

The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. X. No. 1

MARCH, 1951

PRICE 1/-

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.
 "Mysore," "Seringsapatam," "Albuhara," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular,"
 "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."
 The Great War—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914,"
 "Messines, 1914," "Arras, 1917," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17, 18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg,"
 "Bellevue, 1915," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme," "1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood,"
 "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancrre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume,"
 "1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Axeux," "Pilekem," "Langemark, 1917," "Menin Road,"
 "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Ayre,"
 "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazeubrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal
 du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy,
 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915,"
 "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Muehar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18,"
 "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

Regular and Militia Battalions.

1st Bn. (57th Foot). 2nd Bn. (77th Foot).
 5th Bn. (Royal Elthorne Militia).
 6th Bn. (Royal Middlesex Militia).
 Depot—Mill Hill. Records Office, Infantry Records, Warwick.
 Pay Office—Old Infantry Barracks, Canterbury.

Territorial Army Battalions.

1/7th Bn. 2/7th Bn. 8th Bn. 30th Bn.
 9th Bn. 595 L.A.A. R.A., T.A.
 1st and 2nd Bns. Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.

Affiliated A/A Units of the Territorial Army.

— (7th City of London) Searchlight Regiment R.A.
 — (St. Pancras) Searchlight Regiment R.A.

Agents—Lloyds Bank Limited, 127 The Broadway, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

Dominion and Colonial Alliances.

CANADA.

31st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Ontario.
 21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.
 50th H.A.A. Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.
 102nd (Wentworth) Field Artillery, Royal Canadian Artillery.
 The Royal Rifles of Canada.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Wellington Coast and Taranaki Regiment,
 Tokui, Taranaki, New Zealand.

HONG KONG REGIMENT.

British Army Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.

Colonel of the Regiment: Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P.
 Officer Commanding Depot: Major G. O. Porter.

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	2	7th Battalion Notes	20
Awards	2	Hornsey Die-Hards' Notes	23
Fortcoming Events	3	American Memory	23
1st Battalion Notes	4	H.C.C.T.C.	24
Christmas in Korea	15	Association Minutes	24
The Fairy Godmother	15	Officers' Club Minutes	25
Operation Relax	17	H.C. Brigade Spring Golf Meeting	26
Cavalry Boulevard	17	Deaths and Obituaries	26
Depot Notes	18	Tribute to the British Soldier	27
Museum Notes	18	Sir Ian Fraser	28
Spion Kop Reunion	19	Officers' Pension Society	28
Officers' Club, Aldershot	19	The Malay Regiment	28

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

"The Die-Hards" is published in March, June, September and December, and copies may be obtained by application to the Editor.

All Contributions intended for publication should reach the Editor not later than the 1st of the month previous to that of issue. CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE TYPED IN TRIPPLICATE, AND BE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and signed, stating whether it is desired to publish the contributor's name or not. Rejected manuscripts, etc., will only be returned if accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope. The Editor will thankfully receive Contributions from past or present members of the Regiment or others interested, but necessarily reserves to himself the right of publication. All communications concerning the paper, including Advertisements, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, The Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to Secretary, Regimental Association, and crossed "— & Co."

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 5/- (Post Free)



Chief Editor: Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C.
Asst. Editor (Business): Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E.

EDITORIAL

Readers will be pleased to find the news of the 1st Battalion in its proper place this time as there was no mistake in the Postal Department, it arrived on very good time. This is particularly pleasing as we are indebted to Majors Willoughby and Gwyn for a splendid picture of the Battalion's life in Korea. As I started to write, a letter arrived saying they were cold but in good heart, and throughout the article it stands out that whatever the conditions, hardships, chaos and disappointments the Battalion has always been in good heart. This must equally be a matter of pride to the small framework of experienced Regulars and to the large body of National Service men who have found themselves taking part in the war with the Battalion.

After reading the story told by Major Willoughby even we old men who sit at home and potter around feel a faint glow of reflected glory. It is not surprising that the Commanding Officer should have been awarded the D.S.O., and right worthily must he have earned it. We offer him our heartiest congratulations on his leadership and the Officers and men on their outstanding achievements under his command.

* * *

The Journal last year lost £175. That is not quite as disheartening as it appears at first, since our new advertisement contract has only recently started, whilst £40 was lost on one number which had to be much over the standard size.

The fact remains, however, that we lost money and the only way to prevent this in future is to get more sales or to reduce the standard of *The Die-Hards*.

The latter we cannot consider and, therefore, we ask all readers to assist us by getting more readers, more articles and more contributions.

* * *

The Regimental History, 1939-45, has at last been launched. We hope that the cost will be less than that originally estimated and will be 15s. to members of the Regiment.

Commander Kemp has been asked to take on the authorship and we hope that he will be free in March to start work. We must stress that the Author is a quick worker and that the Committee are anxious to produce the volume at the earliest possible date. It is

therefore hoped that anyone who has material which might be of the least interest will notify or loan it to the Secretary, The Middlesex Regimental History Committee, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

* * *

A hint.—Although it can only be hinted at yet, as the arrangement has not been confirmed, it is possible that the Autumn Golf Meeting will take place at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on September 22-23. If the Society approve the arrangement it is proposed to make the meeting two days with a dinner at the Golf Club on Saturday evening.

We announce this early to enable all the Browns and Whinnys plenty of time to plan the trip from their south coast haunts.

* * *

It has been stated that the Journal should have more old stuff for the Old Boys—a cavalcade of the years recalling old friends and old events. Might we suggest that if this is so, the various branches of the O.C.A. might each produce a suitable article from the memories and records of their members. However willing to oblige, the Editor hasn't the time to delve for hours into the Journals, and anyhow what the Old Boys want probably never got into the Journal.

N.P.P.

AWARDS TO THE 1st BATTALION

We have great pleasure in publishing the citations for the awards of:

D.S.O. to Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E.

B.E.M. to 6199886 Drum Major C. Holdford.

On behalf of all readers we offer them our heartiest congratulations.

* * *

The King has approved the awards of the Distinguished Service Order in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Korea to Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E., The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), of Burnham, Buckinghamshire, and Lt.-Col. G. L. Neilson, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's), of Colinton, Edinburgh.

On September 21, 1950, the 27th British Brigade had been relieved in the line by an American Battalion and was moving up to a concentration area before crossing the Nakdong River. An American reconnaissance unit across the river had encountered heavy resistance and was in a precarious state, and Lt.-Col. Man was ordered to cross the river to support it. There was no way over but a footbridge, which would take men only in single file. The attack was entirely successful, in spite of the fact that the objective was on top of a cliff which took an hour to climb and was heavily defended by machine guns, while all approaches were under heavy mortar and artillery fire. Throughout the action Lt.-Col. Man was in a forward observation post controlling the supporting fire. His control of the battle at all

times was complete, and his coolness and disregard of his own safety under heavy mortar and S.P. artillery fire was a fine example to his Battalion.

By the evening of September 21 the 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders had crossed the river by footbridge under intermittent shell fire. Next day Lt.-Col. Neilson was ordered to capture a high feature. As a firm base, he ordered a Company to seize a lower feature, which was secured. He was then counter-attacked by about 200 enemy, and the position became precarious. Artillery support was withdrawn without warning to the Brigade Commander or Battalion Commander. An air strike was asked for which came unfortunately on the part of the hill the Battalion held, instead of on the area for counter-attack. What was left of the Battalion, two Companies, withdrew after the air strike, but counter-attacked and regained the ridge, although only about 30 all ranks remained. They were eventually driven back to the Reserve Company area, which they held firm. Lt.-Col. Neilson was well forward controlling the battle, and his coolness was a great inspiration to Officers and other ranks. His planning for the operation showed great appreciation and skill. It was entirely due to him that the feature 148 was secured, and his initiative in reorganising his Battalion under heavy fire was beyond praise.

6199886 DRUM-MAJOR C. HOLDFORD

Citation for the Award of the British Empire Medal

Drum-Major Holdford has served continuously in the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment since he enlisted in 1931, rising in 1939 to his present rank.

He took part in the Defence of Hong Kong in 1941, was captured at its fall, and spent the following 4½ years as a prisoner-of-war. He was aboard the notorious *Lisbon Maru* which was sunk with heavy loss of life whilst taking British prisoners from Hong Kong to Japan.

A fine athlete and a man of character, this N.C.O. has set an outstanding example of devotion to duty throughout his service, and particularly in Hong Kong, to which he must have returned with a reluctance, carefully concealed, in view of his previous experience there.

Whether at the head of his drums leading the Battalion, or at other times, his experienced bearing, high principles, and cheerful outlook have been an inspiration to all ranks under conditions often of difficulty and of stress and have enhanced the high traditions of his Regiment and of the Service.

KOREA AWARDS

The King has approved three more awards for gallantry in Korea. Amongst them "Second-Lieutenant Christopher Lansdowne Lawrence, of The Middlesex Regiment, is awarded the Military Cross. After leading a successful attack against a hill, he directed the fire of his platoon against Communist troops on three sides of the hill, and inflicted heavy casualties. His action against a superior enemy force enabled the Battalion to continue their advance."

We congratulate 2/Lt. Lawrence on his well-deserved honour and appreciate how proud his father, Major F. A. L. Lawrence, M.C., late The Middlesex Regiment, must be that the son he and Mrs. Lawrence have given to the Regiment has, at this early stage, shown such outstanding leadership.

On behalf of all readers we congratulate 2/Lt. Lawrence on his award of the M.C.

Forthcoming Events

- April 13—H.C. Brigade Golf Meeting, Worplesdon Golf Club.
- April 27—Spring Golf Meeting, Hendon Golf Club.
- June 17—Cricket v. Hampstead Heathens, Mill Hill.
- June 18— " v. Cryptics, Mill Hill.
- June 19— " v. Incogniti, Mill Hill.
- June 20— " v. Free Foresters, Mill Hill.
- June 21— " v. I Zingari, Mill Hill.
- June 22—Officers' Club "At Home," Junior United Service Club.
- June 22—Officers' Club Dinner, Junior United Service Club.
- June 24—Cricket v. Romany, Mill Hill.
- June 30—Old Comrades' Gathering, Mill Hill.
- July 22—Cricket v. Hampstead Heathens, Hampstead.

Albuhera Ball

An Albuhera Ball will be held in the Gymnasium, Inglis Barracks, on Saturday, May 12, 1951, from 8 p.m. to midnight.

All members and ex-members of the Regiment, their families and friends are invited.

Admission will be free and it is hoped that the weather may be kind and keep nobody away.

Make a note of the date—Saturday, May 12.

H.M.S. "Unicorn" and the 1st Battalion

DEAR COL. MAN,

We received yesterday a handsome plaque, forwarded on your behalf from Hong Kong, as a memento of the association formed between H.M.S. *Unicorn* and the Middlesex Regiment as a result of your passage to Korea in this ship.

I write to say how much we appreciate this outward and visible sign of the association, which, to the present ship's company, is a very real thing. I know it is, because I, a newcomer to the ship, have sensed it very clearly.

We follow your activities as closely as our receipt of news allows us, and may I take this opportunity of congratulating the 1st Battalion on their achievement of what I believe is an Army record, more than 100 days continuously in the front line.

Hoping that you will soon be relieved for a well-earned rest and thanking you again for the memento.

I am, sir,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) J. T. THOMPSON,
Captain.

1st Battalion NOTES

In these notes we attempt to tell part of the story of the Battalion's activities between October 16, the day we crossed the 38th Parallel, to December 11 when, in the general withdrawal of the U.N. Forces in North Korea, we once again passed over that now famous line, this time moving south.

It is impossible to give the whole story of this 56 days' journey in detail, but we have picked out certain highlights which we think will interest readers, and strung these together into a general narrative.

During the period we travelled some 700 miles and the story falls roughly into three main parts. The first part—the "let 'em roll" stage—covers the rapid advance against rearguard opposition from Kaesong to Chongju, a town some 40 miles from the Manchurian border. The second describes the main events from when it was first reported that China was putting troops into Korea, until November 26 when the final U.N. advance towards the Yalu River was halted. During this stage the Battalion spent most of its time in or around Pakchon, a vital centre of road communications on the north-west axis.

The last part of the story concerns retreat—from Kunuri, which we left on November 27, up to the time the Battalion moved once again through Kumchon on its way into South Korea.

Before the story can be told we must introduce a character who has been with us in all our travels and whose actions have determined our movements, our life, and even the food we eat—"Kilroy."

"Kilroy" is a legendary representative of the G.I., of character indistinguishable from any one American soldier, yet identifiable with all; in this sense he may be likened to the poet "Anonymous" in our school books. There, however, the similarity ends.

Let 'em Roll

These notes start when all roads leading north were splattered with the information "Killroy was here," "You are now entering Bongdongbong by courtesy of 5th Cav.," "Have no fear 1st Cav. were here," and an endless stream of tanks and trucks was forcing its way forward through choking clouds of yellow dust and burning villages. It was not long before the chalkers were writing in gigantic letters across a building, "Now we can say with glee and joy the Midds. were here before Kilroy."

The Battalion crossed the 38th Parallel on October 11, and at Kumchon on the 16th Brigadier Coad, in an address to the Battalion, told us that we were taking the lead in the advance on the enemy capital the next

day. The onward rush of Kilroy and 27th British Commonwealth Brigade was on. Tanks, jeeps, trucks, bulldozers, all endeavouring to overtake each other in billowing dust that brought visibility to almost nothing; this military operation of our advance soon developed into a conglomerate of the University Boat Race and Cup Final traffic, punctuated by sharp encounters with enemy rearguards. Three Divisions were racing each other to Pyongyang in noisy, dusty, nose-to-tail columns. The heat and hurry of ambition caused the rather extraordinary situation in which friend and foe were alike elbowed aside by impatient formations. At one period it was even necessary to block the road with a 17-pounder anti-tank gun to allow the Commonwealth Brigade to take its designated place in the order of march.

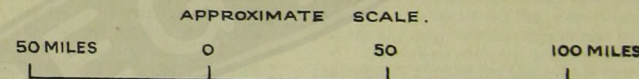
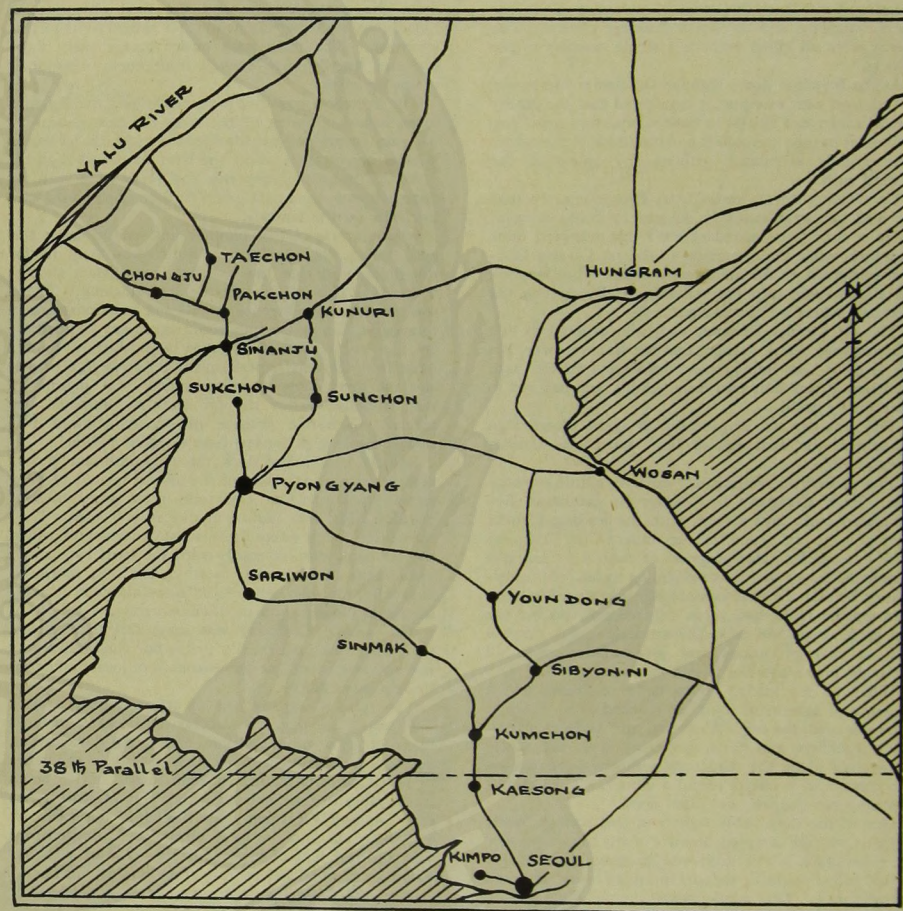
Pressure from behind allowed no time for mopping up nor for destruction of the great quantities of abandoned enemy weapons and ammunition littering the countryside. When this armoured avalanche had passed by the enemy were able to re-equip.

Each Battalion took its turn in leading the Brigade and we were not involved in any significant action. The Intelligence Officer, however, whilst on a liaison visit to the Argylls, spent one night with their Commanding Officer in a ditch in a very remarkable battle in Sariwon. Their C.O. was giving out orders to his



MAP No. 1

NORTH KOREA



MOVEMENT DIARY

Kaesong, October 16. Sariwon, October 17. Pyongyang, October 20. Sinanju, October 23. Chongju, October 30. Taechon, October 31. Pakchon Area, November 3-26. Kunuri, November 27. Sunchon Area, November 29-December 3. Sibyon-ni, December 8. Kaesong, December 11.

Company Commanders when a lorry load of enemy charged round the corner firing as they came. The issue was decided in true Wild West style with the party shooting it out from the cover of swinging saloon bar doors, windows, and the street drainage system. The enemy were all killed without a single casualty to the "Jocks."

As the Battalion drove through the flames and smoke of the town next morning, it transpired that the enemy Field Cashier had also been flushed, and nice new crisp banknotes in their thousands and hundreds of thousands were rapidly circulated without any pause in the onward rush.

On October 20, 21 miles from Pyongyang, we took the lead but were seriously delayed by being diverted on to a circuitous secondary road that required mine clearance, while the remainder of the 1st Cavalry Division continued on the main road north. The Battalion led the Brigade into the outskirts of Pyongyang the next day, where we bivouacked.

The 1st Cavalry Division had been ordered to halt at Pyongyang and it seemed that the war was over, but the Brigade was immediately transferred to the 24th Division, at this time two days behind, and ordered to push on by itself.

The next day the Brigade set off again, directed on Sinanju at the west end of the "waist" as another "final" objective.

This process of "rolling on" deserves a little explanation. Each Company had under its command five American tanks and moved, with the leading Platoon riding on the tanks, and the remainder of the Company in 2½-ton trucks. For purposes of control a Company Commander had the choice of riding in his jeep immediately behind the tank commander and therefore with unstoppable tanks five yards behind him, behind the last tank, or on the tank commander's tank. Control was at best precarious and problematical with all methods, and a solution is still awaited.

When all are loaded on to tanks or trucks and a measure of agreement has been reached as to which is the right road, the cry "Wind 'em up" is given, everything backfires and then, gathering way, the whole Army rolls along the road until someone opens up on the column as it comes round a corner. Then almost anything can happen, and often does.

One of the remarkable aspects of this strange lonely advance was the complete absence of any reconnaissance or information about destroyed bridges, condition of roads, and of engineer support in bridge repair and road maintenance. The whole advance was done on an improvised self-help basis. At one period a ford became impassable after half the Battalion had crossed and disappeared northwards into the night, and the rear half carried out a bridging operation on its own.

On the day that the Brigade led off from Pyongyang a Regimental Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division dropped 20 miles ahead at Suckchon, and the following morning the Australians had a field day with a large number of enemy who had been flushed south by the drop. In the afternoon the Battalion took the lead and linked up with the Airborne Regiment in the late afternoon, taking over some of their positions.

A considerable amount of weapons was found in neighbouring villages but the advance had to go on and very little of it could be destroyed. The Brigade moved off again the next morning and the final objective of Sinanju on the River Chonchon was gained by the early afternoon. The main road girder bridge was down and the Argylls were shelled from enemy positions across the river.

The Battalion was then ordered to lead the Brigade in an assault crossing of the river the next morning. To gain surprise it was decided to make the crossing 4 miles downstream where the river narrowed slightly.

At this point the river was 800 yards wide with an approach over open paddy of a further 1,000 yards and low hills on the far side.

It was arranged that another unit would carry the assault boats down to the river and conceal them during the night, and that the crossing would start shortly before high tide at 8 o'clock the next morning. There was nothing in intelligence reports and local information to suggest tide or current would cause any difficulties. In the event this intelligence was entirely faulty. Mercifully the only opposition from the North Koreans was the great press of villagers and local dignitaries that streamed down the far bank to welcome the regatta. Complete absence of enemy allowed this assault crossing to become funny—up to a point!

Shortly before 8 o'clock the next morning it was discovered that only half of the assault boats had been carried down to the river and these were without paddles. The first flight put out at 9 o'clock. They were immediately swept upstream and ultimately reached the far bank simultaneously with the local mayor and great hosts of little men in white carrying enormous flags who, too, had experienced some difficulty in forecasting the exact point of disembarkation.

The second Company was more fortunate, and a slackening tide gave them a pretty fair run with a very fine and less breathless concentration of local dignitaries to help them ashore.

The third Company started off well with a slack high water, but in a few minutes the necklace of boats began to show ominous signs of sagging downstream, and once more the reception committee was on the move.

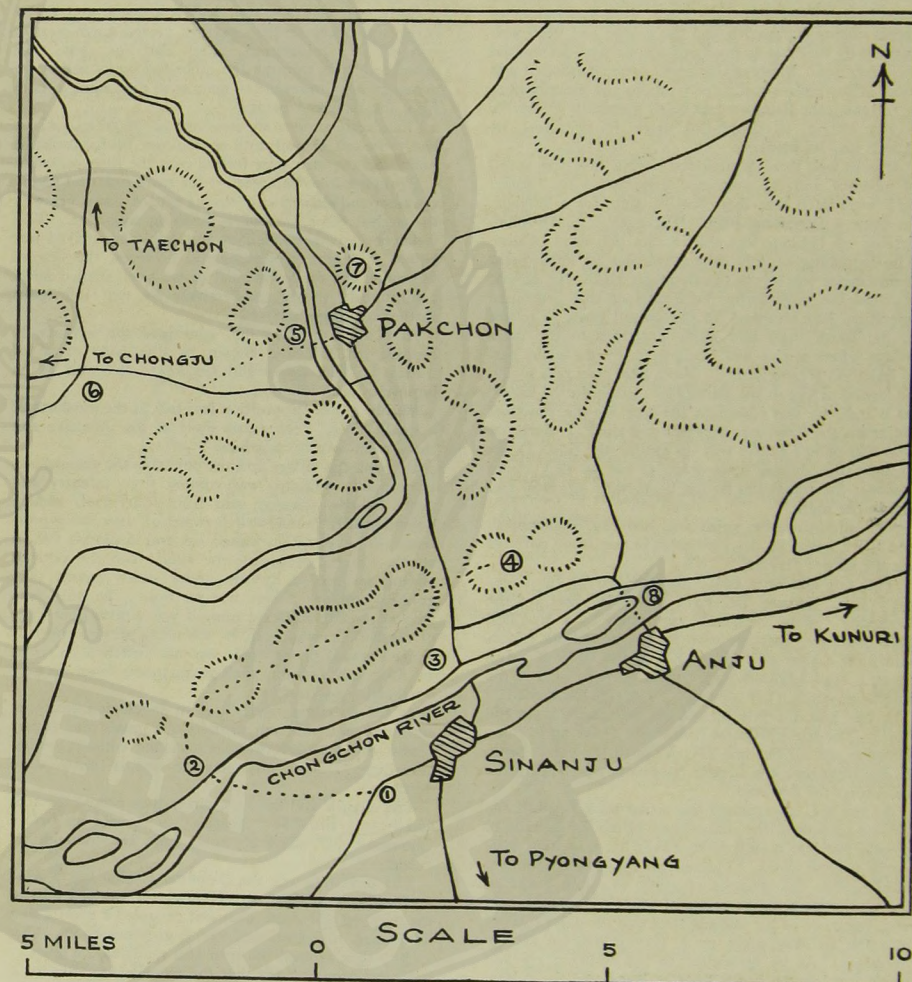
This Company landed on what turned out to be an island close to the far bank with a sort of Noah's Ark ferry waiting for them. By this time the tide was streaming out and the ferry grounded in mid-channel with the rear half of the Company. One by one they had to be dragged ashore through fathomless black mud.

The last Company went one better, for this time islands of black mud were appearing every second. The leading boat with Company Headquarters aboard, after grounding on pretty well every mud bank within reach, eventually made landfall 800 yards downstream with 20 yards of mud between it and the bank. The first two over the side went straight up to their waists in the mud and it took four men to drag each one out.

The remainder of the Company waited while outboard motors were fitted. These got the boats clear of the bank and then broke down. There was an interesting period then when this Company was placed with its headquarters in the mud on the far bank, half the

MAP No. 2

PAKCHON AREA



LEGEND

1. Battalion position, night October 23/24.
2. Crossing area, October 24.
3. Demolished road bridge.
4. Battalion position, night October 24/25.
5. Crossing, October 25.
6. "Frog."
7. Defensive positions.
8. Engineer bridge completed, October 25.

Company aground in mid-stream and the other half disappearing in the direction of the Yellow Sea.

Ultimately all were safely gathered in, and by night-fall defensive positions had been occupied covering the main bridge from Sinanju. There were many signs of recent enemy occupation and the bridge had been well covered by well dug-in positions and field pieces sighted for direct fire. Many of these had been abandoned and most of the houses contained weapons and ammunition.

Although the Battalion had safely gained its objectives it was without its supporting arms, its transport, its rations and its blankets.

It is as well to remember once again that the speed of advance and the sustained exhortation to "barrel on" were such that there was no time for a Brigade, let alone a Divisional plan. The 24th U.S. Division, driving up behind, was still in fact two days behind. The launching of this expedition and its subsequent maintenance was left to the Battalion 2IC. He, having watched the bewildering behaviour of this combined operation, had arranged for the assault boats to return to the south bank and move upstream to the main bridge where a pier was being built by the main part of Battalion Headquarters. From here essentials would be ferried across to the Battalion. Little did he know! At 6 p.m. he was joined at the pier by the Assistant Adjutant, the Armourer Sergeant and the P.T. Sergeant who had paddled their way up against the tide. They brought the dismal news that, as far as they could discover the remainder of the boats were aground and lost in the night.

The administrative spirit was low but undismayed, and there was grim determination in this small party to see the matter through.

This one and only boat, now manned by the Company 2sIC, crossed the river and were met by the Company Colour Sergeants supported by a hundred local volunteer carriers, who had been waiting expectantly on a spur of firm sand. In the light of a full moon a brief administrative conference was held in the middle of which a cry went up, "The tide has turned"! The tide had not only turned but was racing in at full bore. The administrative conference broke up in some disorder and all but one 2IC regained the south bank. In the meantime the Colour Sergeants were racing the volunteers for dry land.

As the 2IC approached the south bank beneath the twisted girders of the demolished bridge an armada of empty, pilotless assault boats swept by, travelling eastwards at great speed. The redoubtable Father Quinlan, leaping from the shadows of a pile of ration boxes on the pier, with great presence of mind caught one boat with the crook of his walking stick and furiously put out into the swirling night on a very individual salvage operation. As he pirouetted in the eddies a cry was heard coming the north bank, "Blow this for a lark, bring it over in the morning." 'Twas so—thanks to an improvised bridge some miles up the river at Anju.

The following morning, October 25, the Australians passed through us to Pakchon and crossed the wide tributary of the River Chongchon that runs to the west of Pakchon on an improvised footbridge—the main road bridge having been completely demolished.

That night they had a sharp encounter with six enemy tanks that penetrated into their position from the west. Unfortunately none of their bazookas worked and they suffered a number of casualties.

Early next morning the Argylls crossed, and under cover of a heavy artillery barrage moved north-west to enlarge the bridgehead. The Battalion was then ordered to pass through the other two units and strike across country to reach the main west road some 4 miles from the damaged bridge.

Once again supporting arms and all Battalion vehicles had to be left behind until an engineer bridge could be built, and the men were ferried over the river on tanks.

By nightfall we had reached the main road and taking up all-round defensive positions settled down to await the arrival of our vehicles, bedding rolls, etc. This welcome convoy, headed by the Adjutant, arrived just before midnight; unfortunately, however, the rest of the night was far from quiet as we were shelled fairly continuously though ineffectively by two S.P. guns further to the west.

At 9 a.m. the Battalion continued the advance to capture its objective known by the code name of "Frog." This was a hill feature to the west of an important road junction.

Within 2 miles opposition was met at the outskirts of a small village 1,000 yards short of the objective and there were several casualties.

Between the village and the objective the ground was open paddy and fire was coming from infantry and tanks on the objective and from individuals hidden behind paddy bunds well forward of their main positions. The Battalion closed up and deployed for an attack. In the meantime the village and the vehicles closing up behind it were under steady enemy tank gunfire, and the village was on fire. The only man who was really enjoying himself was Christopher Page of the B.B.C., who even so was using very strong language because his recorder was not switched on when an American 155mm. shell prematurely burst directly overhead.

As the Battalion carried out an enveloping attack an air strike and medium artillery fire made the enemy retreat and the objective was occupied without further casualties. During this day 10 enemy tanks were destroyed.

The Argylls and the Australians then passed through and by the 29th the "Aussies" were held up before Chongju, only some 40 miles from the Manchurian border.

The next morning the Battalion carried out a wide outflanking movement through densely wooded hills to the north of the main road, and occupied a feature that dominated the town and the approaches to it. The Argylls then crossed the river and captured the town.

It was here decided that the Brigade was due for a rest, and the next day the 21st R.C.T. (Regimental Combat Team) passed through to continue on up to the border. We and the Argylls then moved back and, turning north at the crossroads at "Frog," moved into Taechon as Corps reserve. The 5th R.C.T. had passed through this town two days previously, the way having been opened for them by our capture of "Frog."

A number of dead Chinese were found on the hills about the town. They were all wearing first-class winter clothing that included fur boots.

The local inhabitants reported that a force of about 200 had been in the neighbourhood when the Americans arrived and that the remainder had retreated northwards. In the afternoon a Chinaman was brought in who spoke English and explained that he lived in Canton, had been lent as an instructor to the North Korean Army, and now wished to give himself up as he was fed up with the whole business.

The forecast was that we should have at least four days' rest and that this was, therefore, to be a period of make and mend for body, soul and vehicles, and above all a period of baths, sleep and clean clothes.

Sixty-two days in the line and almost constantly on the move, we were all of us very tired and horribly dirty; clothes were worn out and torn, and vehicles falling to pieces through overwork and lack of time for proper maintenance.

From all we had seen the North Korean Army was beaten, although we realised that many months of guerilla warfare and mopping up would still be needed, at any rate the end of the real war seemed to be close. And so here amongst the brown hills and thatched cottages of Taechon we settled.

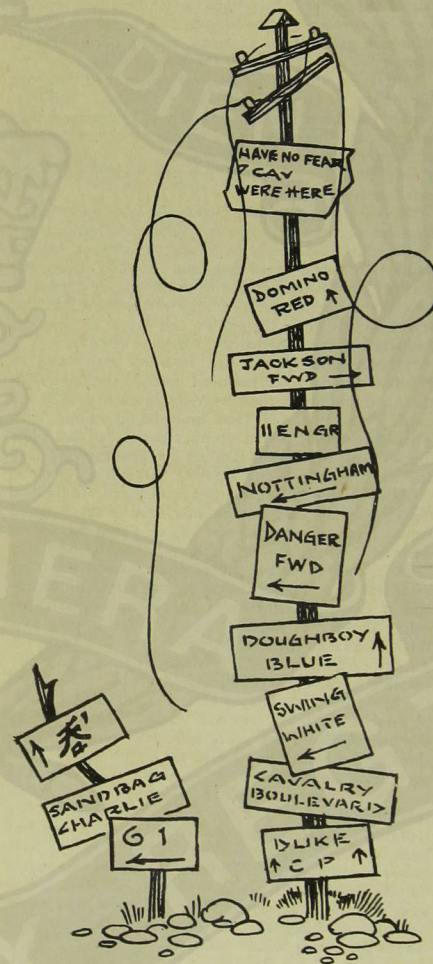
Here we were joined by "B" Echelon with our administrative vehicles bringing new clothes and boots and our vehicle fitters with spare parts and repair facilities. This was the first time since we went into action that "B" Echelon was able to join us for anything more than a few hours, and if our achievements are worth anything it is probably of "B" Echelon's part that we are most proud. Somehow, although the main part of the Battalion was many hours' drive ahead and usually on the move and completely out of touch with its rear headquarters, emissaries from "B" Echelon with vital stores never failed to track us down. Considering the distances, the conditions of the roads, the traffic, the constant change of plans, and above all the state of communications this was a really splendid achievement.

November 1—peace. November 2 and vague disquieting news trickled through that all was not well with the 1st Cavalry, who after resting in Pyongyang had moved north through Pakchon. They had in fact been badly surprised by the Chinese some miles north of this town.

The Intelligence Officer, driving westwards to liaise with the 5th R.C.T. advancing on the Yalu River, met them withdrawing. From then onwards things moved fast. "B" Echelon, who had barely arrived, were ordered back to Sinanju and Battalion harbour parties were given 30 minutes' notice to move to Sumchon, 50 miles south of the Chongchon River. These events seemed a strange portent for an Army on the threshold of final victory.

By the afternoon we and the Argylls found ourselves alone on the north-west axis with reports from local villagers and refugees that a large force of Chinese was converging on the town. Not only were we alone but we were without any troop-carrying transport (unfortunately not for the last time!).

Plans were made to withdraw the next morning on foot and with what vehicles of our own that were with us. Information, to say the least, was meagre but it was perfectly clear that the bulk of the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade were by themselves and that the only way left for withdrawal was the road to "Frog" that ran directly across the front. Transport was later provided, but there being no sign of it the next morning the Battalion moved off, some clinging to vehicles and carriers, but the majority marching. As the last Company cleared the town the Chinese entered it from the west.



As the withdrawal continued most of the Battalion except the rear Company managed to clamber on to guns, bulldozers and odd vehicles. Owing to the high proportion of lame vehicles the column moved at walking speed, nose to tail, towards "Frog" through a tortuous pass. At one point the road gave way beneath "D" Company ration lorry which rolled over the edge, finally coming to rest in some trees 40 feet down. The occupants had a very narrow escape, and with tears in his eyes the Company Colour Sergeant had to distribute his carefully hoarded supplies and "buck-shees" to passing vehicles with the impassioned and rather pathetic exclamation, "Don't forget these belong to 'D' Company!" His words fell on eager but greed-deafened ears.

After 8 miles of hitch-hiking we met transport and drove on via "Frog," where much to our relief we passed through a Company of the "Aussies" who were the lone rearguard on this main south-west route.

On entering Pakchon we found our harbour parties who had left the night before, and there learnt that our role had been changed once again to that of defending this communications centre from any direction in order to allow elements of the 1st Cavalry to withdraw through us. We occupied positions north and east of the town, the other two units of the Brigade remaining west of the river.

On the following day "A" Company sent out an armoured recon patrol along the road running north-east from the town. This patrol came under fire some 8 miles up the road from a force of enemy who were seen to be digging in.

Guy Fawkes Day dawned with the artillery to our rear defending themselves from a determined Chinese thrust designed to cut the Brigade's only supply route and link to the bridge at Anju, south of which were re-forming all U.N. units in the north-west. It so happened that this was a Sunday—a day of the week on which by some chance coincidence we always seemed fated to make some rapid move. The more elaborate preparations made for Church the greater the certainty of a move. It was hardly surprising, therefore, that on the appearance of the Brigade Padre that morning the Adjutant cried out, "Keep away from us Padre, there's enough trouble as it is!"

By midday the situation was becoming serious, and in the absence of orders the Brigade Commander decided to pull back the Argylls and Australians from west of the river to the high ground immediately north of the Chongchon. (It later transpired that the Divisional Commander, seeing our Ration Corporal driving forward to the Battalion, had stopped him and expounded the view that nothing short of a miracle would save the 27th Commonwealth Brigade from disaster.)

The Chinese thrust was more determined than perhaps was just thought.

The Argylls, attacking eastwards with one Company and tanks, were unable to dislodge the enemy and in the early afternoon the Australians were ordered to put in a full-scale Battalion attack. While this attack was in progress the remainder of the Brigade, with "A" Company as rearguard, moved south out of Pakchon—our own objectives being the dominate features north of

the river—the same features we had occupied on the night of the crossing some 12 days before. The objective was already occupied by Chinese who earlier had been mistaken for Australians. While the Battalion was edging forward preparatory to attacking we in turn were mistaken for the enemy by the Australians and engagement by long-range M.M.G. fire.

The enemy were fortunately not in any strength and were dislodged by airburst artillery fire, leaving nine dead on our objective.

The night was a noisy one during which the "Aussies" bore the full weight of a carefully planned and skilfully executed attack, but by daylight the Chinese had mysteriously disappeared. The Brigade then began a series of deliberate and limited advances, edging northwards to enlarge the bridgehead over the River Chongchon.

In the meantime it had become generally known that our return to Hong Kong was impending. Advance parties had been detailed and it was understood that on or about November 10 we should concentrate south, preparatory to moving to Pusan, then on November 10 it was officially announced that our return had been indefinitely postponed.

On November 13, while Companies were sprawled in positions amongst hill tops and Battalion Headquarters clustered unsuspectingly in a wide re-entrant, winter struck. It came screaming and howling from the north, from Manchuria and from the frozen steppes of Siberia. It swept over the hill crests and swirled and seared its way down the gullies, and within an hour the temperature had dropped to 22 degrees of frost.

By November 16 we had returned once again to Pakchon and occupied positions north of the town with the Australians to our north-west and the Argylls to our north. The U.S. 24th Division came up on our right. Then followed a period of mild patrol activity while dumps were built up behind us for Thanksgiving Day and the great McArthur offensive, but still no Chinese.

Thanksgiving Day requires a separate individual description, all that can be said here is that seldom before in the history of war can so much food have descended on front-line troops—turkey by the ton, prawns, cocktail by the gallon, plum cake by the truck load, and tins of pumpkin pie by the gross—all to disappear down the throats of the gastronomically bewildered and "C Ration" weary troops. Some took this visitation in their stride, others were less fortunate. At any rate once again the cooks performed the impossible in solving a problem that would have drained the blood from the face of almost any chef in Europe. November 24, "Let 'em roll" again. November 25 and the offensive was going splendidly without opposition and the Brigade became 1st Corps Reserve, and once again improvised "bath houses" were started, a football field marked out, and inter-section rifle competition organised. On the night of November 26 a report was received that enemy on white horses had been seen in a place where no enemy ought to have been—just across the river from Brigade Headquarters outside Pakchon. To what extent these white horses were part of Thanksgiving Day hangovers may never be known. Imaginary or otherwise they certainly started something farther east.

Whoops-a-Daisy

The general situation at this time was as follows: While the main offensive rolled north-west and northwards the U.S. 10th Corps was advancing amongst the hydro-electric reservoirs as it closed to the Yalu River. In between these two offensives there was nothing. Early in the morning of the 27th the Brigade was transferred to the 9th U.S. Corps and moved south across the River Chongchon and then east to the Corps Headquarters at Kunuri. It was a bitter morning with a cruel north wind driving clouds of frozen yellow dust along the road, and as we crossed the river icefloes were beginning to pile against the piers of the improvised bridge.

By the time the Battalion arrived at Kunuri the Corps situation map presented an incredulous picture. China had apparently passed into Korea, unnoticed, an army of two million men, the bulk of which was advancing in the shape of an enormous red arrow through the gap. Meanwhile the Corps, with its right out-flanked, was under heavy pressure from the north and north-east and was being driven back on Kunuri.

The Corps Commander, being a little uncertain how best to employ a Brigade without supporting arms in this rather singular military situation, and furthermore being very concerned about the security of his main supply line running south, accepted the Brigadier's advice that this, his only reserve, would be best employed where it could protect this route. Shortly afterwards Corps Headquarters moved to Chasan, 30 miles to the south. Next morning we were ordered to follow them in transport. None having appeared by 2 o'clock, we once again set off on foot.

Night was falling as we halted for a "brew-up" beneath the north end of a long, tortuous pass that climbed and looped its way through the mountains.

We could hear a certain amount of machine-gun fire to the south-east, but when we moved off, with some relief the road veered away from this rather sinister noise.

We marched through the pass without incident and after 18 miles were met by transport that ultimately dumped us on a windswept frozen stretch of paddy next to Corps Headquarters. The last Company arrived at 3 a.m., and in heaps of rice straw, blankets and each other we slept. We woke up next morning with traffic pouring past us southwards. Barely had fires been lit to thaw out our tins of food when it was reported that a small road block was believed to have been set up near the pass. From past experience it would have been surprising if most of the village in the vicinity had not contained arms, and the Battalion was ordered to move north again, search the area of the pass and in particular the villages and bring in any suspicious characters. A patrol was also to go on to Kunuri and contact the U.S. 2nd Division now there. The Battalion was then to return, having one Company in the pass as a patrolling base. We moved back towards the pass through deserted villages and along the empty road up the valley. A wireless message was received that the enemy were now known to be ahead and the warning was passed up and down the column. The mountains astride the pass came into view over the top of a ridge

of intermediate hills; and suddenly the leading Company stopped, deployed and was still. On the side of the road tilting into the ditch was a bullet-ridden jeep. From inside sprawled the bodies of an American Colonel and his driver. Nothing stirred, and all at once the mountains about us seemed much higher and more inaccessible and menacing, and the valley ahead and the pass beyond were absolutely silent. And still nothing moved except for the shift of elbows supporting binoculars, scanning every ridge and crevice above us.

Then, from nowhere appeared 20 or 30 men in dirty white clothes, strolling rather furtively towards us; and it seemed as if another second could not go by without something happening. A section ran forward and brought in three of them. They were unarmed; and gradually the tension eased, the remainder were rounded up and the leading Company took up the advance; and some of us felt a little foolish. We reached the hills. Directly ahead climbed the road through the pass, disappearing after a few hundred yards and then reappearing as it climbed in a long scar across the mountains. Not a soul was in sight and it seemed as if fatigue had played tricks with our instincts and that the jeep behind was the victim of a chance guerilla.

The leading Company moved forward again to a low ridge, and then the second Company passed through to secure a hill at the near end of the pass.

It was then that we knew that the pass was not as deserted as it appeared. Five American fighters swung low over the mountains and machine gunned the wooded slopes ahead, little green figures began to run about and gradually it started. First a few rifle shots and then the steady knock of a Bren in reply. The leading Company pressed on up the hill to its objective. A short lull in the firing. Then the block bursts of enemy mortar fire and the harsh stabbing noise of a Russian machine gun. The steady rhythmic beat of the Vickers guns took them up and our mortars joined in. In the distance a small cloud of dust appeared and a lone jeep careered down the pass jinking and bouncing from one side of the road to the other. The slopes above it came to life with the flashes of rifle fire, and still the jeep came on. It disappeared behind a shoulder of hill; a further burst of fire and then silence.

Another Company was preparing to pass through the leading Company when, without warning, rifle shots came from hills on the flanks of the rear Companies and they, too, came under mortar fire; and every ridge and peak about us seemed to be occupied. Mortaring became general and machine guns joined in with the rifle fire from above. At this time the nearest troops who could possibly support the Battalion were the remainder of the Brigade 20 miles behind us. This comprised the sum total of the Corps reserve and could not be released. In any case, wireless communication with Brigade had broken down.

The leading Company was by now under accurate and sustained machine-gun fire and casualties were building up with one Platoon Commander killed. An entirely different problem now faced the Commanding Officer and, with night approaching and the Battalion in increasing danger of being cut off, he decided to



**PICTURES FROM THE KOREA FRONT
(BIPPA)**

*Pte. J. Clarke,
of Camberley, Surrey,
escorting a North Korean
in case he is part
of infiltrating forces*

*Section filing up
the high ground
beyond the village*



*"D" Company Commander
Major Willoughby holds an "O" group
of platoon commanders before making
the attack on the village.
In the foreground is a Bren gunner
already dug in to give covering fire in the area*

withdraw. As the Battalion was coming back communication with Brigade was re-established and a message was received that we were to withdraw well clear of the pass to a defensive position 8 miles to the south. The Battalion was extricated with some difficulty with its transport under fire from the rear, and the last Company left after a hand-to-hand fight with a Chinese platoon. We finally moved off with enemy machine guns firing straight down the road after us. It was dark by the time the Battalion reached its position for the night, and the best that could be done was to occupy a tight close perimeter round the village and hope that daylight would not reveal too many overlooking hills. Information was then received that a Regimental Combat Team would pass through us the next morning to link up with the 2nd Infantry Division. At midnight a message arrived telling us that no Regimental Combat Team was available. The 2nd Infantry Division were starting to fight their way back during the morning, and we, supported by five tanks and a battery of 105mm. guns, were to return to the south end of the pass and hold it open for the 2nd Division to pass through, if this could be done without getting seriously committed.

The tanks and artillery joined us early in the morning and the ground giving a view of the pass was reached by midday. The Chinese appeared to have withdrawn to the ground immediately covering the pass and, rather surprisingly, no road block or ambushes were encountered on the way. On the way up a light aircraft dropped us a bundle of pieces of scarlet silk which we assumed were to be used as recognition signals with the 2nd Division. Shortly before we reached our objective we met five American tanks who had just run the gauntlet, and at about the same time we started to meet odd Turkish soldiers who appeared to have been cut off.

Positions which our rear Companies had held the previous day were occupied, with Battalion Headquarters and a troop of guns astride the village where the ambushed jeep had been found the previous day.

All seemed quiet and we waited to see whether the 2nd Division's breakout would be an infantry sweep east or west to open the road. A small column of tanks with one or two jeeps appeared and streaked down towards us, disappearing and then reappearing round the bend in a fusillade of shots and reached our lines. And then to our astonishment a long nose-to-tail column appeared at the top of the pass. We all of us concluded that the enemy must have gone but the gathering noise of firing made it clear that this was not so. The endless column came on till the bend hid the leading vehicles and then it stopped. Through glasses the occupants could be seen jumping out and diving for cover, a few jeeps reappeared below us and careered past firing at us as they went with wounded hanging out of the side and tyres shot to ribbons.

In the meantime our tanks and artillery were giving what support was possible and aircraft were machine-gunning and bombing the Chinese; the range was too great for rifle or Bren fire. A trickle of vehicles now attempted to pass the halted column and a few of these reached us, but in a very short time the column was double banked and nothing moved.

A stream of survivors now started to come through us from the valley below, many were wounded but all were bewildered and disillusioned. Occasional vehicles continued to come through, all with their burden of dead and wounded. By 4 o'clock the pass was still again and the stream of survivors almost stopped and the Battalion was ordered to return to Chasan. As Companies withdrew to their transport firing once again broke out from the hills about us. As the first Company was preparing to drive off Battalion Headquarters and the artillery came under machine-gun fire from a ridge immediately to their left. The guns replied over open sights to be joined later by the Vickers guns and some tanks. By this time bullets were coming from all directions and the road was under enfilade machine-gun fire.

Somehow Companies were got away and the guns extricated without serious loss and the return to Chasan started. All our vehicles were laden to the limit and beyond with American wounded, and as we drove through the village where we had spent the night we passed a temporary aid post. This being manned by our Medical Sergeant who had treated over 250 wounded and had used all the Battalion's supplies of morphia and dressings, while Company Colour Sergeants distributed amongst the wounded their own blankets and tea and sugar rations. A great many could not be treated and during the night much of our transport was used for ferrying them back to other aid stations. A great many dead had to be left behind. Back at Chasan the Medical Officer worked all night on other wounded Americans who were brought straight there. We also looked after a detachment of Turkish soldiers who were some of the survivors of one of their Battalions.

Corps Headquarters had meanwhile moved to south of Pyongyang and trucks, tanks and transporters in an endless jumble and confusion of units streamed by all night and all the next day. Everyone was driving for all they were worth to south of Pyongyang, where, no one knew. It was impossible to tell what was happening and everything had the appearance of a rout.

That day, December 1, the Argylls were moved across a ford to hold a position 2 miles on the right, while we took over their old defences. The Argylls marched off in great spirits across the cracking ice of the river and seemingly into the unknown. Next day the Australians were moved south-east to block the crossing over another ford and we were to follow when transport returned from them. The Argylls were later to be withdrawn to join up with the Brigade. The threat in this new area was not considered to be immediate.

It is regretted that this story must be continued in the next issue, as the Communists put in an attack on New Year's day and both the author and the artist had to abandon pen and crayon in order to pursue activities of a more military nature.

We were all delighted to hear that our Commanding Officer had been awarded the Distinguished Service Order and that Drum-Major C. Holdford has been awarded the British Empire Medal. Both were well earned indeed.

We also congratulate Lt. and Mrs. J. S. C. Flavell on the birth of a son on Christmas Day.



HATS

THEN IT DID NOT SEEM AMISS
TO WEAR A SLOPPY HAT LIKE THIS
BUT WARMTH GAVE PLACE TO COOLER HOURS
AND SUMMER HATS DROWNED IN THE SHOWERS
AND IMPERCEPTABLY THE CHANGE
EXTENDED TO A WARMER RANGE
A STRANGE
EXCHANGE?



PERHAPS.

BUT FROSTY SNAPS
DEMANDED FINER FURRY CAPS
AND NOW WE WEAR THE CUTEST THINGS
WITH FLAPS FOR EARS AND SPECIAL STRINGS
TO HOLD THEM UP OR TIE THEM DOWN
LIKE SOME STRANGE CRANIAL EIDERDOWN.
THIS IS NOT ALL THERE IS TO TELL
WE CAN WEAR PIXIE HOODS AS WELL!



CHRISTMAS IN KOREA

That man should master circumstances and not be its slave is not an original thought. Whether it is known to the Battalion as a whole, I do not know. The fact remains that one could not help being struck by the perfect practical exemplification of this thought shown by all ranks of the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment this Christmastide.

As Christmas drew near and the wits were talking of the very few shopping days left, we learnt that the festive period would be spent—"Gooks" permitting—just where we were. Circumstances could have been worse and often had been during the campaign, but all would agree that they could have been better!

We were—indeed we still are—bivouacked in a series of adjacent mountain re-entrants some 15 miles north of Seoul. It had snowed frequently and whilst this made the countryside quite attractive scenically, the hard ground and low temperatures made digging-in a problem and living in the open quite devoid of appeal.

By Christmas Eve morning these discouraging circumstances had been completely mastered and all ranks were prepared to enjoy the occasion with some degree of comfort. Without direct orders, without obvious organisation, but with great enthusiasm and in a competitive spirit there had appeared on this bleak mountainside an array of shacks and huts of which Peacehaven or Canvey Island could be proud! These erections would not have passed the critical eye of a

borough architect, but they were warm and dry and often tastefully decorated within with Christmas cards and "pin-ups." But more than covering and warmth were needed to complete our Christmas and we were not disappointed. During the days before the feast parcels and letters poured in from home-folk and well-wishers throughout England. The people at home deserve the thanks of every man in the Battalion; for the parcels of gifts and goodies sent by the public, care of the Commanding Officer, were sufficient for one in every two men to receive some gift, and these were, after all, only a supplement to the many personal parcels received. We were cheered immensely by this very practical sign of affectionate interest shown by our hitherto unknown friends. God bless them all!

The official arrangements for the Christmas celebrations began on Christmas Eve when the Officers' Party at 1700 hours set the ball rolling. The Sergeants' Party took place at the same time on Christmas Day. A large marquee—borrowed or stolen for the occasion, I know not—was used and on each night a gigantic bonfire was kept going just outside. Brigadier Coad and his staff attended both parties, and guests honoured us with their presence from the A. and S.H., 3rd R.A.R.,



Courtesy: News Chronicle

Mrs. E. Morden, W.V.S. The fairy godmother in the Lord Lieutenant's Appeal Fund for Comforts for 1st Battalion

Indian Field Ambulance, and U.S. Army. The evident enjoyment of all present was a fitting tribute of thanks to those who decorated the marquee and organised the evenings. Retreat was sounded by four Buglers and the Drum-Major.

Christmas Day itself opened traditionally with an extra sleep terminated by Reveille and the Sergeants taking cups of tea to their men with "cheery Christmas greetings."

The Church Services were well attended and it is hoped that not one forgot that all our rejoicing was primarily in celebration of the birthday of Christ, Our Lord. Before Divine Service at 11 o'clock the Commanding Officer gave an address to the assembly. After offering his own personal good wishes to the Battalion he read two letters—one from the Colonel of the Regiment and one from a Vicar on the Home Front representative of the many he had received. The Commanding Officer then reminded the Battalion of the "proud and tragic day"—Christmas Day, 1941—when the Battalion was defending Hong Kong against the Japanese.

Soon after Divine Service the Commanding Officer began touring the Companies and assisting at the preparations for Christmas Dinner. Back on ordinary rations today, that dinner will long remain a very fragrant memory in the minds of all. Everything of a Christmas flavour was available: turkey, Christmas pudding, mincepies, and even oranges and nuts with lots of other goodies. Despite the "dummy-runs" into the contents of the parcels on the previous day, none seemed dismayed by the loaded board.

Quite definitely the men of the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment mastered circumstances and enjoyed a "Merrie" Christmas of traditional style. We are indeed grateful to all here and far away who contributed to this great enjoyment. Here—we should not forget to mention "B" Echelon who must have worked hard day and night to get all mail and rations over 60-odd miles of rough roads on time and in good condition. Nor should we forget our own cooks who put in many extra hours of work and much thoughtful artistry in the preparation of the dinner and the running buffet on Christmas Day evening.

3 good things in one!

Smooth chocolate

Delicious sweetmeat

Crisp wafers

**BLUE
RIBAND**



ROLL OF OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS SHOWING APPOINTMENTS HELD DURING THE KOREAN CAMPAIGN FROM AUGUST 25 TO DECEMBER 31, 1950

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS		
Commanding Officer	Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E.	
2 IC	Major R. A. Gwyn.	
Adjutant	T/Capt. K. J. Carter.	
Intelligence Officer	2/Lt. J. C. Bucknall.	2/Lt. B. H. Marciandi.
R.S.M.	W.O.1 S. Weller, M.M.	
Padre	Attached from Brigade H.Q.	
	Rev. T. Quinlan, R.A.Ch.D. (R.C.).	

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY		
Company Commander and O.C. "B" Echelon	Major A. S. J. de S. Clayton.	
Quartermaster	Capt. (Q.M.) C. A. Trestain, M.B.E.	
M.G. Platoon Comdr.	2/Lt. G. G. Norton.	Lt. G. G. Norton.
Mor. Platoon Comdr.	Lt. P. R. Bosworth (R.W.K.).	T/Capt. H. J. A. Moore.
Signal Officer	T/Capt. H. J. A. Moore.	2/Lt. H. J. Evans.
M.T.O.	2/Lt. E. B. Thomas (Buffs).	Lt. J. S. C. Flavell.
Admin. Officer	Lt. J. S. C. Flavell.	Lt. B. K. Clayden.
	Lt. W. I. Kyle-Milward (R. Fus.).	
R.M.O.	Lt. S. Boydell, R.A.M.C.	Lt. F. Buckley, R.A.M.C.
R.Q.M.S.	W.O.2 F. Griffiths.	
C.S.M.	W.O.2 C. Copper (R.W.K.).	
Drill W.O.2	W.O.2 T. Seabrook (R.W.K.).	W.O.2 R. Budden.

"A" COMPANY		
Company Commander	T/Major D. B. Rendell, M.B.E., M.C.	
2 IC	Major R. K. Dowse (R.W.K.).	
Platoon Commander	Lt. R. A. Hodge.	T/Capt. R. A. Hodge.
Platoon Commander	2/Lt. J. M. Lock (R.A.O.C.).	2/Lt. I. S. Rutherford (R.A.O.C.).
Platoon Commander	2/Lt. S. Fothergill.	
Platoon Commander	2/Lt. B. H. Marciandi.	Lt. P. R. Bosworth (R.W.K.).
C.S.M.	W.O.2 R. Tarrant.	W.O.2 T. Seabrook (R.W.K.).

"B" COMPANY		
Company Commander	Major W. P. M. Allen, M.C.	
2 IC	Capt. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	Lt. J. N. Shipster (Acting).
Platoon Commander	Lt. G. Sander.	Lt. J. A. Swarbrick.
Platoon Commander	2/Lt. G. Kitchener (R. Sussex).	Lt. G. Kitchener (R. Sussex).
Platoon Commander	2/Lt. C. L. Lawrence.	
C.S.M.	W.O.2 M. Wild.	

"C" COMPANY		
Company Commander	Major B. K. Favelle (E. Surreys).	
2 IC	Capt. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	T/Major J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.
Platoon Commander	Capt. J. B. Matthews.	
Platoon Commander	Lt. J. N. Shipster (E. Surreys).	
Platoon Commander	2/Lt. K. W. Martin.	
Platoon Commander	Lt. L. G. Sharpe.	
Platoon Commander	Lt. D. R. Bishop (E. Surreys).	
C.S.M.	W.O.2 F. Wickens (Queens).	

"D" COMPANY		
Company Commander	Major J. E. F. Willoughby.	
2 IC	Capt. R. K. Dowse (R.W.K.).	Lt. B. K. Clayden (Acting).
Platoon Commander	Lt. E. G. C. Sobey (R.A.O.C.).	Lt. E. G. C. Sobey (R.A.O.C.).
Platoon Commander	2/Lt. G. A. White (R.A.O.C.).	2/Lt. B. St. G. A. Reed.
Platoon Commander	2/Lt. P. A. S. Wolcombe.	Lt. P. R. Bosworth (R.W.K.).
C.S.M.	W.O.2 T. McMillan.	Lt. R. M. Lang (R. Sussex).

ROLL OF CASUALTIES SUSTAINED DURING KOREAN CAMPAIGN FROM OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1950

KILLED IN ACTION		
2/Lt. J. M. Lock (R.A.O.C.).	"A" Company.	
Pte. D. Page	"A" "	
Pte. A. Collins	"A" "	
Pte. R. Botten	"A" "	
Pte. A. Ireland	"A" "	
Lt. G. Sander	"B" "	
DIED OF WOUNDS		
Pte. W. Freakley	"H.Q." Company (M.G. Pl.).	
WOUNDED		
38 All Ranks.		

TOTAL CASUALTIES SUSTAINED DURING KOREAN CAMPAIGN FROM AUGUST 25 TO DECEMBER 31, 1950

Killed	14
Died of Wounds	2
Missing	1
Wounded	55
TOTAL CASUALTIES	72

"OPERATION RELAX"

A fairy story recently came true for 16 Officers and men of the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment. After battling up and down the Korean peninsula, they arrived tired and unkempt, but still full of fight, at the British Commonwealth Forces leave hostel, Ebisu Camp, Tokyo, for five days' wonderful rest under "Operation Relax."

Three Officers, one Sergeant and 12 other ranks were the first party from the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade to arrive for this well-earned relaxation. These men, after hot baths and showers and a refreshing sleep, were given the "freedom" of Tokyo.

One of the Officers, Lt. Geoffrey Gordon Norton, aged 23, of The Fire Station, Gresham Road, Brixton, London, S.W.9, who left Hong Kong for Korea late last August, said: "Its all rather like a fairy story for this party. We were at Seoul as rearguard and then went south. It was late when we arrived and I bedded down in an old school for the night. The next morning at 8.30 I was awakened by a runner who said, 'The Adjutant says you're going on leave about 9 o'clock.'"

"I thought it was a joke as it was the first I had heard about leave and I rolled over and went to sleep again. I woke with a start at 8.45 a.m. and began packing my kit and getting myself ship-shape."

"The party left for Suwon, but were almost too late for on reaching the airfield we had difficulty finding our way on to the airstrip. When we did eventually arrive a R.A.A.F. Dakota, which had been waiting for us, had already taxied along the strip preparatory to taking off. Our vehicles were quickly driven along the airstrip running alongside the plane as it moved, and it was only after making frantic signs to the pilot that we wanted to get in it that the plane stopped and we were taken aboard. We arrived at Iwakuni on Saturday afternoon and entrained for Kure and Tokyo, arriving here in Tokyo early on Sunday."

Lt. Norton is the Machine Gun Platoon Officer for the Middlesex Battalion. He has been in all its campaigns in Korea. He said today "Operation Relax" is a marvellous idea.

His worst experience in Korea had been, he said, when the Battalion was covering the withdrawal of the 2nd U.S. Division at a pass south of Kunuri after the Division had been trapped in a roadblock. His Platoon, in weapon carriers, were the last to leave and they battled their way back through a terrific onslaught by the Chinese.

TO OUR READERS

Considerable inconvenience is caused to both the Editor and to the Reader owing to the fact that changes of addresses are not notified at once. If you change your address please let us know and so be sure of receiving your Journal regularly

CAVALRY BOULEVARD

Every war produces its own phrases and catchwords. Last time we became familiar with "Grenlins," "Prangs," "G.Is.," "Boffins," "Desert Rats" and many others. The Korean War has been no less fruitful, and we feel that many people may find difficulty in understanding some of the phrases used in this issue, or in our conversation when we return home.

To eliminate these, and for our own amusement, we append:

A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

I. GENERAL TERMS

- (a) Gook.—Originally a North Korean soldier. Now a generic term for all Koreans.
- (b) ROK.—A South Korean soldier. Indistinguishable from (a) above.
- (c) Kilroy.—The ubiquitous GI.

II. RATIONS

- (a) Crackers.—"Man shall not live by bread alone."
- (b) Goodies.—Chicklets, Chuckles, Choc-o-bars, Tootsie rolls, Life savers, Jelly joys—American basic rations.
- (c) Waldorf.—Essential part of combat rations. May be used as paper handkerchiefs or serviettes.

III. MILITARY TERMS

- (a) Many enemies.—Reported by all civilians. An uncertain number of possible enemy seen in an unspecified area at an unspecified time. The basis of all intelligence reports.
- (b) Patrols.—Military excursions for the purpose of collecting firewood.
- (c) T.C.V.—Vehicles designed to carry 15 men. Issued to British soldier on the Trinity principle—three in one.
- (d) Logistical command.—An offspring of the Tower of Babel.
- (e) Stag.—A portion of the night reserved for astronomical survey.
- (f) Prophylactic fire.—Designed to give an operational atmosphere to an advance up an unoccupied valley.
- (g) Pinned down by fire.—"Say! was that a shot?"
- (h) Perimeter.—To be held at all costs. Only to be abandoned if attacked.
- (i) In reserve.—"That was the front line—that was!"
- (j) "Harbour parties forward."—The signal for harbour parties to follow a cloud of dust raised by the D.A.A. and Q.M.G. with the certainty that they will select an ideal Battalion area which will never be used, owing to
- (k) Change of plans.—An eventuality inseparable from any operation.
- (l) Situation fluid.—"Hold on to your hats, boys! Anything can happen."
- (m) Fire for effect.—This means that forward troops may expect to be shelled at any moment from the rear.
- (n) Harassing fire.—This is designed to keep friendly troops awake all night. No inconvenience to the enemy.
- (o) Assault crossing.—"I think we'll clear that mud-bank."
- (p) C.P.—Operational nerve centre. Tropical heat essential for successful functioning.
- (q) "Let's get the hell outa here!"—Vide Chap. I, Para. 1, of the American Military Manual "Actions to be taken in the event of an emergency."
- (r) "Let 'em roll."—Op. order for the advance. Only alternative order to (q) above.
- (s) Air support.—A two-edged weapon.
- (t) The big picture.—A nebulous panorama of the strategical situation, mainly derived from air survey. Reliability—Nil!
- (u) "Your difficulties are fully appreciated."—"Sorry, we cannot help—Carry on!"

IV. SIGNALS PHRASES

- In order to maintain security it is essential to use devious stratagems to mystify the enemy. The great principle to remember, however, is "No jargon."
- (a) "Tin jobs."—This mystic phrase thinly disguises the identity of tanks, but is perhaps too literal to be amusing.
- (b) "My children's children."—Another phrase intended to disguise the size of the forces involved, and at the same time foster the family spirit.
- (c) "I am at the place where the big birds land."—"Remember your security; if the enemy knew we were at the airfield there'd be hell to pay!"

Depot Notes

This time of the year has seen the usual round of festivities and functions at the Depot which we have all come to know so well. And, of course, at the same time there has been a whole succession of other major and minor events happening at the Depot, but too numerous for us to mention them all in the limited space allotted to our modest notes.

The Children's Christmas Party held in the gymnasium on December 16 was adjudged to have been a great success, in spite of the difficulty of keeping children and parents warm in such a large building throughout the afternoon. The weather was particularly cold at the time with snow and ice on the ground outside. Not all came that were expected, but this was easily understandable considering the long distances some would have had to travel. We were very pleased, however, to have Mrs. Andrew Man with us on this occasion, but were sorry that she could not be accompanied by her own family.

The success of the afternoon was due to a great many people who worked behind the scenes both before and during the party, and to them all we are very grateful. And though it may be invidious to mention names, a very special word of thanks is due to Mrs. Dennis and all her lady helpers who put in a great deal of hard work and gave up a lot of their spare time to make the party the success it was. It was entirely due to their efforts and wonderful organisation that every child present went home happy and contented with just the present he or she had wanted for Christmas.

We are very grateful to the G.O.C. London District, Maj.-Gen. J. A. Gascoigne, C.B., D.S.O., for his very great thoughtfulness in visiting each of our 1st Battalion families living in the barracks whose husbands are in Korea, to wish them a happy Christmas and to present each of the children with a toy.

About 200 people attended the New Year's Eve Dance in the gymnasium and had a good time. But this function was not a success on the financial side, and this is thought to have been chiefly due to the fact that the bar was too cold to remain in for very long without returning to the dance floor at frequent intervals to warm up!

Turning from the social side to the official, we have to report one or two changes amongst the Depot Permanent Staff. In December we lost C.S.M. Jennings to the 7th Battalion, and though we were very sorry to see him go, we are sure he will be of great value to the T.A. His place as A/R.S.M. at the Depot was taken by C/Sgt. Whitehead who came to us from B.A.O.R. in December. But C/Sgt. Whitehead is himself now in the process of handing over his duties to R.S.M. Britton who has come back specially from East Africa to take over the appointment of R.S.M. of the Depot. We take this opportunity of welcoming R.S.M. Britton and his family to the Depot and wish them a very happy time here.

At the beginning of January O/R.Q.M.S. Waldron left us to fill the appointment of R.Q.M.S. at the Embarkation Establishment at Harwich, but as this is only a six months' appointment we expect to see him back with us in July. His place in the Orderly Room has been taken by O/R.Q.M.S. Dyer of the Northamptonshire Regiment, and to him we extend a hearty welcome and wish him a pleasant stay with us.

Another new arrival at the Orderly Room is Pte. Balchin who has come from Hong Kong and taken the place of Pte. Hindhaugh, who has now gone to the Intelligence Corps Depot with a view to transferring to that Corps.

The Home Postal Depot, R.E., who are now sharing Inglis Barracks with us, have now increased to over 100 all ranks and have taken over quite a large proportion of the barracks already.

The repainting of the barracks is proceeding apace, but is still far from finished. The Officers' Mess and Museum are now in the hands of the painters, and although this is bound to involve a certain amount of temporary disorganisation, we are sure the final results will be pleasing. As far as the Museum is concerned, we are taking this opportunity of reorganising all the exhibits, and as this will take some time the Museum will not be open to visitors until the beginning of April.

On January 22 the Colonel of the Regiment and the O.C. Depot paid a visit to the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, to see five of our wounded soldiers who had been flown home from Korea recently. In spite of their severe wounds they were all in remarkably good heart and all had nothing but the highest praise for their Officers and comrades who are still out in Korea.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM NOTES

The Regimental Museum was recently visited by Gen. Sir Gerald W. R. Templer, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, who was very pleased with the exhibits.

As a result of his visit it is hoped that several improvements will be made in the near future, including central heating, better lighting facilities and a further supply of showcases.

Major R. C. H. Bellers has presented the following interesting items to the Museum:—

Piece of Hitler's writing table.

A Nazi Iron Cross.

A small face towel, which was picked up outside the bunker where Hitler is reputed to have spent his last hours, and near the spot where the body of Goebbels was burnt.

During the next few weeks the Museum will be painted and in consequence will be closed until early April, 1951.



Children's Christmas Party 1950, Inglis Barracks

SPION KOP REUNION

On January 24, 1951, the 51st anniversary of the Battle of Spion Kop was observed in the Depot Sergeants' Mess. The attendance was not as good as last year, mainly due to illness, but the following 11 survivors attended: Capt. G. Johnson, Messrs. R. E. Evans, D.C.M., W. Ford, E. G. Ford, R. F. Varney, W. H. King, H. J. Ormiston, G. Edwards, W. Bailey, J. C. Parsons and F. T. Trezona. Col. M. Browne, accompanied by O.C. Depot, Major G. O. Porter, Secretary of the Association, and Majors H. Farrow and E. L. Heywood welcomed the guests.

Col. Browne told the survivors that he regretted that owing to ill-health Col. W. A. Stewart was unable to be present, and he asked the Secretary to inform the meeting of the replies received from some of the absentees. Major Clark then read replies from the following who were unable to attend owing to ill-health: Major J. St. John Secker, Lt.-Col. Revd. H. P. Osborne, Mr. T. G. Moore, Mr. J. Kerwin, Mr. F. Hurst, Mr. C. Buckman, Mr. H. Crump, and Mr. J. Dunstone.

He also said that he regretted to inform them that since the last meeting two deaths had occurred—Mr. J. Ryan and Mr. W. Wells.

Greetings had been received from Capt. R. W. J. Smith, ex-C/Sgt. Smith of "B" Company, and from No. 5567 W. G. Cooper now resident in New Zealand. After the Loyal Toast the Company stood in silence in

reverence to those who had fallen at Spion Kop, those who had since passed away, and those who could not be present.

Capt. G. Johnson then replied on behalf of those present and thanked the Colonel of the Regiment for an excellent evening and to the members of the Sergeants' Mess for their hospitality. The company then enjoyed the buffet supper provided and discussed old times until 11 p.m. On this occasion only one survivor asked to be accommodated for the night.

THE OFFICERS' CLUB, ALDERSHOT

Accommodation is available for single Officers for long or short duration.

This Club offers excellent sporting facilities, including tennis, squash, sailing, swimming, shooting, fishing, beagles, golf, badminton, bridge, and dancing. It has very pleasant grounds and surroundings. The standard of catering is generally considered by visitors to be superior to most equivalent clubs and drinks are at very reasonable prices.

The inclusive charge for living at the Club is 5½ guineas a week. The train and bus services are suitable for resident Officers working in London (as several already do), and the Club is a popular place for single Officers to spend a period of leave.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, The Officers' Club, Aldershot. (Telephone: Aldershot 136.)

7th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Our main interest in military matters was the Armistice Sunday Parade. The Battalion, headed by the Corps of Drums under Drum-Major H. Poulter, marched to church at St. Mary's, Hornsey. The Battalion Colours were carried on parade by Lts. Gunnell and Garrett, who are to be congratulated on a very good turn-out and drill.

Unfortunately our numbers on parade were not great and it is hoped that next year this will improve. There was a very large gathering of Old Comrades who marched behind the Battalion, and we were pleased to see them in the Canteen afterwards.

We congratulate two Officers of the Battalion, Major Ellis and Lt. Garrett, on the birth of a daughter each during December.

The Annual Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, January 6, was a great success, thanks to the hard work by the committee under Capt. Garbett. Drum-Major Poulter and Mrs. Poulter are to be congratulated on the excellent tea they produced for nearly 100 children and their parents.

We welcome the arrival of Major G. Kaines, M.C., who will command "A" Company; as an ex-member of the 1/8th Battalion he is well known in the Battalion. We also welcome 2/Lt. P. C. Kay, who served in the 1st Battalion after the war, 2/Lt. G. R. Fox, son of Lt.-Col. Fox, and four National Service Officers who have volunteered to become T.A. Officers—2/Lts. Clutson, Henderson, Clarke and Holm. Unfortunately Capt. Dowling has had to leave us and join the T.A.R.O. through business reasons, and we wish him every success in the future.

There have also been changes in the Permanent Staff—C.S.M. Perry has left us for the 1st Battalion in Korea and the good wishes of the Battalion go with him. Perry had been with the Battalion since it was re-formed in 1947 and has worked very hard during the past three years and helping the Battalion in the period of change-over from a M.G. role to that of infantry. We welcome C.S.M. Jennings, who recently returned from the 1st Battalion, in his place.

As our notes go to press the announcement has been made about "Z" Reservists reporting for training with T.A. Battalions for 15 days. At present we do not know how this will affect the Battalion, but we would like to welcome in advance any who may be joining this Battalion and we hope that it will include some ex-members of the Regiment.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Christmas and New Year festivities having come and gone, the Company has once again settled down to the serious task of training. With the air full of talk of "Z" Reservists and the advent of our first National Service Weekend, the Company is very much on its toes to meet all possible eventualities.

We have suffered a loss in the posting of our P.S.I.,

C.S.M. Perry, to the 1st Battalion in Korea. He knows that he takes with him the good wishes of the whole Battalion and his exploits, especially "off duty," will long be remembered. He did, incidentally, complete the fireplace for the Children's Christmas Party during his embarkation leave, and I understand has left the fullest instructions for next year.

We welcome as our P.S.I. C.S.M. Morgan from "A" Company. I rather think our M.T.O. breathed a sigh of relief when this posting became known.

Signal Platoon

The Platoon, after the Christmas holidays, started on an intensive course of training in R.T. procedure. This is, of course, although rather early, in preparation for this year's annual camp where good R.T. is absolutely essential. The arrival of our long-awaited "tape insulating" caused quite a stir and now we shall be able to lay "unearthing" lines to the benefit of all. Pte. Shaw deserves mention and congratulations on obtaining his skill-at-arms badge, and we hope that he is the first of many in the Platoon to do so. Our week-end excursion with the M.T. Section is gradually taking shape, but owing to the nature of the exercise the results will have to be reported in the next issue of this Journal, when the weather improves.

Motor Transport

The Platoon has not been able to do very much training apart from maintenance since the last issue of the "Notes," but now that the days are getting longer and the weather improving we hope to get out at the weekends and bring our driving up to scratch again. We have had no new recruits recently but we are working hard on one or two "hopefuls," and by the next issue we hope to be able to report an increase in our strength.

Drums

May we begin by sending our best wishes to one of our late members, Drm. Sils, who is serving with the 1st Battalion The Gloucester Regiment in Korea. We sincerely hope he will be back with us again soon. This is also our wish for all members of the 1st Battalion. Although this news will be a little late, I should like to mention the fact that we held a Drummers' Supper and Social which was very successful. We had a most enjoyable evening, but were limited to the number of invitations we sent owing to the difficulty of catering for more than 100 people. We thank Drms. W. Payne, G. Payne, T. Hawkins and J. Burton for their efforts which led to the success of this function.

We recently played at the Notts Forest v. Leyton Orient match and were given a wonderful reception by a crowd of 20,000. Having completed our performance we were congratulated both on the performance and also our turn-out by one of the Orient directors.

The Drum-Major had a letter from Bds. Phipps who, as most people know, is a well-known Charlton player. He served as a boy in the 2nd Battalion Band during the period of service of Drum-Major H. Poulter with the 2nd Battalion. Bds. Phipps has promised to

pay us a visit in the near future and we shall be very pleased to see him.

Four side-drummers, namely, C/Sgt. Payne, Dmr. W. Payne, Dmr. T. Hawkins, and Dmr. T. Poulter, together with Drum-Major Poulter, are also members of the Enfield Silver Band and they play on Saturdays at all First Division matches of Tottenham Hotspur, where some excellent football has been seen.

We recently played a programme at a Sergeants' Mess Dinner at Battalion H.Q., being congratulated on our performance. Our next engagement is to play the 609 Battery of Tottenham to a special church service on Sunday, February 4.

We are hoping that every man in the Drums will be able to arrange his holidays in order to spend at least eight days at camp so that we may play out at full strength if only for this short period. The aim, of course, is for every member to attend for the full period. I think we shall be able to give a good account of ourselves if only for eight days.

We have lost a good stalwart in C.S.M. Perry, who was ordered to join the 1st Battalion in Korea, and with him go our best wishes for a safe and speedy return. This W.O. was very much liked in the Battalion which, I think, was proved by the greatest send-off we have seen for a long time. Good luck, "Nobby."

We also welcome R.S.M. Britton back to England after a spell abroad, and wish him the best of good luck in his new post as R.S.M. of the Regimental Depot, Mill Hill.

Trouble arises again on Practice Nights between Cpl. Sayers and Dmr. Howes as to who is going to pay for the necessary refreshment. Sgt. Gribble always seems to be going home on these critical occasions and so gets away with it.

We welcome Dmr. Johnson's son to the Drums; he is a smart lad and you can see his father beam with joy when he is marching together with his son.

There are one or two "cripples" walking about in the Corps owing to the fact that they played football a few Sundays ago. For some unknown reason Dmr. C. Smith was absent from this match. His excuse, which is poor, was that he did not get up in time. This being the first match we have played for a considerable time, we lost about 5s. We hear Dmr. G. Payne is thinking of becoming a professional.

Unpaid, unwanted, brainless Dmr. T. Poulter (this is what he is called by his father, Drum-Major Poulter) is progressing very well and we shall sadly miss him when he is called to the Colours in the near future. We shall be very pleased to see or hear from any Drummer, serving or otherwise, at any time.

"S" COMPANY

We have the pleasure to welcome two Officers to the Company, 2/Lts. Henderson and Clutson. Already Capt. Baker has them under his wing and private tuition in the M.G. is taking place in the most unexpected places.

The National Service men attended in force at the end of January and two have decided to become Territorials; to them we extend a hearty welcome and hope that their example will be followed by many others.

We are looking forward to the finer weather when we can get in some really useful training out-of-doors during the evenings.

Congratulations on his promotion to L/Cpl. Inns.

Anti-Tank Platoon

Since the last Journal was published we have had two newcomers to the Platoon, Ptes. Green and Heath, and we extend a hearty welcome to them. However, our total strength remains about the same as we have lost Pte. Kybert who has joined the Essex Regiment.

This year at camp we are back again at St. Martin's Plain, a return to many old haunts and old friends. A 17-pounder will be among our equipment at camp and we are certain that training in this will be taken in their stride by the Platoon.

M.G. Platoon

The routine of winter indoor training was pleasantly varied in November when the London Scottish invited the M.G. Platoon of the London Irish and ourselves for a weekend at their hut at Bisley, which was much appreciated and enjoyed by everyone who went. Apart from this, the Platoon has been getting through some necessary but unspectacular ground-work, which we hope will bear fruit next camp.

"A" COMPANY

The Company at this time is very small in numbers, but its few members are keen to keep the flag flying. We miss our majority on Drill Nights as C/Sgt. Baker is learning new mysteries on the "Q" side at Battalion H.Q., while most of our stalwarts are studying hard with the N.C.O.s cadre.

We are pleased to report that we have been successful in entertaining the local branch of the British Legion and the Wood Green Special Constabulary at dart matches during the last quarter. As soon as the floor of our hall has been reinforced we hope to invite our friends and comrades to join us in a "rumba" or perhaps an "old-fashioned" for our older friends.

We have to report that our P.S.I., C.S.M. Morgan, has departed for "H.Q." Company. We wish him luck in his new appointment and welcome C.S.M. Jennings in his place. Lt. Baldwin is still holding the fort as O.C. Company, and with a trusty few on our books soon hopes to make the Company a force with which to be reckoned.

With the coming of 1951 we wish all our friends the season's greetings and send good luck greetings to our comrades in arms of the 1st Battalion out in Korea.

"B" COMPANY

The Company's activities have not been very varied since the last issue of the Journal. On November 25 we held our second Company Dance. Unfortunately the weather was not very kind and the fog and cold kept away the majority of our patrons; nevertheless we had a fairly good attendance. Quite a quantity of beer was consumed and it was noted that the Sergeants' Mess was still going strong after the ball was over.

December 7 saw an inter-Company rifle meeting on



THE 7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER, NOVEMBER 10, 1950
Col. Sir Edwin King in the chair. The guests included the Col. of the Regiment and Colonel Anwyl Passingham

the miniature range, won by "H.Q." Company with "B" Company second. In the Canteen afterwards several noteworthy dart matches took place, the one between our P.S.I.'s team (C.S.M. Tostevin) and our worthy caretaker's (ex-C.S.M. Whitcombe) was quite the funniest seen at Enfield.

We have been very pleased to welcome several of the National Service men on various evenings, and hope that they will put in further appearances before their first obligatory weekend in April.

Cpls. Leahy and Webb are still at Battalion H.Q. attending the N.C.O.s cadre. We shall be very pleased to welcome them back at the end of February.

ENTERTAINMENT NOTES

Due to the fact that the Drill Hall is taken over by the Post Office as an extra sorting office during the Christmas period, the Battalion was forced to hold the Christmas Dance on December 9. Despite the early date, all who attended enjoyed themselves and the Hornsey Christmas Festivities had started.

The following Saturday was used by a number of the Battalion to organise a farewell party to C.S.M. Perry, whose departure is already mentioned in "H.Q." Company notes. This party, although brought about by unpleasant circumstances, was very good fun. In his few words about the "Central Figure" of the evening, Drum-Major Poulter said that in all the years he had known "Nobby" he was one person who was

always ready for food, and in his own words "If somebody would like to open that door. . . ." The door was flung open and in came Mrs. Poulter carrying a roasted chicken. She was followed by various members of her family carrying the accessories to a roast dinner right down to a Christmas pudding covered with lighted brandy. C.S.M. Perry made a "lightening" appreciation of the situation and, inside five minutes, had consumed the lot. The evening, as all such evenings will, ended with a few songs, and C.S.M. Perry was persuaded to give some of the songs he (with the Battalion) had made famous.

Unfortunately New Year's Eve fell on a Sunday and we were therefore forced to hold our usual dance on the Saturday, which, of course, had to close down at midnight. The evening was a success, but those present were unable to capture the usual "Happy New Year" spirit. However, the dance ended with Auld Lang Syne, hands joined, and clusters of balloons falling from the rafters in the correct New Year fashion, even if it were a day early.

The Children's Party was held this year on January 6 and well over 100 children attended. The fun and games started at 3 p.m. and very soon after that time we were able to organise party games without too much discipline. Drum-Major Poulter and his family again did a lot of hard work in decorating the hall and providing the tea, which also tempted most of the adults present, the ice-cream and jelly being as usual the most

popular item. After tea the children were entertained and greatly amused by Cpl. Marshall and Pte. Moran, together with the help of their not very visible performing fleas. The grand finale of the party was the timely arrival of Father Christmas. We were assured that his likeness to Major Ellis, the Battalion 21/C, was purely co-incidental. Santa was able to find a present for every child at the party and indeed was even able to find an extra one in the guise of a bottle of beer for our Commanding Officer. As the children left the party they were given a toffee-apple, a balloon, an orange, a bag of sweets and a book or jig-saw puzzles. The books and puzzles were presented by Cpl. Lee; and now until next year the Children's Party Committee are having what they consider a well-earned rest.

SPORTS NEWS

Our two main sports so far this winter have been football and basketball and with the help of Cpl. Howland (ex-A.P.T.C.) we have progressed considerably now that people have started to take an interest. A Sports Committee will be formed and practical suggestions will be welcome. Still more "sportsmen," however, are required for the football which is played on Sunday morning at Mill Hill, and also for basketball, which is played at Hornsey every Wednesday evening. Since the last journal issue we have played two matches and below are the results:

Football—January 14: v. Priory Athletic. Lost 7—2.
Basketball—January 10: v. Priory Athletic. Won 32—22.

HORNSEY "DIE-HARDS" CLUB

Another Christmas has come and gone and the Club now starts on its sixth year of existence. Numbers have increased slightly during the year, 87 as against 81 last year. This increase is encouraging, but we should like to see it in the region of 200, as it was in our first year.

Remembrance Sunday Parade

This took place at Hornsey on Sunday, November 12, when a party of approximately 60 Old Comrades formed up and marched to St. Mary's Church behind the Battalion, which was headed by the Corps of Drums. It was very noticeable that our numbers had greatly increased on the march back from church and the gathering in the hall after the parade was generally voted as the strongest we have had since the war.

Comforts for Korea Fund

As voted for at the December monthly meeting, a donation was sent to the Women's Voluntary Service for the Comforts for Korea Fund. A letter of appreciation was received from the Colonel of the Regiment. Our members will be pleased to hear that Drm. Sils, who was recalled to the Colours and went to Korea with the 1st Gloucesters, received the parcel we sent out. Letters received from him have been posted on the Club notice board.

Pringle Dart Shield

This was won this year by R.S.M. Painter and Mr. Torrey was runner-up. This was a very long-drawn-out affair and we hope members will do their best in future to turn up to play their matches by the dates laid down.

Battalion Children's Party

The Club again received an invitation from the Battalion for 12 of the children of members of the Club to attend the children's party on January 6. All thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we take this opportunity to thank the C.O., officers and all ranks for remembering us in their invitations.

AMERICAN MEMORY

(From the "Daily Mail," September 25, 1950)

Reading in our local newspaper of the Middlesex Regiment going into the Korean War brings back memories of 32 years ago this month. As a member of the 31st U.S. Infantry I landed at Vladivostok, Siberia, and upon the beaches and docks were members of the Middlesex Regiment waiting to greet us.

They were a sad lot, wounded and battle weary, but still extending to us a great big cheer and a wonderful smile. We spent many days telling each other of our native lands, and I recall one chap telling me if ever I got the chance I should visit England.

That chap's words stuck with me the rest of my life. I do not recall his name or his home town, but I knew if it were ever possible I was going to visit his native land he loved so much.

In 1943 I entered the U.S. Air Force, and was sent to England. As we rode through the countryside boys and girls, young and old, waved and greeted us with a smile, displaying the good old "V" sign. Deep inside me I knew no one could ever defeat such wonderful people. Towns were bombed out, food was scarce, but there was that one thing that makes the English people outstanding—Courage.

I became acquainted with the English people, I was invited into their homes. My heart was heavy for those people; they were happy, they laughed and played, and their towns and homes were destroyed. Rubble was being cleared, and the shops were doing business behind black-outs and sandbags.

I am proud to have met your people at home. My only regret is that I will never be able to walk down your streets and see those people without the black-out and sandbags. Although I am rated as totally disabled, I can still walk and enjoy life and memories of England. Keep up your courage. We in America are your friends.

LOUIS W. DESPAIN.

Box 105,
Rupert, Idaho, U.S.

★ SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS
WHO SUPPORT YOU

THE HOME COUNTIES GROUP TRAINING CENTRE

The 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, stationed at Shorncliffe Camp as the Home Counties Training Battalion since March, 1948, moved to St. Martin's Plain Camp on Wednesday, November 15, to prepare for their posting to the Far East.

Training commitments have been taken over by the Home Counties Group Training Centre which began operation as a separate unit on Thursday, November 16, 1950. The following barracks are occupied: Moore, Ross, Somerset and Napier, with headquarters at Moore Barracks. Men who join the Home Counties Group of Regiments—The Queen's Royal Regiment, The Buffs, The Royal Fusiliers, The East Surrey Regiment, The Royal Sussex Regiment, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, and The Middlesex Regiment—will receive their initial training here. It lasts for periods varying from six to sixteen weeks.

Members of the unit permanent cadre who were previously attached and badged to the 1st R.W.K. now wear the badges and shoulder titles of their own Regiments.

The Home Counties Brigade Group sign has been in existence for some time; it has seven sides representing the seven Regiments of the group, forming a ring round a gold portcullis, part of the Arms of the City of London. The background is formed by St. George's Cross. The sign is worn by all ranks of the Group, whether serving with their own or other Regiments of the Group, or in E.R.E. or staff employments. It is worn on the left sleeve of the battledress, the top of the sign being 2½ inches below the seam of the top of the sleeve. The Group Flag flew for the first time on Thursday, November 15, 1950.

The new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. G. E. F. Oliver, D.S.O., The Buffs, will not arrive to take over until mid-January. The acting C.O. is Major J. L. Chapman, O.B.E., of The Royal Sussex Regiment.

Other appointments are:—

2IC and Sports Officer: Major J. R. Armstrong-McDonnell, M.C., The East Surrey Regiment.
Adjutant: Capt. S. H. Chapman, The Royal Fusiliers.
a/Adjutant: Lt. R. A. Stratford-Tuke, The Buffs.
Quartermaster: Major (Q.M.) A. E. Watts, M.B.E., The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.
Adm. Officer: Major (Rtd.) G. W. Duffield, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.
Messing Officer and i/c Boxing: Capt. F. W. Abrams, The Royal Fusiliers.

Courts Martial Officer: Capt. J. Nash, The Buffs.
M.T.O.: Lt. R. N. B. Hanlon, The Royal Sussex Regiment.

Weapon Training Officer: 2/Lt. N. Vinson, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

P.R.I. and Unit Fire Officer: 2/Lt. P. A. Stocken, The Middlesex Regiment.

O.C. "H.Q." Company and i/c Football: Major N. T. Bailey, The Buffs.

2IC "H.Q." Company and Education Officer: Capt. E. J. Ransley, M.C., The Buffs.

O.C. "A" Company: Major V. W. Calmady-Hamlyn, The Royal Sussex Regiment.

O.C. "B" Company and i/c Hockey: Capt. J. M. Jourdiar, The East Surrey Regiment.

2IC "B" Company and P.M.O.: Capt. K. Osborne, The East Surrey Regiment.

O.C. "C" Company and i/c Rugby: Major R. Butler, M.B.E., M.C., The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

O.C. "D" Company: Capt. N. E. Savage, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

O.C. 2 Company and i/c Entertainments: Major F. B. Whiting, The Middlesex Regiment.

2IC 2 Company: Capt. R. J. Symonds, The Royal Sussex Regiment.

R.S.M.: W.O.1 W. H. Kettle, The Royal Fusiliers.

G.W.D.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX T. AND A.F. ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS, AT 59 GREEN STREET, MAYFAIR, W.1, ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1951, AT 2.15 P.M.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C. (Chairman), Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P. (Colonel of the Regiment), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., A.D.C., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollock, M.C., Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major G. O. Porter, Major W. D. Ellis, T.D., Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. G. Lerwill, M.C., Sgt. E. Fletcher.

In attendance: Major C. F. Denton, T.D.

1. *Election of Chairman.* The Secretary informed the Committee that the first item on the agenda was the election of the Chairman. It was proposed by Col. Browne, seconded by Brigadier Procter, and unanimously approved by the Committee, that Lt.-Col. Roberts be re-elected Chairman for a further year. Lt.-Col. Roberts assumed the Chairmanship and thanked the Committee for the honour they had bestowed upon him.

The Chairman then welcomed Major Ellis to the Committee as representative of the 7th Battalion.

2. *Minutes.* The minutes of the last meeting having been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as correct.

3. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary's report having been circulated with the Agenda was accepted by the Committee.

4. *Finance Committee's Report.* Lt.-Col. Robbins explained that two meetings of the Finance Committee had been held since the last meeting of the Regimental Association. He informed the Committee that draft copies of audited Balance Sheets had only recently been received from the auditors, and he was, therefore, unable to produce them before the Committee at this meeting. He informed the Committee that the Accounts, with the possible exception of the Journal, were in a sound financial position.

He stated that he and Lt.-Col. Roberts had reviewed the investments of the Association after consultation with Messrs. Mullens (Stockbrokers). Certain minor exchanges were being made out of 2½ National War Bonds and 2½ Defence Bonds into 3½ Defence Bonds.

He further informed the Committee that the salaries of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary were reviewed at the last meeting and that the Finance Committee did not recommend making any alteration.

The Finance Committee resigned in accordance with the rules of the Association. It was proposed by Col. Browne, seconded by Col. Rooke and approved by the Committee that the Finance Committee be re-elected for a further year and great appreciation was expressed for the way in which they carried out their task.

5. *Journal Committee's Report.* Brigadier Procter informed the Committee that the account of the Journal was unfavourable, there being an excess of expenditure now of £176, against £88 last year. There was, however, the sum of £216, held in the P.O. Savings Bank, which meant that the fund was still solvent.

Cost of production is rising with each issue; we had now changed our Advertising Agent and it was hoped that the revenue from this source would increase, but would not effect any easing of the financial situation to any great extent.

Subscriptions during 1950 had increased by £90. It was hoped that the account would still be solvent after the production of the June issue.

6. *Memorial Committee's Report.* (a) Col. Beach explained the financial position of the Memorial Fund as at December 31, 1950. He also informed the Committee that the building of the Cottages was proceeding in satisfactory manner and there was a possibility of them being completed by August, 1951.

He stated that the cost of materials was increasing and that the Rise and Fall Clause in the Contract may have to be increased by 5 to 10%. This report was accepted by the Committee.

(b) The Committee approved that a Sub-Committee composed as follows be appointed to consider applications for occupation of the Cottages. Powers to allot them as and when they become available were delegated to the Sub-Committee: Col. G. Beach, O.C. 7th Battalion, O.C. Depot, R.S.M.s of Depot and 7th Battalion. *Ex-officio* members—Colonel of the Regiment and Chairman of the Regimental Association. Quorum for the Sub-Committee would be three members.

7. *Regimental History Committee's Report.* The Chairman requested that the Regimental Association give a definite decision at this meeting on this subject. He informed the Committee that

(a) Due to the efforts of Brigadier Baker the sum of £75 10s. 0d. had been received from the 8th Battalion funds towards the production of the Regimental History.

(b) Permission of the Charity Commission to allot £100 from Association Charitable Fund and £500 from the 6th Battalion Fund had been refused as it was not in accordance with the Trust Deed of March 22, 1928.

(c) Sums of money which had already been given or guaranteed towards the cost of the History were as follows:—

595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment) (T.A.)	£	s.	d.
7th Battalion The Middlesex Regt. (T.A.)	100	0	0
2/7th Battalion The Middlesex Regt. (T.A.)	75	0	0
1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)	100	0	0
2nd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)	80	0	0
	£	500	0
	885	5	0

(d) The estimated cost of the History would be:

Author	£	s.	d.
Guarantee to Gale & Polden that 1,000 would be sold at 15s. per volume.	500	0	0
Production of matter, sketches, etc. under 100	750	0	0
	1,250	0	0

Brigadier Procter explained the present situation in further detail and asked the Regimental Association for authority to proceed with the production and to engage Commander Kemp, R.N., as author for the fee of £500.

It was proposed by Lt.-Col. Wollock, seconded by Major Hardcastle, and approved by the Committee, that Brigadier Procter be authorised to proceed with the production forthwith.

8. *Mrs. Mabel Renny Legacy.* Major Hardcastle explained to the Committee the legal situation. After discussion it was proposed by Brigadier Baker, seconded by Lt.-Col. Robbins, and approved by the Committee that the subject be deferred to a later meeting.

9. *Subscription to Regular Forces Employment Association.* It was proposed by Lt.-Col. Wollock and seconded by Brigadier Rackham that the subscription to the Regular Forces Employment Association for 1950, as recommended by the Finance Committee, be reduced from £100 to £50. It was noted only 65 members of the Regiment had been found employment during 1950.

10. *Far Eastern Prisoners of War Claims Committee.* The Committee approved of a resolution as drafted by the Chairman and seconded by Col. Browne.

Resolution—"The Middlesex Regimental Association at its meeting on January 25, 1951, unanimously passed a resolution in support of the efforts being made by the Far Eastern P.O.W. Claims Committee to secure compensation through Japanese War Reparations for ex-P.O.W. who were held by that nation."

"Furthermore, the Middlesex Regimental Association gives its moral support to the efforts being made to set up a Select Committee of the House of Commons to consider and report on the Claims."

11. *Election of a Member of the Regimental Association to serve on the Middlesex T. and A.F. Association.* The Chairman read a letter from the Secretary of the Middlesex T. and A.F. Association asking the Regimental Association to accept the vacancy for membership of the T. and A.F. Association for the term of office of four years. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Lt.-Col. Green, and approved by the Committee, that Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins be nominated for the vacancy. Lt.-Col. Robbins stated he considered it would be an honour to serve.

12. *Star and Garter Honours for Disabled Soldiers.* The Committee considered an application from the Home for a grant. It was decided that no grant be made until further enquiries had been made by the Chairman.

13. *Naming of Memorial Cottages.* The Chairman informed the Committee that the Lord Lieutenant had not approved that Cottages should be named after any Borough or District in the County of Middlesex.

The Committee approved that the Sub-Committee appointed in

Minute 6 (b) be the Committee for recommending names for the Cottages to the Executive Committee and that any such names should be those of distinguished deceased members of the Regiment (both of officers and other ranks) or of notable place names or events connected with the Regiment.

14. *O.C.A. Gathering, 1951.* It was approved by the Committee that the Old Comrades' Gathering for 1951 be held at the Depot on June 30, 1951, and that the Secretary be authorised to spend a sum not exceeding £100 in respect of this Gathering.

15. *Other Business.* (1) In reply to questions by Brigadier Rackham it was stated that: (a) the finances of the various "Die-Hard" Clubs were reported to be healthy and self-supporting; (b) comforts for the 1st Battalion in Korea were being adequately supplied from the Lord Lieutenant's Fund.

(2) O.C. Depot was asked by the Committee to ensure that when Other Rank Representatives at the Depot were unable to attend the Committee meetings of the Regimental Association, Other Rank deputies should be detailed to attend in their place.

16. *Date of Next Meeting.* The Committee approved that the date of the next meeting be April 26, 1951, at 2.15 p.m. at the T. and A.F. Association Headquarters, 59 Green Street, W.1.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.

A. W. CLARK, Major,
Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX T. & A.F. ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS, 59 GREEN STREET, MAYFAIR, W.1, ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1951, AT 3.50 P.M.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C. (Chairman), Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P. (Colonel of the Regiment), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., A.D.C., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollock, M.C., Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major G. O. Porter, Major W. D. Ellis, T.D., Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., D.L., D.L., J.P., Col. H. Crawford, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. G. Lerwill, M.C.

1. *Minutes of Last Meeting.* The Minutes of the last meeting having been circulated were signed by the Chairman as correct.

2. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary's report having been circulated with the Agenda was accepted by the Committee. The Secretary was instructed to remove the following names from the Officers' Club Register: Major G. A. W. Burton, Major A. R. Klitz, Capt. R. St. G. McYoung, Lt. G. G. James.

3. *Election of New Members.* The Committee approved that the following Officers be elected as members of the Club: Brigadier A. M. Toye, V.C., M.C., Major E. C. Morey, Capt. A. E. Bird, Capt. P. Collins, T.D., Capt. A. G. Watson, Lt. R. J. Leighton, Capt. R. H. Last, Lt. J. Brown, 2/Lt. R. Brown, 2/Lt. D. J. Blackler, 2/Lt. P. S. Liddell, 2/Lt. G. R. Fox, 2/Lt. E. A. M. Baker.

4. *6th Battalion Funds.* Major H. K. Hardcastle reported that no further progress had been made, but he would press for the transfer of the Funds through other official channels.

5. *Officers' Club Dinner.* The Committee approved that the Officers' Club Dinner for 1951 be held at the Junior United Service Club on June 22, and that the sum of £75 be allocated towards the cost of the Dinner. Price of tickets to be £1 18s. 0d. Non-members of the Officers' Club £1 10s. 0d.

Proposed by Brigadier Procter, seconded by Lt.-Col. Green and approved by the Committee that the dress for the Dinner would be Evening Dress or Dinner Jacket with miniature medals or Blue uniform without miniatures.

It was also approved that there would be no "Top Table" reservations, except for the Colonel of the Regiment and a very small number of his nominees.

6. *"At Home."* The Committee approved that the Club "At Home" be held on Friday, June 22, at 3.30 p.m., at the Junior United Service Club. £40 would be allocated towards the cost, and a charge made of 2s. 6d. per person.

7. *Golf.* The Committee approved that the Spring Golf Meeting be held at Hendon Golf Club on April 27 next, and approved a total allocation of £50 for prizes, etc., to cover both the Spring and Autumn Meetings.

8. *Regimental History.* The Committee approved of a grant of £100 as recommended by the Finance Committee towards the cost of production of the Regimental History.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.40 p.m. The next meeting will take place on April 26, 1951, at the Middlesex T. & A.F. Headquarters, 59 Green Street, W.1.

A. W. CLARK, Major,
Secretary, Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club.

Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.
January 31, 1951.

DEATHS

On October 31, 1950, No. 144882 ex-Cpl. W. Harman, late of the 4th Battalion.

On December 6, 1950, after a long illness, ex-Pte. G. Maytum, No. S6145, late of the 4th Battalion.

On December 7, 1950, No. 8593 ex-Pte. W. R. Westlake, late of the 4th Battalion, after a very long illness.

Ill since 1918, Sgt. A. G. Garrett, of the 4th Battalion, passed away on January 11. Letter of sympathy was sent to the family and the funeral was attended by a member of the Regiment.

Sgt. Drm. L. Goward, late of the 3rd Battalion, died on January 18 and his funeral was attended by a member of the Regiment. A letter of sympathy was sent to the widow.

On January 22, after a long and painful illness, ex-Sgt. E. H. Boddington, late of the 1st Battalion. The Association was represented at the funeral and a wreath was sent.

At the age of seventy-seven the death is announced of ex-Pte. H. Avriall on January 25. Sympathy was expressed with the family and the funeral was attended by a representative of the Association.

OBITUARIES

Lt.-Col. F. G. Poole, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.L.

At Farnham on November 28, 1950, the funeral took place of Lt.-Col. F. G. Poole, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.L., late The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.). The Regiment was represented by Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., B.A., and Lt.-Col. A. C. Dundas, O.B.E.

Lt.-Col. Poole passed away peacefully at his home at Farnham. He was 80 years of age and his career and work with the Army must have been almost unique in its variety. Commissioned originally in the East Yorkshire Regiment in 1892, he soon started his wanderings. 1896-98 he was employed in the British Central Africa Protectorate and during this period he raised the first Battalion of the Central African Rifles (later King's African Rifles), and took part in the Lake Shirwa Expedition and operations against the Angori Zulus.

In 1900-01 he was in China during the Boxer Rebellion, commanding the International Volunteers and being Adjutant of the Defence. For his services he was awarded the D.S.O. and mentioned in despatches. He was a member of the International Commission to enquire into and punish the perpetrators of the massacre.

During 1903-04 he was in the Sudan and 1906-08 Assistant Director of Intelligence, Egyptian Army, and Acting Governor of Halfa and Berber Provinces, whilst 1911 saw him on the N.E. Frontier of India as special correspondent for Reuters.

In 1912 he was promoted Major and transferred to the Middlesex Regiment. He went to France and Flanders with the 3rd Middlesex, and was invalided home with frostbite, but rejoined them in 1917. After a period in Italy he commanded the 23rd Battalion on the Somme. There followed staff appointments, and

then in 1919 he joined the 1st Battalion as 2IC. He was invalided out in 1920, but in 1921 was back commanding the 17th London Defence Regiment, and finally retired on account of ill-health.

Retirement did not mean idleness and only lack of space prevents us from giving the imposing list of his many activities.

One we must mention—Cadets. From 1925-43 he was Commandant of the Surrey Cadet Brigade, but in addition, when over 70, he travelled all over England helping to raise new Cadet Units during the war.

He was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey in 1938.

Such very briefly was the life of this most intellectual and much loved Officer. Few men can have crammed so much experience into 80 years of life.

Lt.-Col. Poole leaves a widow and one son, and to them we extend the sincere sympathy of the Regiment and particularly those who had the privilege of knowing and serving with him.

PASSING OF A "DIE-HARD"

The Late R.S.M. G. W. Kerswill

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. George Walter Kerswill, of 10 Bittacy Park Avenue, Mill Hill, which occurred in the Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth, St. John's Wood, on Tuesday, November 7, 1950, after a long and painful illness.

Mr. Kerswill was a retired Army Pensioner of The Middlesex Regiment, having served with the 3rd Battalion from its formation at Woolwich in 1900 and followed its fortunes thence to South Africa, Hong Kong, Peking, Singapore and India, which it left in 1914 at the outbreak of the First World War. He then served with distinction with the Battalion, which formed part of the 28th Division, in France, Egypt and Salonika and was mentioned in despatches.

He arrived in England from India on 23.12.1914 as Colour-Sergeant of "H" Company, 3rd Battalion, and was appointed C.S.M. of "D" Company on the Battalion coming on to the U.K. system of four Company Battalions.

He went to France with the 3rd Battalion on 17.1.1915 and served on the Ypres Salient. He became a casualty in February, 1915, and was sent to hospital in England. He rejoined the Battalion in October, 1915, in the Lens area. Later on in the same month the Battalion left France for the Salonika front and he proceeded with them, arriving in Egypt on 5.11.1915. He then served continuously with the Battalion during its time in Macedonia—December, 1915, to November, 1918. He was promoted R.S.M. in 1916. The Armistice with Bulgaria was signed in October, 1918, and the Battalion was brought back to Salonika and embarked for Constantinople on 11.11.1918. He left the Battalion early in 1919 for leave in England and was retained until the arrival of the 3rd Battalion Cadre in Mill Hill on 30.4.1919, when he rejoined and subsequently served with the Battalion in Clipstone, Sheffield and Aldershot. He retired on pension very early in 1920 with the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major and was employed in a

civilian capacity as Depot Clerk at the Regimental Depot, Mill Hill, until 1947.

Mr. Kerswill will be remembered for his unstinted and loyal support of everything connected with the welfare of the Old Comrades' Association, in which his special gifts for organisation were greatly appreciated. He was largely responsible for the success of the local Mill Hill Branch, and was holding position of Chairman at the time of his death. He was a typical "Die-Hard" and worthily upheld the glorious traditions of this famous Regiment. He is survived by his widow and two sons, the elder of whom is in Hong Kong.

The funeral service, held at St. Mary Magdalen, Holders Hill, was attended by numerous relatives and friends, supported by a large gathering of Old Comrades of the Middlesex Regiment, including a number of senior officers from the Regimental Depot. The service was conducted by Rev. H. E. Wood and the hymns "Our Blest Redeemer" and "The King of Love my Shepherd is" were sung by special request. The service was followed by interment in St. Paul's Churchyard, Mill Hill.

A guard of honour of old "Die-Hards" proudly displaying their medals, was drawn up on either side of the entrance to the cemetery and escorted the coffin, covered with the Union Jack, to the graveside, as a final act of homage and affectionate remembrance.

Among the wreaths were those from the widow; Stanley and Clifford; Becky, Jack and Eileen; Cis, Percy and Emily; Dolly, Tom and Moira; Jack; Bill, Wynn, Beat, Lily and Jim; Alf, Gert and Doreen; Dick and family; Norah; Sister Ada's children; Sister Ada's children-in-law; Lal; Florrie and Freddie; Paddy and Woody; Mrs. Baker and Les; All Ranks Middlesex Regiment; Lt.-Col. Stephenson; Major and Mrs. Carvell; Major and Mrs. Newman; Major and Mrs. Farrow and Margaret; Major E. Heywood; Major and Mrs. Clark; Capt. and Mrs. Day; Mr. and Mrs. Clelland; Nan and Family; Mrs. Edwards; Mr. and Mrs. Hollingsworth; Shan and Alice Furniss; Doris and Tom; Cliff and Nell Baldry; Mr. and Mrs. Oldham; Mr. and Mrs. Gibson; Mr. and Mrs. Burton and family; Mrs. Jennings, Harold and Peggy; Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell; Mr. and Mrs. Taylor; Violet and Jo Bromley; Mary and Ken and family; Old Comrades, Mill Hill Branch; Lily and Fred; May, Kathleen and Josie; Mr. and Mrs. Gamage; Mothers' Union; Friends of St. Mary Magdalen Whist Drives; Mrs. Manbridge; Mrs. Curtis, Mrs. Hubbard, Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Stegalls; Maud, Ted, Lena and Sam; Mr. and Mrs. Long and Gillian; Mr. Turner and Betty; Mr. and Mrs. Flinn and Gran; Mr. and Mrs. Ives; Mr. and Mrs. Vokes, John and Margaret; Mr. and Mrs. Bridge-water; Mr. and Mrs. Steuart; Mr. and Mrs. Robb; Mr. and Mrs. Terrell and Mrs. Darling; Mrs. Ritchie; Agnes and Bill; Ella; Mrs. Blackman; Jo; Jeannie and Alf; Mr. and Mrs. Povey and children; Mr. and Mrs. Bezzant and Fred; Mr. and Mrs. West and Doris; Ladies' Club, Middlesex Regiment; and Staff of Thomas Sampson Ltd.

Space is not available to include a list of all the wreaths sent as the number was fully indicative of his large and varied number of friends.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRITISH SOLDIER

(By kind permission of "The Daily Telegraph")

A composite figure, the ordinary British soldier, was the subject of a 15-minute broadcast tribute recently by Field-Marshal Sir William Slim, Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

Sir William praised his anonymous hero, English, Scottish, Welsh or Irish, for the qualities of endurance, discipline and skill he displayed with a leaven of gentleness and humour.

Speaking in the fifth and last of a series called "The Mark of Greatness," he said that he, as a soldier, had been asked to say something about the greatest soldier he had met and known.

"I hope you don't think its a foul to choose as my Great Man, not a single hero, but a whole group of men. Our race and our Army have produced great men enough.

"Spirit of People"

"We've had our Pitts and our Churchills, our Marlboroughs and our Wavells, but I believe their greatness, in their finest hours, was that they expressed and focused the spirit and the qualities that infused the whole British people.

"From the days of Joan of Arc down to the British soldier today, on a Korean hillside, our friends and, what's perhaps more to the point, our enemies, have picked out the British soldier as the staunchest of comrades and most formidable of foes.

"The British soldier isn't braver than other soldiers, but he's brave for a bit longer, and its that bit that counts. The Britisher fights best when he can see his enemy and that's why, I think, his skill has always been high with his personal short-range weapons.

"He first gained international fame as a bowman whose hard-driven shafts broke the armoured chivalry of France.

"The steady disciplined volleys of Minden, the deadly musketry of the thin red line of the Peninsula, the 15 rounds a minute of the Old Contemptibles, down to the anti-tank gunners of the desert still firing as Panzers rumbled over them, held this tradition of skill at arms."

"Gentleness" in Victory

Of the British soldier's "gentleness" in victory Sir William said: "Our bitterest enemies would rather be occupied by British troops than by any others. He is, bless him, a grim fighter but a bad hater." The same man greeted success with studied understatement and disaster with a jest.

"The Grenadier, at Fontenoy, who as the French presented their muskets for a devastating volley, intoned: 'For what we are about to receive may the Lord make us truly thankful,' was own brother to the shivering British fighting man crouching under a Korean blizzard, who explained, 'I wish to Heaven the Iron Curtain was windproof.'"

The Regimental Officers of the British Army had in courage, endurance, self-sacrifice and leadership been worthy of their men. They could not have, nor would they covet, higher praise.

SIR IAN FRASER

Honouring the dead on this day of memories, our thoughts go out also to the living—the wounded and disabled of two world wars. Consider one of their number, William Jocelyn Ian Fraser, Member of Parliament, Chairman of St. Dunstan's, barrister, and successful business man: the central figure at last night's great ceremony at the Albert Hall.

In the face of total blindness the courage of Ian Fraser and the range of his achievement reveal an exceptional personality. Wasting no time in contemplating interests and activities barred to him, he throws himself heart and soul into the things he CAN do. And they are many. In his political career a fine voice and an astonishingly retentive memory are notable aids; he has done more than anyone for the ex-Serviceman; he has given distinguished service in the development of broadcasting.

His favourite diversions—travel, riding, playing bridge—are shared by a devoted wife whose companionship has been a constant inspiration and whose courage and abilities are worthy of his own. Ian Fraser is an inspiration in himself. He has turned his loss of sight into a means of service, and out of his darkness has been born for others many a new day.

From the *Sunday Times*, November 12, 1950.

OFFICERS' PENSIONS SOCIETY

(From The Appeals Secretary)

"Browfield," Dagmar Road, Exmouth, Devon.

"At the Society's recent annual general meeting it was decided to reduce the rates of annual subscription by 50 per cent. and to introduce a Life Membership subscription. Subscription rates are now:

Annual Subscriptions:

For retired Officers or wives of relatives of serving Officers—10s.

For Officers' widows or relatives of deceased Officers—5s.

Subscription for Life Membership of the Society:

For retired Officers or wives of relatives of serving Officers—£5.

For Officers' widows or relatives of deceased Officers—£2 10s.

I am to add that while this policy has only been rendered possible by the considerable increase in the Society's membership during the past year, it has also been adopted in the hope that it will lead to an even greater increase of strength in the near future. Given the support of even 40 per cent. of the retired Officers of the three Services or their dependants, the Council are confident that the Society can obtain official recognition as a "negotiating body" when it will be in a strong position from which to press its claim for an equitable revision of the entire structure of the Services' retired pay and pensions, with particular attention to the claims of Officers' widows.

My Council would be grateful if you would bring this to the notice of readers."

THE MALAY REGIMENT

My Dear Browne,

You will perhaps have already heard that the Malay Regiment is to be further increased to a force of six Battalions. This further expansion of the Regiment will result in a demand on the War Office for some 70 infantry Officers for service in Malaya during 1951.

At the suggestion of the Director-General of Military Training and Director of Infantry, I am writing to Colonels of all Regiments to ask if they will be so kind as to assist us in recruiting Officers for secondment.

At the present time the existing four Battalions are playing a very active part with the rest of the forces in Malaya in the fight to restore law and order, and in the defeat of Communist-inspired terrorism. This role calls for high qualities of leadership on the part of junior commanders. It is also most excellent training for young Officers in developing their powers of initiative.

At no time in the history of Malaya has there been so urgent a demand for young leaders of the best quality, on whom so much will depend in breaking the tide of Communism in its attempt to engulf South-East Asia.

The Malay Regiment is a comparatively young force, having only been born in 1933. It forms an important factor in the development of the Malay race towards the assumption of responsibility among the nations of the world. The increased strategical importance of this country to the true Democratic world in general, and the British Commonwealth in particular, enhances the importance of having available young Officers of ability, who have a keen sense of their responsibilities.

I write to you in the hope that you will be kind enough to bring the requirements of the Malay Regiment to the notice of Officers in your Regiment, and will give them full encouragement to volunteer for a service, which not only will be of value to themselves, but will also be of the greatest value to their country.

At the Infantry Conference in October a description of the Malay Regiment was given by the Deputy Commandant.

The normal tour of secondment is for three years, and the terms of service have been published in Army Council Instruction No. 52 of 1949. These terms are now under consideration to make them more attractive. At present I am not in a position to give any information on what form the new terms of service will take.

I apologise for troubling you, but feel that it is my duty to ask you for your kind co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) J. R. G. ANDRE,

Commandant, The Malay Regiment.

Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P.,
The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE SPRING GOLF MEETING

The above meeting this year will be held on Friday, April 13, 1951, at Worplesdon. Any Officers who wish to play should notify the Secretary of the Middlesex Regiment Golfing Society as soon as possible. Officers may hold or have held any type of commission in the Regiment.