtor—Subscriptions Account	23 5 0	
		Cash at Bank:		
855		Current Account ...	1,129 19 1	
14		Deposit Account ...	14 14 6	
	869			1,167 18 7
	£15,697			£15,999 7 0

THE BUFFS BUILDING FUND

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1954		LIABILITIES	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£	£			
		Capital Account:—		
1,226		As at 1st April, 1954 ...	1,241 3 3	
		Add Interest on Post Office		
30		Savings Account ...	30 10 10	
	1,256			1,271 14 1
		Less Share of Administrative		
2		Expenses	1 1 0	
13		Income Tax	13 8 0	
	15			14 9 0
	1,241			1,257 5 1
		Sundry Creditors:—		
15		Past & Present Association	1 1 0	
—		Income Tax	13 8 0	
	15			14 9 0
	£1,256			£1,271 14 1

31st Mar., 1954		ASSETS	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£	£			
34		*Cash at Bank*	19 8 0	
		Cash at Post Office Savings		
1,222		*Bank*	1,252 6 1	
	1,256			1,271 14 1
	£1,256			£1,271 14 1

THE BUFFS COTTAGE HOMES

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1955	EXPENDITURE	£ s. d.
£		
9	Insurances	7 17 11
31	General and Water Rates	31 5 2
9	Repairs to Cottages	493 19 6
	Past and Present Association—Share of Administrative	
19	Expenses	21 14 8
1	Disbursement on Sale of Investment	2 14 4
110	*Excess of Income over Expenditure*	— — —
179		£557 11 7

31st Mar., 1954	INCOME	£ s. d.
£		
14	Subscriptions	11 5 0
162	Interest on Investments	157 16 1
1	Interest on Deposit Account	6 1
1	Rental Rediffusion	1 7
1	Premium on Conversion of Investment	— — —
—	*Excess of Expenditure over Income*	388 2 10
£179		£557 11 7

THE BUFFS COTTAGE HOMES

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1954		LIABILITIES						
£	£		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
		Permanent Capital Account:—						
1,616		As at 1st April, 1954	1,714	0	5			
98		*Add* Appreciation in Value of Investments	–	–	–			
—		*Less* Depreciation in Value of Investments	28	19	8			
	1,714					1,685	0	9
		Accumulated Income Account:—						
1,944		As at 1st April, 1954	2,142	18	9			
89		*Add* Appreciation in Value of Investments	9	4	5			
2,033			2,152	3	2			
110		*Add* Excess of Income over Expenditure	–	–	–			
—		*Less* Excess of Expenditure over Income	388	2	10			
	2,143					1,764	0	4
		Knox Memorial Fund:—						
868		As at 1st April, 1954	937	11	3			
70		*Add* Appreciation in Value of Investments	–	–	–			
—		*Less* Depreciation in Value of Investments	13	14	10			
	938					923	16	5
		CURRENT LIABILITIES:—						
		Sundry Creditor:—						
	—	Past & Present Association				20	5	3
	£4,795					£4,393	2	9

31st Mar., 1954		ASSETS						
£	£		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
		Investments at Market Value:—						
		Permanent Capital Account:—						
335		£351 Consolidated Stock 4%	331	13	11			
609		£700 War Stock 3½% ...	598	10	0			
91		£105 3s. 7d. Conversion Stock 3½%	89	18	7			
679		£696 4s. 10d. Savings Bonds 3%, 1955/65	664	18	3			
	1,714					1,685	0	9
		Accumulated Income Account:—						
297		£310 4s. 4d. Consolidated Stock 4%	293	3	1			
261		£300 War Stock 3½% ...	256	10	0			
216		£250 Conversion Stock 3½%	213	15	0			
125		£125 Defence Bonds 3½% Conversion Issue... ...	125	0	0			
325		£325 Defence Bonds 3½% ...	325	0	0			
729		£379 3s. 4d. Savings Bonds 3%, 1960/70	346	18	9			
	1,953					1,560	6	10
		Knox Memorial Fund:—						
100		£154 19s. 8d. Consolidated Stock 2½%	98	8	2			
38		£37 0s. 4d. Funding Stock 4%, 1960/90	37	4	0			
453		£521 0s. 2d. War Stock 3½%	445	9	3			
347		£400 17s. 6d. Conversion Stock 3½%	342	15	0			
	938					923	16	5
		Current Assets:—						
		Sundry Debtors:—						
13		Subscriptions Account ...	5	0	0			
		Cash at Bank:—						
162		Current Account	203	9	8			
15		Deposit Account	15	9	1			
	190					223	18	9
	£4,795					£4,393	2	9

"THE DRAGON" NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1955

31st Mar., 1954 £	Expenditure	£ s. d.
187	Past & Present Association—Share of Administrative Expenses	191 0 2
841	Printing	926 11 5
19	Stationery	9 1 2
21	Blocks	4 12 0
57	Postage	54 4 8
—	Bound Volumes	15 0
18	Wrappers	16 12 3
16	Packing and Distribution	15 0 0
1	Trade Expenses	— — —
7	London Gazette	2 8 11
2	Bank Charges	2 18 6
£1,169		£1,223 4 1

31st Mar., 1954 £	Income	£ s. d.
289	Subscribers	273 15 5
31	1st Battalion, The Buffs	22 10 0
15	Depot	7 3 0
5	Home Counties Brigade Training Battalion ...	— — —
93	Agents and Cash Sales	94 12 3
679	Advertisements	672 14 0
9	Bound Volumes	— — —
48	*Excess of Expenditure over Income*	152 9 5
£1,169		£1,223 4 1

"THE DRAGON" NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT

Balance Sheet, 31st March, 1955

31st Mar., 1954 £	£	Liabilities	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		Capital Account:—		
148		As at 1st April, 1954	100 5 3	
48		*Less* Excess of Expenditure over Income	152 9 5	
—	100			
		Balance carried to Contra ...	52 4 2	
		Sundry Creditors:—		
149		Subscriptions Paid in Advance	236 17 2	
76		Past & Present Association ...	171 1 10	
—	225			407 19 0
	£325			£407 19 0

31st Mar., 1954 £	£	Assets	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		Sundry Debtors:—		
—		Subscriptions Account ...	55 1 0	
18		Agents, etc.	11 14 0	
152		Advertisers	155 11 0	
—		1st Battalion	17 15 0	
—	170			240 1 0
155		*Cash at Bank*		115 13 10
—		*Capital Deficit per Contra* ...		52 4 2
	£325			£407 19 0

COLONEL OF THE BUFFS CENTRAL FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1954	EXPENDITURE	£ s. d.
£		
19	Past & Present Association—Share of Administrative Expenses	21 14 8
80	Donations	53 0 0
3	Bank Charges	– – –
1	Official Christmas Cards	– – –
2	Stationery and Stamps	4 3 2
—	Oil Painting—Battle of Albuhera	45 0 0
—	Dragon Club Guests	5 5 0
13	School of Infantry	– – –
284	*Excess of Income over Expenditure*	6 4 2
£402		£135 7 0

31st Mar., 1954	INCOME	£ s. d.
£		
195	Subscriptions	86 19 0
100	Donation in Memory of Major A. J. Peareth, dec'd.	– – –
47	Interest on Investments	48 8 0
60	Refund of Income Tax	– – –
£402		£135 7 0

COLONEL OF THE BUFFS CENTRAL FUND

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1954		LIABILITIES	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£	£			
		Capital Account:—		
3,592		As at 1st April, 1954		3,967 6 8
91		*Add* Appreciation in Value of Investments	36 2 10	
284		Excess of Income over Expenditure	6 4 2	
—	375			42 7 0
3,967				4,009 13 8
		Current Liabilities:—		
		Sundry Creditor:—		
21		Past & Present Association		21 14 8
£3,988				£4,031 8 4

31st Mar., 1954		ASSETS	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£	£			
		Investments at Market Value:—		
864		£905 1s. 4d. Consolidated Stock, 4%	855 5 9	
344		£432 1s. 7d. Conversion Stock 3½%	369 10 1	
341		£427 14s. 9d. Conversion Stock 3½%	365 14 4	
264		£303 4s. 4d. War Stock 3½%	259 5 0	
36		£20 Army & Navy Stores	35 0 0	
—	1,849			1,884 15 2
		Current Assets:—		
		Sundry Debtors:—		
—		Secretary Regimental Committee	185 0 0	
379		Officers' Mess Account	379 5 4	
611		Regimental History Account	610 16 11	
59		Amalgamated Funds 1st and 2nd Battalions	58 19 6	
—		Subscriptions Account	61 10 0	
1,090		*Cash at Bank*	851 1 5	
—	2,139			2,146 13 2
£3,988				£4,031 8 4

THE WORLD WAR 1939 CHARITABLE FUND

CAPITAL ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1954		£ s. d.	31st Mar., 1954		£ s. d.
£			£		
498	Grans less Refunded	482 1 6	3,429	*Balance brought forward, 1st April, 1954* ...	2,933 14 9
—	Cheque Book	10 0	68	Interest on Investments	66 18 7
112	Past & Present Association—Share of Administration Expenses	130 8 1	16	Interest Post Office Savings Account	11 6 7
1	Disbursement on Change of Investments	2 15 6	20	Repayment of Loans made previous to 1st April, 1954	26 3 4
—	Depreciation in Value of Investments	3 13 10	12	Appreciation in Value of Investments	— — —
2,934	*Balance carried to Balance Sheet*	2,423 1 10	—	Premium on Conversion of Investments 5 0 0	
			—	*Less* Expenses 12 6	
					4 7 6
£3,545		£3,042 10 9	£3,545		£3,042 10 9

THE WORLD WAR 1939 CHARITABLE FUND

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1954	LIABILITIES	£ s. d.	31st Mar., 1954	ASSETS	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£			£ £			
2,934	*Capital Account*	2,423 1 10		*Investments at Market Value:—*		
	Current Liabilities:—		500	£500 Defence Bonds 3½% Conversion Issue	500 0 0	
	Sundry Creditor:—		300	£300 Defence Bonds 3% 4th Issue	300 0 0	
73	Past & Present Association	130 8 1	—	£710 Defence Bonds 3½% ...	710 0 0	
			222	£246 3s. 0d. Savings Bonds 3%, 1965/75	217 16 10	
			1,060	£1,060 Defence Bonds 2½%...	— — —	
			2,082			1,727 16 10
				Current Assets:—		
			271	*Cash at Bank*	432 6 1	
			654	*Cash at Post Office Savings Bank*	393 7 0	
			925			825 13 1
£3,007		£2,553 9 11	£3,007			£2,553 9 11

THE BUFFS WAR MEMORIAL FUND, 1939-45

CAPITAL ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1954 £		£ s. d.	31st Mar., 1954 £		£ s. d.
53	Plaque in Cathedral	– – –	314	*Balance brought forward, 1st April*, 1954	275 0 9
	Past and Present Association—Share of Adminis-		7	Donations	5 0 0
—	tration Expenses	2 2 0	3	Interest on Investments	3 10 0
275	*Balance carried to Balance Sheet*	281 8 9	3	Administration Expenses Refunded	– – –
			1	Premium on Conversion of Defence Bonds less Trustees' Expenses	– – –
£328		£283 10 9	£328		£283 10 9

THE BUFFS WAR MEMORIAL FUND, 1939-45

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1954	LIABILITIES		31st Mar., 1954	ASSETS	
£		£ s. d.	£		£ s. d.
275	*Capital Account*	281 8 9	100	£100 Defence Bonds 3½% Conversion Issue ...	100 0 0
				Sundry Debtor:—	
			1	Past & Present Association	1 17 0
			174	*Cash at Bank*	179 11 9
£275		£281 8 9	£275		£281 8 9

OFFICERS OF THE BUFFS WAR MEMORIAL FUND, 1939-45

CAPITAL ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1954	LIABILITIES	£ s. d.
£		
50	Grants	50 0 0
1	Expenses on Sale of Investments	– – –
3	Past & Present Association—Share of Administration Expenses	3 3 0
—	Depreciation in Value of Investments	9 12 6
594	*Balance carried to Balance Sheet*	553 19 6
£648		£616 15 0

31st Mar., 1954	ASSETS	£ s. d.
£		
580	*Balance brought forward, 1st April*, 1954	594 6 0
23	Interest on Investments	22 9 0
45	Appreciation in Value of Investments	– – –
£648		£616 15 0

OFFICERS OF THE BUFFS WAR MEMORIAL FUND, 1939-45

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MARCH, 1955

31st Mar., 1954	LIABILITIES	£ s. d.
£		
594	*Capital Account*	553 19 6
	Sundry Creditor:—	
4	Past & Present Association	7 2 0
£598		£561 1 6

31st Mar., 1954	ASSETS	£ s. d.
£		
	Investment at Market Value:—	
558	£641 12s. 5d. War Stock 3½%	548 11 8
40	*Cash at Bank*	12 9 10
£598		£561 1 6

We have audited the Accounts and Balance Sheets of the:—The Buffs Past and Present Association; The Buffs Benevolent Fund; The Building Fund; The Buffs Cottage Homes; The Dragon Newspaper Account; Central Fund, Colonel of The Buffs; The World War 1939 Charitable Fund; The Buffs War Memorial Fund 1939-45 and Officers of The Buffs War Memorial Fund 1939-45.

In our opinion the above Balance Sheets are properly drawn up so as to represent a true and correct view of the said Funds as at the 31st day of March, 1955, according to the best of our information and explanations given to us and as shown by the books and vouchers of the Funds.

12*th May*, 1955.

REEVES & YOUNG,
Chartered Accountants.

39/40 St. Margaret's Street, Canterbury.

Beneath Bell Harry



ONE of the main events of the past month was the Regimental Cocktail Party. So numerous were the guests that the Officers' Mess would have been very crowded had the party been held indoors. But as it turned out Sgt. Laker's prayers were answered, the wind and overcast skies of the previous few days were miraculously dispelled, the sun shone brightly, and the party was able to take place in the garden after all.

We felt much honoured by being able to number the Archbishop of Canterbury among our guests. Others included the Mayor and Mayoress of Canterbury, Major-General and Mrs. Scarlett, Lieut.-General Sir Wyndham and Lady Green, the Bishop of Dover and Mrs. Rose, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. ffrench Blake, Mr. and Mrs. Christopherson, Colonel and Mrs. Dean, Lord and Lady Harris, Lord and Lady Fitzwalter, Major-General King and Mrs. King, Brigadier and Mrs. Powell, and Colonel and Mrs. Sykes Wright.

On 29th July we were paid a brief visit by Lieut.-General Sir Francis Festing, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., on his way to St. Martin's Plain Camp. His method of travel was the one which one now associates with V.I.P.s—namely the helicopter. The pilot tactfully avoided the cricket pitch in his descent and brought the General and his entourage to within a few yards of the Orderly Room. There a miracle of condensation took place when the C.-in-C. and Depot Commander curled themselves into Major Dendy's A30, before proceeding to Canterbury.

At the time of going to press we are on the eve of Canterbury Cricket Week, and all bids fair for the Cricket Week Ball, preparations for which are in full swing.

* * *

No. 1 COMPANY

So much has happened during this month that to record it all would take far too long, and altogether too much printing space. The highlights fall into two or three categories, namely "Athletics Meeting" between platoons, the Passing Out Parade of Taku Forts and South Africa Platoons and the arrival and commencement of training of Chitral Platoon.

The Passing Out Parade of Taku Forts and South Africa Platoons on 8th July was taken by the C.O., Major R. Dendy. Brilliant sunshine and the Band and Drums of the Royal Fusiliers completed the picture, making the whole occasion an enjoyable and impressive spectacle for the numerous spectators.

Various athletics meetings have taken place, culminating in a final one on 26th July. This very naturally lent itself to much speculation, and local bookmakers adopting various positions behind cover, quickly imbued the unsuspecting straggler with race-fever, at the same time neatly offering incredible odds in a show of confidence. Competitors in various events were the outstanding athletes from Taku Forts, South Africa and Chitral Platoons and the Permanent Staff. The weather was kind, apart from a show of wind (the one thing most runners seem to lack!). At 1400 hours the V.I.P.s arrived and it wasn't long before the Chattaways and Bannisters were under starter's orders. The starter, none other than the Company Commander armed with a skeleton rifle, at times looked most aggressive, and it was with a certain amount of caution that some of the competitors lined up at the starting line. (As one competitor remarked, "It's the suspense of the Company Commander aiming his rifle that takes it out of me.")

To record each and every event is unnecessary, so let it suffice that the meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by spectators and competitors alike, with each event hotly contested. It cannot go without mention, however, that the C/Sgt. was only narrowly beaten in the High Jump (perhaps his continual practice brings results). The final results were Permanent Staff and Taku Forts sharing first place, Chitral Platoon third, and last but not least South Africa Platoon.

Drafting to the Battalion continues and one Sergeant seems to be gradually getting thinner. Never before has a mill board and pencil been so devotedly carried.

Spring seems to have fought a rearguard action with two of our N.C.O.'s as victims; we wish both Cpl. Ward and L/Cpl. Hower every happiness in their newly-begun married life. Cpl. Ward has taken a double plunge and has left us for civilian life. The Company Office is empty without him.

Watch for these Films—*continued from page 189*

Interrupted Melody. The true story of an opera singer, Marjorie Lawrence, stricken with polio, and how, with the help of her doctor husband, she fights her way back to the stage. It has very moving moments.

The Barefoot Battalion. A Greek film, with English sub-titles, about the occupation, and a band of children who organise a resistance movement. A sincere and interesting film. Most of the children are from orphanages and schools.

The Vanishing Prairie. Another of Walt Disney's studies of nature. Not to be missed.

Confidential Report. Just before going to print, there is news of an exciting new film, written, directed and acted by Orson Welles. Those who admire his strange masterful personality, and unusual technique as a director, will enjoy this thriller. It is strange, rich, and full of talent, from all nations. Michael Redgrave has a brilliant short scene; Katrina Paxinou, the Greek actress, is magnificent. Miss Dilys Powell, of *The Sunday Times*, calls it "a spellbinder".

M.M.A.

4/5th Battalion



OF the many signs that Annual Camp is almost upon us, the most certain is the pilgrimage of Company Commanders to view the Camp Site, look over the training areas and generally to check on the usually non-existent amenities the chosen locale offers. It was therefore with mixed feelings that a rather forlorn group of Officers stood under the trees of Covert Wood in a steady downpour and looked towards Tilshead Lodge Camp wondering what the future would bring. Ell Barrow was invisible, wreathed in driving rain, and no one had the courage to visit the spot on that occasion—it had been seen so many times on the model that it seemed quite sufficient to await the Divisional Exercise before making a more close inspection.

As the result of this preview some of our number had very pessimistic views as to what the weather would be like, and indeed when the main body started arriving on the first day of Camp rain fell in torrents and Tilshead Lodge was a drenched area of flapping tents and none too happy customers. However, our luck was in for the sun shone from thence forth and no further rain fell until the closing stages of Exercise "Dover Castle". Which must have posed a bit of a problem for Lieut. Crowdy, who arrived at Lavington Station encumbered with sufficient rolls of roofing felt to set up shop in opposition to the Garrison Engineer.

This year saw everyone receiving the full treatment in one way or another. Whether on tank or off we all went through the mill and our newly-joined Gunners acquitted themselves well throughout the various exercises. Already they have shewn they can flog on with the rest. Some of us found it tedious, others exacting; some were lucky enough to appear in print but the deeds of the majority went unsung. Perhaps a criticism of doing so much on the model beforehand is the fact that in practice it is entirely different and many of our number found themselves on the objective far too soon! Inevitably there was little Camp activity as such for once vehicles had been drawn and equipment issued we embarked on a series of Exercises, each graduated in frightfulness until the climax of "Dover Castle".

After a brief period in which to settle down and realise that one had that number of vehicles, so many weapons, scores of camouflage nets and the usual number of picks, shovels and other impedimenta, the Battalion set out on Exercise "Weather Hill" during the course of which we were honoured by a visit from the Colonel of the Regiment. This was a gentle affair to give practice in Harbour Parties, Battle Drills and minor tactics to exercise Rifle Companies and Support Company alike. Minor complications such as tar-spraying on the chosen route to the concentration area and cable-laying in one of the better devised bottle necks added just that touch of realism so that things really could go wrong if given the chance. Fortunately, we returned unscathed. Later in the week we spent a day in the Imber area with the Armoured Regiment and were introduced to the "On tank—Off tank" technique which was to play such an important part in our future role. This respite was followed by the Brigade Exercise "Summer Down" when various sub-units nearly came to grief in atrocious going and the Echelons got left so far out of battle that food was seriously delayed. But still the weather held and we had first real introduction sun and dust, later to become our constant companions during the Divisional Battle.

Saturday was taken as a day of rest, with parties going off to Salisbury, Bath, Southampton and beyond prior to the final week's activities which burst upon us at a remarkably early hour the next day.

The Divisional Exercise is a series of confused memories; of concentrating in the Aldershot area among pines and mosquitoes, of a rather alarming night move back to Bulford where the dawn found us uncomfortably scattered around Strip Wood and Nine Mile River, and then straight out for Ell Barrow over the bridge built during the night by Sappers and thence on to Butler's Cross with still the sun and dust and the prairie high grass hampering every move. The fog of war clamped down alarmingly at times and Companies and Platoons became widely scattered as individual troops of tanks made off over the Plain, each with its human burden. There were patrols to do at Butler's Cross, both on foot and motorised and for the first time we had a glimpse of the enemy, who by that time were re-grouping in the Breach Hill—Imber area. There were the usual night alarms, and the Machine Gunners were able to use their

blank-firing attachments to give realistic fixed-line effects. It was here that a reception party for units of another Brigade spent an uncomfortable time at a track junction with only the high pressure humming of Major John Tilleard's Primus keeping them awake. From Butler's Cross we moved on to Breach Hill, cleared of its former occupants, and finally to the closing stages of "Dover Castle" on the doorstep of Tilshead Lodge Camp. And then it was all over bar the shouting and we were free to wash off the dust, attend to our sunburn, and sort out ourselves and equipment.

The very nature of things restricted social engagements, but the Warrant Officers and Sergeants entertained the Officers after a very pleasing little ceremony at which the Honorary Colonel presented Meritorious Service Certificates, and there was one Regimental Guest Night in the Officers' Mess attended by Colonel D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D., the Honorary Colonel, and Brigadier R. W. Craddock, C.B.E., D.S.O., to whom we are indebted for his help and guidance during our stay at Tilshead Lodge. Officers of the Lothians and Border Horse were also entertained and it was nice to see Colonel Wilkins, who paid us a visit on that occasion. He was soon deep in conversation with ex-1st Battalion members and enjoyed his stay. There was also an unofficial skirmish with the Gunner Regiment, with Lieuts. Howland and Johnson shewing their paces and Major Sandy Alexander setting a new note in what the well-dressed Officer should wear on such occasions.

Several of our number also had the opportunity of seeing two interesting demonstrations, one by the School of Infantry shewing the use of armour and the other by the Parachute Regiment of an air drop. The latter was voted quite the most exciting thing of a pretty exciting camp—although even that might have been eclipsed if the Padre's parting gift of thunderflashes had duly exploded beneath Captain Chris Griffin's bed!

When all has long been forgotten about Annual Camp, 1955, one thing will be lingering on—a motto for the next generation—"Press on with maximum caution".

* * *

"A" COMPANY

Camp this year saw a change in command, for exercise purposes only let it be said, and we welcomed Major Alexander for all three major "Battles" and hope he enjoyed his stay with us. "Infantry" Companies usually march but this time we rode into action in style (?) on the tanks of the Lothians and Border Horse; even so, there was a fair proportion of marching and digging and we feel sure that Major Alexander now has a pretty good idea of how the sharp end live.

The major incident at Tilshead Lodge was, of course, "A" Company's fire, which although succeeding in partially destroying the Company Office-cum-Stores tent, did not damage a single file. Sgt. Dean must have slipped-up badly on that occasion.

We were successful in avoiding serious casualties during the various Exercises but C.S.M. Gabriel took the worst of an argument with a champ—the resulting injury took some explaining away, however, when he returned to duty at the Ramsgate Health Centre!

Congratulations to Sgt. James on being awarded a Certificate for Meritorious Service; with the rest of the Machine Gunners he migrated to Support Company and we only saw him occasionally. Mr. Bingham also disappeared to join Divisional Headquarters for the camp period and various others left us to join Headquarter Company on various pretexts with the result that numbers were rather thin on the ground. Of those unable to escape two platoons were formed, commanded by Mr. Howland and Mr. Robinson, the latter joining us for his first camp.

It was noticed that the M.M.G. Platoon had a wind-screens down blitz right from the start, and this with other structural alterations to the vehicles gave them all a very tactical air. Although Captain Morgan seemed much in demand for other jobs at various stages, it was possible to organise illicit quarter-mastering expeditions and generally speaking the standard of living was high. Ptes. Coles and Borer came to grief during the course of "Summer Down", the latter having a spell in the Military Hospital at Tidworth. Both subsequently rejoined, none the worse, we hope, for their experiences. Whilst at Aldershot the Platoon produced a "prisoner" who was duly interrogated at Battalion Headquarters and found to be none other than Abdul Coles ben King Street; the Platoon Commander is still explaining away the presence of nicotine in a condenser tube! Other highlights were Pte. Cannon's alarming nose-dive into a larger than usual hole and the episode of the Very Senior Umpire—we got round both difficulties in fine style! Congratulations to all whose promotion has been confirmed. Drill Halls are now closed for the Summer and September will be upon us all too soon with thoughts of Lydd and the possible move to Sandwich. In the meantime Pte. Lambert can enjoy the sun—even after camp!—in the south of France and regain his composure after bouncing all over the Plain.

* * *

"B" COMPANY

I feel sure that the majority of "B" Company feel that Camp this year was quite an experience. What a change it must have been from Bude! (Last year's site for 516 Regiment, R.A.)

Despite this personal and Military upheaval the whole Company did extraordinarily well. Discomforts and lack of this and that were soon overcome and each Platoon managed to make themselves fairly comfortable.

It was a pity that lack of time did not enable us to play the Inter-Company Football Competition, as we had high hopes of being successful.

No. 4 Platoon were awarded the Cup presented by the *East Kent Gazette* for being the best turned-out and having the best kept tents; in fairness to Nos. 5 and 6 Platoons I should add that there was only a difference of only 5 points between 1st and 3rd.

Infantry and Tank Co-operation rather fell down on the Ell Barrow Attack and No. 4 Platoon (less one sec) were lost to the Company for about an hour and a half, owing to "flog-on-regardless" policy adopted by our friends the Lothians.

During the coming weeks we hope to improve our Canteen and look forward to visits from other Companies in the near future.

* * *

"C" COMPANY

So "Dover Castle" has come and gone! After the big build-up, the exercise seemed to us something of a let-down—but isn't that usual with most big exercises? Noel Coward appeared to be right—only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the mid-day sun, and the sun remained the dominant impression of the 1955 Camp. It had its successes too. Pte. Busby, of ample girth, was quite bucked when, on Butler's Cross, he proudly displayed a good two inches of unfilled trouser top, which a fortnight before had been straining round his stomach!

For the Faversham Platoon, all ex-R.A., this was their first experience of an infantry Camp, and on the whole they seemed to like it, and remained cheerful throughout the fortnight. Another ex-R.A. who admittedly thoroughly enjoyed himself was C.S.M. Rogers, on loan to us from "Sp" Company. He quickly made himself liked by all—especially when he brought the spirit of Christmas to one Reveille at Aldershot, and personally distributed gunfire at 0600 hours to each bivvie.

Capt. Blackbourn, T.D., the Second-in-Command (who was commissioned in the Battalion in 1938), also made his mark. He became noted for his prodigious daytime slumberings and nocturnal activities—which fitted in nicely with the Company Commander's scheme of things!

During Camp, the C.O. presented a Long Service Certificate to Sgt. Castle, R.A.M.C., of Herne Bay, to whom go our congratulations. We hope to continue this record again next year.

For quite a number of men, this was their last Camp before their run-out. We would like to thank them for their efforts and unfailing cheerfulness during the past three years, and offer them a sincere welcome should they decide to volunteer after all!

Activities in the Drill Halls now cease until September, to allow our long-suffering P.S.I. to enjoy some well-earned leave. We will then start looking forward to next Camp, which we hope will be more of a Holiday Camp than this year's.

* * *

"D" COMPANY

"The tumult and the shouting dies; the Captains and the Kings depart". . . . and we say farewell to this gem of a camp, this Tilshead of magnificent sylvan setting, where for two whole weeks we have been able to concentrate on serious training, reasonably removed from distracting influences. Now that our palates (outraged by some of the local apologies for beer) have been mollified we can review some of the training incidents with a calm feeling of detachment and ponder over the mistakes we made, mentally kicking ourselves for not having taken a different course of action. However, those of us who have at some time or other indulged in amateur theatricals can derive satisfaction from the knowledge that dress rehearsals are not always pointers to good opening nights.

Our outing to Southampton was a howling success. Yes, howling is used advisedly, as the bulk of the Company visited a burlesque show there. It seems that the main theme of the entertainment consisted of artistic poses and we were quite surprised at the lively interest displayed by Cpl. Pope in Art. He will probably sprout a beard soon and really shake us by turning up to drills in a velvet beret.

It was a great thing to be able to meet the personnel of the other Companies. Cpl. Housden is all in favour of a Battalion dance so that we can have another get-together before next year's camp. Well, that's an idea; any other suggestions, anyone?

* * *

"S" COMPANY

Camp this year has been rather disturbing—from many respects! Quite apart from the training angle there have been so many new faces about, particularly in this Company, that things just have not been the same. For one thing our familiar Company Commander was translated to "A" Company where he was last seen rather North of the Border with a feather in his beret and evidently enjoying life in a Rifle Company. His posting was for exercise purposes only, however, and he has now returned to the fold. His place was taken by Major John Tilleard, who so frequently disappeared on Harbour Parties at very early hours in the morning, that his new Company scarcely saw him except in static positions. C.S.M. Fagg was posted to "B" Company as their P.S.I. at Sittingbourne and handed-over during Camp to Sgt. Kay, whom we welcome from the 1st Battalion. Sgt. Kay has already been operating from Deal and was busily engaged at Tilshead in instructing on the mortar for the Deal Detachment.

There were many new faces about this year and although we lost C.S.M. Rogers temporarily to one of the Rifle Companies, the services of C/Sgt. Wing were retained and both he and Sgt. Wraight wrestled in trojan fashion with the "Q" problems. C.S.M. White presided in the Company Office and kept the paperwork going—away from the Company Commander's table!

This was Sgt. Miller's last Camp before being posted to the 1st Battalion and we managed to wrest him away from the M.T. Office for just sufficient time to make him a presentation and thank him for all the great work he had done during his stay in the Weald.

Of the various Exercises much has been said elsewhere; Support Company platoons were as usual much in evidence although because of presence of the tanks our services were not so frequently demanded by the Rifle Companies. The Assault Pioneers provided "noises off" for Exercise "Weather Hill" and the Mortars ran an unscheduled bus service from Ell Barrow to Butler's Cross picking up the unfortunate members of "B" Company, whose proper means of conveyance had swanned off engaged on a private battle elsewhere. The A/Tank Platoon were soon involved in co-ordination matters with the Northamptonshire Yeomanry and we envied their self-propelled pieces; the fact that we "lost" a gun-tower ought to be recorded since we have now tried everything from ditching downwards. The M.M.G. Platoon joined us from "A" Company's area and shewed their usual turn of speed and capacity for quick brews but even they found the majority of the going pretty bad.

The Autumn should see new Detachments being established nearer the coast as part of the second phase of re-organisation and news of these will appear later on.

JOIN THE

PAST AND PRESENT

ASSOCIATION



MOVING UP FROM NINE MILL RIVER—EX DOVER CASTLE



"B" COMPANY "O" GROUP—BUTLER'S CROSS



BEYOND ELL BARROW—GEN. FESTING, GEN. KING AND LT.-COL SCOTT (LOTHIANS)



EN ROUTE FOR ELL BARROW—COMMAND TANK

The Malay Regiment

By Captain G. L. W. Watson, 5th Bn. Malay Regiment

INTRODUCTION

THE Malay Regiment has an old History, and the first mention of the title "The Malay Regiment" occurs in despatches from the Madras Presidency to the Court of Directors of the Honourable East India Company in 1796. In these are contained the record of the implementation of the Terms of the Dutch Surrender of Ceylon, under which The Malay Regiment de Meuron was to be re-enlisted in the British Service.

The new Regiment took up its arms in Madras, and the establishment differed little from its Dutch days, excepting that we did not follow the continental practice of having flank companies of Europeans. There were five companies, all officered by Malays; the only white men being the Commanding Officer and the Adjutant.

The Regiment served with distinction in the Polygar War of 1799 as part of Colonel Agnew's force and, on its return to the Depot on Slave Island, Colombo, in 1801, was ordered to be taken into the King's Service, and the Malay Officers granted Commissions. It is interesting to note that these were the first Native Officers ever to wear the Scarlet of a British Line Regiment. At the same time the establishment was increased and more British Officers taken on strength.

In 1803 the First Kandyan War broke out, and the Regiment raised three new battalions of mixed Malays, Singalese and Africans. This mixture demanded a change of title, and the old 1st became The Malay Corps, the 2nd The Sepoy Corps, the 3rd, Baillie's Corps of Kaffirs, and the 4th, The Ceylon Regiment. Fighting continued sporadically until 1805, and The Malay Corps suffered heavy casualties.

From 1805 to 1815 there was an uneasy peace and the Regiment was employed entirely on internal security duties. In the latter year fighting again broke out, and once more the regiment was heavily engaged. The Malay Corps particularly distinguished itself when the Rifle Company, under Lieut. Mylius, captured the King of Kandy and so brought hostilities to an end. The whole island being now under British control the 4th Battalion was disbanded, followed in 1817 by the 3rd, the Malays being posted to the original 1st Battalion.

No sooner had this reduction taken place than the Uva Rebellion broke out and both the 1st and 2nd Battalions were engaged until it was finally put down in 1819. The peace which followed being reasonably certain to last the 2nd Battalion was disbanded in 1821.

Meanwhile a change of establishment had taken place in 1820, the 1st Battalion becoming a Rifle Corps, and in 1827 the title was altered to The Ceylon Rifle Regiment. From this stage it continued unchanged until its disbandment in 1874, being employed on garrison duties in Hong Kong, Labuan, and of course Ceylon. An interesting point is the Cadre of one British Officer and twenty-five other ranks, who were discharged in 1848, in order that they might take on in the private service of Mr. James Brooke, first Raja of Sarawak, and form The Sarawak Rangers, which unit currently provides trackers for Malaya.

RE-RAISING

In 1933 the Regiment was re-raised, this time in the Service of Their Highnesses the Rulers of the Malay States. The word re-raised is used advisedly as in 1933 the position of the Malay States was politically and militarily entirely subject to the Crown Imperial, and there is no doubt, historically speaking, that by virtue of the choice of name the Regiment was in fact re-raised. However, the King's Colour, placed in store when the old 1st became a Rifle Regiment, was not taken out, nor was a new one applied for, and the Regimental Colour is to-day the only one in use.

The need for a Regiment representative of Malaya was first felt during the Great War, at the time of the Singapore Mutiny, and was discussed at varying levels in succeeding years; but it was not until 1933 that The Experimental Company was formed at Port Dickson. Major, now Major-General G. McI. Bruce, and Captain, now Major-General K. G. Exham, were the first Commanding Officer and Adjutant respectively. As recruits came in, and the strength grew, more British officers arrived, and training continued until a complete battalion was formed. The first four Malay Officers were presented with their Swords, and Governor General's Commissions at Kuala Lumpur in 1936.

SECOND WORLD WAR

The Second World War found the 1st Battalion fit and ready for active service, and plans were pushed through authorising the formation of a 2nd Battalion. This was not ready by the time the Japanese swept down the Peninsular, but nevertheless fought, in its then condition, until the final surrender at Pasir Panjang.

On the orders of Colonel (now Brigadier) J. R. G. Andre, all Malay troops were dispersed to find their way back to their kampongs as best they might. The Malay Officers elected to go into prison camp with their British comrades, but were not allowed to do so by the Japanese. One of them, Lieut. Adnan, consistently refused to shed his uniform, and was finally bayoneted to death and beheaded.

The occupation years were unremarkable, except in Singapore, where some of the men formed the Kukuhama, a subversive movement in support of the British. There was little they could accomplish actively, but their organisation was sufficient to enable them to present Colonel Andre with a nominal roll of the Regiment some two days before his release from Changi Jail.

In 1946, under the British Administration, all surviving members of the Regiment were recalled to the Colour and the 1st and 2nd Battalions re-formed. Some of the pre-war British Officers were also recalled, and new ones seconded from the Administrating Forces. Good headway had been made by 1948 when the present State of Emergency was announced, when once again the Regiment found itself on active service.

THE EMERGENCY

This time the Battalions found themselves split up into small detachments stationed at vulnerable points, and acting as armed constabulary in aid of the Civil Power.

It was soon apparent that the Emergency was not going to be a short affair, and a programme of expansion was immediately put into effect. By January of 1950 the Depot at Port Dickson had raised and trained the 3rd and 4th Battalions. These Battalions were posted N.C.O.s from the 1st and 2nd, but all the private men were recruits. Both Battalions passed straight out of the Depot to take up active operations.

These early days of the Emergency were ones of constant improvisation. In spite of the plethora of war time equipment which was lying about, supplies were difficult to get, and the general policy was one of "beg, borrow and steal". The situation also produced many unpleasant surprises and new drills had to be thought up and taught. Troops had to get used to taking airdrops under most difficult conditions, and all such drops had to be packed by, and hurriedly assembled at the Regimental Supply Depot at Taiping, from where they were despatched to the airport. With experience and planning matters became easier.

EXPANSION

Expansion was still needed, however, and the 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions were formed in 1951, 1953 and 1954 respectively. The method of forming these three latest Battalions differed in as much as they were the product of one extra company formed by the already existing units, and the company to go to the new Battalion was drawn by ballot. In the 5th Battalion, for instance, the four Rifle Companies were found as follows. "A" Company from 1 Malay; "B" Company from 3 Malay; "C" Company from 2 Malay; and "D" Company from 4 Malay. Likewise the 5th Battalion found part of H.Q. Company for 6 Malay, and "C" Company for 7 Malay.

OPERATIONS

The role of the Regiment is still, as with the other military units in Malaya, one of aid to the Civil Power. Although the deployment of a unit differs slightly with the terrain over various parts of the country, the general plan is basically the same everywhere. It is still mainly a matter of operating in small units, as at the beginning of the Emergency, but there is more cohesion and integration than in 1948-1949, and the policy is offensive and not defensive. The average Company Officer may find himself many miles away from his Battalion H.Q., or his next door sub-unit. He is likely to be based in the jungle on the edge of some Rubber Estate, in a basha camp, and his task the elimination of the local sub-unit of the area terrorist Command. Operations consist of an overall policy of food denial in a terrorist district, together with domination of the terrorists in the jungle; the destruction of their food dumps and cultivation; and the disruption of their communications.

The jungle can be a friendly place, but the individual must get to know it. Although it is doubtful if one can live off it for any length of time, it is not an alarming place to be in for a short time without supplies. There is usually plenty of water, and weatherproof building material grows in profusion in most parts Insects can be a great nuisance, and cause much loss of sleep, but it is seldom one has an encounter with the more horrific and dangerous type These largely remain between the pages of popular fiction

THE MALAY SOLDIER

The Malay soldier is one of the easiest people in the world to get on with Naturally courteous, and with a strong sense of humour, all he demands is understanding and leadership, and of these he cannot have enough He is on the

whole an intelligent being who avidly devours any form of education, but remains insular and, at first sight somewhat immature He is outwardly much controlled by his religion, which is a recently arrived sect of Islam, and inwardly pays much homage to his adat or custom The two are very intermixed, and the greater one can understand them, the further one can go towards getting results from the men His language is one of the more simple of which to acquire a working knowledge, and courses are run for all newly joined officers Many Malays have themselves a reasonable amount of English but they prefer to speak in their own tongue

As a fighting man the Malay soldier possesses qualities of courage and initiative which are unsurpassable To bring out these qualities he requires only leadership and understanding He learns to handle modern weapons quickly, and his latent jungle sense very early develops

Overall he is a most likeable man, and a loyal and trustworthy soldier

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR BRITISH OFFICERS

Pay for the attached officer is by home standards very good, but against it is set a high cost of living Nevertheless it is probably better than can be found anywhere else in the Service. Tax is paid on one's total emoluments at the local rate which is fairly low

Accommodation is good, and there is seldom any question of having to wait for an empty house There are permanent quarters (married and single) in Port Dickson, Mentakab, Alor Star, and Kota Bharu More are being built in other stations Civilian houses are often requisitioned and allotted to officers at normal Government rate where quarters are not yet built

Recreational facilities are seldom far away, and good shopping centres exist in Penang, Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore

Interest free loans are immediately available for the purchase of motor cars, and must be repaid over the period of the three years' tour This is because to the married officer, a motor car is, in most places, an essential piece of his equipment

The country has much to offer that the normal British countryman can enjoy Big game, snipe, and green pigeon shooting, and sea fishing are here in plenty, but it is difficult to indulge in these very much during the present Emergency To the adventurous sailing remains the main outlet, and to this end a Regimental Yacht Club exists at Port Dickson The boats are not large because of the lack of anchorage facilities, but sport is to be had in plenty at the weekly races

ADVENTURE

Such are the mundane and recreational attractions But it is not on their account that the good officer is attracted to The Malay Regiment More important is the spirit of adventure entailed in fighting an elusive enemy with fine troops, and the near certainty of what amounts to almost an independent command for much of the time For Subalterns, Captains, and young Majors, the life can be a great experience

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Regimental Gazette

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 28TH JUNE, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

THE BUFFS.—Lt. J. Benson-Cooper (365256) relinquishes his commn., 16th June, 1955, on appt. to the N.Z. Mil. Forces.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 1ST JULY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Capt. G. Hadshar (348141) to be Maj., 3rd July, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 5TH JULY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Capt. W. G. H. Dunglinson (359074) to be Maj., 8th July, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2nd Lt. C. J. Klyberg (432489) from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List to be 2nd Lt., 16th May, 1955 with seniority 19th December, 1953.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 8TH JULY, 1955

INFANTRY

TERRITORIAL ARMY

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. (Actg. Lt.) K. W. Cooney (432583) from R.A. to be 2nd Lt. (Actg.), 1st Mar., 1955, retaining his present seniority.

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 12TH JULY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. R. C. Naldrett-Jays (432299) from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List to be 2nd Lt., 15th March, 1955, with seniority 5th December, 1953.

2nd Lt. R. C. Naldrett-Jays (432299) to be Lt., 14th July, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 15TH JULY, 1955

The War Office, 19th July, 1955

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be mentioned in recognition of distinguished services in Kenya during the period 21st October, 1954, to 20th April, 1955:—

Commands and Staff

Major J. P. Lucas (74597), Buffs.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 19TH JULY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Maj. H. A. Collins (153063) retires receiving a gratuity, 30th June, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 26TH JULY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Capt. F. Marshall (356060) retires receiving a gratuity, 14th July, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Maj. (Actg. Lt.-Col.) G. R. D. HEWS, M.C., T.D. (66886), to be Lt.-Col., 10th May, 1955, with seniority 9th December, 1953.

Past and Present Association

Life Members

1ST TO 31ST JULY

H.Q. Roll.—Griffiths, D. W., Redfern, A. J.

Ashford Branch.—Randall, T. A.

* * *

Annual Members

1ST TO 31ST JULY

London Branch.—Cleavely, J. W.

Dover Branch.—Mr. Wright, Mr. Casswell.

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Donations

We acknowledge, with thanks, the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
P.M.C., Sergeants' Mess	21	4	5
Mr. H. J. Hepworth	1	0	0
Captain A. E. Grant	1	0	0

* * *

Grants

The total grants from the Benevolent Fund and the World War 1939 Charitable Fund during the month of July, 1955, are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Benevolent Fund	23	5	0
World War 1939 Charitable Fund	18	0	0

London Branch

The monthly meeting was held at "Prince Alfred", Tufton Street, Westminster, on July 16th, with Mr. R. Billings in the Chair. What a meeting this turned out to be! The finest attended meeting for years, with new faces making an appearance. To mention a few, George Darlow, "Chick" Hobbins and Mr. Jones, who travelled up from Eastleigh to be present. Mr. Jones met a Mr. Kettle, who wishes to be remembered to all his old pals in the 6282 category. Looking round the room, I saw the following: Jock Clayton, Joe Goss, Billy Everett, Jim Redman, Les King, Jock Emery, Billy Hudd, Bert Parry, Taffy Williams, also "Turbi" Watts, Jim Collins, and many more too numerous to mention. It's really grand to see so many still rallying round. If you read these notes and haven't dropped in to the Branch meetings, they are on the third Saturday in every month. One old Buff we were especially pleased to greet was Mr. E. W. Tong, looking fit after a long spell of illness.

The meeting was of very great interest, and the main topics were the Tower Parade, and the Canterbury Remembrance Service. Capt. Woodcock gave us the final details. Thanks to him for the work he has put in. It is greatly appreciated.

Joe Goss regretted that, owing to business reasons, he would be unable to carry the Standard. Jim Collins volunteered to substitute. Jim Redman and Bill Whichells volunteered for Escort Duty. All members really appreciated this grand gesture from these three stalwarts.

Hallo! Hallo! Who's the crowd over there at that table? Oh, I see, Perry, Hudd, Williams, Darlow, Hobbins, all "blagging" of old times. I'd like to hear some of their stories that are raising so many laughs. By the way, what did George Darlow say to the car door? I thought it was remarked in Pidgin English. Yes, this was really a grand night, so let's have an encore for the August meeting, and further meetings.

This meeting was closed by the Chairman, and then the ladies were asked up. Then passed an hour of social activity, in the course of which a photograph was presented to the Branch by Mrs. Whichells. This photograph is of the King of Denmark on Presentation of Colours Parade. Thanks were rendered for this gift. Mr. Coveney volunteered to frame this photograph. Members' thanks to Mr. Coveney for his fine gesture.

In closing, may we, the London Branch, through the Folkestone Branch, thank the people of Folkestone for looking after Sgt. James Pullinger and Albert Hibbs of the Chelsea Pensioners, on their recent week's holiday in Folkestone, through the kindness of the Darby and Joan Club. Both are members of London Branch.

Finally, and sorrowfully, I must end on a sad note. We were sorry to hear of the death of L. Brown, 141 R.A.C. "C" Squadron, Regimental No. 14214824. Aged 31, he was killed in a motor-cycle accident on June 26th, in Dover. Our sincere sympathies to his wife and relatives.

Now to say just a few words about our Book of Remembrance Service, which took place at the Tower. This was a grand show. The attendance was quite good, as so many of our members were away on holiday. The Service was full of interest, and well conducted by the Rev. La-Porte Payne. The Lesson was read by Major-General Sitwell, Keeper of the Crown Jewels. The Sermon was by the Rev. (Tubby) Clayton, who gave us some reminiscences of when he was Padre to the Buffs. On looking round, it was very nice to see in our midst

Brigadier Wieler, Governor and Major of the Tower, Brigadier and Mrs. Foster Hall, Colonel and Mrs. Argles, Colonel and Mrs. Beevor, Captain and Mrs. Woodcock, Major and Mrs. Farrow, Captain Emery and Lieut. Grant. Also Mrs. Phelan, Mrs. Blackham, the two Mr. Arnolds, Mrs. Moore and Mr. Moore, all to pay homage to the memory of their loved ones.

The Ladies' Guild was on parade in great force. One could keep writing of the different things, but I will just say, as this most moving Service draws to an end, the Last Post sounds, it is very quiet and no one moves, then Reveille awakens us from our thoughts and so to the National Anthem. The Service of Remembrance is over for another year.

We filed out to the parade square, where we had the honour to be inspected by the Governor and Major of the Tower, who said a few words to us, in which he mentioned how nice it was to have Branches like ours; if only there were many more like it up and down the country. Also, he emphasised that he would like to see a lot more younger faces on Parade.

Before I close this small chapter, the London Branch want to thank the Brighton lads, in the names of Bill Peacock and Mr. Kinsley, also their wives and families that travelled along with them. So nice to meet you again. Also any member of any of the Branches that happened to be in attendance. We appreciate also very much the kindness and hospitality of the Wardens, who invited us to their Mess.

Now we are looking forward to Canterbury Sunday, and close with all good wishes to all Branches.

H.J.S.

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Ladies' Guild

A meeting was held at The Prince Alfred Restaurant on Saturday, 2nd July, with Mrs. Coley in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

The Chairman opened the meeting by saying that at the first meeting of the Guild's new year, she was pleased to report that the Guild's financial position was very satisfactory indeed, and said that the books were available for inspection by members during the evening. To the Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and to the members of the Committee, the Chairman expressed her gratitude and thanks for their help and assistance to her throughout the year; to the members, she expressed her sincere thanks for their continued support and help, without which, she said, she would not be able to carry on with her Chairmanship of the Guild. To this, a ready retort came from one member, that the Guild would not be able to carry on without Mrs. Coley in the Chair!

Letters regretting their inability to attend were read from Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Dalgleish and Mrs. Timms, and Mrs. Craddock sent a message of apology for her absence. A letter was read from the Colonel of the Regiment, acknowledging receipt of what he termed "a charming letter" from the Guild thanking him for the honour of being permitted to witness the Presentation of Colours Ceremony at Canterbury.

The Chairman expressed her great pleasure at seeing Mrs. Coward at the meeting after such a long absence. Family loyalties and responsibilities had kept her under severe strain during recent months, but it was hoped that she would be able to get along regularly to the meetings in future. The sincere sympathy of the Guild was proffered to Mrs. Yapp in the bereavement she had sustained through the loss of her sister during the week previous to the meeting.

General discussion took place in connection with the proposed visit to Ashford by members of the London Branch, which was scheduled for the first Saturday in September, a date on which the next Ladies' Guild meeting would be held. It was pointed out that the London Branch had invited wives of their members to accompany them on this social outing, but that this was not a general invitation to *all* members of the Ladies' Guild. Accordingly, a fair number of members of the Guild would not be included in the invitation, and it was decided to hold the next Guild Meeting on the first Saturday in September in accordance with usual practice, it being fully appreciated that all Guild members whose husbands were joining the Ashford party would not be able to attend the Guild meeting.

Reminders were given of the following dates:—

July 24. Service of Remembrance at the Tower of London.
Aug. 7. Remembrance Sunday at Canterbury.
Sept. 24. Annual Dinner and Dance of the London Branch.

The Chairman announced that arrangements were being put in hand for a Dinner for the Ladies' Guild, to be followed by a social evening, and to be held on the first Saturday in December; the cost would be 11/6 per head.

Lengthy discussion took place following the suggestion by one member that a small present should be sent to Mrs. Dalgleish for each of her babies, because of their mother's loyal service to the Guild for so many years. It was pointed out, however, that if the pre-war custom of sending a Christening present to babies was to be revived, this must be extended to all members who qualified. It was decided, therefore, that a small present should be sent to the three little recent arrivals, Catherine and Lucy Dalgleish and Vivien Timms.

Raffle prizes were given by Mrs. Annan, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Love, Mrs. Odell, Mrs. Waters, a Member, and Mrs. Tucker, and realised a total of £2 11s. 6d.

The Chairman repeated that the next meeting of the Guild would be held on the first Saturday in September, and to those members who would be holidaying during the intervening two months, she expressed the hope that they would have pleasant holidays, with good weather.

That being all, the meeting closed.

* * *

Dover Branch

July's monthly meeting was held on Thursday, 7th, at the Jolly Old Eagle Hotel.

To support the Chairman were the following: Charlie Collins (Secretary), Tom Holloway (Treasurer), Lou Franton, Charley Walter, Arthur Banks, Vice-Chairman Noakes, Charlie Hare, Dinkie Ross, Mr. Hayward, Mr. Ellen, Jack Abbot, Harry Saunders, Arthur Shelvey, Mr. Wakefield (Lovely Piano) and Dick Joyner.

To support us we also had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Histed of the Ramsgate Branch, and a very pleasant member too. At least he was kept busy drinking and talking by some dear old friends of serving days.

A letter was received from a good old regular attender (Ex-D/M. Gardner). We understand that he has a very good chance of obtaining a job on which he had set his heart.

We thank him for his letter and wish him all the success in Civvy Life, and do hope to hear from him at intervals.

In publishing the names of members attending the meeting let me say that here we have the best of supporters to the Branch. Of course there are many more who would be there if circumstances allowed. On the other hand, we have lots more who could come, I am sure, and who we would like to see or hear from (I won't mention names).

The Secretary gave us all the details of the arrangements for August Sunday, and there was a good response from those wishing to attend, and no doubt there will be quite a few more names added before the 22nd (closing date).

Charlie Collins very kindly gave a parcel to Raffle which raised 18/- to help towards expenses of cancelled seats, etc. In mentioning this it would be of great help if all those who booked seats in buses at any time and found they couldn't make it, would kindly help by letting the Secretary know in good time.

In addition to the Raffle the box collection amounted to 7/6 and we are extremely grateful to all members for their support to this, our aid to funds for the Branch.

Ashford Branch should know that we acknowledge their letter in reference to our Branch visit to them in October and it is a definite date. Thank you, Mr. Mills, for kindly looking after Clara Butt in hospital; we do very much appreciate this, and from the letter from that member, he does also.

Mr. Wakefield gives great entertainment on the piano when he comes along and hope he goes on doing so for a long time. It is nice to have that music and sing-song, perhaps it might entice some singing members to look in again. (Where are you, Cocker Lawrum?)

It is the Branch's intention to carry on with the shooting in the Folkestone and District League in addition to the Branch Shoots, so we sincerely hope that Dover College will still leave Monday nights open to us.

We want that Shooting Cup back, so kindly loaned to Canterbury Branch this year.

Well that is another enjoyable meeting over, our next being on 4th August, just four days before we all meet at Canterbury. Let's hope the weather is going to be kind to us. I would add that Dover, for all its still left war scars, looks quite nice in the sunshine we are having at present. Cheerio.

T.H.H.

* * *

Medway Branch

I thought on Saturday last, 16th July, when we held our monthly meeting, that I should be able to refer to the weather as being perfect for holiday makers, and then came that Sunday storm. It reminded me of the terrific thunder storms that I experienced in Abakaliki and Ankpa where the laterite stone attracted the lightning which could be seen to strike and rebound and strike again. Such scenes, to me, were both awful and hypnotic—sometimes they held me bound even though I was drenched. Quite a bit of damage was caused in the Medway Towns by flooding on that Sunday night.

Mr. Hepworth, our President, and Mr. Street, our Vice-President, and many others were unable to be with us at our meeting. Some were on holiday; some at work; some not well and some, well, they were just not with us. To all of them we wish the best of luck and good health and hope to see them turn up with some regularity at our future meetings.

There were about eighteen present to discuss the little business that was on the agenda. Although nothing of any great importance was discussed many of those present were surprised to hear that to have our standard dedicated would require at least six months' careful preparation and organisation—this led at least one person present to wonder if....

The R.A.O.C. Association (local Branch) is having its standard dedicated on Sunday, August 14th. Our Standard Party is attending and is likely to take very particular note of all that occurs. It was pleasant to receive a letter from the Mayor of Chatham thanking and praising those of the Branch that attended his Church Service—a little such encouragement is very stimulating.

London Branch has kindly invited any two of our members to be present at their Book of Remembrance Service on Sunday, 24th July, but owing to holidays, etc., it seems unlikely if any of our members will be able to accept. Sandwich Branch, too, has sent us an invitation to visit them. The possible dates are likely to be discussed when we meet them at Canterbury on Sunday, August 7th, but I think that it is likely that the social occasion will be held in the autumn.

This will be the first occasion for a very long time that we shall need only one coach to take our party to Canterbury for Remembrance Sunday—I do not know what to put this down to unless it is that we have already had two visits to the City fairly recently.

Those who heard the talk on Kenya by Colonel Grace may have had their appetites whetted for more information, particularly from the other side of the fence, on the subject of Mau Mau. If they have, I recommend to them *Beward of Africans*, by Reginald Reynolds, who records political and other temperatures of the countries from Egypt to South Africa inclusive. A very interesting, informative and easy to read book.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

The Medway Guild held their monthly meeting on 26th July, when the afternoon was spent at whist.

Mrs. King Holt reported that the Guild had had a very enjoyable outing to Eastbourne on Tuesday, 14th June, and also a very enjoyable and instructive outing to the "Lady Dane" Canning Factory at Faversham on 5th July.

The Medway Branch are sorry to hear of the resignation of Mrs. Wood, of the Folkestone Branch, and congratulate Mrs. Cooke on being elected to the Chair.

Arrangements are now being made to celebrate our 21st anniversary which will take the form of a Dinner and Whist Drive.

* * *

Sittingbourne Branch

Our last notes took us to the eve of the British Legion Carnival on July 8th. Several members took part in the Procession; among them C.S.M. Brissenden (Brisso), who took the part of Mars the God of War in the Home Guard entry, and Bob Russell, who appeared in the Bairnsfather Tableau depicting life in the trenches in the First World War, which got 2nd prize. Many members have been on holiday or will have gone and returned by the time these notes appear, including Lieut.-Col. John Wills, our Deputy Chairman, who has chartered a family plane to fly to Jersey. As he has left his dogs behind, the pilot will have been able to make a safe landing without his ears being licked off.

A double-decker M. & D. set sail with our contingent for Canterbury on August 8th. On the outward voyage "Port" was safely gained. On the return run it was, we hear, a question of beer. All were greatly impressed by the march and the Service and the playing of the Royal Marines Band was a tonic to all our veteran legs. We congratulate our Secretary on his selection of hymns, which gave plenty of practice for the lungs, too. The re-union afterwards was a combined operation for old memories and thirsts, so that the captain of our "ship" may be excused if the homeward trip was made on a somewhat devious course, calling at Lenham (to re-victual), and at Bearsted (to revictual again). On leaving "harbour" for the last stage of the journey someone called "man overboard", but the loss of one member of the crew was not noticed (we regret to state) until next morning, when the muster showed that our shortest member was missing. We hear that he subsequently reached home "under his own steam". (Yo ho! for the rolling pin!)

Extracts from the Minutes of the last two meetings:—

JULY.—Colonel Dean said he would visit Harry Ives and try to get him all the assistance he was entitled to.

The silver cups of the 4/5th Buffs have been handed back to them after years of safe keeping in the Club Room.

A warm welcome is given to "B" Company, which has come back to Sittingbourne after a lapse of five years. Major Plunket, Commanding, extended an invitation to the Branch to hold their meetings in future at Crown Quay Drill Hall.

AUGUST.—We were very pleased to see our Secretary again. Colonel Argles presented the Cup and Medal to the winner (Mr. Cherrison(and runner-up (Mr. Wigg) respectively of the Branch Darts Competition. He also appealed to members to see that subscriptions were paid up.

Delegates to the Annual General Meeting to be held at Canterbury on Septcmber 17th were chosen as follows:—Captain Grant (Branch Secretary), Mr. Wigg, Mr. Sinclair (additional).

On the question of raising additional money by subscription, our delegates were authorised to put forward a proposal that Life Members be asked to make a voluntary donation and that the Annual Subscription be increased. The suggestion that bar prices be raised was not put to the vote, the Branch Secretary pointing out that it depended upon whether or no the Club Bar was going to continue in being.

* * *

Canterbury Branch

With *The Dragon* being published monthly only, and the unavoidable interval between meetings, I find that my greatest task is to maintain some form of topical news for local members and distant readers alike.

When a "scoop" does come my way, I find that I am usually beaten to the post by the Editor quoting the same news in his Editorial, and in larger type, too.

This month our indefatigable Chairman circulated one of his periodic News Letters which gave the "gen" most fully on past and present events, so I must be more careful than ever to avoid repetition.

Our Dance on the 27th May made some £27 profit for Branch Funds, but not without some very hard work being put in by the Committee, with especial commendation to Mr. W. Kidder and the help received from some of our ladies. Apparently the organizers had their work made less convivial by the difficulties of coping with the tactics of a certain section of the Public.

As much as I like to see the Branch Funds boosted up, I don't think it right for our excellent Social Committee to have to stand public abuse. I would prefer to see a restricted Dance—say to all Branches—held within the confines to the New Depot about once per year. The Branch could undertake decoration, etc., and no doubt our loyal Mr. White would gladly arrange some Bar arrangements that mutually benefited his own Mess and our Club funds.

On the 17th June our neighbours of the Drill Hall, the Royal Artillery Association, extended an invitation to join them in Social Games. An apparent trip up in timing made rather low numbers on both sides, and thus the evening was not the normal successful "do".

The Inter-Branch Darts Final is over again and the description of the evening has already received publicity. One small ceremony which was more personal to our Branch on this night, was the acceptance by the Shooting Team captain, Mr. Hopkins, of the Jarman Shield which is awarded to the winners of the Inter-Branch .22 Shoot. We would like to congratulate Messrs. "Hoppo" Garrett, Closer, Fox, R.S.M. White and Sgt. Dean for their very creditable efforts in this tournament. We are fortunate to enjoy the company and prowess of several serving members from the Depot and T.A. Battalion, being in Canterbury, and as the last two named in the above team are frequent and *bona fide* members of our Branch, we were grateful to accept the benefit of their skill and experience. After all—"Hath we not all one Father?"!

We are associated to a degree with the local British Legion Carnival and a few stalwarts of our Club have done their bit unpretentiously but with credit. The Brothers Kidder, Mr. Billy Biggs and Sgt. Phillips deserve a mention. For the sake of the Public and the Societies that hope to benefit from the Carnival we hope that the actual day will be free of "Atom Bomb" weather.

The 24th June brought together about 26 of us. We were pleased to welcome a new face, namely Mr. Reynolds of the 6th Battalion, and we hope he will prove to be a frequent visitor.

To my mind, it is gratifying to see how our executive side is represented by former senior serving officers and with the regular patronage they bestow upon us. It is not every Branch that is as fortunate as ourselves in this respect.

Apropos to my earlier mention of a Ladies' Guild being formed, Major Watts of the Depot has informed us that he could arrange for a suitable meeting place for the Ladies—a kindly gesture, and so it should not be long now before a Ladies' local Branch is actually in existence.

Our normal business having been aired under Ernie Chambers' secretaryship, we retired for the usual social diversions. Messrs. Argrave, Fox, Osborne and Hopkins put on their usual revue number with the appropriate title for this month being "Hell's Kitchen at Monte Carlo".

WHO'S WHO AT THE CANTERBURY BRANCH

No. 3—MR. G. MOULD, M.S.M.

George Mould is one of the ever lessening group of the real "old soldier" type. His career was soldiering and his foremost interest was the Regiment. Many hundreds can testify to his military ability and Buff loyalty.

And now, after 30 years' effective service, George still keeps very much in the Regimental limelight for firstly he is a Clerical Officer on the present Depot Staff, and secondly, he takes an active interest in our Branch welfare.

It is of interest to record that he enlisted in 1908 and took the moves of the old 3rd Battalion and later the 1st

Battalion in his stride, seeing Dover, Aldershot, Dublin, Fermoy and Shorncliffe at various times and finding his way about France, Turkey, Gibraltar, India and Burma.

In France during World War I he transferred (involuntarily, I gather) to the 16 Brigade M.G. Company. He saw continuous service in France—completed the march into Germany—re-joined the 1st Battalion at Fermoy at the end of the War. In more later years he was well-known as the C.S.M. of "D" Company, and finally as R.Q.M.S. of the 1st Battalion. The first appointment caused him to be known as the "Uncrowned King of Casemates Barracks"!

His younger years aw him fit enough to undergo two Mounted Infantry Courses and he was in the Regimental Hockey Team at Dublin. He also reached a good standard in football and cricket. In addition to playing, George always found time to be a keen spectator, and he supported an inter-platoon match with the same zeal and keenness as would be devoted to an Harris Shield Final, or Canterbury Cricket Week!

Nowadays, of course, life is quieter, but you will still see our old friend doing cricket umpire for the Depot or creeping away on the train to watch "danker" Gillingham. If the weather is bad, he will visit the Mess and punish all-comers at the billiard table.

Amongst his many medals, Mr. Mould can include the M.S.M., which in those distant days was an "award" and has the unique honour of wearing two Coronation Medals.

His dislikes are, Indian auditors, knee operations, and dance hall "Teddy Boys"!

"BABU."

* * *

Sandwich Branch

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, 6th July, 1955, at 8 p.m. Major F. W. Tomlinson presided, supported by the General Secretary, Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles, and the Hon. Secretary. Nineteen members were present.

The Meeting opened with the usual moment's silence, followed by the Chairman according a hearty welcome to Colonel Argles, who had kindly paid us a visit mainly to give us some detailed information regarding our proposed visit to Denmark next summer. The Chairman then sprang a surprise upon the Hon. Secretary by presenting him with a framed photograph of the Association's Colour Party and Escort taken at Canterbury on 9th May, 1955, for which the Hon. Secretary expressed his thanks and appreciation. The Chairman also mentioned his intention of presenting a similar photo to the two escorts, Mr. W. Kemp and Mr. A. Ledner.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

Apologies were received from Lieut.-Colonel N. S. Hart, Messrs. J. Wood, H. Spicer, C. Field and H. Thomas.

Correspondence read and discussed was as follows:—A letter from the Sandwich Community Association through which the Mayor of Sandwich invited two of our members to attend the Presentation and the Conferring of the Freedom of Sandwich upon the Royal Air Force, Sandwich, on Tuesday, 5th July, 1955. The Chairman stated that the invitation had been accepted and our representatives were Mr. W. Kemp and Mr. P. Elvey.

A letter from the Medway Branch congratulating the Branch on winning the Darts Final and expressing their thanks for the sporting way in which the Captain of the team, Mr. J. Moxon, invited their team to drink with them from the Cup. Medway also suggested that they would like to visit our Headquarters sometime during the summer. It was unanimously agreed to invite the Medway Branch as soon as can be arranged after the August Reunion, whereupon Colonel Argles suggested that as the Plaque was now at Headquarters, it would be a good opportunity to present it to them.

In a circular letter from the London Branch, an invitation was extended to members wishing to attend the Book of Remembrance Service to be held in the Chapel Royal, St. Peter's Ad Vincular, H.M. Tower of London, on Sunday, 24th July.

Details of the arrangements made for the Remembrance Service and Re-union on Sunday, 7th August were read and discussed. Members were requested to take particular note of the closing dates for booking.

PROPOSED VISIT TO DENMARK.—Mr. A. Elvery reported having at present seventeen members who were interested in the visit and would be pleased to have more information regarding the cost, etc. Colonel Argles then gave some results of his inquiries and suggested the idea was a good one and he hoped it would materialise. He himself would like to visit Denmark and thought that a visit by members of the Association might be a good thing for the Denmark Branch, and a pleasant experience for us. Colonel Argles proposed sending a circular letter to all Branches in order that they might discuss the matter; the fare by train and boat would be about £16. The question of Passports was raised, when it was suggested it might be possible to have a party one. On the proposition of Mr. A. Elvery and seconded by Mr. E. Hart, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Colonel Argles for having taken so much trouble and giving us such a detailed and interesting talk. This was carried unanimously.

Colonel Argles, in returning thanks, said he was very pleased to come and hoped that the information he had been able to give had been helpful.

Notice was given that the A.G.M. would be held at the Depot on Saturday, 17th September, 1955, at 3.15 p.m.

* * *

Brighton Branch

A good July meeting, with one of our late invalids, Ben Molkenthin, turning up and looking very fit. He reported that he'd done a lot of fishing lately—catches NOT recorded.

Jimmy Dray, visited by the Secretary, is also very much better and will soon be on light duty.

A serious omission from last month's notes was the vote of thanks to Mrs. Mary Fox, who came all the way over from Eastbourne to ice and decorate the cakes at the Secretary's cider party and helped to serve and feed the multitude of hungry souls on the lawn.

All old members of the 1st Battalion in Burma 1934-36 will remember her and it was very nice of her to come, and we were all very grateful for all her help.

We hope to see Mrs. Mary Fox at some more regimental functions soon.

We've almost filled the thirty-two seater for our annual visit to Canterbury, and all we can hope for is a fine day.

ACHEM.

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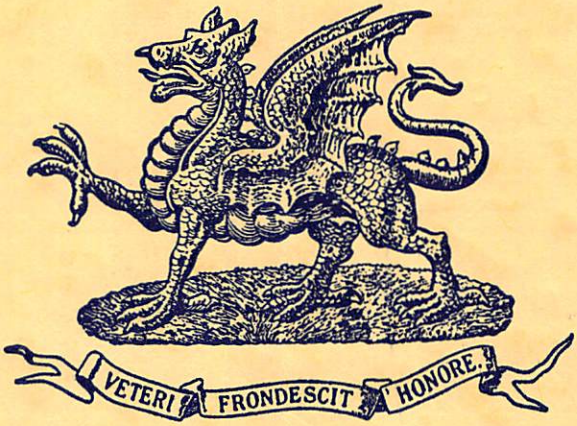
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Majors

Jelf, A. G. ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Officer i/c Field Records, FARELF.
Harris-St. John, B. J. ... att. Depot.
Lewis, P. J. ... ... T/Lt.-Col., M.A., Copenhagen.
Bailey, N. T. ... ... Gold Coast Regt. T.C.
Yates, G. H. A. ... ... Nottingham U.T.C.
Edlmann, E. L. C., *M.C.* ... 2 i/c/Chief Instructor Inf. Boys' Bn.
Rawlings, A. C., *M.B.E.* ... Depot C.R.M.P.
Horley, B. M. ... ... att. Depot.
May, J. F., *M.B.E.* ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Ministry of Supply.
Ravenhill, R. A. C. ... 4/5th Buffs
Plumptre, P. B., *M.B.E.* ... 6 Travelling Wing.
Dendy, R. H. ... ... O.C., Depot.
Majendie, A. E. ... ... R.A.F. Staff College.
Lucas, J. P. ... ... Colonial Prisons, Kenya.
Norris, N. F. H. C. ... 1st Bn.
Crichton, R. F., *M.C.* ... 5 Nigeria Regt.
McGrath, B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Gay, A. W. ... ... Leave U.K.
Montgomery, D. ... ... Depot.
Morgan, F. de R., *M.C.* ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q., Malaya.
Poulsen, N. D., *M.B.E.* ... 1st Bn.
Cox, E. G., *M.C.* ... ... att Depot.
Critchley, L. P., *M.B.E.* ... 1st Bn.
Worts, J. B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Court, D. N. ... ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q., E. Africa.
Gordon-Wilson, N. F., *M.B.E.* 3 Bn., Para. Regt.
Nash, J. P. ... ... G.S.O. 2, M.13, War Office.
ffrench Blake, M. A. O'B. ... 27 Bde., Hong Kong.
Iliffe, R. O. ... ... 2 Malay Regt.
Hadshar, G. ... ... D.A.A.G., H.Q., Nigeria Dist.
Dunglinson, W. G. H. ... 1st Bn.

Captains

Semmence, R. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Barrett, D. P. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dent, J. E. ... ... T/Maj., 4/5th Bn.
MacDonald, E. W. ... ... 1st Bn.
Peckham, A. D. ... ... Leave U.K.
Squire, S. J., *M.B.E.* ... Leave U.K.
Thorneycroft, F. E. ... 1st Bn.
Willows, D. A. ... ... Adjt., 1st Bn.
Wilson, P. F., *D.F.C.* ... 1st Bn
Hamilton, C. M. ... ... H.Q., B.T.A.
Gatehouse, H. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Griffin, C. J. ... ... Adjt., 4/5th Bn.
Webber, J. W. ... ... T/Maj., A.D.C. to Fld. Marshal Montgomery.
Pim, A. H. E. ... ... 2 Gold Coast Regt.
Stratford-Tuke, R. A. F. ... 1st Bn.
Brigstocke, W. F. ... ... 1st Bn Parachute Regt.
French, B. G. J. ... ... 6 K.A.R., E. Africa.
Lees, H. D. ... ... 7 K.A.R., E. Africa.
Dalgliesh, A. R. F. ... 1st Bn.
Grugeon, J. D. ... ... Adjt., Depot.
Mullins, G. O. ... ... Adjt., 3 Bn., Parachute Regt.
Minto, J. G. ... ... 1st Bn.

Lieutenants

West, C. T. F. ... ... 1st Bn.
Ward, M. W. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dracopoli, M. P. St. F. ... Depot.
Tennent, H. C. L. ... ... A.D.C. to G.O.C., H.C.D.
Mitchell, P. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Pilcher, R. A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Baker, R. W. M. ... ... Inf. Boys' Bn.
Rymer-Jones, J. A. ... 3 Bn. Parachute Regt.
Edgecombe, G. J. B. ... 1st Bn.
Davison, J. H. ... ... Course, U.K.
Lunn, J. M. ... ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants

Lea, R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Reid, J. D. W. ... ... Course, U.K.
Williams, R. T. P. ... ... Course, U.K.

Quartermasters

Watts, E. H. F. ... ... Maj., Depot.
Kille, W. E. ... ... Maj., 1st Bn.
Catt, A. H. ... ... Capt., 4/5th Bn.

Chaplain: Revd. E. W. Evans, C.F.

Paymaster: Major B. M. Green, R.A.P.C.

Short Service Commissions

Majors

*Ford, E. N., *M.C.* ... ... Leave, U.K.
Todman, N. E. H. ... ... E. Anglia District.
*Carey, R., *M.C.* ... ... 6 K.A.R., East Africa
Robertson, R. J. ... ... H.Q., Nigeria District.

Captains

*Elliott, N. ... ... Aldershot District.
*Ransley, E. J., *M.C.* ... 1st Bn.
McGrath, G. A. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
*Fakley, J. F. ... ... P.S.O., H.C.B. Depot.
*Butcher, D. A. T. ... ... East Africa Training Centre.
Marshall, J. V. ... ... Brit. Comm. Div. Korea

Lieutenants

Barlow, W. B. ... ... Inf. Div. Pro. Coy.
Cross, K. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Kirby, J. A. ... ... Brit. Comm. Div. Korea.
Hicks, E. M. G. ... ... 1st Bn.
Prentice, J. R. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
Froom, A. F. F. ... ... Hospital U.K.
Hodges, J. D. ... ... E.R.E., Singapore.

2nd Lieutenants

Courtney, M. ... ... 23 K.A.R.
Hardy, J. E. ... ... 1st Bn.
Jakob, F. J. ... ... West Africa.

Quartermasters

Rowcliffe, T. A., Major ... M.E.L.F.
Stone, J. H., Major ... B.A.O.R.
Senior, N., Major ... ... H.Q., N.A.G., B.A.O.R.
Corps, J., Capt. ... ... 16 Coy., R.A.S.C.

* Extended Service Officer

National Service Officers

2nd Lieutenants

Wright, R. P. ... ... Depot
Wilcox, R. D. ... ... 23 K.A.R.
Bowen, S. ... ... West Africa.
Hills, D. ... ... 1st Bn.
Brice, A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Johnson, P. ... ... 1st Bn.
Keene, R. V. ... ... 1st Bn.
Griffiths, D. W. ... ... 1st Bn.
Redfern, A. J. ... ... 1st Bn.

4/5th Battalion

HON. COLONEL

Col. D. J. Dean, *V.C.*, *T.D.*, Woodcourt, 1 Park Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

Hews, G. R. D., *M.C.*, *T.D.*, *J P*

MAJORS

Dent, J. E. (Training Major)
Alexander, U. H. B., *M.B.E.*
Prestige, J. T. R.
Tilleard, J., *T.D.*
Neville, F. G., *M.C.*, *T.D.*
Plunkett, P. N. P.
Balding, C. E. E.
Cobb, F. D. C., *T D*
(Unattached List)

CAPTAINS

Griffin, C. J. (Adjutant)
Beaumont, M. J. P.
Klean, P. H.

CAPTAINS—*continued*

Morgan, R. J. S., *M.C.*
Kelly, G. D. S.
Usher, J. A.
Anderton, N. G.
Blackbourn, A. H., *T.D.*
Scott, A. J.
Baddeley, W. D.

LIEUTENANTS

Crowdy, R. E. L.
Bennett, R. G.
Nye, R. T.
DePury, J. D.
Whiting, D. A.
Thomas, J. A.
Oliver, C. P.
Morlock, P. J.

N.S. LIST

LIEUTENANTS

Tilley, T. A.
Howland, N. M.
Waterman, R. R.
Taylor, D. C.
Holloway, R. G.
Finn, W. C.
Vallins, J.
Klyberg, C. J.

2ND LIEUTENANTS

Robinson, J. P.
Turner, C P
Saward, R A
Willey, G T

QUARTERMASTER

Catt, A. H., Capt.

CHAPLAIN

The Revd. R A. S. Roberts

MEDICAL OFFICER

Capt. F. P. Cassidi (R.A.M.C.)

Staff and Command

Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B.*, *C.B.E.* ... ... D.M.I., War Office.

Colonel (T/Brig.) M. P. D. Dewar, *M.B.E.* ... ... D.D.M.P. (A), War Office.

Col. (T/Brig.) R. W. Craddock, *C.B.E.*, *D.S.O.* Brig. A/Q Southern Command.

Col. (T/Brig.) F. W. B. Parry Comd. Sierra Leone and Gambia Dis

Col. (T/Brig.) R. F. Parry, *M.C.* ... ... Comdg. 3rd Inf. Bde., Arab Legion.

Lieut.-Colonels (Employed List)

Lieut.-Col. (T/Col.) H. P. Williams, *O.B.E.* ... ... W.O.S.B., Barton Stacey.

Lieut.-Col. J. G. Atkinson, *O.B.E.* ... ... C.O. 2 Malay Regt.

Lieut.-Col. J. F. Connolly, *D.S.O.*, attatched Depot

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

1st Battalion

R.S.M. Turmaine, F.
B.M. Sharpe, T.
R.Q.M.S. Rose, J.
C.S.M. Sharman, R.
C.S.M. Champion, R.
C.S.M. Middleton, J.
C.S.M. Ellis, D.
C.S.M. Day, S.
C.Q.M.S. Partridge, R.
C.Q.M.S. Denny, S.

C.Q.M.S. Anderson, C.
C.Q.M.S. Mannering, D.
C.Q.M.S. Newman, P.
C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Mans, W.
Sgt. Smissen, J.
Sgt. Larkin, F.
Sgt. Lyons, B.
Sgt. Morrish, E.
Sgt. Weatherall, P.
Sgt. Jephcott, H.

Sgt. Colyer, A.
Sgt. Simmonds, R.
Sgt. Page, A.
Sgt. Harris, F.
Sgt. Bird, H.
Sgt. Woodrow, V.
Sgt. Histed, W.
Sgt. Cain, D.
Sgt. Wright, R.
Sgt. Townsley, J.

Sgt. Streeter, E.
Sgt. Billett, S.
Sgt. Rowland, K.
Sgt. Cock, C.
Sgt. Pooley, L.
S.Q.M.S. Marsden, C. (R.A.P.C.)
Sgt. Swain, R. (R.A.P.C.)

Depot The Buffs

R.S.M. White, H.
R.Q.M.S. Howe, W.
C.S.M. Chapman, G.
W.O. II Gallaway, R.
C.S.M. Diamond, R.

C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Webb, C.
C.Q.M.S. Stremes, G., *D.F.M.*
C/Sgt. Belcher, E.
C/Sgt. Clifton-Sprigg, H.

Sgt. Laker, J.
Sgt. Bryant, A.
Sgt. Ivory, L.
Sgt. Rea, R.
Sgt. Cain, D.

Sgt. Raine, R.
Sgt. Harrison, W.
Sgt. Recton, T.
Sgt. Spiers, E.
Sgt. Parker

4/5th Battalion (T.A.)

PERMANENT STAFF

R.S.M. Faulkner, G. T.
C.S.M. Fagg, G.
C.S.M. Seymour, J.
Sgt. Porter, J.
Sgt. Dean, D.
Sgt. Stoakes, A.
Sgt. Kay, M.

R.Q.M.S. Harwood, E.
C.S.M. Chapman, W.
C.S.M. Gabriel, J.
C.S.M. White, R.
C.S.M. Rogers, W.
C.S.M. Antrichan, G.
C/Sgt. Trinkwon, A.
C/Sgt. Couzens, W.
C/Sgt. Chidwick, E.
C/Sgt. Wing, T.
C/Sgt. Figgett, G.
C/Sgt. Bond, E.
Sgt. Bell, J.
Sgt. Hurlow, R.

Sgt. Babbage, W.
Sgt. Wraight, S.
Sgt. James, A.
Sgt. Bass, R.
Sgt. Williams, E.
Sgt. Thundow, W.
Sgt. George, M.
Sgt. Saunders, G.
Sgt. Richardson, H.
Sgt. Cope, H.
Sgt. Hewitt, C.
Sgt. Allen, A.
Sgt. Jones, A.
Sgt. Hughes, C.

Sgt. Rumble, L.
Sgt. Christian, W.
Sgt. Smith, W.
Sgt. Evans, S.
Sgt. Bradford, R.
Sgt. Cozens, L.
Sgt. Dennis, P.
Sgt. Dennis, R.
Sgt. Erridge, D.
Sgt. Stockdale, J.
Sgt. Todd, H.
Sgt. Godley, D.
Sgt. Hayward, A.
Sgt. Cole, L.
Sgt. Pottle, A.

Regimental Appointments

Administrative Officer—Depot The Buffs
Secretary: Canterbury Cricket Week Club
Dragon Club
Regimental Committee
} Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker

Curator: Regimental Museum — Lieut.-Col. G. R. Howe

Secretary: Past and Present Association, The Buffs
Executive Committee
Editor: *The Dragon*
} Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles

The Past and Present Association

Headquarters: Depot, The Buffs. Telephone: Canterbury 4764. *Chairman:* Brigadier G. J. Nicholson, C.B.E. *Secretary:* Lt. Col. E. V. Argles.

BRANCHES

Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1. 1st Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
2. 4th Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
3. Ashford	Mr. A. Mills	Mr. A. C. Mills, 20 Waterman House, Godfrey Walk, Ashford, Kent	First Saturday in each month, The Invicta Godington Road.
4. London	Mr. R. W. Billings	Mr. H. J. Scott, 1 Oxford Road, Carshalton, Surrey.	Third Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, 7.30 p.m.
5. Dover	Capt. E. Marsh, M.B.E.	Mr. C. Collins, "Haven" Meadway, Minnis Lane, River, Dover.	First Thursday in each month, "Eagle Hotel", London Road, Dover, 7.45 p.m.
6. Weald	Col. E. B. Burns, T.D.	Mr. H. D. Day, 3 Pittlesden Tenterden.	Hawkhurst Sub-area. Third Thursday in each month, British Legion House, Hawkhurst, 7.45 p.m.
7. Medway	Mr. F. J. Cox	Mr. H. A. J. Brand, 83 Delce Road, Rochester	Third Saturday in each month, The Two Brewers. High Street, Rochester, 8 p.m.
8. Sittingbourne	Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D.	Capt. C. A. Grant, The Firs, Key Street, Sittingbourne.	First Friday in each month Drill Hall, East Street, 7.30 p.m.
9. Ramsgate	Mr. C. F. Fakley	Mr. B. E. Knott, 27 Wilfred Road, Ramsgate	Third Friday in each month, Freemason's Tavern, Ramsgate, 8 p.m.
10. Margate	Mr. B. H. Breed	Mr. J. H. Shakeshaft, 14 Alexandra Road, Broadstairs	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, Hawley Square, 8 p.m.
11. Hythe	Mr. J. T. J.Green	Mr. H. Thompson, 4 Hillside Court, Hythe	Last Wednesday in each month, The Star, Stade Street, 7.30 p.m.
12. Canterbury	Lt.-Col. E J. Evans	Major E. R. Chambers, 59 Hillside Avenue, Canterbury Canterbury 5118	Fourth Friday in each month, Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury, 8 p.m.
13. Herne Bay	Mr. H. Davey	Mr. A. Trice, 23 Queen's Gardens, Herne Bay	Second Monday in each month, British Legion Club, May Lodge, 8 p.m.
14. Folkestone	Major A. A. West	Mr. H. Fordred, 36 Fernbank Crescent, Folkestone	Second Friday in each month, Guildhall Hotel, 8 p.m.
15. Sandwich	Major F. W. Tomlinson	Mr. H. Taylor, 19 Paradise Row, Sandwich	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, 8 p.m.
16. Faversham	Capt. J. Green	Mr. R. C. Croucher, 10 Glebe Houses, Eastling, Faversham	First Monday in each month, Carpenters Arms, Eastling, 7.30 p.m.
17. Brighton		Major H. Milton, 118 Queens' Road, Brighton	Second Monday in each month, R.E Record Social Club, The College, Ditchling Road, Brighton, 8 p.m.
18. Denmark	Major O. Lippmann	Mr. P. Berendt, Ostergade 22, Copenhagen K.	First Monday in each month.

The Association exists to foster Comradeship and to give a helping hand to those in distress.
Membership is open to all who are serving or who have served in The Buffs.
Subscription rates are:—

Life Membership: Officers £2. Other Ranks £1
Annual Membership: Officers 5/-. Other Ranks 2/6.
Entrance Fee: 1/-

LADIES' GUILD

President: Mrs. V. Boucher

Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1. London	Mrs. L. Coley	Mrs. J. Tucker, 12 Chestnut Close, Oakwood, London, N.14	First Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, S.W.1. 6.30 p.m.
2. Dover	Mrs. J. Crookenden J.P.	Mrs. Wraight, 93 Markland Road, Dover	First Thursday in each month, Belgrave Hall, Belgrave Road, Dover, 3 p.m.
3. Folkestone	Mrs. Coote	Mrs. Kay Mantell, 5 Page Place, Folkestone	Every other Wednesday, Drill Hall, Shellons Street, Folkestone, 3.30 p.m.
4 Medway	Mrs. King Holt	Mrs. W. T. Brooker, 67 Malvern Road, Gillingham, Kent	Fourth Tuesday in each month, Foresters' Hall, King Street, Gillingham, 2.30 p.m.
5. Ashford	Mrs. L. King	Mrs. E. Partiss, 22 Bond Road, South Ashford	Second Wednesday in each month, The Drill Hall, Ashford, 3 p.m.
6. Sittingbourne	Mrs. M. E. Dean	Mrs. J. Ravensdale, 10 Railway Terrace, Sittingbourne	Third Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne, 6.45 p.m.



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EDITORIAL

IN *The Dragon* of this month last year, we reminded our readers that there were hopes of a succession of dry summers. After an indifferent start we have enjoyed weeks of perfect summer and it is difficult to remember so long a spell for the playing and watching of cricket in comfort. The South Africans, with the effects of our warming sun on their backs, showed us cricket that only those who saw Kent in their great days can remember. "The Tramp" this month recalls many of the names.

* * *

We were very pleased to entertain Mr. Jack Cheetham and some of his team, together with Mr. Viljoen, the manager, at an informal cocktail party in the Mess. With them came Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Wright and some of his Kent team; also we welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Nevill Christopherson. It was all most enjoyable, not only to us as hosts but, we understand, to our guests as well.

* * *

Thinking back to the Cricket Week on the St. Lawrence Ground, we shall remember the happy picnic atmosphere, which even penetrated The Buffs tent on the last day, when children and picnic baskets, and even a Wall's Ice Cream man, invaded it. Two very senior officers were seen buying and happily eating choc-ices!

And before we leave our summer thoughts, and all that has gone to make our Regimental occasions so memorable, we wish to offer our thanks to R.S.M. White and his colleagues of the W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess for undertaking the arrangements for the bar at our re-union on August 7th, and so adding considerably to our revenue.

In a letter from Lieut.-Colonel H. R. Grace, published this month, he wonders if the time has not come to bring up-to-date the cover of *The Dragon* and the illustrated headings of Battalion and Depot notes. We feel there may be something to be said for the idea. Many national periodicals as old and with as much tradition as our journal have of late abandoned outdated ideas. We would welcome the views of our readers. A new set-up may mean new and more readers, which are so vital to the life of *The Dragon*, though we suggest that "Beneath Bell Harry" symbolizes Canterbury, the home of the Regiment.

* * *

Future Events

Sept. 24. LONDON BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE, DUKE OF YORK'S H.Q., CHELSEA.

30. BUFFS OFFICERS' RE-UNION CLUB DINNER CONNAUGHT ROOMS.

Oct. 8. 6TH (S) BATTALION (1914-1918) ANNUAL DINNER.

22. 4/5TH BUFFS (1939-1945) DINNER, COUNTY HOTEL, 7 P.M.

29. 1/4TH BUFFS (1914/1919) RE-UNION DINNER, DRILL HALL, ST. PETER'S LANE, CANTERBURY. Assemble at 6 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. dinner. Tickets 7/6 should be obtained from your local Secretary or from Lieut. Col. H. L. Cremer, The Grange, Chartham, Canterbury.

Nov. 5. RAMSGATE BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER.

Personalia

WE were pleased to see Brigadier T. H. Spear, who is home on leave. He retires from the service this month. His address is The Red Cottage, Kingsdown, Deal.

* * *

We welcome to the Regiment this month 2/Lieuts. J. D. W. Reid and R. T. P. Williams, who are on a Course pending posting to the 1st Battalion. We also welcome 2/Lieut. R. V. Keene, who has already joined the Battalion.

* * *

Captain A. D. Peckham will also be joining the Battalion, having completed his service with the Malay Regiment. 2/Lieut. K. T. Simpson, having completed National Service, has arrived home. We wish him the best of fortune in his Law career.

* * *

Congratulations to Lieuts. J. M. Lunn, 1st Battalion, and C. J. Klyberg, 4/5th Battalion, on their second stars. Also to Lieut.-Col. G. R. D. Hews on being appointed a Justice of the Peace, and to Major F. D. C. Cobb on the award of the T.D.

* * *

We are very sorry to hear that Captain I. G. Minto has been in hospital for a couple of weeks or so in Germany. We look forward to more reassuring news.

* * *

Mrs. L. E. H. Hill, widow of Brigadier-General H. C. de la M. Hill, C.B., C.M.G., died at Walmer on 28th August. Colonel Hill, as he then was, commanded the 1st Battalion on the outbreak of the First World War, and was later Commandant of the Duke of York's School. Mrs. Hill leaves four sons to whom we extend our sympathy.

* * *

Mr. W. A. Dutton, lately Pioneer Sergeant at the Depot, sends his greetings to all his friends.

* * *

A very cheerful letter has come from Major Rex Carey, with the 6th Battalion, K.A.R. His family have now joined him, and they are all enjoying life at Dar es Salaam.

* * *

At a Home Guard Rifle meeting at Honiton recently, at which four Battalions were represented, Lieut.-Col. E. B. Backhouse was top scorer in the Veterans' Competition (over 55).

We are sorry to report that Lieut.-Col. J. Crookenden is in King Edward VII Hospital for an operation. We hope to hear satisfactory news of him in about a fortnight.

* * *

Major and Mrs. G. A. E. Chapman have been over from Canada and staying with Colonel and Mrs. Crookenden. They return to Canada on the 30th of this month.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Preben Berendt paid us a visit when they were in England from Copenhagen. Mr. Berendt served at the Depot in 1945, and is now Secretary of our Danish Branch. We were very pleased to welcome them both. They returned proudly bearing a Regimental Badge for their motor car.

* * *

We congratulate Colonel and Mrs. J. V. R. Jackson's daughter, Elizabeth, on her engagement to Mr. Peter Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis of Tunbridge Wells.

* * *

Major A. W. Gay is at home on leave, but so far we have not had the pleasure of seeing him at the Depot. We hope to do so.

* * *

Lieut.-Col. P. A. N. Lynden-Bell was taken ill, we are sorry to hear, whilst on holiday. He is now at home in bed and hoping to be able to convalesce at Osborne House.

* * *

ENGAGEMENT

MR. J. R. PRENTICE AND MISS M. E. WILCOX

The engagement is announced between John only son of the late Capt. and Mrs. T. Prentice, of Teignmouth, and Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Wilcox, of Southsea.

* * *

Found

THe following items were found in the Buffs Tent on the St. Lawrence Ground at the end of Canterbury Cricket Week, and can be had on application to the Administrative Officer, Depot The Buffs:—

1. One pair Lady's Black Fabric Gloves, size 6½ approx.
2. One I ady's Turquoise Blue Pringle Cardigan,

Regimental Cricket Week 1956

IN view of the fact that next year the Dragon Club Dinner will take place on 30th May, and that the Australians will be playing Kent at Canterbury on 16th June (earlier than has been the practice in former years) and that the Test Match at Lord's will commence on 21st June, the Regimental Cricket Week has been brought forward, and will be held from Tuesday, June 5th, to Sunday, June 10th.

We have been asked to make this early announcement so that all who can will support the Cricket Week.

* * *

Regimental Christmas Cards 1955

THE 1955 Christmas Card is a plain white card, 6 ins. × 4½ins., with the cover die-stamped with the Regimental Badge in gold and with tied Regimental ribbon. On the centre page is a half-tone picture of the actual presentation of the Queen's Colour by the Colonel-in-Chief to the Subaltern, on 9th May, 1955. The cost of this card will be sevenpence each.

There are also a number of last years cards available, showing the coloured picture of "The Buffs on outpost duty, Peninsula, 1813". The card bears no date. These will be sold at sixpence each.

There are also the single white cards with gold badge and greeting in black, as last year. The cost of these is threepence each.

Orders, stating type of card required, and accompanied by remittance, should be sent to The Administrative Officer, Depot, The Buffs.

There will be no Regimental Diaries this year, as the demand over the last two years does not justify the expense entailed.

H.S.K.

* * *

Walter Benjamin Foord

WITH the death of Walter Benjamin Foord, Wally to us all, yet another stalwart of the first World War passes on and will be long remembered and greatly missed by his comrades of the Past and Present Association of The Buffs.

Wally joined The Buffs at the outbreak of the first World War but was transferred to the London Irish on proceeding to France; yet as Wally so often said "Once a Buff always a Buff". He was twice wounded and once gassed, and although so many years after, his severe wounds were the direct cause of his death, for he never really recovered from them and for the past few years had been in failing health and for nine months completely bedridden. His will-power and fortitude kept him going to the amazement of his many friends. When it became apparent that he would never get up again the Sittingbourne Branch of the Past and Present Association of The Buffs installed a television set in his bedroom which brought him a great deal of enjoyment during the closing months of his life. Until a few years ago, when he had to give up for health reasons, he was in the employ of Messrs. Doubleday. With the outbreak of the second World War he joined the Home Guard upon its formation; but the duties were too strenuous and he had to resign. Not to be outdone in doing some duty for the common cause he took up fire-watching in the vicinity near his home.

Wally was of the unassuming type but a more loyal citizen it would be hard to find; pictures which he presented, adorn the walls of the Buffs Club including one of His late Majesty and our present Queen, and it is interesting to note that in his diary which he kept during the first World War under each entry of importance are the words "God save the King". It is fitting that his coffin was draped with the Union Jack when he was borne to his last resting place.

PLEASE

SUPPORT

OUR

ADVERTISERS

1st Battalion



THE Tempo of work this month has maintained a steady high pressure. From 3rd to 15th. the Battalion bivouacked on the edge of Sennelager training area. The whole Brigade had moved up for a Brigade set exercise on Infantry/Tank co-operation. We were the first Battalion to be put through "Iron Fox" and are pleased to think that we successfully defeated the Company of 1 Suffolk who provided the enemy as well as producing a realistic answer to the problem set. At all events we learnt a great deal from the exercise. It is many years since some of us had seen a regiment of Tanks deployed on the field.

This exercise brought about some interesting re-unions. "A" Squadron 8 Royal Tanks is commanded by Major Colin Franklin who saw with 5 Royal Tank Regiment to which "B" Company of the Battalion was affiliated in 1942-43. Supporting the Brigade and "E" Battery 1 R.H.A., commanded by Major Batten, O.B.E., D.C.M., who was a member of "E" Battery 1 R.H.A. which also supported "B" Company in the Western Desert. Representing the C.O. of our affiliated Field Regiment was Major John Parry, M.C., who came to the exercise straight from Canterbury Cricket Week. At the end of our stay the Band nobly braved the rigours of life in the field (for two days):—On one evening they gave a very enjoyable concert for the battalion, run as only Bandmaster Sharpe can run a concert, with just the right mixture of humour, prizes, singing and music. The next night they played for a Mess Cocktail Party to which came representatives of all the units in the Brigade.

Life on return to Wuppertal was varied in the extreme as we tried to do everything at once. A party of Officers and N.C.O's went off to Dortmond for a four day course on mines which was organised by 2 Field Squadron R.E. for our benefit. Three Sergeants were attached to 1 R.U.R. to teach members of 5 Infantry Brigade the mysteries of the F.N. Rifle and we had 2 Officers and 20 men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers living with us for the week's course.

The M.T. under a harassed David Barrett and a bewildered Harold Gatehouse set about practising for the Brigade inter-unit Convoy and safe driving Competition. Due apparently to some remarkably clever map reading by David (not to forget some equally brilliant driving by the drivers) we managed to pull off a clear win and so record our first win in a Brigade Competition "Well done the M.T."

The 2nd Infantry Division Rhine District Tennis Tournament was held from 17th to 20th. of the month and under the Colonels gallant leadership we sailed in to give battle. Successes were varied, James Lunn and Rusty Thorneycroft got through a number of rounds in the singles. The Colonel and Rusty had a couple of successful rounds in the Regimental doubles. Christine Grace and Anne Norris reached the semi-finals of the Ladies doubles and Anne Norris and James Lunn were defeated after a close and exciting match in the finals of the mixed doubles.

The course season is now upon us. Greville Edgecombe has departed on a Mortar Course and Harold Gatehouse on an M.T. Course. Ian Minto was just getting into the swing, or should one say voice, of signalling before going to Hythe on a signal course when he left abruptly for Hospital with suspected Polio. We are glad to report that he has not got Polio but something much less dangerous and much more obscure which has so far defied accurate diagnosis.

We should by now have welcomed the return of John Davison with his regular commission, but his departure from home has been delayed so that he too can have an excuse for some more leave, before going on a Gas Course.

We have had three visitors of note this month: Major Goldsmith, Royal Australian Infantry, was attached to us for 4 days when we were at Sennelager. Captain Peter Wilson has been over for a weekend from Hildenrath. There were two reasons for this visit; he wanted to find out the form before he rejoins in October and this particular weekend he could not find any excuse to fly up to Copenhagen.

Elizabeth and Greg Blaxland who have been over staying with his brother at "Port Sunlight" (H.Q. Northag spent a week end with the Critchleys and we all had a chance of meeting Greg at a cocktail party given by Dorothy and Peter in their honour.

In conclusion we welcome the following new arrivals and hope that future months will bring as many new faces to our depleted Officers' strength:—2/Lieuts. Brice and Johnson who have joined "A" Company, and 2/Lieut. Hill who has gone to "S" Company.

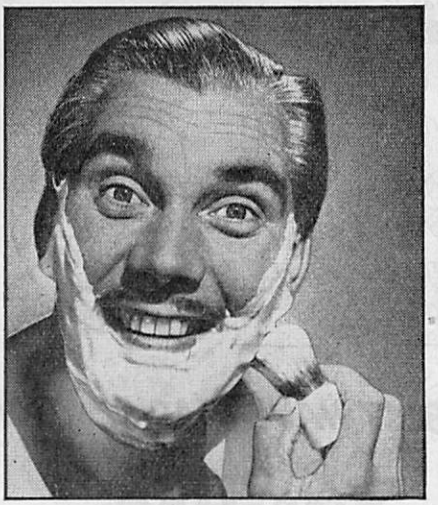
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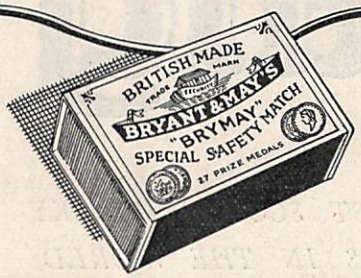
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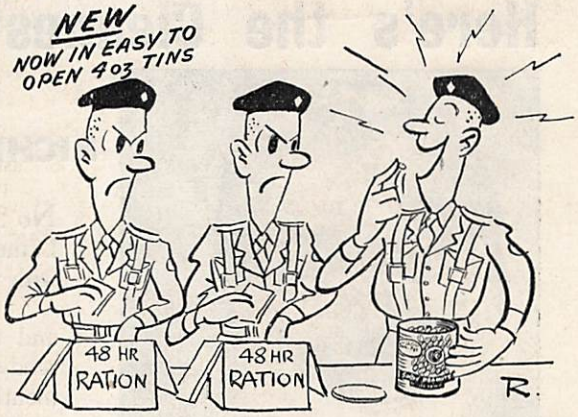


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SERGEANTS' MESS

It is a long time since the Mess last contributed their little memo to *The Dragon*, so it is expected that many readers will be surprised to know that the Mess is still going strong.

We have settled down quite well in our new surroundings and have been invited to the other units in the Wuppertal area and they have treated us royally. We haven't had the chance or the bank balance to reciprocate owing to the training season being in full swing, but the real reason is the currency regulations—only a small pittance per mess member being allowed out of the U.K. In the very near future we hope to have our "Housewarmer" and then it will, as always, be a bumper show; a little belated but nevertheless we will have one.

Yes, the training season is in full swing and consequently one has to leave the beer bottle behind and take to the water bottle—drinking water on orders only—its a rum do (pun). When we do get a spot of rest during the different exercises that take place whilst out of barracks, you can trace your way to each company by following the tracks going at different angles from the Mess tent at Battalion H.Q.; some, of course, are more used than others. "Fun" is always to be had on the schemes, like Sgt. "Bill" Histed being chased by a tank—C.S.M. "Bob" Sharman being roasted sitting on one—C/Sgt. "Wally" Mans and Sgt. "Stan" Billett tearing their hair out getting gestetner and typewriters under cover from a sudden downpour—the R.S.M. making his rounds in the middle of the night checking on his night signs—by the way, who nearly killed himself falling in his own camouflaged slit trench? Sgt. "Isca" Wright was very mad when he found he couldn't get the Wolves-Dynamo match over his net.

Whilst we were having fun at Sennelager Sgt. Smissen was enjoying himself in Barracks. Every morning approximately 100 German children have been entering Barracks before starting their wanderings through the local hills and woods. They used to sing *Happy Wanderer*—it is thought they wanted him to wander.

The Mess has now been redecorated and looks quite nice and our always jovial Ernie has been going to no end of trouble to obtain little items from the brewer. His last success was greatly appreciated by the bar standers, they are now sitters because Ernie obtained six stools. He will soon have to obtain some dog bowls for certain members—they always seem to be in the kennel and are always yapping.

On August Bank Holiday Monday we played (if that's the correct word) the Officers the annual cricket match and a jolly good time was had by all afterwards—the less said the better. Anyway, there is some excuse, some of the members took advantage of the B.E.A. concession scheme and flew to U.K. for the holiday.

As usual never a moment goes by without losses or gains. This time we have lost Sgt. Yuill to the Depot and wish him all the best—his wife will be very happy anyway. Sgt. Bird has left us for Brigade, but he still keeps popping in for a short one. Sgts. Hansen and Lincoln have been our latest additions and we congratulate them on their promotion. Sgt. Robinson of the R.E.M.E. and Sgt. Walker of the A.A.E.C. have also recently joined our little throng and we wish them a hearty welcome. Sgt. "Sam" Harrison arrived at the beginning of August and is now the "I" Sergeant—he was last seen trying to extricate himself from maps and selotape.

Although we are a few hundred miles away, the "W" mat is still down (approximately £8 10s. 0d. from Dover), so let's see something of you. There are also sure to be some Buffs in remote places in B.A.O.R., so let's see you sometime.

THE REGIMENTAL BAND

Now that the transitionary period has passed and the ruthless German decorators have taken their pots and paints to terrorise other companies we find that life is more "Tempo-primo".

It is in fact a new life for us to serve in a station where we have other Regimental Bands extremely adjacent and already we have had the pleasure of playing together musically and against each other on the field of sport.

Again the element of new faces reaches us whereas our last group of newly joined have now settled down. The Bandmaster complains of an apparent "oldage" feeling; he is now enlisting Bandsmen who had not graced this earth when he first joined the army, plus a sprouting of grey hairs!

Firstly we welcome new members to the Band in Bdsm. Blomfield, Boys Rood and Ralph. There are yet more future bandsmen in training at the Depot to join us, their arrival will be equally welcome. When our eight Bandsmen return from Kneller Hall one can well imagine the Band will enjoy a multitude of numbers.

Having now settled down in B.A.O.R. we have had many occasions at which to air our musical wings. We have given Concerts in the local parks, provided music for Athletic meetings and parades and of course the Dance Orchestra has been giving shows in the Y.M.C.A. and to adjacent Units.

At the moment we are hard at rehearsals for the Tattoo which takes place in Wuppertal Stadium on September 7th. This precedes our eagerly awaited trip to Copenhagen where we perform in the British Military Tattoo. Even the thought of twenty-three performances plus rehearsals does not damp our enthusiasm. We may add that further applications to carry music, stands, Bass drums or the Bandmaster's batons will not be considered!

We hear that Captain I. G. Minto is to vacate his high seat of Presidency. What bad luck, we nearly had him playing *Post Horn Galop*, on a rifle barrel too! Best Wishes, sir! and many thanks for your strong interests.

Now back to our crotchets, quavers and "Mind my Mercedes". In fact, what key are 2nd and 3rd Ducks pitched in?

* * *

M.T. SECTION

The last two months have been the most hectic period that the M.T. has experienced for many a day. Poor old Cpl. Cotton (N.C.O. i/c 3-ton section) is still tearing around trying to stretch seven roadworthy trucks over twelve details at the same time, but he isn't bald yet.

There is a strong rumour our ancient Q.L.s and K5s are going to be replaced by Commers. Needless to say, our old stalwart, Pte. Jenner, was first in the queue to put his name down for a new one. So far the rumour has not materialised and we just have to cope with what we have. The order of the day is that for any detail over 100 miles the driver will take his bivvy!

The champ. section is bearing up well and the endless faults found in these particular vehicles in Kenya do not appear to be recurring out here. Pte. Brawn is known as the Bond Street Driver because he drives as if he were wearing a bowler hat and sporting a cane. One of our cham. drivers was caught trying to pour engine oil into the engine via the dip stick hole. We presume the engine has now just about been topped up!!

Cpl. Bates, on loan from "Sp" Company, has been running cadres and has so far turned out ten trained drivers. We are all grateful for his strenuous work.

Sgt. Williams continues to guard jealously his precious stores and trying to get anything from him is like squeezing blood out of a stone. The answer to every application for spares is "Where's your authority?" Though we may not think so at times, he looks after our interests well and, wherever he can, produces the goods.

We wish to welcome our old friend Cpl. (Split) Winter to the M.T. Section. The last we saw of him whilst on training at Sennelager was under a one-tonner, wrapped round the back axle, looking for the filler plug.

Finally, we also welcome to the Section: Ptes. Keen, Brawn, Mattholie, Beer, Crane, Reeves, Sgt. Robinson and Cfn. Woodward.

* * *

SIGNAL PLATOON

Since our last notes we have twice made the acquaintance of the All Arms Training Centre at Sennelager and discovered that there is a vast difference between signalling back in Kenya to that which is required of us out here. However, we are pleased to be able to say that so far the communications have not failed.

We have spent a very interesting training period learning Infantry/Tank co-operation and discovered that resting the weary feet of the Infantry is not the sole purpose of the Tank, although in the eyes of some of the more weary characters it was undoubtedly the most important one!

Last week we all carried out some practical watermanship training which was great fun as well as beneficial. The platoon marched the thirty odd miles there and back with no ill effects, which has proved to one and all that the average Signaller is a fit man, which is perhaps more surprising to the average signaller than anyone else.

We are very glad to be able to congratulate Ptes. Chambers and Marr on their recent marriages and we wish them the best of luck for the future.

Cpl. Rodmell has returned to us after a hectic three months at the Signal Wing, Hythe, and from all reports has managed to pass out with a very creditable result.

We have played two cricket matches so far this season and managed to win both of them. The first one against "B" Company was a close match, but owing to some fine bowling by Pte. Martin the second match against the Assault Pioneer Platoon was a very decisive win.

It is with regret that this station sends "Wilco Over" and is closed down for yet another month.

* * *

QUARTERMASTER'S STAFF

Stations, personalities and situations change, but each month the call for *Dragon* Notes remains.

The Quartermaster has at last gathered his staff under one roof and the tone in which the staff say "So this is Germany!" implies that Dover wasn't so bad after all.

Unfortunately Ronald Searle isn't here to illustrate our notes. The Quartermaster is playing host to the German equivalent of St. Trinian's; some hundred odd German school children invade the area daily and necessitate a return of daily damage unsurpassed in the Quartermaster's records.

We bid a sad farewell to L/Cpl. Holt and trust that his civilian employers will be as tolerant as we have been.

Congratulations to L/Cpls. Hurlock and Roose who have just received visible recognition for services rendered.

Sgt. Inskip is a most welcome addition to the G.1098 staff and is manfully shouldering the burden. His wide knowledge of Germany is quite invaluable, especially his

knowledge of the language and customs of the country. Unfortunately he has still to master the intricacies of the German tramway system and the resulting walk home appears to be most painful.

The local addition to the staff, some very hard working office cleaners and general labourers, are most welcome and we feel that it is rather hard to call them the "Wuppertal Africa Corps".

These notes would be incomplete without some mention of our secret weapons against the fantastic increase in paper work. They sit, unruffled by the huge array of B.A.O.R. forms and calmly produce immaculate returns and letters to higher authority without which we are convinced B.A.O.R. could not function. Gay girlish giggles, the patter of high heeled shoes and the cheerful chink of tea cups does much to enlighten the gloom caused by too many blocked drains or fuel starved families.

R.Q.M.S. Excell is sadly missed and if he reads these notes I hope he will be delighted to hear that we have no less than three automatic telephones. . . . They never stop ringing. . . .

* * *

"A" COMPANY

"A" Company has become very much fiercer during August. One's whole time being spent either fighting or training to fight, we are immersed in the season of Total War. Shortly after returning from one exercise at the end of July, the Company embused and entrained for Sennelager on August 3rd for another series of battles.

Initial casualties were Sgts. Cain and Rowland, who went to "D" Company; we miss their cheerfulness and wish them every success, especially remembering that they were to train our new draft, which recently arrived from England. Sgt. Page, however, almost immediately arrived to help fill the gap and is now with No. 3 Platoon and we have been in every respect most glad to have him with us.

The exercise lasted till August 13th, and included all such horrors of war as leaking bivvies, mobile bath units and the Church Army Canteen. We reassociated ourselves with "A" Squadron, 8th Royal Tank Regiment, who assisted us in the capture and recapture of Wagnerhof and experienced with us a heavily camouflaged atomic explosion. During a break in the battle, "Standing Orders for War" was rolled into a tight ball and used as a missile in a bitter struggle of rounders, in which Company H.Q. and No. 1 Platoon defeated Nos. 2 and 3 Platoons. Mercifully the C.Q.M.S. was on the winning side.

About this time Pte. Harte departed to become an orderly at H.Q., 1 British Corps, and, enviously or not, we wish him well in his new duties.

Here we must mention our cooks and drivers and all our attached personnel from H.Q. Company, such as signallers and others—all these fitting very well into Company life. We have been fortunate in having them on successive exercises and we welcome them back again on forthcoming ones. Pte. Lindop and his team of chefs, Pte. Arnold and his drivers and Pte. Dearsley and his signallers all performed their duties in exemplary fashion, though one of Dearsley's instructional smoke signals before a withdrawal was not understood by Battalion H.Q.

And so the exercise drew to a close, the men marching rather better, digging rather better, and seeming more able to adapt themselves to discomfort. We provided a finale for Sennelager II in the form of a demonstration of Platoon fire power, assisted by M.M.G.s and 3-inch mortars. That was Saturday, August 13th, and the same day we arrived back at Keightley Barracks where the C.Q.M.S. had laid out the carpet of four by two to welcome us home and get everyone cleaned up.

The carpet, in fact, had been layed down several days earlier by a team of energetic painters who have been redecorating the lines. Their contract evidently including the floor, but despite that, the rooms looked much healthier. The welter of ladders, tables, lockers and bins that crowded the corridor on our return had also come in for a bit of redecorating, but it was all sorted out, and anyway our next adventure was soon to be upon us. We were to be committed to open boats.

We marched on August 16th to a lake nearby (if 16 miles is nearby) with the Signal Platoon and the R.S.O. Until the 18th, we lived in a wood above the lake where we rowed vigorously out of time with each other, whilst the directing staff cruised rapidly round in a motor launch, shouting "Faster!" to the crews. Here we learnt the business of quickly loading and unloading, of swiftly and silently launching our craft, and eventually achieved a modest but successful night crossing. Swimming was allowed even out of duty hours, and was much enjoyed, the weather keeping fine for us. Our return march on Thursday, 18th, was enlivened by Pte. Fruish's rendering of *A Rose still Blooms in Picardy* and C.Q.M.S. Mannering meeting us half-way with fruit, sandwiches and tea. And so once again we arrived home in barracks.

Since then a week or so has passed, and the sometimes dull but urgent routine has continued. A drive on education, the appearance of the new rifle, some shooting and some marching—these have been our daily interests. In addition, 2/Lieuts. Johnson and Brice arrived hot foot from England to take over Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons respectively; to them we extend a sincere welcome.

In closing, we record two departures to England. Cpl. Powell has gone to Aldershot on parachute training, and rather fervently, we wish him all good fortune in such a hazardous affair. Secondly, Capt. Gatehouse has gone on a M.T.O. course; to him we bid a sad farewell, for he—as Cpl. Powell—was with us in Kenya, and our Kenya ranks are growing rather thin. Fortunately we shall see him again in the Battalion in a month or so's time, though unhappily not back in "A" Company.

In September we shall be able to record exercises on a rather larger scale, and we are at the moment preparing to go out again. But—more of that later.

* * *

"B" COMPANY

"We're on the ball." This our motto was to be seen by members of the Battalion at Sennelager, inscribed upon our transport. The pet saying of C.S.M. Hannaway is now used universally in the Company, intimating the highest possible efficiency, or the "maximum activity". Schemes may come and schemes may go, but "B" goes on for ever.

What we consider a noteworthy event, indeed a minor crisis, was when Cpl. Goffin pulled aside the cobwebs of Company Office, and emerged into the sunlight to cope with the tiring and endless job of managing the Company Canteen in the field, which he did admirably.

As this month each of the Platoons are clamouring to cast their literary bread on the inconstant world of publication, I must now hand over to No. 5 Platoon.

No. 5 Platoon

We in No. 5 have been facing up to the rigours of outdoor life with typical enthusiasm. Ants and leaky bivouacs, dust and atomic trenches—*c'est la guerre.* On a certain scheme it was noticed that poaching was one of our major assets. A very small rabbit, a largish mouse, and half a lizard was taken in one gigantic sweep. Pte. Fuller still protests that he wiped out a whole platoon of

the enemy in a Brigade attack; but as each time he does so Pte. Hough produces a tag denoting that Fuller is Radio Active and gives off sparks and brilliant flashes we do not know who to believe! Is there a Geiger Counter in the house?

We must end our little effort on a more serious note. Our Platoon Commander, 2/Lieut. Simpson, leaves us shortly to don a wig and a gown in the law courts. Since he has been with us, he has always taken a particularly keen interest in the welfare and fortunes of the Platoon, everything ticking over easily. We wish him a very successful career and long life. We shall miss his "Teapot at the highport" and "Where is the Kit-Kat?" very much.

No. 6 PLATOON

The Platoon along with the rest of the Company has been engaged in various schemes at Sennelager and 2/Lieut. Lea has had ample opportunity for indulging in his favourite sport—swimming. Even so we were rather surprised when he dived into a river at one o'clock in the morning. We found out later that he too was somewhat surprised!

Our new Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. Lincoln, is still captaining the Company soccer team and we hope, under his guidance, to have some success to report in our next month's notes. Perhaps some people still remember our Company matches in Kenya.

Regardless of the many crabs and consequent soakings caught and brought about by Ptes. Wedge and Groombridge on the river crossings, we have the greatest faith in their ability as potential rowing "blues". If they do not reach those dizzy heights, there is always "All aboard the *Skylark*" at sunny Southend. After a wet month in many respects, and hoping that that does not apply here, we must make way for No. 7 Platoon.

No. 7 PLATOON

We are now deep in training, but morale within the Platoon is still high; however, not so high as when a bee decided to vent its wrath on a certain part of L/Cpl. Natall's anatomy.

The Platoon enjoyed the 25 yards .22 range out on training. Pte. Hudson is reputed to have said that although the model moving truck was great fun, he would have preferred an electric train!

Our Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. Yuill, was posted to the Depot on the eve of the ten-day scheme, and we hope that such good fortune remains with him. His successor, Cpl. Fuller, is due for release in a few days' time, as he reminds his Platoon at each daily muster parade. Perhaps we shall keep our next Sergeant for a little longer period.

All things said, we must now return to our cup of NAAFI tea to discuss the Cup Final. Yes, summer is on the march out to the South once again.

* * *

"C" COMPANY

In opening this month's contribution we would like firstly to welcome a number of new faces to the Company and say *au revoir* to some of the better known. Pte. Welsh and Sgt. Woodrow have returned from a brief interlude with the Drums—Sgt. Woodrow being vaguely reminiscent of a homing pigeon—and Cpl. Ruddom forsaking the comparatively comfortable sanctity of the Ration Store has also joined us. The Gould twins (28 and 29) are once more united in brotherly affection by the appearance of 29 who has come from the U.K.

Lieut. Edgecombe deserted us some weeks ago and until recently was to be seen, in the distance, pottering about rather gingerly with 3-in. Mortars. However, he has now disappeared completely, the excuse being a course in the U.K. (A likely story!) Pte. Waller has also left on being released and we wish him all the best in civilian life. Cpl. Cook is now firmly ensconced in the Ration Store of H.Q. Company and is very rarely seen outside his domains—please remember "C" Company, Cpl. Cook!

Training has continued to be as concentrated as ever and Sennelager definitely appears to have become a home from home for the Battalion Tanks and atomic explosions appear to dog our very footsteps and Company attacks are now beginning to show some semblance of a military manoeuvre (?). Our last sojourn at Sennelager was at one stage interrupted by the appearance of Mr. Sharpe and his Band who gave us an excellent concert and to whom we are all deeply thankful—may we have many more of them, please.

Training at Sennelager was barely over when Watermanship loomed before us. Between the two, however, a mines course and a Christian Leadership Course were squeezed in. Sgt. Wagstaff returning from the former with an air of deep scientific knowledge about him, and Sgt. Parker and his crew from the latter, with an air of spiritual well-being and great peace of mind. Whether this was due to the postcard sent to the Company Commander which related at some length to the wonderful "skive" and sparkling beer they were having, is left to conjecture.

The Second-in-Command, the Adjutant, the I.O. and a number of H.Q. Company personnel were attached to the Company for watermanship which looked as though it might be quite enjoyable. The main drawback was the march to and from the training area, a distance of 27 miles, which, carried out in the extreme heat of the day proved quite a sweat. However, the march there passed off well enough and for the rest of the evening the Company gaily desported itself in reckless abandonment on the banks of the lake. The lakeside scene next day looked rather like a compromise between a Venetian Fête and the Battle of Salamis! This particular exercise was apparently designed to exercise boat crews in rowing in any given direction. The morning's work was wound up with a boat race, which was won by the boat skippered by Cpl. Vaisey. During this race Balcombe decided that it was far cooler in the water than out and promptly managed to fall quite realistically out of the boat. Later during the afternoon the Company Commander decided that it would be a good thing to show the Company how effective the life-belts were. Balcombe decided that he had not had enough and was the first to volunteer, the bathing picquet soon had its work cut out after the first few bubbles had appeared and Balcombe, very bedraggled, was unceremoniously hauled to the shore. Undaunted, Turner 21 next stepped in and met a similar fate. Cpl. Clarke managed to survive but this was put down by the sages of the Company to his extraordinary large boots (Size 15) which it was argued, contained sufficient air to support two Tuffins, let alone Cpl. Clarke! Meanwhile, it was becoming apparent that Sgt. Parker had really learnt quite a lot from his course for he was to be seen and heard, with both feet firmly planted on dry land, urging the Company Commander to send in one more victim equipped with a Rocket Launcher, Mortar and two Brens in order that he (Sgt. Parker) might conduct a sea burial service!!

That night after the Company river crossing we returned to our bivvies and the silence of the night remained unbroken save for the low murmurings from the Officers' lines where, gathered around a flickering light, the young

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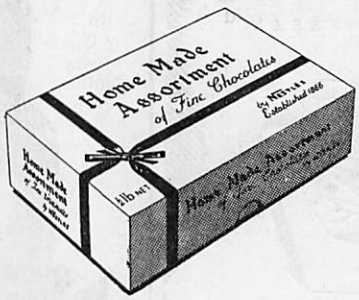
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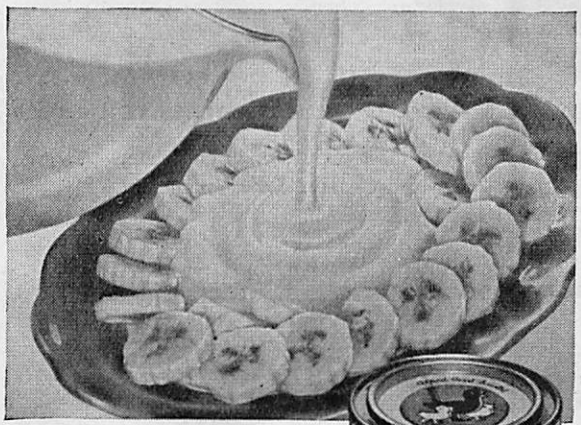
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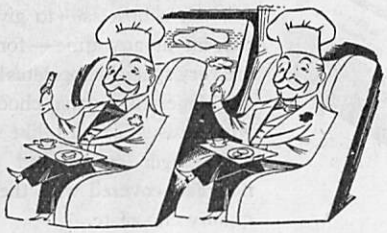
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With the 1st Battalion

Officers all agog listened to the thrilling escapades of the two bearded veterans who spent all their time avoiding dive bombing Stukas during the last war, and the melodious crooning of the Company as they sang in the true Johnnie Ray fashion that old tender army refrain, *How I love my Mother-in-Law.*

On closing these notes we congratulate L/Cpls. Lee and Hudson on their appointments, and wish 2/Lieut. Hardy all the best on his forthcoming marriage.

* * *

"S" COMPANY

The month has seen a strange mixture of events and activities. We travelled once again to the Sennelager training area where we spent ten days on field firing ranges and took part in an "atomic exercise" during which we were carried, almost to the objective, on rather hard, but nevertheless foot-saving tanks of the 8th Royal Tank Regiment. Hopes of marching no more in this atomic age have, however, been dispelled by forecasts of 20 mile route marches in the near future. The Machine-Gun Platoon remained aloof in the fold of H.Q. Company; occasional glimpses of them were caught as they bumped across country in their long suffering Champs, trying, no doubt, to imitate the more manoeuvrable Centurion Tanks. In preparation for a demonstration the Mortar Platoon reverted from their experimental role as a rifle platoon and spent several days apparently effecting a new and noisy means of suicide. Some of their bombs, through no fault of the mortar crews, certainly landed closer to the mortars than to the target. Not to be outdone the Anti-Tank Platoon smuggled a B.A.T. from Wuppertal to Sennelager on the back of a laundry truck. This manoeuvre appeared to be designed mainly to provide an excuse for detachment cooking, but we have heard tales of fantastic last-ditch stands against advancing hordes of Fantasian tanks! To complete our stay at Sennelager the Machine Guns and Mortars joined with "A" Company to provide an excellent demonstration of Company fire power.

On our return to Wuppertal we learnt that Lieut. Pilcher and 50 of the Company are to take part in a searchlight tattoo in September, so the daily scene now is reminiscent of Old Park Barracks last May: much sweat and toil and stamping of feet to the music of the massed bands of 6 Infantry Brigade. The news that the detachment is to wear scarlet was received with mixed feelings; with joy, however, by the detachment commander who was ordered home to England to make arrangements for the uniforms.

We say a semi-farewell to Captain Ian Minto, who is leaving us to explore the mysteries of Regimental Signalling. Unfortunately his first port of call has been B.M.H., Iserlohn; perhaps the doctors will soon be able to diagnose his disability, no doubt the result of good living during the training season. Pte. Luney, who has spent three years with "A" Company and "S" Company, has left to take up a career of digging deep under the fields of East Kent, an occupation for which he has been more basically trained, if only in the open-cast Sennelager type. Good luck to him and welcome to 2/Lieut. Tony Hills, who has arrived full of ideas from Eton Hall just in time to come boating with the Company in what we know as our Watermanship Training Area. As the Company Commander was heard to remark, "There would be more room for serious training on Blackpool beach!"

* * *

"D" (TRAINING) COMPANY

As I sit down to write these notes, I realise that some time has passed since this Company provided any prose for *Dragon* readers' perusal. However, we have not

ceased to exist; "Curricula", "Courses" and "Cadres" are still our watch words.

After our arrival in B.A.O.R., a few weeks settling in were spent in fair peace before the quiet of our cosy corner was rudely shattered by the advent of the "New Draft" from the Depot.

Fifty-two men arrived and in no time were learning the mysteries of the 7.62 mm. self-loading rifle, and generally being equipped to take their places in the Companies. At present the draft is nearing the end of its stay with the Company. It is always interesting to watch the progress of a "New Draft". At first the complete bunch are considered as an entity, it is impossible to separate one man from another, but gradually as days go by individuals assume their own personality and become known as separate men instead of "The Draft".

The business of conducting a course for these men was not really helped by the presence of the decorators. Admittedly the rooms now are much improved, but while the job was actually in progress, men, office and stores were chasing each other from room to room in an attempt to keep one jump ahead of the painters.

Three days ago we all donned our best marching boots and stepped out towards "Training Area 7" which was to us nothing more than a large blue patch on a map. Thirteen miles and a couple of quiet beers later, we reached our destination. Even after a long march on an extremely hot day, the sight which met our gaze was one to put life back into everyone. Our working site for the next twenty-four hours was a vast lake, some five miles long and of unplumbed depths, surrounded by gently sloping banks, stony at the water's edge but soon changing to soft grass which in turn disappeared into the cool shadows of the surrounding woods.

A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all, learning the art of climbing in and out of assault boats and paddling them back and forth across the lake. A couple of bathing trips made a welcome break for everyone, the fresh water being exactly the right temperature for swimming.

Back once again in Keightly Barracks, the final training of the Draft is rapidly coming to a close. The short courses on the F.N. Rifle which we have run for the Battalion N.C.O.s are completed and our thoughts are now turning to the big exercises to be held in September.

* * *

SPORTS

Cricket

Unfortunately although the weather has often been favourable, circumstances have thwarted any further attempts to provide subject matter for *Dragon* Notes under this sub-title.

Rugby

Readers of *The Dragon* who read diligently enough to note infrequent references to Rugby Football over the past few years will remember that in Kenya after two defeats we produced two excellent victories and although in our short sojourn in Dover we were unable to produce comparable form, the spirit of revival is still prevalent.

This coming season we have optimistically booked for a full fixture card and have entered for the B.A.O.R. and Army Cup Competitions. Lieut. G. J. B. Edgecombe, whom readers will remember played for the Kenya XV in their tour of Rhodesia a year ago and also for Richmond in the winning Seven-a-side at Twickenham last Spring, is the Captain of the team and will be a tower of strength when (or if!) he returns from his course in the U.K. At the moment Lieut. C. T. F. West is holding the reins in his absence. Players who have recently arrived and who will support the old firm of Lieuts. Mitchell, Lunn and Cross and Cpls. Cullen and Seymore are 2/Lieuts. Hardy, Hills and Brice, and an unknown quantity of lesser lights whom one hopes are at this moment merely concealed behind bushels.

Football

The Battalion proposes to run two football teams throughout the winter. Although a composite and untrained team lost 2—3 to Ronsdorf on August 15th, training can be said to have seriously started on August 20th when the first Battalion football trial was held. Apart from a fixture at the beginning of September, army activities do not permit frequent fixtures until October. Meanwhile an Inter-Company Knock-out Competition is in progress. To date "Sp" Company have played the Signals Platoon, winning 6—3, and H.Q. Company have defeated the Band 8—0. Most of these matches have to be played on a cinder pitch. Provided that men are prepared to train out of hours until the end of the Army training season, there is no reason why the Battalion should not produce a very good team.

* * *

Kenya Notes

THE month of August in East Africa is the occasion of mass migration to the Coast, and very agreeable it is. Many up-country settler friends are there and a large proportion of the Army's blunt end. This year it provided an opportunity for a farewell visit to the *Empire Hallidale* on its departure from Mombasa with the Fifth Fusiliers, the last of the original battalions to leave Kenya, on completion of the relief programme.

The improvement in the Emergency situation will enable reductions to be made in the Military forces here. Before the end of this year at least two British Infantry Battalions will have been released for service elsewhere. The future of 59 Brigade in which the 1st Battalion served for so long, is uncertain, but disbandment of Brigade H.Q. is probable.

Major Richard Ravenhill left this month for Canterbury in a whirl of engagement announcements and farewell parties. We congratulate him on his forthcoming marriage to Miss Liza Illingworth, who is no stranger to the 1st Bn., and wish them both all future happiness.

Those who remember the old Nyali Leave Camp may be interested to know that it has been taken over by NAAFI, renamed Silversands Leave Centre, and greatly improved in all respects. It now compares very favourably with any of the coast hotels, and the change has been welcomed by all ranks.

We hear that Major John Lucas, that man of many parts, is going in for the legal profession when he relinquishes his present job in the Prisons Dept. He is to be Pemanent President Courts Martial in Kenya, which should provide him with many opportunities to exercise his wit.

Regimental Museum

THESE notes might well be headed Recoveries and discoveries.

Regimental Music.—A short time ago I undertook the task of going through and sorting out a mass of old books, files and documents which had found their way to the museum store over some considerable period. The work is tedious and rather dirty but hours of non-productive effort are rewarded now and then by the finding of something of interest. Instead of noting the item and putting it aside for more detailed inspection at a later date, I allow myself to become absorbed and side tracked, not only at the expense of progress in the main task, but also in a gradual collection of subjects requiring some research so that eventually one cannot see the wood for the trees.

In 1913 Captain M. Williams presented the 1st Battalion with a leather bound book of Regimental Music beautifully written out in manuscript. This is undoubtedly the music referred to in a note at the end of Appendix F of volume 1814-1914 of the Regimental Historical Records by C. R. B. Knight. There have been several inquiries as to the whereabouts of this music but nothing was known about it nor could it be found.

To my delight, late one afternoon, I came across the very book as I worked my way towards the bottom of a pile of files and papers. The leather cover was rather the worse for wear as the result of damp and dirt and the pages covered in a layer of dust. Fortunately the sheets of the music are not badly damaged and I have managed to clean and restore the book as well as possible.

To refresh the memory of those who will have known the book the title page reads as follows:—

REGIMENTAL MUSIC

Regimental March

The Men of Kent

March past in Quarter Column

Danish National Anthem

Officer's Mess Call

Reveille

March for the Third Regiment of Foot—Lord Amherst's

Old Buffs March

The Magdala Cup.—This was a cup presented by the Commander-in-Chief in India, Lord Napier, for the best shooting regiment in Bengal. It was won by a team of the 1st Battalion when stationed in Fort William, Calcutta, in 1874 in face of keen competition of thirty-two regiments.

The cup was presented by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in person on a parade held for this purpose on Wednesday, 17th March, 1875. At the same parade he presented Lance-Corporal Hallows with a handsome gold watch, the prize for the highest score in the winning team.

The competition was fired with the new breech-loading Snider Rifle which had recently been issued to the troops in India.

I had been wondering for some time what had become of this cup and where it could be although I must admit I could not remember what it was like. Quite by chance on looking through some old *Dragons* I came across a photograph of the winning Magdala Cup team taken with the cup.

I recognized it at once and realized that it had been in the museum all the time but wrongly placed in the Gwallor Campaign group as the Punniar Cup.

The problem was then to find the plinth of the Magdala Cup and the correct Punniar Cup. I eventually discovered these in a store containing various pieces of silver, some old cups, plinths and other items. The plinth has an inscription and the names of the team and is in good condition. But not so the Punniar Cup which was among some old silver in a very damaged and dirty state with the stem and base broken off the main cup.

This has now been repaired, cleaned and polished and is again as good as when new.

The Magdala Cup and Punniar Cup are therefore recovered and set up in their correct plinths.

"Labor omnia vincit"

An unusual medal for the Buffs was presented recently by Mr. F. Driscoll, 5 Eason Villas, Maidstone Road, Marden, Kent. It is the Indian General Service Medal (1908-35) with bar "Afghanistan, N.W.F., 1919", (George V. Kaisar-I-Hind, 2nd Issue, of No. 203179 Pte. H. Burr, E.K.R.

The medal was dug up in the garden of a house where Mr. Burr lived with his sister. On her death the house was sold and the medal must have been put on a bon-fire by accident with some rubbish from the house.

The medal is in good condition and has cleaned up well.

On hearing from Mr. Driscoll that Burr was in West View Hospital, Tenterden, I asked a friend living at Tenterden to call on him. He is a man of 79 years old and his memory is still good. He said that he went to India with the 4th T.A. Battalion, The Buffs and was cross posted to the Corps of Signals in 1917 and thus found himself with the N.W.F. Expedition.

He left Rawal Pindi for Bombay in December, 1919 and was demobilized on arrival in England.

G.R.H.

* * *

Correspondence

Christ Church Gateway
and 3 The Precincts,
Canterbury.

18*th August*, 1955.

Dear Mrs. Boucher,

I have been meaning, ever since August 7th, to write to tell you and General Boucher what immense joy it gave to the Friends from Birmingham, Alabama, to be present at that beautiful Service. Mr. Hollis Bush is, as you would have seen, a Member of our Council in the United States and gave that lovely silver Cross in St. Stephen's Chapel. Archdeacon Bickersteth was telling him it is the most valuable thing we have in the Cathedral and there is only one similar (Processional) Cross known in Europe. It was made in the 13th century near Monte Cassino and Mr. Bush himself had never seen it until that Sunday. Then of course for them, as well as for me, the String Orchestra and the Trumpeters inside the Cathedral and the Band outside was all too beautiful for words. They do not have any Services of that kind in the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Bush came down to Canterbury again on Monday of this week, and writes in the letter which reached me this morning:-

"The wonderful service in memory of The Buffs will always stand out in our memories as one of those rare occasions. Is it most interesting how fortunate we have been in attending *special* services at the Cathedral? First time, the Ordination Service, then this Military Service. We bless the day that Mrs. Fisher took us over to your office and introduced us!"

It is really interesting to recall that about five years ago they arrived in the Cathedral, knowing no-one in Canterbury. They were taken to seats next to Mrs. Fisher for the Ordination Service. She saw they were from the United States, took them to the Old Palace to meet the Archbishop, and then I remember she rang up my office saying "Can I bring six Americans round to you in two minutes!". That is how it began.

My gratitude once again,

Yours ever,

MARGARET BABINGTON.

* * *

2nd Bn. The Malay Regt.,
c/o G.P.O., Taiping,
Malaya.

August, 1955.

The Editor, "The Dragon".

Sir,

Major Sutherland, late The Middlesex Regiment, recently drew my attention to the fact that several Buffs who died in the Perak War 1876-77 were buried at Kuala Kangsar—about 22 miles from Taiping, which is my battalion base.

I visited the place which is in the precincts of the District Officer Kuala Kangsar's House.

There is a memorial to all those who died and individual headstones over each grave. All are in good condition, though some of the lettering is obscured.

Kuala Kangsar is the Royal town of Perak and the principal palace of His Highness The Sultan of Perak (The Istana Iskandariah) is only a few hundred yards from this small war cemetery which overlooks the Perak River. Most of the casualties occurred, I understand, as a result of an epidemic of dysentry.

I enclose some photographs which I had taken in case they are of interest to any of your readers.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

J. G. ATKINSON, Lt.-Col.

* * *

3 Wrights Road,
South Norwood,
S.E.25.

August 18*th*, 1955.

To the Secretary, "The Dragon".

Dear Sir,

I was very pleased to notice the attendance of the following ex-Members of the Sergeants' Mess of the 1st Battalion at the Annual Service at Canterbury on August 7th.

We always had an idea that we had a very good Sergeants' Mess in our Gibraltar, India and Burma Days, and it is most gratifying to see that they still support the Regiment and hope this spirit will continue in the future.

H. J. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Evans, E. Chambers, F. R. Parks, Mr. and Mrs. G. Mould, A. Meakin, Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. S. Selway, Mrs. Willing, Mr. and Mrs. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, W. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. C. Perry, J. Annan, G. Clayton, J. Blake, Mr. and Mrs. P. Ransley, J. Cook, Mrs. P. Lane.

With reference to my previous letter concerning Pensions. It is now announced that the 1922 Committee is to investigate the position of all Pensions and report to the Chancellor and other Members. My local M.P., Vice-Admiral J. H. Hallett, is on the Committee and it is hoped that the results will be satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,
A. T. FARROW.

* * *

1st Battalion,
The Buffs,
B.A.O.R. 9.
9th September, 1955.

To the Editor, "The Dragon".

Dear Sir,

The writer of "A" Company's notes in the August issue drew attention to certain illustrations which appear month by month in the Journal and suggested certain alterations and a somewhat more modern appearance in some of them. There will be many of your readers—and this correspondent is amongst their number—who would agree with the views expressed and who would welcome a change or two. In addition there will surely be a large number of readers who will agree with me that it is high time that the Belle Isle Battle Honour, awarded to the Regiment four years ago, took its rightful and honourable place on the front cover.

No doubt there will be murmurings of disapproval at these suggestions; "what was good enough twenty years ago is all right with me" will be mingled with "new blocks cost money and the funds just won't stand it, old boy". Nevertheless there can be few readers who are not sufficiently proud of our Regimental Journal not to wish to see it as an up-to-date, attractive publication, worthy of having a little money spent on it.

Could not "The Tramp" be persuaded to produce a few drawings to take the place of those now out of date? and could not a competition be organised for the re-design of the front cover? If I could find the time I'd have a stab at that myself!

Yours faithfully,
H. R. GRACE,
Lieut.-Colonel.

Round and About

by The Tramp



I HAVE been to Mecca, not to the Mohammedan place of pilgrimage although I did see a "Holy Carpet". It was made of beautiful English turf and it covered a piece of ground on which the mystic rites of the English religion of cricket were first practised. You can have your Stonehenges or Aveburys with their Druidical stones. They are well enough in their way but give me Broadhalfpenny Down near the Hampshire village of Hambledon. I was taken there on an August evening of exceptional beauty in a rare Summer and, had I been a poet, I would have celebrated my pilgrimage in verse. As it is I can only pass on in halting prose what I felt about this hallowed place. It is a solemn thought that before the Oval, Lord's, the St. Lawrence Ground, those youthful arenas of Melbourne, Sydney or Newlands in Africa, were planted, Hambledon saw England defeated handsomely by the doughty men of Hambledon. In the Bar parlour of the "Bat and Ball" beside the ground is framed a reconstruction of the score-card of the famous match.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

In those distant days, way back in the XVIIIth century, the batting order was determined not by prowess but according to social rank. Thus Lord Tankerville was No. 1 and, I regret to say, he collected one of the earliest recorded ducks. No. 10 was Aylward, however, a man presumably of humble origin no doubt, made a century. There are other fascinating relics of these times, including a reproduction of the sort of bat they used and a portrait of the redoubtable John Nyren who once kept the "Bat and Ball". With me on my pilgrimage was an elderly man whose knowledge of and devotion to cricket far exceeds mine. I thought at one moment that he was going down on his knees to kiss the turf. He resisted that resonable temptation and over a glass of beer regaled me with stories of more recent heroes of the Game.

KENTISH WORTHIES

He had known intimately some of the giants of the early ninteen hundreds and had seen the great W.G. in action. People of my age who knew Kent Cricket when it was of greater quality than it is to-day will remember, among others, the brothers Day, Sammy and A.P. They were in the team that won the Championship twice before the first German War. I can vividly recall their robust and happy batting and fielding as well as that of E. W. Dillon, C. J. Burnup, J. R. Mason and of course young Frank Woolley, as he then was.

GREAT BOWLERS

The Kent attack was led by Colin Blythe and Arthur Fielder; the one a gentle, delicate man whose slow bowling looked so easy and yet baffled and defeated the best batsmen of England and Australia, the other an unassuming fast bowler who once took all ten wickets for the players against the Gentlemen. Colin Blythe was a violinist of no mean order and when cricket ceased for four years, in August, 1914 he joined the Sappers and fell in action outside Ypres early in the war. I remember coming across his grave near St. Julian when wandering about the old battlefields in 1923. Arthur Fielder died a few years ago after having been on the ground staff at Lords when he retired from cricket.

My companion at Hambledon told me a story about Blythe which I had not heard before. Playing against Surrey for Kent under the captiancy of Sammy Day, Blythe was bowling to "Razor" smith, the Surrey bowler, No 11 on the Surrey side. The situation was somewhat tense. Surrey needed two to tie and three to win. Smith was not a batsman of much skill and he managed to snick the first ball he received from Blythe for a chancey two runs. That was "all square". Blythe bowled again, an innocuous-looking ball at which Smith swung a desperate but determined bat. The ball soared straight up into the air. It could have been caught by any one of four of five Kentish fieldsmen. Sammy Day shouted "Yours Arthur"! and Fielder looked upwards, spat on his capacious hands and prepared to receive it. Blythe turned his back on it and walked slowly back past the bowling crease, remarking calmly to the Captain: "You know, Sir, that's the first time I've ever played in a tied game". Fielder held the catch all right but it was a glimpse into the mind of one of the greatest slow left hand bowlers of all time.

All the foregoing is the result of a visit to Hambledon and I pray the forgiveness of those who live in outer darkness and care not for cricket. They lead a dull life for all their devotion to golf-clubs, footballs, hockey sticks, and saddles. "It takes all sorts to make a world", if a grossly overworked saying may be permitted.

GOLFERS ARE HUMAN

For the benefit, however, of those who practise a game once described as consisting "of getting an absurdly small ball into an inadequate hole with intruments ill-adapted to the purpose", let me pass on a golf story which was new to me and may perhaps come fresh to some readers.

A player was about to drive from a tee adjoining the main road. As he was addressing his ball a funeral hearse passed by and he paused to uncover his head. His opponent remarked, "I say, I call that a decent thing to do". "Well," replied the chivalrous gentleman, "I had to, you see I've lived with her for 25 years".

From the same source I heard another golf story which I may pass personally to some members of the Golfing Society. It is of the kind which demands private circulation.

POSTSCRIPT

If this descent into anecdotage may be overlooked by the Editor I would also like to share a stage yarn I was told the other day. A provincial touring company was doing *Richard III*. The actor playing the part of Gloucester had been imbibing somewhat freely and, as he spoke the opening lines: "Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious Summer by this sun of York", his words were slurred and freely punctuated by hiccups. He was immediately interrupted by a member of the audience who shouted "You're drunk"! Gloucester advanced towards the footlights and repeated the lines, still slurring and hiccupping. "You're drunk", repeated the voice from the audience. Gloucester paused, fixed the interrupter with a glassy eye and said: "Drunk I may be (hiccup) but wait till you see Buckingham".

JOIN THE
PAST AND PRESENT
ASSOCIATION

Watch for these Films

THE Deep Blue Sea. One of the British films shown at the Venice Festival. The play was written by Terence Rattigan and he has also written the dialogue for the film. It is a clever study of a woman of intelligence, with a luxurious home and safe background as the wife of a judge, who falls in love with a charming unreliable ex-R.A.F. pilot. They are living together when the story begins. He is quite incapable of anything but a casual affair and is obviously overwhelmed by the intensity of her feelings and tired of it all. Vivien Leigh plays the part of the woman and Kenneth More as the ex-pilot repeats the perfect performance he gave on the stage. He was given an award in the Venice Festival for the best male performance. Others in the cast are Emlyn Williams and Eric Portman.

The Man from Laramie. The theme is not a new one for a Western but is well handled. One man playing a lone hand in tracking down his brother's murderer. James Stewart gives his usual well sustained performance. The clever use of cinamascope and lovely colour for the fine scenery are most striking.

Geordie. A really delightful British film, full of good things, not least among them being the glorious Scottish scenery. It is the story of an undersized Scottish boy who, through taking a correspondence course in physical culture, becomes a young giant. He finds an outlet for his strength in throwing the hammer and is chosen for the Olympic Games in Melbourne, but his heart is always in the Highlands, with his girl Jean. Alistair Sim contributes a subtle study of a Scottish Laird. Brian Reece and Raymond Huntley are very amusing as the harassed sponsors of the unpredictable, stubborn and innocent Geordie, delightfully played by Bill Travers.

Two good thrillers—

1. *Footsteps in the Fog.* With Stewart Grainger and Jean Simmons, as a wife poisoner and the housemaid who first blackmails, then loves and marries him.

2. *A Dark Shadow.* Also about a poisoner, with Margaret Lockwood giving a sparkling performance as an ex-barmaid. A most amusing study, the best of her career.

The Village. A beautiful film. The story is set in the Swiss village of Pestolozzi, the village of houses for homeless children of all nationalities. The problems of two of these children are shown through the eyes of their teachers, an English master (John Justin) and a Polish mistress. The tale is told with the same beauty, simplicity and controlled feeling as *The Divided Heart.* "One of the great films of the year" (Miss C. A. Lejeune).

Martin Luther. A well constructed story for those who are interested in the subject of the monk whose doubts started Protestantism.

Man of the Moment. Norman Wisdom's new picture, which uses his comic gifts to the full, as a delegate to a Geneva Conference.

* * *

Those who have the opportunity of seeing foreign films should note that the awards at the Venice Festival went to:

1. *The Word*, a Danish film.
2. *La Cicada*, a Soviet film.

An award for directors making a first picture went to William Fairchild, an English director, for *John and Julie*, a story of two children at the Queen's Coronation.

M.A.A.

* * *

Buffs' Golfing Society

MATCH *v* HOUSEHOLD BRIGADE G.S.



THIS match was played on the links of the New Zealand G.C., who very kindly placed their charming course at the disposal of the Society, which privilege we greatly appreciated.

The results were as follows:—

MORNING

The Buffs		*Household Brigade*	
Major D. Montgomery & Capt M. C. Bollon	1	Major G. H. Dixon and Major A. R. Taylor	0
Lt.-Col. J. Crookenden & Lt.-Col. J. F. May	0	Lieut. C. Clive & Major K. Bibby	1
Major W. R. H. Browne & Capt. H. E. Colton	0	Capt. M. Mitchell & Capt. L. Fletcher ...	1
Capt. M. Bacon & Major I. A. Pearson ...	0	Capt. T. D. Spencer & Major J. J. Buchanan	1

AFTERNOON

Major D. Montgomery & Capt. C. Lamarque	1	Major G. H. Dixon & Capt. M. Mitchell...	0
Capt. M. C. Bollon & Lt.-Col. J. F. May...	0	Capt. T. D. Spencer & Lieut. C. Clive ...	1
Major W. R. H. Browne & Capt. M. Bacon...	0	Major J. J. Buchanan & Major A. R. Taylor	1
Capt. H. E. Colton & Major I. A. Pearson	0	Major K. Bibby & Capt. L. Fletcher ...	1
	2		6

Regimental Gazette

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 29TH JULY, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. J. M. Lunn (430370) to be Lt., 31st July, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 5TH AUGUST, 1955

INFANTRY

TERRITORIAL ARMY

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. G. P. Turner (433403) from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List to be 2nd Lt., 2nd August, 1955, with seniority 6th February, 1954.

2nd Lt. R. A. Saward (436760) from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List, R.W.K., to be 2nd Lt., 2nd August, 1955, with seniority 14th August, 1954.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 12TH AUGUST, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

CLASS III

THE BUFFS.—Lt. N. M. Howland (413592) from T.A. Nat. Serv. List, to be Lt., 16th August, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 16TH AUGUST, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

THE BUFFS.—Lt.-Col. S. F. Harvey Williams (402547) (ret. late Ind. Army) having attained the age limit of liability to recall, relinquishes his commn., 20th August, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 19TH AUGUST, 1955

INFANTRY

TERRITORIAL ARMY

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. C. J. Klyberg (432489) to be Lt., 21st August, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 26TH AUGUST, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—23072351 Cadet Anthony John Redfern (442596) to be 2nd Lt., 18th June, 1955.

23028898 Cadet David William Griffiths (442569) to be 2nd Lt., 18th June, 1955.

Beneath Bell Harry



ON Friday, 2nd September, Chitral Platoon passed out and the parade was taken by the Deputy District Commander, Brigadier J. J. McCully, D.S.O. Congratulations to Pte. Norris on being the best all-round recruit and best at P.T., and to Pte. Casey on being the best Rifle and L.M.G. shot.

A very enjoyable party was held in the Officers' Mess recently, when the following five members of the South African Test Team were entertained, together with their Manager:—J. K. Cheetham, A. R. A. Murray, H. T. Tayfield, H. J. Keith, N. Adcock and K. G. Viljoen.

Major Richard Ravenhill stayed for a few days on returning from East Africa before continuing his journey to the Channel Islands. Other visitors have been Brigadier Spear, Lieut.-Col. Connolly, Major Edlmann and Lieut. John Davison.

Major Richard Dendy is away at present, learning the intricacies of armoured warfare.

At cricket the Sergeants scored a narrow victory over the Corporals of No. 2 Company.

On recent afternoons the grey, worn faces of the Permanent Staff indicated that the annual P.E. Tests have been in full swing.

* * *

No. 1 COMPANY

August seems to have been a month devoid of any outstanding events. One could, of course, write for considerable length, in praise of a noteworthy English summer, but readers, I am sure, do not wish to read a weather bulletin.

Chitral Platoon, drawing to the conclusion of it training, can claim to be one of the few platoons to have gone through ten weeks without the discomfort of a soaking. No mean boast, whichever way you look at it.

Probably the only event to draw a splash of limelight, was the commencement of the annual range classification, at Hythe. Immediately following the startling forecast of range-dates, Permanent Staff began the tedious task of searching for the necessary equipment. This search was only equalled in intensity, by the search for reasons solid enough to allow the searcher a means of escape from the finger of nemesis. Little or nothing escaped the C.S.M.'s



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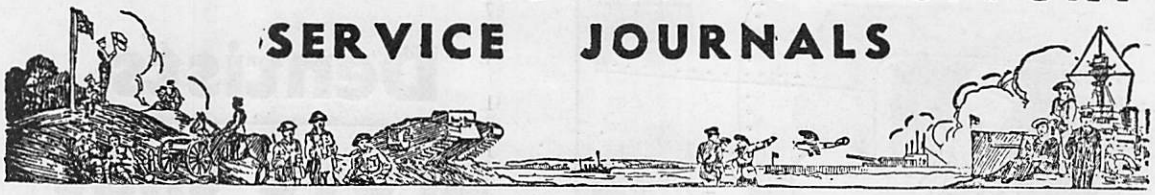


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eye, and ere long two forlorn details of Permanent Staff began the task of the year. Of the results nothing shall be written, it is common knowledge, however, that many a man has since considered the possibility of not smoking.

This month, Sgt. Yuill and Cpl. Barrell have left us for a Platoon Weapons Course at Hythe. We wish them every success and feel confident that they will both obtain first class results.

* * *

CRICKET

The Depot Cricket side improved as the season progressed. From the list of results given below it will be seen that of the last ten fixtures, six were won and one drawn. As was forecast in the July *Dragon*, L/Cpl. Harris did well with the bat; his 96 runs in the match against H.Q., Home Counties District, was the season's highest individual score for the Depot.

Up to a point we played well to reach the Semi-final round of the District Inter-Unit Competition but, just when we appeared to be in a winning position, our bowling cracked up and the fielding and play generally got out of control, with the result that our opponents won with four balls to spare.

Another close and enjoyable game was that against Depot, Royal West Kent Regiment. Our early batsmen scored freely and put us in a sound position, or so we thought, but our last nine batsmen could collect only 12 runs between them and we suffered another narrow defeat. It was in this match that Pte. Bellingham did so well with the ball, taking 6 wickets for 46 runs against some good batsmen.

The majority of Depot games were played on the new Infantry Barracks ground. It has stood up to the hard wear very well. The pitches were true and the regular cutting and rolling of the outfield has improved it so much that fielding in any position is now a pleasure. With care and attention the ground should be even better next year and, when the trees planted around the ground grow and expand, it will perhaps gain some of the pleasant atmosphere which made the old Depot ground such an attractive one. Mention of attractive grounds brings to mind our last game of the Season, that against Broadstairs St. Peter's. Their ground is surely one of the prettiest club grounds in the County. This match was very much an end of the season affair which we won with five minutes to spare. Lieut. Prentice and L/Cpl. Harris indulged in some hard hitting in a century stand.

E.H.F.W.

* * *

CRICKET RESULTS

Date	*Opponents*
June 1.	Birkenhead Grasshoppers. Lost by 5 wickets.
8.	Royal Marines, Deal. Lost by 92 runs.
9.	Borough Polytechnic, London. Lost by 6 wkts.
15.	H.Q., R.A.S.C., Shorncliffe. Lost by 2 wickets.
20.	Littlebourne. Lost by 6 wickets.
22.	R.A.P.C., Canterbury. Won by 90 runs.
24.	Clayhall C.C. Lost by 65 runs.
30.	King's School (Haymakers). Won by 10 runs.
July 6.	R.A.F., Manston. Lost by 64 runs.
11.	R.A.P.C., Canterbury. Won by 60 runs.
13.	H.Q., Home Counties District. Won by 118 runs.
21.	Depot, R.W.K. Lost by 10 runs.
20.	Hythe C.C. Match drawn.
27.	192 Provost Company, Chatham. Won by 13 runs.
Aug. 17.	R.A.F., Sandwich. Won by 4 wickets.
22.	H.Q., Home Counties District. Lost by 1 run.
24.	14 Command Workshops, Ashford. Won by 5 runs.
31.	75 H.A.A. Regiment, Gravesend. Lost by 18 runs.
Sept. 1.	Broadstairs St. Peter's. Won by 6 wickets.

* * *

W.O.'S AND SERGEANTS' MESS

In preparation for our Annual Cricket Match, against the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, for the renowned "Ashes", the Mess held a match against the Corporals of the Depot. Our team sadly depleted, due to leave and other commitments was well below strength, but thanks to a typically Tyson effort from Sgt. Low with the ball and from C/Sgt. Stremes in a restrained mood and again from Sgt. Low with a Compton effort with the bat, the Mess came out top by 11 runs . . . so to the conflict: 1300 hours on a dismal Thursday afternoon, 8th September, 1955.

The coach arrived at the Mess, and after a welcome droppy we started off to the fray. The team, R.Q.M.S. Howe (Captain), R.S.M. White, C/Sgts. Belcher and Stremes, Sgts. Dean, Parker, Phillips, Bryant and Rae, and our two body builders, Sgts. Patterson and Perry. Our ensemble of supporters consisted of Sgts. Spiers, Haylett, Coughlin, Jackson and C/Sgt. Webb i/c the Scores, ably assisted by Bill Skirrow, our Orderly Room representatives. We were grateful for the services of Sgt. Hastings as official umpire. We also received great vocal support from the wives of the team and members of the Mess, who supported us.

After introductions and renewals of acquaintances the game started with our team fielding. Sgts. Dean and Parker opened the bowling, but the score steadily mounted until with the score at 12, Sgt. Dean claimed his first victim; wickets came at intervals, but the score arrived at 48 for the fall of only 4 wickets, then came a spell of inspired bowling, aided by some most unusually spectacular fielding from our close fielders. The expression on the R.S.M.'s face when he held a one-handed catch to his left on the slips was a revelation. Our opponents' last wicket fell at 55 with a hat trick from Sgt. Dean. The bowling of both Sgt. Parker and Sgt. Dean had been very accurate, and they both finished up with the nice averages of 5 wickets each for under 30 runs.

Sgts. Dean and Bryant opened our innings, and both were in an aggressive mood, and the score went rapidly to 14 before Sgt. Dean was caught by a fine catch in the slips for 7. C/Sgt. Belcher followed, but after a nice stroke for 4 he was also out. C/Sgt. Stremes next in saw little of the ball, but Sgt. Bryant resumed his aggressive innings and the score reached 53 for 2; 3 runs required to win seemed easy, but what a shock. R.Q.M.S. hit on the shoulder and given out—55 for 7. To every ball the spectators were shouting "Run", but at last a glide to leg by Stremes and the suspense was over. . . The "Ashes" were still ours.

The Commanding Officer of the Q.O.R.W.K. presented us with the "Ashes" (to the dismay, no doubt, of Boxall), and after congratulations from some very sporting opponents. We played a beer match afterwards and our opponents batting first scored 41 runs. Sgt. Phillips and Sgt. Perry opened our innings, but Phillips was soon out, and the R.S.M. went in, with the score still at blank. There is nothing in the Drill Manual or the Cookery book to describe the next ten overs . . . Chataway and Pirie would have been the first to admit their failings watching this stirring exhibition. Last over starting . . . R.S.M.

Continued on page 225

4/5th Battalion



AFTER the rush and bustle of Camp, August seems to come by way of an anticlimax; a sort of vacuum in which enthusiasm evaporates, Company activity is reduced to a minimum and the Permanent Staff take some well-earned leave. Company notes will be resumed next month when things will have started happening again.

This is the season for studying for the Staff College, for catching up with arrears of business or even camping! And remarkable as it may seem that is exactly what Major John Dent has been doing; the Dent menage established itself under canvas in sylvan surroundings in Kent and embarked on some very serious user trials of various equipments, including, it is alleged, the No. 2 cooker. Mrs. Dent's remarks on this are fortunately not recorded, but it is no secret that Major Dent intends to produce a short brochure on the delights of this particular variety of Soldier's friend. The whole operation was apparently very successful for the Training Officer has returned intact and is now busily arranging the September Camp.

It is appropriate here to record that Major Dent will be leaving us in November for the 4th (Uganda) Battalion, K.A.R., and our best wishes go with him in his new appointment. His successor will be Major R. A. C. Ravenhill, lately D.A.A.G. at G.H.Q., East Africa, who was a Company Commander in the 1st Battalion on its arrival in Kenya in April, 1953, and who, despite his Staff appointment, was seemingly more at home at the sharp end in the Aberdares or Nyeri. Major Ravenhill is celebrating his joining this Battalion by getting married some few days before taking up his duties in the Directing Staff bungalow and is thus to be doubly welcomed and congratulated.

We must also congratulate the Commanding Officer on being appointed a Justice of the Peace, a very onerous addition to the many jobs he undertakes.

A representative party under the command of Major John Tilleard, T.D., marched to the Cathedral to take part in one of the most inspiring Remembrance Day services. It is difficult to say what contributed the most, the Royal Marines Orchestra in the Cathedral, Canon A. O. Standen's down-to-earth address or the final fanfare; whatever it was it made for a good and worthwhile day.

Preparations are now in hand for the District Rifle Meeting, which is now to take place in September. The team has fired at Lydden Spout and should put up a good show, particularly with the aid of Cpl. King's magnificent selection of foresights which he so painstakingly sorted out on successive evenings at Ramsgate—only to upset the lot in the truck!

P.S.I.s are now back from leave and Drill Halls are beginning to function once more and as a sign that training must surely be under way again, the Quartermaster has had one of his stores checks.

Major John Tilleard has recently been in Hospital after having slipped a disc and we wish him a very speedy recovery. It remains something of a mystery as to how it happened; it could not have been caused by too vigorous a pumping on the primus, surely?

News has just been received that the 1956 Camp will be very early in the year, the end of April and early in May and we shall be going to Tregantle for Battalion training. The weather forecasters had better be sympathetic.

* * *

HOME COUNTIES DISTRICT MOTOR-CYCLE TRIALS

The annual trials took place on Sunday, 14th August, in filthy weather.

In spite of the apparent enthusiasm shewn for this event by 16 members of the Battalion at Camp this year, when the Battalion practice was held on the previous week-end to the trial only one T.A. member turned up.

This unfortunately reduced our entry to one team, composed of Sgt. Stockdale (Deal) and L/Cpl. Longman and Pte. Bolton of the Permanent Staff.

Although our team did not win any of the team prizes, both L/Cpl. Longman and Pte. Bolton received individual commendations for which we offer our congratulations.

It is hoped that next year the entry will be larger, and that other companies will follow the example now set by "B" Company, and will start training a Company Team this winter.

* * *

CORPS OF DRUMS

Efforts to build up the Battalion Corps of Drums are at last achieving results.

From the start the Drums have centred round the hard core of ten enthusiasts at Margate, now ably led and instructed by Cpl. Baker, who makes a weekly journey over from Canterbury. These volunteers have now reached a high standard on the Drums.

Six learners have started evening lessons at Canterbury, all learning to play the fife, and although progress is necessarily slow, they are rapidly becoming proficient.

During camp this year, the Corps was not taken on the exercises and this policy paid dividends.

The numbers were made up with National Servicemen from other Drill Halls who had had experience of Drumming during their full-time service, and for most of the camp period no less than 25 different noises could be heard coming from the clump of pines in the centre of Tilshead Lodge Camp.

On the morning of the last Friday at camp the Corps of Drums beat "Reveille", considerable enthusiasm on all instruments being shewn when in the neighbourhood of the Brigade Commander's tent. In the afternoon they played before the whole Battalion, giving a very fine performance of both marching and music.

We were extremely lucky in having with the Drums at Camp, Drum-Major Gardner, late of the 1st Battalion, who gave up a fortnight of his release leave to help with the instruction of our Drummers. He achieved magnificent results and we hope that he will be able to visit us again.

And now a word for the future. In view of the difficulty in bringing together all drummers to one Drill Hall in the evenings, three week-ends next year will be allotted for all drummers. This will, it is hoped, keep the team together before next camp.

There are still vacancies available in the Corps and volunteers are required. In particular, we still have nine vacancies in the establishment for boys. For training reasons these must be restricted to those able to attend either at Margate or Canterbury Drill Halls. Any boy between the ages of 15 and 17 in those districts will be welcome.

Beneath Bell Harry—*Continued from page 223*

and Charlie Perry still there . . . 5 runs to win, and the R.W.K.'s best bowler bowling. There was a six inch groove, as with two balls to go, the R.S.M. hit the winning run . . . was ever a drink so well earned.

After the match, we were entertained by our hosts, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking R.S.M. Hills, his committee and members of his Mess for looking after us so well, and making us so welcome, even if we do seem to win all their trophies; the next event will be the Annual Hockey match played this time at Canterbury, when we hope to repay some of the kindnesses bestowed on us.

Comings and goings in Mess members seem to be on the upgrade; C.S.M. Diamond is leaving the fold in December and leaving for Malaya. Sgt. Perry, A.C.C., is leaving us for civvy street; we shall miss our Charlie, his help in many ways, and his company in the Mess. C/Sgt. Webb is off on a course soon, prior to proceeding to the Battalion at the end of the year. C/Sgt. Stremes is sweating on taking up Flying duties again, by his constant study of *Flying and all that.* Rock Hudson Spiers is studying the local papers for employment, as he has decided that the Army and Ulcers don't mix. So what with Buffy saying, "Won't be here next year", it looks as though there will be very few of us left, except for the Regimental Mascots, who keep the wheels turning.

Regards to all Buffs, and the beer is still good and cheap in the Mess, so look us up some time, you ex-members.

GEORGE.

P.S.—Sorry we sold out of beer on 7th August, but we thought 155 gallons was sufficient!???

Buffs in the West Country

ON the 26th August there was a happy re-union of a few contemporary Buffs at a sherry party kindly given by Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. A. F. St. A. (Gracie) Turner at their beautiful residence, Moor House, Manaton, high up on the fringe of Dartmoor. Those present were Major and Mrs. Roy Webster, who had come down from Fleet for a few days to stay with the Turners, Lieut.-Col. E. B. and Mrs. Backhouse, who drove down from Bridport, and Major R. J. Tuke. Other guests, whom our host kept as a surprise, were Col. and Mrs. G. N. Wilkinson, late Indian Army. Those who served with the 1st Battalion in Bareilly in 1927 may recall that he was Staff Captain then to Brigadier Williams, who, early in the last war, was G.O.G.-in-C. Eastern Command, England. Major Webster said he sees him occasionally at the Senior. Another member of the household we must not omit to mention was Michael Turner, who did his National Service with The Buffs in Kenya. He is shortly starting his studies for the Ministry in the Church of England.

In the course of the evening a happy idea was broached which, I understand, emanated from Lieut.-Col. E. H. Allen, who, according to The Buffs Golfing Society handbook, lives at Bridge Cottage, Charminster, Dorset. The idea is that West Country Buffs, who unfortunately are rather thin on the ground, should assemble once a year for a re-union dinner. If all would attend, quite a good party should result, spanning well over half a century in time. Names suggested were:—Lieut.-Col. R. E. Power, Capt. Henry Morley, Major C. S. Field, all from Dorchester district; Lieut.-Cols. E. H. Allen and E. B. Backhouse, both near Bridport; Colonel D. A. Wilkins and Brigadier R. W. Craddock (to bring in some young blood) from Salisbury; Lieut.-Col. "Gracie" Turner with his son, Michael; Major R. J. Tuke, Major Martin O'Geary and Major Geoffrey Cox (more young blood) from Devon. Yet another possible is Major Warren, late C.S.M. with the 2nd Battalion at Portland and in Palestine before the war. It is a cross-country trip from Gloucestershire, but possibly Lieut.-Col. E. A. Airy, near Stroud, might like to join his old comrades on this occasion. That makes a total of 14, enough to fill a festive board and ensure a jolly evening.

Possibly, too, if the time of the dinner could be arranged for the spring or early autumn, we might prevail on the Colonel of the Regiment to take a day or two off from his duties in London to take the Chair at this evening session, and cast

a fly on one of our many West Country rivers the following day.

Readers will realise that this suggestion is at present very much in the air, and is merely flown as a kite to see what response it will receive. Before it can take concrete form, support must be guaranteed, and a suitable hostelry booked. It was suggested that Dorchester or Bridport would be a good place, but perhaps Exeter may also stake a claim for consideration in that an excellent railway service runs to the City from "up country" and it has many first-class hotels.

To make any progress, someone has to assume the duties of Secretary. As we are too scattered to meet to decide who shall take this on, may I invite anyone who is interested to write to me on this subject and possibly send in names of any other Buffs who may live in the West Country. Please address letters to Major R. J. Tuke, Little Beredens, Kenton, Nr. Exeter. Is it too much to hope that soon after this article appears in *The Dragon* a bumper post will drop through my letter-box? It would help if those who require an answer would enclose a 2½d. stamp.

R.T.

* * *

Old Brigade News

THE Old Brigade congratulate Mr. Scott for the way he has pulled together the London Branch. His task was no light one, but thanks to Capts. Emery and Woodhouse and a splendid Committee to back him up, he has done wonders. Well done, Scotty!

* * *

Snowball Manning is no better or worse, but hopes to be on parade on Remembrance Sunday. His family will arrange to take him by car. His best to old pals.

* * *

In-Pensioner (Navvy) Norman, whom old 1st Battalion Wallahs of the days of long ago will remember, keep bright and cheerful despite the loss of both his legs. What a grand old Buff!

* * *

We were pleased to hear from Paul Ferman after so many years and to know he is keeping fit. As a professional Osteopath he has, in the past, assisted several old Buffs.

* * *

Not having heard recently from the following invalids, we trust that they are making satisfactory progress towards recovery: Jimmy Dray, Chocolate Taylor, Benny Field, Dusty Ruler, Donkey Warren, Harry Smith and Molly Marshall.

We recently had news of Harry Copeland whom old Buffs of Athlone days will remember in the Sergeants' Mess. After the Boer War he remained in South Africa where he still is.

* * *

We have had more than one enquiry about Sgt. Smith, v.c. The last time we met him was when two hundred members of the London Branch formed a Guard of Honour to the 2nd Battalion on the occasion of the Presentation of Colours in 1928, on the Hon. Artillery's Parade Ground at Finsbury Barracks.

J.E.E.

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1ST TO 31ST AUGUST

London Branch.—Chapman, S. G.
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* * *

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1ST TO 31ST AUGUST

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Canterbury Branch.—Truscott, D., Marshall, W. H. G., Piddock, W. G.

* * *

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* * *

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* * *

Ashford Branch

Our August meeting took place at the "Invicta", Godington Road, Ashford. Our President, Major Bompas, being present, and Mr. A. J. Mills took over his usual role as Chairman. Twenty-five members were also present.



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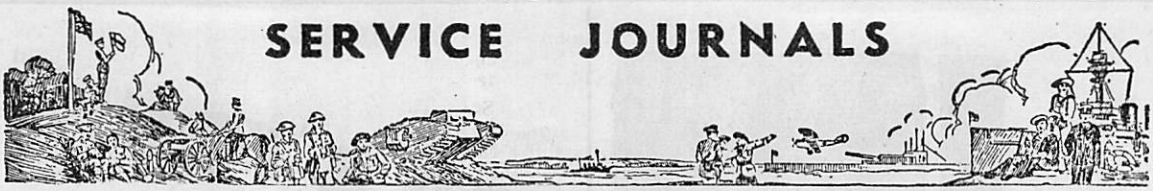
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At the commencement of the meeting the Chairman gave a very hearty welcome to Mr. F. Randall (Ex-Sergeant), 1/5th Buffs, who is over here in England for a three months' holiday, from Australia, and has become a Life Member of our Branch. Our President then presented Mr. Randall with his life membership badge. All members then wished Mr. Randall a happy holiday and a safe journey back home next month.

The Chairman then gave a welcome to Mr. F. C. Green, who has travelled up from Eastleigh, Hants., to attend the service at Canterbury. We were all glad to see him once again.

The meeting then started by the Secretary reading the minutes for the previous meeting, which were then signed. Correspondence then followed and discussed. The two members for Standard Escort were given as Mr. W. Beeching and Mr. E. Chapman, who are two of our youngest members. Mr. A. Janes was selected to be the collector at the Cathedral, who, by the way, is our Treasurer, and the Secretary volunteered as Wreath Bearer.

The draw for the second round of our Darts and Crib Contest was then made known, and as usual the different remarks were heard.

Mr. T. Stace and Mr. G. Skinner offered to arrange the entertainment for when the London Branch visits us next month, so we are all looking forward to a happy evening.

As the meeting drew to a close, Mr. Janes attended to the raffle tickets and Mr. G. Skinner then auctioned off a grand bunch of carnations, which were given by Mr. C. Barham.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. and several members then got on with their darts and crib games.

For the Service of Remembrance at Canterbury tomorrow, a 56 seater coach is taking our party, which, by the way, is filled up.

A.C.M.

* * *

London Branch

All members of the London Branch extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of the late Major Drummy Andrews, a great soldier who will be missed by the Regiment.

The attendance at Tufton Street on Saturday, August 20th, numbered around the 50 mark. With so many on holiday, this was really something. There were such stalwarts as Messrs. Burville, Ravenscroft, Cobb, Jock Clayton, Grant, Captain Emery, Billy Everett, Billy Hudd, Bert Perry, Les King, Eric Coveney, Gus Hodges, Chick Hopkins, Crooknorth, Taffy Williams, and many more. Also we were very pleased to welcome for the first time Ex-Drum-Major Gardner of the 1st Battalion. Very nice to meet you, Sir. We all hope to meet you many more times.

The meeting started with members in their stride reflecting on the Canterbury Sunday parade. The older members seemed to be at a loss over our marching off from the New Barracks. It did not seem the same, somehow. The old Military Road scenes were missing. Of course, that is quite understandable, but it will all settle down in the years to come. The Marines Band and Drums certainly put on a grand show. Members wish to thank all concerned for the way everything was laid on for their comfort and entertainment.

We are now looking forward to our visit to Ashford Branch on Saturday, September 10th, where we hope to spend a very nice sociable evening. Also, our own Annual Dinner and Dance on September 24th, when we hope to break all records for attendance and a great show. I will be writing about these two functions in the next issue of *The Dragon*.

Our Social Committee are really getting down to a programme for the winter months. We hope to start off with a dance in October, and probably a social in November. In this way, we hope to attract the younger folk to our midst.

We thank Mrs. Wickells, who presented an enlarged picture of the King of Denmark inspecting the 1st Battalion on the Presentation of Colours Parade, and Mr. Coveney, who framed it. It is a first-class job, and will now hang in the Branch Room on meeting nights.

Our President, Major Enright, is, we are pleased to say, feeling much better lately. In fact, we may be seeing him walk into the Branch room in the very near future. He sends his very best wishes to all members.

Just a little invitation to any Branch who think of spending a third Saturday in any month in London, watching a football match. If they would come along afterwards to Tufton Street, the home of the London Branch, a grand welcome would await them. Just let the Secretary know, Scott is the name, and the address is in *The Dragon*. (The team to watch—Chelsea. Perry said that!) Anyway, I leave it to you.

With good wishes to all Branches from the London Branch.

H.J.S.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary and signed by Mrs. Coley, who was in the Chair.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mrs. Dalgleish (who hoped to be able to get along to a meeting soon), Mrs. Ricketts, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Watts.

Mrs. Coley said she was hoping to have seen Mrs. Blackburn at the meeting, because they had met recently at the Remembrance Service at the Tower of London and Mrs. Blackburn had promised to attend. For this reason, the start of the meeting had been delayed somewhat, but it was assumed that something had unexpectedly prevented Mrs. Blackburn from getting along.

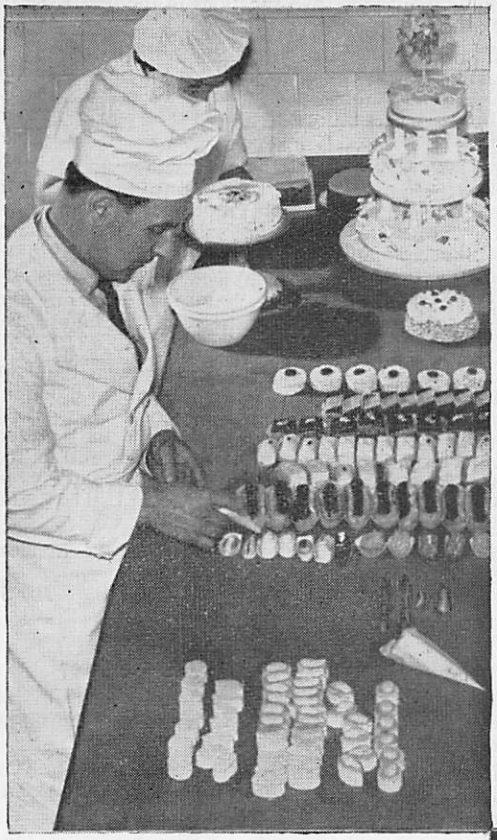
Letters were read from Mrs. Dalgleish and Mrs. Timms acknowledging receipt of the christening gifts and sending messages of goodwill to Guild members. Mrs. Timms had hoped to have baby Vivien christened on the 14th August, but this had been cancelled because of an outbreak of polio on the housing estate where they lived.

Mrs. Coley said she was particularly pleased to see Mrs. Streeten again.

Mrs. Coley reported that she had met Mrs. Crookenden recently at Canterbury, and that she had indicated that she would be very happy to attend another of our meetings if she were invited to do so. It was unanimously agreed that a formal invitation should be sent to Mrs. Crookenden, the actual date of the visit to be left to Mrs. Crookenden to decide, because it was understood that she did not often visit London on a Saturday and would like to fit in a visit to one of our Guild meetings on some occasion when she would be in London for a week-end.

Mrs. Coley said she hoped all members who had been on holiday had enjoyed themselves; there could obviously have been no complaint as to the weather.

One member suggested that a letter should be sent to the owners of the coach company, asking that they would convey to the driver in charge of the Canterbury coach



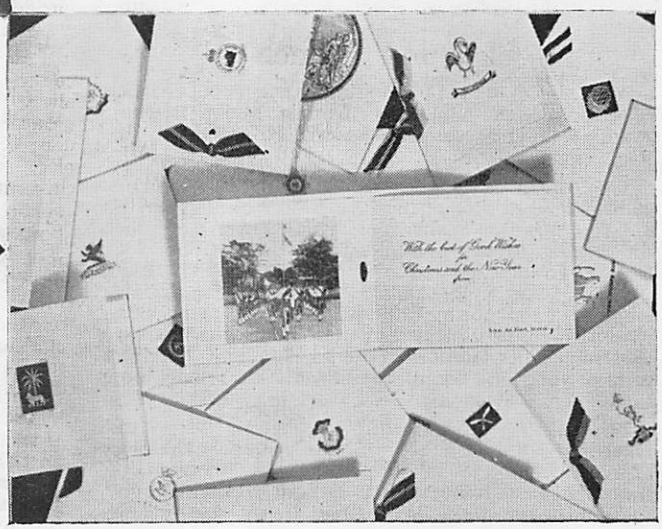
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the very grateful thanks and appreciation of all Guild members for the extremely careful way in which the vehicle had been driven throughout the day, and for the personal attention and courtesy shown by the driver to all members of the party. This was agreed unanimously, as also was a further suggestion that a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr. Ricketts for his kindness in organising the coach party and supervising the luncheon arrangements.

A reminder was given of the London Branch's Annual Dinner and Dance to be held on 24th September and mention was made of a 2/- dance which is being organised by the London Branch for a date in October, further details of which will be available later.

It was confirmed that arrangements for the Ladies' Guild Dinner in December would be similar to those for last year, and that one shilling towards the cost of each member's dinner would be contributed out of Guild funds.

Raffles were given by Mrs. Annan, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waters, a Member and Mrs. Tucker, and realised a total of £1 14s. 6d.

* * *

Dover Branch

The monthly meeting took place on the 4th at The Eagle, Captain E. Marsh in the Chair. He was supported by Mr. Noakes (Vice-Chairman), Mr. C. Collins (Secretary), Woo Martin, Arthur Banks, Jack Abbott, Tom Holiday (Treasurer), Charlie Hare, Mr. Ellen, Mr. Hooper, Mr. Blundell, Ted Tunbridge, Charley Watts (Sorry to hear about the wife) and Darky Ross.

We were also pleased to welcome a member of the London Branch, namely Mr. Priest down on holiday. Nice of him to remember our meeting night, and thank you, Sir.

Subject for the evening was of course Sunday at Canterbury and altogether 41 names had been submitted.

Sorry to hear about Mr. Wright's trouble at home and hope by now that his wife is better and on the road to recovery. We would like to have him and also Mr. Cardswell at the meeting.

Just a reminder—we have your Badges. Still, we hope to see you at the September Meeting, and don't forget we are due to visit Ashford Branch on the first Saturday in October for that long promised visit to that return of a pleasant evening they spent with us. Thank you all members for the contribution to the Box, 10/-. All a very great help to the Branch funds.

Seeing that these notes are written after the 7th, let me now say what a lovely day we had at Canterbury and may I add my thanks to all the others, to all those whose very hard work made it a success. No trouble to find anyone this year. Just had to look in the large tent and there they were. Sufficient numbers this year for the Secretary to start scratching his head and order a double decker bus.

Lovely day as regards the weather and I for one was very surprised at the number of fresh faces to be seen. Perhaps a sign that there will be even more next year.

We are anxiously waiting now to see the photos that were taken by all those running round with the cameras. Twenty-one of us on parade and quite a few more who made it to the Cathedral on their own.

Age catches up on us and like the march is a long one for the old ones.

On the way home we looked in at Mr. Saunders, Temple Ewell, and found that Harry and his wife had that day gone on holiday. We spent a very pleasant hour before making our way home. Yes, it was a very pleasant day and all the Branch voted as having enjoyed themselves.

Thank you again, Headquarters.

T.T.H.

* * *

Medway Branch

When the First Great War finished I was posted to the 2nd Battalion, then at Dover, and had the privilege of serving with it at home and abroad until April, 1924, when I was seconded to the R.W.A.F.F. On joining the Battalion I realised that I knew little enough of peace-time soldiering, so looked round for an example to follow. Many, there were, who helped both directly and indirectly, but none more so than the late Major A. W. Andrews, M.B.E., D.C.M., who was, at that time, the Regimental Sergeant-Major. I feel content that his many excellent qualities will be mentioned by some other contributor more qualified than myself, but would like to add to such observations that all those who were members of the Sergeants' Mess at that time will agree with me that he was a fine example of what a soldier should be and was respected by all. What better can be said of a man than that he lived respected and died regretted?

This Branch offers sincere condolences to his relatives.

The new arrangement, whereby the parade assembled at the Depot prior for its march to the Cathedral, seemed to meet with general approval—at least, I heard no rumblings during the afternoon natterings. What was very much appreciated was that General Boucher should have given so much of his time to inspect the parade. Indeed, taking all in all, the 7th August was another good day for the Association and all concerned deserve our grateful thanks.

The museum was once again a centre of attraction and it must have been very gratifying to Colonel Howe, its curator, and Captain Blackwell, both of whom were always ready to give answers and explanation, to see the great number of visitors to the building. I felt, and have done so on other occasions, that I should like to visit the place when so many were not there—but time and circumstances do not permit.

What a privilege and pleasure it was to have the band of the Royal Marines with us. The performance the musicians gave in the Cathedral was both thrilling to me and a subject of grateful comment in the afternoon. O.R.s have not much opportunity of expressing publicly their appreciation but should any Royal Marine at Deal get a glimpse of these notes, I hope that he will understand that all who were present, both on the parade and in the Cathedral, were deeply impressed by the Band's performance.

At each year's gathering I, in common with most others, keep my eye open for the faces of old friends. This year I spotted "Knockers" Freeman (late 2nd Battalion)—first time I had seen him for thirty-two years. The fact that I recognised him at once is indicative that he hadn't changed in appearance during that time—a little older, perhaps, but that was all. It was nice seeing you, Knockers, and I hope to contact you again next year.

Only three members of the Committee, the Chairman, the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer, turned up in time to do any business before the Branch meeting on 20th August—and even that business was cut short by the prompt arrival of other members. Just over twenty were there, some half dozen or so being escorted by their wives.

We are always so pleased to see the ladies because it keeps the family spirit going, and what is the Regiment and the Association if it isn't a big family?

We had hoped to have our General Secretary and Mrs. Argles with us but, as the plaque for the runners-up of the Darts Competition was not then available, they had to postpone their visit. A pleasure in store for us and a welcome waiting for you, Colonel and Mrs. Argles.

Mr. W. E. Hutchins, our Vice-Chairman, has made some further enquiries regarding having our Standard blessed and it is now proposed that this should take place at the Evensong Service at St. Paul's Church, New Road, Chatham, on Sunday, 25th September. The Rev. Spears, Vicar of St. Paul's, has kindly consented to officiate at the ceremony. There will be no parade—members will assemble outside the building and then go in together. Any members or friends who do not belong to the Branch will be very welcome.

We cannot raise a team for the Fishing Competition this year so we have done the next best thing and sent a small cash prize to our General Secretary—I think the competitors deserve it. We shall, too, be reading *The Dragon* notes very carefully to hear all the news about "the one that got away".

Our representatives at the Annual General Meeting this year will be our Chairman, Mr. F. Cox, and Mr. Pardew, M.M., our Standard Bearer. They have been instructed on at least five items for the agenda.

Two suggestions were put forward for the consideration of the Branch. One was that we should hold an annual dinner for regular attendants at our Branch meetings and their ladies, and the other that there should be an annual outing for the same members, etc., *in lieu* of the annual Christmas party. The suggestions remained open for the time being.

Our President, Mr. Hepworth, and Mr. Pardew both sent apologies for absence. The latter was holidaying at Folkestone and we trust that both he and Mrs. Pardew had a good and beneficial time.

* * *

Ramsgate Branch

I had better write a few notes in your valuable columns to let you know Ramsgate is still on the map. We had a strong meeting in August, and our energetic Chairman, Mr. C. F. Fakley, conducted plenty of business in his usual efficient manner.

Ramsgate decided to enter the Branch Fishing Competition and look forward to a nice day with plenty of Angler's Luck.

Our Branch Dinner has been arranged for November 5th and the Dinner Secretary, Mr. E. Hougham, promises the members a good meal and entertainment. The Colonel of the Regiment, also Colonel Argles, have been invited. It will be a pleasure to have their company on this occasion. The many friends of Major Martin, R.S.M. Jeffreys and Ted Swendell will be pleased to know they are well and attend nearly every meeting and every member takes a keen interest in the Regiment and Association.

We missed our President, Major A. J. H. Taylor, at our last few meetings, but look forward to his valuable support at our September meeting.

B.E.K.

* * *

Canterbury Branch

At times I suspect that I am accused of resorting to that schoolboy "hardy annual" trick at examinations—namely, "padding".

If I am guilty of this device to boost the Notes it is because I dislike to quote our meeting business verbatim. Even in my digression I do try to give an aspect of news that has some Regimental connection, thereby hoping to whet the interest of some reader or the other.

A fortnight or so ago I was honoured to watch a parade of the "Old Contemptibles" at the Cathedral. I use the word "honoured" with some justification for I was proud to observe a number of Regimental faces amongst the gathering, including a few from our own Branch. Having been at Dover during the 1914-18 War, I probably saw the departure of two-thirds of the Troops to France (including the ill-fated Naval Division to Antwerp) and, having seen the condition of the Troops on their return, I am probably more sentimental towards these old soldiers than the average. Nevertheless, as I watched these veterans march away from the Cathedral I found it difficult to see how any of these "isms" that seem to plague politically so many countries, could ever really thrive in these Isles. A prouder contingent or more representative slice of Old England would be difficult to find.

On 22nd July some two dozen Members attended the Club Meeting at the Club room adjoining the Drill Hall. Colonels Knocker and Argles were unable to attend owing to other appointments, otherwise we were very much our regular fraternity. Points relating to the Remembrance Sunday arrangements, a proposed outing to Eastbourne, how best to get the Ladies' Guild formed, and results of the sale of Canterbury Carnival Tickets, formed the main part of the business.

In regard to the latter it must have been very gratifying to the personnel who disposed of the hundreds of tickets to see such a large percentage of winners amongst their selling efforts. One of our members, a Mr. Sayer of Wingham, was lucky in winning the first prize of £15.

Mr. Rennells, whom I mentioned in last month's notes was again in attendance and it may be of interest to know that he is the local organizer for the 6th Battalion (1914-18) Annual Dinner. This year to be held in London on 8th October. He states he always has difficulty in filling a coach from this area and so would welcome additional Buff faces. He assures us that the evening is always pleasant and convivial, and is not confined to the 6th Battalion only.

On 9th July some 28 members and their wives attended a conducted tour of the Regimental Museum, under the guidance of Colonel Howe, the Curator, followed by an excellent tea arranged by R.S.M. White, in the Sergeants' Mess and that in turn followed by a game of Bat and Trap with the husbands and ladies. All appreciated the efforts of Colonel Howe for his interest and kindness and it is to be hoped that this move by our Branch will help promote a further Regimental interest in this historical Museum, as a reward and token of appreciation towards Colonel Howe's efforts in this matter. The tea arrangements were excellent and once again we must thank Mr. White for his co-operation.

Alf Argrave has returned from a holiday on the Continent—looking well and fit to take on all comers at cards. He brought Jerry Osborne back a Dutch pipe—presumably as a gesture of peace at the Euchre table.

Mr. Billy Beal is hoping to secure us the original Roll of Honour Shield to help decorate our Club Room.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the writer of the 1st Battalion notes for July—we are in the picture.

"BABU."

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Taking the news and events in their chronological sequence, I must firstly offer the congratulations of the Branch to the Colonel of the Regiment upon his appointment in a military capacity to Washington, U.S.A. Whilst it is heartening to see the Regiment being represented in an international light—for Brigadier M. P. Dewar also joins the staff on the Continent—it is not so easy to bid good-bye to Major-General and Mrs. Boucher, even for a temporary posting, for they are, well and truly, now of the Depot and Canterbury itself. May their tour be pleasant.

The local Carnival has been and gone. Lovely weather and the willingness of the many helpers contributed to a successful show. I mention this local event for a number of our members unpretentiously have given their services and help. Also, too, the Branch itself derives a financial benefit. I make the suggestion for what it is worth and that is, that we should get into a "huddle" very soon and think up some appropriate Tableau that the Branch itself could portray in next year's festival.

Cricket Week, too, is over, and judging by the list of visitors to the Buffs Tent, St. Lawrence ground is still a great venue. I had a shock on reading of "Capt. A. H. and Mrs. Catt", but that pleasure is yet to come, methinks.

Better pens than mine will describe in detail the full ceremony of the Annual Service of Remembrance and so I will limit my remarks to a more or less local review. Our Branch, the strongest on parade, I believe, was under the command of Colonel Roscoe Reid, M.C., and Mr. W. Kidder ably deputed for his brother, as the Standard Bearer. It was a pleasure to see a few strange faces in our ranks and it is to be hoped that they will make further contact at our monthly meetings. It is not rudeness that leads to the omission of these names and unusual bodies on parade, but unfortunately my own knowledge of the older Brigade only covers an intimate few.

Talking of the older members, makes me wonder as to whether the surroundings of new barracks and parading on a sports ground instead of the Old Depot Square, deprived them of the normal atmosphere. However, the New Barracks are the home of the young generation and it is to them that we look to help keep this Annual Service effectively strong in numbers and Regimental spirit.

At the Cathedral itself, our Chairman and Mr. Garratt were part of a small group of helpers concerned with reception and seating, and, other than a "capacity" problem, I think the arrangements went very satisfactorily.

Altogether it was an impressive service, enhanced by the playing of the music by the Royal Marines Band. Whilst one naturally would like to see and hear our own splendid 1st Battalion Band on such an occasion, there is no doubt that we had the pleasure of hearing a very excellent substitution of musicians.

And so, another re-union of a very large family has been seen and passed. We hope that the younger members of this family may develop the same interest, pride and loyalty as their Regimental forebears have always displayed.

It is with great regret that I must record the passing away of Major A. W. Andrews, D.C.M., M.B.E. "Bill" Andrews, I suppose, must have been known by thousands of the Regiment for his physical and athletic abilities in his younger days, and in the capacity of R.S.M. and Quartermaster in his later military life. His complete military career enhanced the name of The Buffs and it would be a fitting memorial if a "resumé" of his life in the Regiment with suitable portrayal of the hundreds of trophies could be permanently established and brought to the notice of every recruit.

Our Branch President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer and some half dozen members attended the funeral as intimate military associates, and as friends of a comrade, we, as a Branch, tender our deep felt sympathy to his children and relatives.

At the Branch meeting on 26th August the assembled company again paid homage to the late Major Andrews.

On 21st August some 24 members and wives went on a trip to Eastbourne. If the numbers that went were somewhat below the estimated forecast, it did not lessen the enjoyment of those that actually made the trip. Perhaps the event was organised rather too hurriedly, nevertheless, it was a pity that the Chairman and organizers found the support rather feeble, for nobody could work with greater zeal than our Chairman on our behalf.

We mustered some 30 members on the evening of the 26th and in addition to a full executive side, we were pleased to welcome our Association Secretary once again and some half dozen new faces. It is gratifying to be able to enlist a few more "old timers" and their company is most welcome. A project to visit Denmark, possibly next year, was aired by Colonel Argles and it merits digestion.

The arrangements for an Annual Dinner took up a lot of the business tme but I think the discussion was worth while—such functions must be planned well to be a success, especially the first venture on our own of this type.

And that seems to be all for this month, unless it is of interest to anyone that the Euchre addicts have now roped in a "green horn" to filch! Talk about the Spider to the Fly.

"BABU."

* * *

Folkestone Branch

The only important event of the month has been Remembrance Sunday, and our sincere thanks are due to each and everyone who had anything to do with making or carrying out the arrangements for that day.

Thanks to the Band of the Royal Marines have already been expressed in no uncertain way; but I would like to be allowed to add my little portion as well. Surely that Service must rank as one of the best ever. To us it had another happy note; to see our President looking so well again gave us no end of pleasure. Here's wishing him continued good health for a long time to come.

From a purely personal point of view it was also a most pleasant re-union. To have Pat and Mrs. Randall with us was indeed a joy. They have lived in Australia for over 30 years and could not have arranged a holiday better. Yes, we did have a lot to talk about. Pat, Frank Green and I went to India in 1914 as sergeants together. Here came the parting of the ways. Frank stayed on in the Indian Army, Pat came home and from thence to down under, and I, as did most others, remained in the Old Country.

Sunday, August 7th, found us together again and anyone who know what that means can guess the rest. For all that these meetings after so many years must have a tinge of sadness. There were many we would have liked to have seen but that could not be for obvious reasons.

I will pass over our August meeting by saying it was like an aftermath of something much greater.

Sandwich Branch

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, 3rd August, 1955, at 8 p.m. Major F. W. Tomlinson presided, supported by the Vice-Chairman, Lieut.-Col. N. S. Hart, and the Hon. Secretary. Sixteen members were present.

The Meeting opened with the usual moment's silence and the Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

Apologies were received from Mr. A. Elvery and Mr. A. Beecham.

Correspondence, read and discussed, included an appeal from H.W. the Mayor of Sandwich, Alderman J. J. Thomas, for donations to the Y.M.C.A. fund. It was proposed to give the Bun Penny collection for that evening up to 10/-, any deficit to be made up from Branch funds. However, this was not necessary as 21/- was collected and our own funds were better off by 11/-. Considering the small number present, it was all the more appreciated.

A letter from Headquarters stated that the Association had been fortunate in obtaining the services of the Royal Marines Band and Orchestra for Remembrance Day, and a request was made for each Branch to provide one member to help with the collection in the Cathedral. Mr. E. W. Hammond was elected for the Branch.

A circular letter was also read giving notice of the A.G.M. to be held at the Depot on Saturday, 17th September, at 3.15 p.m., and at which Branches were asked to send two delegates. Other members wishing to attend would be welcomed to do so. The Branch representatives elected were Mr. A. Bundock and Mr. T. Douglass.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. A. Ledner expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Chairman for the signed photograph of the Association Colour Party taken at Canterbury on 9th May, 1955.

On Remembrance Sunday, 7th August, a party of 60 members and relations journeyed to Canterbury in two coaches for the Annual Service and Re-union. Twenty-three members marched to the Cathedral under our Chairman, Major F. W. Tomlinson. The Service was again a very impressive one and the R.M.L.I. as usual were at their best.

* * *

Brighton Branch

It is a bit difficult to know just where to start, when one hasn't seen one's last effort in print yet, but holidays must be.

Our invalid, Jimmy Dray, is progressing and is getting out and about, but not quite well enough to have come to Canterbury with us on August 7th.

We had a good party and finally did fill our thirty-two seater coach, but only just—a fine cut in fact.

A good time was had by all, in spite of the pork pies and we have at last seen our first game of Bat and Trap. We must raise a team for this next year, it looks easy after a pint or two and a good lunch.

The service was excellent and the Royal Marines Band magnificent, while their Corps of Drums just wonderful.

The good old "jollies" do keep up to their pre-war standard and are an example to all: How do they do it?

Congratulations to Colonel Howe and the Curator on the new lay-out in the museum and to Captain S. Maiden on the marvellous Crimean background—what a wonderful versatile fellow "The Tramp" really is. For the first time for a few years the Branch did not march by as such but we did our best to smarten up our foster mother Branch—"London".

ACHEM.

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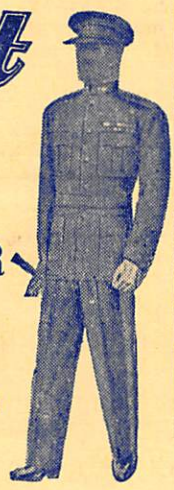
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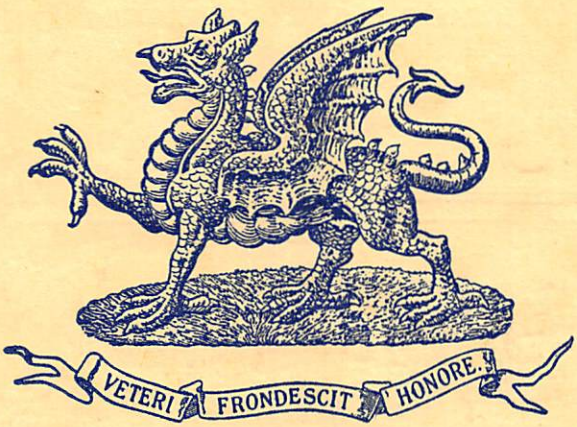
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Lieutenant-Colonels

Grace, H. R. ... ... O.C., 1st Bn.

Majors

Jelf, A. G. ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Officer i/c Field Records, FARELF.
Harris-St. John, B. J. ... att. Depot.
Lewis, P. J. ... ... T/Lt.-Col., M.A., Copenhagen.
Bailey, N. T. ... ... Gold Coast Regt. T.C.
Yates, G. H. A. ... ... Nottingham U.T.C.
Edlmann, E. L. C., *M.C.* ... 2 i/c/Chief Instructor Inf. Boys' Bn.
Rawlings, A. C., *M.B.E.* ... Depot C.R.M.P.
Horley, B. M. ... ... att. Depot.
May, J. F., *M.B.E.* ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Ministry of Supply.
Ravenhill, R. A. C. ... 4/5th Bn.
Plumptre, P. B., *M.B.E.* ... 6 Travelling Wing.
Dendy, R. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Majendie, A. E. ... ... R.A.F. Staff College.
Lucas, J. P. ... ... Colonial Prisons, Kenya.
Norris, N. F. H. C. ... 1st Bn.
Crichton, R. F., *M.C.* ... 5 Nigeria Regt.
McGrath, B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Gay, A. W. ... ... Leave U.K.
Montgomery, D. ... ... O.C. Depot.
Morgan, F. de R., *M.C.* ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q., Malaya.
Poulsen, N. D., *M.B.E.* ... 1st Bn.
Cox, E. G., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Critchley, L. P., *M.B.E.* ... 1st Bn.
Worts, J. B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Court, D. N. ... ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q., E. Africa.
Gordon-Wilson, N. F., *M.B.E.* 3 Bn., Para. Regt.
Nash, J. P. ... ... G.S.O. 2, M.13, War Office.
ffrench Blake, M. A. O'B. ... 27 Bde., Hong Kong.
Iliffe, R. O. ... ... 2 Malay Regt.
Hadshar, G. ... ... D.A.A.G., H.Q., Nigeria Dist.
Dunglinson, W. G. H. ... 1st Bn.

Captains

Semmence, R. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Barrett, D. P. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dent, J. E. ... ... T/Maj., 4/5th Bn.
MacDonald, E. W. ... ... 1st Bn.
Peckham, A. D. ... ... Leave U.K.
Squire, S. J., *M.B.E.* .. H.Q., East Africa.
Thorneycroft, F. E. ... 1st Bn.
Willows, D. A. ... ... Adjt., 1st Bn.
Wilson, P. F., *D.F.C.* ... 1st Bn.
Hamilton, C. M. ... ... H.Q., B.T.A.
Gatehouse, H. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Griffin, C. J. ... ... Adjt., 4/5th Bn.
Webber, J. W. ... ... T/Maj., A.D.C. to Fld. Marshal Montgomery.
Pim, A. H. E. ... ... 2 Gold Coast Regt.
Stratford-Tuke, R. A. F. ... 1st Bn.
Brigstocke, W. F. ... ... 1st Bn Parachute Regt.
French, B. G. J. ... ... 6 K.A.R., E. Africa.
Lees, H. D. ... ... 7 K.A.R., E. Africa.
Dalgliesh, A. R. F. ... 1st Bn.
Grugeon, J. D. ... ... Adjt., Depot.
Mullins, G. O. ... ... Adjt., 3 Bn., Parachute Regt.
Minto, I. G. ... ... 1st Bn.

Lieutenants

West, C. T. F. ... ... 1st Bn.
Ward, M. W. ... ... Course, U.K.
Dracopoli, M. P. St. F. ... Depot.
Tennent, H. C. L. ... ... A.D.C. to G.O.C., H.C.D.
Mitchell, P. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Pilcher, R. A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Baker, R. W. M. ... ... Inf. Boys' Bn.
Rymer-Jones, J. A. ... 3 Bn. Parachute Regt.
Edgecombe, G. J. B. ... 1st Bn.
Davison, J. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Lunn, J. M. ... ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants

Lea, R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Williams, R. T. P. ... ... Course, U.K.
Reid, J. D. W. ... ... Course, U.K.

Quartermasters

Watts, E. H. F. ... ... Maj., Depot.
Kille, W. E. ... ... Maj., 1st Bn.
Catt, A. H. ... ... Capt., 4/5th Bn.

Chaplain: Revd. E. W. Evans, C.F.

Paymaster: Major B. M. Green, R.A.P.C.

Short Service Commissions

Majors

*Ford, E. N., *M.C.* ... ... Leave, U.K.
Todman, N. E. H. ... ... E. Anglia District.
*Carey, R., *M.C.* ... ... 6 K.A.R., East Africa
Robertson, R. J. ... ... H.Q., Nigeria District.

Captains

*Elliott, N. ... ... Aldershot District.
*Ransley, E. J., *M.C.* ... 1st Bn.
McGrath, G. A. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
*Fakley, J. F. ... ... P.S.O., H.C.B. Depot.
*Butcher, D. A. T. ... ... East Africa Training Centre.
Marshall, J. V. ... ... Brit. Comm. Div. Korea.

Lieutenants

Barlow, W. B. ... ... Inf. Div. Pro. Coy.
Cross, K. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Kirby, J. A. ... ... Brit. Comm. Div. Korea.
Hicks, E. M. G. ... ... 1st Bn.
Prentice, J. R. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
Froom, A. F. F. ... ... Hospital U.K.
Hodges, J. D. ... ... E.R.E., Singapore.

2nd Lieutenants

Courtney, M. ... ... 23 K.A.R.
Hardy, J. E. ... ... 1st Bn.
Jakob, F. J. ... ... West Africa.

Quartermasters

Rowcliffe, T. A., Major ... M.E.L.F.
Stone, J. H., Major ... B.A.O.R.
Senior, N., Major ... ... H.Q., N.A.G., B.A.O.R.
Corps, J., Capt. ... ... 16 Coy., R.A.S.C.

* Extended Service Officer

National Service Officers

2nd Lieutenants

Wright, R. P. ... ... Depot
Bowen, S. ... ... West Africa.
Hills, A. M. ... ... 1st Bn.
Brice, E. St. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Johnson, B. D. G. ... ... 1st Bn.
Keene, R. V. ... ... 1st Bn.
Horden, P. J. C. ... ... 1st Bn.
Griffiths, D. W. ... ... 1st Bn.
Redfern, A. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Mabey, R. C. ... ... 1st Bn.
Holmes-Smith, C. ... ... 1st Bn.
Daniel, R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Wallace, W. ... ... 1st Bn.

4/5th Battalion

HON. COLONEL

Col. D. J. Dean, *V.C., T.D.*, Woodcourt, 1 Park Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

Hews, G. R. D., *M.C., T.D., J.P.*

MAJORS

Dent, J. E. (Training Major)
Alexander, U. H. B., *M.B.E.*
Prestige, J. T. R.
Tilleard, J., *T.D.*
Neville, F. G., *M.C., T.D.*
Plunkett, P. N. P.
Balding, C. E. E.
Cobb, F. D. C., *T.D.*
(Unattached List)

CAPTAINS

Griffin, C. J. (Adjutant)
Beaumont, M. J. P.
Klean, P. H.

CAPTAINS—*continued*

Morgan, R. J. S., *M.C.*
Kelly, G. D. S.
Usher, J. A.
Anderton, N. G.
Blackbourn, A. H., *T.D.*
Scott, A. J.
Baddeley, W. D.

LIEUTENANTS

Crowdy, R. E. L.
Bennett, R. G.
Nye, R. T.
DePury, J. D.
Whiting, D. A.
Thomas, J. A.
Oliver, C. P.
Morlock, P. J.

N.S. LIST

LIEUTENANTS

Tilley, T. A.
Howland, N. M.
Waterman, R. R.
Taylor, D. C.
Holloway, R. G.
Finn, W. C.
Vallins, J.
Klyberg, C. J.

2ND LIEUTENANTS

Robinson, J. P.
Turner, C. P.
Saward, R. A.
Willey, G. T.

QUARTERMASTER

Catt, A. H., Capt.

CHAPLAIN

The Revd. R. A. S. Roberts

MEDICAL OFFICER

Capt. F. P. Cassidi (R.A.M.C.)

Staff and Command

Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B., C.B.E.* ... ... D.M.I., War Office.

Colonel (T/Brig.) M. P. D. Dewar, *M.B.E.* ... ... D.D.M.P. (A), War Office.

Col. (T/Brig.) R. W. Craddock, *C.B.E., D.S.O.* Brig. A/Q Southern Command.

Col. (T/Brig.) F. W. B. Parry Comd. Sierra Leone and Gambia Dis

Col. (T/Brig.) R. F. Parry, *M.C.* ... ... Comdg. 3rd Inf. Bde., Arab Legion.

Lieut.-Colonels (Employed List)

Lieut.-Col. (T/Col.) H. P. Williams, *O.B.E.* ... ... W.O.S.B., Barton Stacey.

Lieut.-Col. J. G. Atkinson, *O.B.E.* ... ... C.O. 2 Malay Regt.

Lieut.-Col. J. F. Connolly, *D.S.O.*, attatched Depot.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

1st Battalion

R.S.M. Turmaine, F.
B.M. Sharpe, T. L.
R.Q.M.S. Rose, J.
C.S.M. Sharman, R.
C.S.M. Champion, R.
C.S.M. Middleton, J.
C.S.M. Ellis, D.
C.S.M. Hannaway, R.
C.S.M. Day, S.
C/Sgt. Partridge, R.
C/Sgt. Denny, S.
C/Sgt. Anderson, C.
C/Sgt. Mannering, D.
C/Sgt. Newman, S.

C/Sgt. Jephcott, H.
C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Mans, W. L. B.
Sgt. Smissen, J.
Sgt. Larkin, F.
Sgt. Lyons, B.
Sgt. Morrish, E.
Sgt. Colyer, A.
Sgt. Simmonds, R.
Sgt. Page, A.
Sgt. Harris, F.
Sgt. Woodrow, V.
Sgt. Histed, W.
Sgt. Cain, D.
Sgt. Wright, R.

Sgt. Wright, J.
Sgt. Townsley, J.
Sgt. Streeter, E.
Sgt. Billett, S.
Sgt. Cock, C.
Sgt. Pooley, L.
Sgt. Edwards, T.
Sgt. Harrison, W.
Sgt. Hansen, T.
Sgt. Lincoln, G.
Sgt. Parker, E.
Sgt. Wagstaff, A.
Sgt. Mills, D.
Sgt. Adams, E.

Sgt. Miller, C.
Sgt. Vaughan, F.
Sgt. Williams, H.
Sgt. Inskip, A.
Sgt. Coppins, P.
Sgt. Pullman, S.
Sgt. Munns, R.
S.Q.M.S. Marsden, C. (R.A.P.C.)
Sgt. Swain, R. (R.A.P.C.)
Sgt. Fletcher, G. (R.A.E.C.)
Sgt. Walker, W. (R.A.E.C.)

Depot The Buffs

R.S.M. White, H.
R.Q.M.S. Howe, W.
C.S.M. Chapman, G.
W.O. II Gallaway, R.

C.S.M. Diamond, R.
C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Webb, C.
C.Q.M.S. Stremes, G., *D.F.M.*
C/Sgt. Belcher, E.

Sgt. Laker, J.
Sgt. Bryant, A.
Sgt. Ivory, L.
Sgt. Rea, R.

Sgt. Raine, R.
Sgt. Recton, T.
Sgt. Spiers, E.
Sgt. Parker

4/5th Battalion (T.A.)

PERMANENT STAFF

R.S.M. Faulkner, G. T.
C.S.M. Fagg, G.
C.S.M. Seymour, J.
Sgt. Porter, J.
Sgt. Dean, D.
Sgt. Stoakes, A.
Sgt. Kay, M.

R.Q.M.S. Harwood, E.
C.S.M. Chapman, W.
C.S.M. Gabriel, J.
C.S.M. White, R.
C.S.M. Rogers, W.
C.S.M. Antrichan, G.
C/Sgt. Trinkwon, A.
C/Sgt. Couzens, W.
C/Sgt. Chidwick, E.
C/Sgt. Wing, T.
C/Sgt. Figgett, G.
C/Sgt. Bond, E.
Sgt. Bell, J.
Sgt. Hurlow, R.

Sgt. Babbage, W.
Sgt. Wraight, S.
Sgt. James, A.
Sgt. Bass, R.
Sgt. Williams, E.
Sgt. Thundow, W.
Sgt. George, M.
Sgt. Saunders, G.
Sgt. Richardson, H.
Sgt. Cope, H.
Sgt. Hewitt, C.
Sgt. Allen, A.
Sgt. Jones, A.
Sgt. Hughes, C.

Sgt. Rumble, L.
Sgt. Christian, W.
Sgt. Smith, W.
Sgt. Evans, S.
Sgt. Bradford, R.
Sgt. Cozens, L.
Sgt. Dennis, P.
Sgt. Dennis, R.
Sgt. Erridge, D.
Sgt. Stockdale, J.
Sgt. Todd, H.
Sgt. Godley, D.
Sgt. Hayward, A.
Sgt. Cole, L.
Sgt. Pottle, A.

Regimental Appointments

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Curator: Regimental Museum — Lieut.-Col. G. R. Howe

Secretary: Past and Present Association, The Buffs Executive Committee
Editor: *The Dragon* — Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles

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Secretary: LIEUT.-COL. E. V. ARGLES.

BRANCHES

Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1. 1st Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
2. 4th Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
3. ASHFORD	Mr. A. Mills	Mr. A. C. Mills, 20 Waterman House, Godfrey Walk, Ashford, Kent.	First Saturday in each month, The Invicta, Godington Road.
4. LONDON	Mr. R. W. Billings	Mr. H. J. Scott, 1 Oxford Road, Carshalton, Surrey.	Third Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, 7.30 p.m.
5. DOVER	Capt. E. Marsh, M.B.E.	Mr. C. Collins, "Haven", Meadway, Minnis Lane, River, Dover.	First Thursday in each month, "Eagle Hotel", London Road, Dover, 7.45 p.m.
6. WEALD	Col. E. B. Burns, T.D.	Mr. H. D. Day, 3 Pittlesden, Tenterden.	HAWKHURST SUB-AREA. Third Thursday in each month, British Legion House, Hawkhurst, 7.45 p.m.
7. MEDWAY	Mr. F. J. Cox	Mr. H. A. J. Brand, 83 Delce Road, Rochester.	Third Saturday in each month, The Two Brewers, High Street, Rochester, 8 p.m.
8. SITTINGBOURNE	Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D.	Capt. C. A. Grant, The Firs, Key Street, Sittingbourne.	First Friday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, 7.30 p.m.
9. RAMSGATE	Mr. C. F. Fakley	Mr. B. E. Knott, 27 Wilfred Road, Ramsgate	Third Friday in each month, Freemason's Tavern, Ramsgate, 8 p.m.
10. MARGATE	Mr. B. H. Breed	Mr. J. H. Shakeshaft, 14 Alexandra Road, Broadstairs	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, Hawley Square, 8 p.m.
11. HYTHE	Mr. J. T. J. Green	Mr. H. Thompson, 4 Hillside Court, Hythe	Last Wednesday in each month, The Star, Stade Street, 7.30 p.m.
12. CANTERBURY	Lt.-Col. E. J. Evans	Major E. R. Chambers, 59 Hillside Avenue, Canterbury Canterbury 5118	Fourth Friday in each month, Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury, 8 p.m.
13. HERNE BAY	Mr. H. Davey	Mr. A. Trice, 23 Queen's Gardens, Herne Bay	Second Monday in each month, British Legion Club, May Lodge, 8 p.m.
14. FOLKESTONE	Major A. A. West	Mr. H. Fordred, 36 Fernbank Crescent, Folkestone.	Second Friday in each month, Guildhall Hotel, 8 p.m.
15. SANDWICH	Major F. W. Tomlinson	Mr. H. Taylor, 19 Paradise Row, Sandwich.	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, 8 p.m.
16. FAVERSHAM	Capt. J. Green	Mr. R. C. Croucher, 10 Glebe Houses, Eastling, Faversham.	First Monday in each month, Carpenters Arms, Eastling, 7.30 p.m.
17. BRIGHTON.		Major H. Milton, 118 Queens' Road, Brighton.	Second Monday in each month, R.E. Record Social Club, The College, Ditchling Road, Brighton, 8 p.m.
18. DENMARK	Major O. Lippmann	Mr. P. Berendt, Ostergade 22, Copenhagen K.	First Monday in each month.

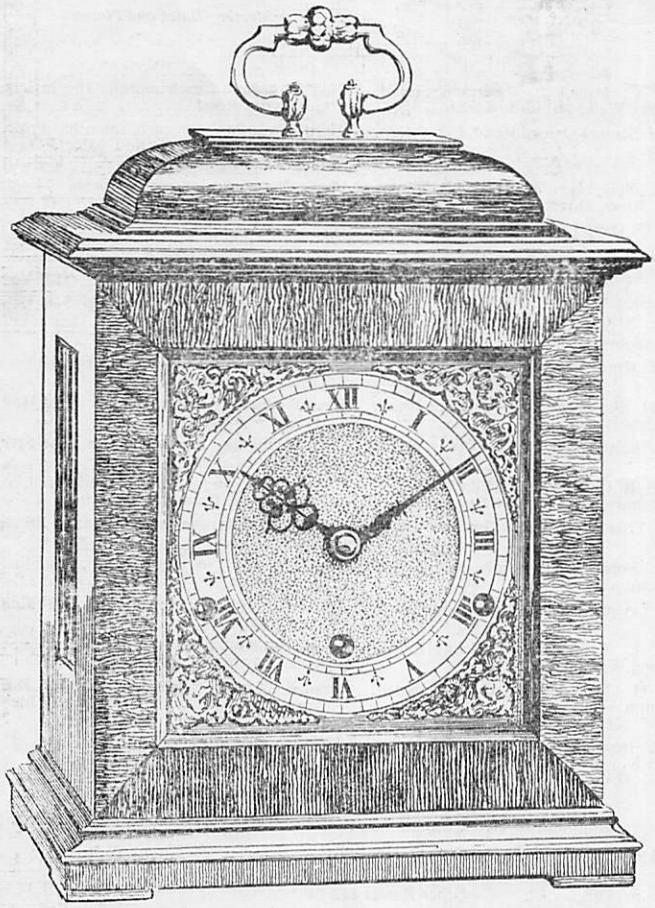
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1. LONDON	Mrs. L. Coley	Mrs. J. Tucker, 12 Chestnut Close, Oakwood, London, N.14.	First Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, S.W.1, 6.30 p.m.
2. DOVER	Mrs. J. Crookenden, J.P.	Mrs. Wraight, 93 Markland Road, Dover.	First Thursday in each month, Belgrave Hall, Belgrave Road, Dover, 3 p.m.
3. FOLKESTONE	Mrs. Coote	Mrs. Kay Mantell, 5 Page Place, Folkestone.	Every other Wednesday, Drill Hall, Shellons Street, Folkestone, 3.30 p.m.
4. MEDWAY	Mrs. King Holt	Mrs. W. T. Brooker, 67 Malvern Road, Gillingham, Kent.	Fourth Tuesday in each month, Foresters' Hall, King Street, Gillingham, 2.30 p.m.
5. ASHFORD	Mrs. L. King	Mrs. E. Partiss, 22 Bond Road, South Ashford.	Second Wednesday in each month, The Drill Hall, Ashford, 3 p.m.
6. SITTINGBOURNE	Mrs. M. E. Dean	Mrs. J. Ravensdale, 10 Railway Terrace, Sittingbourne.	Third Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne, 6.45 p.m.



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EDITORIAL

THIS month sees a change in the command of the Depot. Major Richard Dendy leaves to become Second-in-Command, 1st Battalion. Major David Montgomery takes over at the Depot, where he has been in charge of No. 1 Company. We wish both these officers well in their new appointments.

* * *

Other Regimental news is that the Colonel of the Regiment has deputed Colonel C. R. B. Knight, O.B.E., to prepare the claims for the battle honours of the last war, though we still await a decision on this subject by the War Office.

* * *

Our historian refers to the illustration facing page 301 of the Regimental Historical Records 1919-1948. Readers who served with the 5th Battalion in Italy may be interested to learn that it depicts men of that Battalion. The original photograph in the Imperial War museum, from which this illustration was reproduced, described it merely as a scene in XIII Corps area, in the Appenines, as indicated in the caption. It now seems, however, that Mr. J. Wright, lately a Sergeant in the 5th Battalion, has recognised himself in the picture, together with men of No. 18 Platoon.

* * *

Lieut.-Col. G. R. Howe has, at our request, commented on the Crimean War Centenary Luncheon held in May. The father of Mrs. Hedley Anderson who was present, Captain F. W. Gore assumed command of the 2nd Battalion in August, 1863. He received the British and Turkish Crimean Medals and The Order of the Medjidieh, 4th Class.

The re-union dinner season is now in full swing. The Buffs Officers' Re-union Club Dinner was again well attended, as was also that very popular function organised by the 6th Battalion, 1914 vintage. This month sees also the dinners of the 4th Battalion, both 1914 and 1939. Another function at which your Editor was honoured with an invitation was the Royal East Kent Yeomanry Dinner, which in 1917 together with the West Kent Yeomanry became the 10th Battalion, The Buffs, commanded by Lt.-Colonel A. O'B ffrench-Blake.

* * *

The B.B.C. Concert Orchestra arranged a visit to the Garrison Theatre, Canterbury, lately to give one of their normal broadcast programmes, to be followed by an hour's unbroadcast music. Those who had taken the precaution to apply for tickets—there was a full house—enjoyed a well-chosen and satisfying performance, with brilliant conducting by Mr. Charles MacKerras.

* * *

A Frenchman, writing to *The Times* recently, deplored the fact that he was unable to find in England a mug of beer exactly to suit his palate. We would advise him, and others who may be travelling through Abinger Hammer, on the road from Dorking to Guildford, to call in at the Abinger Arms, where English beer at its very best, both as to temperature and drinking vessel, may be enjoyed. For those looking for a first-class meal at a moderate price in London, the Wooden Horse Restaurant in Kensington High Street is worth the short 'bus ride from the West End.

Personalia

FOLLOWING the announcement last month, we hasten to add our congratulations to Lieut. J. R. Prentice on his engagement to Miss Mary Wilcox.

* * *

We also offer congratulations to Miss Rame Susan Tuke, daughter of Major and Mrs. R. J. Tuke, on her engagement to Dr. Michael Fell, and to Mr. James Beevor, son of Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Miles Beevor, on his engagement to Miss Catherine Sharpe.

* * *

Congratulations also to Major and Mrs. G. Hadshar on the birth of a daughter, to Capt. and Mrs. F. E. Thorneycroft on the birth of a son, and to Major and Mrs. N. G. H. Taylor on the birth of a daughter.

* * *

It is pleasant to report that Lieut.-Col. J. Crookenden is home again from hospital, and looking his usual self.

* * *

Major and Mrs. R. A. C. Ravenhill wish to thank all Officers for the handsome present they received on the occasion of their marriage, on which event we offer our congratulations and good wishes.

* * *

Major W. G. Blaxland has, unfortunately, now retired from the Service, and he and his wife are living at Petham.

* * *

A recent visitor to the Depot was Major B. J. Harris-St. John, who with his wife was staying a couple of days with Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Knocker. Their permanent home is now Broome, Herbert Road, Fleet, Hants.

* * *

We welcome to the Regiment 2/Lieuts. O. R. Daniel, C. Holmes-Smith and W. R. D. Wallace, who have reported to the 1st Battalion.

* * *

Lieut.-Col. J. E. King recently met Capt. D. Mills of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, who is living at Tunbridge Wells. Capt. Mills hopes to call on the Depot as soon as he can manage to do so.

* * *

Capt. C. M. Hamilton is due to leave B.T.A. in December, and reports to H.Q., 158 Infantry Brigade (T.A.) in January next year.

Mr. W. J. Cook, in a letter to us, pays his tribute to the late Major A. W. Andrews. Mr. Cook was a Lance-Corporal of the 1918 Dover days, who was trained under the then R.S.M. Andrews.

* * *

Many congratulations to Mrs. Slade Powell (*née* Iris Crookenden) on getting into the final of the *Evening Standard* Foxhunter Competition with a clear round on "Grock" at the Staff College *v* R.M.A. Sandhurst Horse Show on 17th September, 1955. In the jump off, with another clear round she finished in fourth place. Time taken was the deciding factor.

* * *

We offer our hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred West, of 18 St. Peter Street, Sandwich, who celebrated their golden wedding on the 30th September. Mr. West was in the 3rd Battalion and the 1/5th, and he served for 25 years in the Sandwich Fire Brigade. One of his grand-daughters married Corporal N. J. Bailey, who lately was with the 1st Battalion in Kenya.

* * *

We have news of Mr. Tom Holloway, lately Colour-Sergeant in the 2nd Battalion and the Permanent Staff. He is living at Deal, is 83 years of age, and still going strong. We hope to have more definite news in our next number.

* * *

Those who in about 1912 knew Lieut.-Col. Harry Romer-Lee, a brother of Lieut.-Col. Guy Lee, will be sorry to hear of his death this month. Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Romer-Lee lived at one time at Monks Horton.

* * *

BIRTHS

THORNEYCROFT.—On September 17th in Germany, to Fiona, wife of Captain F. E. Thorneycroft, The Buffs, a son.

HADSHAR.—On October 3rd, 1955, at the Military Hospital, Lagos, to Patricia (*née* Harold), wife of Major G. Hadshar, The Buffs, a daughter.

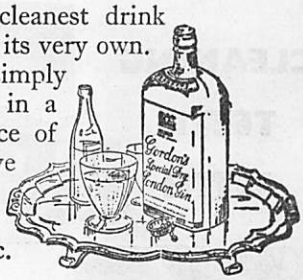
TAYLOR.—On October 8th to Barbara Elizabeth (*née* Fenton), wife of Nigel G. H. Taylor, of Pinewood Lodge, Seaview Road, Broadstairs, a daughter.

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Undoubtedly the coolest, cleanest drink in the world with a subtle flavour of its very own. Best results are easily obtained by simply mixing Gordon's and tonic water in a goodish sized glass, add a thin slice of lemon and relax . . . Then you'll have proved to yourself that there's nothing, absolutely nothing, so good as a Gordon's* Gin and Tonic.



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From: Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,
K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., M.A., J.P.
Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee

To: All Serving in Her Majesty's Forces

Subject: SAVE WHILE YOU SERVE

You may say that you find it hard enough to save in "Civvy Street" so how on earth can you do so in the Services? However, if you think about it seriously there is no better time to start—if you haven't already done so. Every unit in all the services "lays on" National Savings facilities and the Unit Savings Officer will be only too pleased to help would-be savers.

I recently retired after many years in the Royal Air Force. I know how valuable a service Forces Savings is giving to both Regulars and National Service personnel, and no matter where you may be stationed you can save a bit from your pay if you want to do so. I also commend Forces Savings for mention by parents and friends to young men who are going into the Services (*and* to young women too, as in the Women's Services there are some of our best savers!)

We have an excellent series of leaflets (shown above) which tell, in simple language, all about Forces Savings. Why not write for a copy of the one which applies. Address your letter to me:—

Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,
H.M. Forces Savings Committee.
1 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

Issued by H.M. Forces Savings Committee

ENGAGEMENTS

LIEUTENANT J. M. P. BEEVOR, R.N. (RETD.), AND MISS C. J. I. SHARPE

The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Miles Beevor, of Dalethorpe End, Dedham, Essex, and Catherine, youngest daughter of the late William H. S. Sharpe, and of Mrs. Sharpe, of 26 Iverna Gardens, W.8.

* * *

DR. M. B. FELL AND MISS R. S. TUKE

The engagement is announced between Michael Burnard, younger son of Captain W. R. Fell, C.B.E., D.S.O., R.N., and Mrs. Fell, of 17 Lockington Avenue, Plymouth, and Rame Susan, only daughter of Major Robin Tuke (late The Buffs) and Mrs. Tuke, of Kenton, near Exeter.

* * *

MARRIAGE

RAVENHILL—ILLINGWORTH.—On September 21st, 1955, at All Saints', Fleet, Hants., Major Richard Ravenhill, The Buffs, to Elizabeth Illingworth, of Naro Moru, Kenya.

* * *

Regimental Cricket Week 1956

IN view of the fact that next year the Dragon Club Dinner will take place on 30th May, and that the Australians will be playing Kent at Canterbury on 16th June (earlier than has been the practice in former years) and that the Test Match at Lord's will commence on 21st June, the Regimental Cricket Week has been brought forward, and will be held from Tuesday, June 5th, to Sunday, June 10th.

We have been asked to make this early announcement so that all who can will support the Cricket Week.

* * *

Regimental Christmas Cards 1955

THE 1955 Christmas Card is a plain white card, 6 in. × 4½ in., with the cover die-stamped with the Regimental Badge in gold and with tied Regimental ribbon. On the centre page is a half-tone picture of the actual presentation of the Queen's Colour by the Colonel-in-Chief to the Subaltern, on 9th May, 1955. The cost of this card will be sevenpence each.

There are also a number of last year's cards available, showing the coloured picture of "The Buffs on Outpost Duty, Peninsula, 1813". The card bears no date. These will be sold at sixpence each.

There are also the single white cards with gold badge and greeting in black, as last year. The cost of these is threepence each.

Orders, statying type of card required, and accompanied by remittance, should be sent to The Administrative Officer, Depot, The Buffs.

There will be no Regimental Diaries this year, as the demand over the last two years does not justify the expense entailed.

H.S.K.

* * *

Buffs Officers' Re-union Club

THE following Officers attended the dinner on 30th September, 1955:—

Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles; Capt. M. B. Baron; Capt. M. C. Bollon; Lieut. K. J. H. Bonner-Williams; Major C. Bossom; Major-General V. Boucher, C.B., C.B.E.; Lieut.-Col. E. P. C. Bruce, M.C.; Capt. A. H. Catt; Major E. E. Chambers; Lieut.-Col. J. F. Connolly, D.S.O.; Major E. G. Cox, M.C.; Lieut. M. W. Cox; Brigadier R. W. Craddock, C.B.E., D.S.O.; Capt. G. M. Day; Colonel D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D., J.P.; Major R. H. Dendy; Capt. J. P. Entract; Lieut.-Col. E. J. Evans; Capt. A. T. Farrow, M.S.M.; Lieut. M. W. Forster Brown; Colonel Eric Gardiner; Lieut.-Col. M. Gilford, O.B.E., E.R.D.; Major N. F. Gordon-Wilson, M.B.E.; Lieut. A. E. Grant; Major the Hon. C. P. Greenway; Capt. C. J. Griffin; Capt. J. D. Grugeon; Brigadier E. Foster Hall, M.C.; Capt. T. F. Harrington; Major B. J. Harris-St. John; Lieut.-Col. N. E. Hoare; Lieut.-Col. D. P. Iggulden, C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D.; Lieut.-Col. J. E. King, D.S.O.; Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker; Lieut.-Col. F. I. L. Knowles; Major A. E. Majendie; Major R. M. V. Marchand, T.D.; Capt. F. Marshall; Lieut.-Col. J. F. May, M.B.E.; Major K. C. Meyrick, T.D.; Major D. Montgomery; Brigadier J. G. Nicholson, C.B.E.; Capt. R. E. Papworth; Major I. A. Pearson; Capt. G. F. Peirson; Major Ian Percival; Major P. B. Plumptre; Major G. A. H. Proctor, M.C., T.D.; Major A. C. Rawlings, M.B.E.; Brigadier N. D. Rice; Major G. A. Ricketts; Brigadier H. P. P. Robertson, O.B.E.; Major M. F. Sherwin, O.B.E.; Capt. A. G. Simon; Capt. G. A. J. Sivyer; Brigadier T. H. Spear, O.B.E.; Rev. G. Suthers; Major E. H. F. Watts; Major J. W. Webber; Major R. W. M. Webster; Major A. A. West, T.D.; Lieut.-Col. J. R. P. Williams, M.B.E.; Lieut.-Col. J. E. Wills; Colonel C. J. Wood, O.B.E., M.C.; Capt. D. Whitcombe; Capt. Crofts.

It rained very heavily during the first few days of the Exercise and to some old hands it was reminiscent of Kenya—but the best sight to be seen by members who were minding house back at barracks, was the Mess Caterer, who came trundling back looking very bedraggled —he had obviously had enough after the first week.

C.S.M. Middleton and Sgt. Lyons are, at the time of writing, due to go to the Wiesbaden Area together with a composite company to take part in an Airborne Exercise. They can be seen very often getting their heads together thinking up ideas and practising the art of chewing gum. They are expected to arrive back with various items of American origin.

The sporting activities of the Mess are gradually getting under way and some results are being obtained. In the Inter-Company/Dept/Mess Football Competition we disposed of "A" Company with the handsome score of 9—2 and "C" Company we managed to beat 3—2. It was with "B" Company that we came unstuck and now take no more competitive interest in the competition—we lost 4—3 (they were lucky). There is a local beer brewed out here called Ritter—I think the team had the Ritter-jitter!

We have now got a basket-ball team in training. They shew promise but the test will come when we play our first game.

It is generally understood that the best way to get a good score at shooting is to fire with a zeroed rifle, so in the next couple of weeks we are going to have this "minor" detail attended to. Sgt. Mills, our shooting representative, is then going to hand a formal challenge to the Officers. (We hope he has the courage—he'll need it with the talent we have.)

S.Q.M.S. Marsden, our financial wizard, can also be seen every Sunday evening calling out his clickety-clicks, garden gates, etc., and doing his weekly P.T. period—tilting his right hand in which there is grasped his tankard which holds a pint of the local brew.

Once again the Band members are having another holiday. This time they have pushed off to Denmark to take part in the Military Tattoo. They will return *looking* very worn out and say how hard it was, but will jingle the L.O.A. in their pockets gleefully.

Still, they will be going on leave soon—I expect they earned it.

Many members can now be seen leaving the Mess at 1359 hours and taking that one minute sentimental journey to the Education Centre. Sgt. Fletcher, our schoolmaster, must have been letting them have it hard, because there has been a steady stream of members going to R.Q.M.S. "Jimmy" Rose (back entrance only) asking for bigger berets—the poor chaps have knowledge bumps all over their heads.

We have at the moment a Mr. Don Sharp of the film world staying in the Mess. He is getting the low down on Mess life. It is noticeable that many members have a perpetual "Macleans" smile on their face—they obviously want someone to say "sign here" and become Rank Starlets. Joe Smissen is thinking of taking his discharge and it is rumoured he has captured a film part as a stand-in for Boris Karloff. Mr. Sharp is also the character called "Mitch" in the current serial "Journey through Space", and C.S.M. "Crash" Hannaway and Doug Ellis are to be heard roaring around the Mess at all hours of the night.

The Bandmaster and Sgt. Ted Morrish have recently purchased cars and now go around in great style—it is noticed that the LAD recovery wagon or the 3-ton winch seem to be following them at a discreet distance. Is it possible that this is just a coincidence?

Sgt. Miller has just joined us from the Depot, and we wish him a hearty welcome. Sgt. Rowland is quite adamant about seeking his fortune in "Civilian Strasse" and has left us for a pre-release course. We wish him all the very best of luck in his new venture.

Stork Trouble! Congratulations to Mrs. and Sgt. Woodrow on the birth of their daughter.

In conclusion, we wish all ex-members the very best and hope to see or hear from you sometime.

* * *

BATTALION ORDERLY ROOM

It has been well over a year since the Orderly Room contributed their own article to *The Dragon*, even though in that time we have had more than our share of typing other people's contributions.

If my memory serves me right, the last article related the tale of Sgt. Martin and his car. But, alas! neither he nor the car are with us now. Sgt. Martin left us for warmer climes, and it is not remembered what happened to the ill-fated car.

The Orderly Room is now situated in rather more luxurious and spacious offices than the cramped rooms at Dover. Of course, more space means more work, and more work means a bigger staff, but it is hoped that things have reached their limit.

An unseen but nevertheless noisy addition to the staff is Spooky Joe, our pet ghost, whose supernatural footsteps often turn the long-suffering duty clerk's dreams into a nightmare. Legend has it that Spooky was once a lowly clerk who was driven mad and shot himself through trying to work out the monthly strength returns, but this has not been proved.

Schemes and exercises mean nothing to us now. On every exercise a few of us have loaded up our trusty 1-tonner with typewriters, flatbeds and other paraphenalia, and set out to do battle with the Fantasians and other nasty things. Days or even weeks later we return, dusty or wet, according to the weather, tired, dirty and jealous of those who managed to stay behind.

Cpl. Laskey has recently returned from a course at Sennelager, where no doubt he shewed them how things were done in practice. Pte. Moore has also attended a course there, and should be ready to step into the shoes of Cpl. Nicholls, who, with Pte. Small, appears to be getting a wee bit "demob-happy".

This typewriter must now be turned over to more official use, but the Orderly Room will try to find something interesting to write about next month.

* * *

COMPANY H.Q.

H.Q. COMPANY

The exercises over, we can now settle down (or try) to a normal routine. The Company Clerks are very sorry to say that now the Battalion is back, office hours will have to revert to normal times.

We are happy to say that C.S.M. Day has enjoyed himself immensely by chasing his "Fatigue Wallahs" until the chaps never quite knew whether it really did pay for them to skive off the exercises. But nevertheless, they made an excellent job of keeping our passageways clean.

Although Company H.Q. was not very strongly represented on the exercises, rumours are around that they could not have been done without, even if they did blame



Have a Sergeant, Capstan Major!



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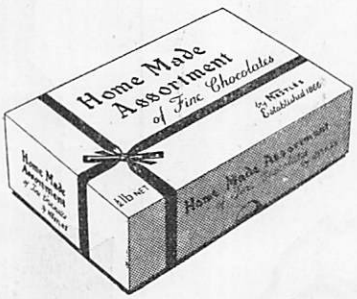
NESTLÉ'S MILK CHOCOLATE

—the most popular milk chocolate, rich and creamy. Look for the red and gold packets.

'TOP HAT' CHOCOLATES

Delicious centres, covered in finest quality chocolate, in the smart and handy box. The very thing to complete enjoyment when you take a guest to the theatre or cinema.





HOME MADE CHOCOLATES

To take home on leave—to compliment a hostess—to give as a present at any time—for these are very special chocolates! They are bigger-than-usual chocolates, with unusual centres, like walnut and ginger cream and cherry nougat—covered with the finest quality chocolate.

NESTLÉ'S —a very good name for chocolate

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(NI3)

the Army Catering Corps for the burnt straw. Barter's final word on the subject was that he with the help of C/Sgt. Newman "did most definitely not burn the stew".

We say good-bye to Cpl. O'Leary and wish him the best of luck in his new Company. I expect he finds it rather less strenuous. We hope that Cpl. Bryant will enjoy his new job at Hanover.

A welcome is extended to Pte. Buckwell, who is now trying his hand at storekeeping with C/Sgt. Newman. The other storemen are quite happy now as they have at last got a fourth person to help them with their manual work.

We wish the very best of luck to those members of the Band and Drums who are on tour in Denmark and we hope that they are keeping their flags flying high.

To finish these notes, our regards go to the Ghost of the Company, a chap who is always on our strength but who is enjoying himself in far more pleasant lands. "How are you, Pte. West? How's Blighty?"

* * *

CORPORALS' MESS

The summer has ended. The schemes have ended. So has Cpl. Bates as our President. We all think he deserves a well-earned rest before he returns to Civvy Street TO WORK. We now welcome Cpl. Rust as our new President, assisted by Cpl. O'Leary, when he is sober?! The best of luck to both.

Since we arrived in B.A.O.R., activities have been small owing to the schemes. But by all accounts there is a Full House Programme planned for the cold winter evenings. Firstly, we open with a dance on the 28th October. We are now preparing teams in Darts, Table Tennis, Snooker and Football, and hope to be able to give good results in our next issue.

We also welcome all new members to the Club too numerous to mention by name.

* * *

QUARTERMASTER'S STAFF

The house divided this month. The hardier members, led by the Quartermaster, took themselves off to try the very latest thing in Atomic Warfare; leaving the more chairborne half of the staff to cope with an issue of very "1572ish" Scarlet Tunics to the members of the Band who were going to Denmark. Fortunately the staff are now intact and very much in 1955.

Congratulations to the Dickmans, who have been blessed with a new son. The proud father has not yet returned from England to enlarge on the amazing reports that have reached us about the size and shape.

Pte. Capper appears to have been so impressed that he has applied for leave to go home to get married.

Leave and all its implications seems to be the main interest at the moment and several members of the staff may be seen scanning the latest schedules issued by the local flying people.

L/Cpl. Andrews of "We didn't do it like that in Kenya" fame is counting the few days he has to serve before leaving us for civilian life with such glee that the older members of the staff are wondering why they ever signed on.

We welcome Ptes. Maxted, Sills, Tapp and Bovington to the fold and hope they will enjoy the odd and interesting jobs they will be called upon to do as members of the pioneer part of the staff. No doubt Pte. Laws will be able to amuse them with tales of drains he has unblocked.

The "Horrible Twins" Hargraves and Highwood are reported to have performed a fairly convincing "Babes in the Bivvy" act whilst away on training.

In spite of the well-known songwriter's advice, it is odd to see so many members of the staff taking such an interest in learning the local language. Who knows, we may soon hear a new version entitled "You do have to Learn the Language".

Silence from our secret weapon room this month as the top secret occupants have taken themselves off to Italy and Jugo-Slavia to catch the last of this year's sun. Next month's notes may include a brief item on how to juggle with a Jugo-Slav!

We are pleased to hear that the head of the department has been receiving more favourable replies when doing his "Nat Gubbins Act". The latest report is more to our liking.

* * *

SIGNAL PLATOON

Our main activities this month have been centred around the Divisional and Corps Exercises respectively, "Pied Piper" and "Full House". The powers above were considerate to us in their allocation of good weather, with the notable exception of the first two days when, as hotels often put it, we had running water in every room. (Bivouacs in this case and only down the walls.)

We moved about a great deal from one place to another and slept, or rather tried to sleep, in many odd places—in vehicles, barns and cowsheds, to name but three. On one occasion, Pte.—gap in the hedgerow—Houghton had the misfortune to sleep next to an ancient horse that was afflicted with indigestion. It hiccuped and ate throughout the night.

Did Luckhurst really see a rat in the straw? We never got to the bottom of it, but whoever it may have stopped sleeping, it was not friend Luckhurst.

At one farm the R.S.O. was offered a real bed, but when he discovered that this meant sharing it with several minute bedmates he declined this kind offer in his best German.

It was discovered by Ptes. Thrower and Briggs that a 1-ton trailer made excellent sleeping quarters, with the added advantage of not being awaoken at milking time (between 4 and 5 a.m.).

Communications throughout both exercises were good. However, Cpl. Rodmell and his line parties are now firmly convinced that line and tanks do not hit it off.

Our Brewer-in-Chief, Pte. Thrower, ably assisted by his number two, Pte. Briggs, really excelled himself on both exercises and rarely was a signaller to be seen who had not either got a cuppa, just had one or who was not eagerly waiting for the water to boil. (Sugar, Sgt. Wright?).

We were sorry to have to bid farewell to Cpl. Hill and Pte. Vipan at the beginning of the month, in spite of being constantly reminded by them just how many days they had to "push". We wish them the very best of luck in "Civvy Street".

We end by congratulating L/Cpl.s Slawson and Brunger on their recent promotion and by welcoming Ptes. Hogben, Osborne, Stanford, Bunker, Setterfield and Ide to the Platoon, and wish them success in the forthcoming Classification Cadre.

* * *

"A" COMPANY

If the month of September has been mildly exacting, at least we have had an incentive to push us on; the month saw the largest battles of the Training Season, and there

are many tales of individual initiative during a time when reputations could be made or marred.

Our first task, somewhat incongruous since so many of them are likely to leave us in the near future, is to welcome to the company all those members of the new draft who arrived at the start of the month. Distributed amongst the three platoons and forming an invaluable reinforcement, they were all immediately plunged into our first Exercise for September.

Phoenix III, on the 6th and 7th, is an epic story which none who took part shall forget. Basically a simple river crossing, it later developed into a battle against every conceivable discomfort that nature can provide. That we should have to carry those clumsy boats nearly a mile to a river which was easier to cross on foot and that two of those boats as near sank in mid-stream as makes no difference was bad enough: but to contend with a cloudburst which was being encouraged by an icy wind—both of which lasted until the last few moments of the Exercise—was a severe task indeed.

The crossing itself went well, Sgt. Morrish achieving temporary fame as a pioneer of the "leaving-the-boat-feet-first" method. The splash he made was very much more impressive than the nuclear demonstration provided earlier on. Pushing inland, the Company was next entertained by some simply splendid gymnastics on the part of L/Cpl. Erlynne, who became involved with an electric fence. The ensuing cross-country march was worth while, some of the countryside appearing quite attractive and, to a few, reminiscent of Kenya days. The word "Rhino" blurted over the air to the leading section caused an instinctive sinking feeling in several stomachs that could be heard way back down the column.

The objective was reached and after a brisk hour of battle the enemy was dislodged, Cpl. Miles of No. 1 Platoon and his section doing well to capture eight prisoners. Digging fought off the cold till daybreak, and then the "Case Fire" sounded. Nobody really minded when a fresh tropical downpour, this time intermingled with hailstones, assailed us on the way home.

On return to Wuppertal, we were faced with some very urgent administrative tasks apart from the normal repairs and refitting necessary before the next Exercise. The most important acquaintance made was the new F.N. rifle, which was taught and fired. It is unfortunate that as yet we have been unable to fire this new weapon on Exercises, for this surely took the spice from life for those to whom it was left to resolve our many *ad hoc* and off-the-cuff problems, *i.e.*, the private soldier. No number of steel helmets nor brilliantly concealed trenches impressed the umpires when, in the face of a bayonet charge, the defence could only murmur "bang"!

During this period, too, a severe endurance test was made on our stamina when we joined the column in a battalion route march. The test did not involve distance—a modest eighteen miles, no great distance in the experience of some of our older soldiers—so much as survived after lunch. Halfway round the course at one fifteen precisely, our fairy godmother colour-sergeant appeared with fodder. Here was no pumpkin coach, however, but a 3-tonner packed with duff and stew complete with dumplings. As a diet for marching troops it seemed a trifle heavy, but produced the desired effect and as vanguard company we proceeded at breakneck speed back home.

It only remains to tell now the story of the final battles of the training season, fought many miles from barracks in the area of Hannover. In the main they were for us frustrating and in some small measure disappointing, for not until the last three days did we really come to grips with the enemy. To the ordinary rifleman the various and quickly changing situations must have been confusing for he did not share the secrets of the bigger picture with those who committed him to battle. But he nevertheless performed well. Whether pursuing a fleeing enemy on tanks or marching to attack him on foot, each individual section worked hard when the necessity arose.

In the beginning we were in reserve, and from 12th to 16th followed meekly on in the battle column. The tempo quickened towards the end of this period when after crossing one river we marched to dig in in round a deserted barn; but though we could hear the sounds of battle elsewhere it never fell to be out lot to blood the enemy's nose. Almost immediately we mounted tanks and went careering across the countryside, to be halted and hear that the first part of the Exercise was over. With an unerring eye the Company Commander selected a comfortable farm where we spent the night, most people taking their first sleep for quite some long time.

The rest period was spent sixty miles away near Osnabruke with some hospitable farmer folk and lasted three sunny days. The weather had certainly repented for Phoenix III.

What followed was more to the point of war. Removed from our resting place, we were hurried forward to the River Weser in transport, bundled across on a civilian ferry and ordered on to an R.V. with the company cooking echelon. In these few words are contained 24 hours of near hectic movement, during which we lost Pte. Robinson who, having been posted on traffic duty, was not destined to return to us till the Exercise had finished. Orders were simple and straightforward, urging us on to the front line, and for once there seemed a tension in the air, some hope that at last we might meet the real enemy.

Once the movement started the impetus increased; no sooner had one village been enetered than the next was to be occupied. Munchenhagen was reached after an appalling trudge through marshy woods and a brief period of rest allowed. That every company was in similar discomfort scarcely served to mollify our misery. At 0430 hours we pushed on and Bad Rheburg, Rheburg, Marsdorf were only temporary halting places in the advance towards the village of Schneeren and the great lake of Steinhuder Meer. And here at last we were allowed to halt and given the doubtful pleasure of digging in.

Even though it was plain that the final objective had been reached, it was also clear that our troubles had only just begun. Patrols slunk out and were pleasingly fruitful in their account of nearby enemy locations; food was ferried out under cover of darkness and a general atmosphere of Peter Cheney pervaded. The slightly unrealistic freedom with which enemy spotter planes were able to buzz our position was underlined quite admirably when we fired parachute illuminating flares at them, and there was universal delight at their evasive action and subsequent return at far greater height. This denoted ingenuity and was typical of a general enthusiasm towards a battle that was not always easy to follow.

We thought it a great compliment that the only weapon eventually able to dislodge us was an atomic bomb; and we could not have asked for a sunnier, more pleasant day on which to be atom bombed and on which to finish the Exercise. Had we won? I wonder whether anyone really knew.

That was the 26th September, and since then we have been setting our house straight, back in Wuppertal. The season of Total War is over: we can only look forward to administrative problems and their repercussions and an allegedly freezing winter. C'est la vie.

In a month that has been full of Exercises and has seemed endlessly long, there have been few changes in our order of battle. We must record the departure, however, of 2/Lieut. McGowan, who has been in this Company the length of his commissioned service in the Battalion, and who during that period saw almost unbroken service with No. 3 Platoon since Kenya days. We wish him well and send him generous hopes of success in life, from Cambridge onwards.

* * *

"B" COMPANY

The last big scheme is now over and with it of course the summer. The leaves are turning brown and falling from the trees, and there are losses amongst the characters in the Company.

First, of course, Mr. Simpson, of teapot fame. We miss him more especially because he used to write *Dragon* notes. We wish him all the best and promise to give him plenty of work in the law courts. To make up for this great loss, Mr. Keen has come to the Company. We are very pleased to welcome him and wish him the best of luck in sorting out No. 5 Platoon.

The jungle called and Cpl. Fuller obeyed. He has now left us for a life of luxury and ease (he thinks) in the wilds of Kenya—all this against the expectations of the Company.

Also departed for civilian life are Pte. Watts, of cycling fame, Pte. Fuller, back to the land, and Ptes. Burville and Chown. We wish them all the best in civilian life and decree that if we meet again we shall buy the first round.

Last but not least, Mr. Lea, who has gone on a course in U.K. We hope he does well and will be glad to see him back with us again.

In between schemes the various sporting activities of the Company have progressed rapidly. A win by the football team over the Sergeants' Mess rather lowered morale in a certain part of the Company but the majority were highly "chuffed".

The hockey team under the able supervision of L/Cpl. Witt have also played hard, but unfortunately the best we can boast at the moment is a drawn game with the Signals Platoon.

The Company boxers also are hard at work training. They are now an easy touch for a cigarette.

Finally we are all looking forward to Christmas, Cpl. Goffin more so than others, and to the time when it becomes our turn to go on U.K. leave.

STOP PRESS.—Congratulations to L/Cpls. Noble and Campbell on their promotions. Also we hope Sgt. Histed enjoys life with Support Company.

* * *

"C" COMPANY

We look forward to the month of September with mixed feelings: a packed training programme on one side and the end of the training season on the other have served both to raise doubts of our survival and to induce a certain relief at having managed so far.

A glance over that part of the season in which we have found ourselves involved picks out, as is always the case, the occasions on which we could afford to laugh. The smouldering cigarette dramatically indicating Pte. Cowley's fate at the hands of the A/Tk. Platoon contorted faces of men with scorched dignities from sitting astride "friendly" tanks, and Pte. Brayshaw's face appearing from the even sand which was his trench and giving vent to a torrent of Yorkshire slang!! Times which may have been described as difficult (and there have been some!) quickly pass from the mind, which is, perhaps, a good thing in view of another season next year.

We started this month off well by ferrying the Battalion across the River Lippe—watermanship lessons well learnt! Our efforts to get everyone across in a dry state, however, appeared futile when we spent the night getting soaked to the skin in a rain storm, but a bew-up over No. 2 Cooks soon put us on our feet again.

It was not only on Phoenix III that we were made to realise the value of those few days spent at Bever Talsperre —in both the large scale exercises, which constituted the climax od the training season, we were confronted with an obstacle into which, as infantry, we could definitely not dig our heels. But here once again we are unable to record any mishaps. On "Pied Piper" we covered enormous distances, with, happily enough, less marching than merits mention, and finished up frustrated to the core at having the exercise brought to an end as we were about to charge through a crowd of unofficial spectators and a field of turnips, at the heels of the enemy. Let it be recorded that at this point most of "C" Company were reluctant to pull away from the battlefield!

In the interval between the curtain descending on "Pied Piper" and ringing up on "Full House", we enjoyed a few days' blissful recuperation as neighbours to a chicken farm—an early reveille always ensured. Football and tombola took their part, with No. 9 Platoon distinguishing themselves by beating the rest of the Company at the former, and L/Cpl. Hudson and George walking off with half the Company's pay!

In readiness for "Full House" we were to have welcomed among us at this point Lieut. C. Gauthier, of the French Foreign Legion, who had so far been seen adding a dash of colour to "A" Company; this privilege was unfortunately denied us as the unavoidable result of proposed company roles for the exercise, and "B" Company gained his cheerful smile and quaint word instead.

We began our final exercise with minds refreshed and very much alert to the existence of enemy forces other than the opposition: phoney reporters who would plaster your name on the front page of the "Daily Itch" for spitting on your boots: high ranking generals who would pounce on you from the unexpected quarter of the skies: and far-from-home M.P.s (automatically respected with such initials!) who might at any moment pop out of your tank to dust his bowler!!

Miles of marching and hours of re-digging collapsed weapon pits and we were ready to repel the divisions which were reported heading our way; day-time passed peaceably enough, and so did the night apart from the occasional scare caused by rabbits skipping along our barrier of trip flares. Came the dawn and with it the action for which we waited so patiently—after some uncertainty as to whether a nearby "pill" had wiped us out or not, we proved that we were very much alive by claiming (and you can ask our friend the umpire) no less than four tanks, one aeroplane and a platoon of infantry. During this last skirmish, Thirkell and Toms both discovered how two-edged a Thunderflash can be!

Now we are back in barracks and we find the nominal roll has changed somewhat, with Tuffin and Pottle having become Regimental Cooks; Smithers and Gibbs batmen at Brigade Headquarters; and L/Cpl. Russell "the man in the street". Oxley, Stockley, Phillips and Linford are the reply to our losses, and we hope to see the latter loading us with victory in the cross-country running. Notebooks and pencils are the order of the day while two Platoon Commanders and one large N.C.O. batter the brows of

those who have so far bluffed or baffled the unit education staff. We must refer you to next month's contribution for the results of this particular exercise.

Finally, in answer to those who shudder at the thought of Sennelager we would like to point out there were some volunteers for Exercise "Cordon Bleu" *before* the American Zone was mentioned, but afterwards—what is it they've got that we haven't?

* * *

"S" COMPANY

Dear All at Home,

We are having a wonderful holiday here somewhere in Central Germany. We are not certain where, but the Company Commander says that it does not matter, as it is all the same everywhere anyway. Yes, it has been raining here, so much that after a little while all we noticed was a sort of a cool clamminess about our clothes and a vast ocean of mud surrounding the Colour-Sergeant as he gallantly battled to feed the Company. After enduring rigours of Exercise "Pied Piper", its river-crossing, moves backwards, forwards and sideways, we have at last reached a haven of rest near Osnabruck. Here we are spending two days at rest favoured by fine warm weather and a kindly farmer in whose orchard we are camped. Some of the Company, believing a change to be as good as a rest, are picking potatoes and generally giving a helping hand on the farm. Pte. Morsman has complained that German cows have a left hand drive and so spent a fruitless (or milkless) half-hour in the cowshed. Pte. Philpott has just left us to take up farming seriously in England. We hope that he will be considerably more successful than our amateurs here. Cpl. Wright, Ptes. Crane, Jeffries and Robinson have left us for Civvy Street. Good luck to them all in their new jobs. Lieut. Cecil West is in the process of leaving us to become I.O. at Brigade; a sorry loss for the Machine Gun Platoon in the midst of the Exercises.

In our last letter we told you that we were going to take part in a searchlight tattoo in Wuppertal. Well, the day arrived at last, fine and warm after several depressing days of heavy rain. For nearly two hours fifty men of the Company drilled together with detachments of the Suffolk Regiment, the Royal Ulster Rifles and the massed bands of 6 Brigade, to the apparent delight of 20,000 Germans; we were dressed in scarlet, which, together with the varied colours of the Bands, Drums and Ulster's Pipes, made a very colourful show in the stadium under the searchlights.

Capt. Thorneycroft has slipped away for twenty-four hours to inspect his newly-born son. Congratulations to him and Mrs. Thorneycroft—the "Pied Piper" seems to have slipped up somewhere!

Next month we shall have news for you of a reorganised Support Company, for on October 1st we revert to Support Weapon training and try to forget the hardships of being riflemen.

P.S.—The Colour-Sergeant has just left us to command the Machine Gun Platoon for Exercise "Full House". Their gain and our great loss—can we survive on bully sandwiches for six days?

* * *

"D" (TRAINING) COMPANY

Time moves on its usual remorseless wheels. The blazing sun to which we had become accustomed seems now to have made its last play of the year and we now open our eyes daily to grey skies and rain. Winter prepares to settle upon us.

To the Company, however, this makes little difference. Occasionally, an outdoor period has to be conducted under a decent roof, but otherwise the task of inculcating young soldiers with knowledge of their job continues apace.

The second draft from Canterbury is now in its second week of Training. Unfortunately it appears that we shall have to "Change horses in midstream", because in a very few days from now we have to bid (in the vernacular) "Auf Wiedersehen" to Sgt. Rowlands and Sgt. Cain. The former goes to England for a resettlement course to equip him for his return to civilian life; the latter will be delving into the mysteries of Atomic Warfare at Brigade H.Q. for a few days before going to an intensive academic course prior to taking his G.C.E. in December.

The Company Commander, Major Dunglinson, recently had a break from his desk. He disappeared for a week as 2 i/c "B" Company on Exercise "Pied Piper". I think he must have put on weight, because shortly after his return, a perfectly good chair just collapsed under him. It is also reported from various sources that "B" Company have had to submit "Correct use, but Damage" reports for three camp chairs which appear to have suffered in the most violent way during Exercise "Pied Piper". We appear to be passing through a period of odd occurrences. Only the other day an electric light shade in an empty locked office fell to the ground of its own volition. The Colour-Sergeant still looks extremely doubtful about both affairs.

Today, good-bye is said to "Nifty" Knight, so at last C.S.M. Middleton will have some respite from chasing small dark figures along the road in the early hours of the morning. Very good wishes to Pte. Knight in whatever career he may adopt.

* * *

SPORTS

To date there has been little to report on sport, as almost the entire period since our arrival in Germany has been taken up in fairly intensive training. Other than three cricket matches and one or two friendly soccer and hockey games, we have not managed to get our teeth into sport during the last few months. You will see a report on one of the cricket matches elsewhere in this issue.

With the Training season behind us, we are progressing well with the formation of Battalion teams and already have formidable fixtures for soccer, rugger, hockey and cross-country running. The boxing team has commenced training and we have our first contest in the Divisional Team Championship versus 2 Scots Guards during the first week in November.

The first round of the Army Cup for Soccer takes place on the 15th October versus The 3rd Hussars, and it is closely followed by the first round of the Army Rugger Cup.

Readers will be hearing more of our sporting activities from the representatives of individual sports in future issues.

We have quite a job ahead of us if we are to be successful in these contests as quite a few of our rivals keep teams of permanent gladiators for the major sports.

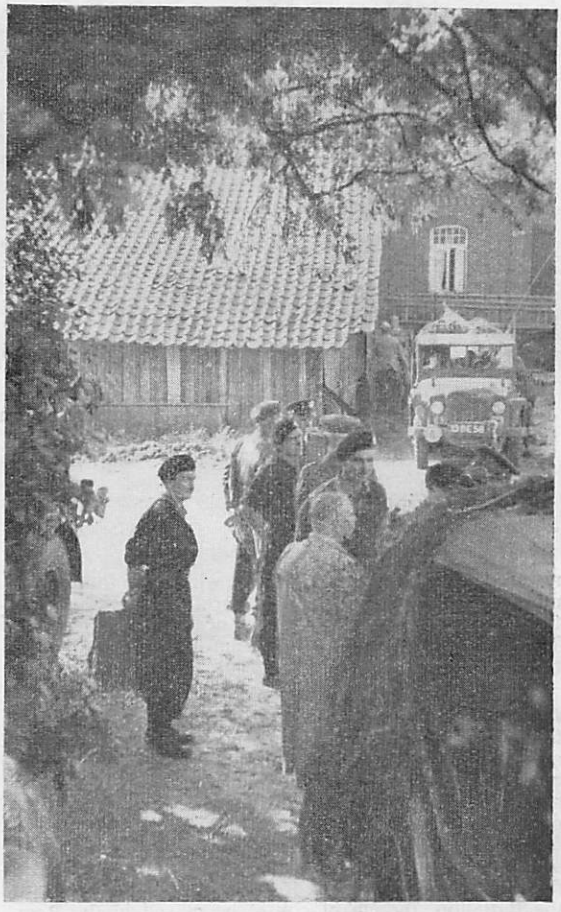
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CRICKET

We were able to play a return match with the 1st Bn. The Grenadier Guards on the afternoon of Thursday, 8th September, 1955. In our first game we lost by the comparatively narrow margin of two wickets and with little time in hand. On this occasion the situation was



"Officer of the 3rd Foot, 1955
The Combat Colonel"



Reading from front to rear: General Heosinger, Western German Army; Major Norris, 2 i/c. 1st Battalion; Major-General Coleman, C. of S. North G.; Major Franklin, Comd., "A" Sqn., 8 R. Tanks; Brigadier Goodwin, Comd. 6 Inf. Bde.; General Gruenther



"A" Company economise in shoe leather

reversed; we won by three wickets with some four or five minutes in hand. It was a most entertaining and fluctuating game played on a somewhat chilly afternoon. The sun shone from time to time but there was a threat of rain.

We lost the toss and had to field first. At one stage things looked rather black, for 2/Lieut. Illingworth was finding gaps in the field with monotonous regularity and only two wickets were down and 70 on the board. However, Pool bowled very steadily and tempted batsmen into making faults. He was aided by two good catches in the covers by Ledger and Mackett. Mackett was put on as a foil to Pool and in his fourth over took four wickets with four balls, three of them clean bowled; a very remarkable feat and very encouraging, for this was his first game for the Battalion, though of course he played in the Regimental Week at the Depot. This virtually ended the innings and we were faced with the score of 153, which although sizeable was not so enormous as we had feared.

Ledger and Lieut. Hicks opened our innings. Lieut. Hicks succumbed early and 2/Lieut. Brice could not stay long, but the Colonel and Ledger kept the score moving steadily. The Colonel survived a caught and bowled chance early on, but thereafter was in complete command and drove and hooked cheerfully. We had a slight setback when Ledger fell, for Major Worts and Lieut. West both made brief and unworthy return journeys to the wicket. Mackett and L/Cpl. Straker, however, proved useful partners for the Colonel, who was now under full steam. At this stage, time was a pressing factor, but L/Cpl. Straker hit three 4's in succession before dying to a good catch on the boundary and we were on terms again. In the end, the Colonel hooked the winning 4 after Pool had shown that he can both bat and bowl.

The game was great fun and we were most hospitably looked after by our opponents.

The score sheet reads as follows:—

The Grenadier Guards

Lieut. Gordon Lennox, c and b Pool	29
Sgt. Starkey, lbw, b West	9
2/Lieut. Illingworth, lbw, b West	74
2/Lieut. Greenwood, c Ledger, b Pool	2
Gdsm. Templeman, c Mackett, b Pool	6
Gdsm. Raynolds, not out	20
Lieut. Smiley, b Mackett	2
Gdsm. Jefferson, lbw, b Mackett	0
Sgt. Linford, b Mackett	0
Gdsm. Taylor, b Mackett	0
Gdsm. Couch, st Hordern, b Pool	2
Extras	9
Total	153

Bowling: Redfern 0-12, West 2-43, Pool 4-44, Mackett 4-17, Ledger 0-24.

The Buffs

Pte. Ledger, lbw, b Reynolds	22
Lieut. Hicks, lbw, b Taylor	8
2/Lieut. Brice, c Starkey, b Taylor	2
Lieut.-Col. Grace, not out	67
Major Worts, c and b Lennox	2
Lieut. West, b G. Lennox	0
Pte. Mackett, b Smiley	15
L/Cpl. Straker, c Couch, b Reynolds	15
Pte. Pool, not out	0
2/Lieut. Redfern, 2/Lieut. Hordern } did not bat	
Extras	18
Total (7 wickets)	157

CHURCH NOTES

The Battalion is particularly fortunate here in Germany in having a very nice Chapel for Divine Service. Taken over from The Durham Light Infantry (with their dedication—to St. Cuthbert), it has since been completely re-decorated and renovated. It is now furnished with a lovely electric organ, which makes a tremendous difference to the Services, and gives Pte. Bosworth, the Organist, the scope he deserves.

Church activities during the quarter ending September have included the formation of a Choir which now numbers 12, when all are present. All ranks have contributed members, and it is hoped to go on from strength to strength. A platoon of 32 went on a Christian Information Course to a lovely Church House at Iserlohn during August, and all came back full of praise of what they saw and learnt. 2/Lieut. M. H. McGowan and Sgt. Parker were in charge.

Evensong is sung every Wednesday, and afterwards the Padre is "At Home" in his office with tea and cigarettes for all who wish to drop in to see him. Some very amusing and interesting discussions have come out of this gathering.

Sunday School for the children is held every Sunday afternoon, and has grown from 8 to 58 "on books". As most of the families live near, it is possible for the children to walk quite easily to the Barracks. On Sunday, 2nd October, the Children's Service was a highlight of the Harvest Festival held on that day. Graham Sharpe read the Lesson, and Susan Willows and Cyril Champion were sidesmen at the Service. Several parents were present, and all the children brought their own offerings to the Altar.

At a Harvest Supper after the Evening Service, the congregation were able to foregather for tea and some home-made fare, which would appear to have been very much enjoyed.

Through the generosity of the Sergeants' Mess, who gave £5 towards the project, and the kind help of Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles, it is hoped to provide pictures of Canterbury and scenes of Kent to put on the walls of the Chapel. The first of the pictures, a lovely painting of the Cathedral, is already in position. If any reader has a picture of a suitable subject, it would be most acceptable, and the Depot will send it on.

Incidentally, the Chaplain, the Rev. E. W. Evans, C.F., completed three years with the Battalion on Sunday, 2nd October, and looks forward to many more years' ministry with the 3rd of Foot.

E.W.E.

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THE WIVE'S CLUB

It has been suggested that at long last a start should be made to record the events and happenings of the families with the 1st Battalion in Wuppertal.

To date, accommodation has been found for between 60 and 70 families, and we hope, in the near future, to welcome all those wishing to join us.

After inevitable misunderstandings, inconveniences and moments of annoyance, "Uncle Bill" has miraculously managed to solve most problems, ably assisted by the Padre's soothing influence. So that taken by and large a happy and contented community enjoy the up-to-date and comfortable houses provided. Most families have also been able to find themselves a "Frau" to help with their household chores.

For the first time during the last few years, it has been possible to form a Wives' Club of our own, with a committee consisting of Mrs. Grace, Mrs. Norris, Mrs. Turmaine, Mrs. Jephcott, Mrs. Morish and last but not least a most efficient secretary in Mrs. Green.

One week in Wuppertal was enough to convince us that it was essential to organise our own activities and entertainments—accordingly a meeting was called in June to discuss future plans and elect a committee.

It was decided to have a Club Day once a week in the W.V.S. rooms in Keightley Barracks.

This summer we have made the most of the fine weather and our lack of knowledge of the surrounding districts of Wuppertal, and taken several trips to local places of beauty or entertainment—later we hope to sample the perfume of 4711 in Cologne and, of course, visit the Cathedral.

A most successful Whist Drive was held in the Sergeants' Mess, kindly lent to us in their absence. Sgt. Edwards was a most able master of ceremonies and during the interval provided a delicious tea.

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Kenya Notes

IT is now known that H.Q. 39 Independent Infantry Brigade will be going to Northern Ireland when it leaves Kenya in December this year, and will not be disbanded as was thought would be its fate earlier. They will be travelling on the *New Australia*, the ship in which our 1st Battalion returned to U.K. from M.E.L.F. in 1952.

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Captain Squire has left us this month for Cyprus where he is to attend a pre-Staff College Examination Course. We have also seen in Nairobi Captain John French *en route* from 6 K.A.R. in Mauritius to Cyprus to attend the same course.

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The Royal Agricultural Show has been held this month at Mitchell Park, Nairobi, and of course the whole city has been full of up-country farmers and their families. In consequence, the social life has brightened up considerably, and there have been many enjoyable parties.

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Those who remember Lieut.-Col. Sandy Thomas, one time B.M. of 39 Brigade and now O.C. Battle School, may be amused to hear of the following incident. Having persuaded the R.A.F. to allow him to travel as a passenger in a Harvard aircraft on a "training flight" to Mombasa, where his family were on holiday, the aircraft missed the island altogether, ran out of petrol, and force-landed on the beach some miles South of Mombasa.

As the tide was coming in, Sandy Thomas had to run about two miles to summon help to get the aircraft airborne again before the tide engulfed it. The subsequent Court of Inquiry proceedings would make interesting reading, but have not been made generally available.

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We have heard that Major Hugh Collins has apparently been on an agricultural course at, of all places, Ol Joro Orok. Apart from this, there is no headline news of his farming activities.

* * *

Crimean War Centenary Luncheon

THE Editor regrets that he has not recorded earlier the menu card and a cutting from *The Times* of a luncheon organized for the sons and daughters of those who served in the Crimea War kindly sent to us by Colonel R. F. Pearson, late The Buffs.

The lunch was held at the Connaught Rooms, London, on 10th May, 1955, and was fully reported in *The Times* of May 11th under the heading "Backward to our Ancestors".

The function was organized by Mr. Bertram E. Sargeant, whose father in the Crimea was a Midshipman in H.M.S. *Royal Albert*, flagship of Vice-Admiral Sir E. (afterwards Lord) Lyons.

Fifty-six men and women attended the lunch. The youngest of the guests was not far short of 70 years old, while the oldest was 94.

A souvenir booklet was given to all those who attended containing their names, with a further list of those unable to be present. Opposite each name were the names of the fathers, with their ranks and ships or regiments in the Crimea. The cover of the booklet has on it a facsimile in colour of the British Crimean War Medal with riband in a prettily designed frame.

Colonel Pearson wrote that he was unable to attend the luncheon as on that day he was returning to his home from the presentation ceremonies of the New Colours to 1st Battalion. He added the following names to the souvenir booklet:—

Hedley Anderson, Mrs. P., daughter of Captain F. W. Gore, 31d Regiment, The Buffs (later Lieut.-Col.);

and those of his sister, brother and himself, all born in the Regiment and all still alive, the sons and daughter of a Crimean War Officer, Captain C. K. Pearson, later Lieut.-General Sir C. K. Pearson, K.C.M.G., C.B., The Buffs, namely:—

Colonel R. F. Pearson, O.B.E., T.D.

E. L. Pearson, late Deputy Commissioner, Kenya.

Mrs. Bertram Talbot.

Mr. Bertram E. Sargeant, M.V.O., O.B.E., Oakover, Ticehurst, East Sussex, would be glad to know of the names and particulars of any more sons or daughters still alive whose fathers were in the Crimea Campaign as he hopes to publish an addenda to his list and send a copy to those who may be interested to have one.

G.R.H.

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Regimental Museum

THE following items have been added to the Museum during September.

A head-dress of the East Kent Rifles. Presented by Lieut.-Col. G. R. D. Hews, M.C., T.D., J.P.

A nicely framed and interesting photograph of the arrival of the first train to enter Arras after the advance on Easter Monday, 1917, showing the band of the 6th Battalion The Buffs. Presented by Mr. A. E. Grant, late 6th Battalion.

An Army List for December, 1814. Presented by Major A. A. West.

An officer's shako plate 1845-1855. This is a very fine plate in nearly new condition. It consists of the universal gilt eight pointed star with the crown above and the following Battle Honours engraved on the centre rays—Talavera, Pyrenees, Nive, Punniar, Nivelle, Albuhera, Douro (reading clockwise from right to left) and Peninsula on a scroll below the crown which cuts off the top or first point of the star.

In the centre a grenade superimposed on which is the dragon with figure 3 below, surrounded by a circle with the Regimental motto—*Veteri Frondescit Honore*; the whole within a wreath of laurel on the left side and palm on the right; the plate being all gilt.

Bought by the Museum Fund and obtained on behalf of the Museum by Colonel C. R. B. Knight, O.B.E.

Also bought from the Museum Fund—an officer's shako—1869-'78, complete with shako plate in very good condition.

Received at the end of the month a number of regimental photographs of interest of the 1st Battalion of about the period 1900-1904: Kamptee, Shwebo, Burma and Dover: kindly sent by Mr. J. F. Kirbey writing from Ramsgate.



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Once a year children everywhere thrill with delight at the thought that Christmas is coming. Who has not known the excited anticipation of the Christmas stocking, the Christmas tree and, best of all, the Christmas Party?

As specialists in service catering for all occasions, Naafi will be delighted to plan your catering arrangements for this very special occasion; for none know better how to provide all the good things that bring pleasure to children of all ages; and none is more experienced in planning for the youngsters the sort of party that they will remember with delight.

For your Christmas party call in Naafi today — the experts in catering with a special way with children.

NAAFI

The official canteen organisation for H.M. Forces. Imperial Court, Kennington, London, S.E.11.

NAAFI

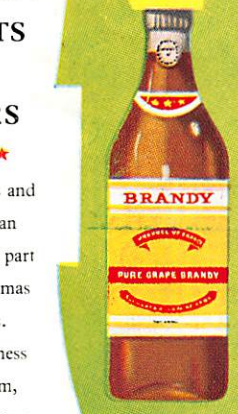


WINES SPIRITS and CIGARS

★ ★ ★

Wines, Spirits and Cigars are an indispensable part of the Christmas Festivities. For home, mess or wardroom, Naafi has in store a wide range of the choicest vintages, and high quality cigars, to warm the heart and bring good cheer. If you wish to send a present of Wines and Spirits to your family or friends, ask your nearest Naafi shop for folders of the complete range of presentation cases. Naafi will despatch them to any address in the U.K. on receipt of your instructions.













The official canteen organisation for H.M. Forces, Imperial Court, Kennington, London, S.E.11.

CHRISTMAS FARE



Christmas-time, the season of rejoicing, is traditionally celebrated around the party table. Wherever these festivities may be held, their success will depend upon the fare provided. Make sure that your table is bountifully laid with the best of good things by ordering your supplies from Naafi. Wherever you may be, Naafi has available a splendid variety of Christmas Fare, of an exciting excellence. Be in good time—place your order with Naafi today.

NAAFI

The official canteen organisation for H.M. Forces
Imperial Court, Kennington, London, S.E.11

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The official canteen organisation for H. M. Forces

Sports Equipment

Sports activities are an essential part of Service life. Equally essential is the selection of the best equipment. This must be of the finest quality at all times and in all fields of competition.

Naafi sports goods are manufactured by leading makers and are offered to the men and women of H.M. Forces at special discount terms. For kit and equipment second to none, at the most advantageous prices, consult your Naafi sports representative. He is an expert in all matters relating to the better enjoyment of the game and his advice and assistance are always available.

Naafi's comprehensive illustrated catalogues covering most games and pastimes may be obtained on request.

Sports Branch, 91 Kennington Lane, London, S.E.11.



Toy Fairs

ABERDEEN, Gordon Barracks.
ALDERSHOT, Waterloo Barracks.
BELFAST, Victoria Barracks.
BICESTER, Arncott Camp.
BOVINGTON CAMP, Dorset.
BULFORD CAMP, Ward Barracks.
CATTERICK CAMP, Mons Lines.
CHATHAM, Naafi, Prince Arthur Rd.
CHESTER, Saighton Camp.
COSFORD, Naafi, R.A.F. Station.
CRANWELL, R.A.F. Station.
DERBY, Normanton Barracks.
DEVONPORT, Naafi, Prospect Row.
EDINBURGH, Redford Cavalry Bks.
FULFORD, Imphal Barracks.
GLASGOW, Maryhill Barracks.
INVERNESS, Fort George.
KINLOSS, R.A.F. Station.
LICHFIELD, Whittington Barracks.
LONDON, Naafi, Kennings Way S.E.11.
MELKSHAM, R.A.F. Station.
NEWCASTLE-on-TYNE, Fenham Bks.
NEWPORT, MON., Artillery Barracks.
PORTLAND, Naafi, Castletown.
PORTSMOUTH, Naafi, Anson Rd., Milton.
SOUTHAMPTON, Winchester Rd., Bassett.
TAUNTON, Sherford Camp.

Mr. Kirbey will be remembered well by the older officers of the Regiment for his long and loyal service to them in the Officers' Mess.

Indirectly he attended the Remembrance Sunday Service and gathering at the Depot during the afternoon when he spent a long time in the Museum. He recognized nearly all the officers in the photograph taken when the two battalions met at Dover in December, 1904.

G.R.H.

* * *

Correspondence

143 Sturry Road,
Canterbury,
Kent.
27*th September*, 1955.

Dear Sir,

The "Old Brigade" notes in the September issue of *The Dragon* make reference to the whereabouts of Sgt. J. Smith, V.C. Being under the impression that his death had been reported some years ago, I examined the current "List of Military Recipients of the Victoria Cross" published in the Supplement to the Army List dated December, 1954, to find that his name does not appear therein.

The Pension Section of the Pay Office here confirms that he died on 18th March, 1946.

This information, I feel, may be of interest to many of the "Old Brigade" who knew and served with him.

Yours faithfully,
E. J. EVANS.

The Editor, "*The Dragon*".

* * *

98 Stafford Road,
Caterham,
Surrey.
26*th September*, 1955.

Dear Sir,

After perusing the Regimental Journal I am forced to admit that I am in full agreement with the letter written by Colonel H. R. Grace, which is also published in the journal. I have, in fact, considered the contents of the Journal poor for some time.

Whilst serving in Hong Kong with the 1st Battalion in 1948-49 suggestions were invited for certain improvements to be made, which would make a much more attractive and interesting Journal. At present the correspondence, the company notes, etc., always appear to follow an accepted pattern, and one reads the same expressions and platitudes month after month, which is intensely boring. I feel that this must be the reason why young officers and soldiers do not purchase the journal, as they should.

In cover design, presentation of material, it falls far behind the journals of other Regiments who produce their journals half-yearly.

May I suggest that the journal is produced quarterly and that the cover should be made of stouter material, or paper. More photographs and general news would add interest. The quarterly publication would allow sub-units time to present more interesting material in a brighter manner. Naturally, this means extra expense but would not this be worth it?

Could we not show the young soldier what his Regimental Association does for him, through the medium of the journal, and in this way attract more youthful members to the Past and Present Association?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD PAPWORTH,
Captain.

(*The question of a quarterly or half-yearly journal has been discussed on former occasions by the Executive Committee, but had no support.—Editor.*)

* * *

Round and About

by The Tramp



UNTIL the other day I had always felt slightly ashamed that I had never been to Salisbury and that all I knew of its superb Cathedral was a distant view from a train of the beautiful spire rising above the roofs of an unvisited city. But things were lately put right on what was the most perfect day of a summer to remember. We motored thither with friends, one of whom is the best of all companions for such a pilgrimage. He is a repository of all that sort of information which enlivens a place; the human details which lie below the surface of mere buildings and bring to life the past. Nor is he just an encyclopaedia

of facts. He communicates his own enthusiasm without forcing it upon one and, best of all, he has a sense of humour worth going far to enjoy.

All of which leads me to say that Salisbury is a place of which its citizens have good reason to be proud. Whether many of them are indeed aware of the privilege of living there is a futile conjecture but I can hardly believe that the occupants of the exquisite eighteenth century houses in the Close can be impervious to their good fortune. There were several of these houses which we all agreed the other day would meet our modest requirements.

MASTER-VIEWS

It is not surprising that painters of eminence found inspiration in Salisbury. Nearly everyone is familiar (even if only from inadequate reproductions) with what Constable and Turner found worthy of their brushes.

We had not enough time to seek out all the spots from which these two geniuses depicted the beauties of the cathedral. That must remain for a further pilgrimage. But I shall go to the National Gallery with renewed interest and enthusiasm, having seen the place. Like Canterbury, Salisbury is sited in a valley dominated by discreet and moderate high ground. This enables the visitor to see it from a distance to great advantage. The mention of Canterbury leads to inevitable, if invidious, comparisons. Nothing, in my partial opinion, can compare with the first sight of Canterbury from the Faversham road at Harbledown. And, breath-taking as Salisbury's spire is, I am still inclined to give the Bell Harry Tower best. Salisbury, of all cathedrals I have seen, has one supreme merit; its spacious Close, with level, unencumbered grass leading up to the grey mass of the church itself, allows a free sight of the whole building from many angles and provides a soft green setting for the stone.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETECTION

The friend whom I mentioned earlier has a special interest in Salisbury. He wrote a book some years ago on Gilbert and Sullivan, the two men, librettist and composer, who combined so surprisingly and yet so effectively in the production of the best comic operas ever staged. The father of William Gilbert lived in the Close and lies buried in the quiet square surrounded by the cloisters adjoining the Cathedral. We found the little slab of stone which marks his resting-place as well as a plaque recording his death on the walls of the cloister itself. A little later we set out to find the house in which he lived and which was occupied by members of his family until 1947. This took us a little time but the official known as the Close Constable courteously made some enquiries for us and we were duly rewarded by being told that a charming house, now the residence of the Bishop of Sherborne, was where Gilbert senior once lived. He was a retired Naval surgeon, as irascible as his famous son and himself a writer (of fiction). What he thought of W. S. Gilbert's success as a librettist is not known but if anyone is capable of finding out it is my friend who is tireless in seeking out such information. Our pleasant detective work done we took tea at a pleasant restaurant comparable in position as well as in character with our familiar Cathedral Tea Rooms next to the Christ Church Gate at Canterbury. And so home through Winterslowe, where Hazlitt once staged, and over part of Salisbury Plain where evidence of military influence is strong though not, as far as we saw, overwhelming. It is excellent country for martial exercises which I suppose will continue well into the Atomic Age.

CYPRUS

Once again Britain has on her hands a difficult problem which, characteristically, we have been over slow to tackle. Of the rights and wrongs of the agitation for *Enosis* this is not the place to write, but once again we have to observe a tendency on the part of a section of our countrymen to assume that we are always in the wrong and, by giving expression to such perverse though familiar views, to hearten our opponents and embarrass our friends. I had the temerity to call attention to this in print a week or so ago but I did not notice any rush to support my contention that there was another side to the question. It is sad that our relations with Greece should be bedevilled by this controversy, especially since many British lives were sacrificed in an effort, not long since, to free Greece from Nazi tyranny and, later, from the Communist menace. The "spiking of the guns" of *Elas* was, it seems obvious to me, the cause of the outbreak of anti-British feeling in Cyprus and in Greece. The eventual settlement of the thorny problem may be long delayed but it looks as though things are not going to be quite so easy for the trouble-makers in the island as they have been of late. There is, incidentally, something deliciously ironic in the reported disinclination of the many Cypriots who live and work in London for the achievement of *Enosis*. Meanwhile we shall have to endure, as we have always done, the "liberal-minded" gentry who take every opportunity to make things more difficult for their

compatriots. We've had it all before; India, Burma, Palestine, Malaya, Suez and Kenya. Those are the "battle-honours" embroidered on the banners of the Down-with-my-own-Country Brigade.

OLD YARN DEPT.

To turn to a pleasanter subject, I heard the other day the story of the "oggle-oggle maker" which belongs to the category of the "shaggy-dog" imbecility. The raconteur told me it is so well-known in Messes and places where such things have currency that strong men blench at the mention of it. To me it came fresh and brought delight. I wonder how many *Dragon* readers know it. I dare not repeat it here although it would not be amiss at a meeting of any Women's Institute. It is merely that I am assured that it is what they call "corny" in Music-hall circles.

* * *

Watch for these Films

THE Virgin Queen. Admirers of Bette Davis will enjoy her performance as Queen Elizabeth I, in this Hollywood production, which has excitement and pageantry, and reasonable historical accuracy. It follows the story of Raleigh, the Queen and Mistress Throgmorton. Raleigh is played by Richard Todd, Leicester by Herbert Marshall, but Bette Davis' acting dominates the scene, and occasionally raises the film to the heights.

The Night holds Terror. A tensely exciting thriller with a topical story. A lonely motorist picks up a good-looking hitch-hiker, and presently is looking into the muzzle of a gun! Both gangsters and victims are resourceful, and the action is full of suspense. It is written and directed by Andrew Stone.

Summer Madness. Directed by David Lean, with Katharine Hepburn as its star. The scene is Venice. Katharine Hepburn is an ageing and plain American secretary, who has never known romance. She finds it in Venice, only to know frustration again. The photography is quite lovely, and Katharine Hepburn's acting, as she looks and tries to take in all the beauty of Venice to remember for ever, is memorable. "One of the greatest film performances ever seen."—*Daily Telegraph.*

Touch and Go. An English comedy, about a family about to emigrate to Australia, and what to do with the cat! It is from a story by William Rose, who wrote the screen play of *Genevieve.* It is a pleasant, friendly film. Jack Hawkins and Margaret Johnston play the father and mother, with a delightful sense of comedy.

My Sister Eileen. A musical film from the play of the same name, and is quite charming. The dances are particularly well arranged, by Robert Fosse, who plays in the film. There is also Tommy Rall, who danced so beautifully in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers.* It is directed by Richard Quine who acted in the play, and an earlier film. A very enjoyable picture.

M.M.A.

Beneath Bell Harry



"THIS is the B.B.C. Concert Orchestra, playing to you from the Depot of the Buffs, Canterbury." Thus did B.B.C. announcer Frank Phillips, in his familiar and well modulated voice, introduce his programme to the listening public and to the "live" audience in the Garrison Theatre at half-past seven on the evening of the 3rd October.

Great credit is due to Major Henry Watts and his team for all the organisation and hard work in connection with the reception of the Orchestra and seating arrangements for the audience.

There was no doubt, from the enthusiastic applause that greeted each item, that the concert was thoroughly appreciated by the soldiers. Perhaps the most popular piece was the *Concerto in E Flat for Trumpet and Orchestra* by Haydn, in which soloist Dennis Clift played brilliantly, although the *Overture to Donna Diana* by Roznicek seemed to receive an equally warm ovation.

May we here record our appreciation of the fifty-four piece orchestra led by John Sharpe and conducted by Charles Mackerras, and of announcer Frank Phillips, who added so much to the interest of the programme. When referring to the trumpet soloist Frank Phillips told how just before the concert, Dennis Clift, an ex-Grenadier, received a telegram from his old regiment, asking "Why are you playing for The Buffs?" This, needless to say, went down very well with the audience.

No. 1 COMPANY

Probably the main item of importance for this month was the Home Counties District Shoot, which took place on the 24th-25th September. Thirty-two teams competed and from the start it was fairly obvious that the standard set was high indeed. Our own team, captained by Lieut. Dracopoli, after a dismal start eventually held fifth place (a position, readers may remember, we held a short while ago in a Brigade Meeting). Individuals of the team are to be congratulated on obtaining distinction in various fields, namely Lieut. Dracopoli (Best Snap score) plus firing in the Regular Army Team versus T.A. Cpl. McNeill, best Rapid Score in his class; and L/Cpl. Howe, best Application in his class at 500 yards. Cpl. McNeill and L/Cpl. Hadlow between them carried away most of the prize money on the Sten Sideshow. In all, although the team placing was not particularly high, an enjoyable and certainly a profitable time was had.

The Annual Administration Inspection is gradually drawing nearer, heralded by numerous Adjutant's Parades, Kit Inspections and the one thousand and one items that go on behind the scenes to ensure a favourable chit. The whole place is Admin. conscious. Never before have so many people moved so fast in the same area doing the same job.

At the beginning of the month, Sgt. Recton, not looking too happy, departed for a Drill Course at Pirbright. He seems to be still there, so we all wish him success, and a tough pair of feet. Sgt. Parker, the renowned if not elegant Drafting Sergeant, is at present busy on a Fire Fighting Course. The Battalion must be prepared for future drafts arriving with a length of hose in the ready position. L/Cpl. Green is away too learning the intricacies of a First Aid Course. What a time we shall have when these N.C.O.s return, flames and flesh, stirrup pumps and stretchers, and turnings by numbers; humanity won't stand it!

In lighter vein, it seems that dancing lessons are proving to be popular all round. In fact lots of Castles are being built on the dance-floor.

* * *

RUGGER

With the influx of potential leaders, the possibilities for a successful side this season are very high. Already we have played six games, winning four and losing two. To date the best game was undoubtedly that against Canterbury 1st XV, which we lost by 11 points to 9—a grand game which remained in the balance until the final whistle.

We congratulate 2/Lieut. Daniel on being selected to play in the Kent Trials and sincerely hope that he and 2/Lieut. Holmes-Smith will have a successful season in B.A.O.R. with the 1st Battalion.

* * *

SOCCER

The results of recent Wednesday League Soccer Matches were:—

Depot *v* School of Infantry, Hythe, Won 3—2

Depot *v* R.A.F., St. Margaret's Bay, Lost 0—3

Results of smaller matches were:—

No. 1 Company beat No. 2 Company 5 nil

No. 1 Company beat The Queen's Draft 4—1

Buffs' Golfing Society



THE Autumn Meeting of the Society was held on 10th and 11th September on the links of the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club. Sixteen Members came under the Starter's orders, in this case as on previous occasions in the capable hands of Lieut.-Col. Knocker. The links were in first class order and all enjoyed the Meeting, except perhaps for the last afternoon, when the weather turned wet and gusty.

In spite of the varied nature of the programme, it is noteworthy how few names figure in the list of winners. Without splitting competitors into more categories, of either age or excellence, there seems no way of avoiding this. Perhaps the solution is for more Members to enter!

Any suggestions will receive careful consideration. The results of the Meeting are as shown. The sum of £2 11s. 0d. was raised by Baird and Trevor Eclectic Competitions.

The Annual Dinner was a very pleasant affair and the Royal Hotel put up quite a good dinner. The subsequent business was quickly disposed of and the nomination of Mr. R. C. Lancaster as Captain for 1956 was received with acclamation. We all felt what a lot of interest and support the Society had received from Major Montgomery while his golf has been an inspiration to us all.

The Hon. Secretary read his Report and the evening closed in a general air of *bon hommie*. The Report and Statement of Accounts is appended.

J.C.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The year 1955 had more potential entries for Meetings and matches than any other year since the war. That these aspirations were not, in all cases realised, does not, I think, detract from the fact that the Society is still on a pretty even keel. I must admit, however, that it did heel over somewhat in the case of two matches. In one of them play took place with the help of enrolled opponents. In the other the match had to be abandoned. This was the match *v* Rye G.C. This is much to be regretted as we have received much hospitality from them.

The result of the matches played showed that we lost 4, halved 1 and won 1.

Suggestions have reached me that New Zealand and Liphook are too far off and the expenses are in proportion. That may be so, but, I would like to remark that there is never any difficulty in filling them.

There have been six new Members to the Society during the year, three of whom we have had the pleasure of seeing at this Meeting.

Turning to the finances of the Society, I must first thank Mr. Smith, who has once again been so kind as to audit our accounts. I feel no embarrassment in submitting my accounts to him as, should he find a mistake it is so tactfully pointed out that no loss of face is suffered.

I think you will agree that our finances are in a satisfactory condition. We were able to contribute towards the expenses of the team which travelled to Muirfield to play in the Army Golf Championship. Next year it is to be held at Royal St. George's, when I hope we shall put in a team.

J.C.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

30TH JUNE, 1955

ASSETS

	£	s.	d.
Balance at Bank	17	15	6
Reserve Fund	3	12	11
Canterbury Trustee Savings Bank	109	17	6
Defence Bonds	100	0	0
	£231	5	11

LIABILITIES

	£	s.	d.
Due to Hon. Treasurer	3	12	8
Due to King George's Fund	2	5	0
Due to Kent Playing Fields	2	5	0
	£8	2	8

Examined and found correct:

S. A. R. SMITH, *Hon. Auditor.*

* * *

BUFFS GOLFING SOCIETY AUTUMN MEETING 1955

PAGET CUP.—*Winner:* M. de J. Creswick (6) 147. *Runner-up:* Brigadier M. P. Dewar (11) 153.

REEVES CUP.—*Winner:* M. de J. Creswick 159. *Runner-up:* Major D. Montgomery (4) 166.

LYNDEN-BELL TROPHY.—*Winner:* Major D. Montgomery 4 5 up. *Runner-up:* M. de J. Creswick (6) 3 up.

COUPE DES LAPINS.—*Winner:* 2/Lieut. R. Lea 7 down. *Runner-up:* Major K. C. Meyrick 10 down.

BRADLEY-DYNE SALVER.—*Winner:* M. de J. Creswick 148. *Runner-up:* Brigadier M. P. Dewar 153.

BAIRD CUP.—*Winner:* M. de J. Creswick 65. *Runner-up:* H. B. Vertue 70.

TREVOR CUP.—*Winner:* Major D. Montgomery 63. *Runner-up:* Captain M. Bollon 71.

KENWARD CUP.—*Winner:* F. D. C. Cobb (6) 84 – 6 = 78. *Runner-up:* M de J. Creswick 85 – 6 = 79.

NILGIRI CUP.—*Winner:* Major R. H. Dendy (18) 103 – 18 = 85. *Runner-up:* Lieut.-Col. N. E. Hoare 107 – 18 = 89.

KING GEORGE'S FUND FOR SAILORS.—*Winner:* F. D. C. Cobb 78 net.

KENT PLAYING FIELD.—*Winner:* M. de J. Creswick 73 net.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the Foursome Competition was not played.

* * *

4/5th Battalion



WITH the Autumn Camp come and gone the present training year draws to a close; anxious eyes are cast at the number of drills in the book and for some there is the prospect of another Sunday—positively the last this time—at Lydden Spout in order to classify on Rifle and Bren. Fuller notes on the Autumn Camp appear elsewhere, and generally speaking it seemed a rather more gentle affair than the treatment meted out on Salisbury Plain, but equally profitable. There is no little speculation as to the future and the usual run of training conferences is expected before we get under way again.

Just at present preparations are going ahead for the forthcoming Administrative Inspection and in view of the many recent changes there is much to be done before the Brigade Commander visits Drill Halls.

The second phase of the re-organisation scheme has been carried out and as the result of the upheaval specialist training is concentrated at Dover, Deal and Sandwich with various outlying detachments. With the change-over came the following new appointments:—

Major U. H. B. Alexander, M.B.E., to Battalion 2 i/c. from "Sp" Company.

Major J. Tilleard, T.D., to "Sp" Company from "A" Company.

Major C. E. E. Balding to "A" Company from "C" Company.

Major F. D. C. Cobb, T.D., to "C" Company. and when the flurry of handing-over certificates has died down we shall all see exactly where we are and the shape of future things. A very special welcome must be given to Major Cobb on his first appointment in this Battalion.

On the posting of Sgt. Dean we also welcome Sgt. Bryant, who is taking over as P.S.I. at "A" Company. He is not unknown to many of us and we feel sure he will enjoy his stay.

* * *

44 DIVISION AND HOME COUNTIES DISTRICT RIFLE MEETING

The Battalion again entered teams for the competitions in the Divisional Rifle Meeting held at Hythe on 24th/25th September, 1955.

Conditions on the Saturday were very good for shooting, but showers of rain on the Sunday brought their difficulties. In the main competition, the team obtained only a very modest place in the lower half of the table. In the Falling Plate Competition we were beaten in the third round, our opponents finishing in almost record time. Our best effort was in the China Cup Competition, where we were placed fourth, thanks to an extremely good score by the rifle group.

Much of the pleasure in this meeting lies in meeting old friends throughout the Division, but one wonders why we are so hard pressed to produce only one team, when other units produce two and three and travel greater distances in time to compete on the Saturday morning!

* * *

AUTUMN CAMP

A very successful Camp was held at the Depot from 26th September to 8th October. Those attending were formed into five cadres for instruction and training in Weapons, M.T., Signals, 17-pdr. and 3-in. Mortar. Training was gentle, but of great value, and all departed in good humour after a thoroughly profitable fortnight.

All five cadres had their moments of crisis; despite Sgt. Stoakes' Kenya-inspired example on the .38, potential Hop-along-Cassidys on "B" Range endeavoured—without success—to pepper the Married Quarters. The M.T. Cadre formed a new pool of drivers for next Camp and barely missed a car involved with a Brewer's lorry in Broad Street, while one-tonners were camouflaged so well in the Old Park that it is reported that Sgt. Saunders is still looking for them. Radio Luxembourg was well received on the Signals Cadre's 62 sets and Sgt. Porter ably acquitted himself as a conductor of community singing with a newly inspired chant "Alpha, Bra(h)vo, Charlie, Delta"!

It was pleasant to welcome some new faces from the Gunners, although L/Cpl. Kemp is obviously more at home with bigger stuff than .303.

Classification at Lydden Spout became something of a picnic, with oranges and bananas on the bill of fare; sheep narrowly escaped being added to the menu but were finally hustled off by a fair imitation of Romney Marsh Sheep-dog Trials (with no business therefore for the permanent Court of Inquiry in constant session on these occasions). As the final shot whined down the range and the wash-out flag waved happily for the last time, and the *concours d'elegance* of expensive looking cars which had augmented the unit transport began speeding back to Canterbury, everyone experienced some feeling of regret that this was the end of yet another Camp.

* * *

"A" COMPANY

This month we welcome as Company Commander, Major Balding from "C" Company, who takes over from Major Tilleard; and we say good-bye to Sgt. Dean on posting to the Depot. Sgt. Bryant is taking over as P.S.I. and we specially welcome him on returning to the fold. He is not unknown to many of us—and some are even wondering what he remembers about them from the past!

The Machine Gunners have set up shop at Sandwich, although a detachment will continue to do drills at Ramsgate and carry out Platoon Headquarters training. With their store becoming vacant, Sgt. King's eyes gleam at the thought of a possible workshop.

Our future commitments include a Festival of Remembrance at Margate, a Parade on Remembrance Sunday, and some as yet unspecified duty for the Past and Present Association. Fuller reports will be given in the next issue of *The Dragon*.

* * *

"B" COMPANY

During the past month the Company has been rather busy getting prepared for the winter session which is about to descend upon us.

As everyone is rather interested in the Infantry after the change over from the Royal Artillery our attendances are up rather more than we expected after the rather hard camp period.

We are now getting in some practice for the forthcoming Postal Shoot and Drill Hall Shoot.

On the eleventh of the month we attended the open range at Lydden Spout to fire both L.M.G. and Rifle Courses. Congratulations to Cpl. Beamish on obtaining the Marksman score of 103 out of 120.

Our able Canteen Sergeant is still looking for the keys!!

This winter we hope to be able to get in the ground work for a very good rifle company, and with the aid of our senior and junior ranks we are sure of success.

By the end of this month we hope to be able to say that everyone in the Company has enjoyed a camp period at one or the other camps.

In the near future we hope to be able to be in a position to challenge other companies to a pleasant evening on the miniature range as well as basket ball, etc., not to forget billiards and snooker.

Our Company has now increased by taking on two drill halls from "S" Company, namely Cranbrook and Tenterden, and we hope they will all like the change from Specialists to Riflemen once more.

* * *

"Sp" COMPANY

All is hustle and bustle in "Sp" Company as things sort themselves out after the changeover and we prepare for the forthcoming Brigade Commander's Inspection. At Deal, where Company Headquarters occupy the palatial drill hall in Middle Road, there are comings and goings (mostly by Captain Morgan commanding the Private Army at Sandwich) and even baffle being applied with a powered spray to some of the vehicles. Similar conditions prevail at other drill halls, but we hope to be straight by the end of the month and can then settle down to future training.

The Machine Gun Platoon spent an exciting Sunday at Hythe, where the only thing to go right was the appearance of tea in the middle of the morning (C.S.M. Gabriel, please note!). One particular gun just would not behave—look who prepared it!—and the combination of this and a belt of ammunition which produced every possible stoppage was crowned by an oil bottle which just came apart in Capt. Morgan's hands. Despite all this, those who attended had a good shoot and it was nice to have as visitors R.S.M. Bingham, C.S.M. Gabriel and Sgt. King.

As the result of the changeover we have said good-bye to Major Alexander, who takes over as Second-in-Command, and welcome Major Tilleard from "A" Company. Major Tilleard is still on the sick list but is happily able to get about after his spell in hospital; one of his first duties on visiting the Company will undoubtedly be to draw up a list of officers for Harbour Party duty—particularly for the early variety! There is no truth in the suggestion that C/Sgt. Wing is taking a special course in maintenance of Primus stoves against the day when the new Company Commander arrives.

There have been two dances so far, one at Deal and one at Sandwich, and we hope to continue these and other social activities.

* * *

H.Q. COMPANY

The Adjutant from his all-powerful position has nominated me editor of our Company notes. I am minded of those old Shakespearian lines, "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them". I fall into the last category.

We extend our congratulations to Major Alexander on his appointment to Second-in-Command, and we look forward to welcoming him in our Drill Hall. He is another of the successful Scots, who leave their Highland fastnesses to come and live in the rich Sassenach country.

We welcome to Headquarter Company, Capt. J. A. Usher, formerly a gunner, who is bravely entering the infantry world in the early forties, an age when most of us are thinking of transferring into a Corps, like the Royal Army Pay Corps. I am glad to record that among Capt. Usher's many attributes, he is a financial genius and has been a Field Cashier. The Headquarter Company canteen should prosper under new management.

We are very sorry to have lost Sgt. Neaves, one of our oldest warriors and the holder of the Long Service Medal with two bars. He has recently been our Provost Sergeant, but I am glad to report that he does not appear to have had many customers.

Cpl. Lane has also had to leave us owing to moving to London. He acted very ably two years ago as our C.Q.M.S. and saved the Company Commander a lot of money.

Sgt. Porter has been very active recently with an Autumn Camp. All those happy fellows who missed the joys of Salisbury Plain have now been accounted for.

Sgt. Saunders and Cpl. Williams represented us in the District Rifle Meeting. We hear that Cpl. Williams nearly rose to Bisley standard. Our congratulations.

May I remind members of the Company that Headquarter Company is entering for the Inter-Unit Postal Shooting Competition, which must be completed by December 31st, 1955. This year it is hoped that Headquarter Company will show the rifle companies what true marksmanship constitutes.

We should also like your support for our training film evenings, which take place on the first and last Tuesdays of the month. The seating may not be Odeon standard, but the films are interesting.

The wedding bells have once again been active and both Ptes. Gore and White have entered the state of marital bliss. Every congratulation and a certain amount of sympathy.

* * *

Dormant West Country Buffs

THE very day after the September *Dragon* reached these remote regions it was most encouraging to hear from Brigadier R. Craddock, who promised to attend the proposed meeting wherever it was held, provided it was not in the Scilly Isles. He also sent in four other names of possible starters. These are: Brigadier H. C. T. Stronge, who lives almost next door to his brother-in-law, Lieut.-Col. Eustace Airy, in Gloucestershire, Lieut.-Col. Eric Scott, from Dorset, Major E. Edlmann from the Boys' Battalion at Plymouth, and Major Ransley at Winterbourne Gunner. That brings our total to 18.

Alas! The "ballon d'essai", released with such high hopes in the September *Dragon*, has from every other quarter been ignored with stony indifference. True, Michaelmas brought its cluster of letters, which came thudding through the letter box, but these were all bills.

Clearly, no more progress is possible unless Buffs in the West Country express their views on this proposal of a dinner. Long experience of the dilatory habits of Westcountrymen has taught me never to expect an immediate response. Drake refused to go to sea until he had finished his game of bowls. Perhaps it would be better

to hand over to the originator of this happy notion. He has the advantage of being a Staff College graduate, and will be more capable of dealing with this intricate problem. The address is: Lieut.-Col. E. Hudson Allen, Bridge Cottage, Charminster, Dorset.

Passed to you, Sir, for necessary action, please!

R.T.

* * *

Regimental Gazette

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER, 1955

INFANTRY

TERRITORIAL ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Lt. R. F. Johnson (425209) from T.A. Nat. Serv. List to be Lt., 15th July, 1955, with seniority 20th June, 1954.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1955

THE WAR OFFICE, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1955

REGULAR ARMY

Brig. T. H. Spear, O.B.E. (6710), late Inf., retires on ret. pay, 10th September, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

THE BUFFS.—22765751 Sgt. Guy Thomas Willey (444460) to be 2nd Lt., 31st July, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

CLASS III

THE BUFFS.—Lt. N. M. Howland (413592): The Notifn. in Gazette (Supplement) dated 16th August, 1955 is cancelled.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Lt. H. M. Howand (413592) from T.A. Nat. Serv. List, to be Lt., 15th July, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt R. T. Nye (410482) from Active List, to be Lt., 5th July, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER, 1955

INFANTRY

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

THE BUFFS.—Capt. N. G. H. Taylor (182144) from Active List to be Capt., 9th August, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Maj. W. G. Blaxland (95239) retires on ret. pay on account of disability, 23rd September, 1955.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

23067882 Cadet Robin Charles Mabey (442833) to be 2nd Lt., 2nd July, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

CLASS III

THE BUFFS.—Lt. T. A. Tilley (414191) from T.A. Nat. Serv. List to be Lt., 23rd September, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Lt. John Henry Davison (416764) from Short Serv. Commn. to be Lt., 28th September, 1955, with seniority 1st September, 1952.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

THE BUFFS.—Lt. (Hon. Capt.) W. J. Tyrrell (75493) having exceeded the age limit ceases to belong to the T.A. Res. of Offrs., 28th September, 1955, retaining the hon. rank of Capt.

The undermentioned Officer Cadets from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, to be 2nd Lts., 29th July, 1955, with seniority 29th July, 1955, except as otherwise stated:—

INFANTRY

THE BUFFS.—Richard Thomas Pigot Williams (443596), 27th November, 1954; James Douglas Whitehead Reid. (443547).

* * *

Old Brigade News

GEORGE Cobb and Billy Everitt recently visited the Dane John Memorial whilst on holiday. The names thereon brought back sad memories of those Buffs who gave their lives fighting the Boers 56 years ago.

* * *

Jimmy Dray tells us there is an improvement in his health, but his doctor warns he must still take things quietly. He sends good wishes to all his old friends. His wife recently attained the age of 81 years.

* * *

Snowball Manning met many old friends at Canterbury on Remembrance Sunday, but he missed many old pals of the Chitral and N.W. Frontier days.

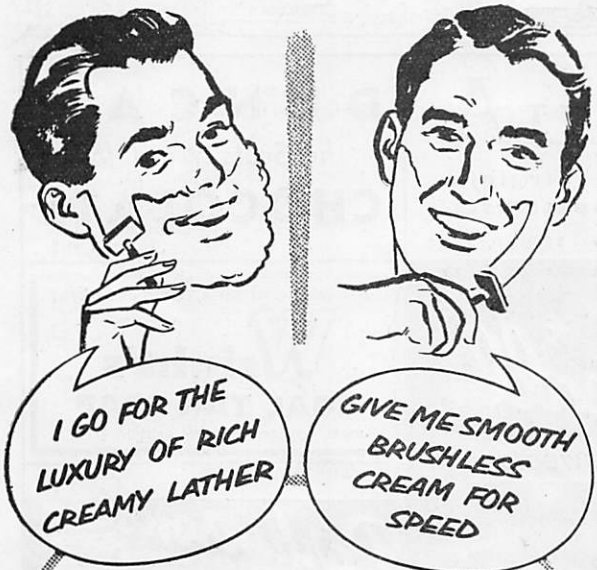
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The Old Brigade regret to hear of the admission to hospital of Colonel J. Crookenden and sends him all good wishes for a speedy recovery.

* * *

We recently had a letter from that fine son of The Buffs, Mr. A. Ongley, enclosing a letter to him from that dear lady of the Regiment, Mrs. Mary Freeman, who is now 85 years of age, in which she says, "I knew Mrs. Enright and Mrs. Spinner when they were babies." Some babies now!

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Obtainable from NAAFI stores everywhere

The Marmalade with the delicious tenderised peel!

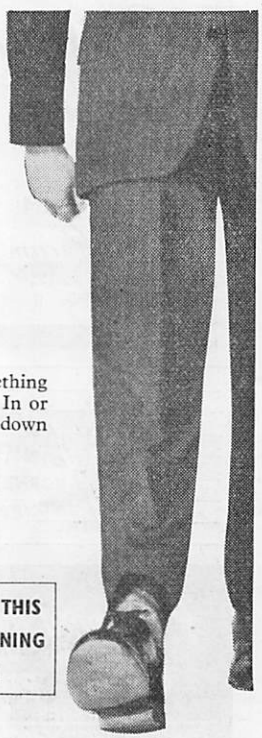
Serial No ★ 1754 BRITISH GOOD HOUSEKEEPING INSTITUTE GUARANTEES REFUND OF MONEY OR REPLACEMENT IF NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE INSTITUTE'S STANDARDS

and

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NO ADDED PRESERVATIVE OR COLOURING MATTER

There's something about a soldier...



EVEN IN CIVVIES

... that makes him stand out. Something in his step, something in his dress. In or out of uniform, he's smart right down to his Kiwi shine.

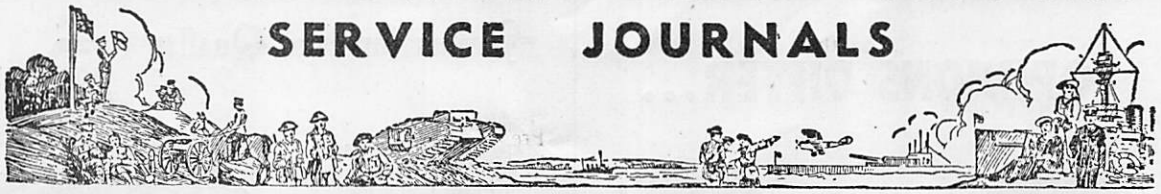
KIWI



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CHOCOLATE

Meltonian
SHOE CREAMS
and WHITE DRESSINGS

Pascall
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Wright's
COAL TAR SOAP
IDEAL FOR TOILET BATH AND NURSERY

POTATO
SMITH'S
CRISPS
WE HELP TO FEED THE NATION

Parkinson's
DONCASTER
EST. 1817
OLD FASHIONED HUMBUGS
AND OTHER VARIETIES

Eldorado
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MINERAL WATERS
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FROM ALL GOOD GROCERS AND STORES

PARK DRIVE
CIGARETTES
FOR PLEASURE

For Your Enjoyment
Callard & Bowser's
Celebrated "Thistle Brand"
BUTTER-SCOTCH
Famous since 1837

Mr. Ongley informs us that not far from him reside Colonel R. W. Craddock, C.B.E., D.S.O., and Major P. Ransley, M.B.E.

* * *

Our old friend Dusty Ruler keeps smiling, notwithstanding his infirmity, and his good wishes to all old pals.

* * *

We have no further news of Donkey Warren, Chocolate Taylor, or Molly Marshall since we last reported they were not feeling too good.

J.E.E.

* * *

Past and Present Association

Life Members

1ST TO 30TH SEPTEMBER

Ashford Branch.—Baker, D. J.
London Branch.—Rippin, J. G. F., Clout, P. H.
Medway Branch.—Beech, F.
H.Q. Roll.—Keen, R. V., Simpson, K. T.

* * *

Annual Members

1ST TO 30TH SEPTEMBER

London Branch.—Harlin, F., Jarvis, B. W.
H.Q. Roll.—Peckham, A. D., Small, S. J.

* * *

Donations

	£	s.	d.
Army Benevolent Fund	500	0	0
Buffs Golfing Society	2	11	0

* * *

Grants

	£	s.	d.
Benevolent Fund	41	0	3
World War 1939 Charitable Fund	34	6	3

* * *

Annual General Meeting

THE Meeting was held in the NAAFI, New Infantry Barracks, on Saturday, 17th September. In the unavoidable absence of the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier J. G. Nicholson, C.B.E., took the Chair. His Speech to the delegates and the Secretary's Report for 1954-55 are published herewith.

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

This is the first time that I have been able to speak to you as Chairman of our Past and Present Association. It is to me a very great honour that the Colonel of the Regiment chose me to serve in this appointment—and here I draw attention to the word "serve", to which I shall return later.

You will share with me our great regret that General Boucher, our Colonel, is not with us to-day. I know from close association with him in London how busy he is and I also know, as you do, how much of his little leisure time he puts into the affairs of the Regiment, and to attending our various Regimental functions and Branch meetings. This is an occasion on which we can give expression to our great appreciation of all our Colonel is doing for us and I know that you would wish me to do so.

The last year has been a full one in the life of the Regiment. We witnessed the return of the 1st Battalion from arduous duty—carried out with great devotion and distinction—in Kenya; then the presentation of new Colours by our Colonel-in-Chief, followed by the laying up of the old Colours in the Cathedral here, and finally the departure of the 1st Battalion again for service in Germany. On these events I need not dwell. They are the very stuff of the life of the Regiment. Their like has happened in the centuries before we and our generations were born, and I venture to predict will happen time and time again in the years to come.

I want now to put two thoughts to you. Neither may be new but both are, I believe, important, and I believe connected.

The first is a thought about Service. I, your Secretary Colonel Argles, and the members of your Executive Committee are your servants. Our mission is to advise you when and as necessary, and then to see that what you wish is brought about. So please never hesitate to tell us what you have in mind. We can only serve you if we know what you want, and I know you realise that if at any time you wished to discuss matters personally with me or with your Secretary, we would most assuredly and happily make time available to make a special visit to you.

Depending from this thought of Service, I come to one about our Association. Last year, our Colonel drew your attention to the importance of keeping the Association alive and young, of bringing in new members from all those who passed through our ranks. He stressed in particular that when putting to the soldier

passing from the active list to civilian life, the desirability of joining the Association, the point to make to him is—and here I quote—"Not so much what he can get out of it, but what he can put in to it." That is the essence of Service, whether to Queen, Country or neighbour, which it is the duty of all of us of the older generation to instil into all that follow us. The world, and more especially England, stands to-day at a crisis in time. There is every hope and possibility that if we all do our duty and realize our responsibilities, economic stability will be achieved and a general war averted. Such hopes could well be tragically disappointed by the actions of those who think only of themselves, and endeavour to get out of life, perhaps in wages or in some other way, more than they put in. They may be acting in thoughtlessness and ignorance, but the effect is the same.

I most strongly believe, and I hope I shall carry you all with me in this, that organisations such as our Association are a powerful defence against this very real danger. We, fellow members in this Association, have all served together and know what Service means. You cannot live and fight and survive together as many of us have done, without trusting, and without giving rather than demanding, which as I have said, is the essence of Service. In short, we older soldiers know the form, and it is our duty to get hold of the younger generation and see that they know it also.

Please, therefore, take back with you the determination to get every Buff in your area into the Association, so that you may keep alive in him the spirit of Service and all that that means. In so doing, you will not only be advancing the ordinary causes of the Regiment, but very directly helping it to fulfil the purpose for which it was raised, and still exists—the Service of the reigning Sovereign and the Country.

I have said much about service this afternoon as a term that is familiar to, and well understood, by all of us here. And I should like to conclude by reading to you what a civilian with no army background, a very discerning lady, Freya Stark, once wrote on the subject:

"Service became the instrument, not only of Christianity but of every religion in the world, long before houses or housemaids were invented. It was the rose in the first desert, and still makes life possible for nurses, government officials, men in offices, whose work might otherwise be beyond their capacity to bear. It endows humble people with their chance of the greatest of worldly luxuries, since it makes of their labour, which is the only commodity they have, a thing that can be given. Its secret of happiness is made manifest in any crisis, when men forget to care about their rights and think of service only."

* * *

ANNUAL REPORT 1954-55

Brigadier Nicholson will have already referred to the inability of the Colonel of the Regiment to be here to-day. In his extremely busy and onerous life, he finds it difficult to fit in any leave and this is about the only time when it was possible for him to be away from the War Office. We regret his absence but are glad to know he is on leave. I should also like, on your behalf, to express at this Meeting our great pleasure at the exacting appointment at Washington for which he has been selected.

Also, on your behalf, I welcome Brigadier Nicholson, in the Chair for the first time at our Annual General Meeting.

The past year has been a memorable one for the Regiment and for the Association, which has been privileged to bear some official part during the ceremonies of Presentation of New Colours to the 1st Battalion. Probably only once in a lifetime does a Regiment receive new Colours from its Royal Colonel-in-Chief in its own home. We were pleased to welcome on that occasion representatives of our Danish Branch, and, as recently as last Monday, Mr. Berendt, the Honorary Secretary of the Branch, visited me in my office.

The Accounts were published in *The Dragon* last month and I hope you are satisfied that, on the whole, they are healthy. In this connection I will refer presently to *The Dragon*. During 1954/55 we enrolled 40 new life members and 65 new annual members, so that there is still need for more and active recruiting. A letter on this subject, under my signature, to all Kentish newspapers has met with a fair response.

The general work of the Association continues at much the same volume and I trust that I have been able to keep you up-to-date with current events and meet your recommendations for assistance from our welfare funds. During the financial year under review we made grants from the Benevolent Fund of £426 8s. 11d. and from the World War Charitable Fund of £482 1s. 6d.

Our Administration Expenses Account showed a small debit of £13 odd, from which you will, I hope, agree that we have paid our way. Nevertheless, I feel this is sailing too near the wind.

So far we have not had to draw on our investments in this connection and presently I would like your views as to the possibility of increasing to some extent our Running Expenses revenue. I receive a great deal of help, which saves on funds, from O.R.Q.M.S. Webb and his staff and I would like to express to them our sincere thanks. In April this year, Mrs. Grugeon left our service on her marriage and to her also I would express my thanks for a year's devoted and efficient service. The work is now shared by Mrs. Lawson, who deals with Past and Present matters, and Mrs. Manthorpe, with *The Dragon*, on the special days devoted to the two branches of work. I have been extremely fortunate to secure the services of these two very efficient ladies.

And now as to *The Dragon*. Although we were able to live on our resources during the past year, it was due largely to subscriptions in hand but paid in advance. Our actual working account showed a loss of some £100 over the previous year, though when one takes into consideration Sundry Debtors outstanding on 31st March, the capital deficit was only £52 4s. 2d. Whilst the position is not hopeless, nevertheless, it should be healthier. It is some consolation to know that nearly all regimental journals are in the same position but I feel that some effort on our part must be made. With the help of Major A. J. H. Taylor I am hoping to increase our revenue by obtaining more local advertising. This may not take effect for some weeks yet. The 1st Battalion have increased their order by 100 copies per month. Can I appeal to Branches to see whether their Branch sales can be increased at all? Printing costs, like everything else, increase at an alarming rate.

The Ladies' Guilds continue to be active and continue their support of the Association and I should like to express my thanks to them. I also express thanks to the Depot Commander, to R.S.M. White, and all under their charge, for the never failing help which we receive in our work and our various functions.

E.V.A.

* * *

Ashford Branch

This meeting was opened by all members present standing in silence in memory of the late Major Andrews.

The Chairman (A. J. Mills) then welcomed a new Life Member (D. J. Baker, ex-Sgt. of the 2nd Battalion). We wish him a happy time with us all. Our Secretary was then called upon to read the Minutes of the previous meeting, which were signed as correct; after which the correspondence was read and discussed.

The final arrangements were then made for the visit next Saturday of the London Branch and we are all looking forward to an enjoyable social evening.

In regard to the fishing competition, it is regretted that we are unable to enter, through the lack of fishermen, although some of them "can tell a good yarn".

We are sorry to hear that Mr. F. Ward is unable to get about now. He is only able to move from bed to armchair. We all wish him well again.

Ted Stace gave a report about the forthcoming Indoor Crib and Dart Contest which covers Ashford. We are entering a team in each of these events.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 20.30 hours, after which came the draw for the raffle, and Mr. Green was the winner of both prizes, which has never happened before in memory. He returned the second prize, which was put up for auction and raised 3/6 for branch funds.

The second round of our Darts and Crib Contest was played. Mr. H. Coleman had a stiff job with Mr. Blake (the previous crib winner). Hard luck, Harry! C. Barham and S. Ellinder had a hard game, C. Barham being the winner. Through playing this, S. Elinder missed his bus. Still, he wasn't worried as his wife was out. With these two games over and the noise around the dart board ceasing, all dispersed after having a splendid evening.

As usual, G. Skinner got a special thank you from the barmaid for collecting the empty glasses.

* * *

Our meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. on 1st October, our President (Major Bompas), Chairman (A. J. Mills) and twenty-one members being present.

The Secretary read the Minutes for the previous meeting, and then followed with the correspondence, which was discussed. A letter was read from Mr. F. Ward of Charing thanking all concerned for the grant which he received. Mr. Scott's letter (London Branch) received a comment or two from George Skinner. Ted Stace then gave his report about the Ashford Indoor Sports which we are entering. The Secretary gave his report on the A.G.M. at Canterbury on 17th September and was thanked for this. As the Dover Branch were arriving for a social evening, the meeting closed at 7.30 p.m., at which time the Dover Branch appeared.

Our President welcomed them all to our quarters and wished them an enjoyable evening with us. Two darts matches were first played with Dover winning the first game and us the second. A ladies' match was organised, and the Ashford ladies came out top. I would like to thank the darts teams for the very sporting way in which the games were played. Refreshments were then handed out, after which the Raffle was made. Mr. Green won the first prize, a very large basket of fruit, given by our President. He gave the prize back to the Branch to be auctioned off. One of the Dover ladies won a sack of potatoes which were given by G. Skinner. With the raffle completed, a general sing-song was organised (that Charlie Hare certainly was an entertainer!).

As closing time was called, the Dover Branch made their way out to the coach for home. We hope they enjoyed the evening as much as we did.

On the 10th September we had the London Branch with us for a social evening, and what a jolly happy party they were. In the darts match with them for a gallon of beer, we were the losers, and as G. Skinner remarked, "that's only lent, Scottie!". Thanks, Mr. Filmer, for buying the gallon for them, and thanks to our members

for giving the raffle prizes, especially to Mr. Beeching for the chicken dinner, which our Chairman won.

We were sorry when 20.00 hours arrived, as then the London Branch had to depart in order to get their connections out of London. So thanks, London, for a grand evening.

A.C.M.

* * *

London Branch

At the meeting held at the Prince Alfred on Saturday, 17th September, 1955, Mr. R. Billings was in the Chair, and the attendance, round the 40 mark, was very good, as at least ten known members were on holiday. The correspondence read included a letter from Mr. Jimmy Dray, who sends his best wishes to all members. He is steadily improving in health, and the London Branch wishes him all the very best. We settled down to a really good night's business and, in my own opinion, the two main items discussed have been quite a point of argument for many months. The first was our monthly magazine, *The Dragon*. Could something be done about making it more interesting? Could there be a more up-to-date cover? And so on. Anyway, perhaps later on a Committee or Representation from Branches could be called in to discuss a change. The Secretary, it was hoped, would get in touch with the powers that be on this subject. The second item will probably be a sore point to some, but, as I have said, the London Branch pull no punches. The question is, should not some of our Officers make an appearance now and again? A fair question this, because, as I always say, it does make a difference to a meeting, particularly the younger Officers, for if a young member should come along, he does like to meet an Officer under whom he served.

We, in the London Branch, are probably lucky, because we have at least three really grand chaps who hardly ever miss a meeting, so can any officer give us an answer, through *The Dragon*, as to why even twice in a year they cannot attend the Branch Meeting? I say that because, since I took over as Secretary of the London Branch more than 18 months ago, there have been only the three old stalwarts attending, and, of course, when possible, we always get a visit from a senior officer who is, and has been, a very great asset to the London Branch. Now this is, quite frankly, a good time to make that magazine sizzle but, whatever answers are made, remember we are all still the best of pals.

After a very long discussion on the above-mentioned, the Chairman asked if anyone was attending for the first time. There were two, one being a young chap from the 1st Battalion—his name Mr. Gray, Life Member—and the other Mr. Rose of the 5th Battalion. They were given a real London Branch welcome, and we all hope that they will be regular monthly attendants.

During the meeting, Mr. Perry rang up to say he was sorry he could not get to Tufton Street in time for the meeting, owing to his arriving late from Austria. By the way, he 'phoned us from Folkestone. Good show, Bert, and thanks for ringing up. See you next month!

Our President, Major Enright, sends all members his very best wishes.

After a very interesting meeting, it was time to finish with a little "get together"—so, bring up the Ladies, Gentlemen!

On Saturday, 10th September, a 33-seater coach left Tufton Street at 4.30 p.m. for the visit of the London Branch to Ashford Branch. Then, for some reason, the home of the Ashford Branch seemed to have escaped us. Nobody, not even the Secretary, had the address of the Invicta. So, on arriving at Ashford, we sent out an S.O.S. After enquiring twice, we finally arrived at the Invicta at 7.30 p.m. What a welcome awaited us! We were met by the President, Major Bompas, the Chairman, Mr. A. Mills, and the Secretary, Mr. A. C. Mills, and then made our way to the Branch room, where a really grand welcome was given us by the members. During the evening, a great dart match was arranged and, funnily enough, the London Branch won—also a gallon of the Best! According to Mr. Skinner, he had never seen such dart throwing (I wonder?). When the match was over, we were entertained by the members of the Ashford Branch, and very good items were performed. A couple of Raffles were held, and Wickells of the London Branch won about 28 lbs of potatoes straight from Mr. Skinner's garden. But, when he left us at New Cross, carrying the Murphys on his back, the Arm of the Law took him to be Dirty Tug, the Cat Burglar, so he had to explain all about his swag. But it seems that all turned out O.K. We were all very disappointed to say "Cheerio" to Ashford Branch so early, but we shall certainly overcome that on our next visit to you. Thank you all for a wonderful night from all of us.

Now to the 24th September, the Annual Dinner and Dance of the London Branch. The number to sit down to a very fine dinner was 108. Again we were honoured by the presence of Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Argles. Many thanks for coming along, Sir. Also in attendance were Capt. Emery, Capt. Woodcock and Lieut. and Mrs. Grant. Amongst the guests were the ex-Lord Mayor of Dagenham and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, the son of the late R.Q.M.S. Arnold. Also, we were very pleased to have with us Mr. and Mrs. Hewson, who travelled down from Bury St. Edmunds; Mr. and Mrs. Parhessy and daughter from Birmingham; Mr. and Mrs. Mantell and son from Folkestone. We thank you all very sincerely, and hope your journey was really worth it. Now for a few names of the Branch who attended. May I say first that it was very nice to see Mrs. Billings and daughter of our Chairman looking very well. Then there were Taffy Williams, Billy Hudd, Les King, Mr. Odell, Bill Ricketts, Bert Perry, Tommy Taylor, Joe Joss, Albert Short, Mr. Hodges and many more. Also, from our Ladies' Guild came Mrs. Odell, Mrs. Recketts, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Yapp, their Secretary, Mrs. Tucker, and Mrs. Annan. In fact, a great many were present, and I am sure they will excuse me if I skip their names.

Everyone enjoyed the dinner. I can see Joe Joss doing a Henry the Eighth on his chicken, whilst his wife and daughter give him the Look. Then came the Toasts, with some grand little speeches—Lieut.-Col. Argles, The Regiment, The Chairman, London Branch, Lieut. Grant, The Guests. Mr. Arnold, responding for the Guests gave us a grand speech. A letter was read by Capt. Emery from our President, Major Enright. The words in this letter made us think what a grand old Buff he is. Thank you for the compliments and advice, Sir.

The dinner over, the dance commenced, and it really was one grand night of jollification. So to the end, for another year, and to get started on the next.

Let us not forget the persons responsible for the bouquets, and the prizes for the raffles, which were all given. Also Mr. Collins, who puts in unstinted work on these occasions. The members thank you all very sincerely for making yet another success.

H.J.S.



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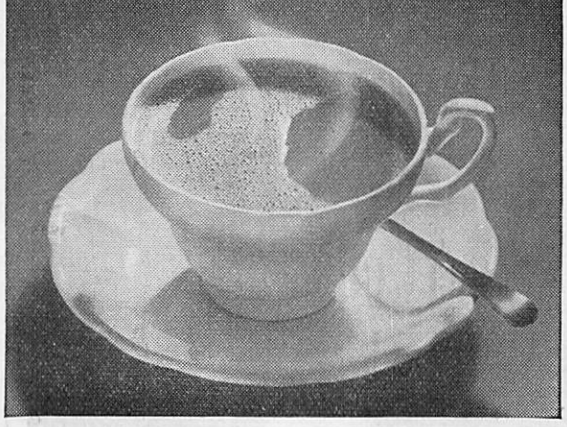


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Ladies' Guild

A meeting of the Ladies' Guild was held on Saturday, 1st October. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary and signed by Mrs. Coley, who was in the Chair.

The Chairman gave a special welcome to Mrs. Yapp, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Hogben.

Mrs. Harris regretted she could not be at the meeting because she was on holiday. Mrs. Norman was away in Wiltshire and only returning to London that evening, but she sent her kind regards to all Guild members and said she hoped to see them next month. A letter from Mrs. Crookenden was read, replying to the Guild's invitation to her to attend one of their future meetings.

The Secretary reported that Mrs. Hewson of Bury St. Edmunds, a Guild member, who had attended the London Branch Dinner on the previous Saturday, wished to be remembered to all her Guild friends. She said that although she was kept extremely busy during the winter months teaching folk dancing, she would find time to make something in leather which could be used for a raffle prize. Her kind offer was much appreciated and many members remarked on Mrs. Hewson's expert craftsmanship in this respect.

Mrs. Coley said that Guild members would meet at 6.30 p.m. at the Prince Alfred, Tufton Street, on the 5th November, to pay their annual visit to the Field of Remembrance.

Discussion followed with regard to the Dinner to be held in December. Some members appeared to be none too happy with the arrangements, whilst others expressed the opinion that they enjoyed an evening where the family spirit prevailed and they could have a real "get-together" without the formality usually found at these functions.

There was almost a record number of raffle prizes—nine in all—given by Mrs. Annan, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Love, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waters, Mrs. Watts, A Member and Mrs. Tucker, and these realised a total of £3 4s. 2d.

The folks at "The Corner Table" had given a basket packed with groceries—over 21 lbs. in weight—to be raffled between now and the December meeting night. Special raffle tickets for this were priced at 1/- each and it was hoped that the proceeds would be sufficient to cover that proportion of members' dinner ticket money which would be provided out of Guild funds.

That being all, the meeting closed.

* * *

Ramsgate Branch

The monthly meeting of the Ramsgate Branch of the Past and Present Association The Buffs was held on Friday, 16th September, 1955, at Headquarters, Freemasons' Tavern, High Street, Ramsgate.

Mr. C. Fakley, Chairman, owing to pressure of business, was unable to attend. Mr. E. Castle presided, supported by Major A. J. H. Taylor, Major H. Martin, M.B.E., Messrs. J. Hogben, E. Hougham and B. E. Knott, Branch Secretary.

Mr. Castle welcomed officers and members, and expressed his pleasure at the good attendance and support. The Chairman also expressed the branch's sympathy with their sick members, Messrs. C. Curtis and H. Sheppard, and wished these members a speedy recovery. Apologies for absence were read from Capt. H. Knight, Messrs. Playford and Tye.

Mr. Knott, Branch Secretary, stated that the invitation to attend Battle of Britain Sunday had been accepted, also the Ramsgate Branch had entered a team of six in the Association Fishing Competition which was to be held at Herne Bay in October.

Messrs. E. Castle and J. Johnson were elected as delegates to represent the branch at the Association Annual General Meeting at Canterbury on the 17th September.

Mr. Hougham, organiser, reported satisfactory arrangements for the Branch Dinner. The Colonel of the Regiment had promised to attend this important event, and the Dinner pointed to a big success.

Major Taylor, in a brief, witty speech, stated he was pleased to be present that evening; unfortunately, business ties made it impossible to attend most meetings, but when he was able to come, he always enjoyed The Buffs friendly spirit and the comradeship amongst the members. He was proud and very pleased that the distinguished soldier General Boucher was coming to Ramsgate. They were very fortunate and members should turn up in force to welcome the General. Major Taylor wishes the Branch further progress. A Reunion of the 1/4th Buffs 1914-19 had been arranged for October 29th at Canterbury. It was forty-one years ago to the day that the 1/4th Buffs left Broadstairs for Service in the First World War. Many local men served in this battalion; one of the junior officers was Lieut.-Colonel Witts, Mayor of Margate.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed a very satisfactory meeting. Refreshments supplied by Buff Host Dick Atkins.

B.E.K.

* * *

Medway Branch

In case our film critic does not mention it, I can recommend to some old soldiers the film *The Private War of Major Benson*. The story is of a tough American Major who, for his sins, was posted to a job as commandant of a small private school cadet corps. Such jobs undoubtedly appeal to some, but not to all—and how my heart bled for the gallant Major. A very human and humorous story.

Good deeds are rewards in themselves. I see by the August *Dragon* that our President, Mr. Hepworth, donated flowers for the decoration of the Warriors' Chapel on the occasion of our Annual Service of Remembrance. I do not think that any member of the Branch knew of this kindly act previous to the publication of the note in our journal, and the gift, therefore, is appreciated the more by the unobtrusive manner in which it was made. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. A. E. N. Hall and Mr. W. F. Turner are now Life Members and have accordingly received their badges. We congratulate them both and wish them many years to enjoy to the full membership of our Association.

I am having a holiday in September and shall be absent from our monthly meeting. I have gladly accepted the offer of one of our most enthusiastic members to act as Scribe on my behalf. One volunteer is worth two pressmen. The remaining notes will be by him, for which service he will receive from the branch funds a sum equal to twice my remuneration.

Attendance at meeting not as good owing to illness and holidays. During the last two weeks we have lost the services of our Standard Bearer, Mr. Pardew, M.M., with relapsed disc, and Mr. Eldridge (escort) is in hospital for an internal operation. The branch members wish them both a speedy recovery. Our other escort, Mr. Thirst, has left the district to take over as "Mine Host" at Towcester, Northants. Best of luck, "Nebby"!

Members and their friends are looking forward to a Social on Saturday, September 24th at Sandwich Branch H.Q., the first time, I believe, for a number of years. Revenge on the dart board?

Thanks to the hard work of our Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. E. Hutchings, it looks as though our Standard will be blessed on Sunday, November 6th, as the original date had to be cancelled.

Our representatives at the General Meeting, Saturday, 17th, Mr. Cox (Chairman), Mr. Brand (Hon. Secretary) were very disappointed at having to leave owing to the Branch Meeting just as things were getting interesting. Mr. Parsons (Weald) should be sincerely thanked for his film show which adds to the enjoyment one receives when joining other branch delegates to this Annual Meeting.

The Dart Competition Runners-Up Shield was presented to Mr. Cox (Chairman, Medway) by Brigadier G. J. Nicholson, C.B.E., during the meeting at Canterbury and I can assure all Branches that this trophy is something worth winning, in fact more than one branch delegate thought it was better than the Cup given to the winning Branch. Whoever chose the design for this Shield must be commended for his taste.

Now to end, not forgetting to draw my fee as promised earlier in notes.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

The 21st anniversary party of the Medway Buffs Ladies' Guild was held on Tuesday evening the 27th September with a celebration dinner at the Kingswood Hotel, Gillingham, and Mrs. Findlay and Colonel and Mrs. Argles were among those attending.

Mrs. Findlay said it was 21 years since she had opened the Guild, and that they had worked hard for the Warriors' Chapel. She wished them success in future years.

Colonel Argles spoke of the excellent efforts the Guild had made for the Warriors' Chapel, having raised over £100. He thanked them for all they had done.

The toast of "The Buffs" was then proposed by Colonel Argles.

A cake made by Mrs. Rowlands and iced by Miss Perryman bore The Buffs crest.

The Secretary then presented Mrs. King Holt, the Chairman, with a bouquet of flowers, and her mother, Mrs. Skinner, with a box of chocolates.

Whist followed the dinner, which brought to an end a most happy occasion.

* * *

Dover Branch

The October monthly meeting took place at the Eagle Hotel on Thursday, 6th October, the Chairman presiding. He was supported by Charlie Collins (Hon. Secretary), Tom Holloway (A/Treasurer), Mr. Noakes (Vice-Chairman), Jack Deal, Harry Saunders, Arthur Banks, Mr. Steel, Mr. Johncock, Mr. Howell, Darkie Ross, Mr. Hooper, Charlie Hare, Mr. Ellen and Mr. Blundell.

Two fresh faces, and how pleased we are to see them. It makes up for the sadness when our attendance is small, as on this occasion. No doubt but the missing regulars have a good excuse, and so we forgive them this once.

The Secretary gave us all the details of the Association's General Meeting of the 17th September.

Amongst the correspondence was a letter from R.S.M. Turmaine, 1st Battalion, and I would like to thank him in these notes for his very kind gesture, which is going to help the Branch enormously.

A little too late to ask in these notes, but wanted urgently, one Fisherman for Sunday, 16th October for the competition at Herne Bay. Who knows, but by the time we are reading these notes, the five volunteers may have won the Cup. Here's the best of luck, but we advise the Chairman to hang on to his rod this year.

The Branch Darts Competition starts at the November meeting, and we call upon the present holder to play his best. There is new talent and they may be dark horses.

It is surprising how near you can live to people and not know how they are. I refer to our worthy President, Colonel Crookenden who, we learn, is now home after a period in hospital. We look forward to a visit from him as soon as he is well enough.

Shooting commences on Monday, 10th October, and here again we have fresh faces in Cherby Watts and Mr. Wright, and we look forward to a more successful season. True, we went down one League in the Dover and District, but there is no reason why we shouldn't reverse that.

And talking of shooting brings up the subject of rifles and police. Surely the folks at River and in the vicinity of Heathfield Avenue must have thought they had a crime in their district. Charlie Collins began to think he was due to be arrested and hoped that Tom Holloway would do the time for him. What was it over? Well, the numbers in the Arms Book didn't quite agree with those on the Insurance Certificate. Whose fault was it? Well, the policeman was very nice!

Sorry to hear that that real old stalwart Arthur Banks has had to resign from the Committee. All the same, we thank you, Arthur, for the work you have done and are doing for the Branch.

Don't spread it about, but we played Tombola—all helped to make a few coppers. Perhaps Hoppo can remember the 15 sticks from Maymyo days. They are still doing good service, as they did there for the P.R.I.

The Box collection was 9/-. Thank you, members. The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m. (we didn't go home at once).

Before I finish these notes, I would like to thank Ashford Branch for making us so welcome on Saturday, 1st October when we made our long-promised visit. Twenty-five, including members of the Ladies' Guild, made the journey, and believe me, we really enjoyed ourselves. (Must have done when the Chairman wants to sing!) Sorry, Ashford, we got a little mixed with our darts teams. All the same, it made it a draw and left us more happy. Let us hope that we can be your hosts in the very near future.

And may I please add one more note, and it is really important. I would remind members that if they do book seats and then find that they cannot go, would they please let the Secretary know in plenty of time. It would save expense in the Branch having to pay for empty seats—it is a draw on our poor funds. You see, we could have had a much smaller bus at a cheaper rate. Cheerio!

T.H.H.

* * *

Canterbury Branch

Despite my efforts to submit the monthly notes directly after our meeting night in order to keep the tone as topical as possible, I must evidently be in arrears with the printing department, for I never seem to achieve the luck that befell one particular Branch in the August edition of *The Dragon*. They were on par with the Editorial, for they managed to get their account of the Annual Remembrance Service published!

Local news is scarce, and so I must resort to touching upon other general news, which although it is not peculiar to the Branch, is certainly of Regimental interest.

I see by the newspapers that the Middlesex Regiment celebrate their bicentenary this year. Whilst the "Die-Hards" are not related to us with County or Sister relationship, we do have the common factors of the Albuhera Campaign and Home Counties Brigade Group. More than this, of course, was the heavy "blood transfusion" of a number of their senior ranks to the 1st Battalion and Depot in 1922. I think there were 14 senior W.O.s and Sergeants posted to us and I can positively quote 13 names now. I wonder how many of our Branch can rattle off those names now, without reference or prompting. Needless to say, the bulk of the transfers became prominent and very loyal Buffs.

Our Regiment must have been extremely low in effective N.C.O.s around 1922, for I also remember Sgt. Briggs of the R.F.s and a few of the Munsters too. These inductions became part and parcel of a competent and happy Regiment.

For the first time since our opening we suffered the collective unavoidable absence of our President, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer from the meeting held on the 23rd September. Nevertheless, our Chairman covered a host of points and aired the Club problems with his usual clarity. He reported his attendance at the Annual General Meeting and outlined the points raised. To Bill Evans and Ernie Chambers we offer our thanks now for their attendance and watching brief at this Annual Meeting.

"Hoppo" has been elected to watch our interests at the function of our Annual Dinner, and with his Committee we are all looking forward to a successful "do" in the very near future. He even caters for the "not so rich" by running a kind of Hire Purchase Social Fund—his slogan being "When Funds are toppo, deposit with Hoppo"! This is not the only Axes Hand that our industrious friend holds to the grindstone, for he is Chief of the Shooting Team and in that capacity welcomes any of us who think they are useful with the .22 rifle.

We again kept our average two dozen conservative members (no political indication meant here) and it is heartening to see some fresh faces of the real "Old Brigade". We are pleased to welcome them. If only a few more of the present battalions would pay us a visit, we would indeed be a representative clan. In my own mind I would like to see our Branch organize a social night and entertain the youngsters at the Depot itself on every occasion of a Passing Out Parade and periodically devote a full social night to our 4/5th Battalion friends.

There seems to be promise of something substantial towards the formation of the Ladies' Guild at last. We ought to encourage this, for I am sure our social side will greatly benefit by their co-operation. My only hostility is the thought that somebody might think that my wife will be an easy catch for their *Dragon* notes.

I was heartened to think that my notes have been read by at least two very prominent and loyal Buffs—it is difficult to assess the number and calibre of people who really read the Journal right through. One of the aforesaid readers can be related to my reference to the Ladies' Guild and the other had made the suggestion at the Annual General Meeting that a form of Jumble Sale might help the General Funds. I am only trying to lead up to the point where Bill Evans thought we should look around for contributions to such a sale. A quick rejoinder from Alf Argrave, who said he thought his shop could be a productive contributor. (Laughter and concurrence.)

"Who's Who" has been held over because my notes became "double barrelled" and the Euchre School is only firing on three cylinders! Life gets tedious, don't it!

BABU.

WHO'S WHO AT THE CANTERBURY BRANCH

No. 4—LIEUT.-COL. J. E. KING, D.S.O.

Col. King is Vice-Chairman of our Branch. In his imperturbable manner he quietly proffers his experience and aid to the Club in general, and when free of the committee table, he will plunge for an ale and a reminiscence talk with all and sundry.

He was first commissioned in August, 1918, and served in either the 1st or 2nd Battalions until September, 1949—no mean record of Regimental service.

During that time he has creditably held numerous appointments, including that of Depot Adjutant around 1930 and Adjutant of the North Midland Group, University Contingent O.T.C. 1934-38, and for the three years ending 1949, Col. King was Deputy Garrison Commander of Bicester Garrison.

Military courses include Hythe and the other centres for Signals, Provost, P.T. and Gas, all of which must have contributed to the building of the military character and disposition that he displayed whilst in command of the 1st Battalion on the Western Desert during this last War. December 15th, 1941 and the stand made by the Battalion at Point 204 under the gallant leadership of Col. King must be a memory for many. A well-merited D.S.O. and C.-in-C.'s Commendation were awarded to him. Unfortunately, this action, whilst no doubt saving the skin of nearly a Brigade and another Division, plunged Col. King into the hands of Rommel, with the consequent P.O.W. internment, firstly in Italy, and then after three months' "freedom" (I am not certain if that is the right word) he was recaptured and taken to Germany.

Together with this War service, Col. King has served in Palestine, India, Mesopotamia and Aden.

In peace time he had the honour of being in command of the Royal Guard provided by the 2nd Battalion in 1928 and has dined with Their Majesties after this occasion.

Col. King has represented the Regiment at Cricket, Hockey and Golf, with marked ability at the latter, visiting Holland in 1927 as a member of the Army Golfing Society team, and playing in many Army and Regimental teams.

After all these years, Col. King still wears uniform, for he is the Recruiting Officer of a considerable area which has its Centre at Canterbury.

Derives comfort from watching good cricket and smoking a pipe. Abhors military "Red Tape". Can converse in Ordnance jargon.

BABU.

* * *

Sandwich Branch

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, 7th September, 1955, at 8 p.m.

Major F. W. Tomlinson presided, supported by the Vice-Chairman, Lieut.-Col. N. S. Hart and the Hon. Secretary, and seventeen members were present.

The meeting opened with the usual moment's silence, and the Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. Apologies were received from Messrs. W. Spicer, F. Harvey and J. Moxon.

Correspondence read and discussed included a letter of thanks and appreciation from the Y.M.C.A. H.Q. re the members' donation to their funds.

Letters from H.Q. were: (1) Reference to the lost cheque for luncheons. (2) Reference to the passing of Major A. W. Andrews on August 8th. Our representatives at the funeral service at Canterbury on August 12th were Major F. W. Tomlinson and Lieut.-Col. N. S. Hart. (3) Details of the arrangements made for the Fishing Competition to be held at Herne Bay on October 1st. An invitation was received from the Ash with Westmarsh Branch, The British Legion, to attend the Parade and Dedication Service at Ash Church on Sunday, September 25th at 6.15 p.m. It was agreed to accept the invitation, and several members present signified their intention of attending.

There was also an invitation from the Sandwich Branch the R.A.F.A. to attend the Parade and Service on Battle of Britain Sunday, September 18th, at 2.30 p.m. It was unanimously agreed to accept the invitation and form up as on previous occasions.

There was a letter from a member of the London Branch together with a photo of the Remembrance Day Parade taken at the Depot and for which orders were invited, but several members present stated that they also had photos taken from the same position. Result, no orders.

The question of the visit to our Headquarters of the Medway Branch was discussed, and it was unanimously agreed to invite them for Saturday evening, September 24th, subject to the Drill Hall being available. It has since been confirmed that the Hall will be free that evening.

With reference to the A.G.M. to be held at the Depot on Saturday, September 17th, the question of Members' subscriptions was again discussed, when the members were unanimous against any form of membership fee.

Mr. A. Elvery reported further on the travel cost to Denmark, supported by leaflets, etc. The Chairman thanked Mr. Elvery for all the trouble he had taken in making his inquiries, and also suggested that a journey by coach would be the most interesting, although it would take longer, but cost less.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr. C. F. Sinclair, ex-4059 3/4th Battalion, who has now become a member of the Branch.

* * *

Brighton Branch

A good monthly meeting in September, with Jimmy Dray on parade again and looking his old self.

Another old Buff located to be periodically in Brighton (when he's ashore) is "Yank" Brooks—Shorncliffe and Borden 1930-37—in the Band. He's still in the Band, but now on the *Queen Mary* and only gets ashore every three weeks. He sends his salaams to all who remember him, especially to his old Sergeant-Major (Emery) and to Bandsman Curran.

Brooks was brought up-to-date in Regimental History in the Recruiting Office, Brighton, by the Secretary and forced to buy all the old numbers of *The Dragon*. He promises to call again. We wonder.

ACHEM.

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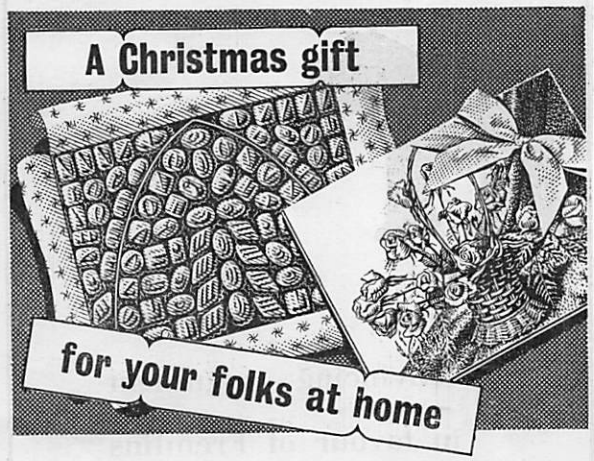
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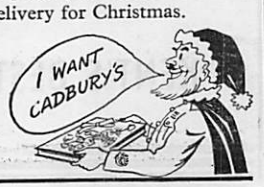
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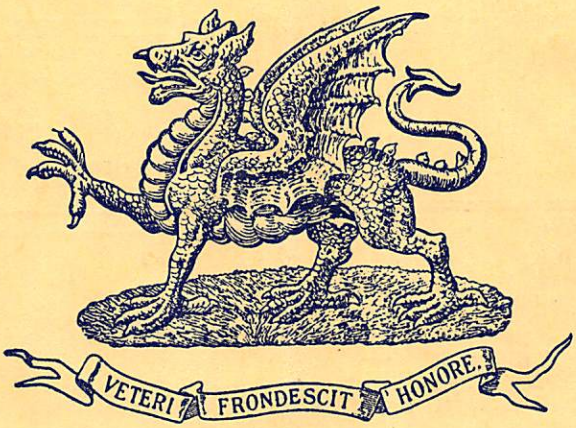
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Colonel-in-Chief: His Majesty Frederik IX, K.G., King of Denmark

Colonel: Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B.*, *C.B.E.*, 8 Longport, Canterbury

Lieutenant-Colonels

Grace, H. R. ... ... O.C., 1st Bn.

Majors

Jelf, A. G. ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Officer i/c Field Records, FARELF.
Harris-St. John, B. J. ... att Depot
Lewis, P. J. ... ... T/Lt.-Col., M.A., Copenhagen.
Bailey, N. T. ... ... Gold Coast Regt. T.C.
Yates, G. H. A. ... ... att. Depot.
Edlmann, E. L. C., *M.C.* ... 2 i/c/Chief Instructor Inf. Boys' Bn.
Rawlings, A. C., *M.B.E.* ... Depot C.R.M.P.
Horley, B. M. ... ... att. Depot.
May, J. F., *M.B.E.* ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Ministry of Supply.
Ravenhill, R. A. C. ... 4/5th Bn.
Plumptre, P. B., *M.B.E.* ... 6 Travelling Wing.
Dendy, R. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Majendie, A. E. ... ... R.A.F. Staff College.
Lucas, J. P. ... ... Colonial Prisons, Kenya.
Norris, N. F. H. C. ... 1st Bn.
Crichton, R. F., *M.C.* ... 5 Nigeria Regt.
McGrath, B., *M.C.* ... 1st Bn.
Gay, A. W. ... ... Leave U.K
Montgomery, D. ... ... O.C. Depot.
Morgan, F. de R., *M.C.* ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q., Malaya.
Poulsen, N. D., *M.B.E.* ... 1st Bn.
Cox, E. G., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Critchley, L. P., *M.B.E.* ... 1st Bn.
Worts, J. B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Court, D. N. ... ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q., E. Africa.
Gordon-Wilson, N. F., *M.B.E.* 3 Bn., Para. Regt.
Nash, J. P. ... ... G.S.O. 2, M.13, War Office.
ffrench Blake, M A. O'B. ... 27 Bde., Hong Kong.
Iliffe, R. O. ... ... 2 Malay Regt.
Hadshar, G. ... ... D.A.A.G., H.Q., Nigeria Dist.
Dunglinson, W. G. H. ... 1st Bn.

Captains

Semmence, R. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Barrett, D. P. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dent, J. E. ... ... 4 K.A.R.
MacDonald, E. W. ... ... 1st Bn

Captains—*continued*

Peckham, A. D. ... ... Leave U K.
Squire, S. J., *M.B.E.* ... H.Q., East Africa.
Thorneycroft, F. E. ... Depot.
Willows, D. A. ... ... Adjt., 1st Bn.
Wilson, P. F., *D.F.C.* ... 1st Bn
Hamilton, C. M. ... ... Leave U.K.
Gatehouse, H. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Griffin, C. J. ... ... Adjt., 4/5th Bn.
Webber, J. W. ... ... Leave U.K.
Pim, A. H. E. ... ... 2 Gold Coast Regt.
Stratford-Tuke, R. A. F. ... 1st Bn.
Brigstocke, W. F. ... ... 1st Bn Parachute Regt.
French, B. G. J. ... ... 6 K.A.R., E. Africa.
Lees, H. D. ... ... 7 K.A.R., E. Africa.
Grugeon, J. D. ... ... Adjt., Depot.
Mullins, G. O. ... ... Adjt., 3 Bn., Parachute Regt.
Minto, I. G. ... ... 1st Bn.

Lieutenants

West, C. T. F. ... ... 1st Bn.
Ward, M. W. ... ... Course, U.K.
Dracopoli, M. P. St. F. ... Depot.
Tennent, H. C. L. ... ... A.D.C. to G.O.C., H.C.D.
Mitchell, P. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Pilcher, R. A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Baker, R. W. M. ... ... Inf. Boys' Bn.
Rymer-Jones, J. A. ... 3 Bn. Parachute Regt.
Edgecombe, G. J. B. ... 1st Bn.
Davison, J. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Lunn, J. M. ... ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants

Lea, R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Williams, R. T. P. ... ... Course, U.K.
Reid, J. D. W. ... ... Course, U.K.

Quartermasters

Watts, E. H. F. ... ... Maj., Depot.
Kille, W. E. ... ... Maj., 1st Bn.
Catt, A. H. ... ... Capt., 4/5th Bn.

Chaplain: Revd. E. W. Evans, C.F.

Paymaster: Major B. M. Green, R.A.P.C.

Short Service Commissions

Majors

*Ford, E. N., *M.C.* ... ... Leave, U.K.
Todman, N. E. H. ... ... E. Anglia District.
*Carey, R., *M.C.* ... ... 6 K.A.R., East Africa
Robertson, R. J. ... ... H.Q., Nigeria District.

Captains

*Elliott, N. ... ... Aldershot District.
*Ransley, B. J., *M.C.* ... 1st Bn.
McGrath, G. A. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
*Fakley, J. F. ... ... P.S.O., H.C.B. Depot.
*Butcher, D. A. T. ... ... East Africa Training Centre.
Marshall, J. V. ... ... Brit. Comm. Div. Korea.

Lieutenants

Barlow, W. B. ... ... Inf. Div. Pro. Coy.
Cross, K. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Kirby, J. A. ... ... Brit. Comm. Div. Korea.

Lieutenants—*continued*

Hicks, E. M. G. ... ... 1st Bn.
Prentice, J. R. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
Froom, A. F. F. ... ... Hospital U.K.
Hodges, J. D. ... ... E.R.E., Singapore.
Courtney, M. K. ... ... 23 K.A.R.

2nd Lieutenants

Hardy, J. E. ... ... 1st Bn.
Jakob, F. J. ... ... West Africa.

Quartermasters

Rowcliffe, T. A., Major ... Leave U.K.
Stone, J. H., Major ... B.A.O.R.
Senior, N., Major ... ... H.Q., N.A.G., B.A.O.R.
Corps, J., Capt. ... ... 16 Coy., R.A.S.C.

* Extended Service Officer

National Service Officers

2nd Lieutenants

Shephard, J. N. ... ... 1st Bn.
Wright, R. P. ... ... Depot
Bowen, S. ... ... West Africa.
Keene, R. V. ... ... 1st Bn.
Horden, P. J. C. ... ... 1st Bn.
Griffiths, D. W. ... ... 1st Bn.
Redfern, A. J. ... ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants—*continued*

Brice, E. St. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Hills, A. M. ... ... 1st Bn.
Johnson, B. D. G. ... 1st Bn.
Mabey, R. C. ... ... 1st Bn.
Holmes-Smith, C. ... ... 1st Bn.
Daniel, O. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Wallace, W. R. D. ... ... 1st Bn.

4/5th Battalion

HON. COLONEL

Col. D. J. Dean, *V.C.*, *T.D.*, *J.P.*, Woodcourt, 1 Park Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

Hews, G. R. D., *M.C.*, *T.D.*, *J.P.*

MAJORS

Ravenhill, R. A. C.
Alexander, U. H. B., *M.B.E.*
Prestige, J. T. R., *T.D.*
Tilleard, J., *T.D.*
Neville, F. G., *M.C.*, *T.D.*
Plunkett, P. N. P.
Balding, C. E. E.
Cobb, F. D. C., *T D*
(Unattached List)

CAPTAINS

Griffin, C. J. (Adjutant)
Beaumont, M. J. P.
Klean, P. H.

CAPTAINS—*continued*

Morgan, R. J. S., *M.C.*
Kelly, G. D. S.
Usher, J. A.
Anderton, N. G.
Blackbourn, A. H., *T.D.*
Scott, A. J.
Baddeley, W. D.

LIEUTENANTS

Crowdy, R. E. L.
Bennett, R. G.
Nye, R. T.
DePury, J. D.
Whiting, D. A.
Thomas, J. A.
Oliver, C. P.
Morlock, P. J.

N.S. LIST

LIEUTENANTS

Tilley, T. A.
Howland, N. M.
Waterman, R. R.
Taylor, D. C.
Holloway, R. G.
Finn, W. C.
Vallins, J.
Klyberg, C. J.
Turner, G. P.

2ND LIEUTENANTS

Robinson, J. P.
Saward, R. A.
Willey, G. T.

QUARTERMASTER

Catt, A. H., Capt.

CHAPLAIN

The Revd. R. A. S. Roberts

MEDICAL OFFICER

Capt. F. P. Cassidi (R.A.M.C.)

Staff and Command

Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B.*, *C.B.E.* ... ... D.M.I., War Office.

Colonel (T/Brig.) M. P. D. Dewar, *M.B.E.* ... ... U.K.N.M.R., S.H.A.P.E.

Col. (T/Brig.) R. W. Craddock, *C.B.E.*, *D.S.O.* Brig. A/Q Southern Command.

Col. (T/Brig.) F. W. B. Parry Comd. Sierra Leone and Gambia Dis

Col. (T/Brig.) R. F. Parry, *M.C.* ... ... Comdg. 3rd Inf. Bde., Arab Legion

Lieut.-Colonels (Employed List)

Lieut.-Col. (T/Col.) H. P. Williams, *O.B.E.* ... ... W.O.S.B., Barton Stacey.

Lieut.-Col. J. G. Atkinson, *O.B.E.* ... ... C.O. 2 Malay Regt.

Lieut.-Col. (T/Brig.) J. F. Connolly, *D.S.O.*, Commanding 126 (N. Lancs. & Border) Inf. Bde., T.A.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

1st Battalion

R.S.M. Turmaine, F.
B.M. Sharpe, T. L.
R.Q.M.S. Rose, J.
C.S.M. Sharman, R.
C.S.M. Champion, R.
C.S.M. Middleton, J.
C.S.M. Ellis, D.
C.S.M. Hannaway, R.
C.S.M. Day, S.
C/Sgt. Partridge, R.
C/Sgt. Denny, S.
C/Sgt. Anderson, C.
C/Sgt. Mannering, D.
C/Sgt. Newman, S.

C/Sgt. Jephcott, H.
C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Mans, W. L. B.
Sgt. Smissen, J.
Sgt. Larkin, F.
Sgt. Lyons, B.
Sgt. Morrish, E.
Sgt. Colyer, A.
Sgt. Simmonds, R.
Sgt. Page, A.
Sgt. Harris, F.
Sgt. Woodrow, V.
Sgt. Histed, W.
Sgt. Cain, D.
Sgt. Wright, R.

Sgt. Wright, J.
Sgt. Townsley, J.
Sgt. Streeter, E.
Sgt. Billett, S.
Sgt. Pooley, L.
Sgt. Edwards, T.
Sgt. Harrison, W.
Sgt. Hansen, T.
Sgt. Lincoln, G.
Sgt. Parker, E.
Sgt. Wagstaff, A.
Sgt. Mills, D.
Sgt. Adams, E.
Sgt. Miller, C.

Sgt. Vaughan, F.
Sgt. Williams, H.
Sgt. Inskip, A.
Sgt. Coppins, P.
Sgt. Pullman, S.
Sgt. Munns, R.
S.Q.M.S. Marsden, C. (R.A.P.C.)
Sgt. Swain, R. (R.A.P.C.)
Sgt. Fletcher, G. (R.A.E.C.)
Sgt. Walker, W. (R.A.E.C.)

Depot The Buffs

R.S.M. White, H.
R.Q.M.S. Howe, W.
C.S.M. Chapman, G.
C.S.M. Diamond, R.

C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Webb, C.
C.Q.M.S. Stremes, G., *D.F.M.*
C/Sgt. Belcher, E.
Sgt. Laker, J.

Sgt. Bryant, A.
Sgt. Ivory, L.
Sgt. Rea, R.
Sgt. Raine, R.

Sgt. Recton, T.
Sgt. Dean, D.
Sgt. Parker

4/5th Battalion (T.A.)

PERMANENT STAFF

R.S.M. Faulkner, G. T.
C.S.M. Fagg, G.
C.S.M. Seymour, J.
Sgt. Porter, J.
Sgt. Stoakes, A.
Sgt. Kay, M.
Sgt. Bryant, A. F.

R.Q.M.S. Harwood, E.
C.S.M. Chapman, W.
C.S.M. Gabriel, J.
C.S.M. White, R.
C.S.M. Rogers, W.
C.S.M. Antrichan, G.
C/Sgt. Trinkwon, A.
C/Sgt. Couzens, W.
C/Sgt. Chidwick, E.
C/Sgt. Wing, T.
C/Sgt. Figgett, G.
C/Sgt. Bond, E.
Sgt. Bell, J.
Sgt. Hurlow, R.

Sgt. Babbage, W.
Sgt. Wraight, S.
Sgt. James, A.
Sgt. Bass, R.
Sgt. Williams, E.
Sgt. Thundow, W.
Sgt. George, M.
Sgt. Saunders, G.
Sgt. Richardson, H.
Sgt. Cope, H.
Sgt. Hewitt, C.
Sgt. Allen, A.
Sgt. Jones, A.
Sgt. Hughes, C.

Sgt. Rumble, L.
Sgt. Christian, W.
Sgt. Smith, W.
Sgt. Evans, S.
Sgt. Bradford, R.
Sgt. Cozens, L.
Sgt. Dennis, P.
Sgt. Dennis, R.
Sgt. Erridge, D.
Sgt. Stockdale, J.
Sgt. Todd, H.
Sgt. Godley, D.
Sgt. Hayward, A.
Sgt. Cole, L.
Sgt. Pottle, A.

Regimental Appointments

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Dragon Club
Regimental Committee
} Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker

Curator: Regimental Museum — Lieut.-Col. G. R. Howe

Secretary: Past and Present Association, The Buffs
Executive Committee
Editor: *The Dragon*
} Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles

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BRANCHES

Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1. 1st Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
2. 4th Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
3. ASHFORD	Mr. A. Mills	Mr. A. C. Mills, 20 Waterman House, Godfrey Walk, Ashford, Kent.	First Saturday in each month, The Invicta, Godington Road.
4. LONDON	Mr. R. W. Billings	Mr. H. J. Scott, 1 Oxford Road, Carshalton, Surrey.	Third Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, 7.30 p.m.
5. DOVER	Capt. E. Marsh, M.B.E.	Mr. C. Collins, "Haven", Meadway, Minnis Lane, River, Dover.	First Thursday in each month, "Eagle Hotel", London Road, Dover, 7.45 p.m.
6. WEALD	Col. E. B. Burns, T.D.	Mr. H. D. Day, 3 Pittlesden, Tenterden.	HAWKHURST SUB-AREA. Third Thursday in each month, British Legion House, Hawkhurst, 7.45 p.m.
7. MEDWAY	Mr. F. J. Cox	Mr. H. A. J. Brand, 83 Delce Road, Rochester.	Third Saturday in each month, The Two Brewers, High Street, Rochester, 8 p.m.
8. SITTINGBOURNE	Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D.	Capt. C. A. Grant, The Firs, Key Street, Sittingbourne.	First Friday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, 7.30 p.m.
9. RAMSGATE	Mr. C. F. Fakley	Mr. B. E. Knott, 27 Wilfred Road, Ramsgate	Third Friday in each month, Freemason's Tavern, Ramsgate, 8 p.m.
10. MARGATE	Mr. B. H. Breed	Mr. J. H. Shakeshaft, 14 Alexandra Road, Broadstairs	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, Hawley Square, 8 p.m.
11. HYTHE	Mr. J. T. J. Green	Mr. H. Thompson, 4 Hillside Court, Hythe	Last Wednesday in each month, The Star, Stade Street, 7.30 p.m.
12. CANTERBURY	Lt.-Col. E. J. Evans	Major E. R. Chambers, 59 Hillside Avenue, Canterbury Canterbury 5118	Fourth Friday in each month, Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury, 8 p.m.
13. HERNE BAY	Mr. H. Davey	Mr. A. Trice, 23 Queen's Gardens, Herne Bay	Second Monday in each month, British Legion Club, May Lodge, 8 p.m.
14. FOLKESTONE	Major A. A. West	Mr. H. Fordred, 36 Fernbank Crescent, Folkestone.	Second Friday in each month, Guildhall Hotel, 8 p.m.
15. SANDWICH	Major F. W. Tomlinson	Mr. H. Taylor, 19 Paradise Row, Sandwich.	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, 8 p.m.
16. FAVERSHAM	Capt. J. Green	Mr. R. C. Croucher, 10 Glebe Houses, Eastling, Faversham.	First Monday in each month, Carpenters Arms, Eastling, 7.30 p.m.
17. BRIGHTON.		Major H. Milton, 118 Queens' Road, Brighton.	Second Monday in each month, R.E. Record Social Club, The College, Ditchling Road, Brighton, 8 p.m.
18. DENMARK	Major O. Lippmann	Mr. P. Berendt, Ostergade 22, Copenhagen K.	First Monday in each month.

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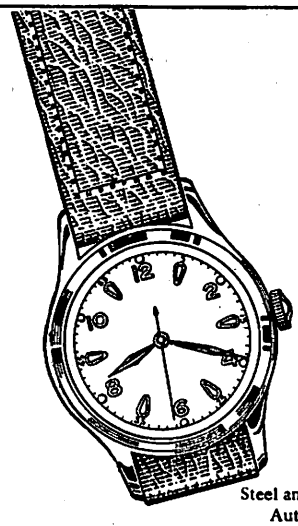
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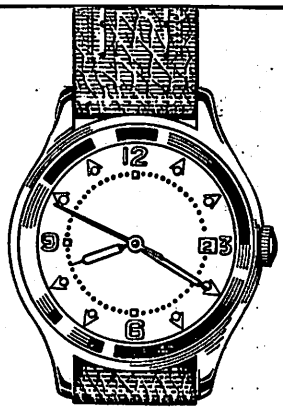
Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1. LONDON	Mrs. L. Coley	Mrs. J. Tucker, 12 Chestnut Close, Oakwood, London, N.14.	First Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, S.W.1, 6.30 p.m.
2. DOVER	Mrs. J. Crookenden, J.P.	Mrs. Wraight, 93 Markland Road, Dover.	First Thursday in each month, Belgrave Hall, Belgrave Road, Dover, 3 p.m.
3. FOLKESTONE	Mrs. Coote	Mrs. Kay Mantell, 5 Page Place, Folkestone.	Every other Wednesday, Drill Hall, Shellons Street, Folkestone, 3.30 p.m.
4. MEDWAY	Mrs. King Holt	Mrs. W. T. Brooker, 67 Malvern Road, Gillingham, Kent.	Fourth Tuesday in each month, Foresters' Hall, King Street, Gillingham, 2.30 p.m.
5. SITTINGBOURNE	Mrs. M. E. Dean	Mrs. J. Ravensdale, 10 Railway Terrace, Sittingbourne.	Third Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne, 6.45 p.m.

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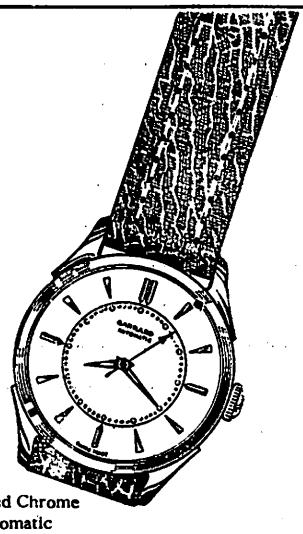
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No. 672 **NOVEMBER, 1955** **Price: One Shilling**

EDITORIAL

IT was recently suggested to Major Richard Dendy that H.R.H. Princess Margrethe of Denmark might appreciate some of our hand-cut and painted Regimental figures. Those chosen were of 1572, 1689 and 1904.

Her Royal Highness has been graciously pleased to accept these figures, and in a letter forwarded by the Headmistress of North Foreland Lodge School, now in Hampshire, she writes as follows:—

October 21st.

Dear Major Dendy,

I am so very pleased to have the beautifully made models of soldiers of the regiment of which my father is Colonel-in-Chief.

May I ask you to convey my grateful thanks to all ranks of The Buffs for this lovely present.

They stand on my mantel-piece, and I enjoy them very much.

Yours sincerely,

(*Signed*) MARGRETHE.

* * *

The Colonel of the Regiment never fails to remind us of the importance of the Past and Present Association in the life of the Regiment. In another stirring "call to arms" at the Annual Dinner of the 1/4th Battalion of 1914, he stressed again the need for recruiting. Our survival is passing into the hands of those now serving. Let them take example from the old men who remember the Regiment with pride, and who still, more than forty years later, meet together each year.

We publish in this number a letter and photograph from Marine C. A. Tribe, concerning the graves at Marlbork, near Gdynia, of Buff Prisoners-of-War, which readers may find of interest.

* * *

In "Historical Notices of the Royal Artillery", by Major (afterwards Colonel) F. Duncan, C.B., dated 1878, we read that the East Kent Regiment of Militia marched to Dungeness on the 8th July, 1803, and were inspected by General (later Sir) John Moore on the 28th September of that year. His instructions to the Regiment, published on another page, are very much to the point, and make amusing reading by present standards. He obviously had little confidence in his Home Guard!

* * *

We are sorry to hear that the Ashford Branch Ladies' Guild have reluctantly decided, after some twenty years, that they are unable to carry on. Difficulties of travel during the winter months are the chief cause. We hope they may re-form later, and in the meantime we shall have news of them through the Ashford Branch. Incidentally, the Guild Chairman, Mrs. King, has not been well lately, and we send her our best wishes for better days.

* * *

Found

Past and Present Association Life Member's Badge No. 809. Apply to Editor, *The Dragon.*

Personalia

CONGRATULATIONS to Brigadier J. F. Connolly on promotion to that rank. He is commanding a T.A. Brigade in the North of England, with ample facilities for Racing. He and Mrs. Connolly are living at Lancaster.

* * *

Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. J. G. Atkinson are living at Langleys, Ightham Green, which they have rented for two months. Lieut.-Col. Atkinson will shortly be taking up a new appointment.

* * *

We have news of Colonel A. J. D. Rose, who we are glad to report is in better health. He is staying for a while at Park Royal Hotel, Brighton.

* * *

Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. C. E. Wilson are spending a holiday at Beach Bungalow, Trevone, Padstow, N. Cornwall, and enjoying the rejuvenating air of that lovely part of England.

* * *

Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Paul Cassidi on the birth of a daughter. Dr. Cassidi is M.O. to the 4/5th Battalion.

Congratulations also in the same Battalion to Lieut. G. P. Turner on his second Star.

* * *

Major and Mrs. J. E. Dent have left for Uganda, and our good wishes go with them. Their address is: 4th (U) Bn. K.A.R., Jinja, Uganda, E. Africa.

* * *

Lieut.-Col. (Rev.) P. J. F. Bouverie-Brine was inducted by the Archdeacon of Maidstone as Vicar of Stone-in-Oxney, upon which preferment we offer our congratulations. He is to be appointed Chaplain of the local Home Guard, and he would be glad to meet any Buffs in the Romney Marsh area.

* * *

Our congratulations to Major J. T. R. Prestige and Capt. N. G. H. Taylor on being awarded the Territorial Decoration. Also to Lieut. M. K. Courtney on his second Star and to Mr. and Mrs. K. O'Dell (*née* Ricketts) on the birth of a daughter).

* * *

BIRTHS

CASSIDI.—On October 15th, 1955, at St. Dunstan's House, Canterbury, to Barbara (*née* Temple), wife of Dr. F. Paul Cassidi—a daughter.

ODELL.—On October 5th, a baby daughter (Susan Elizabeth), weighing 7¼ lbs., to Audrey (*née* Ricketts), wife of Kenneth Odell, at the Bearsted Memorial Hospital, London, N.16.

Regimental Christmas Cards 1955

THE 1955 Christmas Card is a plain white card, 6 in. × 4⅛ in., with the cover die-stamped with the Regimental Badge in gold and with tied Regimental ribbon. On the centre page if a half-tone picture of the actual presentation of the Queen's Colour by the Colonel-in-Chief to the Subaltern, on 9th May, 1955. The cost of this card will be sevenpence each.

There are also a number of last year's cards available, showing the coloured picture of "The Buffs on Outpost Duty, Peninsula, 1813". The card bears no date. These will be sold at sixpence each.

There are also the single white cards with gold badge and greeting in black, as last year. The cost of these is threepence each.

Orders, stating type of card required, and accompanied by remittance, should be sent to The Administrative Officer, Depot, The Buffs.

There will be no Regimental Diaries this year, as the demand over the last two years does not justify the expense entailed.

H.S.K.

* * *

Blazer Badges

THESE are now available, embroidered in wool, and may be obtained from Messrs. Deakin & Sons, Ltd., Sun Street, Canterbury, price 10/6.

* * *

The Army Ski Association

THE Services Winter Sports Associations are again organizing ski-ing and winter sports holidays this winter at reduced rates for Service and ex-Service Members (including Territorial, Auxiliary and Reserve), their families and friends.

For further information apply to:—The Hon. Secretary, Army Ski Association, The War Office (A.S.C.B.), Stanmore, Middlesex.

* * *

Regimental Car Badge

A lovely Christmas present price 27/6.

General Moore's Instruction to the East Kent Militia

General Orders for Officers Commanding Forts

"THE Forts under your command and in which your Regiment is stationed, I mean those of Dungeness, are not such as can make much resistance against a land attack. If the enemy had landed in force, it would be your duty to retire, destroying the gun carriages, and ammunition, with the implements provided for that purpose. As sea batteries, however, they are formidable, and if the guns are well served, and the previous disposition and arrangements are made with judgment, it will be impossible for an enemy to disembark within their reach. Every attention must be paid to make the men expert at the exercise of the great guns. They must be exercised twice a-day until perfect, and then always once a-day, lest they should forget it. Captain Smith has directions to visit you frequently to judge of your progress, and he will issue a proportion of ammunition for practice, when he thinks the men sufficiently forward. At these visitations you will point out to him whatever deficiencies have been observed in guns, platforms, &c., and if they are very important you will also report them to me, that they may be remedied. It is of importance to you that every part of the Batteries be in good order, as your character, and that of the Officers and men under you is materially interested in the defence you are able to make. You should direct a disposition to be made at each Fort for the defence of the Post, and you cannot be too explicit to your Officers and men with respect to the conduct you expect from them in case of an attack. The alarm post of every Officer and man should be ascertained, the manner explained in which they are to turn out upon any alarm, the persons named who are to deliver on such an occasion the small arms, ammunition, what men are to man the guns, which to keep their muskets, the places where the muskets and packs of the men at the guns are to be placed that they may have resource to them if ordered: in short everything, however minute, which you think can occur, should have its previous instruction, that noise and confusion may be avoided in the moment of danger. The ammunition to complete your men to 2 flints and 60 rounds should be put in the possession of the Officers at the different Forts, who will keep it in the magazine of the Fort in which they are stationed, at their own disposal ready to deliver to the men when required. The proportion of camp kettles, bat horses, and other parts of camp equipage which have been issued should also be with the different companies, in charge of their respective Captains or Commanding Officers, so that when your companies meet, each may come with what belongs to them. The bat horses, women, &c., should be sent to the rear in case of attack. The signal of alarm is a smoke by day, a fire by night from the beacon fixed some hundred yards to your right as you look at the signal-post on Lymne Height, or from the beacon fixed on Shorncliffe Height, near the redoubt. Your sentries should have orders to observe these, though in all probability, from the officer at your own signal-post at Dungeness you will have the first notice of the approach of an enemy. Every intelligence of the approach of an enemy of which you have reason to think me ignorant, you will dispatch to me by a Dragoon to Sandgate, and to the Officer Commanding at Rye, and you will of course, at the same time warn the Volunteers and Sea Fencibles at Lydd and New Romney. You will of course complete the companies in Forts Moncrieff and Sutherland with ammunition &c., the same as those at Dungeness. If you have any for practice you will do well to divide it amongst the companies, with directions to them to use it for their instruction. The officers and men cannot be too much warned against throwing away their fire by beginning too soon when the enemy is at a distance, or by firing carelessly without taking pains to lay their guns. This sort of fire, instead of injuring, encourages an enemy; it is when within the reach of grape that your fire will have the greatest effect, and it is only after having got very close to you that a brave enemy will be defeated. The Officers and men of the East Kent will, I trust, recollect this, and not think of abandoning their guns, or of retiring until absolutely forced. It is better to risk being taken than to abandon too soon, for it is the last shots which tell; at all events it is of importance to show the French what they are to expect in their invasion of England; after that there may still be time to retreat; a few yards start is sufficient, as an enemy is always cautious of following in a country he does not know."

NOTE.—James's Military Dictionary published in 1816 gives:—

BAT—Fr. A pack-saddle.

BAT-horses or BAW-horses—baggage horses.

BAT-men or BAW-men were originally servants for the specific purpose of attending to the horses of the officers—hence our present word Batman.

1st Battalion



OUR return to Wuppertal from the field towards the end of September was accompanied on the part of many by the thought: "Thank goodness, the training season is over. Now we can settle down to some proper soldiering in barracks during the peaceful, albeit inclement, German winter . . . ."

We were soon disabused of this idea. Almost immediately we had to organise and despatch to Wiesbaden a composite company which was to assist in Exercise "Cordon Bleu" in the American Zone. It is believed that Captain Mullins had a hand in the choice of The Buffs for this task, but no more will be said about it here. A description of "EX" Company's efforts, written by their commander, Captain Macdonald, will be found elsewhere in these pages. The remainder of the Battalion was plunged into a fury of activity connected with the handing in of stores, the departure of the first leave parties to England, SPORT, miniature range shooting, Courts of Inquiry, Audit Boards, cadres, social events, etcetera ad infinitum. Nostalgic memories of the comparative peace of Lower Saxony crept into some of our minds. A thousand years ago the northern forests had assisted the Saxons to combat, usually successfully, the imperial designs of Charlemagne. To The Buffs they had been hospitable, providing cover from aircraft and the weather and unlimited fuel for cheerful camp fires. There is little consolation in the distant prospect of next year's campaigning season, but for most of us winter training will give ample opportunity to re-live the past. Snow and dead leaves should provide an interesting twist to nights in the open; and, after all, the woods around Wuppertal are not too bad, even if they lack the charm of the Teutoburger Wald.

For the lucky few the past month was enriched by visits to Denmark. The Commanding Officer and Mrs. Grace, accompanied by a convalescent Capt. Minto, drove to Copenhagen immediately after Exercise "Full House". They returned a week or so later, having enjoyed themselves immensely. They gave glowing reports of the performance of the Band and Drums in the British Military Tattoo. They were full of delight at the Danish capital and, so far as Colonel and Mrs. Grace were concerned, the pleasure of meeting many old friends. An account of their visit appears elsewhere.

Captain Minto, usually so frank, has been a little reticent about his personal activities, but the restoration of his upper limbs to full drinking order is evidence that his holiday did him nothing but good. Major and Mrs. Norris were the next to go north. They spent only three days in Copenhagen and then returned slowly to base, shooting birds on the way; a literally flying trip to Copenhagen was also made by Captain Wilson. He has since joined the Battalion, with whom we hope he will be as happy as he obviously has been with the R.A.F.

Lieut. Davison has at long last returned to the fold. We welcome him and three new Officers, 2/Lieuts. Wallace, Daniel and Holmes-Smith, who joined us from Eaton Hall this month. We have, alas! lost Captain Dalgliesh, who is on the point of leaving the Army. He was suitably dined out in the Mess and is now, we believe, learning how to drive a tractor in preparation for his forthcoming tour of the Antarctic. We wish him the very best of luck for the future and sincerely hope that we have not seen the last of him.

Three social functions deserve mention not only for their success but because they were held on three successive nights with the result that few of us have yet recovered from them. The first was a Guest Night in the Officers' Mess on 20th October. Both the Divisional Commander and the Brigade Commander honoured us with their company and there were a number of other distinguished guests, including Mr. G. L. Easton, British Resident at Recklinghausen, and Squadron Leader I. A. Clarke, R.A.F. Regiment, who served with The Buffs in the War. On the following night, the Sergeants' Mess entertained a vast number of people at a dance, with buffet supper, in the gymnasium. A truly magnificent party, thoroughly well-organised, which went on into the small hours. The gymnasium was also the venue for a Wuppertal Garrison Officers' Club dance on the third night. Each battalion of the Brigade is to sponsor a dance on behalf of the Club whose premises are too small. It fell to us to give the first of the season. If we have done nothing else, we feel that we have set a high standard for others to aim at, and not a little of the credit is due to the dance section of the Band.

They, with the rest of the Band, have now gone home for a well-earned three weeks' leave.

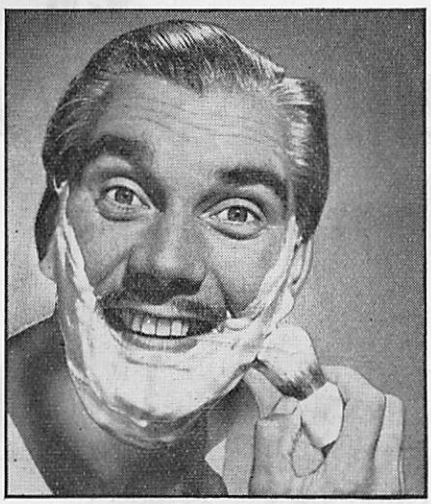
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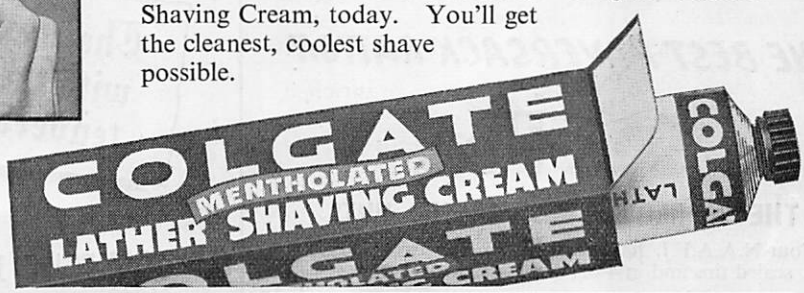


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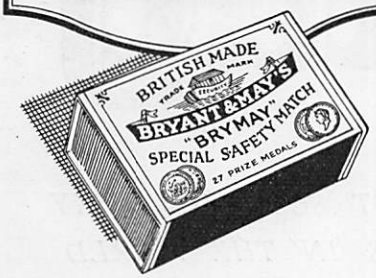
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BRYMAY

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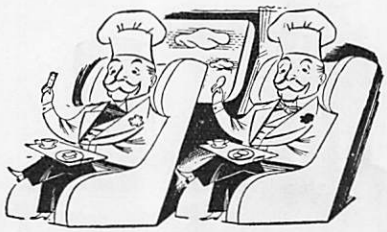


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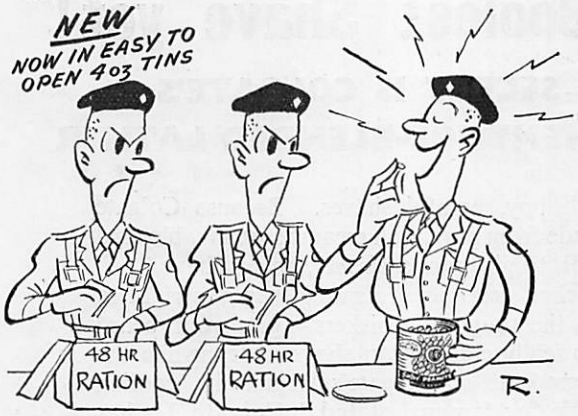


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On 23rd October occurred a ceremony unique in the history of the Regiment. A Lectern bible, presented by the rank and file of the Battalion, was dedicated in the Barracks Chapel. A description of the ceremony will be found in the Church Notes for this month. As one who was privileged to be present at the Dedication Service, I feel sure that this new piece of Regimental property will do much to foster the true traditions of the Regiment. As the Padre, Walter Evans, pointed out, this Bible will be used by all ranks of the Regiment for the next 100 years, no matter where we may be serving.

As we close our notes for October, the Commanding Officer, Lieuts. West and Pilcher and the M.M.G. Platoon are taking part in a "machine gun concentration" at Sennelager. The expression is new to the writer, but it is hoped to give a description of this phenomenon in next month's notes.

* * *

TAIL PIECE

The following letter was received by O.C. Depot The Buffs and forwarded to us for information and necessary action:—

M. Noor Din & Sons,
Rawalpindi.
11*th October*, 1955.

The Officer Commanding,
Depot The Buffs,
Canterbury,
England.

Respected Sir,

We most humbly and respectfully beg to introduce ourselves as very old Regimental Tailors to the Buffs. We were with the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs, at Poona during the War.

Being given to understand that one of the Battalion is moving to Singapore shortly. We therefore request you to kindly pass on this our application to the Officer Commanding of the outgoing Battalion, 1st Battalion, or the 2nd Battalion.

We have served the 2nd Battalion at Hong Kong and Singapore in 1908 and took over the 1st Battalion, The Buffs, on its arrival at Bareilly in 1927 and left the Regiment in Libya in 1941 in Great War II.

We took over the 2nd Battalion again at Poona and sorry to say that we could not go to Singapore with the Battalion as the Southern Command put restrictions, although all our heavy baggage was gone with the Regimental heavy baggage.

In Singapore now all the units there have employed their own Regimental tailors practically.

As regards to our qualifications we most respectfully beg to inform you can enquire from all our noble officers who have served the Regiment in India, Palestine and Libya.

Hoping that the petition will be favourably considered by you. In anticipation of sanctioned, we pray for your long life and prosperity.

Your Most Obedient Servant,

———,

for M. Noor Din and Sons.

SERGEANTS' MESS

It only seems a few days ago that the previous month's notes were being compiled and now once again the time has come for more, so, once more into the goings on of the Mess we plunge.

One hasn't to plunge too deep because it has really been a quiet month—obviously the lull before the storm.

There is a wealth of talent in this Mess of ours, but it needs some "shorts" to bring it out of the respective owners. It was at the farewell party of Sgt. "Charlie" Cock that the majority of this talent came to light. The R.S.M. gave us a rendering of some old favourites, C/Sgt. Anderson gave a few warbling notes, Sgt. Wagstaff acted as impromptu M.C. and sang a couple of Flanagan and Allan tunes, but the star of the evening, apart from Charlie, who was always a mad-hatter, was Sgt. Mills. Hidden talent is not the word for it. He gave such a wonderful act that he is now in the Dog Kennel for life. He has had to apply to the Dumb Friends League for Legal Aid.

On 21st October, 1955, we held our "Housewarmer" and it was in the form of a dance which took place in the gymnasium. Congratulations must go to Committee and all the other volunteers who went to no end of trouble to make the evening a success. A marvellous time was had by all and judging by the empty crates and bottles that accumulated, nobody left with a thirst. The highlight of the evening was stolen by the C.O. who danced the Gay Gordans with Mrs. Jephcott—it was a pity the other dancers did not give them more room to manoeuvre and dance as they wanted to. Sgt. Streeter worked himself to a shadow and has now departed on leave to the U.K. to recuperate.

The members of the Band have returned from their holiday in Denmark and can be heard quoting passages from the tales of Hans Andersen and also reckoning up the amount of L.O.A. they are entitled to receive.

There hasn't been much sporting activity during the last four weeks, the only one of interest being the Basket Ball Match with the Scots Guards. We were invited to send a team to play them, but they did not let us know that their Mess was about 80 strong, consequently we met their Battalion team—anyway, we went down fighting and lost 34—20. We took the opportunity of challenging them to a return match on our home ground.

Congratulations go to Sgt. Lockwood on his recent promotion and it is hoped he will be a proper bar stander. It is with regret that we have said "Cheerio" to Charlie Cock, who managed to push off to U.K. on the pretence of an escort duty—we will always remember the "Kleine" Days, especially that last Saturday night.

Well, that brings down the curtain on another month and in doing so we wish all ex-members wherever they are all the very best.

SPORTS FLASH.—Revenge is sweet. We managed to beat the Scots Guards 43—30 and now wait for the decider.

* * *

QUARTERMASTER'S STAFF

An air of vague excitement prevailed in the rather bare office this month as the staff gathered to speed one of the pioneers into the valley of matrimony; the unfortunate victim was dragged to the fore and presented with suitable advice and wedding presents. In spite of the caustic remarks made by the single and married members of the staff it is the sincere wish of everyone that Pte. Capper

and Mrs. Capper, who have just successfully culminated a childhood attachment formed in the area of the home of the Regiment, should be granted everything that they wish themselves.

L/Cpl. Andrews and Pte. Martin have left us for the doubtful joys of an English winter in civilian life. We wish them every success and hope that they are not confronted with Rail, Dock, Coal and Bus Strikes before they have earned enough money to take them to warmer climes.

A horde of most alarming looking gentlemen descended on the stores one day, armed with suitably impressive looking black bags and an air of intense dubiety. . . . The R.Q.M.S. turned pale, Sgt. Inskip went puce. . . . Several hours later the same horde departed, the staff breathed a sigh of relief and a telephone call reporting another blocked drain restarted the machinery after a visit by an unmentionable, but doubtless essential branch of the great B.A.O.R. . . . Don't miss next month's instalment. . . . Bigger and Better Inspections.

The sporting activities are being rather curtailed by the call for guards and sundry duties; congratulations to the people concerned for managing to get selected as the best turned out men on guard.

Pte. Davies and his local "Globetrotters" appear in the gym. every evening and have produced a useful basketball team, the tactics and style are worthy of better opposition.

Congratulations to L/Cpls. Ford, Wright and Hurlock on being recently promoted. Also to Cpl. Foreman who has received his second stripe.

Welcome to Pte. Randall who has joined the staff from "C" Company. Also a warm welcome to our assistant armourer, Cfn. Moore, who has just arrived.

Unfortunately a security curtain has been drawn to cover the activities of our two back room girls, so we will never learn how to juggle with the Jugo-Slavs.

* * *

SIGNAL PLATOON

Winter is swiftly approaching and the leaves are beginning to fall "much to the disgust of all area cleaners". Although the radiators are regularly turned on for thirty minutes each day, it still tends to be a bit chilly, especially in the Signal Office where when the radiator becomes warm it will be for the first time.

Our young hands have settled down to the Classification Course very well and are now unravelling the mysteries of signalling with increasing rapidity.

At the beginning of the month Sgt. Wright left us for leave in the U.K. and a real cup of tea. He was quickly followed by Pte. Marr, who has now been officially nominated travel adviser to the Platoon. L/Cpl. Brunger has also torn himself away and at the time of writing he is *en route* for his beloved village of Tenterden.

In the field of sport Ptes. Williams and Sawyer have put in several appearances for the Battalion Football and Rugby teams. Our football team played and won a match versus the M.M.G. Platoon, but were not so successful against the Signal Platoon of 1 Suffolk although our team played a very hard game under their capable captain Pte. Dearsley. Ptes. Barnes and Hart arrived to spectate but alas a little late. The R.S.O. pounced and soon afterwards two greatcoated figures were to be seen circumnavigating the field at the double with plenty of encouragement from all assembled spectators. Both are now said to be "comfortable", but it is rumoured that that Pte. "Cognac" Barnes has not yet fully recovered from his antics during that memorable Sunday afternoon on Exercise Pied Piper. At basket ball our team, captained by the R.S.O., played a combined side from the Pioneers and the P.T. Staff and after an excellent game won 39—36.

STOP PRESS.—L/Cpl. Cummings will soon be going to a rendezvous "Somewhere in Berlin" with a 31 set and haversack rations. The main question is how will a 31 set with its ten foot eight aerial penetrate the Iron Curtain? No comment on the possible success of the haversack rations.

Sgt. Pooley, Ptes. Booth and Dearsley (who has since been awarded the Diploma of Merit, Woodwork Section) have given the stores a new look, ably assisted by other signallers who have painted everything that could not run away.

Pte. Briggs has taken over the Signal Office and the contents of the legendary "Black Box", accumulated during the occasional tea break. However, he has since reported "Box clear and ready for inspection", so all is well.

* * *

M.T.

This month we have bid farewell to Captain D. Barrett, who has been with the M.T. Section for nearly two years. We sincerely thank him for all he has done during that time for us. It only remains for us to wish him the best of luck in his new appointment with H.Q., 91 Lorried Inf. Bde., and hope that his duties will not prevent him from visiting us.

Now we cordially welcome Captain H. Gatehouse, who we understand has brought many new ideas from his course at Borden. We hope that this will enable us to cut down some of the work.

There are many smiling faces when tools are being handed in to the store, and when we ask what the trouble is, we hear, "I'm going on leave, Corporal", and then wonder if there will still be smiles when the tools are drawn out again.

Since the drivers have returned from Exercise "Cordon Bleu" strong American accents have been heard, and several drivers have been swaggering about smoking "Camels", and other luxury brands. They are full of tales of the hard times they had, but we doubt it.

It is now brought to your notice that the P.O.L. Point is under new management. L/Cpl. Harvey has taken over from L/Cpl. Brett, and Pte. Cook is understudying Pte. Robinson, who is being released in the near future. The last two or three months have been rather hectic, with the schemes and the handover. If anyone had peeped through the windows of the M.T. Office at some unearthly hour of the night, they would have seen steam rising from the P.O.L. Account, which Brice was trying to "cook-up". By day Robinson was frantically dashing the dip stick into the petrol storage tanks in hope of splashing a mark just a little higher up the stick. Another shady character to be seen was Cook, laboriously pouring oil from one can to another via the pint measure, in a manner which would convince anybody that one pint was really two. On the final handover even Captain Barrett had to agree everything was "on the ball".

The Quarter Ton Section regret the loss of the i/c Section, Cpl. Morgan, who found it convenient to proceed on a Driving Instruction Course at Borden, when the date of the M.T. Administration Inspection became known. Another loss was Pte. Arnold, who has been

with us for nearly eighteen months, only broken for short periods. Pte. Jolley has decided to try the comforts of a Volkswagon now that winter has arrived. He seems to be quite content to drive all day and then half the night. Pte. Golding seemed to be fascinated by ditches, and used to drive into them during the schemes, so the Adjutant took to riding in the Half-Track when it was on the road.

With two vehicles B.L.R. in Germany the One-ton Section have the pleasure to report that they are all "fighting fit" for the exercise, although when they return to barracks 75% are off the road. The One Tonners seem to indulge in a few minor mishaps with the other road users.

L/Cpl. Mockler has now left the section to take a driving course, and he seems in a permanent state of nervous tension. We cordially welcome L/Cpl. White to the section as 2 i/c.

Now the cold weather has arrived Cpl. Winter spends most of the day in the office endeavouring to keep warm. With the help of his 2 i/c he now carries out 406 inspections of a vehicle in the office. It is reported that the one-ton section hold a distinct advantage in documentation over the other sections, who suffer from a shortage of documents for their vehicles.

We will close this month's notes with our drivers disappearing under their trucks, and getting ready for the inspection of the year. What with the lurid exclamations floating up from underneath the vehicles, we take it that the drivers are finding out just how much they have to do. So all the best till next month, when we hope to say we have come through with flying colours.

* * *

THE BAND

Indeed there is no difficulty in compiling Band notes for this issue of *The Dragon* as they cover entirely the activities of the Regimental Band in Denmark where they performed for a month in the British Military Tattoo.

The original idea to stage this form of entertainment in Copenhagen was conceived and carried out by the British Import Union and incidentally to coincide with the British Exhibition in the Tivoli Gardens and the Forum. The majority of the performers, of which there were 807 in all, came from Scottish Command where they had recently performed in the Edinburgh Tattoo. One can imagine the pride and pleasure experienced by the Band and a section of the Corps of Drums when the invitation to perform in Denmark was extended to The Buffs.

The reader can surmise the amount of organisation needed to bring performers from U.K., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Germany, to ensure they arrived in Copenhagen on a specified date and on a specified train. This apart from motor-cycles, horses, a team of Jeeps, crates of scenery and all instruments and kit peculiar to the various Bands. Leaving Wuppertal on September 20th the Buffs entrained 52 musicians strong with crates containing Trumpet Voluntaries, Bugle Marches and of course the selection *Hans Christian Andersen*!! Indeed much effort had been made on our behalf to produce such things as full dress, multitudes of rail warrants, three types of currency and food for the journey. Many departments in the Battalion must have worked overtime to ensure we were a 100% functioning unit.

Our arrival in Copenhagen and the dispersal to our accommodation was as efficient as our departure from Germany and it was not long before we had fed, reorganised and were in the rehearsal ground under the baton of Major D. A. Pope, Director of Music to the Coldstream Guards. A word or two about the accommodation which necessitated housing the Massed Bands (200 strong) in the "Idraedshuset", this being the gymnasium of a famous Sports Club. When this vast musical gathering took it unto themselves to tune up, the roof bulged, windows shook and the Swedes across the water must have wondered what was happening in Copenhagen.

Rehearsal upon rehearsal took us up to the first performance at which H.M. King Frederik IX was taking the Salute. No words of the writer can describe the keenness amongst the performers to ensure that this performance would set a seal of quality for all the remaining nights to come. Alas, as fate would have it, came the rain, but even this did not damp the enthusiasm or spoil the initial show. The Massed Bands playing that world famous Bugle March, *Sambe et Meuse*, still sounded thrilling, the Massed Pipes (250 strong) were a moving spectacle. The Royal Danish Life Guards, which the Regimental Band accompanied, sent the 12,000 strong audience into a series of admiring "Ooh's" and "Aah's". The splendour of H.M. Life Guards Mounted Band matched the knife-edged efficiency of the R.E.M.E. Jeep Assembly Team who completed their task in 1 minute 47 seconds. Not even the rain could stop the Royal Corps of Signals performing fantastic stunts on their motor-cycles at 40 m.p.h. The immaculate Scots Guards, drilling with that precision and ease, preceded the Finale which in itself was a spectacle worth travelling across half of Europe to witness.

The Rosenberg Eksercerplads was a fitting arena to house this wonderful exhibition of the British Army, with the picturesque floodlit Castle as a backcloth. As one stood, with the music of *Sunset* dusting the evening air, the Royal Marines sounding off from the Castle walls, you felt that it still meant a great deal to be British. The reaction from those lovable people the Danes was warming to each and every performer's heart. Every night we experienced the "slow handclap", which in Denmark means exactly the opposite to the English version. They clap in rhythm to the melody you are playing and every well-timed clap seems to urge you to give better of yourself.

So for 28 performances the Tattoo was staged for the Danes but on mingling with the crowds the many different languages heard led you to firmly believe that the British still have the knack of selling something with the Lion predominant.

Our other musical performances extended to marches through the Town and Concerts in the Tivoli Gardens. Here again we found the warm appreciation and the happy atmosphere, many a bouquet of flowers bedecked a Director of Music or Drum-Major as they entered the Tivoli gates! All the Bands volunteered to play at hospitals or Old Folk's Homes, whether for the lunch or other reasons is not known but you know, "Carlsburg" goes down very well with any meal!!

So to 16th October when our last performance was nigh with an early train back to Germany for The Buffs, a rough sea passage for the Royal Marines and an air passage for the Pakistani Pipers being the ultimate move. It had been a wonderful month of pleasure, for though the going was hard we thoroughly enjoyed it; in entertainment, to ensure your audience's pleasure of your performance, you must first find pleasure in it yourself. We met many old friends and made equally as many new ones. Of the former we were extremely pleased to meet various ex-Buffs and friends we made on the 1947 tour. Of the latter we must make mention of the Commanding Officer, N.C.O.s and men of the Royal Danish Life Guards with whom we formed a joint item; what great friends they all were! Each man of The Buffs was

presented with a silver spoon by the Guards, the Bandmaster receiving an inscribed silver cigarette box. In return we presented an engraved silver salver with a silver Dragon sunk in the centre. These gifts were exchanged not merely between representatives of two famous Regiments, but between men of two countries to cement a bond of friendship and esteem.

Most certainly we found it a great pleasure and privilege to perform in the Copenhagen British Military Tattoo.

* * *

"A" COMPANY

In spite of the rumours of idleness in the Army spread by the Press, the Company has been fruitfully active since the first day of the month and has tangible results to boast of; even if we are not the victors in all fields, improvement is still a measure of success and cause for contentment.

Our Arrivals and Departures desk has been mildly busy again. Readers will recall that last month 2/Lieut. McGowan left us; in his place as Commander of No. 3 Platoon we accord a welcome to 2/Lieut. Daniel who, though unfortunately unable to have a direct take over from his predecessor, seems to have got the measure of his command quite rapidly. We also received eleven men from Support Company and had barely settled them in when news arrived that they are to leave us again in the near future but—well, we share these distressing things with most others and do not suffer alone. Permanent departures are recorded for Cpl. Goodwell, Pte. Cohen and Pte. Dale, all of whom we shall miss, Dale most of all since he was one of the Colour-Sergeant's more notorious storemen. Ptes. Howarth and Miles will shortly be drivers (may the Lord preserve us); Pte. Ide is now trying his hand at Signals and L/Cpl. Fisher has returned to Support Company to the M.M.G. Platoon.

Moving now to the Leave and Temporary Postings desk we find two announcements to make. Firstly Clerk Vant has been thoroughly active in putting to the test all those lessons he learned on the course he recently and very successfully attended; he returned to us in the middle of our last exercise, fretting to get back to his office; he is much happier now. Secondly, we are glad to say that after a tolerably strenuous training Season the Leave Programme is getting under way and already our first leave personnel have gone, some to England, and some on Local Leave. This anxiously awaited event has injected much brightness into our lives and, as is intended, a certain energy into our work. Splendid.

As for training, shooting and education have replaced marching and digging. The shooting has been designed to boost up the lesser shots, but the struggle will not be against wayward marksmen so much as the very unreliable weather; having classified earlier this year in the snow it is a bit hard having to practise in fog. We confess also to having had an education drive. 2/Lieuts. Johnson and Brice and Sgt. Page having herded the less literate quite mercilessly into the Education Centre taught them so much that ten of them, allegedly out of sheer fright, passed their third class examination. The jubilation and wild scenes of celebration in the Company Office took us all back to Mafeking days. But we were genuinely pleased.

Interspaced with these general training activities has been an increasing opportunity for sport. At this moment of going to press, we cannot record many sweeping victories but our football team has, under the able direction of Cpl. Pollard (the Colour-Sergeant having defected to the Sergeants' Mess) improved tremendously. We had the courtesy to lose to the Sergeants' Mess 8—1 in the Knock-out Competition, but since then only one game have we lost. Our major battles have been with the Signals Platoon (won 6—2) and the "B" Company game provided breath-taking excitement with a 6 all draw. Ptes. Morley, Goodison and L/Cpl. Sheepwash have been the main goal scorers. Our basket-ball team is about to be formed and from somewhere as yet unspecified we are going to raise a hockey side. The scribe of this article, who also happens to be Hockey Officer, is not going to see a lot of specially sharpened hockey sticks lying idle.

Perhaps the most interesting work the Company has done this month has been done by the composite platoon of thirty men provided for Exercise "Cordon Bleu". This exercise is adequately described elsewhere in this issue, but it did concern some of our ranks most closely for two weeks. No other opportunity will probably occur for them to visit the American Zone whither they hurried under the command of 2/Lieut. Johnson and Cpl. Miles as Platoon Sergeant. American hospitality in some measure compensated for many long hours daylight and darkness of tedious work. There was a mock panic in the ranks when those who had laid out the blankets in the bivouacs for the Parachute Battalion discovered that there were no hot water bottles, but there was a heart-warming welcome for the field cashier who facilitated visits to Wiesbaden and Frankfurt.

The rolling of parachute equipment was eventually mastered but not required, which sad story is writ elsewhere. Lieut. Hicks who acted as second-in-command to the composite company, is reported to have done some really excellent liaison work (in the Mess) with the Americans. No longer will he ask "who is a Chicken Colonel?" "Cordon Bleu", if tiring, was fun and most of us are agreed that Bavaria is more attractive than the Ruhr.

What, then, is the prospect before us. The soldierly accomplishment of shooting could be better mastered and will be and, who knows, the lesser literates might spring another surprise on us. But the most terrifying of all is the prospect of the annual Administration inspection and so, if you will excuse me, I must close.

* * *

"B" COMPANY

Continuation this month has been given to physical fitness, marksmanship and education. Collective training has given way to administrative readjustment and individual training, and there has been a revival of interest and activity in indoor pastimes in the evenings.

Games and sports have fared quite well. With winter here the football is in constant use and several of the team show signs of developing the Stanley Matthews touch. With the cry: "It's age that counts!" the team defeated the Sergeants' Mess in an excellent game in which Lade shone forth as a star. However, we were thrashed by "C" Company 3—1 and only managed to draw with "A" Company 6—6. Not to worry: "On the ball" is our motto if Sergeant-Major Hannaway is to get a roar in edgeways!

Under the Sergeant-Major's eye small bore shooting proceeds apace. They say Parsons 29 would give Annie Oakley a run for her money any day.

Competitions are well under way in Table Tennis, Billiards and Darts and these, with Tombola, occupy most of our evenings. When the tea and cakes arrive at these sessions that's when Hough stands forth as Champion; he can eat his way through anything, including the opposition.



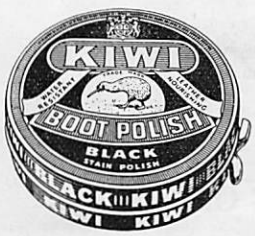
There's something about a soldier...

EVEN WHEN HE'S OUT OF UNIFORM

There's something about a soldier, *even when he's out of uniform*, that makes him stand out. Something about the way he walks—head up, shoulders back; something about the pride he takes in his personal appearance. On parade or in civvies, he's smart right down to his Kiwi shine.

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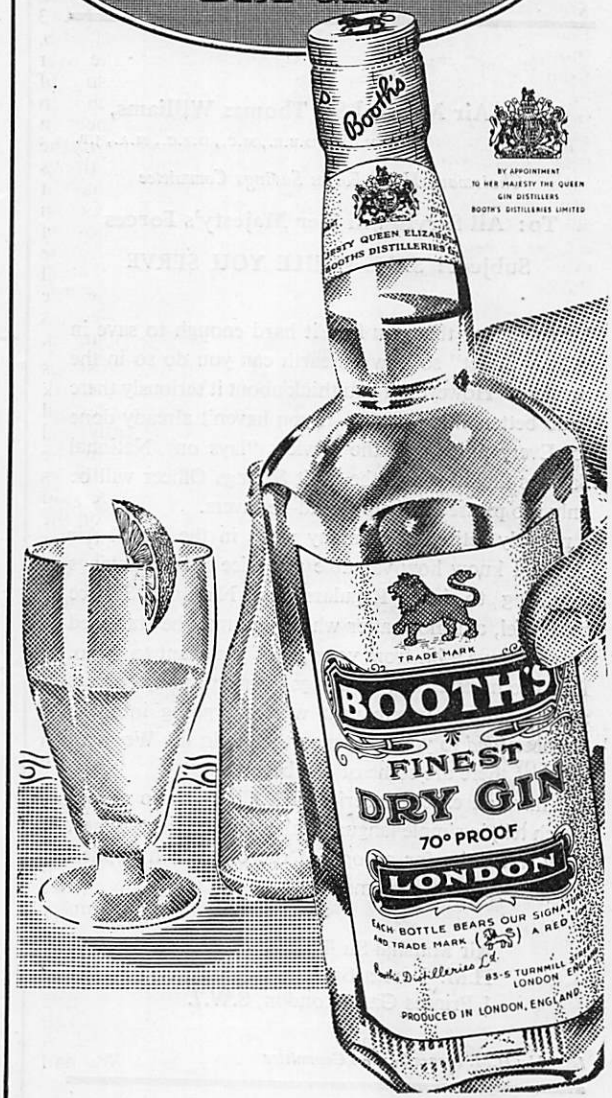


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From: Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,
K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., M.A., J.P.
Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee

To: All Serving in Her Majesty's Forces

Subject: SAVE WHILE YOU SERVE

You may say that you find it hard enough to save in "Civvy Street" so how on earth can you do so in the Services? However, if you think about it seriously there is no better time to start—if you haven't already done so. Every unit in all the services "lays on" National Savings facilities and the Unit Savings Officer will be only too pleased to help would-be savers.

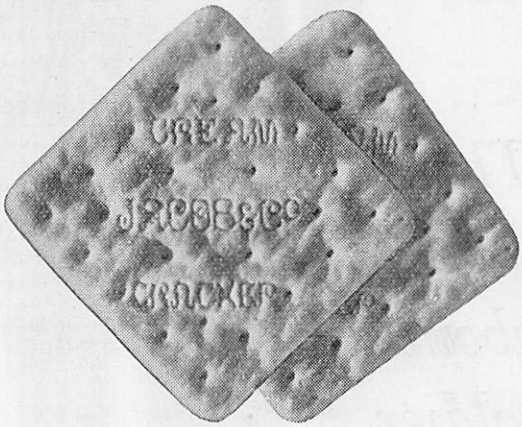
I recently retired after many years in the Royal Air Force. I know how valuable a service Forces Savings is giving to both Regulars and National Service personnel, and no matter where you may be stationed you can save a bit from your pay if you want to do so. I also commend Forces Savings for mention by parents and friends to young men who are going into the Services (*and* to young women too, as in the Women's Services there are some of our best savers!)

We have an excellent series of leaflets (shown above) which tell, in simple language, all about Forces Savings. Why not write for a copy of the one which applies. Address your letter to me:—

Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,
H.M. Forces Savings Committee.
1 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

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FINE OLD
FRENCH BRANDY

Elsewhere in this issue is an account of "Cordon Bleu", a manoeuvre in the American Zone to which the Company contributed a composite platoon commanded by Mr. Hordern. All are agreed that this was a pleasant and interesting change, and mention of the Nimbus Club will bring memories of two happy evenings. Two of our lads, Ptes. Carter and Burgess, were involved in an accident when the vehicle in which they were travelling skidded into a wall, but we are happy to know that they were not seriously hurt. When they return to us we expect to be regaled with tales of the delights of an American Hospital. There is another thing: we would very much like to analyse the composition of L/Cpl. Straker's skull . . . something like that Piltdown character's, we suppose . . . because he used it to smash a windscreen with absolutely no harm to said noggin!

We welcome to our family circle Mr. Holmes-Smith and Sgt. Harrison, who come to us from Eaton Hall and H.Q. Company respectively and we sincerely hope that they will enjoy their stay with us. Also we congratulate Sgt. Lockwood and Cpl. Collins on their promotion, and we wish Ptes. Glazier and Poynter the best of good fortune on their return to the rigours of civilian life.

* * *

"C" COMPANY

The month started with an intensive spell of education. About 45 of the Company took their Third after a concentrated spell of amateur tuition. Although no official results have come through it has been rumoured that about only 10 have failed. The examination yielded some classic mis-spellings. For example there was a certain N.C.O. who somewhat rashly set out to spell "guilty conscience". Unfortunately, what he wrote was "gerelte consohns"—logical if incorrect.

Meanwhile the C.S.M. and Sergeants of the Company were grappling with First Class. We saw them, but seldom in the Company, their faces showing varying degrees of puzzlement and complaining of headaches. The chief trouble seemed to be the maths. They were explained the mysteries of logarithms, and it is difficult to persuade some sergeants that "bar one" is not similar to "five to four the field" and indeed bears no relation either to Ritter or to the Turf. The results have not yet come through, but we wish them every success.

On 5th October 2/Lieut. Hardy took 30 of the Company to the American Zone for Exercise "Cordon Bleu". To the outsider listening to reports of this excursion it seems to have been one long debauch, but we are assured that they got through a lot of hard work as well as a lot of alcohol.

This month we see many new faces in the Company, and regret the departure of some old ones. Lieut. Davison has rejoined the Battalion, and has taken over 2 i/c of the Company. One memorable evening so hard was he working that the C.O.S. locked the offices up and departed on his way to tea leaving our 2 i/c still inside. Just as he was reconciling himself to either jumping out of the window or spending the night there he was released, so all was well. We extend a warm welcome to 2/Lieut. Wallace who has joined the Company, and takes over No. 9 Platoon, as 2/Lieut. Hardy, No. 9 Platoon Commander, is shortly leaving us for the Depot. L/Cpl. Penny and Ptes. Sharpe and Foad have joined the M.T. We welcome Cpl. Simmons to the Company from the comparative calm of the Officers' Mess, and L/Cpl. Graham has returned from the job of Post Corporal. Seventeen men of the disbanded Assault Pioneer Platoon have also come to us, at least temporarily. Finally we wish every success in civilian life to L/Cpl. Sweeting and Pte. Wickenden on their demobilization.

Now that the training season has ended the Company has had more time for sport. We seem to have quite a good soccer team with Pte. Thirkell particularly outstanding. L/Cpl. Lee and Ptes. Gould and Phillips have been on intensive boxing training. Our cross-country running team, built around Pte. Linford, an experienced and enthusiastic performer, has been getting into training, and quite a lot of talent has emerged. Several of the Company have been initiated in the mysteries of hockey, and have been playing with much vigour and increasing skill. At rugger Pte. Coate has had a trial for the Brigade team.

In conclusion we feel that we must publish an apology at the request of Cpl. Clarke. He informs us that far from taking size 15 in boots he only takes size 14½, and assures us that there is one man in the Company who has bigger feet than him.

* * *

SUPPORT COMPANY

The last Company *Dragon* notes were written during a lull between exercises spent in pleasant conditions near Osnabrucke. The erstwhile correspondent described the farm where the Company were lodged "a haven of rest". Be that as it may, he and Sgt. Colyer found that they were in need of a rest from the vigours of barrack life and by means of Lieut. Pilcher's new car were able to pass a few more leisure hours in the same happy atmosphere and revolting weather. The remainder of us merely exhibit the polite curiosity that has attended current affairs in England.

It was forecast that Support Company was to be reorganised. How true this was! The Mortar Platoon has been resuscitated and the Machine Gun Platoon survives, but regrettably the Anti-Tank Platoon and most of the Assault Pioneer Platoon are gone for ever, and have been completely disbanded. Selected men from both platoons are now learning a new art as prospective machine gunners and mortarmen. The remainder have now dispersed to rifle companies, and a life of greater ease (?). We are certainly sorry to see this transformation for we had a certain competitive spirit with four platoons which will doubtless revert to grim rivalry with two, not mentioning our ten-man Pioneer Section.

In the field of sport we have had some success with players representing the Company at cricket, football, rugger, basket-ball, cross-country, and in things more military, for instance good cadre results and representation in shooting teams and so on. In retrospect it has been a tremendous year of achievement, and we flatter ourselves we know, at this the end of the training season in B.A.O.R., the rudiments at least of modern warfare and tactics.

The departures and arrivals have been many and various and one has not the space to mention all, but we would like to say farewell to Sgt. Cock who has sought a life of greater opportunity (we wonder) in civilian clothes, and Sgt. Colyer, that man of many parts who is now about to control the M.T. We welcome in particular Sgt. Histed and Sgt. Miller to the M.G. and Mortar Platoons respectively, also we are glad to have Lieut. I. G. Minto back with us from hospital; he says he is recovered but this fact is concealed by the effects his "convalescent" leave in Copenhagen.

Next month we will make more mention of sport and personal achievements in this and other realms.

* * *

"D" (TRAINING) COMPANY

Burrr!! Writing *Dragon* notes has, this month, become a difficult problem because we are crouched around an oil stove to keep ourselves warm. Winter is approaching

with its usual signals. Early morning frosts have already been felt and thick fog is now the rule rather than the exception. However, training must progress and, even as I write the second draft from the Depot is completing its last day of education before its examination tomorrow, after which we turn it loose into the rough world of Company Training and other activities. With no more than a deep breath, we await the arrival of yet another group of newcomers on November 2nd, next week.

By the time they arrive we shall be well installed, we hope, in what is at present Support Company Block. "D" (Training) Company will be joining the M.M.G.s and Mortars, and including them in its establishment.

This week we have said a very welcoming "Hello" to Captain Peter Wilson, who has joined the 1st Battalion again after being airborne for four years. It is noticeable that he still insists on carrying out a complete cockpit check before driving his car from the Officers' Mess to the Company Office. We wish him a thoroughly enjoyable tour as Weapon Training Officer.

* * *

SPORTS NOTES

RUGBY FOOTBALL

1. BATTALION *v* H.Q. RHINE DISTRICT. Lost 16—3.

This was an entertaining game to play in, but must have been scrappy to watch. Neither side played together well and Rhine District owed their victory to their fly half who was the outstanding player on the field, and scored their three tries through opportunism and strong running.

Our faults were obvious; we must improve our scrummaging and line out play in the first place. Secondly our three-quarters, although potentially powerful, are not yet running smoothly or cohesively. But still, it was in some respects an encouraging start to the season and some new talent has already materialised, noteably 2/Lieuts. Hills, Holmes-Smith and Daniel, L/Cpl. Kemp, Ptes. Evans and Coate.

The Team: Pte. Coate ("C"), 2/Lieut. Griffiths ("S"), 2/Lieut. Hills ("S"), Pte. Tolley ("A"), Pte. Westover (H.Q.), 2/Lieut. Holmes-Smith ("B"), 2/Lieut. Daniel ("A"), 2/Lieut. Brice ("A"), Pte. Evans ("S"), L/Cpl. Kemp ("S"), Lieut. Lunn (H.Q.), L/Cpl. McIver ("D" Training), Lieut. Cross ("C"), Lieut. Mitchell ("D" Training), Lieut. West ("S"). 16th man, Pte. Bunker (H.Q.).

2. The following players represented the Battalion in the Brigade Trial: Lieuts. West, Mitchell, Lunn, 2/Lieuts. Hills, Holmes-Smith, Daniel, Brice, Ptes. Westover, Tolley, Walters and Coate. We hope that several will be included in the Brigade XV.

3. BATTALION *v* 1ST BATTALION THE ROYAL ULSTER RIFLES. Won 26—0.

In this game there was a vast improvement in form. Not only were we fitter but also much more swift on to the ball. Bad scrummaging was still obvious and we must concentrate on this. A reshuffled three-quarter line looked much more impressive and the handling on a difficult windy day was reasonable although to many passes went astray. Even so, the result was satisfactory and we were playing much more together than in the first game when there seemed to be little link between forwards and backs.

The Team: Pte. Coate ("C"), Pte. Sawyer (H.Q.), Pte. Pool (H.Q.), 2/Lieut. Hills ("S") Pte. Tolley ("A"), 2/Lieut. Holmes-Smith ("B"), 2/Lieut. Daniel ("A"), 2/Lieut. Brice ("A"), Pte. Evans ("S"), L/Cpl. Kemp ("S"), Lieut. Lunn (H.Q.), L/Cpl. McIver ("D" Training), Lieut. Cross ("C"), Lieut. Mitchell ("D" Training), Lieut. West ("S"). 16th man, Pte. Westover (H.Q.),

4. BATTALION *v* 23RD FIELD REGIMENT, R.E. Won 12—9.

The game was played at a fast speed throughout and was the toughest test for the team as yet. The scrum showed a marked improvement on its previous form, due very largely to the excellent hooking of 2/Lieut. Hardy, and to the enthusiasm and spirit of Lieut. Mitchell, who was leading the pack. The three-quarters were not quite so good, but certainly had their moments. A brilliant try by Tolley in the first few minutes set the tempo for the rest of the game.

The highlight of the afternoon came in the closing minutes when 2/Lieut. Daniel had a glorious run diagonally across the field to touch down for the winning try.

The Team: Pte. Walters (H.Q.), Pte. Sawyer (H.Q.), Pte. Pool (H.Q.), 2/Lieut. Hills ("S"), Pte. Tolley ("A"), 2/Lieut. Holmes-Smith ("B"), 2/Lieut. Daniel ("A"), 2/Lieut. Brice ("A"), 2/Lieut. Hardy ("C"), L/Cpl. Kemp ("S"), Pte. Coate ("C"), L/Cpl. McIver ("D" Training), Lieut. Cross ("C"), Lieut. Mitchell ("D" Training), Pte. Bunker (H.Q.). 16th man, Pte. Evans ("S").

* * *

CROSS-COUNTRY

We have now formed our Cross-Country team for the current season, and we have in all some 24 people under training. As yet we have not had our first fixture, so we are not able to give you any results. However, we have some promising talent amongst which are Ptes. Lindford and Vant, who both have experience with well known civilian clubs. Our first fixtures come off next month and these are largely with our neighbours in the Brigade. We have entered two teams for the B.A.O.R. Championships, and we are also entering several individuals. There will be further news for you in the next issue of *The Dragon*, by which time we hope to report some successes.

* * *

BOXING

Boxing is at last under way. The Battalion has been entered for the B.A.O.R. Team Championships and we have had the good fortune to draw a bye in the first round, which gives us a little extra training time.

The team is slowly developing into a fairly respectable shape. I can make no promises, but I am sure it will give a good account of itself against the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, our first opponents in the championships. The match will be fought off in November, so perhaps there will be some good news in the next chapter of these notes.

To aid our training, a friendly match with the 1st Battalion, The Suffolk Regiment has been arranged for 10th November. We are hoping for an enjoyable evening's boxing with the respective P.R.I.s coughing up for a tea and a bun after the contest.

* * *

FOOTBALL

We tackled the 1st Round of the Army Cup on Wednesday, 19th October, which was a bit early in the season. We were soundly beaten 6—1 by the 3rd The King's Own Hussars playing at Iserlohn. The forwards never found the form of practice games, and suffered from a form of paralysis near goal. Our opponents were quicker on the ball and exploited the gaps in mid-field due to the fact that our inside forwards seldom came back to help the defence. Cpl. Laming in goal prevented a larger score by turning out his usual first class performance.

On Saturday, 22nd October, we played 1 Suffolks at home, winning 4—1. The game was played in a steady

downpour which made ball-control very difficult. L/Cpl. Fisher and Pte. Small at half back were tireless both in attack and defence. Pte. Boids and Pte. Beer, both of whom have sufficiently powerful shots as to be indifferent to the leadenness of the ball, played very well indeed.

On Wednesday, 19th October, we played 41st Field Regiment, R.A., away. This was a thrilling game after a dull first half. We were 0—1 down at half-time, having survived a penalty against us. After the interval an opposing back punching the ball off the goal line with the goalkeeper well beaten gave us a penalty. Pte. Stillwell, back from Copenhagen with the Corps of Drums to reinforce the team, made no mistake (1—1). Soon afterwards Pte. Stillwell put us ahead with a grand shot from 30 yards (2—1). They equalized and then went ahead (2—3). Pte. Clifford equalized with a good shot from an oblique angle (3—3). Unfortunately a mistake in our defence let our opponents through for the winner.

On Saturday, 22nd October, we played a Belgian Army Service Corps Depot at Mulheim, and emerged winners 1—0. Our team were somewhat disconcerted by our opponents' habit of overhead kicking which they had to a fine art, but we soon settled down and won a very close game.

Our team has many good individuals. Cpl. Laming in goal, L/Cpl. Fisher at right back, Ptes. Thirkell and Stillwell at half back, and an inside trio of Ptes. Lade Boids and Morley form an admirable nucleus. What at the moment is needed is a pair of fast, forceful and determined wingers and a better understanding as a team.

* * *

HOCKEY

The Battalion hockey team has been in being for some time with a measure of success. Before the open season began there were several trial games, revealing a modest but adequate amount of talent. Since the first of this month there have been two matches against other units, the first a loss and the second a victory.

We played the 1st Battalion The Suffolk Regiment on 1st October and lost 3—1. This defeat was a repeat of a friendly game with the Suffolks played last month and while claiming that it was partly due to a wretchedly depleted team, we must also admit that our halves were poor and that their forward line was most effective. Immediate re-organisation and further practice proved a simple answer; certain of our most promising players had to be released to other games of their first choice, notably 2/Lieut. Hills (centre forward), L/Cpl. McIver (inside forward) and Pte. Coate (full back). The Band was away—a woeful loss—and our right wing, L/Cpl. Sinclair of the Signals was in U.K. But when the time came for our next match we were ready.

On 15th October we played 17 Veh. Battalion away at Munchen Gladbach on a grass pitch heavy with rain. The difference between this pitch and asphalt ones normal to most units in Germany was startling but chiefly owing to the persistent attacking of Major Worts at centre half and a really splendid performance by Pte. Sargent at full back we won 3—1. L/Cpl. Witt shows an admirable aggressiveness in goal still, and our two new wings, C.Q.M.S. Denny and Cpl. Goffin, served their inside forwards most creditably. Captain Ransley scored one goal and 2/Lieut. Griffiths two.

Team: L/Cpl. Witt (goal); Major Poulson and Pte. Sargent (full backs); Pte. Florence, Major Worts and L/Cpl. McIver (half backs); Cpl. Goffin, Captain Ransley, Pte. Langridge, 2/Lieut. Griffiths and C.Q.M.S. Denny (forwards).

SMALL BORE SHOOTING

In sitting down to write these notes it occurs to me that *The Dragon* has heard little or nothing about small bore shooting recently.

Except perhaps a certain match which was shot off some months ago by Mike Ward against a women's team which caused, we are told, quite a reaction in the popular Press at the time.

The Battalion has entered for many different matches, including a Div. Inter-Company League, whereby each Company shoots against other Companies within the Division, whilst a Battalion team carries on, on a higher level.

Companies have responded to the challenge very well and certain C.S.M.s are seen scuttling up to the ranges in the evenings with their team, and of course the shooting officer himself trying hard to extract the crack shots out of these cliques.

So, as this letter goes to print, it can be seen that there is a frenzy of activity, and by next month we hope to report on many successful matches shot.

* * *

CHURCH NOTES

On Sunday, 23rd October, a new Lectern Bible was dedicated and used for the first time in St. Cuthbert's Chapel, Keightley Barracks. Presented by the Rank and File of the Battalion, it is bound in blue leather and has the badge of The Buffs in gold on the cover. Inside the Commanding Officer has inscribed the following: "To the Glory of God and to beautify and enrich His House, wherever the 1st Battalion The Buffs may serve and worship, this Bible was presented by the Rank and File of the Battalion, in Wuppertal, Germany, on the twenty-third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty-five."

After the dedication by the Chaplain, Lieut.-Col. Grace read the Lesson, one of the richest in the Bible's Treasury, I Corinthians xiii.

In his Address the Chaplain referred to the small Bible, his own property, which had been used at every Service taken by him overseas since he joined the Army first, in 1942. Most of those present knew it well, and Generals and Privates, Navy, Army, and Air Force personnel had all read the Word of God from it. It would now be moved from the Lectern to his own desk, and he would still use it, to follow the Lessons Sunday by Sunday, a very admirable habit, which he hoped others would follow.

He spoke of the richness of the Bible's influence in the life of the nation, quoting G. M. Trevelyan, the great historian, who has said, "It is impossible to understand the history of the English people without some knowledge of the Bible." Someone else had said that the honesty and strength of character of the English people had been due to the fact that the Ten Commandments had been read in Parish Churches, Sunday by Sunday, for 400 years. "Conversely", went on the Chaplain, "can it be said that we are not so honest in these times, and our strength of character is in danger because the Word of God is not read and the Ten Commandments heard as of old."

He concluded by saying that there was no reason at all why this Bible, properly looked after, should not serve the Battalion in a 100 years' time and more, and asked God's Blessing on those who would hear God's Word from it in generations to come.

E.W.E.

continued on page 285

Exercise "Cordon Bleu"

EXERCISE "Cordon Bleu" was a Central Army Group Exercise mainly concerning the Americans and the French; however, as neither of these Armies had parachute troops readily available in Europe, the British 16 Independent Parachute Brigade was also involved to the extent of supplying a Battalion Group to drop and seize various bridges over the River Main.

This preamble is meant to show why a composite company from the 1st Battalion The Buffs moved into the American Zone for three happy weeks during October. The company formed the labour force of a Recovery Column organised to administer the Parachute Battalion Group and to prepare and clear their dropping zone. Our company was commanded by Capt. Macdonald with Lieut. Hicks as 2 i/c and 2/Lieuts. Hardy, Hordern and Johnson as platoon commanders. C.S.M. Middleton was the Company Sergeant-Major and Sgt. Lyons the Colour-Sergeant; platoons came from "A", "B" and "C" Companies, while "D", "S" and "H.Q." Companies all contributed a shape according to their means to the mass which was to be christened "EX" Company. We hasten to add unless the Adjutant was pulling our legs, "EX" was short for exercise and had no reference to the redundancy of any of the participants.

"EX" Company moved off with no clear idea of their role, but prepared for anything; we carried denims and rubber boots for working and best battle dresses, Dragon-crested notice boards and whitewash for all other contingencies. The plan was to work harder than anyone might reasonably expect and yet gain the maximum benefit which might be offered by the amenities of the fabulous Americans. We moved via Sennelager to the American Air Base at Wiesbaden, where we were presented with a mass of tentage and told to erect a base camp. We had three days in which to have it ready and we got off to a very good start by completing it with a day to spare. The camp included a tented city which was the NAAFI, a Paymaster, a Post Office, some six hundred bivouacs and a guard tent which the C.S.M. soon embellished with most of the contents of a local contractor's yard and all our whitewash; in front of it flew our own and the Parachute Regiment's flags. At this stage the Americans descended upon us and there was not one Officer or man who did not benefit in some way from their incredible hospitality. Hot showers and the use of Officers' and Other Ranks' Clubs were automatic. The American Staff Sergeant who ran the Other Ranks' Club was typical; when he met the Company Commander the conversation went something like this:

STAFF SERGEANT: "Say, Captain, we sure would like to see some of your guys round at the Club."

COMPANY COMMANDER: "Thank you very much; how many can you take and how many days' notice do you want?"

STAFF SERGEANT: "Send 'em all tonight. I guess I'd better lay on a dance band for 'em and I'll try to get a few Airforce girls along. Let's make it Buffs night tonight!"

We moved from Wiesbaden to the Dropping Zone, which we soon learnt to call the Dee Zee when we wanted to be understood. Here it was more work and less play, and on one day we fed some 40 Officers and 250 men from our Company Cookhouse, full marks to Mr. Hicks, Sgt. Lyons and the cooks. On mentioning casually to an American Captain that we had difficulty in keeping water hot, we were immediately presented with two 30-gallon drums each with a field immersion heater which boiled water in 15 minutes. We wonder why the British Army cannot produce something similar; they are simple and cannot be expensive to produce. The D Z Commander asked for an ambulance to stand by during the parachute drop, so we got eighteen motor ambulances and three helicopters without further ado. On the day of the drop, the American Police dealt extremely efficiently with 55 full generals, 150 Sedans (Staff Cars) and three buses. Then anti-climax, because the weather closed in and there was no drop. Plans were changed and re-changed. The Parachute Battalion was brought in by lorry and many of our company were working round the clock in consequence. Here we had our only accident when one of our vehicles skidded on an impossible track in the middle of the night and Ptes. Carter and Burgess were whisked away to an American Hospital. Again the American efficiency and treatment was superb and both men will shortly return to us.

We returned to Wiesbaden to dismantle the base camp and then back to Wuppertal. Our outstanding impression must be of the efficiency and hospitality of the Americans. They went out of their way to help us and their help was given with the best grace in the world. Our own Parachute Regiment personnel could not have been kinder and the co-operation achieved made the whole task much easier. It was pleasant to meet Major Brigstock, Captain Mullins and Mr. Rymer-Jones, all of whom were engaged on the

exercise in some capacity. Captain Mullins' duties were not too well defined and we believe that he took it upon himself to improve Anglo-German relations at the local wine carnival and at some of the lesser-known establishments in Frankfurt.

Finally, a pat on the back for ourselves. Everyone was genuinely impressed by the speed and willingness with which our men worked. Some of the jobs to be done were not pleasant and often meant little or no sleep.

We have returned with one dog—a pleasant stray captured by Cpl. Miles—and American accents. If anyone should hear something like "Let's have no Huckamalackjack at the Geedongstand or the big honcho will get mad", he is asked to have patience. Cockney and Kentish drawl will surely soon re-establish themselves over the younger offshoot of the English language.

FOOTNOTE

The Americans were genuinely impressed by—

1. The Champ ("Boy, she sure rides better than a Jeep, and, is that a real Rolls Royce engine?").
2. A bar in the Officers' Mess during an exercise ("*We* sure are not allowed to do this, but godamit we should be—Here's to you!").

* * *

Copenhagen Re-visited

COPENHAGEN is, at the best of times, a wonderful place to which to pay a visit, but it is an even more delightful experience to return to the "Paris of the North" when, thanks to having but a short while ago lived there for twenty months, one finds oneself surrounded by the many friends and acquaintances so recently made.

Such was our experience when, as soon as the final say had been said and the final rocket issued after the autumn manoeuvres in Germany, my wife and I took ourselves off to Denmark to stay, first with Lieut.-Col. Peter Lewis and Rosemary and then with the Consul General and his wife. With us came Captain Ian Minto and a few days after us came our Brigadier, Dick Goodwin, and his wife, and Major and Mrs. Norris, all of them visiting Scandinavia for the first time.

A British Industries Exhibition had been formally opened by H.M. The King on the day previous to our own arrival in Copenhagen. This Exhibition had drawn many thousands of sight-seers, buyers, sellers, exhibitors and casual visitors to the Danish capital, so that accommodation for any late-comer was hard to come by. The Military Attaché's female clerk had had to spend several hours on the telephone one morning before successfully achieving a double room, in some obscure hostelry, for the Norris family, and others were probably even less fortunate.

As adjuncts—one's courage fails one, and indeed it would be highly impertinent, even to suggest that they might all be described as side-shows—to this Exhibition were a twice-nightly Military Tattoo, a daily fashion parade, a galaxy of theatrical stars presenting two Shakespearean plays amongst an extensive repertoire, contests between Denmark and England at virtually every known sport and game, a visit by three ships of the Royal Navy and, to set the seal on the whole period, the arrival of the Royal Yacht with H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh on board.

Apart from the very obvious pleasure and duty of seeing our friends again, the two chief events during our week's visit were, first, the Tattoo, in which the Band and fifteen members of the Corps of Drums were taking part, and secondly the England *v* Denmark Association Football Match.

Let me say at once that, whereas the Tattoo was well worth seeing over and over again, and was a spectacle of great beauty, magnificent planning and perfect execution, none of those epithets could, by any stretch of the imagination, be applied to the football match. There must have been many who, like myself, felt, when the final whistle blew, that they would far rather have had the money for their tickets still safely in their pockets for spending on yet another visit to the Tattoo.

The setting for the Tattoo could scarcely have been bettered. The "back-drop" of Rosenborg Castle, the red brick of its walls glowing softly in the amber arc lights, the grey-green of the copper roof standing out in striking contrast and its one tall tower pointing, finger-like, towards the vault of the night sky—all this was breath-takingly beautiful, and became even more so when, to the steady beat of drums, the massed bands of the Royal Marines, the Coldstream Guards, The Buffs, the Black Watch and the Gordon Highlanders came swinging into view. The colours of the full dress were almost

dazzling to the eye in the glare of the searchlights. How one wished that such colourful splendour—with all its moral uplift to wearer and beholder alike and its limitless potentialities for recruiting purposes—could be once again our daily portion rather than being issued to us from some out-of-the-way Ordnance Depot only as and when some dreary Treasury official bows his bowler-hatted head in grudging agreement.

It would be extremely tedious to go into the details of each individual item during the ninety minutes of the Tattoo, but readers will be interested to learn of the lively appreciation given, twice nightly, by the vast concourse in the stands to the magnificent drill display by the Danish Life Guards (foot Guards, not horsed as in the British Army) with our own Band in attendance.

It was most pleasing to hear the Announcer explain, first in English and then in Danish, the connection between the Danish Royal House and the Regiment. It will also be of interest that the Colonel-in-Chief took the Salute at the first performance of all—part of which, unfortunately, was marred by rain—and that he has since sent, through his principle A.D.C., a most gracious message of kindly congratulation. This, together with my reply, are reproduced on another page of this issue.

It is most pleasant to be able to record that, because of this item with the Life Guards, the Band struck up a very close friendship with that Regiment. This took the tangible form of the presentation, to the Bandmaster, of a silver cigarette-box suitable inscribed and, to each individual Bandsman or Drummer, a small silver and enamel spoon, the handle of which took the form of a model of a Life Guardsman in full ceremonial dress. This charming gesture was reciprocated by the presentation to the Life Guards of a silver salver, with a silver Dragon sunk into the centre of it and a short inscription beneath it. Bandmaster Sharpe had the honour of making the presentation, on behalf of the Regiment, and it must be a source of some pride to the Bandsmen and Drummers taking part that they all contributed to such a gift.

In this way the friendship begun through the medium of the Tattoo was firmly cemented and it is worthy of consideration that such a friendship should form the basis for an official affiliation, perhaps on the lines of our existing Canadian one.

With us at the Tattoo sat Captain Michael Iversen, until recently the energetic Chairman of the Danish Branch. He has now handed over his duties to Major Lippmann, whom many will remember as the Branch's representative at Canterbury on May 9th. It was most pleasant to see them both again.

The football match, as has already been hinted, gave some indication of how depressingly bad English football can really be. It was a thousand pities that, during the first few minutes of the game, two very good shots at goal by the Danish amateur side should have just missed their mark. The movements leading up to both shots had the English defence completely beaten while the whole side, during the opening quarter of an hour, gave us the benefit of a display of football which would have done credit to a Preparatory School 3rd XI.

The hospitality and kindness showered on us during our eight hectic days in Copenhagen were typical of those who live there, be they Danes or British. For reasons best known to themselves they all gave the impression of being glad to see us again and invitations poured in from all sides. To say that we were both just as glad to see all our friends again is a platitude of the first order; but, like most platitudes, it does at all events have the merit of being true.

And so back to Wuppertal, the start of another individual training season, wives' club meetings, and Officers' Days. It is visits to such places as Copenhagen that are one's oases during a year's soldiering. It is an error to pass them by.

H.R.G.

* * *

20th October, 1955.

Dear Raymond,

His Majesty the King has commanded me to write to you and express his pleasure at seeing The Buffs Band here in Copenhagen for the Tattoo. He was particularly pleased that the Band should have been associated with the drill display given by the Danish Life Guards. Together they gave a splendid performance, and His Majesty was most satisfied.

Yours sincerely,

GYTH.

* * *

From Lt.-Col. H. R. Grace,
1st Bn. The Buffs,
BAOR 9.
Ref. DO/175/9.

2nd November, 1955.

Dear Colonel Gyth,

Will you please convey to His Majesty my humble duty and the grateful thanks of all in the Battalion for his most kind and gracious message of pleasure and satisfaction at the performance of the Band at the Tattoo.

It was for them a source of the greatest pride to be so closely associated with the Danish Life Guards and the exchange of gifts between the two Regiments has plainly shown the respect and admiration which one held for the other.

It has given all of us in the Battalion a feeling of very great pleasure that the Colonel-in-Chief should have sent such a message, and its contents have been conveyed to all ranks.

Yours sincerely,

RAYMOND GRACE.

Colonel V. Gyth,
Chefen der H.M. Kongens Adjutantstab,
Amalienborg,
Kobenhavn, Danmark.

* * *

Regimental Museum

THE following additions to the Museum have been received during October, 1955:—

Kindly sent by Mr. R. F. Amies from Maidstone: A German reprint dated January, 1941 of our Ordnance Survey Map of Canterbury and surrounding country. The map is headed "Canterbury" with the word "Kaseren" (barracks) below. The barracks are ringed with a thick red line.

Mr. Amies was with the staff of one of the Area Commanders in France and a few days after the liberation of Louvain they found themselves acting as Town Majors of that city and in one of the numerous premises, formerly occupied by German troops, which were requisitioned for use of our own men, was a large number of maps similar to the one he has now sent to us. They seemed to cover every part of the British Isles and every conceivable sort of target.

It would seem to be fairly obvious that each map represented what one might call "The target for to-night". While we know that the barracks suffered a good deal of damage during the blitz on Canterbury and from hit and run raids it is fortunate that the German Air Force was not more accurate. The Old Park from the Stodmarsh Road to the direction of the Bullet Bank with the Dragon on it were well plastered night after night. Had these bombs been released a fraction of a second later, I doubt if I, for one, would be alive today to pen these notes.

The medals of the late Mr. S. H. Follett (No. 6278065—C.S.M.), who died in Canterbury Hospital on 22nd June, 1943.

Finding these medals in the hands of a London dealer, Colonel C. R. B. Knight, O.B.E., secured them at once and, having had them cleaned and properly set up, has presented them to the Regiment.

There are many alive today who will have served with Mr. Follett and who will remember him well as Caterer of the Depot Sergeants' Mess for many years after he had finished with active soldiering. His record of service was briefly as follows:—

Served with the 3rd Militia Battalion in the South African War as No. 5483—Corporal, being awarded the Queen's Medal with clasps Cape Colony, Orange Free State and Transvaal, which clasps were only awarded to two Companies of the Battalion; the King's Medal with clasps S.A. 1901 and 1902.

Enlisted on a Regular engagement into The Buffs with No. 6942 on 2nd September, 1902, and on being posted to the 2nd Battalion served at Harrismith, Hong Kong, Singapore and Wellington, Madras. Promoted Sergeant on 10.1.12, he was Battalion Signalling Sergeant at Singapore and Wellington and said to have been one of the most efficient Signalling Sergeants in the British Army in India.

He was cross-posted as Signalling Sergeant to the Indian Cavalry Division, with which he went to France in 1914. Wounded, he returned to U.K. and was posted to the 3rd Battalion at Dover in 1915, where he remained until the Armistice.

He joined the 1st Battalion at Fermoy as C.S.M. on its return from Germany and on the arrival of the Battalion at Shorncliffe in 1922 he was posted to the Depot, where he served until his discharge on 1st September, 1923.

He at once took up the appointment of Caterer to the Depot Sergeants' Mess, where he served until shortly before his death.

Besides the Queen's and King's South African Medals, he held the 1914 Star, British War Medal, Allied Victory Medal, L.S. & G.C. Medal and Meritorious Service Medal.

The medals of Lieut.-Col. Sir Theodore Brinckman, C.B., who served with the 3rd Militia Battalion for many years and which he eventually commanded.

These have been kindly presented by Major J. T. R. Prestige (less the C.B., which was not with the group when he found them).

The group consists of the Queen's South African Medal with clasps Cape Colony, Orange Free State and Transvaal; the King's S.A. Medal with bars 1901-02, the British War Medal, Allied Victory Medal King George V Jubilee Medal May 6th, 1910—May 6th, 1935, and King George VI Coronation Medal, May 12th, 1937.

G.R.H.

Correspondence

Flat A,
10 Buckland Crescent,
London, N.W.3.

31*st October*, 1955.

The Editor, "The Dragon".

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to see that *The Dragon* is under fire in both the correspondence columns and the London Branch notes in the October issue. It is, apparently, poor, uninteresting, out-of-date as regards cover—whatever that may mean. Can the Regimental Badge and the Battle Honours be out-of-date, except in so far that one of the latter may be missing?—and follows an accepted pattern in its expressions and platitudes?

Personally, I find *The Dragon* extremely interesting, and much improved of recent years. But even supposing there is some truth in the criticism, where does the fault lie? Surely in its readers! The Editor can edit and arrange. He may have to write a bit. But he can't write the whole magazine. Its general interest is bound to rest on the willingness of others to write of their memories, their experiences or their imaginations. We have Buffs in all parts of the world and in all walks of life, Buffs who have had rich experiences in their regimental and service years, Buffs who have had equally rich experiences in civil life. It is they who could add interest to *The Dragon*.

The Company notes are bound to follow an accepted pattern. The higher strategy of war, its weapons and even its tactics may vary. The day to day lives of the platoon and the company are much the same as twenty or even forty years ago.

As regards the question of a half-yearly, quarterly or monthly publication, a decision should rest on the readers' requirements. *The Dragon* probably takes some three to four weeks in its printing and publication processes. If, therefore, it is published quarterly, some of its contents will be four months old. Do readers want a Journal which will keep them in close touch with the comings and goings of the battalions and of individuals, *i.e.*, a monthly one, or a Journal which is more of a record, almost for historical purposes? I, myself, have no doubt that I prefer a monthly issue.

Yours faithfully,

(*Signed*) E. FOSTER HALL.

Petham Lodge,
Nr. Canterbury.
8*th November*, 1955.

Dear Sir,

I feel that Captain Papworth's criticism of Company Notes as being full of platitudes and intensely boring is harsh, and is poor reward for the considerable labour put into their composition by their unpaid and unpretentious authors. It is unusual to find an Arthur Bryant or a Chester Wilmott on the strength of a rifle company, and it is unlikely that Brown has experience of writing more than the odd letter home when he is told by his Company Commander: "Let's see—you've been to school, haven't you, Brown? Well, there don't appear to be any volunteers for the job, so you'll have to take on the Company *Dragon* notes".

Some days later, the unfortunate Brown returns from a six-day exercise to be greeted by his Sergeant-Major with: "What's happened to them *Dragon* notes, Brown? You was told they're due in today. Better get weaving, lad, hadn't you?".

So Brown gets weaving, and some time later the result of his weaving appears before many a critical eye.

If it had not been for Captain Papworth's remarks, I should not have read the Company Notes in last month's *Dragon*. The Battalion Editorial, after all, steals most of the thunder, and company notes, by their very nature, are of rather limited scope. The main requirements, I submit, are to describe the Company's activities and to make maximum reference to the names (surnames as well as nicknames) of individual members of the Company. The fact that we extend a hearty welcome to our new Sergeant-Major (and may his stay, etcetera) is of interest only to the Sergeant-Major himself, whereas a large number of people outside the Company may be interested to know that we welcome Sergeant-Major Snooks. These requirements were, I consider, admirably fulfilled in last month's *Dragon*, and I hope Brown does not feel his labours are entirely in vain.

I also consider that the cover page of *The Dragon* is of excellent design. Those of other regimental magazines may be glossier and gaudier but I know of none better laid out. Like the Church of England, *The Dragon* has come in for a bit of stick recently. In both cases, the voice of the detractor, although the louder, is doubtless in the minority. Both, too, will doubtless continue on their way unperturbed, but not, we hope, complacent.

Yours faithfully,

GREGORY BLAXLAND.

The Editor, "The Dragon".



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Once a year children everywhere thrill with delight at the thought that Christmas is coming. Who has not known the excited anticipation of the Christmas stocking, the Christmas tree and, best of all, the Christmas Party?

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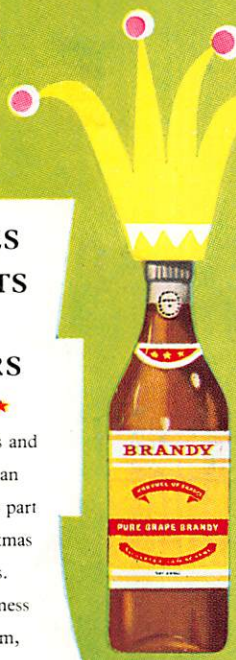
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BELFAST, Victoria Barracks.
BICESTER, Arncott Camp.
BOVINGTON CAMP, Dorset.
BULFORD CAMP, Ward Barracks.
CATTERICK CAMP, Mons Lines.
CHATHAM, Naafi, Prince Arthur Rd.
CHESTER, Saighton Camp.
COSFORD, Naafi, R.A.F. Station.
CRANWELL, R.A.F. Station.
DERBY, Normanton Barracks.
DEVONPORT, Naafi, Prospect Row.
EDINBURGH, Redford Cavalry Bks.
FULFORD, Imphal Barracks.
GLASGOW, Maryhill Barracks.
INVERNESS, Fort George.
KINLOSS, R.A.F. Station.
LICHFIELD, Whittington Barracks.
LONDON, Naafi, Kennings Way S.E.11.
MELKSHAM, R.A.F. Station.
NEWCASTLE-on-TYNE, Fenham Bks.
NEWPORT, MON., Artillery Barracks.
PORTLAND, Naafi, Castletown.
PORTSMOUTH, Naafi, Anson Rd., Milton.
SOUTHAMPTON, Winchester Rd., Bassett.
TAUNTON, Sherford Camp.

Little Beredens,
Kenton, Exeter.
November 4th, 1955.

The Editor, "*The Dragon*".

Sir,

The correspondence column of many newspapers often makes most interesting reading. Those appearing in *The Dragon* from time to time are no exception. They show that people are taking a lively interest in the present or past affairs of the Regiment, and are to be welcomed.

In the October number, Captain R. Papworth has stirred a hare which has run its course many times in the past. The remedy is simple, but very difficult to carry with effect. It is a problem which I can remember faced a succession of editors since 1920, when *The Dragon* was revived after the Kaiser's war and edited from Fermoy in Ireland.

An editor of a paper like *The Dragon* must rely entirely for copy from unpaid contributors. In the Regular Battalion these may be coerced with writing their stuff each month. May I say that in my opinion the contributors of the 1st Battalion notes have excelled themselves in recent years. What they write reflects the spirit of the Battalion, which is obviously in very fine fettle.

The notes of the Territorial Battalion, too, reveal a spirit of keenness and vitality.

The pages devoted to the Past and Present Association indicate a lively interest and affection amongst old Buffs for the Regiment and must keep many old comrades in touch.

The other articles and notes are nearly always interesting to many past and present Buffs, though they cannot appeal to everyone.

Nevertheless, no one should be satisfied that *The Dragon* is as good or as interesting as it might be. The remedy, of course, is for more people to write for *The Dragon*. No one need be a literary genius to do this. For instance, the Personalia column, which should be of immense interest, is starved of material simply because insufficient people bother to send in little items of news from far and near.

Captain Papworth suggests that *The Dragon* should become a quarterly. This, I submit, would be the end of it, and would show no improvement in material. Moreover, the advertisements would fall off at once, for a quarterly has less than a quarter of the pull of a monthly publication. Thus, revenue would suffer disastrously.

I do not know what our present circulation is, but many years ago it topped the 2,000 mark, I believe. In those days nearly every serving soldier bought a copy. He had to.

About 30 years ago there was a young officer who had just got his Company. He was keen, ardent and ambitious. He could feel his Field Marshal's baton stirring in his knapsack. The 1st Battalion had just arrived in Egypt and was encamped near Aboukir Bay. When *The Dragon* came, scarcely anyone in his Company bought it. The 2nd in Command damned the young Captain in words "rather less than kind". Hurrying across the sand, the young officer summoned his men around him and addressed them thus: "Men of "A" Company. I've just had Hell from the 2nd in Command because you won't buy the flaming Duck. Now I want to tell him we've sold the lot. I know I can rely on you". They all went like hot cakes.

Perhaps a little encouragement in the right quarters would sell more today.

Yours faithfully,
(*Signed*) ROBIN TUKE.

* * *

The Infantry Boys' Battalion,
Plymouth.
4th November, 1955.

The Editor, "*The Dragon*".

KENYA, 1954

Dear Sir,

The Regimental historian of the future will, as in the past, use *The Dragon* as a most useful reference. I therefore feel I am perhaps not wasting your space if I bring to notice an article in *The Rifle Brigade Chronicle for* 1954, a booklet recently published, entitled "The Operational Training Party, Kenya, 1954".

As many of our 1st Battalion will recall, this advance party of 1st Battalion The Rifle Brigade joined us in the Ember Reserve when our H.Q. was at Kerugoya. The article to which I refer contains some independent observations on our doings of those days which not only afford very good local colour for the historian, but—and this is my second reason for writing—much to amuse the 1st Battalion. I cannot resist the temptation to quote one short extract:

"Shortly before leaving The Buffs we all went out on a 24-hour patrol into the forest..... Our party was divided into pairs, each going out with a different patrol. The most strenuous patrol was led by an officer whose physical strength exceeded by a comfortable margin his ability to find his way around....."

If the officer concerned can find a moment of leisure in the full life of Rhine Army, perhaps he would like to reply to the senior officer of The Rifle Brigade whom he put through his paces on the slopes of Mount Kenya.

Yours faithfully,
E. L. C. EDLMANN, Major.



War Graves, Marlbork, Poland

R.M. 130295 Marine Tribe, C. A.
H.M.S. *Glasgow*.

Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles.

Dear Sir,

Whilst on leave my father, Mr. C. F. Tribe, showed me a letter from you concerning my visit to War Graves during my stay in Poland.

The cemetery is at Marlbork about 40 miles inland from Gdynia on the main East-West autobahn, all graves being persons dying in P.O.W. Camps in that area.

Altogether there were five Buffs, all in separate graves with nicely cut headstones in sandstone. The Regimental Badge is carved above the man's rank, number and name. Most of them had a short epitaph from their families inscribed also.

Unfortunately I've mislaid my original list with all names and numbers, and can only recall three of them now.

They are: Ptes. F. Pickering (aged 34), S. Randell and R. Stroud. The dates are all between January, 1941 and August, 1943. The numbers were all beginning with "628".

I enclose a photograph, the only one I could obtain which, although not very clear, will give you some idea how well the graves are cared for by the War Graves Commission of Poland.

I hope that this will help you a little.

Yours sincerely,

CHAS. A. TRIBE.

* * *

The Secretary,
Past and Present Assn. The Buffs.

Dear Sir,

I have just received a letter from the Area Secretary, British Legion, telling me how good you have been in making a grant towards the expense of my two weeks' convalescence at the British Legion Home, Southport. I am very thankful.

I can assure you that it has done me ever so much good, as in this last three or four years I have been in a very bad way, having been in hospital four or five times and had three operations.

Again I wish to thank you very much for what you have done for me.

(*Signed*) W. LINSTEAD,
Late 364 "B" Coy, 6th Bn. The Buffs,
12th Division.

Watch for these Films

TO Catch a Thief. The choice for this year's Royal film performance; in recent years not in itself a recommendation, but this picture is directed by Alfred Hitchcock, which is. Though not without excitement, it is not his usual tense thriller, but is more a sophisticated comedy about a jewel thief. A reformed cat burglar is induced to emerge from retirement to catch another of his late profession. The scenes are on the Riviera, dialogue is clever, and it is acted with great charm by Grace Kelly, as the American heiress whose jewels are in danger, and Cary Grant as the ex-thief.

Marcelino. A very lovely little film from Spain, about a baby abandoned outside a monastery and brought up by the monks. It is a quite simple tale of his daily life with them, a little gem, beautifully acted by the child, Pablito Calvo, and the various other characters of the friars. It was awarded a special prize at the Cannes Festival, and if it comes your way, don't miss it.

King's Rhapsody. Ivor Novello's musical romance has been made into a good film. Directed by Herbert Wilcox, with Errol Flynn, Anna Neagle and Patric Wymore, the charming melodies make us regret there will be no more lovely Novello productions.

Love is a Many Splendoured Thing. The story of a romance in Hong Kong between an American journalist and a Eurasian woman doctor. The book, by a Chinese writer, Han Suyin, had beauty which the film has not quite caught, but is satisfying enough, with settings in Hong Kong, and very good acting by Jennifer Jones as the Eurasian.

I Am a Camera. Although the film was not acclaimed by the critics, as was John Van Druten's play, those who did not see it may be interested in the rather grim story of Berlin in the 1930's before the Nazi regime, and the life of a young English girl who sings in night clubs. The part of Sally Bowles is brilliantly played by Julie Harris.

M.M.A.

JOIN THE PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION

Advertisement

A NUMBER of Security Officers, between the ages of 27 and 45, are required at an early date by the Suez Contractors Management Company Limited, for service in the Suez Canal Zone, Egypt. Terms offered are for two year contracts with generous salaries, free furnished accommodation, free medical treatment and paid home leave on termination of initial Contract. Applications invited from physically fit men, preferably unmarried, with several years' police experience or security experience in the Services. Apply in writing with full details of previous experience and stating when available to take up appointment, to:—

Suez Contractors Management Co. Ltd.,
c/o George Wimpey & Co. Ltd.,
Department 19,
Wrights Lane,
Kensington,
London, W.8.

1st Battalion—*continued from p. 277*

WIVES' CLUB

The outstanding event of the month was a trip to Cologne. A 36-seater 'bus was hired for the afternoon, and all those who could throw off their responsibilities did so for a few hours. A most interesting and informatory tour was made of the 4711 Factory. Good smells and bad smells, though few would believe it, followed by an excellent tea of extra rich cream buns. The whole party were presented with a sample bottle of Eau de Cologne which was very popular.

Fortunately it was also possible to visit the Cathedral, which although damaged during the war, still retains the most lovely stained glass windows.

Buying souvenirs was strictly rationed to twenty minutes, but most of the party managed to fill their shopping bags in that time.

Last month our programme included Tombola, always a popular pastime, Twenty Questions, ably organised by Mesdames Critchley, Worts and Ransley, and a Bring and Buy Sale. The latter raised £2 3s 0d. towards the Club funds, and we are grateful to Mrs. Norris and Mrs. Larkin for their help. It is only fair to thank their respective husbands for settling the accounts later that evening.

Mrs. Morrish has very kindly opened her house one evening a week to those wishing to spend a few hours playing cards or having a friendly chat.

We were very pleased to hear from Mrs. Excell, whom many will remember in Dover and hope that those who read these notes may be encouraged to write too.

Round and About

by The Tramp



YEARS ago, when I was an undergraduate, I heard G. K. Chesterton begin a lecture with the words: "I have a cold in my head and very little else". He then entertained his audience with wit and wisdom for an hour and a half. I have as yet (touching wood) no cold in the head but, otherwise, I could use Chesterton's words. These notes this month are indeed "bricks without straw" mainly because our house is only now clear of plumbers and such people whose activities (and occasional inactivities) are not the best ingredients for a *Dragon* article. Added to this, life in the country is not normally productive of topics.

But, reverting to Chesterton, whom I used to see "in the flesh" (and there was a good deal of it) in days gone by when I often found myself in the purlieus of Fleet Street, he was of the type to whom good stories adhere. He was notoriously absent-minded and once sent his wife a telegram as follows: "Am in Wolverhampton. Where should I be?". His bulk also suggested the remark that he was one of the politest of men because he once gave up his seat to *two* ladies in a London 'bus. He and Belloc, who were great friends at one time, were the last of the outstanding characters of the literary/journalistic world. As a young man I once listened to them talking in a refreshment bar at Victoria Station and I wish I had kept a note of their stimulating conversation.

DRAMATIC TRASH

I wonder how many *Dragon* readers listened to a recent play on the Home Service of the BBC. It was called *A Passage to India* and the author of the book from which it was adapted is E. M. Forster. I had years ago read the book, which I found to be tendentious and libellous of the British in India, but the play was so palpably an attempt to show our countrymen and women resident in India to have been ill-mannered boors with hardly any redeeming qualities that I wondered as I listened why the BBC should broadcast such pernicious nonsense. There may have been some subsequent criticism of it in the Press, but I came across only one, a letter from an officer who had served in India and who vigorously protested against its tone and falsity. I always thought the book was overrated, but the play was beneath contempt. It is a curious trait in the British character that it can allow deliberate derrigration of itself to be broadcast and one wonders what purpose, if any, the BBC has in permitting it.

INDIA'S COMPLAINT

I am told by a man who not long ago visited India and toured the country pretty thoroughly that on the whole there is "no hostility towards the British" for their long occupation of the country. There is, however, a complaint against us which he heard "politely expressed" more than once. Indians now consider that we departed from the country too hurriedly. It is very hard to please some people. Few now bother much about the reasons for Lord Wavell's relinquishment of the Viceroyalty and the appointment of Earl Mountbatten to hasten the dissolution of the British *Raj* but I do remember that there were suggestions in our Parliament and Press that we were being a shade precipitate. The present relations between India and Pakistan and the wooing by Russia of Afghanistan seem to confirm the misgivings of those who were at the time thought to be "reactionary".

GREECE

The Cyprus problem is not perceptibly nearer a solution and terrorism still persists in spite of a lowering of the tone of hostility on Athens Radio. I hear, however, that whereas a year ago British people were welcome as visitors in Greece, things are far different now and "incidents", albeit of the character of minor discourtesies, are not uncommon. I wonder how this is affecting the bookings for cruises to Greece and the Aegean under the auspices of Hellenic Study Groups and so forth. It was, incidentally, amusing to read the other day the figures of the emigrants from Cyprus. Great Britain received the largest number by some hundreds and the only country that received none at all was, surprisingly, Greece, the "Motherland" which the shouters for Enosis are so vocal about!

KIPLING

I make no apology for returning to an author whom I consider to be one of the outstanding figures of English literature. A new "authorised" biography is due this month and should prove of absorbing interest to all admirers of his work.

The writer is an Oxford Don who has had access to the private papers of the Kipling family and much light should be shed on problems of Kipling's character and work. The "Bloomsbury" critics will of course repeat the old sneers and damn with faint praise, but they, "the brittle intellectuals", as Kipling called them long ago, are of little account, for all their shrill pipings. Kipling always infuriated them, especially after he refused to "die" in his lifetime or after. They never forgave him for being popular. It is interesting that his home at Burwash, Sussex, is constantly visited by "pilgrims" while that of the Seer and Prophet Shaw at Ayot St. Lawrence is sadly neglected by the faithful. I do not forget Shaw's supercilious remarks about Kipling nor the fact that Kipling resolutely refused ever to meet him, although invited to do so by, I think, Edmund Gosse or someone of his standing. There could not have been two men (let alone writers) so utterly dissimilar as those two.

Beneath Bell Harry



AUTUMN may be the season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness', but to the Depot it brought, for the second time in a single year, all the fevered worries and anxieties of an Annual Administrative Inspection. It would not be fair to pretend that the Inspection was taken in our stride: the successive Adjutant's Drill Parades proves quite alarmingly how varied those strides could be! but everyone comforted everyone else by saying that as the Inspection was to be by Brigadier J. J. McCully, D.S.O.—himself an Infantry Officer—it would be All Right as he would be bound to Know All About It. Some even hoped it might rain on October 11th, and so by Act of God provide a good excuse. In the event, neither the day nor the parades could have been better. And at the end, with Standing Orders startingly re-issued in powder blue covers, with every inch of available paintwork hastily covered with either buff or blue, with acres of wall scrubbed by unhappy fatigue men, the Depot sank back with relief into the normal and well-loved routine of Putting It Off Till Tomorrow.

There have been lighter moments: not even the great October storm which tore down chimney pots in Sturry, prevented Lieut. Dracopoli from essaying yet another attack on the Hammersmith Palais. What can the attraction be, when Goulden's dancing is so much more handy?

Brigadier Connolly's promotion and visit to the Depot have given great pleasure and satisfaction. We add our congratulations. Under the heavy title 'Change of Command', we are obliged to say farewell to Major Richard Dendy, who goes to the 1st Battalion to be second-in-command. Major David Montgomery takes his place in commanding the Depot and at the moment performs an athletic *tour de force* by doubling his Depot command with that of 1 Company. To both we wish every success and happiness.

The Garrison Church, though limply supported, still has more than a dragon's share of eminent ecclesiastics. The Bishop of Dover comes as often as a busy life permits, and on All Saints' Day the Archdeacon of Maidstone preached; earlier visits have been made by a Nigerian Archdeacon and clergy from the States and Canada. We welcome the Reverend Charles Craft, M.B.E., B.A., Rector of Westbere, as Chaplain to the Depot, and hope that his association will be both long and spiritually fruitful.

How rarely does the Army approve of nature! Not only has the hedge along the Littlebourne Road been regimentally pruned and officially inspected, but we were treated to the exquisite experience of seeing the groundsman actually brushing leaves down from the Depot trees in pursuit of uniformity! We wonder if the reverse process will be enacted next Spring when perhaps squads of hardy 'jankers wallahs' will be seen, armed with paste and . . . leaves . . . proceeding forth to bring the untamed trees to toe the Service line?

* * *

W.O.'S AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Nerves reached their peak as the morning of the 11th October dawned bright and cheerful (?). Last minute adjustments by the Engineers enabled certain members of the Q.M.'s staff to appear in similar dress to the remainder of the Parade.

The R.Q.M.S. was seen to march off the lame and the sick, but his reappearance did not materialise. In all ways the day was most successful and at its conclusion the C.Q.M.S. of No. 1 Company was seen to rush for a train. Sgt. Parker on return from his Fire Course was greatly gratified to find what he considered was a fire engine in his fire shed; and he promptly drew some red paint from the Q.M. Timely intervention from the R.S.M. prevented a catastrophe—imagine the consternation of the Adjutant: a red Austin!

"PL" Company has recently been strengthened by the addition of our own C.S.M. "Old Rob" Callaway and on temporary loan C.S.M. George Washington, whom we

welcome from the East Surreys. Many pleasant days have been spent in his company—but his descriptions of evenings spent with our own ("Helpman") Sgt. Ivory belie his name.... Sgt. Wilson, Bill to all and sundry, is leaving us for the 1st Battalion and we wish him the very best of luck; many enquiries from the Sandwich area have already been received as to his future whereabouts. One actually included a Union Jack.... How Patriotic, Bill? Another forthcoming departure is our one and only man of many nick-names, C.S.M. Diamond, who leaves us for Malaya to take over the job of looking after married families. He has been seen in the company of C/Sgt. Belcher, but the reason is still in doubt.

Recently we received a visit from a script writer and a Major from the War Office. It is understood that a film on recruiting is to be made and suggestions for improved conditions for the Army were called for. The smiles of would-be Alan Ladds were belied by the aggressive prompting of the suggestions put forward.

We congratulate Sgt. Recton on surviving the ardour of a Pirbright Drill Course. The echoes of his voice can be heard in the bottom Barracks: rivalry for C.S.M. Diamond?

We welcome into our midst C.S.M. Garrard of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. We hope his stay will be happy and long. His loyalties will be put to a strain next week when we receive the Mess from over the river in a Hockey match. The result is a foregone conclusion—we hope.

Don't forget, if you are home on leave, pay us a visit. The quality of the Bar is said to be far superior to German brands.... None of it is too bad as far as I am concerned.

AUF WIEDESEIN.

* * *

No. 1 COMPANY

"The strife is over, the Battle won", might well be the theme of this month's *Dragon* notes, with the annual Admin. Inspection well behind us. All's well that ends well and apart from minor incidents on the actual day, one can say that all was successful. In fact lots of skeletons have returned jubilant to various dark cupboards to be allowed to slumber for another year.

During the latter part of October No. 1 Company was visited by Lieut.-Col. Costantini of the French Army. His object to match and no doubt compare our type of training and methods used with his own. He seemed to be impressed with what he saw. It is hoped his impressions will be lasting ones.

Recently a .22 rifle team of Paardeberg Platoon consisting of eight recruits challenged very strongly a team of "P.L.s". The whole thing was arranged and organised by Lieut. Dracopoli, No. 1 Company, supported by Lieut. Prentice, "P.L." Company, cheered on by C.S.M. Washington, "P.L." Company (who, incidentally, lost a considerable amount of beer on the deal), and won gloriously by a very notable No. 1 Company team. The results are listed below.

No. 1 Company	*Score*	*"P.L." Company*	*Score*
Pte. Meacher	100	Pte. Thompson	98
Pte. Costello	96	Pte. Fry	98
Pte. Hawkins	92	Pte. Christian	92
Pte. Sole	88	Pte. Bottomley	84
Pte. Revell	88	Pte. Bedford	76
Pte. Smith	88	Pte. Greatwood	76
Pte. Borrie	86	Pte. Dennis	68
Pte. Snaydon	84	Pte. Elliott	68
Total	722	Total	660

H.P.S. 800

Well done, Paardeberg Platoon, with an added congratulation to Pte. Meacher on obtaining a possible score.

Several N.C.O.s have rejoined us, back from various courses. Sgt. Recton from a Drill Course moving his feet faster than ever, looking, I might add, a shade thinner. He did well, however, in obtaining a "C" grading and from his latest exploits on the square I am sure his new Platoon must wish the course had been longer. Other N.C.O.s, bubbling over with course result fever, are Sgt. Yuill and Cpl. Barrell, both back from Hythe having obtained a "B" Grading. Honestly, this place is getting to be full of Crossed Rifles. Sgt. Parker, also with us again after his Fire Course, was heard praying for a really mammoth fire in the W.R.A.C. quarters so that he could practice his latest life saving method. With him on this was L/Cpl. Green, who is dying to put into use his knowledge gained from a recent First Aid Course; last week on the live grenade range he suffered a bitter disappointment. There were no casualties. Heaven rewarded him during the recruit boxing the same afternoon as Pte. Gill with a dislocated thumb painfully realised. Nurse Green has, no doubt, acquired that sinister reassuring "it won't hurt" technique. To all these N.C.O.s we extend our congratulations and welcome back. At least the Guard duty roster will be a bit longer.

The latest Platoon to pass out was Kimberley Platoon. The parade was a very good one, and as it was Sgt. Wilson's last platoon here I must add it was his best. Perhaps the thought of having some of his platoon with him *en route* to the Battalion gave that added zest. We wish Sgt. Wilson every success. We know already his capabilities. The place will be much quieter without him.

Command of the Depot has changed since last month. In the chair we now have Major Montgomery. At present he is combining both the jobs of C.O. and No. 1 Company Commander. Saying farewell is unpleasant at the best of times and in saying farewell to Major Dendy the unpleasantness has only increased. We wish both him and his family every success and happiness in the future, with the hope that we shall meet again.

Pte. Bellingham has departed for civvy street, leaving complete command of the Arms Kote to Pte. Brenchly. Bellingham has become a household name in this Company and it's still a little difficult to refrain from using it. We wish him well and every success in his civilian role.

To complete this month's edition it is with regret that we announce that C.S.M. Chapman has been taken to hospital suffering from severe pains in his legs and hips. All of us hope to see him soon, as fit and as cheerful as ever. We hope too that his pain will soon leave him. Keep a grip on those nurses, Sergeant-Major.

Some mention ought to be made of the impending Lord Mayor's Show. As is normal, a detachment of No. 1 Company will be taking part and at present rehearsals are in full swing; more will be said after the event.

* * *

No. 1 COMPANY SPORTS NOTES

SOCCER

Due to over ambitious match making, and loss of players, our achievements for the past month have not been very successful, but playing against good opposition has brought out the best in the team, and we can say that they have moulded into quite a strong team.

RESULTS FOR THE LAST MONTH:—

No. 1 Company, 4; East Kent Fire Services, 5.

No. 1 Company, 2; British Legion, 4.

We shall miss the strength of Gatehouse, Lambert, Hughes and Davis, who leave us for the Battalion on the next draft, but hope that in Chittenden, Ball, Guiver and Doherty, who have just joined us, we will have compensating material; they have already shewn good promise and with a bit of practice should materialise into good team players.

I hope to be reading more of Lambert, Hughes and Gatehouse when reading future 1st Battalion notes.

Hughes and Dack, however, will leave more lasting memories in the first class appearance of the new block which they so admirably decorated.

Paarderburg Platoon have as a team the best forward line that I have seen in this class of football for some time. Their forward line move with mathmatical precision and with a little more help from their defence I am sure that they could give the Depot team a great run for their money. Last Saturday, prior to the departure of the draft for Germany, they took on the draft in a challenge match. In losing 8—5 they put up an admirable performance, and had it not been for some amazing lapses on their goalkeeper's part, must surely have won. Pte. Burr in goal for the draft put in some contortionist movements to bring off some brilliant saves, and Paarderburg's forwards with Steley really shining brought off some pretty movements.

Paarderburg's Team: Sherridan, Hawkins, Snaydon, L/Cpl. Harrison, Robinson, Stevens, Steley, Brennan, Booth, Haynes and Roach.

Draft: Burr, Munday, Hughes, Wooding, Oakley, Hogan, Dack, Davis, Cotterell, Gatehouse and Wooldridge who scored two Finney type goals from the outside left position.

* * *

PAARDEBERG PLATOON BOXING

Whilst not revealing the usual amount of excitement the boxing supplied was quite entertaining and a good time was had *BY MOST.*

Of the outstanding bouts the one between Parker and Sole was far ahead in excitement and craft, and for the whole length of the fight the result was in doubt. Both fighters hit hard and correctly and with some three knock downs to Sole he just edged the verdict.

Revell put in some good left leads and with that extra experience won a conclusive decision against a plucky Langridge.

The fight between Williams and Jackson unfortunately did not last the distance, the fight being stopped in Williams' favour, but until this occurred the fight had promised to be quite a hustler.

Brennan, using a very good left reservingly, easily had the measure of Borrie, whilst Stevens's harder punching soon calmed down an aggressive Green.

Flores, with a three-inch disadvantage of height and at least that amount in reach, put up a very good performance in defeating Evenden, who nevertheless put up a good show.

RESULTS OF OTHER FIGHTS:—

Smith beat Sheridan, Booth beat Steley, Gill beat Jackson 35, Schwartzman beat Piper, Howe beat Meacher, Roach beat Robinson, Nettleton beat Nunn, Sharp beat Haynes, Costello beat Holness, and Hawkins beat Snaydon.

Whether winning or losing, a spirit of sportsmanship was shewn by all, and it is hoped that all enjoyed themselves.

4/5th Battalion



WITH another Administrative Inspection successfully negotiated, things seem to have reverted to the near-normal, so near-normal in fact that your correspondent has the greatest difficulty in securing sufficient "copy" for his monthly quota, a state of affairs which is being rectified through the proper channels. Quite unlike the 1st Battalion, who have developed an excitingly sharp canter in Germany, we continue to plod through the training by-ways with continued emphasis on the club atmosphere. Company Commanders are probably too busy chasing those elusive containers with which to balance their accounts to produce any fireworks just yet; week-end training joys are yet to come.

Our converted Gunners, however, are setting a fair pace and are tremendously keen to master their newly-acquired weapons, and when "S" Company takes the field in November, they will have the chance of shewing their paces. Meanwhile, "B" Company got away to a cracking start and have already been on the ground tackling Section Training; they have also arranged an interesting series of demonstrations in conjunction with the Sappers.

As yet no official pronouncement has been made about the future of the Territorial Army, but some reorganisation must inevitably follow the points made by the Prime Minister. There were exciting moments locally over *The Times'* leader, whose strictures on the type of training carried out almost passed unheeded. Indications are that the force will consist largely of volunteers in the future with County Associations once again responsible for recruiting new members. If this be so, then the pendulum has swung again and our Volunteer roots in the Rifle Volunteers, the East Kent Rifles and the 1st Volunteer Battalion The Buffs will surely re-assert themselves.

The major mystery arising from all this is, of course, Annual Camp next year. From Tregantle the scene of operations has shifted to Fingeringhoe, Essex—a spot of blighted memory

for some apparently, but it cannot rain every day in May, and so there may be some hope! Whether we go at full strength or just with the volunteer element is a matter of conjecture just at present. We shall soon know what the form is to be.

Remembrance Day saw Companies taking part in local parades and joining in Festivals of Remembrance arranged by the British Legion. The weather was kind to us, although some detachments parading in the afternoon had to keep an eye cocked at the clouds.

The Battalion was well represented by old and new members at the Annual Dinner of the Ramsgate Branch of the Past and Present Association, at which the Colonel of the Regiment was the principal guest. Among those present was Mr. Arthur Knowles, who as a member of the then 1st Volunteer Battalion The Buffs saw active service in South Africa; a dwindling number now, alas! but still remembered.

Now that additional accommodation is available at St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury, it is hoped to establish the Officers' Mess there permanently. Nice as it has been to use the Depot Mess, where facilities have most generously been given for our comfort, it is good to look forward to a home of our own; and it will be possible to repay past kindnesses. It will also be possible to review the Mess silver and have selected pieces available to grace our new home.

* * *

"A" COMPANY

Major Charles Balding is now operating as Company Commander and Sgt. Bryant has taken over duties as P.S.I. and we hope to welcome both in the approved style at a little ceremony arranged for 29th November at Margate. Actually the main excuse for the celebration is to present Major Tilleard with a token of our esteem and affection, well-merited during his long tenure as Company Commander; but we shall also welcome Major Balding and Sgt. Bryant and hope they long stay with us.

The palatial surroundings at Deal seem to have overawed the Machine Gunners since they are still with us—in Detachment form only their Platoon Commander hastens to assure us.

The Company had various commitments on Remembrance Day and indeed both before and after the event were finding duties of one sort and another. Sgt. James and his Company went to Margate to take part in the British Legion Festival there, the Company Commander paraded at Ramsgate, C.S.M. Gabriel performed on the bugle and now we hear that R.S.M. Bingham has an important back-stage contribution to make towards the British Legion Festival at Ramsgate.

Training is well under way at Margate and should soon be picking up at Ramsgate once the new management have settled all the problems thrust upon them. At least the Jeep functions now and there is no more call to divide the 1-ton between Margate and the Machine Gunners, which was always a tricky one for the Company Commander.

* * *

"D" COMPANY

In common with the rest of the Battalion, we regret very much the fact that we are losing Major J. E. Dent to the K.A.R. of Uganda. *Bon voyage*, Major Dent, our very best wishes for a successful tour of duty and we hope that your new station will be infinitely more prepossessing than it sounds to the ear.

However, *c'est la vie*, as a "poilu" might say, and we gladly proffer a hand of welcome to Major R. A. C. Ravenhill, our new Training Officer.

At this juncture we'd like to take the opportunity of using the written word to say "Hello chaps" to the boys from Ashford who are now incorporated in Delta Company. Most of these we've had the pleasure of meeting before and we're very pleased to have them join the family circle.

Does the Battalion house some "boffin" who could devise a grid system for use on a miniature range? If so, we don't doubt that the gunners of "Q" Battery, 410 Coast Regiment, would be more than interested; as at a recent .22 shoot with them, their marksmanship made "D" Company seem like potential Bisley finalists!

In concluding we don't mind if Table Tennis, Billiards and Snooker enthusiasts of other companies know that certain individuals of this Company have been putting in a lot of serious practise of late and that after Christmas lots of challenges will be thrown out.

* * *

"S" COMPANY

Now that the Annual Inspection has come and gone we can breathe again, put away the powered spray and tackle the next problem which apparently concerns how to make a 17-pdr. disappear from view in the field. We hope to find the answer during our forthcoming week-end, 26th and 27th November.

Training is under way at all Drill Halls, but we relaxed at Deal recently when the Private Army from Sandwich came over, having been ousted from their Drill Hall, and joined us in a social engagement. They brought some of the Sandwich Platoon, 303 Battalion, W.R.A.C., with them and they joined in. Capt. Chris. Griffin and Capt. Catt were also present, and as Major Alexander was also handing-over to Major Tilleard (now happily convalescent after his illness) the evening became quite a gathering of the clans. Our best wishes go with Major Alexander on his appointment as Second-in-Command and we can welcome officially now Major Tilleard from "A" Company who is getting about again.

On Remembrance Day we paraded at Deal under Capt. Morgan and took part in the annual service at the War Memorial. Things were a little rushed this year as only one vehicle was available for the Ramsgate run, but as it happened, all turned out well and even the weather smiled. R.S.M. Bingham of H.Q., 44 Division, came along and was able to see our Deal Centre and meet W.O.s and Sergeants in the Canteen afterwards. Capt. Morgan was very interested in a photograph of the Field Gun Section in the old Volunteer Battalion and clearly Sgt. Cousens is going to be busy carrying out a little research into this hitherto unknown phenomenon.

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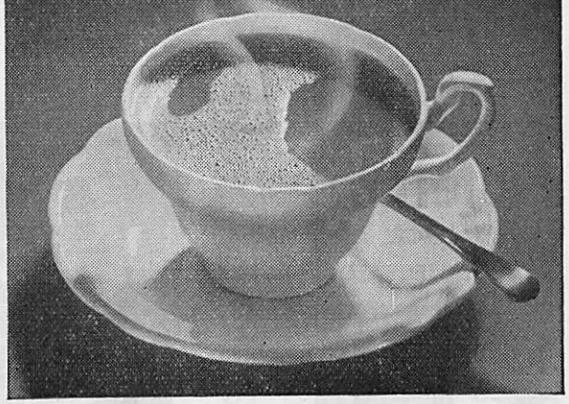
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West Country Buffs Stir

SLOWLY, slowly, the leaven is working in the dough. "Selling the dummy", as they say in Rugger circles, to Lieut.-Col. Hudson Allen immediately roused him to action—evasive action. With charming tact and undeserved flattery, which reflects great credit on an old alumnus of the Owls, he gently but firmly passed back the baby, clothed in some sage advice on methods to obtain answers from West Countrymen. As these would entail a good deal of clerical work, to which I am constitutionally allergic, they will only be used as a last resort. In addition, he put forward a new proposal which may well meet with a more lively response. This is that instead of a dinner a luncheon party in Taunton should be held. This, he felt, would be more popular with elderly Buffs who dislike travelling at night or staying away from their firesides and their own warm beds.

By the next post came a letter from Major Ernest Edlmann at Plymouth, who expressed his willingness to follow Brigadier Craddock's lead, and possibly to bring Ronald Baker, too, who is also with the Infantry Boys' Battalion.

This brings our list of probable starters to date to about a dozen. These are Brigadier R. Craddock, Lieut.-Colonels E. H. Allen, Backhouse, Scott, Turner, Majors Edlmann, M. O'Geary, Tuke, Captains Morley, Ransley, Warren, and Lieut. Baker. Another who would be particularly welcome is Lieut.-Colonel R. E. Power, who must be now the Father of The Buffs, for he first saw active service in the Chitral Campaign in '98.

It may be of interest to note that West Country Gunners recently held a well-attended dinner at the Royal Clarence Hotel, Exeter, when the Master Gunner, Field Marshal Lord Alanbrooke, took the Chair, and Lieut.-General Sir Edmund Shrieber was present.

The Eastern side of the West Country boundary has never been clearly defined and may be stretched as far as Southampton. That erudite master of prose, "The Tramp", whose "Round and About" page is such a popular feature of *The Dragon*, now resides near Southampton. If he will only make the journey to Taunton, what a fund of copy will be available for his witty comments. Perhaps, too, he will feel impelled to make a few sketches of the occasion, which might be published in *The Dragon*—or displayed in the Museum.

No-one has suggested a date for this genial function. So may I tentatively suggest that a Saturday in March, 1956 might be suitable? The worst of the winter should then be over, and there will be two more editions of *The Dragon* in which this proposal may be ventilated and nourished before the event.

Gentlemen, I am full of enthusiasm for this venture! Pray do not damp my ardour, but take up pen at once and tell me you will be delighted to join the merry company. If the Gunners can do it, so can The Buffs—better. In case you have mislaid your September *Dragon*, here is my address:—Major R. J. Tuke, Little Beredens, Kenton, Exeter.

Write now, will you, please? A postcard will do.

R.T.

8th November, 1955.

* * *

Regimental Gazette

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1955

THE WAR OFFICE, 4TH OCTOBER, 1955

COMMANDS AND STAFF

F.M. Sir John Harding, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. (12247), late Inf., relinquishes his appointment as Chief of the Imperial General Staff, The War Office, 29th September, 1955.

Gen. Sir Gerald W. R. Templer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O. (15307), late Inf., is appointed Chief of the Imperial General Staff, The War Office, 29th September, 1955.

Maj.-Gen. C. L. Firbank, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. (28072), late Inf., is appointed Director of Infantry, The War Office, 1st October, 1955.

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—The undermentioned Cadets to be 2/Lieuts., 16th July, 1955: 23074541 Anthony Michael Hills (443067); 23072994 Edward St. John Brice (443050); 23074540 Brian David Guy Johnson (443071).

TERRITORIAL ARMY

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. C. M. Byers (435196) from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List, R. Hamps., to be 2nd Lt., 22nd September, 1955, with seniority 15th May, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

THE BUFFS.—Capt. H. K. Jolly (99946) from Active List to be Capt., 17th Aug., 1955, retaining his present seniority.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

CLASS III

THE BUFFS.—Maj. D. L. L. Pickard, T.D. (90353) from Res. of Offrs., Class I, to be Maj., 31st August, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 18th OCTOBER, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—23087786 Cadet Robert Victor Arthur Keen (443954) to be 2nd Lt., 20th August, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 21ST OCTOBER, 1955

INFANTRY

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—The undermentioned 2nd Lts. from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List to be 2nd Lts. on the dates shown:

P. J. C. Smallwood (426795), 14th July, 1954, with seniority 14th February, 1953; J. Y. Ellis (427952), 18th September, 1954, with seniority 18th April, 1953; P. J. Scherer (435618), 9th November, 1954, with seniority 29th May, 1954; D. S. Broome (433419), 19th November, 1954, with seniority 6th February, 1954; P. H. Edgley (433730), 19th July, 1955, with seniority 27th February, 1954.

The undermentioned 2nd Lts. are granted the actg. rank of Lt. on the dates shown:—

P. J. C. Smallwood (426795), 31st October, 1954; J. Y. Ellis (427952), 26th December, 1954; D. S. Broome (433419), 23rd June, 1955; P. J. Scherer (435618) 7th, August, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

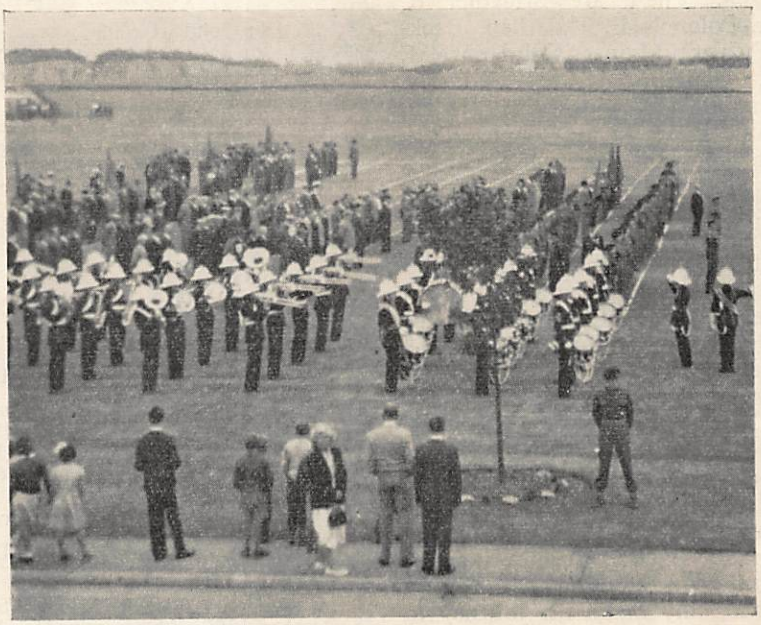
THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. G. P. Turner (433403) is granted the actg. rank of Lt., 23rd October, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 1955

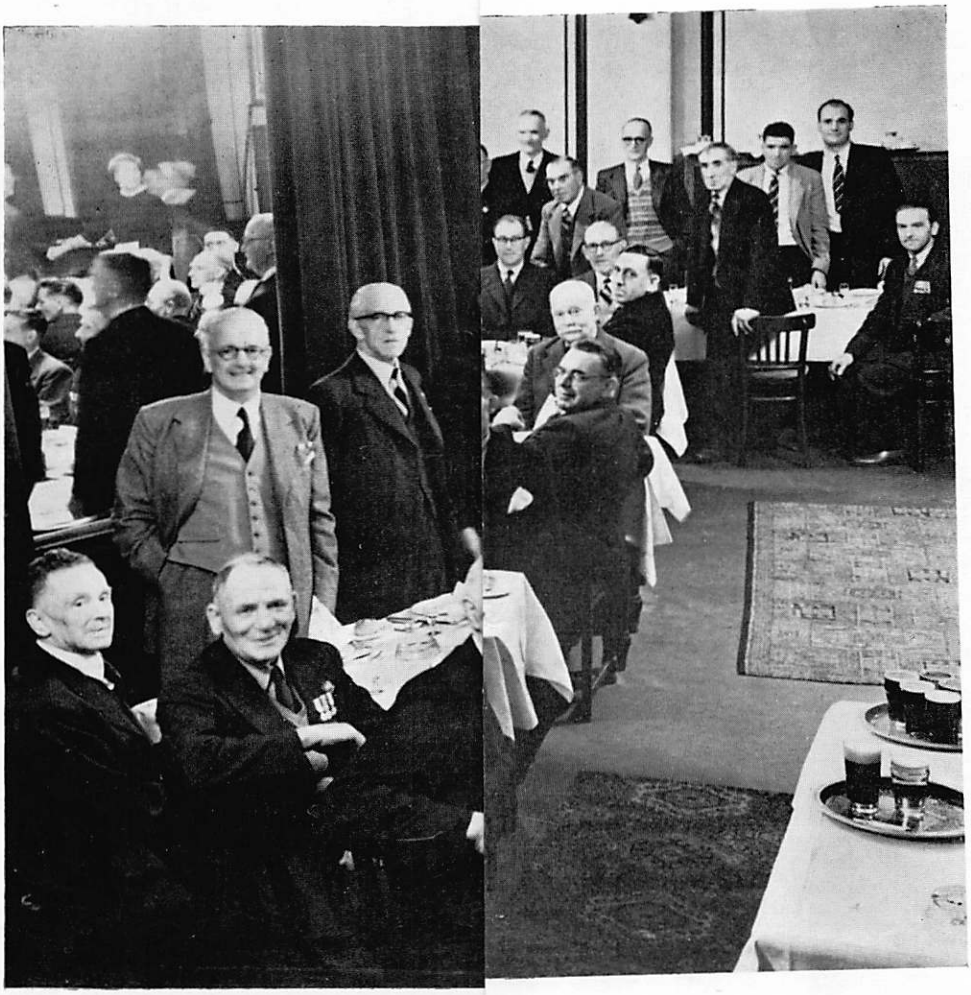
INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

THE BUFFS.—Capt. G. E. Dubois, M.C. (333657), retires receiving a gratuity, 1st September, 1955, and is granted the hon. rank of Maj.



Past and Present Association Parade
Remembrance Sunday, 1955
Band of Royal Marines School of Music



Fishing Competition Herne Bay, 16th October, 1955

ANYONE can catch fish when there are fish about, but it takes a jolly good man and a well-organised team to catch fish when there are no fish about.

In addition, everyone knew that a portion of the Russian Navy was at Portsmouth, but not everyone knew that they had deposited a sample of their weather at Herne Bay on the way round.

Was it cold? Forty-one Buffs for five-and-a-half hours asssisting the Herne Bay Crab Collectors by feeding them on the best bait available and even being kind enough to throw back in the sea those that wouldn't let go of the hooks. Talking of the cold would probably account for the story that Herne Bay Chairman had nipped off at 3.30 p.m. for a blow-lamp to thaw out all members when they reached the end of the Pier at about 4.15 p.m., and it was needed.

What of the day's sport? Firstly, a member of the Home Team had to put everyone's mind at rest by pulling in the first flat. Poor little thing, it knew no better, having lost its parents it hadn't been told what those beastly men on the Pier were after. Good for him (or was it her?) it settled for a Herne Bay hook, so they were happy in the thought that the remaining Branches hadn't been enticed to that town for nothing.

Soon it was Dover's turn, and after another two hours, the oldest member fishing (Tom Holloway—71 years) had a terrific struggle with a 7½ oz. eel which although hard to believe, stopped all fishing for a while whilst forty-one, being the remainder, advised him how to get it off the hook. Naturally, Dover were delighted.

Meanwhile the Dark Horse, the man who was using his own barber's pole for a rod (anyway, it was painted as such!) hadn't given up hope. His enthusiasm was finally rewarded and after playing it for a time, he landed a prize-winner, a 3½ oz. ling. He was very modest about it and quietly placed it in his bag. No putting it back to grow—you see, it counted!

Next we have the quiet member from the Weald. (Glad to see them entered this year.) His idea of the Paternoster on a safety pin, sliding it down into the sea after the weight, surprised another flat. So much so that it hooked itself and laid so quiet that it was pulled in to bait-up to find it there. It turned out to be a very poor relation of the first one. Yes, and just as small—in fact, smaller.

Now things were getting exciting, three teams with catches and Dover leading slightly.

Here is where the Dark Horse with the barber's pole proved he was the expert. Carefully biding his time, he managed to drop his hooks right on the very spot where the only other fish in the ocean was, and being the clever chap he was, he didn't let it escape. A little bigger this time, 4 oz., the reason for the struggle and the care he took in bringing it in and not losing his tackle with the terrible fight he had.

That gave the Cup to Dover, plus three prizes, and how proud that Branch must be to have such a worthy angler!

I would like to mention that in the meantime our dear old friend Tom Holloway had become a little sorry for the remainder, who still hadn't succeeded, by putting his rod away.

Cunning, I should say. Yes, he knew that his effort wasn't going to be beaten. Still, it was a nice gesture and we did appreciate it, Tom, although it didn't help much.

4 p.m. and the whistle, and away everyone went to weigh-in, wash, warm and tea.

Optimism on the part of Herne Bay allowed an hour to weigh the catch. Actually it took five minutes, but who cared!

Let us congratulate Herne Bay on the splendid arrangements. Alf Trice on meeting us and pushing us out three-quarters of a mile into the sea with a cheerful word. Our Chairman, Mr. Davey, on his mobile two-stroke seeing we all had bait—that was a job, and he was quite cheerful about it. (Pity we didn't use it all up!)

Although I cannot mention all their names (fact is, I don't know them!), thanks to the remainder of Herne Bay Branch, it was fun and a good day, topped off with a splendid tea served by the cheerful ladies of that Branch.

Nice to see Bill Evans, Chairman of Canterbury Branch; Mrs. Hopkins and her wee sister. Canterbury's first entry in the Competition in recent years, and no doubt they wanted to make certain that the team were on the job. Alf Argraves and Hoppo made an ideal pair of anglers.

Also Mr. Fakley (Chairman) and Mr. Knott (Secretary) of Ramsgate. Rumour had it that they were there with a special prize, but were so shocked to hear that their team were wasting their time and had caught nothing, that they forgot to leave it. Never mind, it was a good day. Good, clean fresh air, a large appetite, and a



TWO DOUBLE NINETEENS! It'll be a long time before she brings *that* off again, but meanwhile it's definitely something to celebrate.

There are always friends to share your triumphs at The Local. And if you should feel a bit low, it won't be for long: the talk and laughter soon draw you in — and draw you out. That's the great thing about The Local. Good company. And, of course, good beer. It's the best long drink in the world. Good health to you all!

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Trawlers pull trawls for it
Good wholesome beer

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And you will observe it is
Good wholesome beer

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CRAWFORD'S BISCUITS ARE GOOD BISCUITS

hope that a few more Branches will take part in this Annual Competition. You don't have to be an expert to fish. Surprising how silly a fish can be, putting itself on a hook (and anybody's hook). Lovely really. Ask all those who went to Dover last year and suffered there. Better still, ask Alf Trice. He filled his gumboots last year, but was kind enough to let us share the lovely air of his home town this.

Thank you, Colonel Argles, for turning up as you did, especially as you weren't feeling on top of the world.

T.H.H.

Past and Present Association

Life Members

1ST TO 31ST OCTOBER

Ramsgate Branch.—Wright, P. F. W.

H.Q. Roll.—Holmes Smith, C., Wallace, W. R. O., Daniel, O. R., Margerum, Pte.

Medway Roll.—Wiltshire, F. W.

* * *

Annual Members

1ST TO 31ST OCTOBER

Ashford Branch.—Davies, Mr.

H.Q. Roll.—Catt, J., Lambert, D., Martin, D., Oakley, B., Richards, Pte., Wooldridge, Pte., Hall, W., Moore, Pte., Twyman, Pte., Marsh, C.

Dover Branch.—Howell, Mr.

Sittingbourne Branch.—Dunk, H., Humphreys, H., Read, T. H., Wheeler, W. H.

* * *

Donations

The following donations have been received during October, 1955:—

	£	s.	d.
Canterbury Cricket Week Ball	150	0	0
Sittingbourne Branch	1	0	0
Sittingbourne Branch (Ladies' Guild) ...	5	0	0

* * *

Grants

The total grants from the Benevolent Fund and the World War 1939 Charitable Fund during the month of October, 1955, are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Benevolent Fund	23	0	0
World War 1939 Charitable Fund	23	10	1

London Branch

Hallo, Buffs! London Branch calling! What a meeting we had on Saturday, October 15th, with 59 members attending. Were we pleased to see such chaps as Dave Maslin, Bunny Dunclarck, Mr. Pilgrim, Mr. Houghton and of course, the names of Watts, King, Hardwick, Perry, Jim Redman and many more. But look at those Grand Old Buffs at the corner table in the name of Mr. Cobb, Mr. Everitt, Mr. Flavell and Mr. Ruler. Thank you all for coming along. Maslin and Pilgrim will be along next month, so each make a date for 19th November. Time: 7 p.m. Place: Prince Alfred, Tufton Street. Now just let me mention our thanks to that grand gentleman and Buff, Brigadier Foster Hall, for coming along; it's always a pleasure to have him in our midst.

When our President, Major Enright, reads these notes, I wonder just how sorry he must feel in not being able to get along at this time. He would have certainly been busy on that corner table. I would have liked to have had more time to hear about some of their experiences.

Letters received from Mr. Hewson, Mr. Katly and our President, Major Enright, during the month. All send very best wishes to all members.

On leaving the Prince Alfred, Les King was being put through his paces by Jim Redman when the Arm of the Law looked around the corner saying that it was time to dismiss the parade. For further details, ask Jim and Les.

The Branch Darts Team are now waiting to know who their opponents will be in the 1st Round. We are trying hard this year to win this competition. So Mr. Skinner of Ashford Branch, don't get a shake on!!!

The Shooting Team will be under the drill of Mr. Lewis, who wants volunteers for Sunday morning practice. So if you're interested, please get in touch with Sam, 6A Palmerston Road, Acton, W.13.

The London Branch put on their first dance for quite a long time, at the United Services Club, Lewisham. This was a bit far for most of our members, but it was quite a good show. I certainly would like the next one to be attended by more members. Let us thank Mr. George Hardwick for the great work he put in on this. So come along, let us give him full support for his next attempt later on. Try and get some of the younger folk to come along. I have had a lot of appreciative comments from the people who attended this one, asking when there will be another. So it is up to the Branch to get people interested in these dances. It was nice to have Captain Emery in attendance, also Mr. Billings, our Chairman.

I received a very interesting letter from our President and quote a paragraph from it:—

"The 30th October, 1901, just 54 years ago, the 2nd Battalion was engaged in the Battle of Bakenlaagte, where it lost 10 killed and nearly 50 wounded fighting a rear-guard action. The Branch has roughly 10 survivors, including 'Dusty' Alf Roulier, Bill Procter, Bert Port (all badly wounded that day), also Cobb, Billy Everitt and myself." The interesting and wonderful thing to this is, they still correspond and when possible visit one another. After 54 years, what fellows!!!

So for this month I will say "Cheerio" by sending best wishes to all Branches from the London Branch.

H.J.S.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

Notes of the meeting of the Ladies' Guild held at The Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, S.W.1, on Saturday, 5th November, 1955.

Members met at The Prince Alfred Restaurant at 6.30 p.m., and, accompanied by several members of the London Branch, made their annual pilgrimage of homage to the Field of Remembrance.

Returning to the meeting room, the Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were signed by Mrs. Coley who was in the Chair.

The Chairman opened her remarks by saying how very pleased everyone was to have Mrs. Foster Hall with them and that it was a long time since any celebrities had visited us!

A welcome was given to Mrs. Cotton who, Mrs. Coley said, she had not seen for some time, and also to both Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Norman, who had been away. Congratulations were offered to Mrs. Ricketts and Mrs. Odell on becoming grandparents, and a letter was read from the young mother, Mrs. Audrey Odell, thanking the Guild for the congratulations and flowers sent to her on the birth of her infant daughter. It was agreed that a Christening gift should be sent to Mrs. Odell for baby Susan.

Mrs. Hogben's letter of resignation both from the Guild and its Committee was read and accepted without comment.

It was regretted that Mrs. Jackson was prevented by a bad cold from getting to the meeting, and she had thought it wiser not to venture out into the night air. She sent her love and best wishes for a happy evening to all members. Mrs. Smith was prevented by illness from attending, and Mrs. Yapp regretted that she was kept away by business.

It was with very deep regret that the Chairman announced that Mr. Albert Cole had passed away on 2nd November, and several members recalled his great kindness in sending along crates of oranges for the Children's Parties which used to be held at Christmas-time.

A new member, Mrs. Amy Whichello, was given a very special welcome, the Chairman saying that she hoped Mrs. Whichello would enjoy her visits to the Guild and that she felt sure that all members present would do their best to make her feel at home amongst them.

Further names of people who would be coming to the Dinner in December were taken and the Chairman asked that members would please meet at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. Mrs. Coley, addressing Mrs. Ricketts, said that if Mr. Ricketts' two talented friends could come along to provide a little music for the occasion, the Guild would be very grateful indeed and would be happy to provide them with their dinners.

Just before the meeting was brought to a close, Mrs. Foster Hall rose to her feet and made a delightful little speech. She said: "I do want to say thank you very much for your kind welcome to me here tonight; it means so much to me. I followed the same flag in many parts of the world and it is lovely to meet you and see you all. Thank you very much for the kindness of your welcome. It is the first time I have been called a celebrity!" This was greeted with much applause.

Raffles, for which prizes were given by Mrs. Cotton, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Waters, A Member and Mrs. Tucker, realised a total of £2 5s. 6d. In addition, more tickets were sold for the basket of groceries which is to be raffled at the next meeting night.

Brighton Branch

An excellent October meeting, with our Chairman, Colonel Hamilton, turning up and in great form too.

We also had with us Jimmy Dray and Ben Molkinthin, both looking very well. Charles Guest looked much better after his holiday too.

Our old Branch friend and Associate Member, Major W. Moore (son was R.S.M., Depot), has gone to Bedford, so we won't be seeing him for some time, but he usually manages to come back to Worthing somehow. We also welcome a new Annual Member, Mr. W. M. D. Garner, who went to the Middlesex Regiment for the Korean War. He is at present living in Burgess Hill.

Seen in Brighton recently, but only as a visitor, ex-Private Coombes, one time "D" Company, 1st Battalion, 1921, in Fermoy. He was invalided as far as memory serves.

ACHEM.

* * *

Canterbury Branch

This month has produced a very humdrum existence for Branch and Personalia news, and so I am compelled to scratch around for the tit-bits.

Many readers must appreciate the excellent tone of the 1st Battalion notes and the accompanying snaps of their training activities. Methinks I know the creator of this standard—and a Signal Flag would be no stranger to his hands!

Two points of the notes took my mind back to Gibraltar. Firstly, the excellent snap of the lads in the latest river-crossing assault boat must revive memories of the Battalion's activities in this sphere on the Inundation at The Rock. Beer barrels and a couple of petrol tins lashed to spars had to suffice for that era.

Secondly, I see that the Battalion is training with the Suffolk Regiment. There must be many who remember how they "sweated" upon the results of their Annual Course at Gib. due not a little to the thoroughness of the markers—the Suffolks, of course. They were keen shots, and I believe Lieut. Barlow of those days is the same Brigadier who competes at Bisley today. I prefer to remember this friendly battalion with their Band and tuneful Regimental March as they entered Buena Vista Barracks, no mean effort after overcoming our peculiar stiff gradient—Scud Hill!

Accounts of the re-unions of two Kentish service fraternities have been in the news this past month. I refer to the Kentish Cyclists Battalion of the First World War, and the R.E.K. Yeomanry which terminated as an active Regiment in 1919. Both these unique formations were predominantly Kentish and gave an drew upon many Buff characters during their existence. It behoves us to remember our relationship with such prominent names as Lord Harris and Colonel ffrench-Blake and the surviving comrades.

And now we must return to our own nest, as the cuckoo said to his spouse.

I apologise to two of our members whose names were incorrectly spelt in our last notes. My writing, maybe, or possibly the typing and printing stage. I refer correctly to Mr. Reynolds and Billy Biggs. The latter gentleman was in the limelight at our meeting on the 28th October for some two dozen members were able to hear the Chairman's personal commendation to Mr. Biggs in respect of his wizard powers as a "Collector" for the Carnival funds—a creditable £14 odd. Billy himself responded with another

kind gesture by producing "out of the hat" the original local Branch Roll of Honour Shield. This will prove a useful decoration when we assume legal tenancy of the Drill Hall itself—a not too distant anticipation.

Our meeting was headed with an almost complete "top table". Greetings were extended to a new member—a Mr. Wyles, a 1st Battalion Bandsman of "Gib" days.

The results of the Branch Fishing Competition were particularly spartan for all competitors; luck, weather and Kismet joined forces that day.

The 4th Battalion (1939-45) had a successful re-union at the County Hotel recently. Strangely enough, we hardly have an active member of this particular contingent, and yet the Battalion was very representative of the Regiment collectively. I met many of them after the Leros experiences under conditions which were not all beer and skittles and they were a cheerful and likeable crew.

It is with great regret that we say good-bye to Major Dendy, but we are pleased to congratulate him on his appointment to 2nd i/c of the 1st Battalion. A just reward for his younger days in the Battalion and his devotion and great service throughout the early years of the War. We have been very kindly treated by him in so many little ways. We wish Major and Mrs. Dendy a happy tour. To Major D. Montgomery, the new O.C. Depot, we extend greetings and a hope that we may be given the same fatherly patronage.

Not much more domestic news except that poor old "Hoppo" had to miss out this month, due to a nasty chill, so instead of firing on three cylinders the Euchre school for this month is reduced to a "two- stroke". We wish him a sound recovery, for a meeting without our old friend being present, loses its tang.

I think this edition will be in time for the Seasonal Greetings. The Canterbury Branch wish all active battalions and all members of the Past and Present Association the compliments of the season and trust that the New Year will be Happy and Peaceful for all.

* * *

WHO'S WHO AT THE CANTERBURY BRANCH

No. 5—Sgt. E. P. Phillips

Sgt. Phillips is still a serving soldier and for that reason we are apt to look upon him as "young blood", although his service is in the "pontoon" region, for I see he enlisted in February, 1934.

After a short tour with the Depot and 2nd Battalion, he was posted overseas to the 1st Battalion and shared the ups and downs of that tour until 1945, when he took up residence as a member of the "Depot Party"—some half-a-dozen souls who looked after the Regiment's interests, trophies and baggage of the many Battalions at a time when Regimental Depots were almost abolished. During this latter tour, he carried out the duties of Depot Post Corporal and Custodian of the Regimental Museum with zeal and pride.

As a result of his devotion and care with the Regiment's many "bits and pieces" that were stored at the Depot at this time, Sgt. Phillips was given the honour of placing the 1939—1945 "Book of Life" in the Warriors' Chapel.

Sgt. Phillips saw the troubles of Palestine, and in this War went throurh the early African actions until made a P.O.W. in December, 1941. As a fellow P.O.W., I can vouch for his uncomplaining spirit and loyalty.

Many may remember our friend for his services as Sergeants' Mess Waiter in India, Palestine and Egypt, and in those days he would tackle Football, Hockey, and "Strong Man" weight lifting displays.

He is now one of the Recruiting Staff for this area and quietly proffers his help in many ways to the activities of the Branch. Probably we would never hear a song from him at a social but his contribution in the way of help towards that function would be prodigious.

To his wife and intimates he is probably called Ted or Percy, but the lower deck with customary brutalness have given him the sobriquet of "Rabbi".

"Babu."

* * *

Medway Branch

Last month, as regular readers may remember, the Medway notes, in the main, were produced by Tich Eldridge as I was on holiday. Now, I am sorry to say, he is laid up with tummy trouble. It is to be hoped that acting as the Branch scribe did not worry him too much and cause his complaint. Both you and Mrs. E., Tich, were missed at our Branch meeting in October, and we hope that you soon recover your good health.

I am always surprised at the amount of business to be got through at each monthly meeting. Despite the fact that we had a very full agenda all work was completed by 9 p.m. and darts and nattering were in full swing by that time.

Owing to our Standard Bearer, Mr. Pardew, M.M., being in hospital with a prolapsed disc it was not found possible to have our standard blessed on the date previously announced—it will now take place on Sunday, 6th November. This date is very suitable as in the morning representatives of the Branch will parade with the British Legion for its annual Service of Remembrance. Members are also invited to attend the Festival of Remembrance at the Empire Theatre, Chatham, on Sunday, 13th November. I am not giving fuller details regarding arrangements for these occasions because they will have taken place by the time these notes appear in print.

Mr. A. J. Houckham (A.3725), a member of this Branch, died on 25th August, 1955, aged 68 years. To his relatives we extend our sympathies.

All Branches will have heard about the suggestion by Sandwich that there should be an organised trip to Denmark next year. When we discussed it our Treasurer suggested that perhaps the members would like to have a round robin and send him as their representative—our Chairman thought that it was a good idea provided that the Branch sent him, too, to look after the Treasurer. After this jest it was found that there were four members who were interested in making the trip. One can only presume that they are multi-millionaires. We wish good luck to them and to Sandwich for aiming high.

Mrs. McLeland, who has been ill for some time, attended her first meeting with her husband for a considerable period. We were very pleased to see you looking so fit, Mrs. McL., and sincerely hope that you will be able to attend regularly in the future.

Well, the winter is upon us once again, but I am sure that whatever the weather may be our regulars will always turn up at our monthly meetings. What we want, however, is for some of the others to come along. What about it, you old soldiers?

The R.A.S.C. Association local branch has written suggesting that all ex-service associations in this area limit their religious, etc., parades to four a year. The Armistice Remembrance Parade, The Mayor's Sunday Parade, Battle of Britain Parade and one Summer Drumhead Service. The Branch kept a completely open mind on the subject pending a report from Mr. Rogers, who

was elected to attend a meeting of association representatives. He will report back to us at our next meeting.

Mr. Pardew, M.M., as mentioned above, is not at all well—he is at present a patient in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, and all members join me in hoping that he will soon get well. We extend our sympathy to Mrs. P. for we well know that it must be a worrying time for her. Unfortunately, Mr. Pardew has found it necessary to resign his office as Branch Standard Bearer, a post which he has held with distinction and to the satisfaction of all members of the Branch.

Mr. Thirsk (L.2997), who has left the district on obtaining a post at Northampton, has left a vacancy in the Branch as Escort to the Standard, a position which he has held very excellently. We wish him, and his family, every happiness in their new surroundings.

To these two vacancies the Branch has unanimously elected Mr. Tom Blakelock as Standard Bearer, and Mr. Chaney as Escort. Those two, together with Tich Eldridge, the other escort, will make a team of which the Branch will surely be proud.

* * *

Dover Branch

Monthly meeting held at the Eagle Hotel on Thursday, 3rd November, 1955. Chairman (Captain Marsh) opened at 7.30 p.m. Minutes were read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Letters from Town Clerk re Remembrance Sunday, our President (Colonel Crookenden), General Secretary also Prize Money for Fishing, General Secretary re August Remembrance Sunday. Two members (Deal and Noakes) sent letters asking to be excused.

No other business it was decided to carry on with the A.G.M.

The minutes of last A.G.M. were read and accepted; it was reported that five members had died during the year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.—*President*, Lieut.-Col. Crookenden, D.S.O.; *Chairman*, Capt. Marsh, O.B.E.; *Secretary*, Mr. Collins (*Assistant*, Mr. Howell); *Treasurer*, Mr. Holloway; *Vice-Chairman*, Mr. Noakes; *Committee*, Messrs. Ross, Blundell, Loram, Saunders, Hare, Johncock. The Vice-Presidents were elected *en bloc* and it was agreed to ask the G.O.C., Dover Castle, also to accept.

British Legion Representative: Mr. Hayward.

A parcel given by Mr. Ross brought 10/9 to our funds. Box Collection, 11/6. Many thanks, Members.

Reports given by the Secretary and Treasurer were accepted, and a vote of thanks was passed to both. No other business, meeting closed 9.50 p.m.

T.H.H.

* * *

Sittingbourne Branch

Here we are again, after a lapse (we are ashamed to admit) of over three months. The absence of notes has not been due to shortage of news, but to absence due to holidays and sickness, which have overburdened your sub-editorial staff. However, all is normal once again and we shall endeavour to make amends by recording our news since August. Since then there has been much discussion (and in some places not a little heated argument) about the future of the Buffs Club in the East Street Drill Hall. The Home Guard have taken over the rest of the Hall and have been putting gentle pressure on the Branch to vacate the Club Room in favour of a Home Guard Club. At the same time "B" Company of the 4/5th have now settled in to the Crown Quay Drill Hall. The upshot of all the talk is that, beginning perhaps early next year, the Branch will hold its meetings at Crown Quay, where they will be able to make contact with more of the Present with a view to infusing some younger blood; the Home Guard, who are at present honorary members of the P. & P. Club, will take over the Club Room and invite the P. & P. as honorary members, thus reversing the situation. So far as those Buffs who are also in or with the Home Guard are concerned, there will be no appreciable change. These include Lieut.-Cols. Wills and Lynden-Bell and Messrs. Sinclair, Russell and Ravensdale.

Our members are very conscious of the fact that Service to the Association is as quoted by the Chairman at the A.G.M., and later referred to by the Secretary in his Annual Report on the financial state of the Association. One and all are in favour of increased yearly subscriptions; but since general agreement on this by all Branches is not likely we shall hold a function and pass the proceeds to H.Q. as agreed at the A.G.M. In the meantime, as will be seen from *The Dragon*, members are making occasional donations at our monthly meetings.

At the Remembrance Day Service, the Branch was well represented in spite of the fact that some of our members were on parade with the Home Guard; but not our Standard Bearer, Bill Sinclair. A wreath was placed upon the memorial by our Secretary and our Chairman was in charge of the parade.

Our next big event is the Children's Party which this year is to be on December 17th at East Street Drill Hall, beginning at 4.30 p.m. A "full supporting programme" has been arranged and we hope to give a full account of it in January.

* * *

Ramsgate Branch

The monthly meeting of the Ramsgate Branch of the Past and Present Association, The Buffs, was held at Headquarters, "Freemasons' Tavern", High Street, on Friday, 21st October, 1955.

Mr. C. F. Fakley, Chairman, presided and was supported by Lieut. W. Wotton, Councillor E. H. Swendell and Mr. B. E. Knott, Branch Secretary.

The Chairman welcomed Officers and members and despite the inclement weather, he was pleased to see such a good attendance, support was essential to progress. Mr. Fakley thanked Mr. E. Castle for deputising for him at the last meeting and according to the minutes he made a good substitute and conducted the Branch business in an excellent manner.

He was pleased that Messrs. H. Sheppard and E. Curtis, their sick members, were much better and on behalf of the Branch he wished them further good progress. Apologies for absence were received from Major A. J. H. Taylor, Major H. Martin, M.B.E., Capt. N. G. H. Taylor, Capt. K. F. Speakman and Mr. W. Groombridge.

Mr. Hogben gave a full report of the Association Annual General Meeting at Canterbury, which he attended as Branch Delegate. He gave details of the Chairman and Secretary's speeches, both of these Officers invited every Buff to join the Past and Present Association; their motto was, "Comradeship, giving service—not self".

Mr. E. Castle, Fishing Team Captain, reported that Ramsgate lost the Association Cup, Dover Branch were the winners with a small catch. Ramsgate entered a team of six members; these members fished for six hours at Herne Bay on Sunday, a very cold day, without catching any fish. Mr. Castle jocularly remarked that next year if

held at Ramsgate they may have better luck. It was decided to enter a team in the Association Darts Competition, organisation to be left to the Social Committee.

Branch to send Standard and Representative for Armistice Sunday Remembrance Church Parade on November 6th.

Mr. Hougham gave final arrangements for the Branch Dinner to be held in November. He looked forward to a good attendance of members. General V. Boucher, C.B., C.B.E., Colonel of the Regiment, will be present to say a few words.

The Standard Bearer, Mr. H. Cook, has accepted an invitation to be present at the British Legion Festival of Remembrance to be held at the Granville Theatre on November 11th, Armistice Day.

Being no other business, the remainder of the evening was spent in reviving old friendships, refreshments being supplied by Buff Host Dick Atkins.

B.E.K.

* * *

Sandwich Branch

The Branch were represented at the Battle of Britain Parade and Service held on Sunday, 18th September, when about 200 R.A.F. and W.R.A.F. personnel were on parade and members of the R.A.F.A., headed by the Band of the R.M. School of Music (Deal).

On Saturday, 24th September, we were very pleased to welcome to our Headquarters about 30 members and ladies of the Medway Branch. Unfortunately, owing to short notice and a little misunderstanding on both sides, I'm afraid we were not able to entertain them so well as we would have liked, but, strange to say, our own members support the Branch better on away outings than they do at an "At Home" show. A darts match was played which resulted in a win for Medway. This was followed by a sing-song and a very enjoyable evening came to a close at 10.40 p.m. Our Chairman, Major F. W. Tomlinson, on behalf of the Branch welcomed the Medway Branch to our Headquarters and congratulated them on winning the Runners-up Plaque (which, by the way, is a lovely piece of work). Mr. Attworth on behalf of Medway thanked the Branch for a very pleasant evening and hoped we would be paying them a visit in the very near future.

Members of the Branch, at the invitation of the British Legion, attended the Parade and Dedication Service of the Westmarsh Branch Standard at Ash Church on Sunday, 25th September. There was a good muster on parade and the Service was most impressive.

The General Monthly Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, 5th October, at 8 p.m. Major F. W. Tomlinson presided. Owing to it being a very rough night very few members were present.

Apologies were received from our Vice-Chairman, Lieut.-Col. N. S. Hart, and Messrs. A. Ledner, F. Harvey and J. Marsh.

Correspondence included a letter from Colonel H. M. Cremer, giving notice of the 1/4th Battalion The Buffs (1914-19) Annual Re-union Dinner which would be taking place at Canterbury on Saturday, 29th October.

With reference to the Postal Shoot, it was decided that we could not enter owing to the difficulty in obtaining the use of rifles and the range. It was unanimously agreed to enter for the Darts Competition and that the team be elected at the November Meeting.

Owing to the unavoidable absence at the Meeting of both our delegates to the A.G.M., no report could be given, and it was decided to ask Headquarters for a copy of the Minutes in order that we might discuss them for future reference.

Following the report on the visit of the Medway Branch, a vote of thanks was accorded to the makers and donors of refreshments, and the donors of prizes for the raffle, which was most successful. Gifts were received from Miss K. Field, Mrs. H. Taylor, Mr. John Field and Mr. A. Ledner. Mr. C. Field and Mr. John Field were at their usual posts behind the Bar.

In a reply given regarding our proposed visit to Denmark, it was noted that in the *Dragon* notes from the Canterbury Branch of the September issue, the General Secretary had made reference to the visit. It was also noted that the Secretary of the Denmark Branch and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. P. Berendt, had recently visited the Depot, so no doubt we should soon be having some news from Headquarters on the matter.

It was agreed to purchase the usual Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Day, 1955. It was also agreed to parade with the British Legion on Sunday, 6th November.

Notice was given that a General Committee Meeting would be held at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, 12th October, at 8 p.m., in order to arrange a winter programme.

* * *

Margate Branch

At last Margate Branch are in the news again. Unfortunately our last few meetings have been so poorly attended that there has been no business to report on, and our November Meeting was an informal one, due to our Secretary, Mr. J. H. Shakeshaft, being on the sick list. Mr. W. E. Burley, our Standard Bearer, we regret to say, is also on the sick list. We all hope they will both be fit and well again by the time these notes are in circulation.

Members may be interested to know that the Branch Standard was on parade at the British Legion Festival of Remembrance, which was held on October 28th, at Margate Winter Gardens, and also on Remembrance Sunday, November 6th, at the Memorial Service.

It was nice to see several members present on November 2nd, who we have not had the pleasure of seeing for a long time, Messrs. R. Fox, H. Holliday and E. Maxted, for instance.

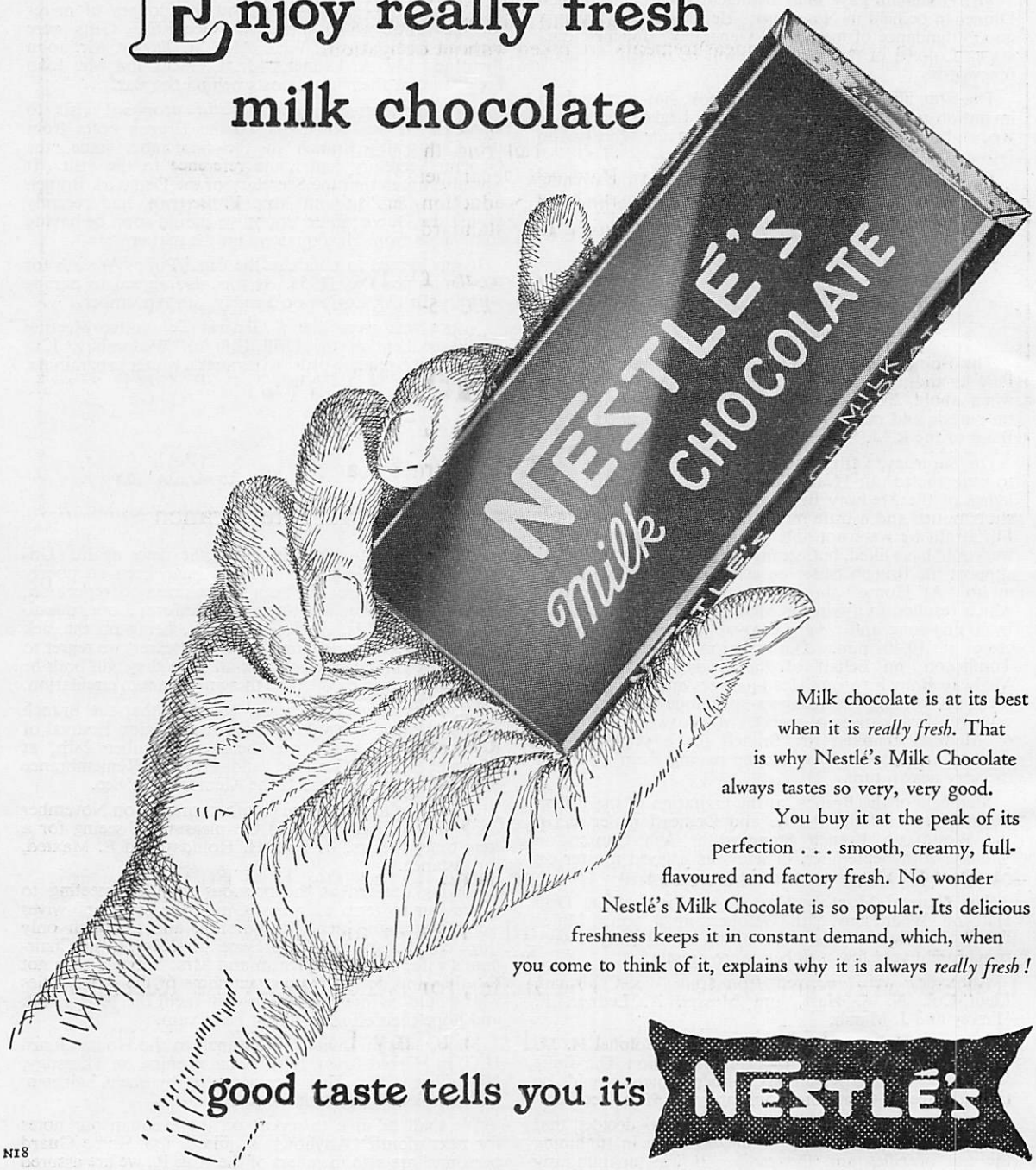
Having decided at the previous monthly meeting to endeavour to form a Ladies' Guild, the members' wives were invited to attend this month, and although only three could manage to be present, Mrs. Breed, the Chairman's wife, and Mrs. Ingram and Mrs. Maxted, they got together and decided to contact some of the other ladies who would be interested. We wish them the best of luck and hope their efforts will not be in vain.

Major Jarman invited the Branch to the Home Guard H.Q. in Harold Road, for a social evening on Thursday, November 17th. This was accepted by the Chairman, with thanks for the invitation.

We shall be able to report on the event in our notes for next month. Anyhow, as quite a few Home Guard personnel are also members of the P. & P., we are assured of a pleasant evening, so here's hoping.

H.I.

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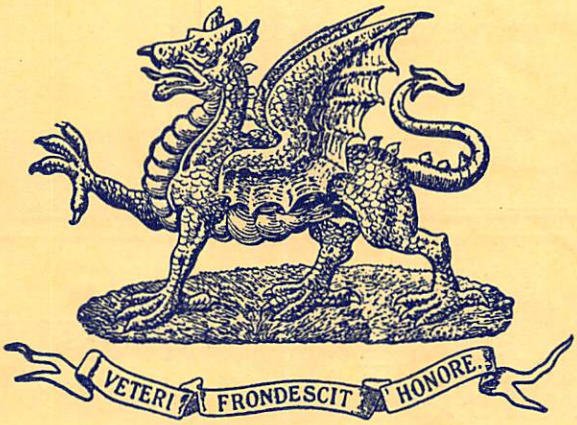
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THE BUFFS (Royal East Kent Regiment)

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

Colonel: Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B.*, *C.B.E.*, 8 Longport, Canterbury

Lieutenant-Colonels

Grace, H. R. ... ... O.C., 1st Bn.

Majors

Jelf, A. G. ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Officer i/c Field Records, FARELF.
Harris-St. John, B. J. ... att Depot
Lewis, P. J. ... ... T/Lt.-Col., M.A., Copenhagen.
Bailey, N. T. ... ... Gold Coast Regt. T.C.
Yates, G. H. A. ... ... att. Depot.
Edlmann, E. L. C., *M.C.* ... 2 IC Chief Instructor Inf. Boys' Bn.
Rawlings, A. C., *M.B.E.* ... Depot C.R.M.P.
Horley, B. M. ... ... H.Q. Northag.
May, J. F., *M.B.E.* ... ... T/Lt.-Col., Ministry of Supply.
Ravenhill, R. A. C. ... 4/5th Bn.
Plumptre, P. B., *M.B.E.* ... 6 Travelling Wing.
Dendy, R. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Majendie, A. E. ... ... R.A.F. Staff College.
Lucas, J. P. ... ... Colonial Prisons, Kenya.
Norris, N. F. H. C. ... 1st Bn.
Crichton, R. F., *M.C.* ... 5 Nigeria Regt.
McGrath, B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Gay, A. W. ... ... East Africa T.C.
Montgomery, D. ... ... O.C. Depot.
Morgan, F. de R., *M.C.* ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q., Malaya.
Poulsen, N. D., *M.B.E.* ... 1st Bn.
Cox, E. G., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Critchley, L. P., *M.B.E.* ... 1st Bn.
Worts, J. B., *M.C.* ... ... 1st Bn.
Court, D. N. ... ... G.S.O. 2, H.Q., E. Africa.
Gordon-Wilson, N. F., *M.B.E.* 3 Bn., Para. Regt.
Nash, J. P. ... ... G.S.O. 2, M.13, War Office.
ffrench Blake, M. A. O'B. ... 27 Bde., Hong Kong.
Iliffe, R. O. ... ... 2 Malay Regt.
Hadshar, G. ... ... D.A.A.G., H.Q., Nigeria Dist.
Dunglinson, W. G. H. ... 1st Bn.

Captains

Semmence, R. G. H. ... 1st Bn.
Barrett, D. P. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dent, J. E. ... ... 4 K.A.R.
MacDonald, E. W. ... ... Leave U.K.
Peckham, A. D. ... ... Leave U.K.
Squire, S. J., *M.B.E.* ... H.Q., East Africa.
Thorneycroft, F. E. ... Depot.
Willows, D. A. ... ... Adjt., 1st Bn.
Wilson, P. F., *D.F.C.* ... 1st Bn
Hamilton, C. M. ... ... Leave U.K.
Gatehouse, H. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Griffin, C. J. ... ... Adjt., 4/5th Bn.
Webber, J. W. ... ... Leave U.K.
Pim, A. H. E. ... ... 2 Gold Coast Regt.
Stratford-Tuke, R. A. F. ... 1st Bn.
Brigstocke, W. F. ... ... 1st Bn Parachute Regt.
French, B. G. J. ... ... 6 K.A.R., E. Africa.
Lees, H. D. ... ... 7 K.A.R., E. Africa.
Grugeon, J. D. ... ... Adjt., Depot.
Mullins, G. O. ... ... Adjt., 3 Bn., Parachute Regt.
Minto, I. G. ... ... 1st Bn.

Lieutenants

West, C. T. F. ... ... Course, U.K.
Ward, M. W. ... ... 1st Bn.
Dracopoli, M. P. St. F. ... Depot.
Tennent, H. C. L. ... ... A.D.C. to G.O.C., H.C.D.
Mitchell, P. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Pilcher, R. A. ... ... 1st Bn.
Baker, R. W. M. ... ... Inf. Boys' Bn.
Rymer-Jones, J. A. ... 3 Bn. Parachute Regt.
Edgecombe, G. J. B. ... 1st Bn.
Davison, J. H. ... ... 1st Bn.
Lunn, J. M. ... ... 1st Bn.

2nd Lieutenants

Lea, R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Williams, R. T. P. ... ... Course, U.K.
Reid, J. D. W. ... ... Course, U.K.

Quartermasters

Watts, E. H. F. ... ... Maj., Depot.
Kille, W. E. ... ... Maj., 1st Bn.
Catt, A. H. ... ... Capt., 4/5th Bn.

Chaplain: Revd. E. W. Evans, C.F.

Medical Officer: Lieut. A. Nisbett, R.A.M.C.

Paymaster: Major B. M. Green, R.A.P.C.

Short Service Commissions

Majors

*Ford, E. N., *M.C.* ... ... Leave, U.K.
Todman, N. E. H. ... ... E. Anglia District.
*Carey, R., *M.C.* ... ... " K.A.R., East Africa
Robertson, R. J. ... ... H.Q., Nigeria District.

Captains

*Elliott, N. ... ... Aldershot District.
*Ransley, E. J., *M.C.* ... 1st Bn.
McGrath, G. A. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
*Fakley, J. F. ... ... P.S.O., H.C.B. Depot.
*Butcher, D. A. T. ... ... East Africa Training Centre.
Marshall, J. V. ... ... Brit. Comm. Div. Korea.

Lieutenants

Barlow, W. B. ... ... Inf. Div. Pro. Coy.
Cross, K. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Kirby, J. A. ... ... Brit. Comm. Div. Korea.
Hicks, E. M. G. ... ... 1st Bn.
Prentice, J. R. ... ... H.C.B. Depot.
Hodges, J. D. ... ... E.R.E., Singapore.
Courtney, M. K. ... ... 23 K A R

2nd Lieutenants

Hardy, J. E. ... ... Depot.
Jakob, F. J. ... ... West Africa.

Quartermasters

Rowcliffe, T. A., Major ... Leave U.K.
Stone, J. H., Major ... B.A.O.R.
Senior, N., Major ... ... H.Q., N.A.G., B.A.O.R.
Corps, J., Capt. ... ... 16 Coy., R.A.S.C.

* Extended Service Officer

National Service Officers

2nd Lieutenants

Shephard, J. N. ... ... 1st Bn.
Bowen, S. ... ... West Africa.
Keene, R. V. ... ... 1st Bn.
Horden, P. J. C. ... ... Depot.
Griffiths, D. W. ... ... 1st Bn.
Redfern, A. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Brice, E. St. J. ... ... 1st Bn.
Hills, A. M. ... ... 1st Bn.
Johnson, B. D. G. ... 1st Bn.
Mabey, R. C. ... ... 1st Bn.
Holmes-Smith, C. ... ... 1st Bn.
Daniel, O. R. ... ... 1st Bn.
Wallace, W. R. D. ... ... 1st Bn.

4/5th Battalion

HON. COLONEL

Col. D. J. Dean, *V.C., T.D., J.P.*, Woodcourt, 1 Park Avenue Sittingbourne, Kent.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

Hews, G. R. D., *M.C., T.D., J P*

MAJORS

Ravenhill, R. A. C.
Alexander, U. H. B., *M.B.E.*
Prestige, J. T. R., *T.D.*
Tilleard, J., *T.D.*
Neville, F. G., *M.C., T.D.*
Plunkett, P. N. P.
Balding, C. E. E.
Cobb, F. D. C., *T D*
(Unattached List)

CAPTAINS

Griffin, C. J. (Adjutant)
Beaumont, M. J. P.
Klean, P. H.

CAPTAINS—*continued*

Morgan, R. J. S., *M.C.*
Kelly, G. D. S.
Usher, J. A.
Anderton, N. G.
Blackbourn, A. H., *T.D.*
Scott, A. J.
Baddeley, W. D.

LIEUTENANTS

Crowdy, R. E. L.
Bennett, R. G.
Nye, R. T.
DePury, J. D.
Whiting, D. A.
Thomas, J. A.
Oliver, C. P.
Morlock, P. J.

N.S. LIST

LIEUTENANTS

Tilley, T. A.
Howland, N. M.
Waterman, R. R.
Taylor, D. C.
Holloway, R. G.
Finn, W. C.
Vallins, J.
Klyberg, C. J.
Turner, G P.

2ND LIEUTENANTS

Robinson, J. P.
Saward, R A
Willey, G T

QUARTERMASTER

Catt, A. H., Capt.

CHAPLAIN

The Revd. R A. S. Roberts

MEDICAL OFFICER

Capt. F. P. Cassidi, R.A.M.C.

Staff and Command

Major-General V. Boucher, *C.B., C.B.E.*	D.M.I. War Office.	Col. (T/Brig.) F. W. B. Parry	Comd. Sierra Leone and Gambia Dis.
Colonel (T/Brig.) M. P. D. Dewar, *M.B.E.*	U.K N.M.R., S.H.A.P.E.	Col. (T/Brig.) R. F. Parry, *M.C.*	Comdg. 3rd Inf. Bde., Arab Legion
Col. (T/Brig.) R. W. Craddock, *C.B.E., D.S.O.*	Brig. A/Q Southern Command.	Col. H. P. Williams, *O.B.E.*	W.O.S.B., Barton Stacey.

Lieut.-Colonels (Employed List)

Lieut.-Col. J. G. Atkinson, *O.B.E.*	C.O. 2 Malay Regt.	Lieut.-Col. (T/Brig.) J. F. Connolly, *D.S.O.*, ..	Commanding 126 (N. Lancs. & Border) Inf Bde., T.A.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

1st Battalion

R.S.M. Turmaine, F.
B.M. Sharpe, T. L.
R.Q.M.S. Rose, J.
C.S.M. Sharman, R.
C.S.M. Champion, R.
C.S.M. Middleton, J.
C.S.M. Ellis, D.
C.S.M. Hannaway, R.
C.S.M. Day, S.
C/Sgt. Partridge, R.
C/Sgt. Denny, S.
C/Sgt. Mannering, D.
C/Sgt. Newman, S.
C/Sgt. Jephcott, H.

C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Mans, W. L. B.
Sgt. Smissen, J.
Sgt. Larkin, F.
Sgt. Lyons, B.
Sgt. Morrish, E.
Sgt. Colyer, A.
Sgt. Simmonds, R.
Sgt. Page, A.
Sgt. Harris, F.
Sgt. Woodrow, V.
Sgt. Histed, W.
Sgt. Cain, D.
Sgt. Wright, R.
Sgt. Wright, J.

Sgt. Townsley, J.
Sgt. Streeter, E.
Sgt. Billett, S.
Sgt. Pooley, L.
Sgt. Edwards, T.
Sgt. Harrison, W.
Sgt. Hansen, T.
Sgt. Lincoln, G.
Sgt. Parker, E.
Sgt. Wagstaff, A.
Sgt. Mills, D.
Sgt. Adams, E.
Sgt. Miller, C.
Sgt. Vaughan, F.

Sgt. Williams, H.
Sgt. Inskip, A.
Sgt. Coppins, P.
Sgt. Pullman, S.
Sgt. Munns, R.
S.Q.M.S. Marsden, C. (R.A.P.C.)
Sgt. Swain, R. (R.A.P.C.)
Sgt. Fletcher, G. (R.A.E.C.)
Sgt. Walker, W. (R.A.E.C.)

Depot The Buffs

R.S.M. White, H.
R.Q.M.S. Howe, W.
C.S.M. Chapman, G.
W.O. II Shilling, R., *B.E.M.*

C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Webb, C.
C.Q.M.S. Stremes, G., *D.F.M.*
C/Sgt. Belcher, E.
C/Sgt. Diamond, R.

Sgt. Laker, J.
Sgt. Bryant, A
Sgt. Ivory, L.
Sgt. Rea, R.

Sgt. Raine, R.
Sgt. Recton, T.
Sgt. Dean, D.
Sgt. Parker

4/5th Battalion (T.A.)

PERMANENT STAFF

R.S.M. Faulkner, G. T.
C.S.M. Fagg, G.
C.S.M. Green, S.
Sgt. Porter, J.
Sgt. Stoakes, A.
Sgt. Kay, M.
Sgt. Bryant, A. F.

R.Q.M.S. Harwood, E.
C.S.M. Chapman, W.
C.S.M. Gabriel, J.
C.S.M. White, R.
C.S.M. Rogers, W.
C.S.M. Antrichan, G.
C/Sgt. Trinkwon, A.
C/Sgt. Couzens, W.
C/Sgt. Chidwick, E.
C/Sgt. Wing, T.
C/Sgt. Figgett, G.
C/Sgt. Bond, E.
Sgt. Bell, J.
Sgt. Hurlow, R.

Sgt. Babbage, W.
Sgt. Wraight, S.
Sgt. James, A.
Sgt. Bass, R.
Sgt. Williams, E.
Sgt. Thundow, W.
Sgt. George, M.
Sgt. Saunders, G.
Sgt. Richardson, H.
Sgt. Cope, H.
Sgt. Hewitt, C.
Sgt. Allen, A.
Sgt. Jones, A.
Sgt. Hughes, C.

Sgt. Rumble, L.
Sgt. Christian, W.
Sgt. Smith, W.
Sgt. Evans, S.
Sgt. Bradford, R.
Sgt. Cozens, L.
Sgt. Dennis, P.
Sgt. Dennis, R.
Sgt. Erridge, D.
Sgt. Stockdale, J.
Sgt. Todd, H.
Sgt. Godley, D.
Sgt. Hayward, A.
Sgt. Cole, L
Sgt. Pottle, A

Regimental Appointments

Chairman: Regimental Committee Executive Committee	Brig. J. G. Nicholson, *C.B.E.*
Administrative Officer—Depot The Buffs Secretary: Canterbury Cricket Week Club Dragon Club Regimental Committee	Lieut.-Col. H. S. Knocker
Curator: Regimental Museum	Lieut.-Col. G. R. Howe
Secretary: Past and Present Association, The Buffs Executive Committee Editor: *The Dragon*	Lieut.-Col. E. V. Argles

The Past and Present Association

Headquarters: DEPOT, THE BUFFS
Telephone: CANTERBURY 4764.

Chairman: BRIGADIER G. J. NICHOLSON, C.B.E.

Secretary: LIEUT.-COL. E. V. ARGLES.

BRANCHES

Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1. 1st Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
2. 4th Bn., The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
3. ASHFORD	Mr. A. Mills	Mr. A. C. Mills, 20 Waterman House, Godfrey Walk, Ashford, Kent.	First Saturday in each month, The Invicta, Godington Road.
4. LONDON	Mr. R. W. Billings	Mr. H. J. Scott, 1 Oxford Road, Carshalton, Surrey.	Third Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster, 7.30 p.m.
5. DOVER	Capt. E. Marsh, M.B.E.	Mr. C. Collins, "Haven", Meadway, Minnis Lane, River, Dover.	First Thursday in each month, "Eagle Hotel", London Road, Dover, 7.45 p.m.
6. WEALD	Col. E. B. Burns, T.D.	Mr. H. D. Day, 3 Pittlesden, Tenterden.	HAWKHURST SUB-AREA. Third Thursday in each month, British Legion House, Hawkhurst, 7.45 p.m.
7. MEDWAY	Mr. F. J. Cox	Mr. H. A. J. Brand, 83 Delce Road, Rochester.	Third Saturday in each month, The Two Brewers, High Street, Rochester, 8 p.m.
8. SITTINGBOURNE	Col. D. J. Dean, V.C., T.D.	Capt. C. A. Grant, The Firs, Key Street, Sittingbourne.	First Friday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, 7.30 p.m.
9. RAMSGATE	Mr. C. F Fakley	Mr. B. E. Knott, 27 Wilfred Road, Ramsgate	Third Friday in each month, Freemason's Tavern, Ramsgate, 8 p.m.
10. MARGATE	Mr. B. H. Breed	Mr. J. H. Shakeshaft, 14 Alexandra Road, Broadstairs	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, Hawley Square, 8 p.m.
11. HYTHE	Mr. J. T. J. Green	Mr. H. Thompson, 4 Hillside Court, Hythe	Last Wednesday in each month, The Star, Stade Street, 7.30 p.m.
12. CANTERBURY	Lt.-Col. E. J. Evans	Major B. R. Chambers, 59 Hillside Avenue, Canterbury Canterbury 5118	Fourth Friday in each month, Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury, 8 p.m.
13. HERNE BAY	Mr. H. Davey	Mr. A. Trice, 23 Queen's Gardens, Herne Bay	Second Monday in each month, British Legion Club, May Lodge, 8 p.m.
14. FOLKESTONE	Major A. A. West	Mr. H. Fordred, 36 Fernbank Crescent, Folkestone.	Second Friday in each month, Guildhall Hotel, 8 p.m.
15. SANDWICH	Major F. W. Tomlinson	Mr. H. Taylor, 19 Paradise Row, Sandwich.	First Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, 8 p.m.
16. FAVERSHAM	Capt. J. Green	Mr. R. C. Croucher, 10 Glebe Houses, Eastling, Faversham.	First Monday in each month, Carpenters Arms, Eastling, 7.30 p.m.
17. BRIGHTON.		Major H. Milton, 118 Queens' Road, Brighton.	Second Monday in each month, R.E. Record Social Club, The College, Ditchling Road, Brighton, 8 p.m.
18. DENMARK	Major O. Lippmann	Mr. P. Berendt, Ostergade 22, Copenhagen K.	First Monday in each month.

The Association exists to foster Comradeship and to give a helping hand to those in distress.
Membership is open to all who are serving or who have served in The Buffs.
Subscription rates are:—

Life Membership: Officers £2. Other Ranks £1.
Annual Membership: Officers 5/-. Other Ranks 2/6.
Entrance Fee: 1/-.

LADIES' GUILD

President: MRS. V. BOUCHER

Branch	*Chairman*	*Secretary*	*Meeting Dates and Places*
1. LONDON	Mrs. L. Coley	Mrs. J. Tucker, 12 Chestnut Close, Oakwood, London, N.14.	First Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, S.W.1, 6.30 p.m.
2. DOVER	Mrs. J. Crookenden, J.P.	Mrs. Wraight, 93 Markland Road, Dover.	First Thursday in each month, Belgrave Hall, Belgrave Road, Dover. 3 p.m.
3. FOLKESTONE	Mrs. Coote	Mrs. Kay Mantell, 5 Page Place, Folkestone.	Every other Wednesday, Drill Hall, Shellons Street, Folkestone, 3.30 p.m.
4. MEDWAY	Mrs. King Holt	Mrs. W. T. Brooker, 67 Malvern Road, Gillingham, Kent.	Fourth Tuesday in each month, Foresters' Hall, King Street, Gillingham, 2.30 p.m.
5. SITTINGBOURNE	Mrs. M. E. Dean	Mrs. J. Ravensdale, 10 Railway Terrace, Sittingbourne.	Third Wednesday in each month, Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne, 6.45 p.m.

CHRISTMAS FARE



Christmas-time, the season of rejoicing, is traditionally celebrated around the party table. Wherever these festivities may be held, their success will depend upon the fare provided. Make sure that your table is bountifully laid with the best of good things by ordering your supplies from Naafi. Wherever you may be, Naafi has available a splendid variety of Christmas Fare, of an exciting excellence. Be in good time—place your order with Naafi today.

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Christmas Messages

From: THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

ONCE more I am delighted to send Christmas and New Year greetings to all ranks of The Buffs, past and present, and to their families.

It has been a great year for the Regiment and those who were privileged to attend the ceremonies of early May, at which the 1st Battalion received new Colours from the Colonel-in-Chief and the old Colours found an honourable resting place in the Warriors' Chapel, will have lived a page of Regimental history.

Since then the 1st Battalion has moved to Germany and has already gained glowing reports for their performance in several major exercises. The Branches of the Past and Present Association flourish and the readership of *The Dragon* is showing an encouraging increase.

This, therefore, seems an appropriate place and time to send a special message to those who work, unrecognised and without reward, behind the scenes to make all our activities a success. There are those who look after our sporting activities; who serve the Museum with such loving care; who organise Branch and Ladies' Guild functions; who visit the sick; who report our doings in *The Dragon*. And a host of others.

They make of us a family and unless a Regiment functions as a family, it does not function at all. May all members of our family enjoy this coming Christmas and enter the New Year resolved to serve the Regiment more faithfully still.

V. BOUCHER,
Colonel of The Buffs.

* * *

From: BRIGADIER J. G. NICHOLSON, C.B.E.

A very full and memorable year in our Regimental life is about to end as I send this message of Christmas greetings and good wishes for 1956 to all members of the Past and Present Association. The majority of those who played the major part in the year's events—Officers and men of the 1st Battalion—are once again serving overseas. We think particularly of them at this time, and look forward to the day of their return with their duties overseas well and resolutely performed.

I am sure that I speak for all members of the Association in sending a special message of good wishes this Christmas to the Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs. Boucher before their departure for Washington early in the New Year. We shall greatly miss them both, and we take this opportunity to wish them all success and happiness during their stay with our American friends.

Editorial

VETERI FRONDESCIT HONORE. Another eventful year has been added to Regimental history. May 9th and 10th will for ever be remembered by those who were privileged to see that wonderful ceremony and parade by the 1st Battalion, and the beautiful service in the Cathedral. The 1st Battalion are making further history in Germany, learning the new type warfare. The Band joined our friends in Denmark during the Tattoo in Copenhagen, and cemented even more firmly our associations with that country.

* * *

It is pleasant to record an increase in the number of new members of the Past and Present Association during the last two months. Most of them have joined during their recruit service at the Depot, and we extend to them a very hearty welcome. In due course, we shall hope to hear that they are taking an active interest in the affairs of their local branches.

* * *

There is also an increase in the circulation of *The Dragon*, which we hope will continue to grow. May we, in this connection, make a plea to our contributors and Sub-Editors to send us copy a little earlier? It takes some three weeks to produce each *Dragon* from the time the first contributions go to press to the time readers receive their journal. We always like to receive copy by the last day of a month for the following month's issue. In many cases, this does not arrive until the middle of the month of issue, with a consequent rush to get the journal made up and distributed. We are content to leave these thoughts with all those who contribute, and we thank all our kind friends for their work over the past year.

* * *

Once again, we express to our printers, Messrs. Gibbs and Sons, our thanks for their co-operation.

* * *

The recent dinner of the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men, at which Lord Cornwallis, Lord Lieutenant of the County, presided, was given in honour of the Army. The Colonels of our two County Regiments were the chief guests. Majors Montgomery and Waring, respective Depot Commanders, were also guests of the Association.

We have, as usual, during 1955 received the journals of many of our contemporaries. We make due acknowledgement, and assure them that their journals are appreciated.

* * *

We welcome the news that the Canterbury Branch will sponsor the inaugural meeting of their Ladies' Guild on Saturday, 7th January, 1956, at 3 p.m., when the Colonel of the Regiment, accompanied we hope by Mrs. Boucher, will take the Chair.

* * *

Finally, we wish all our friends a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

* * *

Personalia

VERY many congratulations and good wishes to Captain and Mrs. J. W. Webber on their marriage. The bride's father and brother each took part in the service. Captain Webber will be joining the 1st Battalion in the New Year. He wishes to thank very sincerely his brother officers for the lovely silver cigarette box which he and his wife will always treasure.

* * *

Our congratulations, also, to Mrs. Peter Lewis (*née* Elizabeth Jackson) on her marriage.

* * *

Also to Lieut.-Col. H. L. Cremer on being appointed Vice-Chairman of the Kent T. & A.F.A.

* * *

Brigadier M. P. D. Dewar has taken up his appointment with S.H.A.P.E., and we wish him and Mrs. Dewar a very happy time in France. Their address is: U.K.N.M.R., S.H.A.P.E., B.F.P.O.6.

* * *

A propos our congratulations last month to Dr. Paul Cassidi, Major Tomlinson reminds us that whilst still at Rugby Dr. Cassidi was one of the first volunteer diggers when the Roman excavations were begun in Canterbury. With him were Anthony Mauduit, Michael Rose, Trevor Andrews, Colonel G. R. Howe and Mrs. Whitacre Allen, as well as others not connected with the Regiment.

* * *

We are sorry to learn that Mrs. Friend is in St. Thomas's Hospital, London, for treatment and may even be there over Christmas.

Major-General H. de R. Morgan and Mrs. Morgan were staying at Canterbury with the Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs. Boucher in the middle of November.

* * *

It appears that there is to be quite a gathering of old officers and their belongings on Christmas Day at the County Hotel, Canterbury.

* * *

It was pleasant to meet Major C. S. Field in these parts when he was staying with Colonel and Mrs. Crookenden, early in December.

* * *

Colonel R. E. Power and Mrs. Power, both very fit, were heard of during November at Brecon and Ledbury; they are now back at Dorchester.

* * *

A very welcome visitor recently to the Depot was Lt. W. R. Westfall of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. 2/Lieut. R. Lea brought him for the week-end from Aldershot, where they are both on a P.T. Course.

* * *

We congratulate Bandmaster T. L. Sharpe on his success in the p.s.m. examination at Kneller Hall.

* * *

MARRIAGES

WEBBER—MAUNDRELL.—On November 26th at St. Mary's Church, Walmer, by the Rev. W. H. Maundrell, R.N. (Retd.), assisted by the Rev. W. D. Maundrell and the Rev. H. Maynard, Vicar, Captain James William Webber to Rosemary Evelyn Maundrell.

* * *

LEWIS—JACKSON.—On 21st November, 1955, at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Lambeth, Peter Lewis to Elizabeth, elder daughter of Colonel J. V. R. Jackson and Mrs. Jackson.

* * *

DEATH

MARTIN.—On November 19th in London, Emily Agnes Martin, widow of Captain R. W. Martin, The Buffs, of Doon, 20 Woodville Road, Bexhill.

* * *

Blazer Badges

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1st Battalion



THE main event of the month of November took place on the 23rd when the Colonel of the Regiment managed to break away from an official tour of B.A.O.R. and spend the whole day with the Battalion. Despite the efforts of the Wuppertal weather, which consists of dense fog and a freezing cold drizzle at this time of the year, the Colonel was able to carry out his full programme.

He arrived at Keightley barracks with the Commanding Officer just after 11 o'clock and inspected the Headquarter Guard, which in the opinion of the writer of these notes, was in both drill and turn out a worthy guard for the Colonel. From the guard to a small parade of "Battalion V.I.P.s" where he met the 2 i/c, Major Noel Norris, the Quartermaster, the Adjutant, and the Regimental Sergeant-Major. This was followed by a visit to the Battalion Chapel, accompanied by Walter Evans.

The next item was a brief meeting with all Officers in the hall of Battalion Headquarters, before he adjourned to the Sergeants' Mess to be greeted by all members and their wives.

Before lunching in the Commanding Officer's house, the Colonel paid a visit to the Officers' Mess where the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion The Suffolk Regiment, Major Malling of the Danish Forces and Captain Moore of The Suffolk Regiment were guests for a pre-lunch drink.

At 3 o'clock the main event of the day took place when the Battalion, with the Regimental Colour on parade, greeted the Colonel with a General Salute followed by an inspection and march past. Unfortunately the weather broke as soon as the parade formed up, which forced the Colonel to carry out a very quick inspection and forgo talking to the number of men on parade with whom he would have liked to have spoken. The Colonel expressed his opinion of the standard of the parade as extremely good, considering the foul conditions under which it was carried out.

After the parade he visited the Battalion boxing team in the Gymnasium, followed by meeting the Corporals and their wives in the Corporals' Club.

It was at this point that he finished his programme in barracks. It had been a memorable day that had given him the opportunity of seeing the Battalion in its new home and a great pleasure to us all having him amongst us for a whole day, particularly when we realise that he is an extremely busy man, who is only able to spend a day with us by increasing the pressure of his work during other days of his B.A.O.R. tour.

During the early part of the evening the Commanding Officer and Mrs. Grace very kindly gave a small party for all married Officers and their wives at their house so that the wives were able to meet the Colonel. Unfortunately the civil authorities were in the process of digging up the road, making the final approach an obstacle course. One wife, due no doubt to long and soft living at the Depot, failed to negotiate the course and took a smart dive into a large hole between the tram lines!

After a very good party the husbands departed for the Officers' Mess where an excellent dinner was held in honour of the Colonel; the Band was in attendance and played its usual delightful music. The proceedings warmed up considerably after the loyal toasts, when a portion of a G.S. chair found its way into the Colonel of the Regiment's hands from where it was smartly cast to the far end of the table scoring a direct hit on a coffee cup. The P.M.C., Peter Wilson, and Bill Kille were heard to say, "Note him down for barrack damages." A delightful evening continued until a late hour, when the Colonel finally took his leave. This ended a very enjoyable visit and let us hope that the Colonel of the Regiment will be able to come again before he departs for America next year.

We welcome back to the Battalion Majors Richard Dendy and family, hot foot from the Depot, and Geoffery Cox. We hope the latter's family will have arrived and settled in by the time these notes are in print. We also welcome Lieut. Alistair Nisbett, R.A.M.C., our new doctor, who has already made his mark with some admirable playing on his Banjo; we feel that, if he doctors as well as he plays, we need have no worries when taken ill! Another new arrival is 2/Lieut. Jim Shepherd, a candidate for a Regular Commission who will be with us for a few months; a warm welcome to him.

A short word of praise to all the Battalion sports teams for their excellent performances during the month in the various B.A.O.R. Competitions. The standards in B.A.O.R. are extremely high and it brings great credit on the organisers and on the spirit of those taking part for doing so well in their first season.

To conclude, it is noted from last month's editorial that a description of a "Machine Gun Concentration" is required. It appears that this is a highly dangerous form of sport where the spectators are grouped in the centre while Machine Guns from afar fire not only along the flanks but also over the heads of the spectator group!!

* * *

BATTALION ORDERLY ROOM

Most of the past month has been spent in trying to make people believe that we do some work. Unfortunately nobody seems to believe us, yet.

The Admin. is almost upon us. The C.O.'s Inspection has just gone round the corner. So far there have been no big flaps—wait until the 6th December. Something is sure to be missing.

Owing to three people being on leave during November, certain members of our Staff have had slightly more work to do than usual. Now these three poor unfortunate wretches are back while the remainder of us are eagerly looking forward to our leave.

Our pet ghost, Spooky Joe, mentioned in October's *Dragon*, has just about got used to us now. We hardly ever hear him, thank goodness.

We have certainly had our share of representatives in Battalion Sport. Pte. "Mick" Small and Pte. "Bulldozer" Westover are regular members of the Soccer and Rugby teams respectively. Pte. Florence, who, along with Pte. Watts, is one of our new members, is a member of the Hockey team. At the moment, the Staff are combined in one great effort to make C/Sgt. Mans join the Boxing team.

We have played one football match to date, a seven-a-side game, against the Pay Corps. Although we lost by 9 goals to 5, it was certainly a most enjoyable game.

We were very sorry to lose Pte. "Fred" Kemp, who left us for "B" Company. We wish him all the best. Pte. "Sam" Weller, our NAAFI runner, has left us for the Motherland and Civvy Street. We wish him every success.

Congratulations are due to L/Cpl. "Pony" Moore on his promotion. We also congratulate Pte. Small on being selected for the M.D.C. He knows where there is no work to be done.

Pte. Small and Cpl. "Flapper" Nicholls are really getting "Demob Happy", especially the latter. He can be seen sitting in Room 21 either reading books, writing letters or eating apples.

Not far behind these two now come Pte. "Porky" Pearson and Pte. Westover.

* * *

"A" COMPANY

Although the last month cannot be described as an exciting one, looking back it is clear that quite a lot has taken place. On the training side we have had our eyes very much on the Annual Administrative Inspection which takes place early next month and so quite some time has been devoted to administrative matters. However, we have also managed to get out of the barrack rooms as well in spite of a lot of damp, coldish weather. Shooting, marches, map reading exercises and not forgetting the drill parades have filled in a lot of the time.

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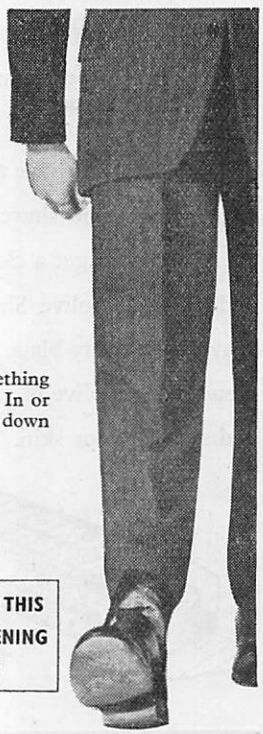
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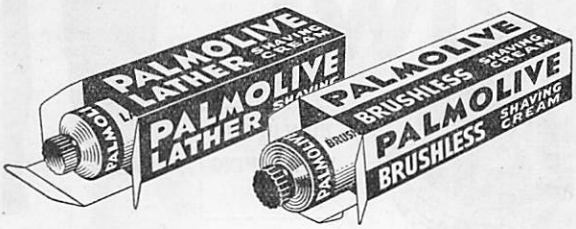
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From: Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,
K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., M.A., J.P.
Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee

To: All Serving in Her Majesty's Forces

Subject: SAVE WHILE YOU SERVE

You may say that you find it hard enough to save in "Civvy Street" so how on earth can you do so in the Services? However, if you think about it seriously there is no better time to start—if you haven't already done so. Every unit in all the services "lays on" National Savings facilities and the Unit Savings Officer will be only too pleased to help would-be savers.

I recently retired after many years in the Royal Air Force. I know how valuable a service Forces Savings is giving to both Regulars and National Service personnel, and no matter where you may be stationed you can save a bit from your pay if you want to do so. I also commend Forces Savings for mention by parents and friends to young men who are going into the Services (*and* to young women too, as in the Women's Services there are some of our best savers!)

We have an excellent series of leaflets (shown above) which tell, in simple language, all about Forces Savings. Why not write for a copy of the one which applies. Address your letter to me:—

Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,
H.M. Forces Savings Committee.
1 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

Issued by H.M. Forces Savings Committee

A visit to the museum and armoury at Schlossburg proved popular and interesting and very rightly was classified as educational training.

Sporting activities have been a prominent feature this month and we have had a fair representation in the Battalion teams. 2/Lieuts. Edward Brice, Richard Daniel and Pte. Tolley were chosen to play for the Battalion in the Rugger Championship match against the 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers. Pte. Tolley was due home for release on the day of the match, but fortunately the M.O. declared him unfit to travel! He played an excellent game. Sgt. Page and Pte. Dady both won their bouts in the first round of the boxing against the 2nd Battalion The Scots Guards. Ptes. Fallows, Meldrum and Corrigan also boxed for the Battalion in a friendly match against our neighbours, the 1st Battalion The Suffolk Regiment. Pte. Vant, our Company Clerk, represented the Battalion in a friendly cross-country run against the 1st Battalion The Scots Guards; he did very well to come in fourth. The Company football team, ably led by Cpl. Pollard, has had its successes. We beat "C" Company 3—2 in a very good game and the Signal Platoon was trounced 6—1.

On the personnel side, there have been the usual comings and goings. Ptes. Tolley and Gardiner have returned home to be released and we wish them the best of good fortune in their futures. They were both with the Company in Kenya and neither will be quickly forgotten. Gardiner cooked for the Company for quite a while and his stews undoubtedly attributed to his fame. Tolley was seldom seen without his camera, which he used on every possible occasion. His photo album should be most interesting. We have had to provide a number of people for "D" Company, the recently formed fourth rifle company. Cpl. Miles, L/Cpl. Francis, L/Cpl. Stone and Ptes. Adcock, Baldwin, Harding and Prior are the older members who were transferred, also accompanying them were the twelve men from "S" Company who had only come to us a few weeks ago. Pte. Harrison, who was left behind in Dover in hospital with appendicitis, has rejoined us; also Pte. Humphreys, who was with the Company in Dover, has rejoined us from the M.T. Our Second-in-Command, Lieut. Eric Hicks, has again been away on one of his jaunts, this time for three weeks on attachment to the French Army in Germany. We expect to hear some great tales when he returns. Cpl. Marsh has just left us for a job at Field Records. We are sorry to see him go and are sure that he will do extremely well there.

* * *

"B" COMPANY

This month saw a radical change in scene, for the platoons were reorganised on a three-platoon basis—atom bombs having been put in store for the winter. Besides inter-platoon changes, fifteen very precious men left us to help form the new "D" Rifle Company.

Sad as we were at this loss, yet another decrease was to come when 2/Lieut. C. Holmes-Smith left us after a short but valuable stay, also to "D" Company. Lastly, 2/Lieut. P. J. C. Hordern has returned to England to take up a post at the Depot. Our loss is most certainly the Depot's gain, and we wish him every success in his new work.

The spirit still survives, however, and at soccer the Company was successful against "B" Company, 1st Battalion R.U.R., beating them 8—7. Pride comes before a fall, and, alas! on meeting "B" Company, 1st Suffolks, we lost 7—1. Congratulations to L/Cpl. Wilson, who has won both his fights, boxing for the Battalion. We wish him luck, and have no doubts that he will carry on the good work.

Main emphasis this month has been on education, and of the 14 who took the examination, 11 passed. Hearty congratulations to all of you. The work progresses, and 16 more take their third class examination on December 2nd. To them and to our Sergeants taking 2nd Class, we offer our best wishes for their success.

Capt. Semmence is away studying for his Captain to Major examination, and we look forward to seeing him again shortly, together with a vast store of knowledge, to confound his examiners. Likewise L/Cpl. Beer, at the moment on a cadre course, on return, no doubt, to ably impart his earnings to an enthusiastic No. 6 Platoon.

2/Lieut. R. Lee will be back with us at the end of December, just in time to enjoy the Christmas festivities. Our "professional course taker", we hear, is doing well, and he too we look forward to seeing again. In the words of one of the Company, "We're a highly edificated crowd".

November 19th—HUSH!—the Commanding Officer is coming. PHEW!—he has gone, and we breathe again. This was "Much Ado About Something"—the something being the C.O.'s Inspection, prior to the Annual Inspection, which is yet to come. The order of the day for three days previous was all contained in one word—"Bull".

Wednesday the 23rd, and we were privileged to have with us Major-General Boucher. We with a few others formed No. 2 Guard on the parade which took place that afternoon.

Don't forget—we are, as always, on the ball.

* * *

"C" COMPANY

How do you spell "Supralapsanarianism"? I don't! Ever.

On two occasions last month parties visited the ancient and historic fortress of Schlossburg, situated conveniently close to Wuppertal. 2/Lieut. Redfern conducted one of these parties and has very kindly allowed us to reprint an extract from his diary, which he hopes will be published shortly. We argue with him wholeheartedly and air the wish—"the shorter the better".

This enormous fortress was built in 1133 by a character named Graf Adolf I, and since then until 1918 has been the home of the various governing families controlling the greater part of modern Germany. It was the home of the Kaiser until he was finally defeated in 1918. It was opened to the public—a process in Germany consisting of building pubs in every available space within walls—a scheme which would look odd in the Tower of London, but which has its points.

There is a magnificent collection of weapons ranging from Elizabethan muskets that are about as heavy, as imposing and as useless as mediaeval cannon to an army issue .38, and including everything from a blunderbuss to a Frontier Model .45 Colt. In what is advertised as the torture chamber, one peers through a small window at an imposing daub of red on the wall. The gruesome effect is lessened when one looks more closely to find similar splashes of green and yellow indicating not that Germans had strange-coloured blood, but that it has been used as a convenient palette by a progressive interior decorator.

The chapel has ceased to hold services owing to its being used for what the *Sunday Pictorial* would probably describe as Black Magic in 1945. It is adorned by what must be one of the biggest brass chandeliers in the world, which Pte. Sheppard is very glad he does not have to clean.

Schlossburg is very well worth a visit both for the attractions already advertised and also for the wonderful collection of armour, paintings, coins and furniture that it contains and for the fact that it commands what must be one of the finest views in Germany.

The results of the 3rd Class Education Examination held in early October have come through. 45 sat for the examination and 33 passed. Whether this was because of the brilliant instruction by 2/Lieut. Hardy, 2/Lieut. Redfern and Cpl. Clarke or because of the latent genius of the candidates is debatable. But to the successful candidates and instructors alike, congratulations.

During the recent Battalion Rugger match, Pte. Coate was mauled by a somewhat ungentlemanly opponent, who very nearly tore his ear off. So in the words of Cpl. Clarke, who asked where Pte. Coate was, reply—"He's not 'ear' any more!".

P.E. Tests are once again looming before us—a shudder of horror and fer swept through the Platoon Commander's room when told all ranks under 35 would attend. Such was the impact of this dreaded news, that the 2 i/c arose from his chair without even glancing at his mug of freshly-made tea and was last seen heading towards the Mess, a broken man, and muttering to himself, "A mug of brandy, a mug of brandy!". Not so the person who inh bits the Company Commander's office who, chuckling with glee, somewhat reminiscent of Bluebottle, promptly proceeded to inset "Practice P.E. Tests" in six periods of next week's training programme. However, we acknowledge his victory as a fair one as we know that he could give another ten years and still be well above the age limit.

On Wednesday, 16th November, 1955, the Company played a soccer match against a squadron team from R.A.F. Wahn. We lost 3—5. Ptes. Thirkell and Povey played their usual good game. Pte. Gould, returning to the team after sickness and leave, played skilfully and vigorously. It was a very good afternoon and we hope shortly to make a trip to Wahn and have our revenge.

In closing, we say farewell to Mr. Hardy, on being posted to the Depot after nine months' service under the red flag, and also to Cpl. Barnard and thirteen others who were transferred to "D" Company.

* * *

"D" COMPANY

The advent of a new company in the Battalion certainly calls for some mention. During the first few hectic days of its being formed, controlled chaos rapidly gave way to composed order under the guiding rule of Major E. G. Cox, M.C., and C.S.M. Sharman. The former, recently returned to the Battalion from the Officers' School, Royal Marines, Lympstone, Devon, set about the difficult task of organising his new company with a calm, deliberate throughness which soon began to pay dividends. C.S.M. Sharman and the company clerks, working as an established team, imported lock, stock and barrel from the disbanded "S" Company, worked each day and practically every evening with increasing energy, producing innumerable books, files and returns from a jumbled mass of information and documents. Their efforts also paid dividends and now the Company Commander and his staff can quite confidently face up to the hazards of the impending annual administrative inspection.

The extreme shortage of N.C.O.'s and officers in the Company further served to make the task of controlling and occupying the members of the platoons more difficult. A solitary subaltern, in the name of 2/Lieut. A. M. Hills, took over No. 13 Platoon, consisting largely of former members of the old Anti-Tank Platoon with whom he has some previous acquaintance, having until recently commanded that worthy band for a short while.

Sgt. Cribben, whom we welcome back to the Battalion after a tour with the Royal Fusiliers, found himself in sole charge of No. 14 Platoon, consisting to a considerable degree of men from "B" Company. To fortify himself, he has volunteered to attend a Christian Leadership Course. His short absence coincided with the arrival of 2/Lieut. C. Holmes-Smith, whose slight frame and quiet manner deceptively hide his prowess on the Rugger field, which has led in the past to his playing for the Harlequins and more recently for the Division.

The members of No. 15 Platoon are to be seen "Getting a big rift" with the newly arrived Sgt. Wilson close on their heels. He was indeed a welcome addition to the Company's strength.

Thus the activities of the Company have been confined very largely to settling down, with little time left for concentrated training or sport. The new month should see us well and truly stuck into these activities, with, we trust, good results.

Some of our number have been regularly called upon to represent the Battalion in a wide range of sporting activities. Of these, C.S.M. Sharman and Sgt. Cribben confine themselves to .22 shooting with considerable success, Pte. Surridge of the Company Office to Cross-Country Running, and 2/Lieuts. Hills and Holmes-Smith to Rugger and Hockey.

We are due shortly to lose that capable figure C.Q.M.S. Anderson. We shall miss his artistic talents when compiling new notices for the Company board, but wish him every success in his forthcoming task as an instructor at Eaton Hall O.C.S. Taking over from him we welcome Sgt. Vaughan from the M.T. and wish him a long and successful stay in the Company.

With the next issue of *The Dragon* we hope to be able to report good progress and more interesting events.

* * *

TRAINING COMPANY

Since our last notes, "S" Company and "D" (Training) Company have both ceased to exist. The former has been designated "The Training Company" and now includes the remaining Support Platoons and also the Training Wing, and is managed by the old "D" (Training) Company Staff. The latter is now known as "D" Company and is the fourth Rifle Company in the Battalion. Our task in the Training Company has changed little. We now have an additional commitment both on the Training and Administrative side in respect of the 3-in. Mortar Platoon, M.M.G. Platoon and Assault Pioneer Section, all of which come under our wing. The last three weeks have been somewhat hectic and our resources have been strained to the limit. In addition to a move from one barrack block to another, an increase in our strength of over one hundred, we have been training a draft from the Depot and running an N.C.O.'s Cadre. Just to add to this and make sure that we were fully occupied, there have been a number of preliminary inspections by the Commanding Officer in preparation for the Annual Admin. Inspection.

Well, at this juncture I must close these notes as we are expecting a visit from the Commanding Officer to inspect our offices any minute.

* * *

W.O.'S AND SERGEANTS' MESS

"What can I write?" With despair in his voice that was the answer given by the author when the privilege of writing this month's contribution was handed to him. So very little has happened that isn't covered by other notes that really it is far from being a privilege to write this month. However, I dare say that I'll have someone breathing fire down my neck if I don't jot down something.

1st Battalion Basket Ball Team



Cpl. Gornal, Sgt. Fletcher, C.S.M. Ellis, C/Sgt. Partridge, S/Sgt. Jarrett,
L/c. Fisher, Pte. Stevens, Sgt. Mills, Cpl. Palmieri, Sgt. Colyer.

The highlight, of course, of this month's events has been the long-awaited visit of the Colonel of the Regiment. Just before lunch, when all the members had gathered with their wives, the Colonel of the Regiment came into the Mess and had a little chat with quite a few of us and, I think I can say with all honesty, all of the wives. It was quite a happy occasion for all concerned.

As is usual, there have been the odd arrivals, both from other units. Sgt. "Jug" Wilson has been, at last, thrown out of the Depot, and Sgt. Cribben, after years of hiding, has arrived from H.Q. Northag. A fine pair of incorrigibles those! Sgts. Lockwood and Rodmell, both new members, have made their marks already. Still, the lot of them are very welcome and the latter have our congratulations. Since his arrival, Sgt. Cribben, after an initial blaze of glory at the bar, has been on a Christian Leadership Course and, according to "Jug" Wilson, has shown a very sudden change of temperament. Perhaps, after all remarks have been passed, there is something in these courses.

By the time the next issue of *The Dragon* comes out we shall have lost two of the older hands, namely C/Sgt. Anderson and Sgt. "Isca" Wright. Andy is going to the Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School as a Small Arms Instructor and "Isca" is off to the wilds of Kent as a P.S.I. with the 4/5th Battalion. They should both be O.K., but somehow I've a feeling that at least one of them will want to be back in the Battalion again after the steady life in England.

Surmise has turned into fact with the lamented passing of Ted Morrish's car. Obviously there was a basis of fact in the rumour that Ted had the recovery vehicle following him whenever he went out. He didn't want to get stuck somewhere.

What else can I say now? Anyway, the offer mentioned in our previous notes is still open, although so far we haven't had any takers, but none of us have given up yet. Until the usual scribe does his job next month then . . . .

* * *

SPORTS SUPPLEMENT

This, the first of what is hoped will be a regular contribution to the Mess Notes, is intended to show the reader that in the field of sport; with the training season behind us, sport plays an important part in our lives; the Mess members are keen participants and a force to be reckoned with.

In the Battalion Soccer Knock-out Competition, the final of which is yet to be played, the Mess XI reached the semi-finals. Details of these matches have already been related in previous contributions.

Before departing from the Soccer field, it is perhaps worthwhile to note that there is considerable talent in the Mess and the reader can expect to have more news in the not-too-distant future. The Battalion Soccer XI are having a lean time; it must be the first time for a decade that the Sergeants' Mess have not been represented. It may be significant. I leave that to the judgement of the reader.

At basket-ball the Mess are well to the fore, due no doubt to the influence of Ricki Jarrett, our D.C.R.E. Clerk of Works, who represented B.A.O.R. two seasons ago. Two or three hours' practice every day is already showing dividends. Records to date: Games played 3, of which 2 have been won. You can expect to read plenty about these "Globe Trotters" in future and as six of the team play for the Battalion, who already have an impressive record, "Write-ups" will not be confined to these supplements. A photograph of the Battalion basket-ball team appears in this issue.

What of the future? The Battalion cross-country team at present managed by "Wings" Colyer, will be co-opting the services of our caterer, Ernie Streeter, who, many older readers will remember, "has done a bit in his time". "Legs" Partridge was to have been a starter, and a few weeks ago was to be seen training conscientiously. He is now devoting all his time to basket-ball.

In the noble art of "fisticuffs" we can boast a representative in the form of Bob Page, a good bantam in his time, who will be in the red corner when the Battalion meets the 2nd Battalion The Scots Guards in the second round of the Army Team Championships in a few days' time. Bob was on leave when the Battalion met the Suffolk Regiment in an inter-regimental contest last week. We hope he gets back fighting fit.

At shooting we have not been able to go ahead with our plans and both full-bore and .22 shoots have not yet materialised; blame lack of ranges and conditions. We shall, however, go ahead with plans for .22 Silver Spoons Competition this month. Ambitious and attractive, it is hoped that all members will participate.

More Sports News next month.

SPORTSMAN.

* * *

CORPORALS' MESS

Well, things are getting on now and we have really got going at last with social events. We are now in the process of arranging everything for the Corporals' Social Evening which takes place on the 9th December, and if things go according to plan, then it should be a very pleasant evening.

We regret to announce the retiring from the Regiment of Cpl. Bates, who has been with the Regiment for many years, but we wish him all success in civilian life. We also say "Good-bye" to Cpl. Goodwell, who has left and is missed by all as a comedian, but we again wish him all success in civilian life. Leave is in full swing now and there are many faces absent from the Mess, including that of Cpl. Mahoney, whose absence is missed by there being fewer empty glasses when the Mess closes.

* * *

M.T. SECTION

The M.T. Section has completely changed hands during the last month or so. Capt. Gatehouse has now taken over from Capt. Barrett; Sgt. Colyer has stepped lightly into Sgt. Vaughan's shoes, and together they burn much midnight oil trying to make their views understood by one another. They seem to be having a certain amount of success. We also have an Assistant M.T.O., although what he does we are not quite sure. However, there continues to be a stream of angry wives standing on our doorstep wondering why their transport has not turned up. Capt. Barrett has now gone to a lorried infantry brigade H.Q. to be their G.S.O.3; Sgt. Vaughan is in the process of becoming C/Sgt. of "D" Company; and Cpl. Bates has left us to be a civilian. We wish them all the best of luck.

NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

½ TON SECTION

Congratulations to Cpl. Morgan on his good result on a course at Bordon. He only returned to the Section for one day, and had hardly put his feet down, when he was transferred to the 3-ton Section for a week to carry out AB 406's, while Cpl. Cotton took a week off for education.

We are glad to welcome three new drivers to the Section—L/Cpl. Penny, Ptes. Shapland and Marshall. They have just passed out from a driving course. When one was asked if he had checked the oils on the vehicle he was taking over, he replied, "Yes, I have checked the engine oil and gear box. There isn't any more, is there?"! Perhaps he doesn't know about the dozen or so other oil levels!

1 TON SECTION

We are trying our hardest to keep more vehicles on the road than the other sections, and although we are accused of doing our 406 inspections in our warm office, we deny this and hence are kept very busy. There seems to be a good team spirit in the Section. Cpl. Winter and his men are hoping that this will still prevail after our inspections this coming month.

We heard a rumour to the effect that Pte. Mattholie and Co. were going to be caught for the Christmas Show, but we can all breath again, as this has now been quashed.

We are glad to see Ptes. Mattholie, Peterkin and Downham back from leave in England. We also welcome to the Section, Ptes. Pond, LeMare and Cartlidge, and hope they will enjoy their time with us.

3 TON SECTION

In the absence of Cpl. Cotton on education, and L/Cpl. Bishop on leave, I'm afraid our notes are a little thin this month. The Section is still running smoothly, although we keep having to provide large convoys to take sports fans round the countryside. We hope we shall be more informative next month when our N.C.O.'s have returned.

* * *

THE BAND

We would rather like to open our notes this month by congratulating our Bandmaster, Mr. T. L. Sharpe, on passing his well-earned "psm". Well done, Sir, and all the very best of luck in the future.

To be congratulated also are Cpl. and Mrs. Young on the birth of a son. Well done, Tony and June. Not long now before the first 8/- becomes a topic of the family!

Also, welcome to Mrs. Munns on her arrival in B.A.O.R. May your stay be a happy one. I notice now that the B/Sgt. does a lot of typing in the evening and is becoming quite expert!

The notes about Band activities are rather few this month because of a stretched out leave period of 21 days (and more), but we'll say 21 days for official records! However, the leave period meant no play for the Band, but for the No. 1 it was very hard work, getting a Christmas Show organized, songs and scores to be arranged. With two rehearsals already done, the Christmas Show looks a right do! So for all those narrow-minded types passing our practice room looking and searching for the opposite sex, please accept our apologies and remember screams and feminine voices take a lot of getting from husky and burly bandsmen, including our all-star "oom-pah" player (no names, no extra practice!). The Director of Music, for a sketch we're putting on, should be more than praised on his first reading of the script, meaning none other than Mr. (or should I say junior commander?) Edgecombe.

The forthcoming Admin. Inspection has been rather a strain on all N.C.O.'s, especially the Sergeants' Mess members of the Band. We hear that a special anti-Admin. tonic has been given a bashing by our five members to cure all headaches that have been entailed. That reminds me, who *did* have the G.10 stamping kit last? No one did ever find it!

Poor boy Trevor (in more ways than *one*).



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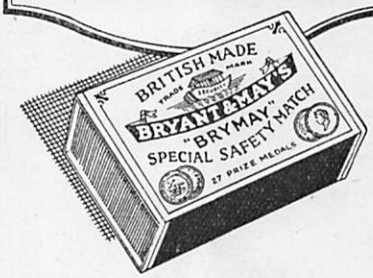


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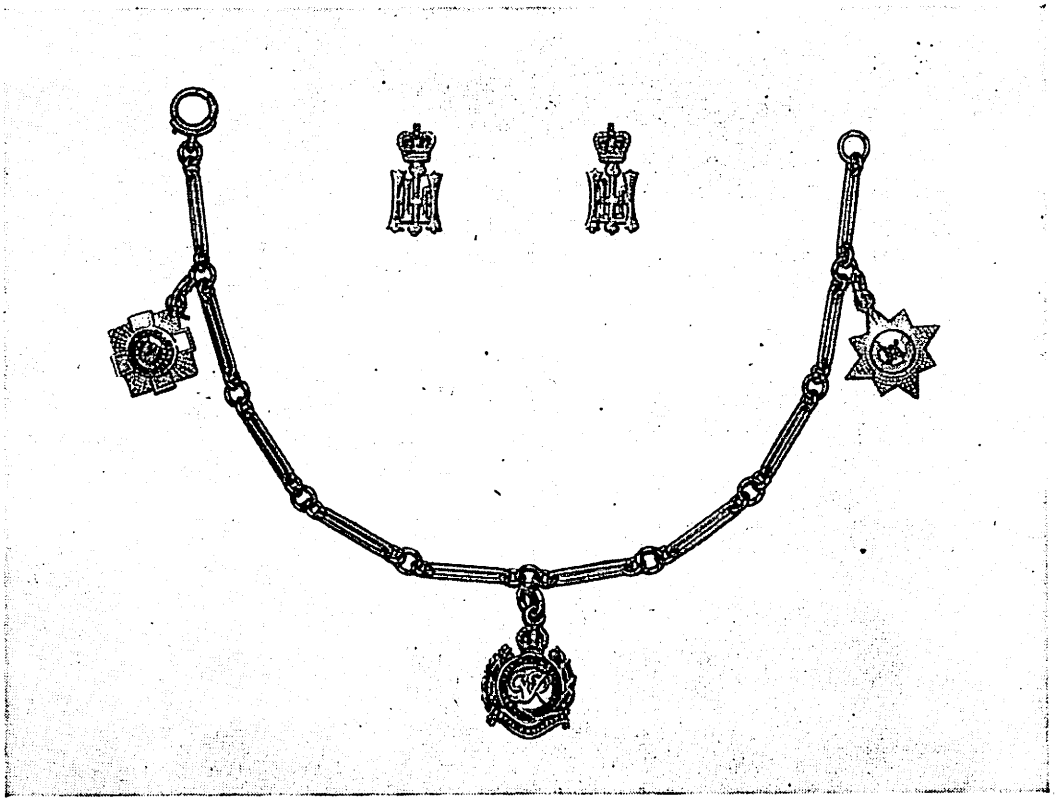
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Well, seeing that our Company Clerk's fingers are wearing out drumming them on the table waiting for these notes, also biting his nails past the first knuckle, I'll close wishing all ex-members of the Band and our faithful readers the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

You are sure of a bumper set of notes next month, to cover the Christmas activities.

* * *

THE DRUMS

Owing to the fact that the majority of the time during the past two months has been spent out of barracks, there is an apology to make for not rendering our monthly notes to our readers.

Last month was spent in Denmark, where we took part in the British Military Tattoo at Copenhagen and we were honoured to perform with the Royal Danish Life Guards. To us it seemed our stay of a month ended before it started, and we were wishing our Danish friends good luck and bidding them farewell, but not before we had a memorable party which was held at Carlsburg Brewery. We left Denmark with wonderful memories and a small silver spoon given to each by the Colonel of the Danish Life Guards. I'm sure all drummers who took part in the Tattoo will keep that treasured gift with the memories which it holds.

We have in our midst twelve new Drummers who, we hope, will make the grade and enjoy their stay whilst serving with us. As Ex-Drum-Major Gardner is no longer with us, it is not a necessity they have the qualifications of a footballer.

To date we have little to report in the field of sport. We did manage last month to play The Royal Suffolk Drums with both victories for us, 5—2, 8—3, and we hope that we will be able to enter more victories.

We send our congratulations to Cpl. Colin Dipper on his recent marriage to a Dover girl. "Up The Buffs", and we wish him all the luck for the future.

We were sorry to lose two Drummers, "Bodey" Bergoyne and "Tosh" Phillips" and were also surprised to see them go as they looked promising Regulars. We wish them all they wish themselves.

Fatigues have been coming plentiful this last month, but to all old Drummers who read this it is not so surprising; so I will now end with the standing slogan of the Drums:

Never mind the weariness, tediousness, the dreariness,
Never mind how trivial the task may seem to be,
Once you can compel yourself to stick it
You'll excell yourself. If only you will tell
Yourself, it all depends on me.

Wishing all Drummers good luck and a Merry Christmas.

* * *

SIGNAL PLATOON

We start this month by congratulating Sgt. Rodmell on his well-earned promotion.

The cadre classification course has now finished and we are happy to be able to relate that 14 of the 15 students classified, which we consider a good result and hope for great things from the individuals concerned during the next training season!

At the beginning of the month the R.S.O. took all of us to visit Schlossburg, which is an extremely old castle built on the top of a hill from which there are some wonderful views of the countryside. The castle itself was most interesting and in particular there was a very fine armoury.

Our Platoon soccer side has been doing well lately and amongst our victories we have the scalps of the Signal Platoon of 1 R.U.R. (won 6—4). In this match, Pte. Williams played an absolute blinder and scored 3 goals; other scorers were Ptes. Briggs, Hogben and Gates. Pte. Sawyer has continued to represent the Battalion on the Rugger field and his safe catching, running and kicking was much in evidence against the 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers in the recent Cup Match.

We have had the Commanding Officers' Admin. Inspection, but, alas! NO relaxation as the annual horror is only just around the corner!

Until next month we say Cheerio and Good Luck.

* * *

QUARTERMASTER'S STAFF

Not a very exciting month for the staff, except for the odd coincidence that the more elderly members were all born under the influence of Scorpio. At least one member would have been more suitably catered for at this stage of his existence had he been born under the influence of Jupiter and transferred to Juniper.

The subject of inspections is too fresh in our minds to be mentioned in this month's notes. It is probably safe to say that they are getting bigger and better every day.

We were very sorry to see Cpl. Foreman being taken to hospital this month but noticed that he managed to escape in time to catch the leave train to England. It is remarkable how often it is impossible to spare certain people for parades and duties and then to see the same people on the leave truck. Even more remarkable is the fact that the normal routine seems to continue during the absence on leave of the same indispensable people.

The German side of the staff are being more valuable than ever; huge railway waggons arrive daily and appear to be unloaded with speed and quiet efficiency. Doubtless a visit from the expert in Canterbury would be of great value at this time of the year as most people seem to be getting fuel-minded.

The more interesting side of the staff life seems to be well under cover this month. We wonder how some people manage to cover the vast distances between interests while they are on leave, but perhaps it isn't so far from Jersey to Manchester as we think it is. We could do with a few more married members on the Staff. Or could we?

* * *

SPORTS NOTES

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Since the last notes we have had some ups and downs in the Battalion Rugger. At times everything clicked and we could not go wrong; other times, the contrary. Nevertheless, we now have the strongest XV the Battalion has fielded for a long time and had we not had the misfortune to meet the 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers in the Second Round of the Army Cup, we might well have reached the Semi-Final or even the Final. To date we are the only side to cross the R.W.F. line, and we did it in each match we have played against them. We were paid the compliment of being the hardest team to beat that the Royal Welch Fusiliers met last year or so far this year—no mean compliment. An account of this match appears elsewhere.

We had a number of players elected for the Brigade Team:—Pte. Coate, full back; 2/Lieut. Hills, centre; Pte. Tolley, wing threequarter; 2/Lieut. Holmes-Smith, stand-off half; 2/Lieut. Daniel, scrum half; Lieut. West, wing forward and Lt. Lunn, second row, both unable to play through injuries; 2/Lieut. Hardy, prop; Lieut. Mitchell, prop; 2/Lieut. Brice substituted for Lieut. Lunn.

2/Lieuts. Daniel and Holmes-Smith were selected for the Divisional XV and the B.A.O.R. Trial. Lieut. Edgecombe, playing lock, has been selected for the Divisional Team, but so far has been handicapped by injury and absence on courses.

Space does not permit an account of each match, but for the record here are the results:—

v 1 R.U.R. Won 26—0
v 2 Div. Coln. R.A.S.C. Lost 10—9
v 2 Coldstream Guards. Lost 0—27
v 1 Grenadier Guards. Won 33—6
v 1 R.W.F. (Army Cup Match). Lost 14—3
v H.Q. 6 Inf. Bde. Won 18—3
v 1 R.W.F. Lost 22—5
v 1 Border Regt. Won 8—0

Also for the record, so far this season we have only once managed to field our strongest side. This was in the Army Cup Match *v* 1 R.W.F. It has been quite astonishing how difficult it has been to field the same team.

The team versus 1 R.W.F. in the cup match was:—Pte. Walters (H.Q.), full back; Pte. Sawyer (H.Q.), left wing; Lieut. Edgecombe (Trg.), centre; 2/Lieut. Hills ("D"), centre; Pte. Tolley ("A"), right wing; 2/Lieut. Holmes-Smith ("B"), stand off half; 2/Lieut. Daniel, ("A"), scrum half; Lieut. Mitchell (Trg.), prop; 2/Lieut. Hardy ("C"), hooker; L/Cpl. Kemp (Trg.), prop; 2/Lieut. Brice ("A"), second row; Pte. Coate ("C"), second row; Lieut. Cross ("C"), blind wing forward; Lieut. Lunn (H.Q.), lock; Lieut. West (Trg.), open wing forward (Captain).

Others who have played frequently for the Battalion are 2/Lieut. Griffiths, who has played several games in the centre, L/Cpl. McIver, an excellent utility forward, 2/Lieut. Hordern, Ptes. Evans, Westover and Pool.

* * *

THE BUFFS (3 Points) *v* R.W.F. (14 Points)

"A great match" was the general verdict amongst the spectators of this exciting game.

The pattern of play was set a minute from the kick-off when the Buff forwards, with 2/Lieut. Hardy to the fore, so very nearly scored in a fierce rush to the Welch line—unviolated in all previous matches this season. Both sides played hard, fast rugger, and quarter was neither sought nor given. The loose mauls and line-outs were bitterly contested, but, in the tight, The Buffs pack proved superior, winning the majority of the scrums. The Buffs back line also made several menacing penetrations, only to be stopped by the hard-shoulder tackling of the Welch defence. On the wing, Pte. Tolley looked especially dangerous, but again and again, when it seemed as though he would break through, he was at the last moment blocked or driven into touch.

After a quarter of an hour's play, the Welch right-winger scored by the corner flag. After an attempted conversion, the tussle re-opened fiercer than ever, but at half-time the score still stood at 0—3. In the second half, the style of play remained the same, and tension increased. Then, in the last twenty minutes, a flurry of scoring, including two tries (one converted) and a penalty, brought the Welch score to 14 points.

The Buffs, however, fought back vigorously and pressed the Welsh defence hard. Then, two minutes from the final whistle, a defender's clearance was gathered by 2/Lieut. Hills, and, after all the threequarters had handled, Lieut. Cross came on the outside to score a try in the corner. It was the first time that the Welch line had been crossed this year, and this triumph somewhat mitigated the sting of defeat.

SOCCER

The Battalion football pitch at the moment looks like a ploughed field and is virtually useless. The only alternative is for the Battalion Team to play on the cinder pitch, to the exclusion of Companies. Therefore it has been decided to play Battalion matches less frequently in order to give Companies more chance to use the pitch. It is hoped that this will pay dividends in the future. As we are no longer in the Army Cup, it is felt that less Battalion matches is no great price to pay, especially when the Battalion Team would be very under-trained.

* * *

HOCKEY

Unfortunately we have had very few games this month, but this is now overlooked as we are busily playing games prior to the first round of the Army Cup next Saturday against the R.U.R.

The one game we did play was against the Royal Welch Fusiliers, which we lost 3—1 in spite of including three members of the regular Rugger side. The game was not a success from our point of view, as we were very slow and obviously out of form. The second half was a little better, but we still have a long way to go if we wish to do well in the Cup games.

The team: L/Cpl. Witt, Pte. Coat, L/Cpl. Straker, L/Cpl. McIver, Major Worts, Pte. Florence, Cpl. Goffin, 2/Lieut. Hills, Capt. Ransley, 2/Lieut. Griffiths, C.Q.M.S. Denny.

I hope by next month to be able to report that we are still in the Cup. We are keeping our fingers crossed.

* * *

BASKETBALL

By the end of last month the back boards were finally completed and erected, and since then the Court has been used to a large extent, mainly by the Battalion team.

This team consists of people who are not brilliant, but who are enthusiastic and devote a great deal of their spare time, in the evenings, to practising. Let it be said here that the team is by no means rigid, and that anyone who is fairly capable and enthusiastic will be welcome to practices. If you are interested, you must make the first move by turning up any evening and show yourself keen. Never let it be said, "I haven't had a chance!".

To date the team has played three matches, two of which were 2 Inf. Div. Championship games, and judging by these results the Battalion should do quite well. The other match, a friendly against the R.A.F. Wahn, was a good, close game and invaluable from the training point of view.

RESULTS

v 2 Inf. Div. Sigs. Regt. Won 78—29 (2 Div. Championship match).
v 41 Field Regt. R.A. Won 26—12. (2 Div. Championship match).
v R.A.F. Wahn. Lost 48—39. Friendly.

The following people represented the Battalion in these games:—C.S.M. Ellis (Captain), C.Q.M.S. Partridge, S/Sgt. Jarrett (R.E.), Cpl. Palmieri, L/Cpl. Bird, Cpl. Garnall, Cpl. Young, L/Cpl. Fisher, Sgt. Collyer, Sgt. Fletcher (R.A.E.C.), Pte. Stevens.

Referees: Sgt. Mills and 2/Lieut. Daniels.

Timekeeper and Scorer: Sgt. Walker (R.A.E.C.).

SMALLBORE SHOOTING

The past month has been hectic, to say the least; and it's with an audible sigh of relief that a Battalion team was at last found, which immediately had a lot of work on its hand as there were four matches to shoot; against 1st Battalion The Suffolk Regiment, 1st Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Inf. Div. R.E.M.E. and 23rd Field Engnr. Regiment. The results of these matches have not yet been published.

The members of the team at present are:—Capt. P. F. Wilson, D.F.C., Lieut. J. H. Davison, Lieut. K. J. Cross, W.O. II Sharmain, C/Sgt. Mans, Sgts. Miller and Cribben, Cpl. Rust, L/Cpl. Straker.

The R.A.F. at Wahn brought a team over for a friendly match which we won, and next month we hope there will be a return match.

The Club Room which we have next door to the range is now working well, and Pte. Herbert is to be congratulated on the standard of "brew" he produces in never-ending quantity for the team.

* * *

BOXING

This month has been a very busy one from the point of view of the team. On the 10th November we were at home to the 1st Battalion The Suffolk Regiment for a friendly match. After an enjoyable evening's boxing, we were winners by 17 points to 15. It made an interesting trial for our team and much was learned.

On the 24th November, we met the 2nd Battalion The Scots Guards in the second round of the Army Inter-Unit Team Championships. We had been given a bye in the first round. This match we won by 20 points to 13 points, gaining the decision in 9 of the 11 bouts. Perhaps a brief resumé of each bout will be of interest.

BANTAMWEIGHT.—Dady was fortunate in meeting an opponent who had no previous experience and who was put in to gain a point. After flooring his opponent several times in the first round, Dady was declared the winner. A good start to the evening.

FEATHERWEIGHT.—Pte. Castle returned from three weeks' leave the day prior to the match. However, he stepped gamely into the ring to meet an opponent who had a capable straight left. Despite this, Castle's aggressiveness and his continued getting in close gave him the decision.

LIGHTWEIGHT.—Sgt. Page met a strong opponent who gave him a difficult time in the first round. However, experience told and by making every blow count and using a good defence, Sgt. Page gained the verdict.

LIGHT-WELTER (1st String).—Two well-matched boxers who both pushed every pound of their weight. A very fiercely fought first round with points probably even, each giving as good as he got, with L/Cpl. Lee appearing slightly fit at the end. This was developing into a first class bout when impatiently in a furious exchange of blows in the second round, L/Cpl. Lee ran into his opponent's head and received a suspected fracture of the bridge of his nose, which dazed him and he was unable to defend himself. The referee stopped the fight and awarded the decision to the Scots Guards.

LIGHT-WELTER (2nd String).—L/Cpl. Wilson met a very tall opponent who had a good long left. However, by skilful deflection and counter punching, Wilson won by a fairly good points margin. Wilson gave a very good exhibition of how to beat a tall opponent with a long reach.

LIGHT-WELTER (3rd String).—L/Cpl. Cooper, fighting a southpaw of equal strength, found it difficult to counter-punch, but by careful defensive work and by making good use of his own left, Cooper was awarded the decision after a close contest.

LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT.—Pte. Phillips unfortunately came up against an extremely hard-hitting and experienced boxer, who proved too strong for him. Phillips put up a very spirited performance but was knocked out in the second round.

MIDDLEWEIGHT.—Another tall Guardsman with a long reach refused to conform to Cpl. Palmieri's style. There was not much action in this bout, the two boxers playing a cat and mouse game with few points actually scored, but with Cpl. Palmieri being the more accurate puncher and winning the bout.

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT.—Pte. French met another tall Guardsman who had an enormous height and reach advantage. It was not long, however, before, terrier-like, French was worrying his man continuously. Always prepared to alter his point of attack, and either ignoring his opponent's counter-punching or providing a first-class defence, French steadily wore his man down, finally taking a very well-deserved points victory. This was an excellent bout, providing some of the best boxing of the evening.

HEAVYWEIGHT.—Reminding us clearly of the 1840's, Sgt. Adams left the corner for the first round in true pugilistic style. His opponent was a lighter, faster man with a good strong punch, and he had Sgt. Adams in trouble at the end of the first round. Sgt. Adams, however, plodded steadily after his man with pondrous windmill swings. In the second round one of those swings landed and as his opponent wilted, Sgt. Adams whipped over an excellent short right hook which put the issue beyond all doubt. This was an excellent performance on the part of Sgt. Adams (over 40), who stepped into the ring to fill a vacant weight and showed great courage in doing so.

WELTERWEIGHT (1st String).—L/Cpl. Bird, making his first appearance in a boxing ring, had a promising *debut*, knocking his opponent out towards the end of the first round.

* * *

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

We have had three "Live" runs this month, in all of which we have managed to make the grade. The first match was a Battalion Run between the four potential Battalion teams. Pte. Linford performed extremely well in this event, proving that "Practice makes perfect" in no uncertain fashion.

The second meeting was against the R.A.F. Wahn, who unfortunately did not have too strong a team. The result of this match was The Buffs 1st, with ten out of the first twelve men home. Ptes. Linford, Vant, Cole, Bovington, to name but a few, excelled themselves in this meeting; unfortunately, "Gungy" Gilbert had rather a "Coad Ind Der Dose" which affected his breathing, with the result that he could not get higher than 10th. Hard luck, son—keep running.

The last match was versus the 2nd Battalion The Scots Guards, in which we were beaten by the odd man in a very good race indeed. A meritorious performance was put up by L/Cpl. (Cpl. to us) Draper of The Scots Guards and Pte. Linford of The Buffs, who came in 1st and 2nd almost "neck and neck" about three minutes ahead of the rest of the field. Well done, chaps! It was a great race. Bdsm. O'Sullivan also did very well in this event, especially just after twenty-eight days' leave in the U.K.!

To those I have omitted to mention by name, I apologise, but to all of you runners or past runners, good luck and good running for the future.

WIVES' CLUB

This month we were delighted to see a few new faces in our midst, the latest arrivals from England, and extend a very warm welcome to them.

Amongst our varied activities ranging from whist drives to more serious forms of entertainment, Mrs. Jephcott ran a most successful Beetle Drive, which entailed a lot of hard work. The ignorant were assisted by a Master beetle, and to judge by the laughter, everyone enjoyed themselves.

On the last Friday of the month, the Wives were "At Home" to their husbands. This proved to be so popular that three rooms in the Sergeants' Mess Block were loaned to us for the occasion. R.S.M. Turmaine and Sgt. Smissen wasted no time in having the rooms transformed from classrooms to the gayer atmosphere of home. Mrs. Norris and Mrs. Critchley devised some ingenious games whilst Captain Ransley had the difficult task of trying to maintain a certain amount of order. Dancing went on well into the night. C/Sgt. Mans careered round the floor with Mrs. Edwards, faint but pursuing, those propping up the bar were allowed no peace, and many non-dancers took new heart. Our grateful thanks to R.S.M. Turmaine and Members of the Sergeants' Mess, who provided the buffet supper, the bar—in fact who made the evening possible.

Our spies, in all seriousness, have reported seeing storks flying in the direction of Wuppertal. A certain wife was then heard to remark that soon there would be enough babies to form a 2nd Battalion.

May we congratulate Corporal and Mrs. Young and Corporal and Mrs. Bobbins on the birth of sons.

* * *

Regimental Museum

THE following items have been added to the Museum during November:—

The Museum Fund was able to buy a fine pair of Epaulettes of an officer of the Light Company of the 3rd Regiment, The Buffs, dated some time after 1791. The Parker Gallery, London, from whom they were procured give the date as Circa 1835.

The following note may be of interest: Epaulettes had been worn since 1768. In the infantry, officers of the Flank Companies (Grenadier and Light Companies) wore two, the battalion officers one. It was not until 1791 that Field Officers were distinguished by having two epaulettes. At the same time grenades and horns (bugles) were ordered to be worn on those of the Grenadier and Light Company officers, who did not wear wings until about 1802. Wing epaulettes, though in order, were not often worn at this time.

MEDALS

Lieut.-Col. G. R. Howe has presented the following medal groups:—

No. 2990 Pte. G. S. Tumber.—India Medal, 1895 with clasp Relief of Chitral, 1895; Queen's S.A. Medal, Clasps Relief of Kimberley, Paardeberg, Driefontein, Johannesberg; King's S.A. Medal, Clasps 1901-1902.

No. 3857 Pte. T. Walker, L.D.—India Medal, 1895 with clasps: Relief of Chitral, 1895, Punjab Frontier, 1897-1898; Queen's S.A. Medal, Clasps Relief of Kimberley, Paardeberg, Driefontein, Transvaal; King's S.A. Medal, Clasps 1901-1902.

As these medals were not obtained from a known dealer I took particular pains to check up on them. Both names appear in the regimental medal rolls.

In the case of Tumber I found his name in *The Dragon* of August 31st, 1896, in a list of N.C.O.s and men (1st Battalion) whose service "will expire this year, and will proceed home during the Trooping Season . . . on completion of 7 years with the Colours." Tumber's date was given as 28.2.1896.

I could find no mention of a draft of T.X. men leaving the battalion so one can only assume that Tumber reached Home safely and enjoyed some years on the reserve before being called up to serve with the 2nd Battalion in the South African War.

In the case of Walker he must have been sent home suffering from the result of wounds or sickness as his name is to be found in *The Dragon* of February, 1899, as rejoining the battalion (2nd Battalion) from Netley.

His name appears again in *The Dragon* of May 31st, 1899, in a list of recipients of medals for the operations on the N.W. Frontier presented on a full dress parade by Lieut.-Col. R. A. Hickson, then commanding the 2nd Battalion at Brighton.

Walker had evidently already received the medal as he is only shown as being presented with the second clasp.

MANUAL FOR THE DRUMS

Lieut.-Col. J. Crookenden, D.S.O., presented a copy of *Manual for The Drums*, a book produced under his direction when commanding the 2nd Battalion at Shorncliffe.

The object of the Manual was to standardize the drill, dress, appointments and duties of the Drummers and the music to be played on certain occasions. The Manual is now out of print.

RE-ARRANGEMENT IN THE MUSEUM LAY-OUT

The photograph albums which were on the table facing the entrance created a deal of interest on the part of visitors but have now been removed as some were in need of repair and renovation. In their place is a case of shako and helmet plates, cap badges, cross belt plates and belt buckles with some head-dresses and uniform prints of various periods.

While retaining the general scheme of campaign groups, the far room has been laid out with a small exhibition of military prints as far as the limited space will permit.

The Napoleonic Wars produced a large number of beautifully executed aquatint plates of which a number are shown with the Peninsular Group illustrating many of the battles in which the Regiment took part.

A few more prints have been added to the Crimea and China, Taku Forts, tables.

Probably the finest coloured line engravings are a set of 6 illustrating the Combined Naval and Military operation of the attack and capture of Belleisle from 7th April to 6th June, 1761, during the Seven Years War, by Canot after Serres & R. Short, published in London by John Boydell dated 25th April, 1777. There is a seventh print by the same artist with exactly the similar theme and colouring but dated 31st December, 1763, which is not generally considered to be included in the above mentioned set.

Although the museum is grossly overcrowded it is hoped that the slight alteration in lay-out may provide a fresh interest for our visitors during the coming year. And may they one and all enjoy a Happy Christmas.

G.R.H.

* * *

Regimental Cricket Week 1956

IN view of the fact that next year the Dragon Club Dinner will take place on 30th May, and that the Australians will be playing Kent at Canterbury on 16th June (earlier than has been the practice in former years) and that the Test Match at Lord's will commence on 21st June, the Regimental Cricket Week has been brought forward, and will be held from Tuesday, June 5th, to Sunday, June 10th.

We have been asked to make this early announcement so that all who can will support the Cricket Week.

Correspondence

The Armoury,
Tenterden.

6th November, 1955.

Dear Sir,

OSBORNE HOUSE

Having recently spent three weeks convalescing at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, it occurred to me that some information about it might be of interest to readers of *The Dragon*.

King Edward VII made over Osborne House as a Convalescent Home for serving and retired officers of the Army and Navy in 1904. It is now open to officers, past and present, of the three fighting Services, including the Women's Services, and also to those holding, or who have held, appointments of equivalent rank in the Home or Colonial Civil Services.

It is not necessary to have been at King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, or any other hospital to be eligible for admission, but application must be made to the House Governor, Osborne House, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, to be accepted. This must be supported by a recommendation from a hospital or the individual's own doctor, giving the requisite medical details. Many hospitals, civil and military, keep these forms and know the routine, but, if not, the House Governor (a retired medical officer of one of the Services) will send the forms on application.

Osborne House is about one mile from East Cowes and seven from Ryde. It stands in grounds of about 1,000 acres, and this is one of its great advantages, because they are beautifully laid out and well kept—there is no through traffic, and one is not unduly bothered by noise from the air, and so it really is quiet. The many copses and fine individual trees are a great feature of the grounds. There is a nine holes golf course in the grounds, also tennis courts, croquet lawn and bowling green. There is a guest house for officers' wives and families in the grounds, about half a mile from Osborne House—the terms there are very reasonable for these days, and my wife found it comfortable and convenient. Officers' wives and families are allowed to use the grounds, the private bathing beach and the recreational facilities, to have tea every day at Osborne House if they wish, or to share in picnic baskets which are made up in summer.

Osborne overlooks the Solent and one can see the biggest ships in the world on their way to and from Southampton and Fawley.

The old State Apartments, including the private rooms of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort are in one wing, thrown open to the public in summer. The Convalescent Home is housed in the larger part of the building, which was used for the Royal household, visiting Royalties, Cabinet Ministers, etc.

Perhaps I was fortunate in the weather, and in being given a large, airy room with a wonderful view on to the Solent and Hampshire in the distance, but I thoroughly enjoyed my time there.

I had heard people talking about restrictions, but found them few and reasonable. Patients are requested to finish breakfast and be out of the dining-room by 9.15 a.m., to be reasonably punctual for lunch, and to be in time and tidily dressed (lounge suit) for dinner at 7.30 p.m. I found the food nicely cooked, well served and quite sufficient for any ordinary person. Quite a good library, billiards room and excellent smoking room (reserved for men) with a view on to the Solent, and in which London papers and periodicals are provided free. Most patients who are not too old (over 70!) and are fit enough for it are expected to do a couple of periods of remedial and physio therapy (in reality a kind of mild and carefully graduated P.T. under a highly qualified instructor) in the morning, and then there is Occupational Therapy. These took one, more or less, to lunch-time, and the rest of the day was generally one's own.

I found the remedial and physio therapy quite first class, not a bit too strenuous. For those who have broken bones or are suffering from special strains or injuries, arthritis, etc., there are a special hot bath, a small gym., and arrangements for massage, etc. Numbers vary from 15-50, and are of all ages and ranks, and there are generally a number of congenial and interesting people. Our contingent of patients ran from a Marshal of the R.A.F., two Permanent Under Secretaries of State, down to a recently-commissioned 2nd Lieutenant and a Malayan cadet at the R.M.A., so there was plenty of variety. I was fortunate in finding a very old friend in the Regiment, also convalescing there during our time.

Last, but certainly not least, it's a very cheap form of convalescence. Ten shillings per day, plus 1/- per day for games, and drinks at reasonable prices, is very moderate for these times. And it is certainly well worth it.

(*Signed*) J. F. WHITACRE ALLEN,
Brigadier.

The Editor, "The Dragon".

1st Battalion, The Buffs,
B.A.O.R.9.
6th December, 1955.

The Editor, "The Dragon".

Dear Sir,

As I had rather hoped and anticipated when I wrote it, my letter which appeared in the September issue regarding the look of certain parts of the Journal, within and without, has caused a small torrent of correspondence to flow on the matter. This is just as it should be.

Where this correspondence—as far as I personally am concerned—has gone smack off the rails is on the matter of the actual contents of our Regimental Magazine—contents which, to my mind, could only be bettered were Brigadier Foster Hall's admirable admonition be taken to heart by those members, and ex-members, of the Regiment serving or living in some remote corner of our far flung-away Empire.

The present contents, as I say, I have never dreamed of criticizing—if for no other reason than that you, Sir, have from time to time been good enough to include something of my own within your columns.

What I did, however, criticize—and still do—is the somewhat old-fashioned look of one or two of the pen-drawings which appear at certain places with unfailing regularity every month; and, more important, the lack of up-to-dateness (if there is such a phrase) of the front cover, in that a certain Battle Honour has never yet been accorded its rightful and proper place thereon. I would therefore remind Brigadier Foster Hall that at no time did I make any suggestion that the Regimental Badge and/or the Battle Honours were out of date, and one glance at my original letter should be enough to prove it. Every one of us, in his own peculiar way, does have his pride of Regiment.

The looked-for award, in the not-too-distant future, of the Battle Honours won during the last War will obviously be the ideal moment for the re-designing of many things, the front cover of *The Dragon* amongst them. It is much to be hoped that those responsible for that new design will not leave undone those things which should have been done up some years ago.

As for Captain Papworth's request for a quarterly publication, rather than a monthly one, may I be allowed to join the ranks of those letter-writers, of so many walks of life, who are protesting so vehemently and so ably against such a suggestion? As has been said by that most amusing and gifted scribe, Robin Tuke—

and who amongst the Journal's many readers does not pick up his copy every month and look hopefully for his name or initials at the end of an article?—as he has said, a quarterly publication would be the quickest way to bring an end to *The Dragon* altogether.

But I still maintain that a slight "jolly-up" of certain bits of it might well be the beginning of an increased circulation and the showing of a greater interest in its contents.

Yours faithfully,

H. R. GRACE,

Lieut.-Colonel.

* * *

Bridge Cottage,
Charminster,
Dorchester,
Dorset.

The Editor, "The Dragon".

Dear Editor,

With reference to the article "Dormant West Country Buffs", I take up my pen to let you know that Robin Tuke and I have been in communication, and matters are moving—I hope.

I understand he is sending you another appeal, and I hope that this may have greater success than the first. I am glad to say that Robin has agreed to act as Secretary, and, so far, I think the following will certainly turn up: Major Field, Captain Morley, Lieut.-Col. Backhouse, Brigadier Craddock, Major Edlmann, Major Tuke and myself. This is a beginning.

Yours,

(*Signed*) E. HUDSON ALLEN.

* * *

143 Sturry Road,
Canterbury,
Kent.
3*rd November*, 1955.

Dear Sir,

As the Regiment is so well represented on the Staff of the Command Ordnance Depot, Ashford, I thought it may interest many old Regular and Territorial members if I listed them:—

REGULAR

Major Stan Fawcett—R.S.M., The Depot, until commissioned in 1942.

Major W. Hambrook—2nd Battalion and now commanding a company of 1st Kent H.G. Battalion.

Mr. S. Moore—M.G. Company, 1st Battalion, Burma.

Mr. Floss Cloke—Transport 1st Battalion, 1914, and after the First War went to Multan with 2nd Battalion, who at 70 still swings the Indian club.

Mr. E. Boorman—Signals, 1st Battalion, India, afterwards C.Q.M.S.

Mr. J. Penfold—Regimental Footballer of 1st Battalion, India.

Mr. A. Marsh—Bass drummer, Band, 1st Battalion, India, later Sergeant.

TERRITORIAL

Messrs. W. Coppin, S. Dane, A. Miles, W. Deal, A. Ward and J. Godden. All served with 5th Battalion.

I have recently contacted Captain A. Harrison, M.C. (Curly to those who were in Dublin, 1910-13) and Mr. Hayward, who was a Signaller in the 1st Battalion at Bareilly.

Yours faithfully,

E. J. EVANS.

* * *

Round and About

by The Tramp



THERE'S a lot to be said *for* Christmas but very little that I can think of *about* it. Nearly everyone I meet comments on the rapid way in which the great Festival descends upon us all: few will disagree that it becomes each year more and more commercialized and nobody can suggest a remedy for this tendency. And so in our varying degrees we compile lists of those to whom we must send presents or cards, facing a New Year with much less "in the Kitty" to cope with those frightening buff envelopes marked O.H.M.S.

RAISING MONEY

Even the Churches join in the drive to empty our wallets and pockets of what little they contain. In our village there has lately been held a "Christmas Market" in aid of Church funds.

Parishioners are invited and cajoled to give things that can be sold and it is amazing how even "white elephants" can find ready purchasers. I heard the other day of a brilliant notion to avoid all the organisation and hard work which go to make these affairs, fêtes, sales of work, markets and the like. A particular village decided to go round to everybody asking how much they would give not to have a fête or what not. The response was terrific and the sum realised was far in excess of the takings of the year before. That may have disappointed some bargain-hunters, but it seemed to satisfy the majority of the people whose opinion was canvassed. There seems to be a moral in that somewhere and I leave it to any of the readers of these notes.

RIB-TICKLERS

Whenever I come across a book (or play or film for that matter) which really makes me laugh, a feeling of deep gratitude to the author follows my recovery from the paroxysms of uncontrolled mirth which have racked my frame. This happened a day or so ago when I picked up *The Captain's Table*, by Richard Gordon. I had seen and delighted in the film *Doctor in the House*, the script of which was by the same author, and I expected to be amused. My reading of the book proved that "amused" is a hopeless understatement. I really laughed, and aloud too. It is the account of the voyage to Australia from Tilbury of a passenger liner commanded by an officer whose previous experience was of a cargo boat. His relations with his officers and the passengers are indescribably funny and, like the professional book-reviewers, I couldn't put the book down except to wipe my eyes and rest my ribs. I defy any decent-minded person to be affected otherwise by this piece of brilliant hilarity.

TWO LAUGH-PROVOKERS

Having finished the book I examined my memory for other books which had had a similar effect on me. The first that came to mind was *Decline and Fall*, by Evelyn Waugh and not, I hasten to add, by Gibbon who wrote imperishably if a trifle heavily of the Roman Empire: Waugh's book I have re-read several times and found laughter-provoking on each occasion. It is a satire and at times it is almost grim in its exposure of shams and imbecility but it is excruciatingly funny. P. G. Wodehouse I chuckle at and admire but Waugh in this book really set me guffawing.

In the ordinary way Somerset Maugham does not have that effect on me but there is one episode in his novel *The Narrow Corner* that sets me off properly. In this instance it was the gorgeous incongruity of the situation that did the trick. When I say that it was the account of a burial at sea my private idea of what is funny may be considered questionable. On the face of it that might be considered just, but I guarantee that most people would acquit me of a macabre sense of humour if they read the book and particularly that episode. Like all the best humorous writing it is not overdone; the author's restraint induces a lack of it in the reader. What makes people laugh is an unpredictable matter and learned essays have been written on "a sense of humour". For instance I find "The Goon Show" on the Radio only occasionally very funny, whereas I consider "The Glums" of "Take it from here" a delight. The late lamented and greatly missed Tommy Handley was a perpetual source of laughter in me but I know people who thought "Itma" only mildly amusing. I am old-fashioned enough to like (and even to perpetrate on occasion) the pun which I am told is out of favour these days although it seems to be practised a lot on the Radio. I still laugh at the story of Charles Lamb (or was it Tom Hood?) who, meeting a man carrying a hare bought from a poulterer, said: "Is that your own hare or is it a wig?" Or when Sir W. S. Gilbert (of Gilbert and Sullivan) asked a stage hand if he had seen Lady Gilbert and on receiving the reply: "She's round behind" said: "I know she is but *where* is she?" I know neither remark could be classed as wit but they make me laugh.

THE *MOT JUSTE*

The mention of wit reminds me that the other day I had the pleasure of meeting a relative of Rudyard Kipling. In the course of conversation I mentioned that I liked his remark made at a dinner-table when some pedantic person said, *à propos* the strangeness of English spelling, how odd it was that there is only one word in the English language which begins with the letters "SU" and is pronounced as though it began with the letters "SH". "What's that?" he was asked. "Sugar", he replied. Kipling leaned over the table and said quietly: "Are you *sure*?" Well, and this is the point of my relation of the remark in the lady's hearing. "It wasn't Rudyard who said that", she commented with apologies for spoiling my story, "it was Lockwood Kipling, his father, who said it." That was that. I was just a little disappointed but at any rate it was the father of my favourite writer so that was something.

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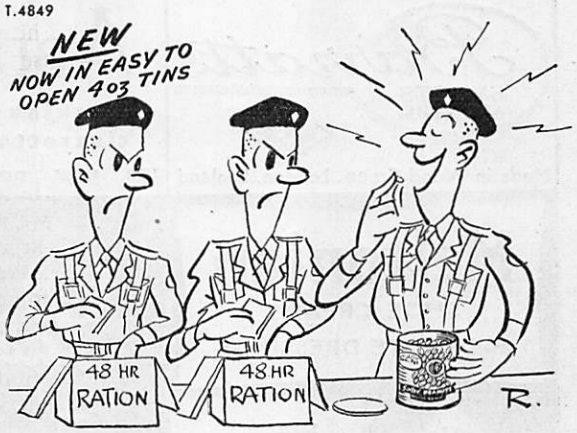
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DECLINE OF ANECDOTES

Is there really a dearth of good contemporary stories not only of the smoking or barrack-room varieties but also of the mixed company—quotable sort? I am told that there is but, living as I do far from the source of such things, I cannot venture an opinion on such an important topic. When I was near Fleet Street and had friends on the Stock Exchange I used to hear the pick of them told by practised *raconteurs* and amassed a little repertoire of my own. I never wrote them down in a little notebook, a reprehensible habit which I have observed in others at times. I always felt that if a yarn was good enough it should stay in the head. I wish *Dragon* readers who come across publishable ones would send them in to the Editor. They might help to satisfy critical readers who find the pages of the Regimental journal tedious and platitudinous.

FOOTNOTE ON CYPRUS

Before despatching these notes somewhat belatedly to the Editor I read as carefully as I could the report in my morning paper of the recent debate on Cyprus in the House of Commons. Search as I could I found no word of praise or sympathy for the British Forces in the island. Their patience and forbearance in the face of attacks by terrorists did not seem to deserve a mention. Nor was there a word of compassion for those who have been bereaved by assassins' bullets and bombs. One M.P. who should have known better, seeing that he was once Colonial Secretary, delivered himself of the following choice piece of thinking, as reported in *The Daily Telegraph*: "We cannot tolerate much longer in a Colonial territory a situation which denies political freedom which is held only by terrorism and repression." The precise meaning of that somewhat woolly sentence is not very clear but coming from that quarter I can guess its drift and intention. If the gentleman in question had to travel in uniform on a lorry on the roads of Cyprus at the moment his syntax might not improve appreciably but he might be obliged to revise his opinions.

* * *

Watch for these Films

La Strada (*The Road*). An Italian film which has been given awards all over Europe, is being shown at the Curzon Cinema. A simple-minded, starving waif is bought from her mother by a travelling showman, who trains her rather as an animal is trained. Giuleta Masina, wife of the director Federico Fellini, is most moving as the girl. She has the supreme gift of all great clowns, that of tragedy. The rather sombre story is shown with such sympathetic and poetic understanding that it enchants, and a Circus background is always fascinating.

Simon and Laura. From the play of the same name, begins as a brilliant satire on B.B.C. Television, and towards the end inclines to pure farce. A producer has the idea of a daily feature of the blissful homelife of a well-known pair of players. The pair chosen fight like cat and dog in real life, and the whole thing is most amusing. There are good-natured tilts at B.B.C. personalities and mannerisms. The playing of Kay Kendal and Peter Finch in the leading parts is most polished, and added to theirs such names as Maurice Denham, Muriel Pavlow, Hubert Gregg and Richard Wattis.

On Such a Night. A visit to Glyndebourne to be had for 3/6 or less! This film is being shown with Simon and Laura, so look for it particularly, as it may be a second feature. Directed by Antony Asquith, it shows an American tourist who arrives at Victoria Station one summer afternoon to see people in evening dress catching a train. Curiosity prompts him to follow them. He is enchanted at the end of the journey, and so are we. The Opera being performed is *Figaro.* A gem of a picture.

Cockleshell Heroes. The record of a war exploit of ten Royal Marines who paddled up the river Gironde to Bordeaux, to destroy enemy shipping. Two returned, and these survivors helped in details of the events, though some fiction is added. Trevor Howard is magnificent as the experienced, but not very successful, regular soldier, whose views on discipline are shocked by the enthusiastic amateur soldier, a temporary major played by Jose Ferrer, who directs the film. Victor Maddern is terrific as a taciturn sergeant with a world of expression in his face. Yet another aspect of war heroism which should be seen.

Oh Rosalinda ! ! An up-to-date version of *Die Fledermaus.* Rather an ornate affair, but the Strauss music is there. Michael Powell and Pressburger production.

As space is filling, I must mention briefly:—

Hill 24 does not Answer. Shot in Israel with mostly Israeli cast, and the time—just after the new State of Israel is proclaimed.

Mister Roberts. Rather on the lines of the Caine Mutiny—good acting by Henry Fonda, William Powell and James Cagney.

I have Seven Daughters. With Maurice Chevalier.

Storm over the Nile. The Four Feathers filmed once again—good old-fashioned sentiments and adventure. A British film.

There is also a re-issue of *The Wizard of Oz.* Those who saw this delightful fantasy will wish to do so again, and those who did not, have a treat in story. The young Judy Garland, singing *Over the Rainbow,* will melt the heart. Let's hope it is about at Christmas Time.

With the writer's good wishes, it is hoped that during the year there have not been many disappointments in the recommendations, but, remember, the selections are intended for all tastes.

M.M.A.

* * *

The East Africa Memorial

THE Memorial, constructed by the Imperial War Graves Commission to the design of Mr. Alan Stewart, A.R.I.B.A., is situated in Nairobi War Cemetery, which lies six miles West of Nairobi on the N'gong Road and half a mile South of the road in the Government Forest Reserve.

The Memorial consists of a hedged enclosure defined by a line of paving and containing twelve stone columns, rising from the turf, on which the names are inscribed.

At the rear of the enclosure stands another column bearing the following inscription:—

1939—1945

THE COLUMNS IN THE ENCLOSURE

BEAR THE NAMES OF

TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED

MEN AND WOMEN OF MANY RACES

UNITED IN SERVICE

TO THE BRITISH CROWN

WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES

IN ITALIAN SOMALILAND, SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA,

KENYA AND MADAGASCAR

BUT TO WHOM THE FORTUNE OF WAR

DENIED A KNOWN AND HONOURED GRAVE

1,990 of their comrades of all the Services are commemorated by individual headstones on the graves in the War Cemetery and 170 by individual headstones on graves in other cemeteries in Nairobi.

The Memorial will be unveiled by General Sir Alan Cunningham on 21st January, 1956.

Regimental Gazette

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 30TH AUGUST, 1955

The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the award of the Territorial Efficiency Decoration upon the following officers:—

Infantry

The Buffs.—Major J. T. R. Prestige (134126), Capt. N. G. H. Taylor (182144).

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. M. K. Courtney (439108) to be Lt., 6th November, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

THE BUFFS.—The undermentioned Cadets to be 2nd Lts., 17th September, 1955:—

23104871 Owen Richard Daniel (444486); 23104834 Christopher Holmes-Smith (444488); 23104824 Wynyard Roland David Wallace (444504).

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Lt. R. G. Bennett (406136) is granted the actg. rank of Capt., 24th September, 1955.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2nd Lt. J. P. Robinson (431733) is granted the actg. rank of Lt., 25th June, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 1955

INFANTRY

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2nd Lt. J. R. D'Arcy-Dawson (429508) from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List to be 2nd Lt., 11th October, 1954, with seniority 1st August, 1953.

2nd Lt. M. A. McAvoy (428814) from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List to be 2nd Lt., 22nd October, 1954, with seniority 30th May, 1953.

2nd Lt. M. A. McAvoy (428814) is granted the actg. rank of Lt., 30th January, 1955.

2nd Lt. J. R. D'Arcy-Dawson (429508) is granted the actg. rank of Lt., 3rd March, 1955.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER, 1955

INFANTRY

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

CLASS III

THE BUFFS.—Capt. A. R. F. Dalgliesh (397221) from Active List to be Capt., 19th October, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

GENERAL LIST

SECTION B

COMBINED CADET FORCE

REPTON SCHOOL CONTGT.

Lt. R. C. E. French (412192) from The Buffs (T.A.) to be Lt., 8th October, 1955.

Beneath Bell Harry



AUTUMN shades of grey and sombre colours, forecast once again the closing of the year. Already thoughts are chasing towards Christmas, and all that it entails. November has been a busy month one way and another, the two main features being the Lord Mayor's Show on the 9th and the passing-out parade of Paardeberg Platoon.

The Lord Mayor's Show went off, in spite of the rain, very well indeed. For the majority of the contingent it was their first time of marching through the City of London. This honour, ancient in history, reflected itself in a happy mood, if one can judge by the singing of the troops, which never ceased from the moment of leaving London until the arrival at the outskirts of Canterbury. A letter from one of the many hundred students who watched the Show was received in the Company; it commended The Buffs on their performance, and their ability and determination to keep step, no mean feat when done against the desire of several hundred roaring students.

Paardeberg Platoon passed out on the 25th November, the inspecting officer being Colonel Stevens, the Brigade Colonel. He was, he said, impressed with the turn-out, and added that he was able to compare this with many other passing out parades. The whole Show went off smoothly and was not spoiled by the very cold day that did its best to numb everyone's spine. For the record, the following recruits received medals:—Pte. Jackson 435: best all-round recruit. Pte. Costello: best rifle shot. Pte. Evernden: best shot on L.M.G. Pte. Stelley: best recruit P.T. Congratulations to all of them and the platoon as a whole for the fine way they went about everything.

It is fitting to add that our training officer, Lieut. Dracopoli, is at present on holiday in Paris, studying, so he would have us believe, ART. That should give the Mona Lisa something to moan about! Anyway, we wish him a pleasant time.

Our C.S.M. is gradually recovering, but is not too happy at Shorncliffe—he misses the daily muster parade. Quote from C.S.M.: "Nothing can stimulate the liver quicker". Get well quickly, Sergeant-Major. 2/Lieut. Wright departs shortly for civilian life and we wish him the very best of luck. We hope that as he lives so near at hand he will often come to see us.

* * *

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

1955 has been a monumental year for everyone connected with the "Q" department. We have survived, with flying colours, two Administrative Inspections and two Boards of Officers within the relatively short period of ten months.

Several of the staff have recently equipped themselves with second-hand cars which succeed in making R.Q.M.S. Howe's car look like a 1955 model in comparison. No doubt there will be two or three new entries for next year's London to Brighton Veteran Car rally.

During the year, keen rivalry has developed between the various storekeepers. Cpl. Bailey has an advantage with all his electro plate; the Cunnington-Woodward emporium has been done out in the Regimental Colours and has also enlisted the aid of the gardener who has been persuaded to use the store as a hot-house, while Sgt. Haylett seems to have the edge with his up-to-date exhibit of the F.N. rifle. Cpl. Cunnington is seriously anticipating orders from Major Watts to get his 400 pairs of boots polished!!

L/Cpl. Sillence is now an ardent disciple of the football pools; he is firmly convinced he is going to win £75,000 before Christmas—poor deluded man.

January will see an almost complete change of staff. Sgt. Haylett and L/Cpl. Sillence will be firmly established in Germany; Ptes. Rankin and Woodward will be demobilised at the beginning of the month and L/Cpl. Lucas will follow a few weeks later. The latter will be greatly missed in the office where, as a budding Picasso, his efforts to interest the staff in the appreciation of the arts, by sticking up on the walls various pictures and art studies ranging from pseudo modernistic furniture to Diana Dors, have caused wide and varied comments from all who enter the office.

There was considerable raising of eyebrows and wagging of heads when, recently, it was rumoured that L/Cpl. "Sam" Bassett was being posted to the Potential Leader Company. However, this, it appears, was only a "paper transaction", and he is still to be seen going about his normal business of satisfying the needs of our 200 married quarters with, of course, his sideline job of "impressario" of the Garrison Theatre.

With the appearance of new Officers' Married Quarters on Garrison Hill, the demolition of the Riding School Shed near the Garrison Church, and the disappearance of the Bullet Bank, plus the external repainting of both our barracks, the landscape of this part of Canterbury is taking on a "new look". The best wishes of all those members of the Quartermaster's department, who are leaving shortly, go to the new members of the staff, with the hope that there will be a continuation of the team spirit shown by their predecessors throughout the department's work in the past twelve months.



Mr. Bill Pickering, the English Channel Record Holder, presents Pte. Woodward with a trophy.

STOP PRESS

Before Pte. Woodward's departure to "civvy" life, the whole staff would like to join in congratulating him on his remarkable swimming successes during the past two years. These included: Winner, Morcambe Cross Bay Swimming Championship, 10½ mies, 1955; Runner-up, Cross River Humber Swimming Championship, 11 miles, 1955; Runner-up, Ryde, Isle of Wight to Southsea Championship, 6 miles, 1955; First person to swim Swale Estuary from Whitstable to Isle of Sheppey, 1955; Winner, South London Christmas Day Swimming Race, 1954; Runner-up, 1,600 metres Freestyle Championship, Home Counties District, 1954; Runner-up, 400 metres Freestyle Championship, Home Counties District, 1954.

We hear it is his ambition to swim the English Channel. Our best wishes go with him for success in his efforts.

* * *

West Country Buffs Advance

IT is very stimulating to be able to report a considerable advance on the Western Front. In response to the progress report published in the November *Dragon*, Brigadier H. C. T. Stronge wrote to say that he welcomed the idea of a luncheon at Taunton rather than a dinner and that he could be counted as a starter. He also supported that April would be more suitable than March, owing to the weather.

Advice from such a gallant and distinguished officer is very welcome and encouraging. I have therefore raised my sights and am now aiming at a date about the middle of April, when the Easter rush will be over.

In addition to those already mentioned, Major W. H. Pitkin, now serving with the Royal Army Pay Corps at Taunton, has notified his intention to attend. He joined the Buffs in 1930 and transferred to the R.A.P.C. in 1951. But, as he so rightly remarked: "Once a Buff, always a Buff." Yet another who will be very welcome is Major C. S. Field, who was so badly damaged by a car in Dorchester about a year ago. From all quarters one hears expressions of admiration at the pluck he shows in grappling with the greatest handicap a keen sportsman can suffer.

In the next *Dragon* I hope to be able to give full details of the arrangements made and the actual date of what should be a very jolly function. Meanwhile any further comments or entries would be greatly appreciated.

R.T.

89th L.A.A. Reg. R.A./11 Buffs Re-union

THE Tenth Annual Re-union Dinner was held at the Eccleston Hotel in London on Friday, November 25th. Twenty-three members attended (list attached). This after ten years was really very satisfactory. In fact, but for several last minute cancellations the number might well have been 30. Thanks to Sam Simpson and Derek Marcy, both of whom claimed to have done everything, as I'm sure they did. An excellent meal was provided. Rumours are that most of the work was done by Sam's Secretary, an unseen Miss Briggs, to whom a message of grateful thanks was sent by all present.

To those who were unable to attend the following items may be of interest. Mitchell has recently finished command of a R.A. Regiment in Germany (Wuppertal) and is to command Mons O.C.T.U. in the spring. John Bickersteth has a parish of his own near London at Oxted. Harry Emms now farming in Cheshire hopes to visit the Depot in January, but thinks Colonel Argles may be one of the only officers he will know. Peter Plumptre is proposing to grow pigs when he leaves the Army. Colonel Cory has had some excellent fishing in the North of Scotland where he and some friends would appear to own most of the Hebrides or is it the Shetlands? He is off to Spain in February, so how he finds time to farm at what he calls an inaccessible spot in Suffolk, or how he remembers his way there seems to be an unanswered question.

Before closing down these notes, a special message was sent to Gregory Blaxland for a rapid return to full activity and the hope that he would be able to come next year.

A provisional date was fixed to hold our next re-union on the last Friday in October, 1956. It is hoped all who served with either the 11th or 50th Battalions, The Buffs, will bear this date in mind. Sam Simpson and Derek Marcy have volunteered to continue their excellent services as Joint Secretaries (not to mention our Miss Briggs).

List of Members attending:—

D. Hunter, C. Bossom, K. Miller, H. C. Cory, J. R. Willows, J. M. Bickersteth, H. J. Nicholls, R. Keane, H. S. Sherrington, M. Gilbert-Lodge, J. Blandford, B. Edwards, H. M. Emms, N. Taylor, P. Plumptre, A. F. Blair, A. Mitchell, R. W. W. Howell, J. Shakespeare, D. Nichols-Marcy, R. S. Simpson, R. Bevis.

J.R.W.



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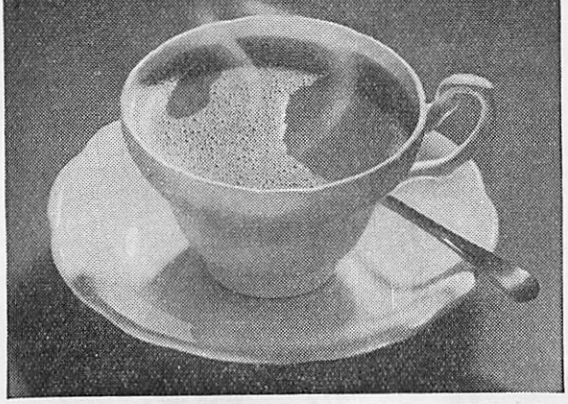
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4/5th Battalion



THE advent of another year sees the Battalion embarking on a new training programme, assuming always that the now famous "Second Draft" becomes established fact, with some emphasis on Civil Defence and an innovation in the shape of Training Week-ends sponsored by the Rifle Companies in turn. All volunteers may attend these Week-ends and they will provide us all with the chance of getting together more frequently and finding out what the other chap is doing. In battle the "other side of the hill" is always an enigma but this can be countered by knowledge of one's own weapons, a quick reaction to what the other side is doing and above all in knowing Smith or Jones and the kind of fellows they are. The more we can intermingle now the less settling-down is necessary when we are thrown together as a Battalion and the easier team-work can become.

There is still no news as to our future in the larger scheme of things. Questions in the House have produced the inevitable answer that plans are being made and that a statement will be made as soon as practicable. In the meantime strange rumours have circulated, all of which have been discounted by the Minister of Defence. The continued existence of the Territorial Army is certain but in what capacity or in what rôle we shall be playing a part must remain a matter of speculation until the official pronouncement provides answers to our many enquiries. There were major changes in the past but always the Territorial concept has remained. *Soldier* (Volume II, Number 10) probably puts the matter in a nutshell—"You have to be hard-skinned to be a Territorial . . ." and with that thought in mind perhaps we ought to leave it at that!

To stimulate interest in attendances at Drill Halls Battalion Orders quite recently promulgates details of a new competition with a barrel of beer (of unspecified size, alas!) and a silver cup as trophies for the winning Company or Platoon. This sounds interesting and the result of the first leg will be watched with interest.

Congratulations to Major John Prestige and Captain Nigel Taylor on their awards of the Territorial Decoration; possibly the result of a close study of existing Regulations but extremely well-merited never-the-less. Their less fortunate colleagues continue to count the years on the clock!

Tests of training now seem to cover most military subjects, and other things too if we are to believe an article appearing in one evening paper. It seems that Lieut. Nigel Howland became involved in a very difficult test of baby bathing and managed to lose on points too! Infantry Training will be amended in due course to cover more rigorous safety-pin drill.

Major Richard Ravenhill's Kentish perambulations have included Folkestone, where he looked in on the social occasion with "S" Company, whilst Captain Chris. Griffin darted down to Margate to witness the presentation to Major Tilleard (and book certain officers for courses just as a side-line).

We shall shortly be saying good-bye to C.S.M. Seymour, who is *en route* for Nigeria in January. During his tour of duty with the Battalion he has looked after "D" Company most successfully and we shall be sorry to see him go. Our best wishes go with him in this new venture.

All members of the 4/5th Battalion send Christmas greetings and best wishes for the coming year to all Buffs, past as well as present, the whole world over.

* * *

"A" COMPANY

It is quite clear that Sgt. Bryant has moved in, the volume of smoke from the Pipe anti-personnel Mk. III (P.S.I.) has now thinned to a fine mist and smog masks need not be worn in the Company Office, the paper war has been halted in strict "In" and "Out" (and all pull together) style—one wonders where those pretty file tags come from!—and what is more important to the customers, Bounties have been paid out.

On 29th November there was a pleasant little ceremony at Margate attended by members of the present "A" Company, the M.M.G. Platoon from Sandwich and the Sandwich Platoon of the 303rd Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.), when Major John Tilleard, T.D., was presented with a table lighter in recognition of his many services to the Company whilst in command. With it, wherever the lighter may go, our former Company Commander has our best wishes for a successful tour of duty with "S" Company and our grateful thanks for his help in the past. Present on that occasion were two past Company Commanders, Lieut.-Col. C. S. F. Witts, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., and Capt. N. G. H. Taylor, T.D.; Colonel Witts brought along the watch presented to him by members of this Company twenty-seven years ago and was obviously delighted at being back in what must be familiar surroundings to him. The Adjutant, Quartermaster and R.S.M. Faulkner came down from Canterbury and joined in the fun; Hawley Square has not been so heavily populated for such a long time! The opportunity was taken of welcoming Major Balding and Sgt. Bryant to the Company, and we achieved a write-up in the local press which will serve to keep us in the public mind.

Generally things have been rather quiet, largely as the result of need to re-organize following the various moves, but we have been doing a certain amount of Signals Training and M.T. Work which has been of interest. The vehicle situation is somewhat grim once more with workshops claiming more and more erstwhile "runners". Anyway, Sgt. King now knows considerably more about the petrol feed on a "Bedford" than he did before, and as Captain Morgan said, "Where were the tools . . . .?".

As it is nearing Christmas it is only right that these notes should end with our best wishes both for then and the coming year to all Buffs everywhere.

* * *

"B" COMPANY

As mentioned before, all is hustle and bustle in "B" Company, but at last we seem to be riding out the storm and with the rough spots passed the great change-over does not seem half so formidable.

We have all got down to training on Infantry weapons, and although we are finding it a full-time job, we manage to get a certain amount of social activity, so it's not all work and no play by any means. The new training year was very full at the beginning; the 6th November saw us attending the Remembrance Day Service at Milton Church, near Sittingbourne, under the command of Major P. N. P. Plunkett, and then on the 20th of the same month we went to Dibgate ranges to fire the 2-in. mortar, 3.5-in. rocket launcher and to throw Mills grenades.

The Company football team is in training, but so far has not had a really good chance to prove its worth. A try-out will be sure to come soon.

On the social side, we entertained our friends from Camp, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, at shooting, darts and table tennis, and we were lucky enough to be winners of all the events. It was nice to see them again and we look forward to a return match and many future events. After our successes in those spheres, it came rather hard to lose 3—2 to the 303 Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.) at basket ball—a severe bout of training must clearly follow this defeat! On 17th November we had the pleasure of entertaining H.Q. Company's darts team and they took it out of us too by beating the Company team on the second leg. The margin was quite short, however, and we succeeded in getting the master of them on the miniature range.

The Officers, N.C.O.s and Men of "B" Company wish all Buffs a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, wherever they may be.

* * *

"D" COMPANY

The Company's star social event for December is the farewell party on the 15th to our P.S.I., C.S.M. Seymour.

"Rosie" Seymour is bound for Nigeria in January, and to say that he'll be missed by the boys is an understatement, as he is extremely popular. (Now will you stop twisting my arm, Sergeant-Major!)

With the exception of those who are harassed by the thoughts of Income Tax (you lucky people!), the prospects of increases in the General Rate, Purchase Tax, Christmas extras, outstanding bills and the cost of living in general; the troops are eagerly awaiting the commencement of the new training programme and there's even some speculation about Annual Camp. One chap (who shall be nameless) has been making tentative enquiries about 'phone numbers in Clacton. He maintains a notebook so full of fruitful 'phone numbers that it looks like an H/bomb formula and it's probably just as deadly.

Now that we're getting used to the idea of losing a lot of N.S.M., it's up to the rest of us to re-capture the old Volunteer spirit and inject an extra dose of enthusiasm into the T.A. We would welcome any suggestions from other Companies about "gimmicks" which might help to foster an even stronger interest in the social side of our proceedings.

In signing off, Delta Company take this opportunity to wish all readers the Compliments of the Season and a Bright and Happy New Year.

* * *

"S" COMPANY

The month has been a busy one for all "S" Company platoons, the Company Commander has visited all drill halls at various times and has succeeded in dealing with the inevitable mass of paper which accompanies a move from "A" to "B". Sgt. Kay has been touring the wilds and even C.S.M. Rogers migrated to Canterbury on some pretext or other. In short, the situation is as it should be.

Our week-end training at Deal was most successful. Both the Mortar and Anti-Tank Platoons took the field and spent a useful day in the Kingsdown area. Sgt. Wraight came up from Ashford and so we had the benefit of his experience on the 17-pounder. The social visit to Folkestone went off well, too, and it was nice to see Major Ravenhill present. Recently some of us visited "B" Company for the Sapper week-end and got very much involved in mining and wiring. Our late arrival on that day is probably taking some explaining away and, who knows, perhaps Mr. Johnson's ears are burning!

The Machine Gunners now have their plate up at Sandwhich and with all their stores there (thanks to the completion of work on the Fisher Gate and the great assistance given by the Quartermaster over keys) are well and truly open for business. A Sunday in November was devoted to ferrying-over stores from Ramsgate, and now Sgt. Bryant's joy has to be seen to be believed. All the bushes, axis, side, lever, seem to have been accounted for and curiously enough, the private pair of pliers turned up again after being spirited away so ruthlessly. The disturbing noises on that Sunday brought along Busty Field to investigate and it was good to see him again—not even fading away! There were alarming discoveries in the remoter parts of the building, including a relic in the shape of a rather cobwebby musket which was very smartly handed over to Higher Authority!

Training is thus really under way at Sandwich and every so often the darts enthusiasts are dragged away to do gun drill or wrestle with problems of Elementary Theory. Support from Ramsgate is still strong and there was one memorable evening when Pte. Harding actually CYCLED to the Quay; a feat which will almost certainly not be repeated. No challenges are being issued as the result of this attempt on the endurance trials. And talking of trials, we have high hopes of a first-class representation in the Battalion motor cycle team from the following:—Cpl. Hogben, R.E.M.E., L/Cpl. Rye, Ptes. Mills and Spicer.

On 29th November, the Sandwich Platoon went to Margate to be present at the function arranged for Major Tilleard, T.D. As he is still our Company Commander, it did not seem that we were saying good-bye to him; however, the opportunity was taken to sharpen the darts on the board at Hawley Square! The fact that the Platoon paraded twenty-nine strong is good evidence of the esteem by which our present Company Commander is held.

In conclusion, we wish all Buffs the compliments of the season, and our special thoughts go to "S" Company of the 1st Battalion, so many of whom we know.

H.Q. COMPANY

During the course of the last month we had the pleasure of going out to Littlebourne and shooting against the Home Guard. We should like to thank Major J. Friend and his brother officers for entertaining us. The evening resulted in a slender win for Headquarter Company. Our local paper honoured us by taking a photograph of the two teams, although few of us are recognisable. We are looking forward to a return match on the 22nd November.

I regret to report a humiliating defeat by the Home Guard, 3rd Canterbury Battalion, who visited us on the 15th. Our opponents introduced some novel targets, not normally employed in service matches, but they adequately proved that their musketry was of a high order and we had to dip our colours to a defeat by 90 points—690 points to 600.

The Brigade Commander's annual inspection has now taken place. The Company Commander and Sgt. Porter managed to surmount most of the difficulties and it was some relief to know that the Brigade Commander was not feeling very well and did not stay very long with us. We hope, however, that he is now fully recovered. We have yet to await the outcome in terms of a paper report of our activities.

It is a matter of great pleasure to know Company Commander C.S.M. Chapman and Sgt. Williams and Hughes have taken on for a further period. They are the very backbone of our company organisation.

High hopes that we were going to live in waterproof huts in Cornwall have now been shattered and, at the present time, it looks as if we shall be spending our Annual Camp at Fingeringho, on the Essex marshes, near the River Blackwater, in the homely atmosphere of tents. The thought makes one's bones creak.

Past and Present Association

Life Members

1ST TO 30TH NOVEMBER

Canterbury Branch.—Allen, W. J.

Medway Branch.—Smith, R. R.

H.Q. Roll.—Hamer, B. P. J., Holloway, R. G., Adams, R., Smith, S., Williams, B., Jones, J., Jephcott, J., Harrison, D., Yuill, N., Bailey, W., Haylett, R., Addy, H., Sillence, E., Ivory, L., Jones, F.

* * *

Annual Members

1ST TO 30TH NOVEMBER

Brighton Branch.—Garner, W. M. D.

Herne Bay Branch.—Sharman, W. H.

H.Q. Roll.—Fitch, A., Flores, E., Costello, W. P., Nunn, M. W., Snaydon, R., Everden, R., Gill, T., Parker, A. J., Nettleton, —., Robinson, J., Sheridan, B. W. E., Sole, R., Smith, P. O., Stevens, B. J., Williams, J., Jackson, R., Wood, T., Langridge, T. A., White, E., Revell, J., Steley, E. T. P., Howe, E., Booth, D. L., Randell, E., Roach, P. D., Haynes, K. E., Borrie, M. A., Hawkins, M., Holness, G. W., Jackson, I., Martin, H. S., Meacher, W. G. W., Schwartzman, A. W., Brennan, J. P., Piper, J. F.

Donations

Major G. A. E. Chapman, D.S.O.	£8	0	0

* * *

Grants

The total grants from the Benevolent Fund and the World War 1939 Charitable Fund during the month of November, 1955, are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Benevolent Fund	28	15	0
World War 1939 Charitable Fund	27	7	5

* * *

Denmark Branch

In the Autumn two meetings have been held. The first meeting took place on the 20th October, when there were shown pictures and the Denmark Branch Shooting Competition started. The attendance was fairly good, about 15 members. On the 3rd November, the second meeting took place, and the programme that evening was only shooting. Also here 15 members attended. I am sorry that we have not yet started the shooting competition with the other branches in England owing to the fact that the rifles we have are of such a state that it is more than difficult to have placed the shots on the targets. It has been requested from the Association to the keeper of the restaurant where we hold our meetings to bring the rifles in such a state that they are fit for use.

On Thursday, 8th December, Denmark Branch held their Christmas Meeting and were accompanied by our our ladies, and like last year, there was tombola, a shooting competition for the ladies and a dart board. (*The Secretary of the Past and Present Association sent a telegram of greeting.—Editor.*)

REMEMBRANCE DAY, SUNDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 1955.—Denmark Branch was represented in the English Church by Major Iversen, Kai Weeke and P. Berendt, where they attended morning service, and after the service there was a wreath laying ceremony on Vestre Kirkegaard.

In July, Lieut. G. P. Turner, 1st Battalion The Buffs, visited Copenhagen after having finished his National Service, in order to have a good rest in this town after a hard time in the British Army, and he had made up his mind to spend his holidays together with some friends in Copenhagen. As far as I understood from Mr. Turner and his friends, they have had much pleasure from his visit in Copenhage.n Especially you could often find them in "Fæ rge-Kroen" (The "Ferry Inn") in "Tivoli"!

* * *

Ramsgate Branch

Before I give my meeting report, I should like on behalf of the Ramsgate Branch to wish the Officers and All Ranks 1st and 4th Battalions The Buffs a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Also to all Buffs we send our best wishes.

Now for the meeting report:—

The monthly meeting of the Ramsgate Branch was held at Headquarters, The Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, 18th November, 1955. Mr. C. F. Fakley presided, supported by Major H. Martin, M.B.E., Lieut. W. Wotton, Mr. E. H. Swendell and Mr. B. E. Knott (Branch Secretary).

Mr. Fakley welcomed officers and members; he also welcomed Mr. Colyer of Sandwich, who wished to be placed on the Ramsgate Roll.

The Chairman expressed the Branch's sympathy with their sick members, Messrs. Kirby, Wright, Sheppard and Dorman. He wished these members a speedy recovery to good health.

Apologies were received from Capt. N. G. H. Taylor, Capt. K. Speakman and Mr. W. Groombridge.

Correspondence was received from Herne Bay, who were playing Ramsgate in the Darts Competition on Saturday, December 10th. The match to be played at the British Legion Club, Herne Bay. The Secretary was instructed to arrange a 32-seater coach. Ladies invited.

It was decided to send a Donation to the Mayor's Cheer Fund.

Mr. Hougham presented a very satisfactory Branch Dinner Balance Sheet.

Mr. Fakley thanked Mr. Hougham for the excellent dinner arrangements and stated that he thought every member enjoyed a very satisfactory dinner and entertainment. (Applause from all members.)

Both Messrs. Castle and Hogben gave members details of Social Activities and news of future events. Thanking members for their attendance and support, Mr. Fakley closed a very satisfactory meeting. Refreshments were served by Buff Host Dick Atkins.

B.E.K.

* * *

Brighton Branch

A good and full meeting of the Branch on November 14th, and we even had the pleasure of congratulating M. de J. Creswick on winning all those golf competitions again.

B.G.S. had better think of arranging the Spring Meeting at Hollingbury—it would save M. de J. carrying all the cups, etc., so far. J.C. please note!

All our invalids seem fit and well at the moment, and all our members join with me in wishing all readers (and writers) of *The Dragon* a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

* * *

Ashford Branch

Our meeting was held on December 3rd at the Invicta, Ashford. Present: Mr. A. J. Mills (Chair), Major Bompas (President), Secretary A. C. Mills and eighteen members.

The Chairman opened the meeting by calling on the Secretary to read the Minutes for the previous meeting, which were then signed.

The correspondence was then read and discussed. A letter from the Canterbury Branch was read regarding our forthcoming dart match with them. We accepted the 21st January, 1956, as the date for this match at the Sergeants' Mess, and are looking forward to an enjoyable evening.

The Secretary was asked to send greeting cards to fellow Branches and Serving Members.

Mr. Stace gave a report on the Branches tables in the Ashford Indoor Sports Leagues. At crib we were half-way up that table; and in the darts we were at the bottom. One thing, no one can pass us, and we are keeping everyone above us, which is quite a weight. The Election of Officers then took place, Major Bompas taking over the Chair. The officers elected were as follows:—Major Bompas (President), Capt. Denne (Vice-President), A. J. Mills (Chairman), G. Skinner (Vice-Chairman), A. C. Mills (Secretary), W. Chapman (Assistant Secretary), A. Janes (Treasurer), W. Mills and A. Blake (Auditors), Messrs. Stace, Earl, Rossiter and Vant (Committee). The Chairman thanked members present for being re-elected Chairman.

A vote of thanks was given to H. Coleman for his gift for the raffle which then followed (Thanks, Harry).

With no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting by wishing everyone a Very Happy Christmas and New Year. The raffle was then made, Messrs. Earl, Janes and Gus Tompsett being the winners.

We are sorry to hear that our Ladies' Guild have disbanded through lack of members. One day we hope to get them started again. We will have to discuss this with our wives.

I wish to add that on behalf of the Ashford Branch I send to all members of the Past and Present Association, and to all serving members, our heartiest greeting for Christmas and the New Year.

A.C.M.

* * *

London Branch

We very much regret to report the death of two grand Buffs, in the names of Mr. D. G. Orgar, Private 6th Bn., and Mr. A. Cole of the 1st Battalion. Our sincere sympathy to their wives and families. Major Enright has written about the late Albert Cole in this *Dragon*.

On November 5th, 1955, we paid our annual visit to our Poppy Plot at Westminster. It was a simple little service, well attended. Among those present were Brigadier and Mrs. E. Foster Hall, Major Clover, Capt. Woodcock, Jimmy Redmond, Mr. Billings and also many ladies from the Guild.

Our old friend, Mr. Grant, has not been too good in health of late, but we all wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him at Tufton Street in the near future.

On Saturday, 19th November, 1955, the London Branch meeting night was held at the Prince Alfred, Tufton Street. Letters were read from Miss Joan Cole, Mrs. D. G. Orgar, Major Enright, Mr. R. F. Milford and Mr. Hewson. The letter received from Mr. Milford told how he met an old Buff through wearing his Badge, and suggested that all members wore their Badges at all times. It would probably bring in new members.

So, getting straight away on to the meeting, we had some very interesting items on the agenda. The shooting team—Mr. Lewis giving us the up-to-date picture. He emphasised, however, that he would like more volunteers to come forward. The draw sheet of the Darts Competition had arrived from Canterbury. We had a bye in the first round, but meet our old comrades, Sittingbourne, in the second round. We are hoping to play this off on the 21st January, 1956, so make a note of this date, members of the London Branch.

Getting along to other business, where there are no punches pulled. Criticism is a good thing, and it's really nice to know what one can learn from it. Yes, this was a great meeting, the attendance being again over 50. This was a good night because of the old faces that kept turning up. Mr. Head from Forest Gate, Chick Hopkins, Dave Maslin and wife—was Dave pleased to meet Billy Hudd! They really did have something to talk about. I would not be sure, but I bet it was about their fistic days. They were grand boxers for their battalion. Also attending were Mr. Jack Hammond and wife, looking very fit indeed. Mrs. Hammond said she was very sorry she missed Charlie and Mrs. Mantell when they attended our Dinner. Well, Charlie, when you read this we hope to have a real celebration on December 17th, and I am sure Jack and wife will be there. Also present were Billy Everitt, K. C. Cobb, Capt. Emery, Churki Watts, Bert Perry, Mr. Havell, and a very grand Buff in the name of Mr. Tong. We were very pleased to see him again, looking quite fit.

I am sorry I have to draw to a close for this month, because time waits for nobody, and at this time of the year one is kept so very busy. So, I say to all Branches of the P. & P., London Branch wish you all the luck in the New Year, and a Very Happy Christmas. So on to the New Year and to keep the old Dragon flying.

H.J.S.

* * *

THE LATE ALBERT COLE

Many will remember those dark days after the First Great War when most of the manhood of our Country were out of work and families starving. Many more fortunate kept food cupboards and every week-end would take their food parcels to less fortunate old Buffs and their families. Albert Cole was one of our most generous members, and no down and out Buff or widow ever entered his shop and came out empty-handed. At Christmas-time each year roughly 100 food parcels went out, each with a ticket for meat from Albert, who supplemented the Branch amoung by double. No old Buff or his family were ever forgotten. The Christmas Draw—when a large turkey was purchased, Albert would add a leg of pork or a York ham. He was a great and noble Buff and the London Branch have lost a real, true and valued friend. Albert Cole suffered much during the past two years, and we all thank Micky Heirons for the help he gave him.

We shall remember him.

* * *

Ladies' Guild

The normal monthly meeting was hot held on Saturday, 3rd December, because the evening was given over to the Guild's Annual Dinner-Social.

Sixty-six people sat down to a very enjoyable Christmas Dinner of Soup, Roast Turkey, Christmas Pudding, Cheese and Biscuits, and Coffee. There was a vacant chair because unfortunately Mrs. Billings had been detained at home at the last minute by sudden illness in the family.

In addition to those members who are able regularly to attend Guild Meetings, it was a great pleasure to see many others who, for reasons of distance or otherwise, are not able to come so often. These included Mr. and Mrs. Tong, Mrs. Coward and a friend, Mrs. and Miss Wittering, Mrs. Goss and her family party, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor from Pinner, and Mrs. Jean Dalgleish who reported "all's well" on the nursery front. Those unable to attend sent a message of greeting and good wishes for Christmas and the New Year, and included Mrs. Buxton, Mrs. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. J. Collins, Mrs. and Miss Cudlip, Mrs. Susan Crookenden, Mrs. Harman, Mrs. Guy Lee, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Vaughan and Mrs. Whichello.

The Chairman, Mrs. Coley, proposed the toasts to Her Majesty The Queen, The Regiment, and The Ladies' Guild, and made a speech of Welcome to the Guests. She also read letters from the Officer Commanding the 1st Battalion, and the Secretary of the Dover Branch Ladies' Guild.

Brigadier Foster Hall was loudly applauded for his speech in reply to the welcome to the Guests. Not knowing just what was expected of him, he said he had come prepared with two speeches, and he felt the best thing would be to deliver both. So the assembled gathering sat back in their chairs and waited for the two orations. They came—in not more than a dozen words for the pair of them—hence the warm approbation. (The Brigadier has now endeared himself to the Guild for life as the ideal after-dinner speaker!)

Immediately after the meal and whilst the tables were being cleared, tickets for a Lucky Dip were distributed and everyone reeived a small present.

Two very kind friends of Mr. and Mrs. Ricketts provided piano and accordion music during the evening. There was dancing, "Musical Parcels", and a competition to guess the weight of a bag of vegetables (14 lbs. 14½ ozs.) which had been donated by "a kindly soul". This parcel was won by Mrs. Craddock. (It should be mentioned here that the winner of the first round of "Musical Parcels" found his prize (a glass water jug) slightly "bent" by the time the game was over, the parcel having been bounced on the floor a number of times during its travels).

The special Christmas raffle—the basket of groceries—realised a total of £7 2s. 0d., but the winning ticket (No. 20) has not been produced and the prize still awaits collection. "Six twopenny raffles" during the evening produced a further £2 14s. 0d., for which prizes of a box of stationery, a Parker propelling pencil, an "Old Bleach" linen apron and teacloth, 40 cigarettes and two pairs of socks were provided by the "Folks at the Corner Table". In addition, a box of 50 cigarettes was given by Mr. T. W. Taylor to be auctioned, and this realised a further 10/3 for the funds.

It was felt at this point that the friends present had responded so willingly in the matter of buying raffle tickets that other gifts which had been received during the evening should be left over for raffling at the New Year meeting.

The party finally disbanded at 11 p.m., and the unanimous verdict was that the evening had turned out to be a roaring success, and that a good time was had by all. But the notes would not be complete unless some acknowledgment was made of the assistance by Brigadier Foster Hall in distributing gifts and prizes, and of Mr. W. A. Ricketts in acting as unofficial M.C. Thank you both, gentlemen.

* * *

Dover Branch

The monthly meeting took place on the 1st December, the Chairman (Capt. E. Marsh, M.B.E.) presiding. Supporting him were Charlie Collins (Secretary), Tom Holloway (Treasurer), Arthur Noakes (Vice-Chairman), Woo Martin, A. Banks, Messrs. Hawkins, Ellen, Hopper, Wakefield, Hayward, Blundell, Dick Joyner, Jack Deane, Jim Johncock, Cocker Lorum, Darkie Ross, Charlie Hare and A. Howell.

Quite a very nice gathering, and we still have many more who could come along, circumstances permitting. Tommy Wakefield still performs on the piano, and we enjoy his cheery tunes, which we had before and after the meeting.

Sorry to hear that Harry Saunders is on the sick list. We trust it is only seasonable and that he will be about soon (next Saturday, the 10th, in fact). Also Mog Hollands—he is still confined indoors. Thanks are due to all those who sent the cheery letters, and the donations that went with them—every member of the Branch does really appreciate it.

Saturday the 10th sees the first round of the Darts Competition, when we are at home to Sandwich, last year's champions. After careful consideration, the team selected to represent the Branch are:—Mr. Hayward (Captain), Woo Martin, Cocker Lorum, A. Banks, A. Noakes, Mr. Hawkins and reserve, Charlie Hare. Of course, by the time these notes are printed and read, the game will have been played, but if Sandwich Branch could have seen the struggle this team had in beating a side chosen by Jack Deal, they would realise that the Branch has so much talent and will really want their best team in their best form to win.

Monday, 2nd January has been set for our Branch Christmas Party, and again we hope for a large gathering and a very enjoyable evening.

There is time in these notes to remind everyone that all Buffs and their families are welcome (because of the licensed premises, this must exclude children).

Should Joe Sinclair read these notes, Woo Martin was asking after him. So, Gus, a card to the Branch would let him know where you are, and how you are keeping. Last time the writer of these notes saw him was 1945 at Chatham, still serving.

Eighteen Branch members were lucky enough to obtain tickets to see the wonderful film made by the War Graves Commissioners and hear the talks that preceded and followed it. This film is going around the Country and for all those who were unfortunate to lose relations in the two wars and whose grave is known overseas, I can advise them to see it. The War Graves Commission have done a wonderful job of work which must be appreciated.

The Shooting Team are pegging away and I must say are showing a marked improvement on last year. Also gratifying is the fact that we have a full team plus reserves turning up. One member, namely Charlie Hare, is to be congratulated for his persistent trying, and also the fact that although it is as late as 7.15 p.m. before he has finished his day's work, he turns up regularly. (Good fellow, Charlie!)

Thanks also to Tom Holloway, who runs this shooting for us, and I am sure if needs be would, despite his age (72), get down and put up a reasonable score.

By the way, Tom does a lot of work for the Branch. It has become a bit regular now that if anything wants doing, it is "Ask Tom".

Now for a few members we haven't seen for a while, namely, Arthur Shelvey (shift work), Jack Abbott (what about these notes, Jack?), Harold Ratcliffe (expect you on the 2nd January), Eric Knowles (nice to see you on Mondays, but what about the first Thursday?), Major M. Hart (you know what you promised, Sir).

Finally, thank you, members—12/- in the box, a very noble effort. The creases on the Treasurer's face when he counts it are good to see!

T.H.H.

Medway Branch

Before I forget it. I can recommend *North African Journey* by Bernard Newman, to those of you who would like to have first hand information about that territory. A very interesting book indeed.

Captain Papworth's letter in the October issue makes me think that perhaps he hasn't discussed with others the subject of improving *The Dragon*.

His point that company notes follow an accepted pattern may be true but then he must remember that the authors of such notes are, in all probability (like myself), untrained in such matters and so look up back numbers of the Journal for examples to follow. Further, I consider that if serving soldiers *are* bored with such notes it is not because of the way in which such notes are presented to the reader but because the reader took part in the events that make the news.

The Captain's suggestion that the Journal should be issued quarterly is, I consider, not sound. The news from the serving units and the Branches of the Past and Present Association, would be so stale that nobody would wish to read it. In consequence of this I consider that sales would drop very considerably for whilst, "with effort", one can squeeze the monthly bob from a subscriber I do not believe that a quarterly three shillings would be forthcoming.

Neither do I believe that a "posh" cover would sell any extra copies—it must be remembered that in most instances the Journal is paid for before it is seen which means that the type of cover used would influence but a few.

Apropos the above. I thought the Canterbury notes in the October issue very good indeed. The mention of the transfers to us from the Middlesex Regiment reminded me of an incident way back in 1923. On a Saturday morning parade the O.C. Company was inspecting best khaki, and a newly joined subaltern the rifles—this was being done piecemeal. There was only one sergeant in the supernumerary rank (one of the transfers) and his amazement can be imagined when the subaltern went to him and ordered, "Sergeant ——, for inspection, etc." There was the slightest hesitation and then up snapped his rifle to the "port".

Later, in the Company Office, the Company Commander, an old soldier with much experience, addressed his subordinate. "Mr. So-and-So, you do not inspect sergeants, you trust them."

As indicated in the last issue of *The Dragon*, this Branch had representatives on the British Legion Armistice Parade when our standard waved bravely in the breeze. It was thought for some time that the weather would spoil everything but happily there was only a small shower and the noise of near thunder. In the evening of the same day, the 6th November, our Standard was blessed at St. Paul's Church, New Road, Chatham. The members, their wives and friends, numbered about thirty, and all were agreed that the Rev. A. E. Spears conducted the ceremony with quiet and touching dignity, and our thanks are extended to him for his kindness in permitting the service to take place in his church.

We did not have a very strong gathering at our monthly meeting but most of the absence was unavoidable. Mr. Pardew is still in hospital—he is now in St. William's—and although he has shewn progress he is not likely to be discharged until he has been fitted with a steel corset. Tich Eldridge, who we thought had tummy trouble, is now in St. Bartholomew's Hospital suffering from a slipped disc. Mr. Rogers was away with a bad cold, and our President (Mr. Hepworth) and Mr. Tomsett have been unable to stand the strain of November weather. To all of them we wish the best of luck and offer them our wishes for a speedy recovery and a happy return to our Branch meetings, etc.

To compensate for the absence of others we had a new member in the person of Mr. R. R. Smith, who served during the whole of the last war with the 5th Battalion. He has been enrolled as a life member and the Branch looks forward to the pleasure of his company. Incidentally, he throws a nifty dart.

I wonder if that last remark makes Hythe shake a bit. We are looking forward to meeting your members, Hythe, when they come to play us in the first round of the Darts Competition. A similar welcome is extended to Sandwich when we meet them in the second round. Perhaps that sounds too optimistic—well, we will wait and see if it is justified.

It will be remembered that I mentioned in previous notes that it has been suggested that there be closer liaison in the Medway Towns between the various ex-service organisations. A representative meeting has now been arranged for January at which Mr. Stewart (our Hon. Treasurer) and Mr. Brand (our Hon. Secretary) will be present. Their instructions are to observe and report. The report, or an excerpt therefrom, I shall be pleased to pass on to you at a later date.

* * *

Sandwich Branch

The General Monthly Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, 2nd November, 1955, at 8 p.m., and there was a fairly good attendance. In the absence of our Chairman, who is on holiday at Brecon, S. Wales, and our Vice-Chairman, unfortunately on the sick list, Mr. A. Ledner was elected to take the Chair for the Meeting. The Meeting opened with the usual moment's silence, followed by the minutes of the last meeting, which were read and adopted.

Apologies were received from Major F. W. Tomlinson, Lieut.-Col. N. S. Hart and Messrs. E. Hammond, A. Bundock (Eastry) and F. Harvey, also from Captain R. J. S. Morgan, M.C., who had hoped to be present to discuss arrangements for a social evening with the T.A. and the W.R.A.C.

Correspondence from H.Q. read and discussed included confirmation of our entry in the Inter-Branch Darts Competition for 1955/56.

A memorandum notice to Branches, stating that in future, in order to save time and expense, arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and the A.G.M. will only be sent out in brief, giving the minor adjustments where necessary, as the procedure is the same each year.

The minutes of the A.G.M. held at the Depot on Saturday, 17th September, were read and several items further discussed.

A circular letter from H.Q. was read and discussed in which fuller details were given as to the cost of our proposed visit to Denmark next year. Those present at the meeting voted that preference be given in support of the journey by coach, rather than by boat, the cost being less and that the journey would be more interesting. It was agreed to discuss the matter further at the next monthly meeting, by which time it was hoped to have news and the views of other Branches.

The Chairman gave notice that the Committee had met and were arranging for speakers to attend our monthly meetings in the New Year. Arrangements were also being made to run two social evenings in the near future.

A reminder was also given that the Remembrance Day Parade was on Sunday, 6th November, at 2.15 p.m., when it was hoped the Branch would be well represented. In view of the fact that our Chairman and Vice-Chairman were unable to be present, it was unanimously agreed to ask our oldest member in the Branch, 82-year-old Mr. W. Spicer, to lay the wreath at the Memorial.

The date has now been fixed for our social evening with the T.A. and the W.R.A.C. This is to be held at the Drill Hall on Tuesday, January 10th, 1956.

To all Buffs, Past and Present, we wish a very Happy Christmas and the Best of Luck in the New Year.

* * *

Canterbury Branch

Too late to be included in my last month's notes, I must now make a brief reference to the Re-union Dinner that the 1/4th Buffs of the 1914-19 period recently organised.

It received due publicity from the local papers and was apparently a successful "do".

Our Branch is proud to have among its members a few of this former Battalion, for no doubt the core of the early East Kent Territorials can be traced amongst the particular unit. This era must have been the peak of harmony for Regimental and County tradition. A little place like Hythe being no mean contributor to the ranks of a Battalion that gave such loyal service in India and Mespot.

On the 6th November, our Branch helped to support the Service of Remembrance which was held in our own Depot Garrison Church in Military Road. Although we had the invitation to participate with the British Legion and other Service Associations for the Cathedral Service, our members felt that they would like to repeat last year's venture and associate themselves with the Church and atmosphere that has been so truly representative of the Regiment for the past half century at least.

Colonel Evans commanded our detachment, and Mr. Kidder carried the Standard. His escort was made up by Mr. Mould and Mr. Watson—a fitting rôle for such loyal old-timers. They in particular must notice the radical changes within the Church itself and of course with the military atmosphere. Our old Depot Band is superseded by a fully robed mixed choir of boys and girls with a few elders. Also, too, the Church seems to have been improved upon in the way of furnishings. The Service itself was excellently conducted and well worthy of the occasion, and the Padre merits a greater patronage of the nearby Branches.

Closely following the 11th November is the Lord Mayor's Show in London. Unfortunately, with the 1st Battalion and Band being in Germany, we have little left to carry out our traditional rôle in this pageant, which is

more the pity, for there is many a Cockney onlooker who can with justification shout out "Steady The Buffs!". I notice the Royal Fusiliers sent a Colour Party and representative Troops from Dover, so at least one of the privileged Infantry Battalions was represented.

Our monthly meeting on the 25th November saw our usual regulars in great form, although our Chairman was a little bit under the weather (and doctor). He kindly came along to steer our helm but regretfully took his departure after handling our normal opening business. We appreciate your gesture and trust that Comrade Bronchial has by this time been suitably despatched and reprimanded, Sir!

In the course of his Chairmanship, Bill Evans found time to welcome to our fold R.S.M. G. Faulkner; to thank Billy Biggs for digging out a shield for the Darts Competition; to nominate our opponents in the Inter-Branch Dart League; to notify us of our forthcoming Dinner and, at a later date, a Dance, and finally, introducing our President, who was scheduled to give us a talk.

In retrospect and detail, this means that once again we have the support (and great assistance) of two active R.S.M.'s—a worthy example of Past and Present indeed. With the presentation of the Shield, Billy Biggs has provided the incentive for real competitive darts. If we could all match old Billy in the art of seemingly getting things out of a hat, we would need the Beaney Institute to house us. In the Dart League we hope to play against Ashford on the 21st January at Canterbury. For this match, Mr. White has very kindly placed the Depot Sergeants' Mess at our disposal so it is to be hoped that a bumper crowd will support this generous gesture. Tentatively, we sre arranging a Dance at the Drill Hall at the end of January, and "Hoppo" with his gang are going ahead with Dinner plans for February probably. After all that enlightenment, Colonel Roscow Reid gave us a very interesting talk on the catching of whales. This talk was well punctuated with humour, and although our President "bribed" us by buying drinks all round, I still say that it was really entertaining and appreciated.

We are dispensing with our December meeting for obvious reasons, but I shall endeavour to submit notes as usual. May I conclude with a humble wish and hope we are all blessed with a Peaceful New Year.

BABU.

* * *

WHO'S WHO AT THE CANTERBURY BRANCH

No. 6—LT.COL. E. J. EVANS

Nearly two years ago the Canterbury Branch was reformed and by a unanimous vote Lieut.-Colonel Evans was elected as our Chairman. Since that time he has worked wholeheartedly and with loyalty for the welfare of the Branch and its members. His pleasant disposition, tactfulness and broad outlook goes along with his efficiency.

The military and regimental career makes interesting reading and is inspiring.

I believe I am right in saying that Bill Evans came from military stock and he enlisted in 1911, joining "H" Company of the 1st Battalion in Dublin.

From 1912 until 1920 employment was mainly in the Orderly Room with the progressive promotion of that department, becoming Q.M.S. (ORS) in 1920. In 1922 he was appointed R.Q.M.S. and in 1930 R.S.M. of the 1st Battalion, a fitting reward for what was almost constant service in one Battalion.

Early in 1914, Bill Evans was on active service in France. He was for a time attached to the 6 Div. Cyclist Coy. As a result of wounds he had to join the 3rd Battalion for a time, then on to 3rd Echelon, and finally rejoined the 1st Battalion in 1919. From that time onwards he was on overseas service in Turkey, Gibraltar, Egypt, India and Burma. At Mingaladoon in Burma, he had the honour of training the Battalion for the ceremony of receiving New Colours, in 1932.

In 1939 our Chairman took a Commission as Q.M. in the A.M.P.C. (known later as Royal Pioneer Corps) and after holding one or two training executive appointments with the connected promotion therewith, finally finished up in command as Lieut.-Colonel of 52 Reinforcement Gp. of the 21 Army Group until released in 1946. All this again entailed service in France, Belgium and Germany.

Total military service amounts to 33 years, and during that time he has been awarded some 13 Medals, amongst which are two foreign decorations; also the L.S.G.C. and the M.S.M.

Bill Evans has the unique honour of being one of the very few O.R.'s to represent the Regiment when a deputation visited the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in 1926.

So much for his military career. Socially, we find our fellow-member joining in full with all activities of a normal peace-time Sergeants' Mess. He is versatile and capable with tennis, darts, the pool table and dice. Will sample an "ale" or M.C. a gay dance with the next man. Organising of "Bachelor Parties" (shades of Maymyo) a speciality!

In the distant past he was a keen photographer and was responsible for a number of prints appearing in *The Dragon*.

Has been a useful "Company" hockey, cricket and football player—now demoted to bat and trap.

Bill is still in military atmosphere for he is O.I.C. Eastern Command Stationery Section and President of the Canterbury Old Contemptibles.

His dislikes are Drill Courses and negligent motor-cycle drivers!

Enjoys the local football "Derby".

BABU.

* * *

Sittingbourne Branch

The last meeting of the year was held on December 2nd, with fewer members than usual present. It was decided that at the Children's Party this year the guests should be the veterans of the Branch and their wives, or widows of old members. Last year, it will be remembered, we invited the children of the Green Porch Home. Arrangements were made to visit the London Branch on January 21st to play off the round of the Inter-Branch Darts Competition. We hope to send up a full 26-seater for this event. Mr. Warner, who is in All Saints Hospital, Chatham, will be remembered at Christmas. He will receive visitors and a gift from the Branch if he is still there on the day.

A cloud hangs over the Club at the time of writing, for there are unofficial rumours of the disbandment of the Home Guard, to which many of our members belong and whose support during the past 3½ years has been of great help to the funds. We all hope that any plans the authorities may have made to close down the Home Guard may be rescinded, as they may well be in view of the international situation.

Old Brigade News

THE Old Brigade wish all their old officers, likewise all old A.T.A. and Canteen Wallahs, all good wishes for 1956, not forgetting the 1st Battalion and Depot.

* * *

We were pleased to hear Col. J. Crookenden was out of hospital and trust that he will be soon completely recovered.

* * *

Donkey Warren reached his 81st Birthday on the 14th December last. Poor old Donk is a grand old Buff who soldiered in the 1st Battalion for years in India. He has not been out of his home for over twelve months.

* * *

It was pleasing to read about C/Sgt. Holloway residing in Deal. He took the draft of recruits, of which the writer was one, from the Depot to Kilkenny in 1897. He will also be remembered in Alkmaar during the Boer War.

* * *

Bert Tester is now in great form but his weight now prevents him going to stables, so he has started walking. His football team have much improved since watching Ramsgate and Margate play their Cup ties.

* * *

What a great Buff is Captain Norman Linwood at the age of 84. He is just as smart and young looking as he was in the day he wore a red and black gymnastic jersey.

* * *

We recently heard from Jimmy Dray, who is progressing, but is still under doctor's orders. Our congratulations to Mrs. Dray upon her 81st birthday.

* * *

Councillor Ted Swendell informs us that "Old Jeff" is still hale and hearty; Tom Millar is A.1, but Bert Knott (that wonderful Secretary of the Ramsgate Branch) is not too good. Our best wishes to you, Bert.

* * *

Our best wishes to those grand old officers Colonels J. V. R. Jackson and Miles Beevor, also Major Tomlinson. The Old Brigade often write about them.

* * *

Our best wishes to the old ladies of our Regiment whom we remember from the days of Athlone and Longer: Mrs. Mary Freeman, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Rennison, Mrs. Lee (*née* Carter), Mrs. Linwood, Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Wittering and others whose names cannot be recalled.

J.E.E.

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Margate Branch

The Branch Monthly Meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, December 7th, with a much better attendance than usual.

In the meantime, I regret to report that our darts team were not good enough to win their first round against Weald Branch on December 3rd. Nevertheless, we had a most enjoyable evening and wish to pass our thanks on to Weald and hope they will do as well in the next round.

Now for the meeting. It was good to see our Secretary and Mr. Bailey back again and fit, after their spell on the sick list.

The main topic was to arrange some social activities for the New Year. Eventually a date was fixed, and the Secretary was asked to invite Canterbury Branch to join us for a social evening on Saturday, January 21st. We hope to be able to arrange some sort of light entertainment, and to help in this matter, Mrs. Holiday, who is the wife of one of our staunch members, has presented the Branch with a piano which she has no use for. Many thanks, Mrs. H. A very generous gesture. Which brings me to another point of interest.

A number of members' wives are very keen to take an active interest in the social side of the Branch, and are willing to endeavour to form a Ladies' Guild in the near future. We all think this could be a great asset to the Branch and hope something will come of it.

The Secretary read some correspondence regarding a suggested trip to Denmark at some future date, but it seems that the cost would be far too much for our members, much as some would like to go.

H.I.

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