

# The Die Hards

## THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. X No. 5

MARCH, 1952

PRICE 1/-

### THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57th and 77th)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.  
 "Mysore," "Seringapatam," "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," "Marnes, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914,"  
 "Messines, 1914," "17, 18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915, 17, 18," "Gravenstael," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg,"  
 "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme," 1916, "18," "Albert, 1916, 18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood,"  
 "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916, 18," "Bapaume,"  
 "1917, 18," "Arras, 1917, 18," " Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917, 18," "Arleux," "Pilckem," "Langemark, 1917," "Menin Road,"  
 "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917, 18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre,"  
 "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Bailleur," "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," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18,"  
 "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

#### Regular Battalion

1st Bn. (Amalgamated with 2nd Bn. 1948).

#### Militia Battalions

5th Bn. (Royal Elthorne Militia). } In suspension.  
 6th Bn. (Royal Middlesex Militia). }  
 Depot—Mill Hill. Records Office, Infantry Records, Warwick.  
 Pay Office—Old Infantry Barracks, Canterbury.

#### Territorial Army Battalions

7th Bn. (1/7th Bn. and 2/7th Bn. amalgamated after 1930-45  
 8th Bn. (Now 11 Para Bn. T.A.) } [War.  
 9th Bn. (Now 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regt. R.A.) }  
 (9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.).

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##### NEW ZEALAND.

The Wellington Coast and Taranaki Regiment,  
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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.

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### 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."

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## His Majesty King George the Sixth

Whilst reading the final contributions for this number of THE DIE-HARDS, the announcement was made of the death of his late Majesty King George VI.

Much has already been written and a great deal more will be written from all over the world in appreciation of King George VI, in sympathy for the Royal Family, and in particular for H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, so suddenly and tragically called upon to take up her tremendous duties. We do not pretend to be capable of adding adequately to these tributes, but we should be failing in our duty if we, too, did not express our admiration of the wonderful example set by his late Majesty to us all by his tremendous sense of duty, which we, as soldiers, must have admired in particular.

As husbands, brothers or sons, too, we must all have felt that he was an inspiration to others through his simple and obvious love of family, and our hearts at this time all go to his Mother, Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and to his daughters and grandchildren.

As loyal subjects we thank God for a great and good King and wish H.M. Queen Elizabeth II a long and peaceful reign.



Chief Editor: Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C.

Asst. Editor (Business): Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E.

## EDITORIAL

Our readers will notice in this number a break with tradition. There are bound to be criticisms simply because it is a change, but we hope that the majority of readers will welcome it. We are, of course, referring to the form of the 1st Battalion Notes.

In their new form they represent much more work on the part of the Battalion Sub-Edits, but a great saving in print and repetition. If it also means that we can look forward to a steady flow of illustrations from a well-known pen to punctuate each section we feel that readers will gain greatly.

We hope that the contributions from the 1st Battalion will not be limited to the Sub-Editor's record and that all ranks will assist us by contributing short articles, throwing further light on incidents and experiences not included in the main notes.

We get practically no contributions from serving W.O.s, N.C.O.s and Privates, and would welcome short articles of interest or humour.

Meanwhile we appreciate this innovation of the 1st Battalion and found proof-reading a matter of interest rather than a fatigue.

We congratulate Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin on his marriage and wish him and Mrs. Unwin long life and happiness.

Incredible though it may seem at this moment, summer should be coming soon after this number appears; and summer means cricket.

Times are not what they were and the Regimental cricket side may not, in consequence, be of the outstanding standard it was years ago, but amongst club cricketers the Regiment has always had a reputation, and the Regimental Cricket Week has been a firm date with members of Hon. Clubs honoured by inclusion in the Regiment's limited week.

Of late years the Cricket Secretary has fought hard to overcome all difficulties of team building and the teams have kept their heads above water.

There is, however, one great change—a lamentable and disheartening one for the players. There are no supporters.

Admittedly, as far as cricketers are concerned, the game is the thing, but when a great amount of trouble and expense has been gone to, to lay on everything for a "WEEK" it is disappointing to the organisers and a discourtesy to our opponents to show such total lack of interest.

The programme is published in the Journal; copy the dates into your diary and you will find that you can attend at least one game and thereby do your share in making these games into a real Regimental Week.

### Forthcoming Events, 1952

APRIL 24—Home Counties Golf Meeting at Hendon Golf Club.

„ 25—Middlesex Regt. Golfing Society Meeting at Hendon Golf Club.

„ 25—Cocktail Party in Officers' Mess.

JUNE 14—Old Comrades' Gathering at Mill Hill.

„ 18—Officers' Club "At Home."

„ 20—Officers' Club Dinner at Junior United Service Club.

Full particulars will be circulated to all members at a later date.

CRICKET (all matches to be played at Depot)

JUNE 14—Club v. Free Foresters.

„ 15— „ v. Hampstead Heathens.

„ 16— „ v. Cryptics.

„ 17— „ v. Incogniti.

„ 18— „ v. I. Zingari.

### Wellington College Governor's Appeal

It is unusual to publish appeals from Public Schools in the Regimental Journal. We have, however, received one from Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck and Gen. Sir John Crocker which is of unusual interest. Briefly the reason for the appeal is as follows:

Wellington College was founded as a national memorial to the Duke of Wellington. Its first object has always been the education of the sons of deceased Army officers, whose families are left very badly off.

To-day the original endowment is inadequate to maintain the number of Foundationers the Governors would like and they are therefore forced to appeal for funds.

A number of Wellingtonians have served or are serving in the Regiment and the sons of deceased officers of the Regiment have been Foundationers.

The Colonel of the Regiment realises that in these days there are many appeals and money is scarce. He suggests that if every officer subscribed 5s. it could at least amount to £100.

If individuals or units will send subscriptions to the Secretary, The Officers' Club, the total will be sent to the Appeal Committee.

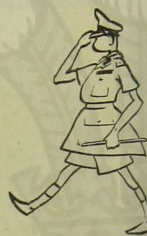
### TO OUR READERS

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





# 1st Battalion NOTES



## GENERAL

After a somewhat soporific summer, the last quarter of 1951 came in with a roar—gone were the long humid days with their tedium of individual training and the strain of playing games in a blistering sun which reduced the player to a soggy mass before he had had time to face his adversary. In their place are days of still brilliant sunshine but without the tiresome humidity, which has been replaced by that delightful chill which both brings in and lets out the day during these splendid winter months in Hong Kong.

With the change of weather came an increase in the tempo of training, field firing at Platoon and Company level replacing the boredom of individual training and sport sweeping everything before it in gigantic waves as each game clamoured insistently for inclusion in Company, Battalion, Brigade and Divisional leagues and knock-out competitions. All of these have to be compressed into some four months as the weather in Hong Kong precludes games' seasons.

During the last three months, there have been many additions to our ranks—families, more Royal Norfolks (50 to each "A" and "B" Companies) and, perhaps the most welcome of all, our first Middlesex draft, a draft that had received its training at the Regimental Depot and arrived just in time to fill the sorely-tried gaps in the ranks of specialists, thereby saving, no doubt, an administrative breakdown (long forecast by the Battalion pessimists!). Most significant was the fact that on the day following their arrival three members were found playing for the Battalion in the second round of the Land Forces Football Competition. Those who watched will not easily forget the magnificent game played by one of the three who was in goal and miraculously saved shot after shot.

With the manpower reinforcements came a considerable quantity of much-needed silver for the Officers' Mess and once again the Regiment can now boast the best "centre piece" in the colony.

The most memorable incident, however, not only during the quarter, but indeed during the year, was undoubtedly the Warrant Officers' and senior Sergeants' going back to school in a last-minute flurry to repair the war-time gaps in their education. We recently read of a neighbouring Regiment who celebrated their Regimental day by handing over their Colours to the Warrant Officers to commemorate the occasion when the Warrant Officers took command of the Battalion when all the officers had been killed. With us it was the reverse, for the Warrant Officers handed over the Battalion to the

officers for some six weeks or more, while they pondered the problems of Euclid and Pythagoras, dallied with the Colombo Plan, and plunged into the rotation of crops. Gone for them was the "pomp and circumstance of war" as boots and gaiters were exchanged for shoes, and fierce countenances changed overnight to the unfamiliar sight of the worried and hurt expression of those who are shortly to face the strain and uncertainty of an examination. However, the absence of the "backbone" made better men of the officers, but it is fervently hoped that there will be no need for a further imposition of this strain. Needless to say, we sincerely hope all passed the subsequent examination.

There have been recent changes in the Garrison. The Royal Leicesters have gone to Korea and in their place have come the Fifth Fusiliers, old friends with whom we share "El Bodon" and honorary membership of messes. Within the Brigade, the South Staffords have gone and we now have the Royal Ulster Rifles, who were closely associated with our 2nd Battalion before and throughout the years of World War II, both in the Middle East and in glorious 3 Division.

With these changes came the news that the Battalion is not likely to be relieved until early 1953. A hard pill to swallow as both the Fifth Fusiliers and the Argylls are to be relieved this year. At first sight it appeared that the Battalion would never surmount the Python exodus which is due to take place in May and June of this year, but on examination it is not as bad as originally thought, as many of the senior other ranks have elected to stay on and more senior officers are due to arrive shortly. Gaps there will undoubtedly be, but it is to be hoped that Home Records are already planning large-scale reinforcements in N.C.O.s and specialists which undoubtedly will have to be shipped out to us on a staggered programme. How the War Office will maintain 1st R.W.K. in Malaya and 1st R.F. and our selves in Hong Kong is a problem that need not exercise our brains. Whatever the outcome, it looks as though we shall have to part company with our Band, as most of the bandmen are determined to exercise their Python rights and, alas, Bandmaster Jackson will have to follow. This will be a very sad blow, for the Band means much to us all and fulfils a very necessary role in helping us face the rigours of this very far-flung outpost of Empire.

For some time it had been felt that a more lasting token of our friendship with H.M.S. *Unicorn* should be presented to that ship in memory of our voyage to Korea in August, 1950. We are all delighted, therefore,



(1) The Winning Shot. (2) Pte. Sherrington with his impromptu Corps of Drums leading the sergeants' team through camp. (3) Cpl. Armstrong with the Unicorn Cup. (4) The Unicorn Cup. (5) Capt. J. Y. Thompson presenting the Unicorn Cup to Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn; on right the Engineer Commander and the Surgeon Commander, H.M.S. "Unicorn." (6) Sgt. Jessup, who took the morning off from "HQ" Company.



to learn of the Colonel of the Regiment's approval to their playing our regimental marches on all ceremonial occasions. An Order of the Day was received from Col. Browne which is here reproduced.

#### SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

BY

COL. M. BROWNE, M.C., D.L., J.P.,  
COLONEL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT  
(D.C.O.)

1. In memory of the close alliance between H.M.S. *Unicorn* and The 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), the Colonel of the Regiment has the honour to ask that on all suitable occasions, in order to commemorate this friendship, the Regimental March shall be played in H.M.S. *Unicorn*.

2. This march includes both original marches of the 1st and 2nd Battalions (57th and 77th Foot), namely, "Sir Manley Power" and "Paddy's Resource."

3. The Regiment will ever remember with both pride and gratitude the unfailing co-operation and friendship displayed during the Korean War to all ranks of their 1st Battalion (57th and 77th) by the Captain and all members of H.M.S. *Unicorn*. Also, whenever their March is played within the Regiment all ranks present will remember all members of the Royal Navy in H.M.S. *Unicorn* and pray for their safety, welfare and success.



#### TRAINING

The arrival of the Norfolk National Service men gave a fillip to training in the Battalion, for numbers and the climate had previously vastly curtailed the scope of Company Commanders.

We have already read in the last issue of the Journal how the first draft went in its entirety to "C" Company. This draft has now completed its sixteen weeks' training and is awaiting embarkation orders. The men are considerably fitter than when they arrived and are now fully trained to take their part in a rifle company on active service. One of their earlier achievements was the "Withdrawal" demonstration they played for the pre-Staff College students. Since then they have done much field firing, digging and wiring, culminating in a week's intensive tactical training with live ammunition at the Battle School. Their last few days with us are being spent, ironically enough, practising "Aid to the Civil Power," in which role they have resuscitated the unfamiliar tin hat.

The next draft of the Royal Norfolks were divided equally between "A" and "B" Companies, although a number now are to be found in "H.Q." and Support Companies, where they are undergoing specialist train-

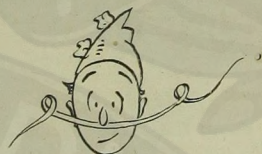
ing. They, like their predecessors, have shown the same keenness and are a joy to instruct. They are all very much a part of us and one would go so far as saying that their first thoughts are to identify themselves by Companies rather than Regiments. They have produced a remarkable number of representatives in Battalion sports and all will be sadly missed when they leave us to join their own Regiment.

The training of Middlesex specialists both at the Battle School and within the Battalion has continued. There is an everlasting struggle to keep pace with departures and no sooner are gaps filled than others occur. "D" Company were the first to take to the hills for a week where they prepared their "slits" for concreting. They could have well done with the French mechanical device, "the trench excavator," which made a dramatic, but unfortunately short-lived, appearance on the military market a few years ago. However, despite the toil, digging in this weather can be quite exhilarating and "C" and "A" Companies soon followed "D's" excellent lead.

The Drums, too, have had their fair share of military training, providing enemy, demonstration teams and finishing up by acquiring three 2-in. mortars of their own, which they fired to such effect that one had a sad mishap when the barrel parted from the base plate.

Two newcomers to training are Charles and Philip Gwyn who, after a somewhat hesitant start trying to look down the barrel of our gun, "The Seventeen Pounder," are now fully acquainted with the organisation and weapons of the Battalion and take the keenest interest in all training under the expert tutelage of Cpl. Taylor. Philip, the younger, has already acquired that rare military distinction, "the known shot."

Side by side with Platoon and Company training there have been Battalion and Brigade exercises which culminated on December 14 in "Nutmacker," a three-day exercise which was designed to test our defences. Many lessons were learnt, most important being that grass is inflammable and very sensitive to flares and Verex lights—on the second night practically every hill was well alight and positions were in fact "ringed with fire." The local Chinese, to say nothing of those across the frontier, must have wondered at this apparent act of purification which, unwittingly, resembled their own ritual of propitiating the gods.



#### ENTERTAINMENTS

Social activities have also gained in strength this quarter. Thursday band concerts, Wednesday cinemas and Tombola have continued as before. The highlights have been the Unicorn parties and Christmas.

On November 6 we celebrated Unicorn Day to com-

memorate our recent but close association with H.M.S. *Unicorn*. During the day hockey, football and shooting teams from *Unicorn* came up to the New Territories and engaged us in combat, while others were taken on a conducted tour of the New Territories, including a visit to the frontier. That we won all the contests was due, no doubt, to the fact that the sailors had arrived only the day before and hadn't had time to loosen their sea legs. Luncheon parties in both Officers' and Sergeants' Messes may also have had some bearing on the results.

In the evening the officers of the Battalion entertained the officers of *Unicorn* at a cocktail party, which they gave in the Hong Kong Regiment's Mess. At the cocktail party Capt. Thompson of H.M.S. *Unicorn* presented the Battalion with a very handsome silver cup, to be named the "Unicorn Cup," and to be competed for annually in any military or sporting field, the particular field to be decided by the Commanding Officer. In his reply, Col. Gwyn thanked Capt. Thompson and said that he had no hesitation in deciding that the Unicorn Cup would be a shooting trophy, as he was sure that the most vivid memory that the ship's Company must hold of the Battalion was its persistent shooting throughout the hours of daylight during the voyage to Korea.

When *Unicorn* sailed for Japan the next morning she carried with her one officer and 40 other ranks from the Battalion who had kindly been invited to spend ten days' leave aboard. On November 17 H.M.S. *Unicorn* once again returned to Hong Kong when she entertained the officers of the Battalion to a cocktail party, which was held on the quarter deck. There was much splendour and gaiety that night which was considerably enhanced by the irreproachable playing of the Regimental Band. H.M.S. *Unicorn* is now refitting in Singapore, but we hope to see her back again in these waters before long.

Christmas entertainments were ushered in by the Sergeants' Mess, which held a very successful social evening on December 21. Most of the members took part in either sketches or individual turns. Among the more successful were Drum Major Holdford and Sgt. Jessup.

On December 22 "A" Company held a Korean Reunion Party. About 50 old "storm troopers" of "A" Company attended this function which was held in the NAAFI Club at Chatham Road. The room was decorated in Korean style and many were the battles that were re-fought during and after dinner. The party was a huge success and the Company Commander was most relieved the following morning to find that it had claimed no broken heads.

Next followed the Battalion concert party on December 23. The long and varied programme delighted a full house and great credit goes to Capt. Mason for organising and producing the concert in so short a time, when every minute was at a premium. The stage had been completely re-equipped with new back drops, lighting effects, decorative friezes and orchestra pit, while the curtains bearing Regimental badges, some 18 in. high, were also in use for the first time.

The children's party, too, was a huge success—

excellent presents, much lavish eating, Mickey Mouse and train rides in a converted jeep which breathed real smoke, were organised by our rubicund P.R.I., whose gargantuan figure will soon condemn him to playing Father Christmas for the rest of all time.

Christmas Day itself was quite inspiring and undoubtedly one of the best that the Regiment has seen for many years. The Corps of Drums roused the camp to a fanfare and then sounded Reveille throughout the camp in the traditional manner. Breakfast followed coffee in bed, and then there was a Church Service which we shared with our blood brothers, the Argylls. At 12 o'clock the officers played the Sergeants' Mess at football. The sergeants, not to be outdone this year, as they had been in 1949 when they arrived in serious vein to find the officers in jocular mood and period costume, quite outshone the opposing team in their choice of clothes and weapons—their smoke screen and removal of their goal finally won the day. The game itself, although hilarious and slapstick, was extremely fast and energetic; this required vast quantities of beer for the players, readily available through the offices of Sgt. Waters and his staff in a mess tent pitched conveniently near the touch line.

There could have been no finer aperitif for Christmas dinner than this rollicking game, and with spirits soaring high the Officers and Sergeants went to the dining halls, where they served an excellently cooked meal to the men, well washed down with locally brewed beer. In the evening, for those who were still awake, there was a cinema show in camp.

To bridge the gap between Christmas and the New Year, the Sergeants' Mess held a ball at the Kowloon Cricket Club on December 29. There were present representatives from most of the regimental Sergeants' Messes in the colony and we were very pleased to see the new Commander Land Forces, Maj.-Gen. R. C. Cruddas, D.S.O., accompanied by his A.D.C., Capt. Marciandi, and the Brigade Commander, Brigadier B. A. Burke, D.S.O. Dancing went on until late into the night, but this did not stop the men from reminiscing and many a good story was told. It was a most excellent evening and yet another knot to bind the Regiment closer together.

The Battalion was well represented at the St. George's Ball, held with much splendour in the Peninsula Hotel on January 4. Our drums and fifes led the official party in to dinner and played them in to the ballroom afterwards, with a colourful escort of "Beefeaters" provided by ourselves, the Wiltshires and the Northumberland Fusiliers. The Boar's Head was borne in during dinner by Sgt. Saxby, who played his part of chef so well that he completely took in the local press agents as well as the 800 guests.

Have you ordered  
your copy of  
"The Die-Hards" ?





## SPORT

The Battalion is now the custodian-in-chief of the best playing fields in the New Territories. These consist of two football, one Rugby and one hockey pitch, together with a cricket table (*En Tout Cas*) and are equally shared by ourselves and the Argylls. Before these fields were declared open in October it was found, during the preliminary talks, that the Sappers had made no provision for a cricket pitch and remained quite obdurate when asked to build one, pointing out that the long-term policy was that San Wai was to be a Gurkha Camp; Gurkhas do not play cricket, therefore it was quite unreasonable for us to look for a cricket pitch. This startling piece of logic quite staggered us, but with persistent British doggedness we kept repeating that we quite understood that Gurkhas preferred khuds to cricket, but nevertheless we must have cricket. Ding-dong went the battle, but at last we prevailed and now we have a cricket table.

As mentioned earlier, sporting events are quite tropical in nature, deluging us on every side, but despite the strain of finding teams for all and every game we are well to the front in most of the leagues and competitions and look forward to taking away the Landforce trophies for Rugby, cricket and boxing.

In the Albuhera Shield, Support Company, which had established a prominent lead, is now being hard pressed by "H.Q." 2 and "C" and is not in the impregnable position that it established with its early wins. The scoring up to date is as follows:

	"A"	"B"	"C"	"D"	"H.Q." 1	"H.Q." 2	"S"
Swimming ..	2	4	8	12	10	6	14
Water Polo ..	2	4	6	8	10	12	14
Basket Ball ..	2	6	10	8	4	12	14
Shooting ..	12	8	14	4	2	10	6
Boxing ..	6	9	3	13	3	9	13
Cross-Country	10	2	12	6	8	14	2
Scoring up to date	34	33	53	51	37	63	63
Present placing	6th	7th	3rd	4th	5th	1st	1st

## Rugby Football

Much interest and hope centres on the Battalion Rugby XV, which shows great promise, although they have only played three times this season. On paper they have every chance of winning the Landforce Knock-out Competition. The matches played and won were: v. 24 Field Engineer Regiment (34-8), v. 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (23-3); v. 3rd R.T.R. (3-0).

During the season Major C. N. Clayden, Capt. A. N. Jordan, Lts. W. M. Deacock, H. S. Evans and S. H. Fothergill have all played for the Army XV regularly. Fothergill is now crocked, the only surprise being that he has remained intact for so many months. He will

be a loss not only to the Rugby side but also to cricket and boxing. However, his present inability to play games may encourage more sedentary activities and perhaps we may be treated to a sonnet or a belle-lettre in the next issue of the Journal. Major Clayden and Lt. Evans have been selected to play for the Hong Kong team which will tour Japan early in the New Year.

## Soccer

Our notes for this quarter should start with a "Wanted" advertisement for inside forwards, as a glance at our present mediocre record is far from impressive. However, this forward business is well in hand and at last the Quartermaster and his team of selectors, without dabbling in £20,000 transfer fees, believe they have come to the end of their search. During the present season we have lost many of our players, who have gone home. The only players left of the former team are: Moore, no longer full-back but leading the attack, Harding, playing a sterling game at inside-right, and C/Sgt. Cranfield, still holding the key position of centre-half.

The record to date is: v. 24 Field Engineer Regiment, 2-2; v. 50 Field Engineer Regiment, 5-1; v. 1st Wilts (league), 1-4; v. H.M.S. *Unicorn*, 4-1; v. 1st Wilts, 1-2; v. 1st R.N.F., 0-2; v. 1st A. and S.H., 1-7; v. Hong Kong Club, 2-3.

On the Sunday before Christmas we were very unlucky to lose the Old Comrades' Cup to the Hong Kong Club after extra time. It was a grand game, ding-dong from the start, and the result was in the balance until the final whistle. The Battalion team played extremely well and their form that day augurs well for the future.

## Cricket

The opening of the "Winter Sports" season was marked by a flood of hectic activity which, as the months pass, shows no sign of abating. Priorities and the time factor have been much "spoken of"; and while Battalion cricket has been given little of the former it has more than justified concessions to the latter.

Under the able direction of Lt. P. A. S. Wollocombe the Battalion remains unbeaten in the Inter-Unit League, leading by seven points. With the departure of Wollocombe to England, Legge has taken on the captaincy.

One of the most refreshing features of our side has been the very even representation of all ranks. Among those who distinguished themselves have been Lt. P. A. S. Wollocombe, C/Sgt. Cranfield and Pte. Wright, quite apart from the hectic appearances of Lt. S. H. Fothergill who has the happy faculty of scoring 50's and ducks with unfailing rapidity.

In Army cricket the Battalion has been well represented by Capt. B. K. Clayden and Lt. P. A. S. Wollocombe for Army "A" and Major C. N. Clayden and Capt. N. F. Legge for Army "B."

Company cricket for the Albuhera Shield nears completion with "C" Company first, beating Support Company on Christmas Eve, a double paradox about which O.C. "S" Company still ponders.



(Back row): L/Cpl. Cruickshank, Capt. Jobson, Pte. Briggs, Sgt. Thorogood, 2/Lt. Starr, 2/Lt. Eady, 2/Lt. Goodwin, 2/Lt. Rutherford, Capt. Jordan; (Middle row): Lt. Fothergill, C.O., Lt. Evans, Major Clayden, Lt. Deacock; (Front row): L/Cpl. Harding, Capt. Legge.



(Back row): Pte. Haffenden, Pte. Whitehead, L/Cpl. Webb, C/Sgt. Cranfield, Sgt. Potter, Pte. Mack, L/Cpl. Cheeseman, Sgt. Burgess; (Middle row): Lt. Fothergill, C.O., Capt. Legge, Major Clayden, Capt. Mason; (Front row): L/Cpl. Cruickshank, Pte. Wright.



Individual scores are interesting:

Lt. P. A. S. Wollocombe	72 n.o.	v. H.K. Signal Regt.
Lt. S. H. Fothergill	68 n.o.	v. H.K. Signal Regt.
C/Sgt. Cranfield	43 n.o.	v. 58th Medium Regt.
Lt. P. A. S. Wollocombe	91 n.o.	v. 58th Medium Regt.
Sgt. Potter	6 wks.	for 42 v. District Visitors
Pte. Wright	3 wks.	for 16 v. 1st R.N.F.
Capt. N. F. Legge	55	v. 1st R.U.R.

Among others who represent the Battalion are Major C. N. Clayden, Capt. G. Mason, Lt. H. J. Evans, L/Cpls. Webb and Cruickshank, and Ptes. Cheeseman, Whitehead, Porter, Jibb, Rowe, Edwards, and Davis.

Two very hard workers have been Sgt. Burgess, our umpire, and Pte. Haffenden, scorer.

### Boxing

Boxing started early in the season mainly to avoid clashing with the many other sports that take place at this time of the year. This early start has also given us the opportunity to discover our talent and train it into a good Battalion team.

In the first week of November the Novices Championships were held. Eighty entries were received in all, among these being many of the recently arrived Royal Norfolk Regiment trainees. The fighting was very clean and hard, and what was lacking in skill was more than made up for in keenness. The following were the winners: Cpl. Smart, Ptes. Musk, Moss, Daws, Borden, Eldridge, Chick, Hewitt, and Carroll. Pte. Rogers received the cup for the best loser.

In mid-November a good entrance of nine names was made for the H.Q.L.F. Novices Championships. Ptes. Musk, Carroll, Rist and Daws won their weights, and Pte. Woodward was runner-up to Pte. Musk. The Battalion thus provided half of the winners of this competition.

At the end of November the inter-Company open competition was held for the Albuhera Shield. Competition was keen and Companies produced good strength teams. The winners in their weights were: Lt. Fothergill, Cpls. Barker and Spicer, L/Cpl. Jelley, and Ptes. Hassell, Saunders, Daws, Craze, Dean and Cocks. The team placings were: 1st, "S"; 2nd, "D"; 3rd, "B" and "H.Q.2" (tied); 5th, "A"; 6th, "C" and "H.Q.1" (tied). District Commissioner Frazer presented the prizes and the shield to the winning Company.

The selected boxers commenced training as a Battalion team in the second week of December. On December 18 a boxing match took place against the Royal Navy. The team was most successful in winning 11 out of 13 fights and also staged two bouts between its own boxers. Due to the weather, the boxing took place in the Dining Hall which was quite packed with many welcome Navy visitors and a keen crowd of Middlesex supporters. Brigadier B. A. Burke presented the prizes. The following represented the Battalion: Lt. Fothergill, Cpl. Barker, L/Cpls. Jelley and Daws, and Ptes. Noble, Cocks, Perring, Moss, Hassell, Saunders, Borden, Woodward, Wallace, Craze, O'Rawe, and Cfn. Pitcher.

Now that Christmas is over the team is training again for the H.Q.L.F. team championships which are due to take place at the end of January. Due to a walkover

with the 1st R.N.F. we are in the semi-finals. A record entry of 22 has been made for the H.Q.L.F. open championships, and both these events are faced with confidence.

### Hockey

The hockey season this year got off to a good start when we beat our neighbours, the Argylls, by 5 goals to nil. Since then we have managed to win every match, except for two, and in these matches it was the odd goal that decided the issue. The Band forms the main base of the team, with Bandmaster Jackson and Bdsman. Smith playing consistently well. Major C. N. Claydon plays regularly for the Army 1st XI, and we are represented in the Army 2nd XI by Bandmaster Jackson and Bdsman. Smith. Hopes run high of winning the Brigade Knockout Competition, although we have to play the formidable 1st R.U.R. in the final.

### Cross-Country

The Battalion team's first appearance was in the Brigade meeting on November 7, when they tied for first place. The winners were finally decided on the position of the eighth man, which gave 1st A. & S.H. the victory.

Pte. E. Moss ("A" Company) took the second individual place after a very close finish.

The Brigade meeting was followed by the Land Force meeting on November 15, also at San Wai. In this race the Battalion team ran disappointingly and only finished tenth out of a field of 18 units.

The Battalion Albuhera Shield Race was held on December 24, with the following results: 1st, "H.Q.2"; 2nd, "C" Company; 3rd, "A" Company. A very fine race was run by Bdsman. Holt, who finished an easy winner.

### Shooting

The Battalion has shown much interest in shooting this year, with excellent results in the annual classification, during which Support Company, using somewhat unorthodox methods, created a precedent with the following remarkable results:

Rifle: Marksmen, 9; 1st Class, 67; 2nd Class, 25. No failures.

L.M.G.: Marksmen, 72; 1st Class, 24. No 2nd Class or failures.

They were unfortunate in not repeating this performance in the Battalion rifle meeting, for having held the lead easily at the end of the rifle shooting they collapsed on the Bren.

An inter-Company .22 competition was held on Friday afternoon, October 5. Each Company entered a team of four, which fired grouping, application, rapid and snap practices. After initial mechanical difficulties with the Mossberg rifles we were left with two that functioned. With these we successfully completed the match. "B" Company won by a narrow margin from "A" Company. The winning team was: Lt. W. M. M. Deacock, Sgt. E. Steward, and Ptes. L. Doe and A. Salkeld. Pte. L. Doe gained the highest individual score of the afternoon.

On Tuesday, November 6, the Battalion VIII competed against H.M.S. *Unicorn* in a most enjoyable .303 match at San Wai. Although the Middlesex team won all the practices, the *Unicorn* team put up an exceptionally good performance, since they had had little or no practice at all. The Middlesex team was: Lt. S. H. Fothergill, 2/Lt. P. B. Laurence, and Sgt. E. Steward.

A Battalion rifle meeting, complete with tents, blackboards by the dozen and an impressive array of judges, was held at San Wai on September 23. The meeting ran very smoothly and in spite of the cold wind it was an enjoyable day. The competition, which provided some excellent practice, was exciting and hard fought to the finish, and the result was undecided until the last shot had been fired. "C" Company won the match, and Cpl. Armstrong the Unicorn Cup. A separate knockout Falling Plate competition, for teams of four, was won by "B" Company after a hard tussle with "H.Q.1."

The winning teams were:

Inter-Company—"C" Company (2/Lt. Eady, Sgt. Small, Cpls. Ramsdale and Pluck, Ptes. Waiden, Godleman, Hadley and Cobb).

Falling Plate—"B" Company (2/Lt. P. Laurence, Sgt. E. Steward, Cpl. C. Card, Pte. Jewell).

Unicorn Cup—Cpl. Armstrong ("S" Company).

"C" Company team received bronze medals.

On the following day an Inter-Company Royal Norfolk match and Officers v. Sergeants match were held. Both of these matches proved entertaining and conditions were considerably better than the day before. "B" Company won the Royal Norfolk contest, which was a close one. The Sergeants, under Sgt. Major Donovan's strict supervision, were successful in beating the Officers, although scores on both sides were not particularly high.

The Battalion .22 VIII shot their first match against H.M.S. *Tamar* at Hong Kong on December 20. After a close match, Middlesex emerged with a five-point lead. Only seven members of each team were able to shoot owing to the intervention of rain. Both the Navy and Middlesex teams used the No. 8 rifle for the first time, which supersedes the Mossberg.

Team: 2/Lt. Laurence, Sgt. Dutch, Cpls. Da Costa, Armstrong, Pluck and Card, Pte. Sharp; Pte. Brumpton (did not shoot).

Scores: Middlesex, 330; H.M.S. *Tamar*, 325.

2/Lt. Laurence and Cpl. Da Costa shot for the Army in the Inter-Services Meeting at Stonecutters. Unfortunately the meeting was cut short by typhoon warnings, but, nevertheless, the Army established themselves as the marksmen of the colony in no uncertain manner, by winning all the rifle events. Cpl. Da Costa is to be congratulated on gaining second place in the Sporting Arms Cup. In fact his score was equal to that of the winner, but was counted out by virtue of the lowest score at the longest range.

The Battalion is entering twelve individuals for the Forces' Day .22 Competition and also a team of ten for the N.S.R.A. 1952 Match.

The Battalion has become a member of the H.K.R.A. and the A.R.A. The better shots of the Battalion and

potential team will now be able to shoot at Kai Tak every fortnight and once a week at San Wai. It will also be able to enter for a number of non-central matches in the coming year.

### Fencing

Quite recently a small, enthusiastic group has plunged into the subtleties of fencing, not to be confused with its more robust and rustic companion, bayonet fencing. This group receive instruction on Thursday evenings and Friday mornings at Victoria Barracks. It is hoped to enter a fencing team in the Land Forces Competition, which takes place in February. One member has already added to his experience by fighting in the Individual Competition held at the beginning of September. The lack of instructors has made a local fencing school still a dream of the future—but let us hope not an impossible one.

### Bayonet Fencing

A bayonet fencing team began training in November, with the object of competing in the H.K.L.F. Championship. The apparent lack of opposition makes it possible that the Battalion team will represent Hong Kong in the FARELF Championship at Singapore. *Procul est profani.*

### PERSONALITIES

There has been much change in the Battalion during the quarter; not only new faces and old ones no longer with us, but many of us have had to change our appointments to fill the ever-widening gaps caused by the never-ending departures. In all, 8 officers, 1 Sergeant, 2 Corporals, 16 L/Corporals, 47 Privates and 47 South Staffordshires from "D" Company have left the Battalion during the quarter. Among the recent departures has been Capt. Moore, who is on his way home to take up the appointment of Adjutant at the Regimental Depot, where we wish him every success and the opportunity of fulfilling his matrimonial plans. With him went Capt. Clayden, Lt. Wollocombe and Sgt. Michele to attend courses in U.K., on completion of which they will rejoin the Battalion.

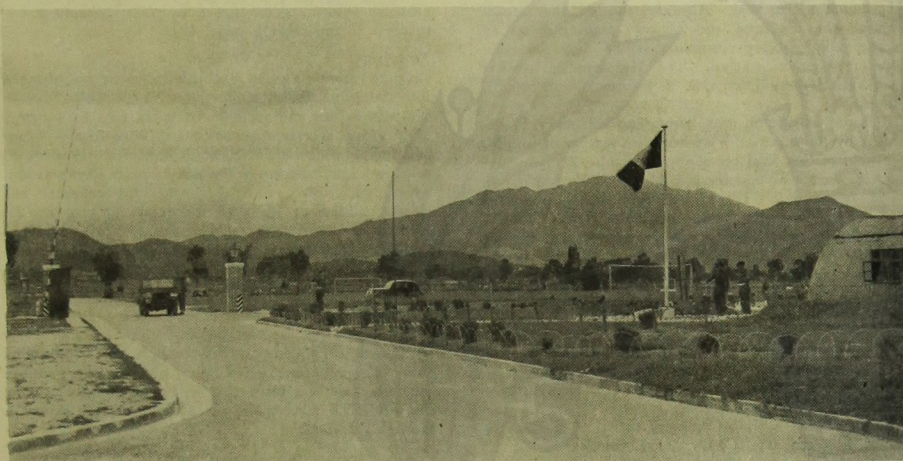
It was a sad day when Father Quinlan said good-bye to the Battalion, whose destiny he had watched over so well during the many months of war and peace he was with us. Although we miss his robust and erudite mind which he brought to bear on all our walks of life, we still have the joy of seeing him as he speeds along his parish in his racy motor car, which must by now have carried every soldier in the colony at some time or another.

Another sad loss has been the Medical Officer, Capt. Buckley, who was suddenly taken from us to practise in the higher realms of medical science in the B.M.H. Barry Buckley joined the Battalion over a year ago when we were sheltering in our self-built shanty town of Oujongbu. All ranks will miss his cheerful and kindly ministrations and join in wishing him every success in his future career. So far no successor has been posted to us, but surprisingly enough the sick are not dying off—rumour has it that Sgt. Waldron is shortly sitting for his M.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.

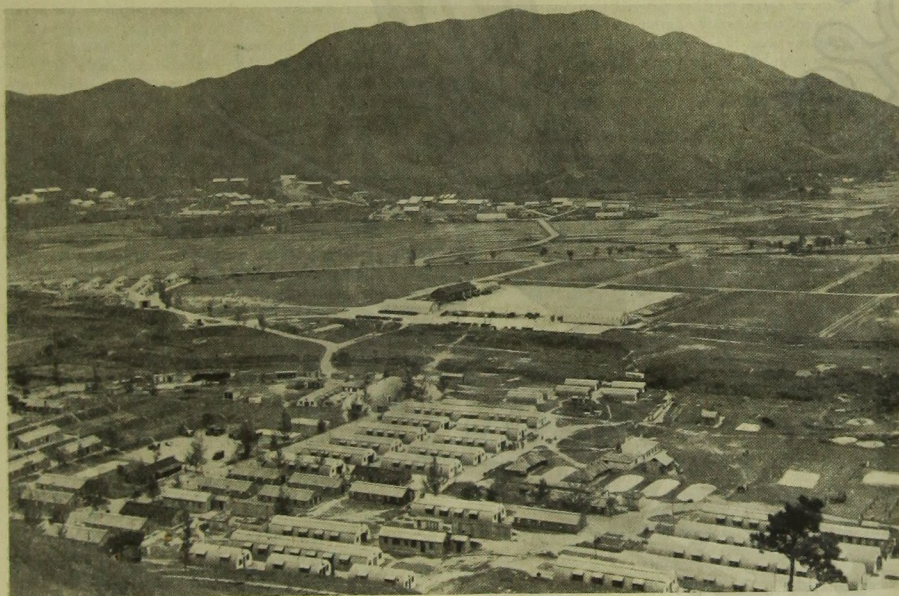
But of all our losses the most grievous has been



## THE HOME OF THE 1st BATTALION



The Entrance to the Camp, with the Guard Room on the right.



San Wai Camp.

## WITHIN TOUCH OF THE BAMBOO CURTAIN



At the outset I must state clearly that we do *not* live in Hong Kong. To the inhabitants of that highly over-populated and precipitous little island lying about a mile off Kowloon (half an hour by car ferry, 15 minutes by passenger one, as most of us learn in a rush to catch the last some dead of night!) we are the denizens of another world. A world which they are inclined to say in a conscience-stricken manner they really *must* visit some day but, like so many somebays, this one never comes.

Nor do most of us live in Kowloon, the low-lying sprawling town on the mainland peninsula; although some commute enthusiastically, if a trifle exhaustively, the 23 tortuous miles by road and rail each day to their families, housed in compact modern flats, the number of which is being steadily increased with a speed and efficiency that might well cause English builders to blush.

But San Wai Camp lies within touching distance of the "bamboo curtain" itself, the frontier which is, in physical fact, a high forbidding wire fence running along our side of the Sham Chun River which forms a natural boundary. Every foot of this fence is fiercely guarded by police and soldiery from outlook posts along its entire length; yet, with the inscrutable logic of the East, large gaps are left at regular intervals along it to facilitate sponsored smuggling. The unsponsored variety has a harder time of it, but despite police traps on all roads leading to the frontier, appears to flourish nonetheless. After all, the profession in China has long since acquired the dignity and status of venerable age—not to mention the cunning.

It is a beautiful countryside, with high hills running steeply down to the sea. In the damp summertime everything is fresh green and the valleys lush with growing rice. In the drought of winter it takes on a bolder beauty, and the dry clay of the denuded paddy fields burns yellow against the scarlet hibiscus on the foothills. The scene, like the weather, is ever changing.

In recent years the Army has improved the roads in the New Territories from mere cart tracks to reasonably surfaced motor roads—although still hardly of the type that would be unhesitatingly marked up by the Automobile Association as class A. Furthermore, the natural contours of the countryside lead to a not inconsiderable strain on the steering gear. But all this is as naught when compared to the variety of hazards presented by the Chinese peasants themselves. With a refreshing disregard for mechanism, they hail these roads as a heaven-sent blessing for drying their crops on, sleeping on, or chasing flocks of hens, ducks and cattle very slowly along, while huge burdens slung on poles across their shoulders occupy half the road's breadth. There are itinerant Chinese buses, but no one has broken it to the drivers yet about timetables or road signs. Furthermore, if the month be propitious

O.R.C.S. Redpath, who was suddenly rushed to hospital a few weeks ago with stomach ulcers, brought on by his unswerving devotion to duty and his superhuman efforts in the paper war. Despite a considerable loss of blood he continues to be as cheerful and buoyant as ever and is now busy improving his literary knowledge. We all wish him a speedy recovery and trust it will not be long before he is back with us again.

In return we have had: Major Thomas to "S" Company, Major Waller to "C" Company, Capt. Jobson to "A" Company, Capt. Legge to W.T.O., Lt. Smith to "D" Company, 2/Lt. Chadwick to "D" Company, 2/Lt. Catchpole to "B" Company, C/Sgt. Green to "C" Company, 9 Corporals, 13 L/Corporals, 67 Privates and 111 Royal Norfolks.

## Appointments and Promotions during Quarter, October—December, 1951

Pte. C. Beasley, "H.Q." Company, to Lance-Corporal, on September 28, 1951.  
L/Cpl. D. Mardie, "C" Company, to Corporal, on October 10, 1951.  
L/Cpl. J. Sturt, "H.Q." Company, to Corporal, on September 28, 1951.  
L/Cpl. E. Thwaite, "H.Q." Company, to Corporal, on October 18, 1951.  
Pte. R. Gates, "H.Q." Company, to Lance-Corporal, on October 18, 1951.  
Pte. Rawlinson, "H.Q." Company, to Lance-Corporal, on October 23, 1951.  
Pte. Smith, "B" Company, to Lance-Corporal, on October 18, 1951.  
L/Cpl. J. Warner, "A" Company, to Corporal, on November 19, 1951.  
L/Cpl. E. Moss, "A" Company, to Corporal, on November 19, 1951.  
Pte. Vowles, "S" Company, to Lance-Corporal, on October 31, 1951.  
Pte. Higgins, "S" Company, to Lance-Corporal, on October 31, 1951.  
Cfn. R. Harris, R.E.M.E., "H.Q." Company, to Corporal, on November 29, 1951.

## WE SALUTE!

Major and Mrs. Rendell on the birth of a son and heir, Piers Linton. A promising child whose poise and general demeanour at his christening were above reproach. Not one sound did he utter, either at the ceremony itself or afterwards at the Reception amidst the barrage of popping champagne corks, some of which were falling dangerously close.

2/Lt. Catchpole for being the first National Service officer to win the Army and British Services Golf Championship, and doing this within three weeks of his arrival.

Drum Major Holdford on being presented with the B.E.M. by H.E. The Governor.

Cpl. Armstrong for being Battalion champion shot, and thus becoming the first holder of the Unicorn Cup.  
Pte. Rogers for standing up to a superior opponent for three ferocious rounds in the Novices' Championships and being judged the best loser.

Capt. Marciandi on his appointment as A.D.C. to Maj.-Gen. Criddas, and his subsequent promotion; also on having acquired all the authentic A.D.C. mannerisms within the first twenty-four hours of taking up his new duties.





for weddings and funerals, the entire route will be covered with small boys capering with false heads and red flags in advance of a sedan chair bearing some weeping child bride to the house of a groom she has never seen; or by an equally cheerful party clad in funeral white and burning candles to the tune of pipes, as they bid farewell to some late member of the community.

Then there is the Army. They go on route marches. The peasants are a smiling picturesque people. Men and women, dressed alike in tunic and trousers of blue or black cotton, the women distinguished only by their wide black-frilled straw hats, work together in the fields, with their hands or with the primitive tools of their ancestors. Time has no meaning. An old man has sat motionless all day deeply contemplating the feeding of his 12 ducks; the ragged bullock herd urchins lie laughing in the sunny fields till they must stir at dusk to lead home their placid, but incredibly ugly, beasts. With complete indifference they watch monstrous tanks roll by and hear the steady crump of mortars in the hills.

As always, proof of a transitional age is most evident in the towns. Here the influence of the West is seen everywhere. Enormous shiny American cars push their way through coolie-drawn rickshaws. Cinemas display films in American and Chinese. Pretty Chinese girls wear tailored jackets in loud check over their graceful traditional Shanghai dress; their faces bloom from the pots of Elizabeth Arden and Max Factor; their nails incarnadine. Their menfolk meet them with a strictly trans-Atlantic taste in shirts and ties.

Here, too, the sharp contrast between rich and poor strikes most forcibly. On the outskirts of Kowloon are homeless refugees, who eke out an existence in the indescribable squalor of some self-erected shack; beggars haunt the streets, clawing for scraps and cigarette ends in the gutters outside luxury hotels and shops which do a roaring trade.

The harbour itself tells the same story, where giant ocean liners thread their way through lumbering junks (keep to windward of these!) whose filthy sails are so patched and rent that it seems impossible the breeze should move them. These are the sole living abode of whole families.

Only at night is poverty hidden; and from the hills above Kowloon the town and the distant island of Hong Kong become twinkling fairylands of a myriad lights, ablaze with Oriental opulence.

Silence is out of Nature.

In the towns the clip-clop of wooden slippers mingles with the incessant ringing of bells, the crying aloud of wares and the hooting of horns.

Here in the country shrill crickets combine with the hum of innumerable insects and strange bird calls, to vie with the bullock herds' high chant, and the continuous firing of crackers in the village.

The armed forces add their own not inconsiderable contribution; and just now a jet whines overhead to land at Sek Kong, while the skirl of the Argyll Band mingles oddly on the breeze with the fey notes of the Ulster Pipers; and above them all comes the bold sound of a Middlesex bugler sounding Parade Call.

## OLD COMRADES' ARMISTICE DAY PARADE, 1951

With Colours flying and drums a-beating  
Did we assemble this November day  
To hold our annual remembrance meeting  
For all Old Comrades passed away.  
Past and present we stood together,  
Be-medalled of many a campaign,  
Honouring those who will live forever,  
Our old comrades who were slain.

Midst two long and bloody wars  
Of awe-inspiring magnitude  
Did they respond to the many calls  
And earned undying gratitude,  
Giving their lives, and giving it well,  
At Alamein, Cambrai, Caen, Morval,  
Fighting a fight that was not in vain,  
You old comrades who were slain.

To many who are younger members  
These battles seem but a name,  
But grey old soldiers still remember  
Battle honours of such fame.  
But, old or young, as we march along  
There is no thought of shame,  
Of men who endured so much, so long,  
Those old comrades who were slain.

So we raise with one accord  
On this momentous day  
Our solemn praises to the Lord  
And then do humbly pray  
That we still young, if need arise,  
Will fight as those before and strive  
To uphold that which means much to us,  
"Pro Rege Patria et Laribus."

DAVID PIKE (7th Bn.).

## ROMFORD NOTES

Nothing of any importance has taken place since we last appeared in print, so these notes are not unnaturally short. Firstly, we should like to say that we are positive that among the membership of the Mill Hill and Hornsey Clubs there are quite a few members who live nearer to us than to them. Secondly, we say to the secretary of those clubs: "Why not canvass your members and inform them of the fact that we are alive in Romford district and would welcome new members." Thirdly, to those "Die-Hards" who are not members of any club, but who receive the Journal and live near us we say, "Why not come to our meetings." The address of our Secretary can be obtained from the Secretary of the Association. We close by saying to all, "Our very best wishes, and we hope to see some of you in the near future."

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# Depot Notes

## General

At the time we write these notes for the next issue of THE DIE-HARDS we are already halfway through the winter and the days are even now growing appreciably longer. This is most heartening and encouraging to all of us at the Depot, for the fuel crisis, which we have all come to regard as inevitable each winter, has still not yet arrived.

This is no doubt due to the quite mild weather which we have experienced so far in this part of the world. Apart from a light sprinkling of snow and some hard frosts recently, the weather has been very kind to us up till now. But knowing how fickle the English weather can be, we are still keeping our fingers firmly crossed.

Another intake of recruits had their Passing-Out Parade at the Depot on December 12, and departed the following day for Canterbury to carry out their Continuation Training at the Brigade Depot.

As the next intake was not due to report to the Depot until January 3, the Depot Permanent Staff made the most of the three weeks' interval by having some well-earned leave. We were more lucky than most other Depots in that the three weeks' gap between intakes included both Christmas and the New Year, and so most of us were able to enjoy to the full this holiday period.

The Children's Christmas Party in the Gymnasium on December 15 was a most successful and happy affair. This was not only due to the wonderful organisation by which all the children quite miraculously received just the presents they had been dreaming of, but this year, the weather being warm and a plentiful supply of fuel from the Quartermaster being available, we were able to make the Gymnasium really warm and homely. As a result the attendance of both children and adults was very good.

C/Sgt. Powell made a perfect Father Christmas, and he certainly deserved the rousing "three cheers" which the children gave him when he waved them goodbye and disappeared up the chimney.

We must once again here express our sincere thanks to the Committee of the Ladies' Guild and all their other assistants for organising and running this very successful and enjoyable Children's Party.

Before proceeding on Christmas leave the Permanent Staff had the traditional Christmas Dinner in the R.E.M.E. Central Dining Hall, when the Royal Engineers, R.E.M.E. and ourselves all sat down together. A most excellent dinner was provided by the combined Messing Staff of all three units, and the Other Ranks were waited upon by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants.

For most of the Middlesex this was probably the last occasion on which they would use the R.E.M.E. Dining Hall, for on December 29 we brought back into use after a lapse of about ten years our own cookhouse and dining hall between "A" and "B" Blocks. Having been

out of use for so long, a great deal of hard work had been put into these buildings by the Garrison Engineer, O. i/c Barracks, Quartermaster, P.R.I., and our Messing Staff before they were back to their former high standard. We congratulate all these good people on what they have achieved, for now we are truly proud of our dining hall and cookhouse. Although we are using the original cooking apparatus at present, we have been promised that modern equipment will soon be installed, when the cooks will be able to do even better than they are now.

Just before the New Year and while most of the Depot were still away on leave, we received the sudden and exciting news over the telephone that we were to be honoured with a short visit by the new Secretary of State for War, Mr. Anthony Head, M.C., on January 7. Mr. Head had expressed a particular wish to see a reactivated Regimental Depot, and Gen. Sir Gerald Templer, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, had invited him to visit our own Depot.

Needless to say this news resulted in immediate and energetic activity throughout the Depot, and by January 7 we were all ready to receive our distinguished visitor. It was therefore with very keen disappointment that we received, only a quarter of an hour before he was due to arrive, a message from the Secretary of State's private secretary cancelling his visit owing to a sudden and important conference being held at the Foreign Office that morning.

Gen. Templer had already left Hounslow on his way to Mill Hill when this message arrived at the Depot, and so it was the O.C. Depot himself who had to break this disappointing news to the General on his arrival at the Orderly Room.

The absence of the Secretary of State did not deter Gen. Templer from carrying out his original intention of having a good look round the Depot and seeing, and talking to, the recruits under training. The General was accompanied on his tour of the Depot by the Colonel of the Regiment and the Brigade Colonel of the Home Counties Brigade.

Before departing the General expressed great satisfaction with all he had seen during his brief visit, and he promised to try again to bring the Secretary of State to see our Depot. This was all very gratifying and made up a lot for our previous feeling of disappointment.

Gen. Templer's tour of the Depot was followed two days later by a visit from Gen. J. A. Gascoigne, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C. London District, and we are pleased to say our District Commander also departed well satisfied with all he saw.

Since Gen. Templer's visit to the Depot his appointment as High Commissioner, Malaya, has been announced, and we would therefore like to take this opportunity of offering him our congratulations and best wishes for the future. On his leaving Eastern Command we cannot help feeling that we are not only losing





General Sir Gerald Templer, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., at his inspection of the Depot.

a very great General but also a very good friend, for he has done a great deal for the Infantry in general, and Regimental Depots in particular, under his command.

As announced in our December notes, our New Year Dance was held in the Gymnasium on January 5. Although very few Old Comrades turned up, the attendance was otherwise excellent and included the young recruits who had only joined the Depot two days previously. C/Sgt. Powell was again the Master of Ceremonies, and to him and many others who worked hard behind the scenes our thanks are due for a very successful and enjoyable evening.

We have to report a number of departures from the Depot recently. First of all, we lost R.S.M. Britton in December when he went to the Brigade Depot at Canterbury preparatory to being posted to West Africa. To him and his family we wish the best of luck and a happy tour in the tropics—which they already know well. C.S.M. Wickens, recently returned home on Python from the 1st Battalion, is now A/R.S.M. of the Depot pending the arrival of a permanent R.S.M. and his own subsequent posting to the Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School at Chester.

We are shortly to lose 2/Lt. R. M. Fox to the 1st Battalion. He only joined the Depot in August from Eaton Hall as our Assistant Training Officer, and we are sorry to lose him so soon. But our good wishes will certainly go with him for a very enjoyable overseas tour, brief though it will now be before he returns to

civilian life at the end of his full-time National Service.

2/Lts. Collins and Pollard, our latest joined R.M.A. Officers, are now well on their way by sea to Hong Kong to join the 1st Battalion, after spending their last few weeks at the Depot. We wish them "bon voyage" and good luck for the future.

The steady stream of National Service soldiers passing from the Regular Army to the Territorial Army continues with the arrival of every boat from the Far East and the 1st Battalion. These young men look fit and well in spite of their grim experiences in Korea, and they will certainly return to civilian life mature and hardened men well able to look after themselves.

We have been very pleased to welcome back to the Depot recently Sgt. Dodkins and C/Sgt. Critchley from the 1st Battalion. Sgt. Dodkins has already been posted to the Depot Permanent Staff and is now undergoing a short refresher course in drill and weapon training at Canterbury before joining our Training Company. C/Sgt. Critchley is getting very near the end of his short service engagement and so will shortly be returning to civilian life.

We also extend a warm welcome to Capt. H. J. A. Moore, who has just returned from the 1st Battalion to join the Depot Permanent Staff. Capt. Moore already knows the Depot very well, having been Assistant Adjutant in the 57th P.T.C. days, under Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O.

Another addition to the Depot is Pte. Barnard, also

from the 1st Battalion and, at the same time as we welcome him, we also congratulate him on his recent marriage to Miss P. House.

We have been pleased to see R.Q.M.S. Etheridge and his wife at the Depot lately, though their stay with us is likely to be short as he is soon to be posted to E.R.E.—probably somewhere in the London area. They have been in B.A.O.R. ever since the Battalion returned to the United Kingdom from Hamburg in 1948.

The birth of a son to the wife of each of the following members of the Depot has been announced within the last two months—Cpls. Beedle and Moran and Pte. Broom—so we take this opportunity of offering them our hearty congratulations.

#### TRAINING COMPANY NOTES

The passing-out parade of the third intake was held on October 31, 1951. Col. F. W. B. Parry, the Home Counties Brigade Colonel, carried out the inspection of the recruits. He presented the following prizes:

Outstanding Recruit	..	Pte. Anderson
Best Rifleman	..	Pte. Chappell
Best Light Machine-Gunner	Pte. Gilling	
Best at Physical Training	..	Pte. Woodward

The next day the third intake left for the Brigade Depot at Canterbury and the fourth intake arrived at Inglis Barracks. Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., commanding 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), was the inspecting officer for the passing-out parade of the fourth intake on December 12, 1951. We are very grateful to Lt.-Col. J. Chandos-Pole, commanding Coldstream Guards, for lending us his Corps of Drums for this parade.

The usual prizes were presented:

Outstanding Recruit	..	Pte. Fisher
Best Rifleman	..	Pte. McNeil
Best Light Machine Gunner	Pte. Wallbridge	
Best at Physical Training	..	Pte. Hopson

Recruits of the Training Company were visited by Gen. Sir Gerald Templer, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C., on Monday morning, January 7, 1952. He had arranged to meet the Secretary of State for War, Mr. Anthony Head, M.C., at Inglis Barracks. We were therefore very disappointed to hear that the Secretary of State for War was unable to come. Gen. Templer then proceeded to inspect the Depot, accompanied by Major G. O. Porter, commanding Depot The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), and a host of press photographers. The party made its way to the barrack square where Mons Platoon (Sgt. Cubitt) was seen engaged in its first drill parade. Albuhera Platoon (Sgt. Bignell) was watched practising weapon training. Gen. Templer said that he was well satisfied with the standard of life and training at the Depot. The officers and men appreciated the visit and were able to show clearly to the Press that life for the recruit in the Army is happy and highly organised.

#### SPORTS NOTES

##### Soccer

Soccer has been handicapped this season so far owing to the fact that the ground has been unfit during the last two months. For the team we are still dependent on five or more recruits, owing to the limited number of Permanent Staff available. As a result, when there were no recruits at the Depot for three weeks, it was not possible to produce a team. However, since the last issue, two matches have been played, one against the War Office Claims Commission and the other against a team from the Admiralty. Although both matches were lost, the games were keenly contested and thoroughly enjoyable.

##### Hockey

Hockey is flourishing despite the lack of a full-size hockey pitch at the Depot. We entered for the Eastern Command minor units knock-out competition and, after receiving a bye in the first round, were drawn against the Royal Military School of Music in the second round. In a very exciting game, the result of which was undecided until the last few minutes, we were only just beaten by 2-1. The School possesses a very strong, young and fit hockey team and, incidentally, have since won their way into the final of the London District stage of the competition.

A list of results is as follows:

v. Depot, the Royal Fusiliers	..	Won	4-1
v. R.M. School of Music	..	Lost	1-2
v. 10 Command Wkshps., R.E.M.E.	Won	10-0	
v. R.A.F., Hendon	..	Lost	1-5
v. Depot, Royal Fusiliers	..	Won	4-0

The following personnel of the Depot have taken part in most of the games played to date:

Majors Porter and Heywood, Capt. Eales, R.S.M. Wickens, R.Q.M.S. Waldron, C.S.M.(I) Carruthers, Sgts. Hymas and Bignell, Cpls. Marable and Weller and Pte. Gould.

##### Badminton

A badminton team has recently been formed and a few friendly matches have been played. Results are as follows:

v. Depot, the East Surrey Regiment—Won.	
v. 595 L.A.A. Regt., R.A. (9th Middx.)—Drawn.	

The following personnel of the Depot have taken part in these games: Capt. Eales, Lt. Norton, C.S.M.(I) Carruthers and L/Cpl. Walker.

#### MUSEUM

L/Cpl. Males, who has been looking after the Museum for some considerable time as a part-time duty, has now handed over to Mr. Smith, who is able to devote his full time to the work. We are grateful to L/Cpl. Males for all that he has done in the Museum; he was always willing to open up the Museum "out of hours" for anybody interested and he managed to improve the place considerably in spite of his other duties.

Mr. Smith has already renewed the labels on most of the exhibits and has numerous ideas for further improvements.



We may get our heating after all, before long: the gas pipes have already been laid. Some new show-cases are also due. Additions since our last notes have been as under:—

1. The centre piece of the German flag taken by Pte. Missenden from the German Embassy or Legation in Baghdad on Sunday morning, March 11, 1917, when the city was captured by the 1/5th Battalion The Buffs with whom Pte. Missenden was serving. The centre piece was torn from the flag because the whole flag was much too large to carry. The remainder of the flag was shared with his comrades for rifle cleaning, etc. Presented by ex-Pte. H. O. Missenden, O.B.E., now General Manager of British Industries Fair, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, New Street, Birmingham.

2. An album of photographs of the Presentation of Replacement Colours to the Hong Kong Regiment by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, K.C.M.G., on February 14, 1951. Presented by the Hong Kong Regiment.

3. An album of photographs of the 4th Battalion at Devonport just before the 1914-18 War, and the telegram sent to the 6th Battalion at Mill Hill on August 4, 1914, ordering mobilisation. From Mr. George H. E. Duffield.

4. An account from a French newspaper of the ceremony of the installation of the 4th Battalion plaque at Obourg.

A copy of the "Die-Hards" Journal for August, 1924. Also given by Mr. George Duffield.

5. A photograph of 2/Lt. E. W. Martin, 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, wounded April 25, 1951, in Korea and died of wounds in hospital in Japan June, 1951.

6. A notice signed by the Adjutant of the 1st Battalion on December 17, 1941, broadcasting the behaviour of a young Corporal and those with him in a pill-box, and exhorting all ranks to follow their example. Presented by Mr. J. W. Waller, who was himself a prisoner in Japanese hands. He took this notice down from the wall of a dwelling the Battalion was evacuating.

He also presented a drawing of the Regimental Badge which is autographed by all the senior officers and Governors who were in captivity; this is probably unique.

7. A Chinese "Banzai" bugle taken by "C" Company, 1st Middlesex, on February 15, 1951, near the Yoju, Central Korea. The bugle is believed to be one which was used in the Banzai attack on "A" Company the previous night. This attack was carried out by a complete Chinese Battalion, who were finally repulsed with heavy loss by the remnants of "A" Company and a counter-attack by "C" Company.

8. A Christmas card made during the Boer War out of a piece of khaki drill. The "card" was presented by 6250 Sgt. E. Hasted, who was serving with the 2nd Battalion at that time. A friend of his intended the "card" for Sgt. Hasted's mother, but this friend was killed before he dispatched it and traces of his blood remain on the cloth.

9. A coat worn by an officer of the Royal Elthorne Militia in 1855 and 1856. This double-breasted type

was adopted in 1855, but was replaced in the following year by a single-breasted pattern; very few exist now. The coat was loaned by the Birmingham City Museum and comes from the collection of the late Alderman C. F. Gaunt.

10. A "Remembrance" card sent to the "Dear Old 4th Middlesex Regiment who fell after a glorious battle of Football at Home Park, Plymouth, April 17, 1912." The match was the final of the Army Cup v. 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters. Presented by ex-R.S.M. H. G. Marshall of the Regiment on January 11, 1952, and given to him by a member of the 2nd Sherwoods' team.

11. Part of a flint lock found in the battlefield of Albuhera. Loaned by the R.U.S.I.

12. Speech by Gen. Talbot Coke commanding the 10th Brigade and 2nd D.C.O. Middlesex Regiment, Charlstown, June 13, 1900. Presented to the Regimental Museum by Mr. W. Sams of the Regiment as a gift from the Romford "Die-Hards" Club, January 22, 1952.

We are grateful to those who have so kindly sent us these exhibits.

## TERRITORIAL CAMPS

The 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) is going to camp in Yorkshire at Barnard Castle from May 31 to June 14. Civilians for general duties in the camp and in the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes are needed.

Anticipated conditions of service are given below:

- Maximum basic wage, £5 7s. od. for a week of 44 hours.
  - Plus a maximum of 40 per cent. of basic wage, which is the maximum overtime permissible.
  - Double time on Sunday.
  - Deduction of 10s. a week (or 1s. 6d. a day) is made to cover messing and accommodation.
  - The usual National Insurance contributions will be made.
  - Free transport to and from London.
- People will be needed from two or three days before the start of camp to two or three days after the end of camp.
- All those who would like to come to Yorkshire with the 7th Battalion should write to:
- The Adjutant,  
7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.),  
T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8,  
giving particulars and their address and the dates that they will be available.

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



The main events of the winter have been the Remembrance Day parade, the social events connected with Christmas and the New Year, the start of the rebuilding of our centre at Hornsey and the visit of the Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex.

We were fortunate that Sunday, November 11, 1951, was a fine day. A parade of some 80 all ranks and an equal number of Old Comrades, under the command of Lt.-Col. W. E. Pringle, marched from Battalion H.Q. to the Hornsey Garden of Remembrance. A short service was held there. After the Last Post and Reveille had been sounded by L/Cpl. Toms and the civic dignitaries had laid wreaths, the large crowd, headed by the Mayor and Corporation, moved into the parish church for the remainder of the service. The C.O. (Lt.-Col. W. E. Pringle) and ex-R.Q.M.S. W. M. Raddon laid wreaths on the Battalion war memorial. The Rector of Hornsey (Prebendary Duval) preached and reminded the congregation that this day was not only one of remembrance, but also of dedication to the unfinished work of those who gave their lives that we might live.

After the service the Old Comrades headed the march back to the T.A. Centre, where the customary gatherings in the various Messes took place. We were all sorry that our Honorary Colonel (Brigadier H. A. D. Murray) was prevented by a chill from attending the parade. We were, however, delighted to see in our midst Col. Sir Edwin King, and we all hope that it will not be long before he pays us another visit. Few of our readers will probably realise that Sir Edwin joined the Battalion in 1896.

Before Christmas both the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes held successful parties with surprisingly little damage either to person or to property. Our New Year's Eve dance was well attended in spite of a few protests about "the wrong end of the week." We were glad to see the Colonel of the Regiment and so, it transpired, were several ladies in the gathering. The dance was open to all members of the Battalion and their friends, and to the Old Comrades; it was heartening to see a good sprinkling of newly joined N.S. men. We hope that by such means as this they will get to know us better and that they will enjoy their three and a half years with us all the more.

The annual children's party was held on Saturday, January 5, and we entertained some 140 children of members of the Battalion. Not one of the children was older than 12. The festivities began with some party games organised by the effervescent Sgt. Marshall. Tea followed and once again our Drum-Major and Mrs. Poulter distinguished themselves. It was a fine feast, made all the finer by two magnificent Christmas cakes

cooked and presented by our Sergeant Cook, Sgt. Moore.

As tea was ending a roar of engines was heard from the back of the hall and there appeared in dignified style on one of His Majesty's best motor-cycles Mr. Sgt. Marshall and Mrs. Pte. Moran. They entertained the children in their own inimitable style.

Now came the great event for which all, parents and children alike, were waiting. Father Christmas, more spirited than usual, came down the chimney and handed out presents to all the children.

The evening closed with an issue of sweets, oranges and balloons to all the children. Mention must be made here of our Entertainments Officer (Capt. G. D. Gunnell), Drum-Major Poulter and his family, the permanent staff and the many willing helpers whose hard work made this party such a success.

On Thursday, January 10, the Officers' Mess gave a dinner and were delighted to entertain the Colonel of the Regiment. This may be his last visit to the Battalion as Colonel and we would like to take this opportunity of saying how proud we are that one of his last acts should be to dine with us.

At last the rebuilding of the T.A. Centre at Hornsey has started. The miniature range has been demolished and so has the ammunition store. The builder has been worried lest he should not be allocated sufficient steel for the job. We hope that some of that steel which Mr. Churchill has won for the country will come our way. When we are rebuilt—at the best it will take a year—we shall have sufficient office, storage, garage and training accommodation for the three companies at Hornsey.

The Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex (Lord Latham, J.P.) visited the Battalion on Tuesday, January 29. His visit coincided with a discussion for officers and N.C.O.s on the infantry platoon and section in defence. He listened to this discussion for some time and then went on a tour round the centre. He saw the men's canteen during the break and then he was entertained in the Officers' Mess. We understand that he enjoyed his visit and it was much appreciated by us. It is rare that we have the privilege of a visit from the King's representative in the county, and it is well known how much Lord Latham has done to foster the interest of the county, not only in our Regiment, but also in the Territorial Army. We were also pleased to welcome with him our Honorary Colonel and Brigadier B. B. Rackham, the Secretary of the Middlesex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association and a former C.O. of our Battalion.

There have been many changes in the location of the camp this year. On going to press our location will be Barnard Castle in Yorkshire. We go to camp on Saturday, May 31, returning on June 14. We shall need some civilian helpers at camp, and elsewhere in this Journal will be found details concerning the terms of service. We do appeal to any Old Comrades who would like to come and spend a fortnight with us in Yorkshire to let us know without delay.

We are pleased to welcome a number of new officers to the Battalion, amongst whom are four who served with the 1st Battalion in Korea, 2/Lts. Ramsay, Brown, Reed and Hardcastle. We are proud to have them with



us, and especially to have 2/Lt. Barry Reed, who won the M.C. in Korea and is one of the distinguished band of N.S. officers who have won distinction during their service. We are also pleased to note some well-deserved promotion, details of which are given in the Company notes which follow.

#### "H.Q." COMPANY

We have to report that our Company Commander for the last two years, Capt. E. G. Daniels, has recently left us on being transferred to the Port and Travel Control Group. We should like to express our thanks to him for all that he has done on our behalf and to send him and Mrs. Daniels our best wishes for the future.

We welcome as our new commander Major R. J. P. Cummins, and we congratulate him on his well-merited promotion. His arduous task of administration has been taken over by Lt. John Walter, to whom we also give a warm welcome.

Capt. J. D. Gunnell merits our congratulations on his promotion, as does also Lt. P. A. Stocken on his being appointed a substantive lieutenant.

Sgt. Leggett has relinquished the duties of Officers' Mess Sergeant and has returned for more active duty with the Company as C.Q.M.S. We congratulate him on his promotion and sincerely hope that he is successful in his quest of a battledress that will fit him. Cpl. Owen has taken over his duties in the Officers' Mess and appears to be settling down well in this new task.

The long dark evenings inevitably restrict outdoor training, although we have been able to take advantage of the Depot range on various Sundays, and at the beginning of March we pay our first weekend visit of the year to Pirbright.

In conclusion, we extend a welcome to the following N.S. volunteers posted to the Company during the last three months: Ptes. Archer, Corfe, Chesterman and Disdel and Cfmn. Beecham.

#### M.T. Platoon

Since the last issue of the notes we have been able to do little practical training, mainly because of the short evenings, but we did manage a convoy drive one Sunday just before Christmas. We have, however, seen several good films about driving and the tactical employment of transport during these winter months, and we hope to be able to put what we have learned into practice at annual camp.

The Platoon is gradually increasing in numbers and consequently we are at last able to fulfil our main purpose in life. We provide an increasing number of details, and from a glance at the programme it would appear that we are to have few idle weekends during the spring.

Congratulations to Cpl. Houghton, our "Regular," on his promotion and to Pte. Moran on the birth of a daughter. We welcome Pte. Chesterman, yet another N.S. man to volunteer for the T.A.

Pte. Peterson has left the Platoon on transfer to "C" Company.

On going to press we learn that we are to receive three Land Rovers in the near future. Rumour has it that they are Class I. We had better wait and see before we begin rejoicing.

#### Signal Platoon

A happy Christmas having been spent and the New Year welcomed by the Platoon, we now find ourselves with the enormous task of checking and carrying out maintenance (such as we are allowed) on our steadily increasing number of wireless sets. Cpl. Jackson is still putting in great work on the technical side and indeed at times it is very difficult to see what we should do without him. Still, as always, our cry is for more volunteers.

We welcome 2/Lt. J. M. Phillips in the Platoon as 2IC and hope that he will enjoy his time with us.

#### "S" COMPANY

##### Mortar Platoon

Our training since the last issue of *The Die-Hards* has been restricted. Before Christmas we held an exercise at Elstree and in the mud. The exercise was enjoyed by all, especially as we had two officers who were able to act as Company Commanders and set problems to the M.F.C.s. Imagination was fully employed, and so was the wireless. From the training point of view it was a successful day.

Our annual Platoon dinner and social was held on December 1, with wives and girl friends as guests. The C.O. and Mrs. Green and the Company Commander and Mrs. Hands were also present, with C.S.M. Kenrick. The ladies took part in all the games and, with no mean success, erected a 3-in. mortar in the canteen. We still wonder whose wife it was who lifted a base plate over her head with one hand and we extend our sympathies to the husband. A form of "What's your line?" organised by C.S.M. Hutchings (until lately our Platoon Sergeant), proved popular. It was a most enjoyable evening and next year we hope to hold another.

We welcome the arrival of 2/Lt. Barry Reed, M.C., who is on the strength of "A" Company, but is going to work with us, and also two more mortars. These were necessary because our strength is now 25.

#### Machine Gun Platoon

Looking back on the last few months we can say that the Platoon has had a good period of training. We had an interesting, if wet, weekend near Pirbright in November, where we established a precedent by seeking protection from the rain in a place hitherto never used for such a purpose. The training was limited due to the inclement weather, but we learnt from our mistakes. We would congratulate Sgts. Wotton, Whitterton and Simmonds on being consistently selected for Battalion shooting teams and upholding the Platoon reputation.

We welcome 2/Lt. Brown to the Platoon, who becomes our 2IC.

#### Anti-Tank Platoon

At last it has arrived, and the reason it was delayed is now obvious: it was waiting for its pair, for, not content, with giving us one gun, a grateful Government has presented us with two 17-pounders complete with piles of kit that the Q.M. was only too willing to get off his hands.

Now that winter has set in, and with the dark evenings, very little training can be done, except lectures and more lectures, wireless, map reading and the miniature range. Two of our members are hoping to go on anti-tank

refresher courses in March and we are hoping to start Sunday morning training in April.

#### "A" COMPANY

As an experiment to increase the numbers attending regularly at Highgate, "A" Company is concentrating for the present more on recreational than on military training. Badminton and other games are being played on Tuesday evenings and shooting matches have been arranged with local teams. Unfortunately, only two of these matches had been fired when the range had to be made available to the Battalion owing to the closing for repairs of Hornsey range. With the score against the Home Guard Club standing at one all, "A" Company's indoor shooting fixtures are thus in temporary suspension. However, during the hiatus the Company, or rather the faithful nucleus of the Company, has kept its hand in by spending a couple of Sunday mornings at Mill Hill zeroing rifles in preparation for the spring shooting at Pirbright.

On winter—and even autumn—evenings nothing could be more essential at Highgate T.A. Centre than the central heating boiler. Unhappily, this failed and was out of commission until just before Christmas, thus putting an iron veto on social evenings of the kind previously held by "A" Company. However, the repair was made and an evening fixed before the Centre closed for Christmas. Considering that an almost impenetrable fog happened to be gripping the whole of North London that night, the attendance was very creditable. (Is the explanation "that it was bounty night" a fair one?)

#### "B" COMPANY

The inter-Company shooting competition has resulted in a win for "B" Company (average 89 per cent.). Cpl. Rider is to be congratulated on the highest individual score (97 per cent.). The Company was not so successful in the T.A.F.A. .22 competition, being beaten by the 880th Field Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), the scores being: 880th Field Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), 510 points; "B" Company, 509 points.

On bounty night a very impromptu social took place, and we understand from Mr. Whitcombe that the canteen duly prospered.

We were sorry to say farewell to both Capt. Rawles, who has transferred to the Intelligence Corps, and to Lt. Bird, who is now T.A.R.O.

Our congratulations to Cpl. Rider on his marriage, which took place on Christmas Day.

Training is now under way and we hope that annual camp will fully justify the results of our work.

#### "C" COMPANY

The emphasis has been on winter training since the last Company notes, and all ranks are to be congratulated on maintaining a regular attendance, in spite of chilly evenings and somewhat cold surroundings.

The short hours of daylight have restricted our weekend camps, but every advantage has been taken to improve the standard of our shooting. Valuable practice in this respect was gained at the Depot range at Mill

Hill on Sunday, January 13 (in spite of the coffee being cold) and 26 members of the Company put up a good show. We are lucky in possessing such a good shot in C/Sgt. Harris who, when spared from his numerous and intricate Q.M. duties, proves an indefatigable coach.

Junior N.C.O.s are our most pressing problem at the moment and, although Cpls. Matheoda and Bates are very welcome newcomers, the problem still remains. All young soldiers should realise—especially N.S. men—that there are always opportunities for promotion in the T.A., provided that they are willing to lead and accept responsibility.

In conclusion, we extend a hearty welcome to Ptes. Rodwell and Sabin, late of the 1st Battalion, and trust that they will not find civilian life too dull after the excitement of Korea. We also congratulate our O.C. on his well-deserved promotion to Capt.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

We congratulate and welcome two new members, Sgts. Dean and Marshall, and we say a regretful farewell to one of our most popular members—Sgt. Richards of R.E.M.E. He takes our best wishes for success in his new unit.

We have quite an ambitious programme of social functions for the winter months and we got away to a flying start with a social evening on November 4. Unfortunately a number of members were not able to attend owing to various military and domestic reasons, but even so the attendance was quite encouraging and those present voted it a very successful evening, which augured well for the future. Our thanks are due to all concerned and in particular to Drum-Major and Mrs. Poulter and their staff for the excellent catering arrangements. C.S.M. Burrell proved an able M.C. and (in connivance with several of the ladies) unearthed some amazing dance talent amongst certain stalwarts of the bar. Sgt. Mike Leahy bore the ordeal with a pained expression on his face, but Sgt. "M.T." Moran seemed to enjoy himself and after a second "bash" was actually heard to remark that "It's not so bad after all." The real dark horse, however, was a certain C.Q.M.S. who must in future be known as "Hot Foot" Harris. It is rumoured that another member of the "Q" Branch is going to bring a padlock and chain with him in future to chain himself to the bar. In the finale the R.S.M. demonstrated that he is equally at home leading the "Hokey-Cokey" as he is on the parade ground, and a certain lady *salaamed* so well that we wonder if she greets her husband in this way when he returns from work each day.

In December we combined the monthly social with our annual Mess Dinner, at which we were honoured by the presence of the C.O., Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, and Mrs. Green, Major and Mrs. Hands and Major Cummins. In a brief after-dinner speech the C.O. reminded us how important it is to achieve a good Mess spirit, as invariably a good Sergeants' Mess is a sign of a good Battalion.

The Mess Dinner was the start of a round of Christmas and New Year activities and perhaps it was due to





7th BATTALION OFFICERS CLUB DINNER, 1951

This photograph was taken at the Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers Club which was held at the Normandie Hotel on Thursday the 8th November last.

Colonel Sir Edwin King was in the Chair and the guests included the Colonel of the Regiment and Colonel Anwyl Passingham.

a "seasonal hangover" that only a handful turned up for the January social. However, now that things have more or less returned to normal we are hoping for better support at future Mess functions. We are all hoping that now that the builders have commenced operations at the Drill Hall we shall soon have a permanent Mess and so be able to encourage members to get together more often.

We close these notes with best wishes to all other Sergeants' Messes of the Regiment.

#### LIST OF APPOINTMENTS

##### BATTALION H.Q.

Commanding Officer	.. Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E.
Second-in-Command	.. Major W. D. Ellis, T.D.
Adjutant	.. Capt. P. L. Pearce Gould.
Assistant Adjutant	.. 2/Lt. P. J. T. Lane.
Administrative Officer	.. Lt. J. N. Walter.
I.O.	.. Lt. P. C. Kay.
R.S.M.	.. R.S.M. E. Pike.
R.M.O.	.. Capt. N. K. Dryden, R.A.M.C.
Chaplain	.. Rev. J. Fuller, R.A.Ch.D.

##### "H.Q." COMPANY

Officer Commanding	.. Major R. J. P. Cummins.
Q.M.	.. Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E.
M.T.O.	.. Capt. J. D. Gunnell.
Assistant M.T.O.	.. Lt. P. Stocken.
Signals Officer	.. 2/Lt. D. J. Blackler.
Assistant Signals Officer	.. 2/Lt. J. M. Phillips.
Permanent Staff Instructor	.. C.S.M. C. J. Morgan.
R.Q.M.S.	.. R.Q.M.S. N. Howes.
Drum Major	.. Drum-Major H. Poulter.
C.Q.M.S.	.. C/Sgt. E. C. Leggett.
Permanent Staff	.. Cpl. S. Houghton.
	.. 1/Cpl. F. Barry.
	.. 1/Cpl. D. W. Gipson.

##### "A" COMPANY

Officer Commanding	.. Capt. L. F. Baker.
Second-in-Command	.. Lt. M. E. Baldwin.
Platoon Commanders	.. Lt. E. Clarke.
	.. Lt. J. W. Scott.
	.. 2/Lt. P. S. Liddell.
Permanent Staff Instructor	.. C.S.M. S. W. Blacknell.
C.Q.M.S.	.. C/Sgt. R. I. Baker.

##### "B" COMPANY

Officer Commanding	.. Lt. T. W. Creighton.
Second-in-Command	.. Lt. M. McDavid.
Permanent Staff Instructor	.. C.S.M. L. J. Tostevin.
C.Q.M.S.	.. C/Sgt. M. S. Leahy.

##### "C" COMPANY

Officer Commanding	.. Capt. J. I. D. Pike.
Second-in-Command	.. Lt. P. J. A. Pielow.
Platoon Commanders	.. 2/Lt. F. Holm.
	.. 2/Lt. C. H. Benbow.
	.. 2/Lt. A. J. Wiggins.
Permanent Staff Instructor	.. C.S.M. A. Burrell.
C.Q.M.S.	.. C/Sgt. R. J. Harris.

##### "S" COMPANY

Officer Commanding	.. Major A. J. Hands.
Mortar Platoon	.. Lt. R. J. Garrett.
	.. 2/Lt. B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C.
	.. (Attached).
M.G. Platoon	.. 2/Lt. M. A. B. Clutson.
	.. 2/Lt. R. Brown.
Anti-Tank Platoon	.. Lt. R. J. Leighton.
	.. 2/Lt. A. R. K. Hardcastle.
Assault Pioneer Platoon	.. 2/Lt. G. R. Fox.
	.. Lt. I. N. Henderson.
Permanent Staff Instructor	.. C.S.M. A. Kenrick.
C.S.M.	.. C.S.M. P. G. Hutchings.
C.Q.M.S.	.. C/Sgt. W. R. Payne.

## 11th BATTALION PARACHUTE REGIMENT

(8th MIDDLESEX) (T.A.)

The annual camping season seems a long way off now, but it is not really as camp 1951 was spent on the great exercise "Surprise Packet," the Army Manoeuvres in mid-October last. We were duly honoured with the rest of the 44th Parachute Brigade (T.A.) by being picked to compete against the Regular Army. We prepared for the exercise in Aldershot and returned there afterwards for a day or two. The battle, however, was fought on the Wiltshire Downs in perfect weather, marred only by heavy and very wet morning mists. Our C.Q.M.S.'s provided us with excellent food. Except for a few, we got plenty of sleep, if not always at the proper time, and even beer was plentiful in spite of the fact that we spent the exercise on top of a 950-ft. mountain. We enjoyed ourselves and showed the Generals what the T.A. could do, and at the conference afterwards they said they were very pleased.

Christmas activities included "B" Company's (Ealing) usual party for the Battalion children, which was a great success. Well done "B" Company! Most of the Companies ran Christmas dances and parties, and the Officers' Mess, for a change, booked up at Frascati's and had a most enjoyable dinner-dance there.

Recent successes included "H.Q." Company reaching the semi-finals of Group III in the Middlesex T. & A.F.A. small bore championship and the Battalion soccer team reaching the fourth round of the T.A. Cup, where they were knocked out by 258th L.A.A. Regiment (T.A.) 4-1. Capt. Taylor's indefatigable energy in the field and organisation of the Battalion soccer is bearing fruit and we hope to reach the finals next year.

The boxing competition season is now coming on. Novices competitions are being held on January 24 and inter-Company on February 7-8 at our Battalion H.Q., Hanworth Road, Hounslow. We are hoping to win the Brigade Boxing Cup again on March 20 and to send a strong representation forward to the 16th Airborne Division and T.A. Championships in the spring.

Farewell to Capt. Barry Owen of "B" Company, who has gone to Lancashire and best of luck to him with his new T.A. unit there. Officer and Other Rank recruits continue to come in well. We do particularly welcome any "Die-Hards" to our ranks to keep very much alive our association with the Middlesex Regiment.

## OBITUARY

Major Neville Hadley Bernard Lyon, M.C., died in the Colchester Hospital on November 3, 1951, after a short illness. The passing of "Tiger" is a sad event in regimental history, and his loss is keenly felt by his many friends. Another real "Die-Hard" has left our ranks.

"Tiger" was born in 1887 at Calcutta, India, son of George Kenneth Lyon, Indian Civil Service, and younger brother of the late Admiral Sir George Hamilton D'Oyly Lyon, K.C.B., who died at the same



The late Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C.

age of 64. He was educated at King's School, Bruton, Somerset, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. At a school noted for its high standard of games, he obtained his colours, at an early age, for cricket, hockey, and football, and twice won the Victor Ludorum Cup for the best all-round athlete. At Sandhurst he was awarded his blue for cricket and also played in the 1st Rugby XV; this latter achievement was rather a remarkable feat as he had never played the game until he arrived at the R.M.C.; King's School, Bruton, being a soccer school.

He was gazetted a Second Lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment on September 19, 1908, and joined the 1st Battalion in Guernsey. He was then posted to the 3rd Battalion in India, where he remained until 1914. His cricket prowess was at its peak during this period, and when he returned to England on leave he played for the Free Foresters, and later in life played for the Cryptics and Butterflies as well. On the outbreak of the 1914-18 war he did not return to the U.K. with the 3rd Battalion, but remained at Cawnpore for six months instructing Territorials. This did not suit his active nature, and after strenuous efforts he obtained a posting back to the 3rd Battalion. He should have reached the Battalion in time to go to France with it, but to his great regret he contracted, on the voyage home, a serious illness which affected his heart, and for a time he was compelled to wait on the sick list. However, by 1915 he had completely recovered and rejoined the 3rd Battalion in Salonika.

He was promoted Captain in February, 1915, and Acting Major on July 9, 1916. During the Greek and Macedonian campaign he was awarded the Military Cross and commanded the 3rd Battalion for some months during the absence of Col. Miller. He was then offered command of a Battalion of another Regi-



ment, but he refused to accept this as it would have meant leaving the "Die-Hards." This was typical of his devotion to the Regiment he loved; there are not many who would have refused promotion in this way.

After the war, on June 26, 1920, he became Adjutant of the 3rd Battalion, and continued as such until the Battalion was disbanded by the Geddes axe on July 19, 1922. His reputation for smartness and efficiency in this post is still mentioned by older members of the Regiment. From October, 1922, until January, 1927, he carried out the duties of Courts Martial Officer to the British Army of the Rhine. The following is an extract from the *Rhine Army Gazette*, which was published when he left the Rhine:—

"Capt. N. H. B. Lyon, M.C., The Middlesex Regiment, Courts Martial Officer, B.A.O.R., was one of the best known cricketers in the Garrison, and during his stay of several years in this Command he played a prominent part in the arranging of big cricket attractions and did invaluable work for the B.A.O.R. It would take a whole page of this issue to chronicle his performances on the cricket field, so I must content myself with the observation that these will be talked about when the B.A.O.R. has passed into history. In addition to captaining the B.A.O.R. XI, he was also honorary secretary of the Rhine Army Cricket Club, and worked very hard to make it a success. He was also keenly interested in hockey, and his services were in constant demand as an umpire. A popular sportsman and also a prominent figure in the social life of the Command."

In February, 1927, he was posted to the 1st Battalion at Catterick and proceeded to China with it in the same year, when it formed part of the Shanghai Defence Force. His great knowledge of military law now caused him to be in continual demand as defending officer at courts martial. In this connection he will be best remembered for his famous defence in the "Madame Tishibashi" case, which took place in Shanghai in October, 1927. He returned to Catterick in 1928 with the Battalion and commanded H.Q. Wing, which in those days consisted of "G" and "Q" Companies. Under "Tiger's" guidance the Wing won every military and sporting event which was held within the Battalion. In 1929 he organised and stage-managed the military tableau of the Battle of Albuhera, which was performed by the 1st Battalion for three weeks in London at the Royal Military Tournament, Olympia, and also at the York and Doncaster Tattoos. Those who took part will remember the months of long rehearsals, and during these, when the performers were longing to be dismissed, the oft-repeated words "Another Present," which became a Battalion slogan. His hard work, his stern direction and the high standard that he set made the tableau the greatest of successes, and was described by A. P. Herbert in his press criticism as the most splendid military spectacle he had ever

witnessed. In 1931 he was promoted substantive Major and was posted to the 2nd Battalion, when it relieved the 1st Battalion at Colchester. He then carried out the duties of Second-in-Command of the Battalion when the present Colonel of the Regiment was commanding. In 1935 he took over command of the Depot at Mill Hill where he remained until he was compelled to retire through ill health in 1938. He was by now suffering without complaint the severest of pain from sciatica, which rendered him almost a cripple.

To have served under "Tiger" was a privilege and an education in itself. He was a born leader of men and knew instinctively the good points of character as well as the weaknesses of everyone under his command. He was a strict disciplinarian, yet he was always fair and was incapable of any mean or petty action. His dislike of bad manners, slackness or inefficiency was intense. His enthusiasm for any success by others, however small, was tremendous and his encouragement for further efforts was inspiring. These qualities endeared him to all that served under him. He was a great upholder of tradition, and all that tradition stands for. He had perhaps extravagant tastes, in that he sought the best of everything. To his friends he was generous in the extreme. As a soldier he was punctilious over the smallest of details. His sense of humour was keen and abundant. At heart he was a sentimentalist, although he tried not to show it, and he suffered much more than was realised when his nephew, Pat, was killed in action with the 2nd Battalion in May, 1940, in the days before Dunkirk.

He married in June, 1915, Madeline Ethel Parry, who was herself a noted sportswoman and winner of many Rhine Army tennis tournaments. To his widow and sisters, Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Carr, we extend our deep sympathy.

His cremation at Ipswich on November 7, 1951, was attended by Col. M. Browne, Colonel of the Regiment, Col. Rooke, Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, Major E. L. Heywood, and Major K. Hardcastle. So has departed a memorable personality of the Regiment, the like of which we can ill afford to lose.

M.C.

#### COMMENT BY THE COLONEL

I have never known any officer who drew forth so much affection and respect from all ranks he served with, and himself served. The words "Ich Dien" in our badge were ever carried out abundantly. He was my Second-in-Command during a large portion of my command. He was loyal beyond all measure. His advice or criticism were wise and helpful, for he never feared to point out actions he felt were wrong. His friendship and humour were ever a comfort to me in difficult times. We shall miss his wisdom and tolerance in regard to Regimental matters, and will never forget him, and what we owe to him.

## Obituary

### Rev. E. Stogden

News has only just been received of the death last July of the Rev. E. Stogden, who served in the first world war with the Regiment and has been a member of the Officers' Club for a number of years.

### Drum-Major Joseph Bray

We regret to record the death on November 11 last of ex-Drum-Major Joseph Bray, who served 22 years with the Regiment, enlisting as a boy at the age of 15 in 1910 and joining the 3rd Battalion in India in 1911. He served throughout the 1914-18 war and continued to serve until discharged to pension in 1933. He died at the age of fifty-seven.

### C/Sgt. W. Winny, M.M.

The death took place on December 4 last of ex-C/Sgt. W. Winny, M.M., who served with the Regiment for 22 years and won his decoration in the 1914-18 war.

### R.Q.M.S. W. A. Roberts

Ex-R.Q.M.S. W. A. Roberts died on December 24 and was interred in Southall Cemetery on December 29, after a service in St. John's Church, Southall, where he was a member of the choir. During the 1914-18 war he served in the Middlesex Territorial Regiment in France with the rank of Q.M., and held a similar rank in the Home Guard during the recent war. He was vice-chairman of the Uxbridge and District "Die-Hards" Club.

### C/Sgt. A. Boen

As we go to press we have been grieved to hear of the death of ex-C/Sgt. A. Boen. Mr. Boen will be well remembered for the O.C.A. Club he ran for many years at the "Ship" in the Borough High Street. The funeral was held on February 8 at Wimbledon Cemetery and amongst those who attended were Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Meddams and R.Q.M.S. Etheridge, who represented the Regimental Association. A wreath in the regimental colours was sent.

### Major Reginald Alfred Slee

On February 1, at his home in Barnes, Major Reginald Alfred Slee who served in the 6th Battalion, aged 88 years. Cremation took place at Putney Crematorium on February 4.

Our readers are kindly requested to complete the subscription form at the front of this journal and post it as soon as possible—*Thank you*

## THE ROUTE MARCH

These verses are by an ex-soldier of the 1/10th Middlesex called E. Jones. He was an original member of that Battalion and served with them when the Battalion went to India in October, 1914. He later was drafted to serve in Mesopotamia. He was one of the most popular members of the Battalion.

They have been sent to me by Mr. A. E. Bowker, who also served in the 1/10th. He was for a time Adjutant in the 7th Middlesex in France and Belgium, serving under Col. Sir Edwin King (1914-18 war) who speaks highly of him.

On the dusty parade ground,  
In the shimmering heat,  
All in marching order,  
The battalion is complete.  
Parrots in the cork trees, kite-hawks in the blue,  
And standing here eight hundred men—that's counting me and you.

Battalion will advance in fours,  
We're moving through the heat,  
With the clatter of equipment  
And the tramp of many feet,  
With the drums and fifes to lead the way,  
And the hot sun beating down all day.

The khaki figures swing along,  
The yellow dust swirls past,  
We're marching at attention;  
How long's that going to last?  
Ha! March at ease. At last it comes,  
And now we leave the lucky drums.

Already we are wet with sweat,  
The flies annoy us sore,  
Long miles stretch out ahead of us,  
But youth has strength in store.  
And as I look along the line the thought comes back anew:  
I'm proud to know all these fine lads; I'm glad I marched with you.

When, every hour the whistle goes,  
We sink down by the road  
For a few moments' welcome rest  
To ease the aching load,  
Our throats too dry to smoke or talk,  
We seem to be just feet that walk.

And as the miles keep slipping by  
Our step has lost its spring.  
Is this the gallant bunch of lads,  
Where every man is king?  
And though we're feeling nearly whacked, we go on just the same,  
For in our mob we don't fall out; we've got to play the game.



And marching on, as in a daze,  
We plod through blistering heat.  
Good Lord, just look at Charlie there,  
He's out upon his feet!  
"Give me your *bundook*, lad. Here, Jim, give him a hand,  
"Cheer up, old man, you'll soon be back. Here's where we meet the band."

And calling on some hidden strength,  
We do the long last mile.  
We straighten up our weary backs,  
And finish in good style.  
Now for the pleasure of a bath, a blessing past belief,  
And then to stretch our aching limbs and find at last relief.

And as we marched so long ago  
We're marching still today.  
Our route march is the march of life,  
Together on our way.  
Old ties still bind us, friend to friend,  
And so 'twill be till journey's end.

Our ranks are thinning, year by year,  
Some cannot keep the pace  
And, as they never did before,  
Fall out and leave their place.  
It's sad to see them go, and yet  
We loved them so, we'll not forget.

And those of us who are left press on,  
And if the good Lord wills  
We'll meet again some happy day  
Beyond the distant hills.  
But come what may, I still can say, and this is very true:  
I'm proud to have known all these fine lads; I'm glad I marched with you.

## NAAFI'S HONEYMOON HOTEL

Chatham Club, one of Naafi's most modern establishments, has earned the nickname of "Honeymoon Hotel." More than 200 Service couples have spent their honeymoon there since the club opened three and a half years ago.

For about £1 a day a couple can enjoy all the amenities of the club, which is run along normal hotel lines, including morning tea in bed, bath and four meals a day.

The club, with a maze of corridors, is in three sections: Arethusa House, with 48 double and 12 single bedrooms; Zeebrugge House, with 104 bedrooms for unmarried Service men at 2s. 6d. a night, and a section for non-residents. The residential section is almost always full, and has housed 100,000 Service families in the last three years at leave periods.

Every morning a smart chambermaid arrives with a pot of tea and the newspaper. In the "bridal room" a bowl of fresh flowers is supplied every few days for the dressing table, and large cupboards are provided with every type of shelf and hanger to accommodate the trousseau.

In the morning, while their husbands go for a trim at the club hairdresser's, young wives occupy themselves with writing a letter in the quiet room, choosing a library book, chatting in front of the lounge fire with other Service wives, playing the piano, or listening to the radio. A television set is also installed for general use.

In the afternoon and evening there is ample provision for everyone's amusement. Service guests can see a show; dance every night in the big ballroom, which has a gallery for lookers-on, play table tennis or snooker, or darts, or have a quiet drink in the tavern or cocktail bar.

Special rooms are ready for Service men with children. Some of these contain cots, and others have children's rooms adjoining. In each is central heating, hot and cold water, and all the usual conveniences.

Toddlers enjoy a nursery supplied with rocking horses and high chairs, where they can be left in expert care. Mothers meanwhile make use of the utility room for washing, airing and ironing the "smalls."

According to Manager E. Windsor Lewis, many romances begin in this popular club, not least among those of young Naafi receptionists, waitresses and bar attendants on his staff, who are getting married so quickly that there are nearly always new faces to greet Service folk who spend many of their leaves in the club.

At present the only Naafi clubs to offer residential accommodation are at Chatham and Catterick, but at the request of Service authorities Naafi is opening a new club at Plymouth this year, which will offer family accommodation on the same lines as the others.

On first arriving at one of these club hotels one imagines oneself in the foyer of one of London's popular West End hotels. Young men and women sit and watch every movement of the revolving doors. Others wander in groups round the semicircle of kiosks, information and reception desks. Some go straight to a rendezvous in the lounge or the bar. Groups of chattering Service men and women ascend and descend the wide spiral staircase, while children of all shapes and sizes weave in among them. Sometimes a knot will gather round the balcony windows in a crook of the staircase at Chatham Club. The sea is invisible, but there is a grandstand view of the local playing fields.

For those who seek to escape the crowd for a while there are several smaller rooms for peace and quiet. The music room comes under this heading also, but as it is supplied with the inevitable Naafi piano, this is most often inaccurate.

After supplying the creature comforts, Naafi relies upon the W.V.S. helpers and the ever-willing Naafi girls to provide the helpful, human approach.

The W.V.S. are ready to darn socks, compose letters home, advise the stranger in town about local cinemas and entertainments, and cope with the children.

They care for the club and their Service guests with the dedicated enthusiasm of parish church workers, but with a secular gaiety, and an eye for the homely things, like carefully chosen flowers, particularly in the "bridal room."

In "Honeymoon Hotel" they and Miss Naafi are Hymen's energetic allies. They, too, are in love—with their job.