

# The Die Hards



## THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (Duke of Cambridge's Own)

VOL. X No. 8

DECEMBER, 1952

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### 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," "Seringsapatam," "Albuhara," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular,"  
 "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."  
 The Great War—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914,"  
 "Messines, 1914," "17, 18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17, 18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg,"  
 "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood,"  
 "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume,"  
 "1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arlieux," "Ploeghem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road,"  
 "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre,"  
 "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazelebroek," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal  
 du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy,  
 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915,"  
 "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18,"  
 "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Muran, 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 1939-45.  
 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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The Wellington Coast and Taranaki Regiment,  
 Toki, Taranaki, New Zealand.

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British Army Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.

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 Officer Commanding 1st Battalion: Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn.  
 Officer Commanding Depot: Major P. D. H. Marshall.  
 Officer Commanding 7th Battalion: Lt.-Col. A. E. Green,  
 D.S.O., O.B.E.

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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.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 5/- (Post Free)



**The Colonel of the Regiment wishes all ranks a Very Happy Christmas and all Good Luck in the New Year 1953.**

With the return of our 1st Battalion from the Far East, this Christmas will be for our Regiment a special occasion. All members of the Regiment will desire to send them a very hearty welcome and good wishes.

### **1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders**

The following message was despatched to 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders on September 20, 1952, on the occasion of their return to the United Kingdom from Hong Kong:

**"Lt.-Gen. C. G. Bucknall C. B., M.C., and all ranks The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) send greetings to Commanding Officer and all ranks 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders on return to the United Kingdom. May the closest friendship with your Regiment remain forever."**

Copy of Message in reply to above from Lt.-Col. J. C. Church, M.C., commanding 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders:

**"On behalf of all ranks I am writing to thank you for your Regiment's kind wire of welcome. It was sad to leave your 1st Battalion behind in Hong Kong but we will meet again soon and are determined to maintain our friendship."**



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

## **EDITORIAL**

Whilst we write this Editorial many people are getting very busy over the arrangements for the Homecoming of our Regular Battalion.

As the functions will probably be over by the time the Journal appears, it is of little use enlarging on them here, doubtless all the required information will have gone out individually, through Clubs or Units and via the Press. It is therefore unnecessary for us to say more than "Welcome Home" and to underline that this homecoming is quite the most spectacular ever accorded to a Unit of the Regiment.

If asked their opinion, we are quite certain that the personnel of the Battalion would not claim to be greater heroes than the men who fought at Albuhera, Seringapatam, the Crimea, Mons or countless other famous names. The difference is this, now the County, from the Lord Lieutenant down, are really behind the Regiment and are showing it in no mean way. There is no need to mention once more the real cause of this liaison with and support from the County; it is well known to all of us and the results are the finest War Memorial any Infantry Regiment has produced, a magnificent response to the Appeal for Comforts for Korea and now Silver Bugles, parade on the Horse Guards, a service in the Abbey and a lunch for the Battalion.

This homecoming is indeed a great occasion and marks the climax to a series of events which prove that Middlesex is not only a County, but a very great and generous County, too. In our capacity as a special constable we spent several hours on duty recently at the local Police Station. The only regular on duty, to guide the not-so-young specials, was a 22-year-old with an accent which never came from Hants. It turned out that we were both from Ealing. He was one of seven brothers, sons of a cripple from World War I, and the terrors of the park keepers and police of Ealing. It is many years since we really felt sentimental over Ealing ourselves—it has grown so much—but we came very near to it when our young friend said, with real conviction, "A lovely town Ealing is, really lovely." For Ealing read Acton, Uxbridge, Harrow and so on and you have a County, and perhaps that is the answer and we have passed through the phase when Middlesex was overshadowed by London, and is once more becoming a rival to the more generally popular Counties.

The parading and lunching over, the great thing that remains for most of the Battalion is a Christmas at home, and if one may take a liberty with Charles

Dickens and Mr. Scrooge it will be a case of "A merry Christmas, Bob, a merrier Christmas, Bob, my dear fellow than you have had for several years. Make up the fires and buy another scuttle of coal before you do another parade."

To close, may we add to all ranks of the 1st Battalion, to all members past and present of the Regiment, and to all supporters of the Regiment, "God bless us, every one."

*A Very Happy Christmas to you all.*

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **PRESENTATION OF SILVER BUGLES TO 1st BATTALION ON DECEMBER 19, 1952**

The arrangements made include:

A ceremonial parade by the 1st Battalion with Colours on the Horse Guards Parade at 10.30 a.m. On this parade the Lord Lieutenant will carry out an inspection, will address all ranks and present the Battalion with 20 silver bugles as a recognition of their gallantry in Korea.

A Divine Service to be held in Westminster Abbey at 12 noon by kind permission of the Dean, at which the Chaplain General to the Forces will preach. No other Regiment of the Line has ever been previously so honoured.

The Lord Lieutenant trusts you will make every effort to attend at the parade. Dress for male spectators will be uniform or lounge suits. The Colonel of the Regiment trusts all serving ranks will wear uniform with medals on this occasion.

Seating on parade is unavoidably restricted and a similar limitation will arise in the Abbey where all ranks of the Battalion, their immediate relatives, and certain civic and official persons have to take preference.

#### **REGIMENTAL CRICKET WEEK, 1953**

Friday, June 19	..	..	Officers' Club Dinner.
Saturday, June 20	..	..	Free Foresters.
Sunday, June 21	..	..	Hampstead Heathens.
Monday, June 22	..	..	Cryptics.
Tuesday, June 23	..	..	Incogniti.
Wednesday, June 24	..	..	I. Zingari.

All matches start at 11.30 a.m., and all are at Mill Hill.

#### **WORD HAS REACHED US . . .**

Finance having stepped in and cut short Col. Browne's newsletter, we shall in future be endeavouring to collect and pass on news to readers, through the Journal, of old comrades as it reaches us.

As the printer is itching to get hold of December copy time is short and we shall hope to get more news in future. Meanwhile, word has reached us:

That Major Lockwood has been in hospital as a result of a street accident. We wish him a speedy recovery.

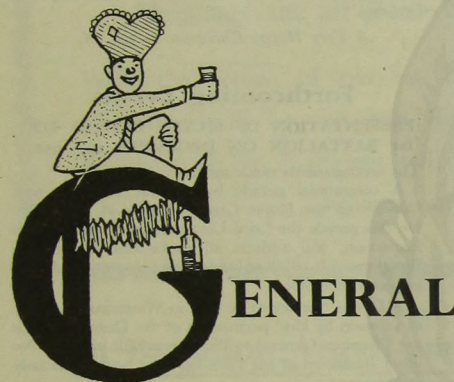
That ex-Bandsman Wallis is to be found at the R.A.F., Farnborough.

That ex-Bandsman Caney of the French Horn is still in the world of music and has an important post with Messrs. Boosey and Hawkes of Aldershot.



# 1st Battalion Notes

BATTALION EDITOR:—MAJOR D. C. L. NOLDA



On the eve of the Battalion's departure from Hong Kong, it is fitting that we review its major activities since its re-creation in 1948 and during the three and a half years it has spent abroad.

In August, 1948, at Mill Hill, the Regimental Depot, the Regular content of the 1st Battalion (formerly 2/8th Battalion), consisting of 14 officers and 100 other ranks, amalgamated with 10 officers and 60 other ranks of the 2nd Battalion to form the present 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, under the command of Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O.

The following month the Battalion moved from Mill Hill to Chelsea Barracks to take over public duties in London in conjunction with the 1st Battalion The Welsh Guards and the 1st Battalion The King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

On October 1, 1948, the Battalion mounted its first guards at Buckingham Palace, St. James's Palace, the Bank of England, the Tower of London and the Central Recruiting Depot, Whitehall. In the following eight months of public duties, the two most notable events were the birth of Prince Charles and the State Opening of Parliament. On the night of November 14, the King's Guard, under the command of Major Chattey, were informed by telephone that a son had been born to the then Princess Elizabeth. There was much rejoicing, many toasts were drunk and a congratulatory telegram was sent to Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, affirming the loyalty of all ranks of the Battalion. On October 26, when the Battalion provided the guard of honour inside the forecourt of Buckingham Palace for the State Opening of Parliament, the guard was inspected by His Majesty King George VI and,

later, the Colonel of the Regiment and the C.O. were presented to their Majesties.

On May 9, 1949, the Battalion returned to Mill Hill to mobilise as part of 27 Infantry Brigade, which had received orders to reinforce the garrison in Hong Kong, towards whose frontier the Communist armies of Mau Tse Tung were then sweeping.

On June 15 the Battalion embarked at Southampton in H.M.T. *Dunera* and, after a pleasant but very crowded voyage, disembarked at Hong Kong on July 18 and moved to Lyemun Barracks on the island. This marked the third occasion on which the Battalion was to see service in Hong Kong. The Regiment made its first appearance in the colony in 1927 when it paid a brief visit on its way to Shanghai. Subsequently, in August, 1937, the Battalion came to Hong Kong as part of the garrison, where it remained and fought so gallantly in those tragic days of December, 1941.

During its few weeks' stay on the island, the Battalion provided a guard of honour to welcome the return of H.M.S. *Amethyst* after her historic escape from the Chinese Communist forces in the Yangtze River.

In August the Battalion moved to a tented camp in the plain of Sek Kong in the New Territories, where many had their first experience of a typhoon, which ravaged the camp. Subsequently the Battalion moved to Beas Camp (formerly the Hong Kong Jockey Club stables), near Fanling, where it was to remain for the next ten months.

During the first two months at Beas Camp the Battalion laboured incessantly in preparing defence positions south of the Sham Shun River. Most of the digging and wiring was carried out at night, in an attempt to deceive the Communist forces, who by now were in strength on the other side of the river. Despite the passage of three years, digging and wiring still continue unabated, but ironically these tasks are now carried out in the main by Chinese coolie gangs!

On October 8, 1949, Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, O.B.E., assumed command of the Battalion. Digging, wiring and improving operational positions continued alongside individual training, cadres and brigade exercises, with life following the usual pattern which any regiment spends abroad. In the sporting world, the Battalion gained the great distinction of winning the Hong Kong seven-a-side Rugby, a competition which is open to both civilian and service teams.

On August 19, 1950, the Battalion was warned to be ready to move at short notice by sea to Korea, as part of 27 British Infantry Brigade (the Brigade originally consisted of only two battalions; the other battalion was the 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders). This force was to be the first British contribution to the United Nations fighting in Korea.

On August 25, six days after it had been alerted, the Battalion embarked in the aircraft carrier, H.M.S.  *Unicorn*, and after a farewell address by Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, High Commissioner for South-East Asia, sailed for Korea, disembarking at Pusan on August 29.

On September 3 the Battalion moved into the line, occupying a wide defensive position west of Taegu along the Naktong River. From here they were to break out three weeks later in their first big action against the North Korean forces.

Mopping-up operations followed, during which time a fourth rifle company which had been flown out from England joined the Battalion. At the same time the gradual build up of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade started with the addition of the 3rd Australian Regiment. Later an Indian Field Ambulance and a New Zealand Field Regiment joined the Brigade and eventually, in February 1951, the 2nd Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry arrived to make four Battalions in the Brigade.

On October 11, 1950, the Battalion, acting as vanguard to the Brigade, crossed the 38th Parallel in the general drive of the United Nations forces into North Korea. Thereafter followed seven weeks of constant movement up the Peninsula, following closely on the heels of the retreating enemy. Towards the end of October the Battalion had reached to within 25 miles of the Manchurian border, but in view of the intervention of strong Chinese Communist armies the United Nations forces were compelled to withdraw. By now the Korean winter had arrived and struck savagely at troops who were not equipped to fight under winter conditions. However, with their usual British fortitude and greatly assisted by American clothing, the Battalion successfully overcame the semi-Arctic conditions which by day and night produced icy winds and many degrees of frost.

During December the 8th Army continued to withdraw, and after a succession of rearguard actions the Battalion again crossed the 38th Parallel, this time into South Korea, where it was held in reserve at Uijongbu. Here, with no immediate operational commitments and with plenty of traditional fare, the Battalion spent a somewhat rugged but very enjoyable Christmas.

New Year's Day, 1951, brought the beginning of a renewed Chinese offensive and 27 Brigade was called upon to form a rearguard in the area of Seoul which they conducted most successfully.

January found the Battalion reconnoitring and digging in on various defence lines, but early in February the United Nations once again took the initiative and began to press the Chinese back in offensive mountaineering operations. After a highly successful Battalion engagement at Chnam Ni, the 38th Parallel was crossed once again.

Towards the end of March the decision was taken to relieve the two British infantry battalions in 27 Brigade with British units from Hong Kong. The original intention had been to replace 27 Brigade with 29 Brigade, a streamlined independent brigade which was formed in England and which arrived in Korea in November/December 1950. On account of the Chinese intervention, however, this plan had to be jettisoned, much

to the chagrin of the Middlesex and Argylls, who had to be disappointed at the very last moment.

In order that the relief of 27 Brigade could now be undertaken readily and speedily, the Brigade was placed in Corps Reserve on April 17, 1951. However, on April 22 the Chinese launched their long-awaited spring offensive and the Battalion was ordered north once again to stem the rot. Heavy fighting ensued and 27 British Commonwealth Brigade halted the main Chinese thrust in the central sector and subsequently carried out a rearguard action to positions south of the Pukhan River.

A few weeks later the situation along the whole front had stabilised and the Battalion was relieved in the line by 1st K.S.L.I. on May 13, 1951. Thus ended 260 days' campaigning in Korea, which had cost the Battalion 127 casualties.

After an Albuhera Day at sea, the Battalion disembarked from the U.S.S. *Montrail* at Kowloon on May 19, 1951, and re-joined 27 Infantry Brigade at San Wai, under the command of Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn.

Three outstanding events of Regimental importance took place while the Battalion was in Korea. These were:

1. The granting of an alliance between the Middlesex Regiment and the Hong Kong Regiment by H.M. King George VI in recognition of the part played by the two regiments in the defence of Hong Kong in 1941.

2. An agreement between the Colonels of the Middlesex Regiment and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders which extended honorary membership of each others' Messes to mark the long association and close friendship of the two regiments.

3. The presentation to H.M.S.  *Unicorn* of a wooden plaque bearing the Regimental crest. This was later followed by a ceremony in H.M.S.  *Unicorn* when her Captain was presented with a casket containing the score of the Regimental marches in memory of the close alliance which had developed between the Regiment and Her Majesty's aircraft carrier.

Life at San Wai in 1951 followed closely the pattern which had been set earlier in Beas Camp. After a short period of leave the Battalion settled down to studying its operational role and repairing the gaps in its ranks caused by a never-ending stream of departing Regulars and N.S. men. In the first few months no less than 12 officers and 375 other ranks left the Battalion. This constant drain created innumerable problems, some of which were eased by the arrival of Royal Norfolk and, later, Royal Fusilier N.S. men. These came to the Battalion for varying periods of training before they joined their regiments in Korea.

During the months November to April the Battalion had high hopes of an outstandingly successful sports season, but largely as the result of injuries and the absence of star players on courses in the U.K., these hopes were not fully realised. However, although there were no startling achievements, the Battalion maintained an above average placing in all the major events in the Colony and great benefit was derived from the new playing fields adjoining the camp. These are very aptly named the Nottingham Fields in memory of the original Commonwealth Brigade code name in Korea.

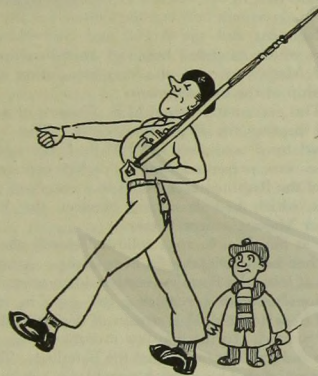


In February 1952 the Battalion entered two shooting teams for the Hong Kong Bisley and greatly distinguished itself in winning three of the major trophies, while the "B" team were most unlucky in dropping to second place on the final day of the Unit Championship, which was won by H.M.S. *Tamar*. Later in March the M.M.G. Platoon won the newly-presented "Cruddas" Cup and, with a score of 321, took second place in the A.R.A. Competition.

Early in 1952 news was received that the Battalion was to leave Hong Kong in the autumn, stage for a short period in England and then move to Austria early in 1953. This was wonderful news which was only slightly dampened a few weeks later when an order was received that Python rights would be compulsorily deferred for six months.

The summer is behind us. We have continued to dig and wire, to shoot and play, to drill and climb and now, at last, the scene is shortly to change. A small but very elated advance party from the Battalion is well on its way home, while a similar contingent from the Dorsets have arrived in San Wai where they are busy taking over our weapons and stores, our Regimental bus and, most important of all, Au Wai Lam, the contractor.

It is these events which have made us realise that,



## Training

Despite heat, torrential rain and a woeful lack of N.C.O.s, much valuable training has been completed in the last three months. By far the most profitable was the fortnight's training undertaken by "A" and "C" Companies at Tai Lam Camp, a description of which appeared in last quarter's notes. Here each Company was put through a week's intensive course of mines and watermanship, which was followed by a week of section and platoon exercises, culminating in an assault river crossing. The men, not only wiser militarily, but

after much hovering and false alarms, we are really on our way home. There can be no doubt that we have left our mark in Hong Kong. The friendship that grew up between the Battalion and the civilian population before and through the war has been considerably strengthened in the last three and a half years, during which the Battalion has played a very full part in the life of the colony. On Sunday, November 2, 1952, three days before it is due to sail, the Battalion will take part in a service of dedication at St. John's Cathedral. A bronze plaque presented by the Battalion, together with a book presented by the Hong Kong Regiment containing the names of those officers and men of the Middlesex Regiment who died in the defence of the island, will be unveiled and dedicated by the bishop to their memory. His Excellency the Governor will be present, together with a large civilian congregation. After the service the Battalion will march past the Cenotaph, Gen. R. C. Cruddas, D.S.O., taking the salute.

So yet another chapter will have been successfully concluded in the history of the Regiment. But although our roots are deep in Hong Kong, the thought of Christmas at home and the hope of a long peaceful period in Austria will be uppermost in our minds as we slip past Lyemun in our troopship, the *Empire Powey*.

physically fitter, took the wonderful opportunity of both learning and improving their swimming, with the result that at the end of the fortnight every man in both Companies was able to swim. Altogether, it was a most enjoyable and worthwhile experience which did much to foster keen competition and a tremendous *esprit de corps*.

The wiring of the operational positions has continued this quarter, but the brunt of it has been borne by "D" Company with their Korean trainees. A very satisfactory arrangement is now under way whereby a large gang of Chinese coolies under the supervision of an N.C.O. has taken over most of this task.

Along with their wiring, "D" Company has concentrated on weapon training and toughening up for their Royal Norfolk and Royal Fusilier N.S. men, who throughout their stay with us have shown much keenness and have cheerfully taken their part in all the Battalion's activities. It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Pte. Tortice, Royal Norfolk Regiment, who died as the result of an accident on Lo Wu Range on August 13, when a faulty fuse setting caused the premature explosion of a 2-in. mortar bomb. Major Porter, the O.C., and four others were also wounded at this time, but all have now recovered.

Support Company, whilst continuing with their drill and the improvement of their operational positions, have not neglected their specialist training.

With the return of Capt. Mason from Netheravon, the Mortar Platoon has carried out much section and platoon training, culminating in a week's concentration at the battle school and field firing at Lo Wu Range, much to the annoyance of the Wiltshire Regiment, who took a very near miss on one occasion. Like all

other sub-units in the Battalion, the Mortar Platoon has lost many of its N.C.O.s and older soldiers, and is now practically entirely composed of N.S. men who, alas, are also due to leave within the next few months.

The Machine-Gun Platoon complains of a multiplicity of fatigues which has made them "Jacks-of-all trades" these last months. Despite this, they did excellently in the A.R.A. competition by scoring 60 points more than they did last year, when they gained second place. A novelty for them this quarter was manning the O.P. at Sandy Ridge, overlooking the frontier bridge, where, in their own words, "We were invited to the Battalion O.P. for a week to see what Chinese soldiers look like. We solemnly looked at each other across the border, reporting to our respective H.Q.s exactly what has been reported every day for the last three years."

With the return of Sgt. Moyse from his course in U.K., training in the Anti-Tank Platoon took on a new lease of life when a cadre was started for "A" and "C" Companies. This was followed by a most successful 24 hours at Port Shelter Range, where, to the surprise of some of the pessimists, the first round was fired without the gun blowing up. Sixty-seven rounds followed closely and established without doubt the hard-hitting accuracy of this excellent weapon. Cpl. Bunce, who was previously with the platoon, recently rejoined from "A" Company, where he was doing extremely well as a rifle section commander. His assistance will be invaluable.

The Assault Pioneer Platoon, who normally perform such mundane duties as laying mines and simple engineering tasks in the field, have excelled themselves by building what can only be described as probably the finest of all Nissen huts. Sandy Ridge was at one time a mere hill, certainly no more than any other hill, but now this relatively unimportant geographical feature has become the centre of a new interest, for here stands a memorial to the ability of the platoon. This architectural feat was executed by Sgt. Dive (at present attending a course in the U.K.) and his whole platoon of four men, assisted by some half a dozen Royal Norfolk and Royal Fusilier personnel.

Nature, in her own inimitable way, has presented us on several occasions with the very wet and unpleasant, but mostly very wet, task of crossing the river, or rather the wide and turbulent torrent which divides San Wai camp in two. As usual, the Pioneers have risen to these occasions, complaints from passengers have been few and on only two occasions did the captain fail to bring his vessel into harbour in accordance with the timetable.

Two major exercises were scheduled for September but bad weather interfered with both. The first, a Landforce exercise "Quick March," was designed to study the withdrawal, with particular emphasis on movement. Hardly had troops begun to leave camp when a tropical downpour started which was to get steadily worse as each moment went by. Despite intensive rain and cold winds, the exercise continued for 24 hours, and many soldiers will remember them as the wettest and most uncomfortable they have ever spent.

The Battalion was represented by Battalion H.Q., "A" and "C" Companies and a skeleton "H.Q." Company. The task of the Battalion was to protect the left flank of the division, which meant "A" and "C" Companies deploying over a wide front on some very exposed heights. Throughout the rain-swept day, patrols and minor skirmishes with the enemy helped the riflemen to forget their misery. Sgt. Beale of "A" Company did well in capturing two truly soused enemy, who had been given the task of killing the O.C.

That night, stumbling in inky blackness down precipitous slopes, the Battalion withdrew to what it thought would be comparative comfort. This was not to be, for a well-meaning but unrealistic Staff had arranged for the Brigade to embuss in a diminutive car park where 3-ton lorries, without canopies, were inextricably mixed together. Marching troops were kept standing in the torrential rain for a long time, but undaunted they kept their spirits up singing "I Do Like To Be Beside the Seaside" and "Singing in the Rain." Meanwhile the Adj. struggled valiantly and at last achieved order out of chaos. The exercise continued, as did the rain and the discomfort, which was slightly lessened with a very welcome rum issue. The next morning brought no abatement in the weather and so "Quick March" was very wisely halted and we returned to camp, only to find that the river was in spate and once again we had to wade across.

The following week there was to have been a Brigade manning exercise but once again torrential rain interfered and it had to be postponed.

Officer training has continued throughout the quarter with study days, T.E.W.T.s and demonstrations. Towards the end of August the Battalion undertook the preparation of the study of "The Attack" for the Staff College candidates. This entailed much hard work on the part of Majors Ayre, Battye and Waller, who produced a most intensive and instructive series of lectures, cloth model demonstrations and discussions.

From the end of September the Battalion has drilled and drilled and drilled. Twice each week we have assembled at "Wellington Barracks" (the Rugby field), marched down "Birdcage Walk" past "Buckingham Palace" (the Guard Room) and so on via "The Mall" to the "Horse Guards" (once again the Rugby field) where, by dint of much sweaty effort, we are beginning to acquire a steadiness which we hope will do us credit in London.

From the foregoing paragraphs it must be clear that life during the last three months has been full and varied. This is not by any means the whole story, for in September the Battalion conducted its annual classification (a full report of this will appear later under a separate heading). In addition, there have been the annual P.E. tests and education on a larger scale than ever before. In the last third class certificate examination there were no less than 50 successes, practically entirely N.S. men from "C" Company, and we are now awaiting the outcome of a further examination for which 40 N.S. men from "A" Company sat. Finally, in order to forestall any attempt of being called "Funnel Happy" (the expression "Boat Happy" is no longer



in vogue) each Company has been given a special C.O.'s task:

"A" Company, the making of a Regimental crest on Cap Badge Hill.

"C" Company, the erecting of a perimeter wire fence for the newly-formed mule lines.

"D" Company, the completion of the tactical wiring on Birds Hill.

"S" Company, the provision of a guard of honour for the Commander of the Portuguese Forces.

The Regimental badge which will take its place on the hill overlooking San Wai Camp was designed by Pte. Pragnell of Support Company. Alongside it are those of the Argylls and 27 Infantry Brigade, while



## Shooting

The Battalion has made good progress in shooting this quarter. "A" Company have shown themselves to be consistently ahead of the rest of the Battalion as the results of the monthly .22 competition, the annual classification and the Albuhera rifle meeting will readily show.

During the early summer the Royal Ulster Rifles won the Brigade .22 competition each month at their sheltered range in Tau Pass. Rumour had it that their success was due entirely to their wonderful "match" rifles which had been presented to the Battalion by their officers. In spite of this alleged advantage "A" Company were determined to wrest this superiority from the Ulsters and, to this end, vigorous training started under the direction of 2/Lt. Pollard, assisted by Sgt. Da Costa. Almost immediately success crowned their efforts for their "B" team won the competition both in August and September. They are now anxiously

awaiting the outcome of the October competition with high hopes that they will accomplish the hat trick. Monthly scores since the inception of the Brigade competition are shown below:

	"A"	"B"	"C"	"D"	"S"	"H.Q."
Team: 1	2	1	2	1	2	1
April	305	341	178	188	364	311
May	357	309	251	210	337	331
June	278	222	—	—	289	268
July	299	355	—	—	306	221
August	384	399	—	—	342	255
Sept.	410	452	—	—	358	398

Scores marked with an asterisk indicate the highest scores within the Brigade for that month.

The weather, as already reported, was far from kind in September when the Battalion fired its annual classification course. Each Company in turn had to contend with lashing rain which not only obscured visibility but often washed away the target faces. Nevertheless the results were not disappointing and compare very favourably with last year.

Company.	1952 RIFLE RESULTS				Fail	Total
	Marksman	1st Class	2nd Class	Reg. N.S.		
"A"	5	3	20	38	6	11
"B"	—	—	3	1	—	—
"C"	10	3	20	42	—	9
"D"	1	—	8	—	—	9
"H.Q."	4	1	51	23	36	32
"S"	2	3	26	31	12	16
Total	22	10	128	125	74	68

Company.	1952 L.M.G. RESULTS				Fail	Total
	Marksman	1st Class	2nd Class	Reg. N.S.		
"A"	14	19	10	30	5	4
"B"	—	—	1	1	—	—
"C"	9	6	9	43	4	8
"D"	1	—	2	—	—	—
"H.Q."	5	1	42	16	80	37
"S"	3	6	9	10	29	10
Total	32	32	73	100	121	68

Under excellent conditions the Battalion's annual rifle meeting took place at San Wai on September 26.

In addition to the official competitions and pool bowls, a fun fair, at which officers and men matched their skill at .22 shooting, proved a great success. This, together with an excellent concert by the Band during the luncheon interval, helped to give the whole scene a happy, carefree atmosphere. Much credit is due to the hardwork and efficient organisation of Major Ayre and his committee for the smooth running of the meeting.

Competition ran high and it was not until the pen-

ultimate practice that it became evident that "A" Company would win the Shooting Shield.

Sgt. Smallwood of "D" Company shot consistently well to win the Unicorn Cup as the best rifle shot in the Battalion. In addition he won two silver medals and a bronze medal. Individual results were:

Application and Snap	300 yds.	Sgt. Smallwood	"D" Company
Bren	300 "	2/Lts. Collins and Pollard	"A" "
Rapid Application	300 "	C/Sgt. Cranfield	"H.Q." "
	400 "	Sgt. Smallwood	"D" "

Practice No. 1: RIFLE FALLING PLATES (200 yds.)			
	Company	Points	Team
1.	"C"	142	C.Q.M.S. Corner, Cpl. Card, Pte. Purdon, L/Cpl. Milligan, Pte. Webb, Lt. Milward.
2.	"A"	123	
3.	"H.Q." (1)	112	
4.	"H.Q." (2)	109	
5.	"S"	100	

Practice No. 2: RIFLE APPLICATION AND SNAP (200 yds.)			
	Company	Points	Team
1.	"S"	187	Sgt. Deamer, Ptes. Hearn, Barker Corsini, Oldfield, Pragnall.
2.	"A"	181	
3.	"C"	172	
4.	"H.Q." (2)	168	
5.	"H.Q." (1)	155	

Practice No. 3: BREN L.M.G. (300 yds.) (Plates and 4-ft. targets)			
	Company	Points	Team
1.	"A"	266	2/Lt. Pollard, Sgts. Da Costa, Small, Beale, C.S.M. Cooper, Cpl. Millard, Pte. Eames
2.	"C"	224	
3.	"S"	221	
4.	"H.Q." (1)	145	
5.	"H.Q." (2)	114	

Practice No. 4: RIFLE RAPID (300 yds.)		
	Company	Points
1.	"H.Q." (2)	123
		C.Q.M.S.s Dutch, Cranfield, Sgts Harris, Ramsdale, Cpl. James Pte. Brumpton.
2.	"A"	122
3.	"C"	109
4.	"S"	104
5.	"H.Q." (1)	99

Practice No. 5: RIFLE APPLICATION (400 yds.)			
	Company	Points	Team
1.	"H.Q." (1)	100	Sgt. Leat, Ptes. Orme, Ward, Crittendon, Evans, Cpl. Rawlin- son
2.	"A"	92	
3.	"H.Q." (2)	91	
4.	"S"	81	
5.	"C"	78	

Practice No. 6: RIFLE APPLICATION AND RAPID (400 yds.)			
	Company	Points	Team
1.	"C"	120	L/Cpl. Kerr, Ptes. Rundle, Mitchell, Bentley, Cox, Mincher.
2.	"H.Q." (1)	118	
3.	"H.Q." (2)	117	
4.	"A"	112	
5.	"S"	83	

Company	Points
1. "A"	896
2. "C"	845
3. "H.Q." (1)	779
4. "S"	776
5. "H.Q." (2)	772

As usual, the Sergeants' Mess team had no difficulty in conclusively beating the officers!

At the conclusion of the meeting Brigadier W. E. Stirling, C.B.E., D.S.O., the new Brigade Commander, presented the prizes.



"A" COMPANY SHOOTING TEAM, SEPTEMBER, 1952

From left to right: Back row: Ptes. Wood, Brookes, Hoad, Dossett, Pedlar, Sothern, Stanley, Poole.  
Middle row: Pte. Partridge, Sgt. Small, Sgt. Beale, 2/Lt. Pollard, 2/Lt. Collins, C.S.M. Cooper, Sgt. Da Costa, Pte. Crawley.  
Front row: Ptes. Rushbrook, Sharp.



# Sport



Once again there is little to report in the field of sport this quarter, as the Hong Kong sporting season does not start until next month. Company games, however, have continued throughout the summer.

## Football

Football is undoubtedly the soldiers' game and you may be sure that whenever they get the opportunity they will be found "kicking about."

Although the football season is yet to start, there has been no abatement in keenness throughout the summer. Each Company has held its own inter-platoon competition, with the standard of play consistently high. In addition, there have been a seven-a-side knock-out competition and a Company league. "A" Company (No. 2 Platoon) won the seven-a-side and are well to the front in the Company league. The following Company matches have been played:

"A" v. "H.Q."	4-3
"A" v. "C"	3-2
"A" v. "D"	8-0
"A" v. "S"	5-1
"H.Q." v. "D"	5-3
"H.Q." v. "C"	2-1
"C" v. "S"	5-2
"C" v. "D"	2-0

The Battalion team, which changes its structure each game by way of experiment, has been built round that veritable tower of strength, C/Sgt. Cranfield, now on the advance party. Although it has lost a number of the matches it has played, it is hoped that the combination of youth and experience which is in the process of being built up, will carry the team to the top of the ladder when we get to Austria.

The Battalion team has been formed from C/Sgt. Cranfield, Sgt. Da Costa, Sgt. Leat, L/Cpl. Freeman, Ptes. Brown 09, Brown 10, Tattersall, Hardy, Milton, Colston, Cocks, Harding, Wright 10, Shepherd, Moore, Adamson, Smith 24, Webb and Cfmn. Carlisle. C/Sgt. Burgess has proved to be one of the fairest and most discerning referees the Battalion has had.

## MATCHES PLAYED

1st Middlesex v. 1st K.O.S.B.	1-4
1st Middlesex v. 1st R.U.R.	0-2
1st Middlesex v. 1st Wilts	2-1
1st Middlesex v. Hong Kong Regiment	3-1
1st Middlesex v. Hong Kong F.C.	2-3

The last match was played at Happy Valley on October 21 against the Hong Kong Football Club. This is an annual competition for the "Old Comrades Cup," which was inaugurated after the war to cement the bonds of friendship between the club and the Regiment. After a very fast and interesting game, players, spectators, drivers and the Corps of Drums (who had performed during the interval) were entertained to a lavish supper, a fitting finale to our soccer efforts in Hong Kong this year.

## Rugby

We are faced with what appears to be a great handicap, for, apart from a rugby season which will have to be played in three different countries and on both sides of the world, our strength is very much depleted. The loss of Lt. H. Evans and Ptes. Snow and Moss meant finding replacements in the team, for which we were prepared. However, it was not foreseen that Capt. A. N. Jordan and Lt. S. H. Fothergill would land themselves in hospital, the latter unfortunately to such an extent that he will be lost to us for the season.

Companies were quick to answer the call and there were soon over 50 names on paper. On September 19 a Battalion trial game was held from which eight names were put forward for the Brigade trial on September 23. In actual fact, several others besides those put forward played in this trial, but only Capt. G. C. D. Wheeler and 2/Lt. J. S. B. Pollard went forward to the Army trial on October 4. At this time Capt. C. N. Clayden and Lt. W. M. M. Deacock were fully occupied in trials for the colony team which was to play against Oxford University team on October 8. They not only gained their places in the team but both played an excellent game in a somewhat one-sided match. They are now playing for the Army, with Capt. Clayden captaining the side.

Training is still going on in the evenings and we have played two friendly games against 1st R.U.R. and the R.A.O.C. from 6 C.O.D. The former we won 11-0. Lt. W. I. Kyle Milward scoring two tries and Capt. G. Mason converting and kicking a penalty goal. The latter we drew 3-3, Capt. B. K. Clayden kicking a good penalty goal for us. We have one more game to play before leaving, the first round of the inter-unit knock-out against 1st Wilts on October 30.

It will be a great pleasure to wade knee-deep in mud again as opposed to bouncing off this rock-hard surface and, with the advent of a large number of officers and men on our arrival in England, we look forward to an excellent season both at home and in Austria.

## Cricket

In spite of certain qualms about the weather we have played cricket throughout the summer this year and have been fortunate in having only one game rained off.

In the only Battalion match played, we defeated H.M.S. Unicorn by six wickets in spite of a very hot summer's day. Lts. Legge and Woolcombe were the mainstay of our batting and Ptes. Wright and Parry bowled very well.

In the inter-Company knock-out competition, "C" Company lost to "H.Q." in the first round, but put up a very good show against a team which is comprised mainly of Battalion players. In the semi-final "H.Q." Company beat "A" Company easily, the latter being unable to find an answer to the magnificent village cricket of C/Sgt. Cranfield, who hit three sixes during his innings.

In their other semi-final "D" Company defeated Support in a really thrilling match, the game being in the balance until the last over.

In the final, "H.Q." and "D" Companies drew and the match has yet to be replayed. "H.Q." Company are a very fine all-round side, with Capt. C. N. and B. K. Clayden, Lts. Legge and Woolcombe providing the batting strength and Ptes. Wright and Massey both useful bowlers. "D" Company have been unlucky in losing half their team on draft to Korea and had to rebuild their XI for the final. They are a very keen team and have a useful all-rounder in Fus. Cox. "H.Q." Company had a slight advantage at the end of the drawn final, but the replay is anybody's game.

Both Lts. Woolcombe and Fus. Cox have played for the Army XI this season.

Results were as follows:

Battalion XI v. H.M.S. Unicorn: H.M.S. Unicorn, 95 for 8 dec.; 1st Middlesex, 113 for 4 (Lt. Legge, 56).  
 "C" Company v. "H.Q." Company: "C" Company, 74; "H.Q." Company, 104.  
 "D" Company v. "S" Company: "D" Company, 85 for 8; "S" Company, 84.  
 "A" Company v. "H.Q." Company: "A" Company, 40; "H.Q." Company, 126.  
 "H.Q." Company v. "D" Company (drawn): "H.Q." Company, 130; "D" Company, 82 for 8. In the replay "D" Company beat "H.Q." Company by 46 runs.

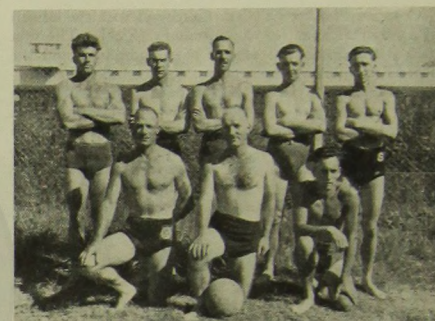
## Swimming and Water Polo

On the conclusion of the inter-Company swimming competition in July, a team of 20 started training, under C.S.M. Tarrant and Drum-Major Holford, for the Landforces championship. The lack of a nearby swimming pool, with the result that most of the training was carried out in salt water, placed the team at a severe disadvantage and was largely responsible for its failure to get a higher placing than sixth.

It was a different story with the water polo team, who have had a great number of successes this season. They reached the final easily and were most unlucky to lose by one goal, after extra time, to the R.A.S.C.

The Battalion team consisted of: C/Sgt. Corner, C.S.M. Tarrant, Drum-Major Holford, Sgt. Small, L/Cpl. Wheeler, Cfn. Shepherd, L/Cpl. Worley and C.S.M. Thom.

C.S.M. Tarrant and Drum Major Holford were chosen to play for the Army water polo team, for whom they have played throughout the season.



**Battalion Water Polo Team, 1952**

Back row: Sgt. Small, C/Sgt. Corner, C.S.M. Tarrant, L/Cpl. Whatley, L/Cpl. Shepherd.  
 Front row: Drum Major Holford, C.S.M. Thorn, L/Cpl. Wheeler.



**Battalion Basket Ball Team, 1952**

Back row: L/Cpl. Stevens, Pte. Shepherd, Bds. Ingram, Bds. Dawson, Pte. Harmer, L/Cpl. Yerby, Pte. Woodward.

Front row: Boy Torrie, Pte. Cuzzie, Sgt. Da Costa, Pte. Johns (absent, Capt. C. N. Clayden).

## Basket Ball

Since the last issue the Battalion team has gone through a number of changes. Old members have left the team and fresh talent has been found to fill their place. We are at the moment taking part in the second Nine Dragons Club competition this year and are about to play in the semi-finals. We beat H.Q. 35 Infantry Brigade 36-26, Amphibious Observation Troop R.A. 36-4 and 7 R.T.R. 42-6 in the first three rounds respectively, and we should go on to win the competition easily. We are also taking part in the Landforces knock-out and have beaten 4 "O." Division Provost Company 33-12 in the first round. Unfortunately time will allow us only to finish the semi-finals and we hope the Dorsets will go on to win the competition in our place.



Company basket ball has flourished with the advent of a double league for the Albuhera Shield. The first half of the league has almost been completed and the other half will be played off at Warley and Zeltweg.

It is hard to say what the future of basket ball will be in our new station. We shall have a gymnasium to look forward to and numerous hangar strips on which to mark pitches. Fixtures may not be so plentiful as in Hong Kong where every village has its basket ball



## Entertainment

The Band and Drums have undoubtedly reached a higher standard of musical efficiency and ceremonial showmanship than has been known for many years. Their programmes have been full and varied and they have provided much enjoyment not only to the Regiment but also to a vast host of other military and civilian admirers.

Under the indefatigable leadership of Mr. Jackson the Band has given us a series of Thursday evening concerts which have been much appreciated by the men. In particular their fine efforts in playing to "C" Company on Cloudy Hill and to "A" Company on the foreshore at Tai Lam will long be remembered.

In addition, there have been an unrelenting number of Service engagements, farewell parties and two excellent broadcasts from Radio Hong Kong. But by far the most enjoyable and memorable was the August concert by the combined Bands of the Middlesex Regiment and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders given in aid of both Regimental Association Benevolent Funds. An unprecedented large audience gathered at the Kowloon Cricket Club where they were delighted by a well-chosen programme of marches, overtures and solos. The concert ended superbly with Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, the battle scene being excellently

pitch, but if the keenness which has been shown this last year is maintained, there is no doubt that we shall prove a match for any team that the B.T.A. or the Austrian population can produce.

(Since these notes were received information has been received that the Battalion team has won the 27th Brigade Championship in Nine Dragons Championship and has reached the second round of the Army Championship.—Ed.)

illustrated with a profusion of fireworks and sound effects.

In spite of a steady trickle of departing drummers the Corps of Drums have maintained their numbers at 24. Under the leadership of Drum-Major Holford they have gained an excellent reputation throughout Hong Kong. At present they are practising daily for the exacting role they will have to play on our return to London. The silver bugles have arrived and are being "blown in."

On September 30 the officers gave a farewell cocktail party which was attended by Service and civilian chiefs and some 200 guests. The custom in past years had decreed that such parties be given in Hong Kong. This year a most successful break with tradition produced an outstanding open air event in the New Territories. The party took place at the golf club in Fanling, where green fairways and high mountains provided an ideal background and gave our friends from across the water the opportunity of seeing us in our natural surroundings. When darkness had fallen the Band and Drums, illuminated by searchlights, beat Retreat on the fairway facing the club. The evening hymn, followed by "Auld Lang Syne," brought a very memorable performance to a fitting finish and will be remembered long after we have left Hong Kong.

On Sunday, October 6, the Battalion entertained 100 members of the Hong Kong Regiment, together with their families, at San Wai. The whole afternoon was taken up with sporting events which included tug-of-war, hockey, football, basket ball and shooting. At the end of the programme, Col. Gwyn presented Col. Baily with a silver cup in token of the friendship which exists between the two regiments. Supper followed in the main dining room and the day ended with the Band and Drums beating Retreat.

The W.O.s and sergeants gave their farewell dance on October 18 at the Kowloon Cricket Club. It was highly successful and enjoyed by a large number of guests, including the local Press, which produced the following next morning (Drum-Major Holford's remarks are not available):

"Three hundred people were present. The hall of the Club was decorated with the Colours of the Regiment, and on display was the Regiment's silver, including the Victoria Cross won at Albuhera, and a large wooden spoon presented to the Regiment by the Royal Hong Kong Regiment.

"The dance, a formal affair, was preceded by the Beating of Retreat on the cricket ground. The Pipes and



BEATING RETREAT ON THE RUGBY FIELD

Drums of the Regiment were in attendance, the Band-master being Mr. F. A. Jackson. Drum-Major C. Holford 'led' the Retreat.

"Cocktails and buffet followed, after which the dance began.

One can only presume that the reporter, like the guests, stayed on into the early hours of the morning, thereby confusing Gen. Beresford with Queen Victoria.

The Corporals' Club are due to hold their farewell dance, also at the Kowloon Cricket Club, on November 1 and one can hardly wait for the ensuing Press report which will undoubtedly present us with a few more anachronisms and well-meaning *faux pas*.

An out-of-the-blue signal from H.M.S. *Unicorn* announcing her arrival in Hong Kong on October 25 put the Battalion into a flutter. However, with commendable efficiency, an afternoon of sport was arranged for the Saturday at San Wai, and on Sunday evening the Band and Drums beat Retreat on the flight deck of the carrier. Of all the many places at which we have beaten Retreat this setting was undoubtedly the finest and provided a fitting farewell to our two years of close relationship which we hope to further in the future.

## The Wives' Club

The morning of our bathing picnic dawned unpleasantly wet and misty. However, undaunted, we assembled at the Star Ferry as planned, and were rewarded by bright sunshine arriving at the same moment as the regimental bus. It turned out to be an

ideal day with Silver Strand beach to ourselves, a warm sea and plenty of sun. The children, immediately and enthusiastically, proved to have a very much higher degree of aquatic skill than their mothers, but whether sun bathing or sea bathing was the choice, conditions were perfect.

Another interesting meeting was held at the Naafi when Madame de Breuil came to lecture to us about making soft toys. It all sounded delightfully simple as described by Madame, and the clowns and Humpty Dumpties produced by her from odd scraps of material had undoubted appeal. One or two of our members have since been inspired to solve the Christmas present problem for small nephews and nieces by following her precepts, but it must be admitted that most of us have been content only to admire.

Despite the irritating habit the authorities have of arranging army exercises on the same dates as our social evenings, two successful whist drives have been held, well attended by husbands and friends. We are indebted to the manager of the Chatham Road Naafi for his unfailing help and kindness in making a room available for all our meetings.

We shall lose our treasurer, Mrs. Weller, on our return to England, and she is therefore fully occupied in auditing our accounts, translating them into pounds sterling, and hazarding a guess at the results in Austrian schillings!

Our next meeting will be aboard the *Empire Fovey*, homeward bound at last, and so it cannot fail to be a happy one for us all.





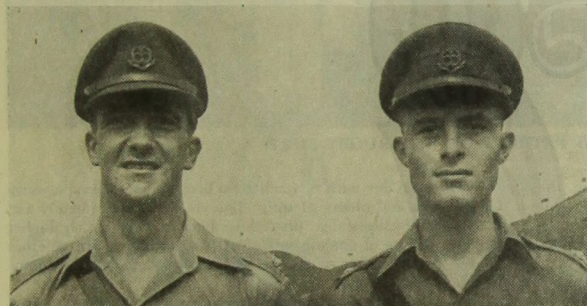
**We Salute**



Capt. Leonard for his excellent Pay Course result.



Bandmaster Jackson for his willingness to perform everywhere and anywhere.



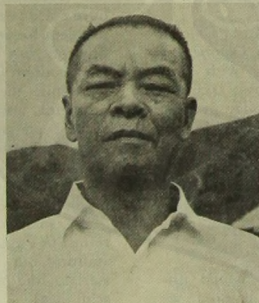
2/Lt. Pollard and 2/Lt. Collins for showing the Battalion how to shoot with a Bren gun.



Sgt. Dive for building us a permanent house at Sandy Ridge.



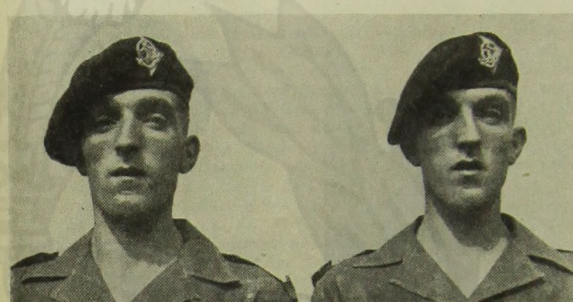
L/Cpl. Milligan for the best National Service results at the Battalion Rifle Meeting.



Mak Kan, No. 1 Sergeants' Mess Boy, for eight years' unswerving loyalty to the Regiment.



Armourer Sgt. Harris for his prowess with the rifle and for his deft hammer blows.



"C" Company's twins, Ptes. Peet, for providing so much amusement and good humour in their Company.



Sgt. Smallwood for being the Battalion's best rifle shot.



Cpl. Fields for his excellent field constructions at Tai Lam.



Sgt. Beale, L/Cpl. Yeames, Pte. Stanley, Pte. Partridge for being the best guard in the Far East.



"A" Company's twins, Ptes. Brown, for their successes on the football field and the Brigade .22 competition.



Sgt. Moyse for the keenness and enthusiasm with which he keeps anti-tank gunnery to the forefront.





Pte. Robins for his financial wizardry in keeping "C" Company out of debt.



Pte. Heaffey for standing by the Officers' Mess through thick and thin.



C.S.M. Budden for the consistently high standard of drill in Support Company.



## Personality Parade



Despite the nearness of our return, 70 of our ranks have left us for release in the last three months. In all, some 70 officers and 2,000 other ranks have passed through the Battalion during the last three and a half years.

We were delighted to have O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron back with us. His cheerful good humour and quiet efficiency soon returned the Orderly Room to its proper level. This is the third occasion on which he has served in Hong Kong and it is more than fitting that he has been selected with the Drum Major and Cpls. Field and Hazelwood to unveil the memorial plaque after its dedication in St. John's Cathedral on Sunday, November 2.

Returning with the Battalion will be W.O.2 Butcher, whose educational successes are a byword in the colony. In the 16 months since our return from Korea he has obtained the following results:

Forces Preliminary	6
First Class	12 complete and 9 part passes
Second Class	66
Third Class	450

with the prospect of 20 more 2nd Class and 30 more 3rd Class, who are due to sit for their examinations on the voyage home.

Not so lucky are Padre "Guz" Jones, Capt. John Stevens, the M.O. (better known as "Calamine Joe") and C.S.M.I. Sowman, who are to remain behind to carry on their good works in the colony. We shall also miss Pte. Jackson, our oldest soldier, who has elected to stay behind as he considers that his many years' service in the East has quite unfitted him for the rigours of an English winter. "C" Company nearly lost their Sgt. Simmonds, who had been loaned to the Divisional Battle School as an instructor on a course for junior leaders. So well did he instruct that the battle school,

in a somewhat arbitrary manner, kept him for the next course; they had to be disillusioned.

In August we said goodbye to Brigadier Burke, our old commander, and greeted in his place Brigadier W. E. Stirling, C.B.E., D.S.O. On September 23 the Commander-in-Chief Far East Land Forces, Lt.-Gen. Sir Charles Keightley, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., paid his third visit to the Battalion, when he saw it both drilling and shooting. He was much impressed by the guard provided by "A" Company, which he said was the smartest he had seen in the Far East.

On October 14 the Director of Recruiting, Maj.-Gen. J. R. Whitfield, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., visited the Battalion to discuss the present-day problems affecting recruitment. It was explained to him that psychologically neither time nor place was ideal for encouraging the N.S. men to sign on now in Hong Kong. However, the ground was being prepared for a gigantic drive after Christmas when conditions would be more favourable.

We are glad to report the following re-engagements:

"A" Company: C.S.M. Cooper, C/Sgt. Burgess, Sgt. Da Costa and Pte. Haire.

"S" Company: Sgts. Thorogood, Dive and Walter and Cpl. Gibbs.

"H.Q." Company: Cpls. Taylor, Mead and W. Rawlinson and Ptes. Durrant, Stannard, Pritchard, Crittenden and Goulding.

Hong Kong is agog with excitement in anticipation of the visit of H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent. Because of our imminent departure we are not taking part in any of the military functions arranged for her other than the Beating of Retreat by the Band and Drums on the racecourse on October 29.

## Tail-piece

The following three letters have just been received. Perhaps they are an attempt to revive the old style.

Dear Editor,

A couple of years ago I was one of three people in my Company who was sent, in answer to a request by the Adjutant, to the Signal Platoon. Since then I have been introduced to the mysteries of wireless and telephone, carried gigantic loads of valuable equipment up precipitous hills, dangled from telegraph poles and laid out mile upon mile of wire (with the certain knowledge of having to reel it all in again). All these jobs have become second nature to me. What I did not realise when I entered this strange life was the amazing spirit of cheerfulness which has always been alive in the Signal Platoon. In spite of numerous duties which we have performed (such as permanent fatigue party for "H.Q." Company!) we still manage to keep looking on the brighter side of life.

Like the rest of the Battalion, we have our change of faces. Last quarter we saw a number of old familiar faces turned all too eagerly homewards. Two of them we shall meet again when we arrive at Warley Barracks—Moss and Ellis—both of whom somehow managed to pull the wool over somebody's eyes in order to persuade the authorities that they preferred the *Empire Orwell* to the *Empire Fowey*. I need not say, of course, that both are very keen members of the platoon.

Ever since Mr. Evans taught us to play Rugby, we have produced a very capable XV. We have lost a few of last year's stalwarts, but there is much talent still with us. So far this year we have not had much chance of showing our form, but the team is straining at the leash for an opportunity of repeating last year's victories, when we beat Company teams from "S" and "C" Companies. Pte. Briggs is making himself felt in more ways than one in the Battalion 1st XV this season and Cpl. Mead is only just off the edge of the team and waits impatiently on the touchline hoping against hope that someone will be unable to play at the last minute so that he can fill the gap.

Rugby is not our only game. We have a strong football team, including the Battalion goalie, Pte. Colston. We were able to make our mark against "A", "B" and "S" Companies by scoring more goals than our numbers might suggest. We also staged our own international match against the Argyll Signal Platoon and we put it across them decisively 3—1 in a very exciting game.

Our team has suffered some severe blows with the loss of inside-left Cpl. Coles, centre-forward Cpl. Dunston, centre-half Pte. Hardy, goalie Pte. Moss and right-winger Pte. Bond (Royal Norfolks), who has left us for the "promised land of Korea." I hope they will continue to show their worth at football wherever they may go.

The long-awaited promotion of Pte. Jenkins to lance-corporal has at last materialised and his keenness has finally been recognised. We all wish him luck and hope that he follows in the footsteps of Cpl. Mead, whose arduous duties of Company Orderly Sergeant have failed to deprive him of his good spirits. We take off our hats to L/Cpl. Pritchard for holding so many ranks in such a short time!

The D.R. Section, under its able leader "Split Waterman"—correction, L/Cpl. Besant—always maintains its reputation for prompt delivery of top secret documents and morning papers, even though its members suffer occasionally from colds in the chest and broken legs. The remains of their bikes always seem to be able to perform fast enough to break records into Kowloon, not to mention speed limits.

We said farewell to Mr. Evans with much regret, as he showed us the way all through our stay in Korea. However, the platoon maintains its past reputation of efficiency and smartness under the watchful eye of Mr. Woolcombe, whose ability at cricket needs few words from me. We were glad to see that he was selected to play for the Combined Services against the "Aussies." Since his arrival we have been delving even deeper into the multitudinous aspects of signals by learning the Morse code and how to send it over the air, and we are slowly grasping the reasons why a wireless set works by learning some wireless theory—interesting, but most mystifying.

Those of us who find ourselves operating the exchange have found recently that it is essential to keep all our kit at least 4 ft. above the floor because our river has developed a habit of paying us social calls in the middle of the night. Three times in the last six weeks we have



been flooded, but, I am glad to say, the exchange has never ceased operating. It was interesting to watch the Platoon Commander's office files go floating down the road towards the Yellow Sea.

This letter must end now, although I have found it impossible to touch on everything that goes on in our little community. Next time I write there will be no "click clock" of Chinese feet and singsong voice to act as an accompaniment to my thoughts, but perhaps the more homely honk-honk of a London taxi or even an Austrian yodel echoing across the Tyrol will prove a satisfactory substitute.

So till next time,

Yours ever,

"FUNNYBONE CHARLIE."

Dear Editor,

The "Die-Hards" are so tiny, so poor, so pitifully handicapped and yet so bold in their meagreness. Not one of them has had anything that might be called a chance. Their few years (here) have been spent in kennels and closes, always hungry and hunted, with none to care for them. Their ears have been habituated to every coarseness, their minds filled with the desperate shifts of living. . . . Their Band is evidently in session, for it is sitting in a circle, deep in talk! . . . and yet what a heavenly spark was in them.

Buchan might have written "Fairyland" instead of "Haunting Tower."

Academically yours,

"FAUCUS" (Mechanical Transport).

Sir,

At the time of writing we are a much depleted Company. The big reorganisation took quite a number and since there has been quite a steady flow out. This we hope to remedy back home. Courses and the advance party have further weakened the Company; despite this we still carry out a heavy and varied programme, the story of which I will let the platoons tell.

July we spent in the "Hill Station" far from the maddening crowd. Don't ever believe "There's gold in them there hills"; we ought to know! The view and routine were varied by swooping hills.

Later came annual classification. It went swimmingly! We now have a number of qualified "Frogmen." Members of the butt party were wildly enthusiastic and made a gala affair out of it, flag waving. At last a rival to Naafi tea has been found—ask a certain W.O.2 who was firing his course with our Company.

Congratulations to the following on their marksmanship:

Rifle: L/Cpl. Galvin and Ptes. Armstrong, Barker, Grainger and Oldfield.

L.M.G.: L/Cpl. Shepherd and Ptes. Berrill, Laing, Corsini, Edwards, Wright, Townsend, Jenner and Foad.

Hard luck, "Dismal"!

Many have gazed at the Pyramids and marvelled. Come East, young man. De Lesseps may have built the Suez Canal but Sgt. Dive built "The Nissen Hut."

There it stands, a monument to the enterprise and endeavour of the Assault Pioneer Platoon—Ptes. Jenner, Skippon, Armstrong and Balaam, with the able assistance of half a dozen Royal Norfolks and Royal Fusiliers. Let me tell you, like Rome, it wasn't built in a day.

Much has been said of guided missiles, but have you heard of unguided missiles? Ask our most recent recipient of a decoration, none other than Sgt. Walters, M.B.E. (not Member of the British Empire). The award was made in the field.

The Mortar Platoon, since the return from Netheravon of their Platoon Commander, have spent lots of time on platoon and section training. Indeed, at one time, to speak to the platoon one had to use a 31 set. They suffered a great loss in the departure for civvy life of Sgt. Parker, Cpl. Whiteley and Cfmn. Crook, to whom they offer their best wishes.

The M.M.G. Platoon completed the annual A.R.A. shoot after ten days and nights gun-bumping. In those ten days they made up for the frustrations of previous weeks. Everyone who took part, including those behind the scenes, received the congratulations of the C.O. on the very high standard of gun drill and the very good score.

With exceptionally heavy rains this year river crossings by assault boat became very popular trips. Once again the Assault Pioneers rose to the occasion. Many were the wet, dark journeys but never a passenger lost, though once they did land on a treetop.

Sgt. Moyse and his Anti-Tank Platoon had a field day recently. The gun fired—yes, it did—and did not fall apart or blow up. The platoon suffered long in silence, but finally proved what they could do and did it very well, too. As this is being written the platoon is about to collect two more guns; they will then have one each. It is rumoured they threatened to become airborne and join the squadron. Sgt. Moyse started serious training, but had trouble sighting the air strip.

Time is getting very short now and we are frantically painting boxes, packing and labelling them. Quite a few members of the Company are of artistic mind. Kit bags blossomed forth into pretty designs. It was with great reluctance they were removed when they were politely told to "Remove those ruddy things or else." The latest-style winter woollies are the talk of the day, together with what or what not to buy as presents.

The Company are to provide the last guard of honour furnished by the Battalion before we leave, much to the delight of C.S.M. Budden who is lapping it up. Practice for this is now in full swing. With our depleted numbers the whole Company are on it or reserved for it. I have no doubt that they will maintain the high standard for which the Battalion and Company is noted.

Before closing this letter I would like, on behalf of the Company, to wish a speedy recovery to Sgt. Eastap and Pte. Robbins, at present in hospital. It is hoped they will travel home with us. To all our readers back home, best wishes. We'll be seeing you soon. Brrr! Put some coal on the fire!

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

"OLD TIMER" (sometimes ready to support you).



[U.S. Army Photograph]

British troops of the Middlesex Regiment in Korea move out to continue their drive as radio men relay the positions of the troops and of Communist-led North Korean targets

## Fireside Quiz or All For Love

1. (a) Who were the Nine Dragons?  
(b) Why did not any of them marry?
2. If you heard someone use the term "cumshaw" you would reply:  
(a) What's it to you?  
(b) Two's up?  
(c) I ain't got no yo-yo?
3. Why have you no yo-yo?
4. Who wrote the famous stanza:  
We've enjoyed all our stay in Hong Kong,  
It wasn't a moment too long,  
We'd like to return and sit down to learn  
How it came by its horrible scenery?
5. What should happen to the author?
6. What should happen to the stanza?
7. If you were offered the choice of being stranded in Wanchai with any one of the following persons, whom would you choose?  
(a) Adlai Stevenson.  
(b) Jane Russell.  
(c) Au Wai Lam.
8. Why?
9. How would you tell the difference between:  
(a) A flying saucer?  
(b) A flying dhobi?  
(c) The cool way in which your officers deal with unforeseen situations?
10. Which of them frightens you most?
11. What do you understand by the term "married pad"?
12. Then what do you understand?
13. You would expect to find a married pad in:  
(a) Camp at "Lights Out"?  
(b) The field at "Stand to"?  
(c) Civilian clothes at "No Parades"?
14. When the Drum Major throws his mace as he leads the Drums, you:  
(a) Think it's getting too heavy for him to hold?  
(b) Say "Ooh, isn't he clever"?  
(c) Hope he drops it?
15. If you were a sentry in the New Territories and you saw a coolie emerge from a paddy field with two heavy wooden buckets on his shoulder would you:  
(a) Search the buckets thoroughly?  
(b) Call the guard commander and create a stir?  
(c) Gulp?
16. Why does the British Army say "Hurrah" instead of "Hooray"?
17. If you know a little Hungarian, German or Austrian (preferably Austrian) write down their names and addresses:
18. What is wrong with the following sentence:  
"I want to go back to Hong Kong because I love climbing Bird's Hill so?"
19. Why have you answered all the questions untruthfully?

Scoring:

- (1 for Yes. 2 for No. 3 for Don't Know),  
75 or more. You would make a good husband.  
50—74 You have a keenly sensitive nature, a generous disposition and a mild manner. Would make a good sergeant-major.  
25—49 You've cheated.  
Below 25 You should apply straightaway for a commission.



# Depot Notes

Major P. D. H. Marshall took over command on August 18, 1952. He relieved Capt. A. D. C. Eales, who then was able to take some leave.

Capt. Moore has recently returned from a month's attachment to the Norwegian Army, where he acted as an observer for the first part of Exercise "Mainbrace" in Northern Norway and had a most enjoyable conducted tour of units throughout the country.

Major Heywood took his annual leave entitlement in September. Major Marsh very kindly came up and, with his experience of the Depot, was a great help to us all.

2/Lts. Ross and Blacktop, both N.S. officers, have recently passed through the Depot on their way to West Africa, while 2/Lt. McCallum has joined the Mauritian Guard Company.

2/Lts. Fisher, Lobb and Tymms will join the Battalion on arrival in the U.K. The two first named officers passed out from Sandhurst in July of this year.

Amongst those who have visited the Depot must be included Cols. Reid, Clayton and Del Court, Capt. Sax, Carter and Jeffcoat. The last-named leaves for the Australian Staff College this December.

Christ's College C.C.F. on October 5 held a Colour presentation parade in the barracks. The Colours were presented by Sir Hugh Lucas Tooth, M.P. The guests were afterwards entertained in the Officers' Mess. A fine day provided an ideal background for a most impressive parade. It was yet another example of the close liaison existing between the Regiment and its cadet units.

Our friends the Home Postal Depot Detachment, R.E., who are responsible for the training of Reservists, have recently had two Royal Naval Reserve detachments in the barracks. The presence of sailors certainly gave a welcome break to our normal routine and the soldiers quickly picked up such terms as "going ashore" and "liberty boats," although the No. 240 bus is not perhaps the most seaworthy of vessels.

The Depot congratulates Cpl. W. Lefevre on his marriage on August 30, 1952, to Miss J. M. Warner. Many of the N.C.O.s attended the wedding.

## TRAINING

Since the last edition of *The Die-Hards* the ninth and tenth intakes of recruits have passed through the Company. Despite an increasing shortage of instructors, the old faithfuls of the Company, Sgts. Bignell, Dodkins and Hanlon, aided by a varying number of corporals, have trained some 75 Regular soldiers and a similar number of N.S. men.

The recruiting efforts of the N.C.O.s received some recognition in the Press when the Regiment came second in the Army for Regular recruiting. However, our powers of persuasion are not yet exhausted and when

drafting direct from the Depot to the Battalion begins in the New Year we hope to increase our numbers.

We are now in the middle of our last six-week intake. On November 13 the 10 weeks' training begins. This involves training two intakes simultaneously (the six-weekly cycle continues) and drafting direct to the Battalion.

For this expansion we have been given back "A" Block and the whole of the Orderly Room. This means that, for the first time, there is a clear dividing line between the Depot and lodger units.

The Company gardening programme has proceeded steadily, the Platoon Sergeants vying with each other to acquire materials in preparation for sowing the lawns with grass seed this autumn. Sgt. Hanlon's trellis work has caused a good deal of speculation, but is now regarded as an enduring monument to the toil of recruits of Albuhera Platoon.

The introduction of parents days at the Depot is now accepted by all ranks as a necessary part of recruiting. Sgt. Bignell's paternal figure has done much to reassure anxious parents and the Company Commander has increased his stock of small talk enormously. Sgt. Hanlon has not yet succeeded in signing on a father for "Three and Four," but still lives in hope.

On August 8 the recruits gave a demonstration of rifle exercises and guard and sentry drill at the Hendon Borough Show. The rifle exercises were ably led by Cpl. Weller and the sentry drill controlled by Sgt. Bignell. Despite bad weather, the demonstration was agreed to be a success and reflected great credit on the tuition of the R.S.M. and N.C.O.s undertaken after normal parade hours.

The ninth intake of recruits passed out on August 13. The inspecting officer, Brigadier W. M. Sale, C.V.O., O.B.E., Chief of Staff, London District, complimented the recruits on their steadiness on parade.

On October 1 the tenth intake passed out and the inspecting officer was Lt.-Col. N. F. B. Shaw, D.S.O., O.B.E., G.S.O.1 Training, Eastern Command. A new development on this parade was that the officers carried swords, an innovation which has introduced sword drill under the R.S.M. to officers and a novel and intriguing spectacle to the recruits.

On September 17 the Company was honoured by the visit of Lt.-Gen. Sir George W. E. J. Erskine, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C., Eastern Command. Under the command of the R.S.M. the recruits put in an astonishing number of man hours, which were rewarded with all that he had seen.

The "El Boden" dance was held on September 27 and the recruits received their first introduction to an all ranks' dance after careful briefing by Sgt. Dodkins. A good crowd attended and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed.

In July Lt. G. G. Norton left the Company and the command devolved on Lt. R. M. Cain. 2/Lt. M. Wollocombe unexpectedly left us to join the 1st Battalion The Royal Fusiliers in Korea and 2/Lt. Laurence on completion of service. Cpls. Bird, Harwood and Potts have either returned to civilian life or are about to depart and that stalwart of the Company Office, L/Cpl. Steggall, has been released to the T.A. Our good wishes go with them all in their new spheres and we hope to meet them all again in the future.

We are happy to welcome back to the Company Capt. A. D. C. Eales after a long absence and both Lt. H. J. Evans and 2/Lt. H. D. Tymms on joining us. We also welcome C.Q.M.S. Taylor, Cpls. Nicholson and Schneider and L/Cpl. Broom.

## SPORTS

### Cricket

The following matches concluded the cricket season: Depot v. Army School of Education: R.A.E.C. 151, Depot 62.

Depot v. R.H.Q., Grenadier Guards: Depot 172 for 7, Grenadier Guards 117.

Depot v. 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E.: R.E.M.E. 128, Depot 37.

Depot v. The Queen's Royal Regiment: Queen's 84 for 5, Depot 76.

Throughout the season the Depot was handicapped by continual changes in the team, but those who must be mentioned include Major Heywood, C.S.M. Carruthers, Cpl. Marable and Pte. Musk.

### Football

We have entered the London District Mid-Week League this season and already have a nucleus upon which we hope to produce a reasonable team.

On September 14 we played a friendly game against a civilian club, the Highgate Rovers. It was a very evenly matched game, with the Depot just going down 5-4. On September 30 we played our first league fixture against the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. The School of Music had a very good side and we were hampered by having to stopgap our side. Sterling work was put in by L/Cpl. Walley and Cpls Brooks and Marable, but we lost 5-0 after a very hard game.

## REGIMENTAL MUSEUM NOTES

No great changes have taken place in the Museum since the last notes were published.

We are most grateful for the many further donations which are listed below:

From C/Sgt. Redpath

Specimens of post-war currency used by the British Army of Occupation in Holland, France, Belgium and Germany.

From Sgt. Drew

A North Korean flag.

From Mr. Smith (Museum Caretaker)

A German water-bottle, 1914-18.

A pair of German ersatz braces obtained in Cologne just after the 1914-18 war.

A German 100-mark note, pre-1914.

A French "communal" franc note issued by the Chamber of Commerce, Nancy. (These notes were negotiable only in or around the place of issue within narrow limits.)

Several other small items connected with World War I.

From Mrs. Hawkestraw

A drum belt-strap and two drum sticks.

From Mrs. Carmody

A case containing the medals of her late husband (Lt.-Col. English).

From the Wantage Urban District Council on permanent loan

An oil painting of Lt. Frederick Robertson Aikman, V.C., one time Honorary Colonel of the 4th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, later known as the 6th. Lt. Aikman was awarded the V.C. in the Indian Mutiny in 1858, when he commanded the 3rd Sikh Cavalry. (The picture and frame need considerable restoration.)

From the Middlesex County Council the following books

*The Die-Hards in the Great War*, Vol. I, 1914-16.

*With the Die-Hards in Siberia* (Col. Ward).

*The Story of the Middlesex Regiment* (Kingsford).

Also a number of copies of a pamphlet entitled "Our County Regiment."

From Mr. George H. E. Duffield

Seven photographs of Regimental interest.

From Lady King

The full-dress uniform, cocked hat and plumes of the late Col. Sir Edwin King, together with his photograph. From Capt. P. F. Wilberforce-Bell (late Royal Irish Fusiliers and the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment)

Two old Spanish maps of the Battle of Albuhera and a plan of the fortress of Badajoz. (These maps were formerly the property of Maj.-Gen. Sir Charles Doyle, who served under Wellington in the Peninsular campaign.)

In addition, some bound extracts from *The Navy and Army Illustrated*, around 1897, have been purchased.

We much regret that we apparently failed to acknowledge in these columns a full dress tunic, very kindly presented to the Regimental Museum last February, by Major M. R. W. Bruce. We also have to thank Capt. P. L. Pearce-Gould for being instrumental in securing this gift for us.

## Advertisements

Those firms who advertise in these pages support our magazine. Will our readers please support them in return?



## Golf

The Regimental Autumn Golf Meeting was again held at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, by courtesy of the Committee and members.

The weather was as near perfect as possible and when that is so there is no more delightful time of year for a meeting. Spring's pale glory may be entrancing, but courses are still apt to be in a process of recovering from winter, whilst players are over optimistic and get drenched and cold, misled by a nice-looking morning.

In the autumn the gold, brown and purple tones are rich and grand, courses have usually recovered from any drought, and misty, chilly mornings give way to sun and colour as the day goes on, but as the sun sinks, warmth, hospitality and food are very welcome.

It would appear from verbal remarks and letters we have received that the Fleet week-end has come to stay, at any rate until there is a Home Battalion, and anyhow the dates are booked for next year.

Although numbers were not as large as we had hoped, many of the absentees can be dismissed with a caution. The Colonel of the Regiment, from his letter, was about to be attacked by foot and mouth disease, and our latest information is that he fled from Wilts to Scotland and then to Ireland, presumably to escape the foot and mouth. Curiously enough, "Kipper Kemp" could not attend for a somewhat similar-sounding reason. We do not know whether to congratulate him or not because the Regimental Meeting coincided with the date for which he had won a National Health Service vacancy to a hospital for some sort of niblick work on or around his throat. We all hope he got in and got out and will not miss another Meeting.

Melvor decided to visit Scotland at this period—it was about time, because years of London and trips to Africa were playing merry hell with his accent and he needed a refresher if he was to pass muster in London Scottish circles.

There were others who dithered like schoolboys on the water's edge and who, having kept all arrangements pending, then dashed back and funkyed the plunge. We hope next year they will take the plunge early and help to make the meeting even more enjoyable.

We welcomed the appearance of several wives, sisters and daughters, particularly at the dinner, which was again a most enjoyable show.

Without attempting to discriminate we must just mention that Major and Mrs. Ellis, although he was injured and could not play, drove down to watch and dine. Then we had old Uncle Tom Wollo and all, bar one, for most of the meeting and we wish Martin all good luck for his tour to Korea. It was like old times to have Mrs. Worton there with us, and we were very pleased to meet Mrs. del Court and hope that she will be over here again very soon. Mrs. Jay must also be congratulated on making a first appearance and we are particularly glad that she should have had a chance to meet the types whom her husband has offered to let her entertain, with his assistance, next year.

The golf this year was intended to be a mixture of the Competition and Social. We regret that this did not suit everyone, but at least it produced one blood match

because, almost before the meeting had started, lusty youth in the guise of Ormiston (had 'flu recently) and Chattey (frightfully busy flashing about on W.O. business) challenged the decrepid Captain-elect Worton and the senile local member, Proctor. If I might misquote, the result was that "the boys went mad and bit the men, the boys it was who died."

There was some competition golf played, but we think it best to append the results with as few remarks as possible. It will be noted that Ormiston, very delicate and sick, won the scratch prize, and Guest—not content with winning the prize for the best Damsons and what-have-you in Gloucestershire—must needs walk off with the handicap cup.

The "Divot" was more interesting. "Stumps Green," the holder, and presenter therefore of the prize (six balls and good ones, blast you!) was paired with Philip Marshall. In Phillip he realised he had a Divoter of no mean potentiality and with remarkable skill he altered his tactics (and the type of ball to be won) and became winner of the second sweep. It just shows "you can't keep a good man down."

On Saturday most people played an afternoon round to prove that they were not as bad as their card showed, but that only filled in the time until dark, when we once more adjourned to Col. and Mrs. Weston's for cocktails and a lot more talk.

Dinner at the Club, with welcome steaks (!) and the Vice-Captain and Secretary as guests; after that the General Meeting of which the details are as follows:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. This took place after dinner, Col. G. L. Brown, D.S.O., the captain for the past year, being in the chair.

## Minutes:

1. Major J. R. B. Worton was elected Captain for the next year. Brigadier Proctor, Major Jay and the O.C. Depot were elected Committee members.
2. It was decided to hold the Spring Meeting at Hendon Golf Club as usual and the Autumn Meeting at North Hants Golf Club, if these Clubs were willing.
3. Major Jay's kind offer to hold a Cocktail Party for the Autumn Meeting was gratefully accepted.
4. Capt. R. E. Guest proposed that the Spring Meeting be a two-day meeting, but the feeling of the meeting was against this.
5. Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, asking for more organisation, proposed that the afternoon of the first day of the Autumn Meeting should be organised as a competition. This was agreed and the Committee were instructed to consider a suitable arrangement.
6. Votes of thanks were passed to Col. Weston for his hospitality and again asking the members to cocktails, to Lt.-Col. Green for presenting the "Die-Hards" Divot and to Brigadier Proctor for making the local arrangements for the meeting.
7. A vote of thanks was passed to the North Hants Committee and members for the use of the Club and to the staff for their co-operation.

October 5, 1952.

Dear Major,

Herewith 10s. subscription for the Journal. I am always interested in the Journal. I suppose I am one of the few 1892 Queen Victoria's soldiers. I gather that Bob Rosam is still going strong.

I give a brief outline of my life as a soldier. I was born in New Zealand in 1874. Father arrived here in 1860. Mother died 1875. Father 1884. I was left penniless and homeless. In 1892 I worked a passage to England.

Enlisted November 24, 1892.

2 years in Gibraltar—trained in Military Topography.

1 year in Aldershot—trained at the Military School of Engineering.

2 years in South Africa—trained in Mounted Infantry.

Promotion: Lance-Corporal 1893; Corporal 1895; Lance-Sergeant 1896; Sergeant 1898; Colour-Sergeant 1901.

Landed at Cannore (West Coast of India) 1898.

Transferred to Wellington, Nilgiri Hills 1899; married 1900.

Regiment moved to Trimulghery 1901.

Passed School of Musketry "D" in Bellary.

Regiment moved to Burma in 1904 till 1906; Labong 1907; Benares 1908.

In 1908 I was transferred to Indian Unattached List. Training of Volunteers. Pensioned in 1913. 33d. a day for life.

I joined Indian Ordnance Corps on discharge. Posted to Manufacture of Explosives. Services lent to Government in 1925 and Gazetted Civil Officer. Inspector of Explosives to Government of India. At 55 (age limit) I was retired. On retirement I served as assistant to the Secretary of Madras Race Club for 10 years. In 1939 I returned to New Zealand.

My health had given way so could not serve in the 1939 War. I have been in hospital twice and am still under constant treatment by my Medical Officer. My wife died last December.

I have a son in business in Karachi and a grandson a Pilot Officer in the R.A.F. and now in Canada.

Greetings to all,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. H. SAY.

16 Chilcome Street,  
Fendalton,  
Christchurch,  
New Zealand.

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

Sunday started wet. By the time all were assembled, however, it was fine and it got better and better.

Once more the results are appended and apart from being poor were unsatisfactory. The Cooper Cup was presented for a Stableford Competition and it has been played for many years, and only the recently-joined members should have any doubt about this, but, without going into the whole lurid details, the result was comic, since the cup was won by the 9th Battalion, represented by two ex-Adjutants, because there was no T.A. representative to compete. This will cost the 9th Battalion a lot!

After that the Regimental Flag was lowered as Col. Green had to leave early. In actual fact, Col. Green left much later and the flag might have flown longer, but at least it was noted and remarked on by old friends of the Regiment.

Reluctantly we all departed and went our several ways. Senile local member did not see the end as he had to go to prepare a bath for delicate youth, who, we are glad to hear, has survived.

## RESULTS

Ormiston ..	87	— 12 =	75	Wins Scratch Cup
Latham ..	89	— 10 =	79	
Proctor ..	90	— 8 =	82	
Chattey ..	90	— 14 =	76	
Jay ..	90	— 13 =	77	
Bywaters ..	90	— 12 =	78	
Brown ..	91	— 10 =	81	
Guest ..	92	— 18 =	74	Wins Handicap Cup
Worton ..	97	— 18 =	79	
Green ..	99	— 24 =	75	
St. George ..	99	— 11 =	88	
Wollocombe ..	100	— 22 =	78	
Del Court ..	110	— 14 =	96	
Marshall ..	130	— 26 =	104	Wins "Die-Hard" Divot

## COOPER CUP FOURLAMES

	Points
*Worton and Proctor (9th Battalion) ..	24
Bywaters and St. George (2nd Battalion) ..	23
Guest and Chattey (1st Battalion) ..	22
Latham and Jay (Depot) ..	20
Green and Ormiston (7th Battalion) ..	20
Brown and Del Court (4th Battalion) ..	17

\*Wins Cooper Cup.

## Correspondence

J. J. O'Brien,  
43 Toorack Road,  
Wealdstone.  
September 21, 1952.

Dear Mr. Clark,

I am writing these few lines hoping you and your family are going on O.K. and keeping well, as I must say that we are all in the very best of health, and please remember me to Harry Farrow and family. Well, I am writing this letter to you to let you know that I have been awarded and received the M.S.M. (Meritorious Service Medal) and it might help for a little bit of news in *The Die-Hards* Journal, so as some of the old hands may remember me by as the old "Shamus O'Brien." I am enclosing the letter I received with the medal to let you see, so would you kindly return the letter to me. Well, I don't think I have any more to say. I close with our kindest regards to all.

Yours faithfully,  
SHAMUS.



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



### BATTALION H.Q.

Although the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" is normally one of quiet relaxation for the Territorial Army, this year there seems to have been no cessation of activity after camp.

The rebuilding of the T.A. Centre at Hornsey continues apace and by the time these words appear in print it will be almost finished.

We are now using part of the new garages and by the end of October will have the use of our miniature range.

Shooting this autumn has been disappointing. In the decentralised competitions of the T.A. Rifle Association in every match we did worse than last year and that despite some fine shooting by Sgt. Brooks and C/Sgt. Colbourne. We take this opportunity to congratulate Sgt. King on his success in winning the 300 yards application shoot in the Home Counties District Rifle Competition and C/Sgt. Colbourne and Sgt. Brooks on being selected to shoot for 44th (H.C.) Infantry Division in the Kolar Cup. We trust that the standard of shooting will go up and look to all members of our Rifle Club to raise the standard to the pre-war heights when this Battalion was second to none.

On the miniature range we have done better. In the Middlesex T. and A. F. Competition we have three teams in the semi-finals.

During the winter our aim of training is threefold: to continue the expansion and further training of our specialist platoons, to continue the tactical training of officers and N.C.O.s, and to train riflemen in the use of the sten. On Thursday evenings inter-company badminton and inter-company rifle competitions will be held. We notice in the instructions that ties in the badminton will be "shot off"! We look forward to these contests and if there are no further editorials readers will understand why.

For the first time the Battalion entered for some motor cycle trials, notes of which appear later. We hope that we shall take part in these more and more. There are few more important people than the motor cycle orderly, who has to do his duty in every kind of weather and over every type of country and, more often than not, at night. To train such, and indeed to foster motor cycling in the Battalion, we have formed a motor cycle section in "H.Q." Company.

On January 1, 1953, "D" Company will be reformed; unfortunately, not in their own T.A. Centre at Tottenham, but at Hornsey. We hope that it will not be long before we get our Tottenham hall back again, but with the ban on building, the T.A. Association are finding it impossible to move the present tenants.

A Battalion War Memorial Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the Honorary Colonel and we hope to hear soon the results of its deliberations.

We already possess a fine memorial to those members who fell in World War I and we look forward to having a worthy memorial to those who died in the second.

On October 14, 1952, a presentation of the battle of Albuhera was given on the cloth model. This was an experiment. Its object was to increase our knowledge of this famous battle—"the most honourable Peninsular blazon on any regimental flag"—to foster an interest in Regimental history and to show that it is far from being a dull classroom subject appropriate only for wet afternoons. We were very pleased to welcome our Brigade Commander, Brigadier A. G. V. Paley, Col. M. Browne and a strong contingent from the Depot. We hope that all who attended will have taken away with them an added pride in the Regiment to which we have the honour to belong and a new desire to learn something more of its history and exploits.

### "H.Q." COMPANY

The past quarter has seen a disappointing attendance of members, with the exception of the Band and Drums, who as ever are most assiduous in their practice parades, but this state of affairs is no doubt due to that hardy annual, "summer holidays."

Under the inspiration of the Bandmaster, Mr. W. Gillyat, the Band continues to improve in both quantity and quality and there is no doubt that if the present rate of progress is maintained we shall have by next year a Band of which we may be extremely proud.

The Company entered two teams in the Home Counties District Motor Cycle Trials and acquitted themselves well and no doubt gained useful experience which will be put to good account in future events of this nature. The riding of L/Cpl. Gipsen merits especial mention, as he finished ninth in a field of 162 riders.

Various shooting competitions have taken place recently and if we have not achieved the success we had hoped for the Company team did well to finish second with a score of 326—11 points behind the winners—in the High Sheriff's Challenge Shield.

Mention has already been made of the building extensions in progress and the M.T. Section is simply itching to take possession of the new garages now nearing completion. With the prospect of more room it is hoped to house vehicles, stores and offices under one roof.

In conclusion, we must record with regret that Sgt. Chapman, Cpl. Thompson and L/Cpl. Johnson have decided that, due to various domestic reasons, they are unable to continue to serve. All three were valuable N.C.O.s and their efficiency and experience will be sadly missed. We would like to thank them for their past hard work and to offer them our best wishes for the future. Finally, we congratulate Sgt. Lee on his substantive promotion and appointment as Band Sergeant.

### "A" COMPANY

We have settled down again to our evening drill routine after camp. Our winter programme includes an intensive course in the 2-in. mortar, the grenade and the sten, to be followed by a refresher course on the rifle and bren before we go to camp next year. Map reading will be studied in the spring, when we hope to be able to get some practical work done.



[by courtesy of the "Hornsey Journal"]  
Presentation of the Battle of Albuhera at Hornsey by Capt. P. L. Pearce Gould, representing Capt. J. Stainforth of the 57th

Once again this winter Battalion H.Q. is running an N.C.O.s' cadre and our four newly appointed lance-corporals should all be attending this course, but it is obvious at the moment that there is some pressing counter-attraction for them on most Tuesday evenings.

Shooting, both on the miniature and open ranges, has figured largely in our training this autumn, but the small band of stalwarts is still very small. "A" Company provided a team to compete in T.A.R.A. competitions at Pirbright on September 20 and 21, but it is to be regretted that we did not shine at all on this occasion. In September "A" Company just succeeded in beating a G.P.O. team at Highgate and a return match has been arranged. In the spring we hope to make use of the 30 yards range at the Depot on Sundays, as we did last year, and improve our shooting.

With the shorter evenings badminton is coming into its own again, and on Thursdays and Sunday mornings various enthusiasts may be seen busily endeavouring to regain their youthful figures, only to undo the good work later by slaking their thirst with pints of the local brew.

We congratulate Pte. Phelps on his recent marriage and wish he and his wife all future happiness.

Mr. Brown has recently achieved a second "pip" and we offer our congratulations. It was perhaps fortunate that the Sergeant-Major could not be persuaded that it was official and maintained that Mr. Brown could not draw his back pay for camp.

### "B" COMPANY

The last weeks have seen quite an increase in the Company strength and we would like to extend a warm welcome to all the N.S. men. As several have seen service in Korea they will be a great asset, and we hope that in the near future the majority will volunteer for the T.A. Our volunteer strength is now nearing the 40 mark.

Winter training has now got well under way, the programme mainly concerned with indoor activities, more use being made of instructional films. We are trying to organise several outdoor exercises, but the weather may force us to wait until after the New Year.

Unfortunately, there are no further successes on the miniature range to report. We are having our close season.

C/Sgt. Leahy and Sgt. Webb have volunteered for further service; this is much appreciated by all concerned.

Our chief engagement since camp has been the Enfield T.A. Day which took place on September 6 before a large gathering on Chase Green. "Atom-age soldiers" we were described as, but, in fact, we demonstrated the age-old qualities of our Company. In company with the two workshops, we marched through the town headed by the Corps of Drums and the Band. We were then inspected by the Chairman of the U.D.C. and then, after marching past, "S" Company sub-units gave two



excellent demonstrations. The afternoon ended with the beating of Retreat by the Corps of Drums, which they did with their usual efficiency. After the parade all those who took part had tea in the T.A. Centre.

#### "C" COMPANY

Training night for "C" Company has now been changed to Monday evenings, thereby giving us greater space for our various activities, although we miss seeing friends in other companies. We are progressing quite well with our winter programme, and the attendance should increase even more as everyone gets accustomed to the changed training evening.

On the last week-end in August the Company, plus the "casuals" of other companies, shot the annual classification course at Pirbright. The standard of shooting did not, unfortunately, compare with the apparent enthusiasm for the event, but happily one or two members of the Company obtained unexpectedly high scores. Being constantly treated to "Empire Day" displays with the "wash-out" flags creates anything but a feeling of satisfaction, so we shall be spending as much time as possible on the miniature range in the hope of considerably improving the position.

We have heard with regret that we are to lose C.S.M. Burrell (our "Alf" to his contemporaries!!) shortly on his release to the rigours of civilian life. If his successor is as efficient and popular we shall not have any cause to complain. Anyway, our very best wishes to him when he does begin his new way of life. We are also sorry to lose Sgt. King, who, as well as being one of the oldest members of the Company, was one of the finest "shots" in the Battalion. He is probably joining a parachute battalion of the T.A. and we wish him the best of luck.

#### "S" COMPANY

Since the last notes our activities have been spasmodic, but when reviewed indicate that the platoons of "S" Company are very much alive and kicking.

A demonstration held in support of "D" Company's Enfield T.A. Day was a great success, although the 3-in. mortar bomb landed slightly too close for some of the spectators and the Adjutant was obviously trying to remember the relevant terms of his insurance policies.

The Anti-Tank Platoon and 3-in. Mortar Platoon have both held successful training weekends at Pirbright, so successful that both Platoon Commanders now want barrels inspected.

Congratulations to Sgt. Brooks on his excellent performance in the Kolar Cup, also to Capts. R. G. Garrett and R. J. Leighton on their promotion.

#### Mortar Platoon

Of the usual review regarding the Mortar Platoon activities during the last three months, notes are set out below giving a typical weekend at Pirbright, where training in driving, mortar drill and firing took place.

During the weekend October 11-12 the Platoon was at Pirbright Camp and managed to get some useful training on mortar drill, driving and live firing.

All ranks spent Saturday morning on the driving area and the carriers came through the ordeal still in serviceable condition, much to the relief of the M.T.O., Lt.

P. A. Stocken, who courageously gave some tuition. Section drill and coming into action off the carriers was the theme for the afternoon as a warming up for the shoot next day. After tea a remarkable change came over every man: trousers pressed and brasses shining they set out to find their individual relaxation. Some like drinking, some like dancing, but most combine the two, and Sgt. Marshall nearly drove the landlord of the inn white with worry by singing his head off in spite of a notice saying no singing allowed here. Needless to say, the rest of the lads backed him up with some rousing choruses.

Sunday morning we were on the range bright and early, but the low ground was shrouded in mist, which held up firing until 11 o'clock. The senior N.C.O.s had some good practice at fire control and the Officer IC Mortars, Lt. Reed, was astounded to see the bombs bursting where they should. Sgt. Bawden was all for 10 rounds rapid fire, while Sgt. Payne kept to a sedate two rounds mortar fire. The great thing was the bombs went where we meant them to go.

The training finished at 1330 hrs. with us doing an Errol Flynn act, chasing down the range to beat out a bracken fire which was gaining a nasty hold. After dinner all equipment was given a good cleaning and well oiled up, the camp stores were checked off and handed over, and we returned home to Civvy Street and the grind of another week more efficient and cheerful mortarmen.

#### M.M.G. Platoon

On our return to civilisation from the windswept North we promptly settled down to "checking the kit," a lengthy fatigue, well known to all machine-gunners, who soon realise that the inventors (anxious, no doubt, to create a new military record) included in it more miscellaneous spare parts than have been allotted to any other weapon in the history of war. (The agreeable advantage this gives us to blind the rest of the Battalion with science is, unfortunately, quite outweighed by the numerous opportunities it provides for "misunderstandings" with the Quartermaster.) So when, after camp, the Battalion declared a month's holiday the machine-gunners (particularly the hard-working Sgt. Laroche) at first remained behind in the stores, searching desperately—and in the end successfully—through the pages of their ledgers.

The holiday done, we reassembled, reopened our pamphlets and turned to the next page. This led to summits untrodden in the Battalion since the war and seemed an admirable excuse for a series of excursions on to the roofs of the unfinished buildings of the T.A. Centre, where, scrambling perilously in the evening sunlight, the Platoon solved problems peculiar to machine-gunners, thus with a masterly economy of time and effort developing nerve, brain, physical efficiency and a number of allied military qualities simultaneously.

The evening sun, however, did not last. Being scheduled to give a demonstration of blank-firing on Enfield T.A. Day, we found that we had no alternative but to rehearse the event "wet-shod" in the Drill Hall. The effect, as can be imagined, was more than usually

"aquatic" and caused havoc and disruption to the rest of the Battalion's training. Through this smoke the M.O. was observed distributing ear plugs to casualties and the caretaker informed us indignantly that several of his rabbits had had kittens.

On the day, however, in spite of the diligent I.A. of Sgts. Simmonds and Laroche, the results were less striking, but we derived comfort from the kindly assurances of several old machine-gunners present, including the former Colonel of the Regiment, that the blank-firing attachment had never been known to work satisfactorily in the Regular battalions!

Now, with prospects of a steady reinforcement of N.S. machine-gunners, we are looking forward optimistically to a winter that holds, we hope, no problems for us which cannot be solved by slide-rule and range table.

#### Anti-Tank Platoon

The outstanding event since camp has been the Anti-Tank weekend at Lulworth at the end of September. This was a combined effort with the London Scottish. The results, on the whole, were good considering that it was the first time that most of the Platoon had fired at moving targets. The camp was attended by two officers, two N.C.O.s and seven other ranks, among them being three N.S. men, who we hope to see again soon.

Last month we bade farewell to one of our original members, L/Cpl. Langton, but we hope to see him occasionally. In his place we would like to welcome three

N.S. men, Ptes. Marsh, Brand and Jenkins, who after taking a quick look at us volunteered on the spot. Let us have some more like that, please.

#### Signal Platoon

The chaos in reorganisation of premises has left us a little harassed through lack of space, but the Signals have, nevertheless, been getting through the masses of new equipment that fill our now noticeably small store and carrying on in their inimitable style.

Much has taken place since camp and the introduction of the new wireless set No. 62 has entailed much extra work. The ever-changing R.T. procedure has again taken a new twist and all are now busy learning the "ins and outs" with the aid of an up-to-date pamphlet. An all-day Sunday exercise is being planned shortly so that all can practise the new procedure on the No. 62 set.

The Platoon joins in congratulating L/Cpl. Pope on his forthcoming marriage in December this year.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last issue of *The Die-Hards* we have been in the unfortunate position of being unable to hold any social functions, as the builders have been in possession of the Drill Hall. However, the piles of bricks, cement, etc., and the scaffolding are beginning to disappear and we shortly hope to inaugurate a programme of social functions in new and pleasant surroundings. We then hope to be able to entertain other Sergeants' Messes of the Regiment, to whom, in the meantime, we send our very best wishes.



2/7th BATTALION ANNUAL DINNER, 1952



## 11th PARACHUTE BATTALION (Middlesex) T.A.

The main Battalion activities since our last notes have been concerned with camp, Exercise "Spearhead" in Germany and the preparation for both. A proposed drop and assault on Lakenheath airfield in early October was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute, as the American aircraft could not come.

Annual training was spent at Stanford P.T.A., Norfolk. From the outset the Battalion was split into two parties. One party, a composite rifle company, with Signals, 3-in. Mortar and M.M.G. detachments, trained separately and went to Germany for Exercise "Spearhead II" for the second week of camp. The remainder of the Battalion stayed at home. It consisted mainly of "H.Q." Company drivers and administrative personnel. The residue of the rifle companies and "S" Company either trained as specialists with No. 10 Parachute Battalion, T.A., or did infantry training as another composite company. The "residue" set about their camp chores and training with all the usual zeal and enthusiasm (and grumbles) common to Territorials. Special mention must be made here of our single "Z" Reservist, Padre Kenworthy, who made a great impression in the Battalion and by the end of a fortnight might have been with us all his life. We hope he will be "volunteering" soon. We also had our quota of N.S. men non-volunteers.

This was our first camp with any great number of non-volunteers and we wondered a little what sort of form would be shown. We need not have worried; they came up to scratch by and large, well up to scratch. So, presumably, did 11th Parachute Battalion, T.A., judging by the high percentage of volunteers now. Camp started well with an aircraft jump, almost on arrival, on East Wretham airfield, near the camp.

Much training was done and a great deal of recreational transport unloaded the troops in Norwich and Bury St. Edmunds every night. The middle weekend of camp saw the Battalion taking part in an exercise in Great Yarmouth, based on the T.A. Centre of an A.A. unit, R.A., who accommodated us for two nights.

The "residue" then returned, refreshed (?) to East Wretham and set about the next week's training with renewed vigour. The battle of Bodney Lodge, consisting of patrol actions during the night and a dawn assault spectacularly supported by R.A.F. Meteor jets, was one of the highlights. This was followed by the third and last field firing exercise, Frog Hill, on the last Thursday. This was distinguished by the great performance of the "Housekeepers'" platoon, cooks, drivers, policemen, Sergeants' Mess waiters, batmen, etc., who turned out to swell the numbers.

Capt. Jim Stone, the Q.M., was, regrettably, too busy with a mountain of "Spearhead II" stores to appear, but Lt. Latham was a successful understudy.

We must bid farewell in these notes to our last foundation member P.S.I., C.S.M. "Dolly" Grey. He joined us in April, 1947, and has been P.S.I. at H.Q. ever since. His enthusiasm, administrative efficiency and personality have been a great asset to the Battalion

throughout this period and he will be greatly missed. Congratulations to Sgt. Beale on the award of his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Cpl. Allen, late of "C" Company, has written to say that he is ammunition Corporal of the 15th N.S.T.B. in the Australian Army and is enjoying himself, but wants to get back to parachuting again. He also sent news of Harry Shuttleworth, who is well, and Pete Ashman, both late of "C" Company. Ashman has just spent 12 months in Korea, which he says was no picnic. He is now married to a Melbourne police sergeant's daughter.

Capt. Barber, Lt. Poulter, Cpl. Jarrett and Pte. Powell-Price have all been picked to play in 16th Airborne Division rugby side and we hope to see more 11th Battalion representatives playing soon.

Cpl. Home, late of 1st Parachute Battalion, a member of their boxing team which fought us in 1950, was Sergeants' Mess caterer at camp and we hope that soon he will be joining "C" Company as a Territorial.

Our Brigade supplied a Battalion group to carry out a parachute assault on Exercise "Spearhead II," a B.A.O.R. exercise between 6th and 11th Armoured Divisions. 11th Battalion found eight officers and 150 other ranks. The C.O. was selected to command the force, Major Boys to be 2IC and Mr. Pestell to be R.S.M.

Most of us realised for the first time the terrific preparation required to mount an airborne operation, especially when one is equipped at T.A. scales. Despite this work, the whole force put in a lot of training, including a full-scale rehearsal, before emplaning on August 24, 1952, in 16 American C119 aircraft. Four more aircraft were used for the heavy drop, which comprised four jeeps and six trailers.

After a three and a half hour flight the force dropped square on the DZ to find it occupied by the enemy. There had been a breach of security in B.A.O.R. and the enemy had reacted accordingly. Although the whole force got to the R.V. in double time, the umpires adjudged us "wiped out." We were then put in Divisional reserve and finally took part in a night attack in support of the break-out. All reports on this manoeuvre were highly complimentary.

We were flown back to England on conclusion of the exercise and, although rather disappointed in being "wiped out" in the landing and being rather inactive afterwards, there is no doubt we all gained in valuable experience in the planning and preparation of the operation and the jump itself, the biggest since the war, was highly successful.

Major Boys had the pleasure of parachuting into Germany on his birthday and Capt. Lee did his first jump for five years. On the return flight an engine of one aircraft became "dis" and there was a great flurry to get into "panic stations," as one soldier described it. However, all was well in the end.

The mortar and M.M.G. detachments did very well both on the jump when they parachuted with these heavy weapons strapped to their legs and also on the night attack, when they did a long carry of nearly 10 miles. The Signals also were in great form and communications worked 100 per cent. throughout the exercise.

## 595 L.A.A./S.L. REGIMENT, R.A.

(9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.) T.A.

As I sit down to my task of editing our contribution to *The Die-Hards* for the next issue I realise autumn has already tinted the countryside with a tinge of bronze and yellow and leaves are falling softly to the ground to form a soft bed of wilting colours.

Yes, autumn heralds the coming of the long evenings, promoting thoughts of cosy bars, dart boards and the like. Here at one of the most modern T.A. Centres in the county long evenings are evidently being looked forward to with much pleasure by officers and other ranks alike and club nights with such activities as badminton, .22 rifle competitions and darts are already showing signs of bursting back into full life. (For your information, Mr. Editor, those very fine photographs on pages 58 to 60 of the illustrated Middlesex brochure are not N.A.A.F.I. club rooms, as might be thought, appearing, as they do, under the caption "Service Overseas"; they are life photographs taken of club activities in this H.Q.)

For those devoted to the more strenuous sport, football talk is in the air again.

Yes, the spirit of a regiment finds satisfaction and wholesome inter-battery competition during the long evenings.

There is also an awakening after a brief summer recess in our training activities. Summer camp dates for 1953 have now been announced and already a training policy is being implemented for a steady programme of training with the guns and S.L.s. Stiffkey Practice Camp, 10 months ahead, seems a long way off, but work starts during the winter evenings.

Batteries are now sufficiently strong and with good attendance on weeknight and day training, so that junior officers and sergeants are able to command their troops. Present strength is three gun or S.L. detachments per troop, and there is some fine material and potential N.C.O.s amongst the N.S. volunteers. Yes, we firmly believe that in the new set-up of the Territorial Army "the best is yet to be."

### REGIMENTAL H.Q.

Life here is never dull and one can always find reward for hours of patient slogging at the paper war which higher authority never fail to provide if at the finish we can make life for the more active member of the Regiment a little easier or better organised. (Blue pencil, Mr. Editor, if you think R.H.Q. are shooting another line.) We welcome the following to R.H.Q. from National Service:

Cfmm. J. H. Brooks, Cfmm. J. J. Collins, Gnr. E. S. Clark, Cfmm. J. J. Corcoran, Gnr. J. Jefferys, Cfmm. P. M. Russell, Gnr. H. Whittam and Gnr. P. Yates.

### The Band

Good news. The strength of our Band increases steadily; all those joining so far are first-class musicians.

We welcome the following bandsmen: Gnrs. A. G. Stewart, J. A. Ryan and F. E. Day.

We had two very enjoyable engagements during the summer, both at Mill Hill.

At our first we played on the second day of the Regimental Cricket Week and, apart from a certain pride in being asked to do this at short notice, we also shared the pleasure of the few in seeing the first win of the Regimental Cricket Week and the fine batting of the two colonels, Col. Ormiston and Col. Unwin. (Incidentally, Mr. Editor, I do not think the Band of the East Surreys could report much on this match.)

There are still vacancies for the following instrumentalists to enlist: Cornets (2), clarinets (2), trombone (tenor), trombone (bass), bass (bombardon) and bass (BB). Bandmaster Turner will be pleased to welcome those over 20 and under 36 years of age any Sunday morning at the Drill Hall, Honeygot Lane, Kingsbury, N.W.9, for rehearsal and audition.

### "P" BATTERY

The Battery is steadily growing in strength, mainly due to the intake of N.S. men, but of those posted to the Battery 50 per cent. have volunteered to do the normal T.A. commitments as opposed to their compulsory training.

With these increased numbers it has been possible to dispense with combined Regimental training and the Battery training now takes place on Wednesday evenings.

At camp earlier this year resources were strained somewhat with the large influx of "Z" men and the fact that the O.C., Major Buckland-Nicks, was confined with mumps from the first training day. It is thought he had a better camp than anyone else, as he was removed to the Naval Hospital, Plymouth, and the nurses there "left nothing to be desired."

At the inter-battery competition at camp we were not very successful and lost both the Devereaux Cup for the best lines and the Challenge Cup for best main camp guard to "Q" Battery. Only by a few, it is true; a little more effort and success would have been ours.

At the Regimental Rifle Meeting we still showed R.H.Q. and "Q" Battery the way to the butts. Congratulations, rifle and Bren teams, on winning the inter-battery team trophies and to Capt. Harris on becoming the Regimental rifle champion and winning for the second year in succession the Officers' Bowl presented by Lt.-Col. Harris; also to Sgt. Griffiths for winning the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Rifle Challenge Cup and the Individual Bren Trophy.

### "Q" BATTERY

This year we again had our annual practice camp at Bude in Cornwall and, unlike other post-war years, our numbers were good. The Battery strength was about 200, with more than 50 per cent. of the number "Z" Reservists. What a grand crowd they proved themselves to be and how soon they put behind the post-war years as civilians. Our Battery won both the lines and guard mounting competitions and our congratulations go to all those who worked so hard to make these conquests possible.

The paper strength of our three troops is increasing rapidly and we do hope that more of the N.S. men will



volunteer with us for service in the Territorial Army. The response for volunteers has been quite fair, but the more we have the better we shall become.

We have had some outstandingly fine achievements from members of the Battery, especially during the summer, when we were represented at the Territorial Army Association Championships Sports at Aldershot. This has already been written up in an earlier issue, but again we must mention the names of Gnr. Linton, Perkins and Page. Our greatest success, however, was at the local Queensbury and District Sports, when we came away with numerous prizes. As so many of our athletes are N.S. men, it is anticipated that we shall do even better in the forthcoming season. Congratulations to 2/Lt. K. Dennis, who until recently was Sgt. K. Dennis, on his passing through O.C.T.U. and being granted a Territorial Army commission. He has now been posted from us to "P" Battery, and he takes with him our very best wishes. This posting, incidentally, together with that of an earlier one, Capt. S. Robertson, halves our number of "schoolmasters." (Noted by R.H.Q., and we will post you a few of our many R.A.E.C. sergeants as soon as possible.)

We were delighted to welcome into the Battery Capt. J. Doyle, as many of us served alongside him throughout the war in this Regiment, when it was known as 126 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. He was recently appointed headmaster of one of the newest schools in London, which was officially opened in July of this year. Capt. Doyle was then transferred to us from a Midland regiment. Their loss is our gain.

## Cricket

### SPORT

As the first step towards having a Regimental cricket club we decided this year to have two one-day Sunday matches, our venue, as for football, being the Depot ground, by the kindness of the C.O., and we are grateful indeed, with the shortage of sports fields in the county, to always have this courtesy shown whenever we require the ground for cricket or football.

A most noticeable improvement was to be seen in our cricket at camp last year and proves that our Sundays at the nets at Kingsbury were not wasted. (Never mind now what our wives had to say.)

The first game, on Sunday, August 15, was played against the British Wax Paper Co., who very kindly gave us a fixture almost at the last moment, when 484 H.A.A. Regiment had to cancel their match owing to difficulties in raising a team. We were at least blessed with a fine sunny day and the Regiment, winning the toss, elected to bat, but catastrophe—three wickets fell for four runs. The wicket was certainly wet and sticky and the ball performed some amazing tricks. Col. Dear and Capt. Hughes stopped the rot and we topped 78 before our last wicket fell. Good bowling by Sgt. Mitchell helped to dismiss what seemed to be stiff opposition for 58 runs. A good second innings by Bdr. Oakley, 34 not out, with four really classy sixes (did somebody say rather rustic hitting?) gave us a good lead and we just made home before the stumps were drawn.

At our second match on September 7 v. 571 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment from Edgware our fine weather deserted

us; in fact, rain not only stopped play, it nearly finished play, but, as we had a large number of guests, in between we decided to try and have a game. 571 batted first and were dismissed for 52. We batted before lunch and again after and finally, with our score at 118 for three wickets, and the stumps nearly floating down the pitch, we retrieved them and called off the game, honour having been vindicated.

Many of our guests braved the elements and joined us for lunch. It was good to see many old faces, among them Col. Beech, Col. and Mrs. Fox and Major and Mrs. Neal.

Our Band also turned up and, as usual, gave us two hours of delightful music. What an asset a military band can be, particularly on a wet afternoon. Next year we hope to have our club functioning really well and would welcome a game with 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment or 11th Airborne Regiment.

## Football

Last year, on October 28, in the first round of the T.A. Challenge Cup we blunted the Sharpshooters' attack and won 2-1. In the second round the 11th Airborne Regiment proved a tougher proposition, for after 10 minutes' play we were three goals down. But the old "Shiny 9th" came back and scores were level by half-time. We eventually lost by 7-5 after fighting all the way.

While playing in this team I could not help but think of another 9th Battalion Regiment team away back in 1930-31 season and onwards to 1936-37. This must surely have been the finest team the "Shiners" ever produced. Undisputed Brigade champions, Divisional champions for four years and T.A. Cup semi-finalists, besides Hammersmith League runners-up, and champions in consecutive years.

Old "Die-Hards" will probably remember the names L/Cpl. Thompson, Pte. Renyard, Cpl. Major, Pte. MacDonald and yours truly Pte. Brown, Pte. Aredale, Sgt. Bateman, Drm. Smith, Pte. Boston, L/Cpl. Lake and Drm. Barnett. Surely a formidable combination whose fighting spirit, I thought, was only matched by that of the 595 team beaten by 11th Airborne.

As you read this article we shall have played several Challenge Cup matches and I hope in the next edition to have some good news. We have had quite a flow of good young blood come into our Regiment and amongst them are some first-class footballers. So maybe, if not this year, the next year the "Shiny 9th" will be on top again.

## Badminton

Once again the badminton season is here (shuttlecock to the ignorant). We held our first meeting on September 21 and with a dozen "bods" in attendance it was a great success. We welcome Mrs. Joan Hughes, wife of our B.S.M. R. Hughes, as a playing member, or is it to watch him? Also Monica Brooks serving a fair service and a keen eye to Cadet Sgt. "Paddy" Ryan instead of tea to him in the Cadet canteen. We are of medium strength and if 7th Middlesex or 11th Airborne fancy their chances and would care to contact

Sgt. L. Biddlecombe at 56 Finchley Lane, Hendon, N.W.4, for a match we shall be pleased to take them on.

## REGIMENTAL RIFLE MEETING

The annual Regimental Rifle Meeting was held during the weekend September 27-28 at Purfleet. The Regiment were very pleased to have with them 18 members of 9th Battalion O.C.A., who came down as usual for the weekend and acted as butt markers.

We believe, by the number of crates that disappeared in the direction of the butts, they enjoyed themselves.

The meeting generally was a great success and keen rivalry shown throughout, particularly in the firing of the final practice at 300 yards for the Regimental champion shot, when Capt. Harris, becoming champion for the second year, was challenged strongly and only won by three points, scoring a victory over the Adjutant.

A much improved standard of shooting was evident in all directions, showing that the new members of the "old 9th" still have a love for the "infantryman's friend."

Particularly good was the shooting of the Cadets, and congratulations go to Cadet J. Pemberton on winning the Cadet Challenge Cup. Some of the older members of the Regiment were particularly impressed with his handling of the rifle.

The Honorary Colonel, Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D., D.L., was once again a most welcome visitor to the meeting and many of the younger members of the Regiment found themselves talking freely to an interested listener about their N.S. days on active service in Korea and Malaya.

When the time came for the presentation of prizes Col. Lamont, with many interesting little pieces of side talk, presented the trophies to the following members of the Regiment:

### PRIZE-WINNERS

Sholl Cup (Inter-Battery Rifle).—"P" Battery.  
 Passingham Cup (Inter-Battery Bren).—"P" Battery.  
 British Legion Challenge Cup (Champion Bren).—Gnr. K. Anderson ("P").  
 Thurston Cup (Champion Cadet).—Cadet J. Pemberton.  
 Danocks Cup (Best Bombardier and below).—Cpl. A. Windows ("Q").  
 Challenge Cup (9th Battalion Sergeants' Mess) (Best Senior N.C.O.).—Sgt. J. Griffiths ("P").  
 Harris Bowl (Best Officer).—Capt. P. H. Harris ("P").  
 Harrow Rifles Challenge Cup (Regimental Champion Shot).—Capt. P. H. Harris ("P").  
 Pewter Mug (Best Old Comrade).—Mr. R. Campkin.  
 Harrow Rifles Recruits' Cup (Champion Recruit).—L/Bdr. C. Lecte ("Q").

## SERGEANTS' MESS

Since writing our article for *The Die-Hards* for the quarter ending September, 1952, much useful work and training has taken place. The Regiment has run very successful No. 1 courses on our equipment, guns and S.L.s, of which we are about to see the real value, for now, as we enter the individual training period for practice camp, 1953, Nos. 1 will have the opportunity, on Battery training days, of passing on their knowledge and value of experience to the young N.S. men.

Batteries are functioning more and more as self-contained sub-units and we now see them for the first time holding their own respective training days.

During the weekend September 27-28 the Regiment held its annual Rifle Meeting at Purfleet, which, although in the latter stages the weather could have been more kind, proved very successful.

## Congratulations

As a whole, we, members of our Mess, offer congratulations to the following:

To Sgt. and Mrs. Biddlecombe on the birth of a daughter (Stephanie) on October 3, 1952. 6½ lb. at birth.

To Sgt. Griffiths on winning the highest score Rifle Cup, which is awarded annually to the member of the Mess with the highest aggregate score. The R.S.M. is also to be congratulated as runner-up.

To all members of the O.C.A. on coming to Purfleet once again and helping to make the meeting a success.

To R.S.M. Hunt on his being authorised to wear the ribbon of the L.S. and G.C. Medal.

To 2/Lt. Dennis on his promotion to commissioned rank and remaining with the Regiment. As a member of the Sergeants' Mess he was held in the highest esteem and without doubt the Officers' Mess gain is our loss. But we join hands in saying farewell and the very best of good luck.

We say welcome to 7589850 W.O.2 J. L. Stewart, R.E.M.E., who joins us w.e.f. September 1, 1952, and who, because he has been welcome here for some time past, will find himself among friends.

In the social and games direction we held a very successful social evening on Sunday September 21, which was very well attended. Incidentally, it was during this particular evening that a certain Old Comrade was several times heard to remark the following unforgettable words, "That's not the way we did it at Pound Lane."

Six Mess members attended the Regimental staff outing of 1952. This took the form of a trip down the river to Southend in the steamer *The Queen of the Channel*. With the bar always handy, a very interesting and pleasant day was spent by all.

The Mess is well represented in all sports and games and as just one of these our Regimental badminton team is inundated with stripes and crowns.

It is training well and we are all looking forward to an interesting season. Our vice-captain, Mrs. R. Hughes, has to be seen in action to be believed.

We have had some very interesting darts matches this season, the last one taking place on Friday, October 3, versus Hendon Club. We won and both teams enjoyed it to the full. We are now looking forward to Friday, October 10, when we are playing the Old Comrades' Association.

Our Mess is at present having soft lighting fitted. It has been refurbished and is about to be redecorated. When completed we intend having a house-warming party, to which Sergeants' Messes of surrounding units will most certainly be invited.

For the convenience of the uninitiated, the "Magg's"



clock is about to be moved for the fourth time. It returns, without backboard, to its favourite position over the bar.

This article will be concluded on a festival note—Christmas festivities, to which we are all looking forward, and about which we shall give our readers a detailed report in *The Die-Hards* issue of March, 1953.

Famous last words: "How did we do it last year?"

### 33rd Middlesex (Independent) Cadet Battery, R.A.

(Affiliated Cadet Battery)

Your parent Regiment congratulates the following young gunners:

Cadet B.S.M. Ryan on his well-earned promotion and hope the next six months before he goes for National Service will be of much benefit to him and his battery.

Cadet L. Pemberton on winning the Cadet Rifle Challenge Cup. Well done!

The Cadet drill squad, under Lt. Honey, on winning West Area Drill Competition. Well done, and we hope to print success in the County Drill Competition in the next issue.

We express sympathy with Capt. F. Smith, O.C. 33rd Middlesex (Independent) Cadet Battery, R.A., on his long illness and wish him speedy and complete recovery and hope to see him back at Kingsbury before Christmas.

### Obourg Welcomes the 4th Battalion Delegation

The following is a translation of the Bourgmaster's speech at the Reception at the Town Hall, Obourg, Belgium, of the delegation of the 4th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment on August 24, 1952:

Sir, Chief of the British Delegation,  
Gentlemen, the "Old Contemptibles,"  
Ladies, Gentlemen, dear comrades,

A little less than a year ago, we had the joy and the honour to receive, for the first time officially, within our walls, a delegation of ex-servicemen of the 4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, under the leadership of Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe; the delegation had come for the inauguration of the Memorial which we have flowered and honoured a short while ago.

In my position as first Magistrate of the Commune of Obourg, I am very happy to receive you in our Hotel de Ville and I wish you all a very cordial welcome.

Among the members of the delegation of the 4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, who have come to render homage on this place of hard battles, I wish to pay my respects to Major L. H. Owen Josephs, who is present.

Ladies, Gentlemen,

This superior officer, who has well merited the name of "Die-hard," received his commission in May, 1903,

and was posted to the 5th Battalion Militia. After 12 months' service with the 2nd Battalion, Lincoln Regiment, with whom he served until 1905, he was afterwards transferred to the 2nd Battalion, Essex Regiment.

In 1914, he was Lieutenant in the celebrated "D" Company, which covered itself with glory at Obourg. This Company was commanded by Major Glass.

I will allow myself to remind you of the figures quoted by Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe in his speech on September 9, 1951: "The 4th Battalion lost on August 23, 15 officers and 453 N.C.O.s and men."

The Lt. L. H. Owen Josephs was taken prisoner. After his repatriation, this brave officer was posted to the War Office, where he served until 1922. He participated also in the Second World War.

It is very respectfully that we honour him at this moment.

Major Glass, who is actually 80 years old, should have come to Obourg to-day, but he is seriously ill and has ceded, with regret, his authority to Major L. H. Owen Josephs.

British Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commune Administration of Obourg, assisted by the Memorial Committee, gives you the assurance that each year the same ceremony of gratitude will take place. It is with joy that we shall welcome, each time, the Old Contemptibles of the 4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, their wives and their children. We count on you coming, more numerous, if possible, in order to perpetuate the heroic conduct of the Old Contemptibles of 1914 and in particular the "unknown hero" of "D" Company, who assured, alone, the retreat of his brothers-in-arms, before paying the supreme sacrifice.

I ask you to raise your glasses and drink to the "toast" of the "4th Middlesex."

Viva Belgium! Viva the King!

Viva Great Britain and her Queen!

Viva the 4th Middlesex Regiment!

\* \* \*

Monsieur le Bourgmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It would be difficult for me to express our thanks not only for the wonderful hospitality to which you are rightly noted, and which in England is generally known, but also for the very kind help which has made it so pleasantly easy for us to visit the battlefields of August, 1914, where we fought, and to inspect all the treasures of Mons.

I would especially wish to thank Monsieur le Bourgmaster and all those gentlemen who have been to us such charming hosts and knowledgeable guides. I can assure you we are most appreciative and shall not forget such kindness and such hospitality.

Your very kind assurance that we shall be welcome each year is received by us with gratitude.

I will now ask the members of the 4th Middlesex Regiment to drink to the health of the Bourgmaster and to those gentlemen who have made our visit so memorable.

Long live Belgium! God Save the King!



Lord Latham and the Trunley family

By permission of the Editor, "Enfield Gazette"

### Lord Latham drops in to chat with the "Die-Hards"

Informal Visit to Albuhera Close,  
September, 20, 1952

Answering the gentle rat-tat at the doors of their trim, sun-splashed three-bedroom homes in Albuhera Close—so called after the famous battle of that name—disabled former members of the Middlesex Regiment and their wives and children found the caller to be Lord Latham, J.P., Lord Lieutenant of the County.

It was the first anniversary of his opening of the £35,000 block of 20 houses erected at Lavender Hill as a memorial to the soldiers of the Regiment who lost their lives in the Second World War.

Lord Latham had not forgotten the "Die-Hards"; these were "remembered men," and he had come to Enfield out of respect for the Fallen and to see how the survivors, though handicapped, were getting on after a year in their new homes and gardens rented at five shillings a week plus rates.

Accompanied by Col. Maurice Browne, M.C., Col.

Gerald Beach, J.P., and "Sergeant" Ernie Killick, a resident, Lord Latham admired the well-kept gardens and asked after the domestic comfort of the war veterans' families.

"It's wonderful," was his frequent tribute to the pride taken indoors and outdoors alike.

When Lord Latham stepped into the home of Joe and Elizabeth Trunley, he was quick to spot a cake decked with six candles.

"Where's your daughter?" he queried with a smile. "I should like to wish her many happy returns of the day."

A trifle shy, fair, blue-eyed Janice was introduced.

And so in his chats with Chas. Baldry (75, upright, one-time Sergt.), "Shiner" Sheffield ("he's always shining things"), Les Bull (about to paper the walls because he and his wife do not like distemper), Sid Saunders (legless) and the rest of this community of comrades, Lord Latham talked informally.

It was while drinking tea made by Mrs. Alice Killick that Lord Latham, seated comfortably on a settee, told the "Gazette":

"I have been very encouraged. Albuhera Close is settling down into a very happy community. A spirit



of good neighbourliness seems to pervade everywhere.

"Yes, the estate is really very pleasant and colourful, with many a fine job of gardening."

"I have been pleased indeed to chat with many of the residents and their families, who showed me that they were happy and comfortable."

"It is a great recompense, I feel, for those who promoted these homes in commemoration of members of the Regiment who gave their lives to the country. The Regiment served us and we are glad to serve them."

Lord Latham paused, and added: "The children are bonny and bright-eyed, and their parents have done wonders with their gardens and homes."

That's the sort of afternoon it was—simple and concerned with the everyday things that matter so much in life.

## Extracts from "London Gazette"

June 10, 1952

The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the award of the Territorial Efficiency Decoration upon the following officer:

Capt. R. S. Hughes (93093).

June 13, 1952

### SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

Capt. (Q.M.) R. W. J. Smith (274022) to be Major (Q.M.) June 13, 1952.

Lt. S. H. Short, O.B.E. (280709), relinquishes his commission June 1, 1952, and is granted the hon. rank of Major.

June 17, 1952

Lt. I. J. L. Terndrup relinquishes his commission May 5, 1952.

June 24, 1952

2/Lt. A. J. Wiggins (411231) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant February 28, 1952.

June 27, 1952

Lt. J. P. Jarrett (320299) resigns his commission July 2, 1952.

July 1, 1952

2/Lt. N. C. Berry (412602) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant May 15, 1952.

2/Lt. N. C. Berry (412602) from Reg. Army National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant March 1, 1952, with seniority August 26, 1950.

Lt. C. W. Boulwood (404675) resigns his commission February 10, 1952.

Lt. O. E. Meadows (280690) resigns his commission April 1, 1952.

July 11, 1952

2/Lt. B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C. (411732), is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant March 16, 1952.

July 22, 1952

The following officer is awarded the Efficiency Medal (Territorial):

Lt. (Hon. Capt.) A. R. Klitz (151811).

July 25, 1952

2/Lt. A. R. K. Hardcastle (412195) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant April 3, 1952.

July 29, 1952

Dennis Dumper (423741) to be 2/Lieutenant June 10, 1952.

August 8, 1952

The undermentioned cadets to be 2/Lieutenants June 7, 1952:

22593019 Michael John Mitchell (423044).

22586418 Thomas Martin Howe Wollocombe (423050).

2/Lt. (a/Lt.) F. J. Willmer (409912) from T.A. National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant (acting Lieutenant) April 17, 1952, retaining his present seniority.

August 12, 1952

2/Lt. P. J. T. Lane (412286) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant February 21, 1952.

The undermentioned 2/Lieutenants are granted the acting ranks of Lieutenant:

R. Brown (412296), April 10, 1952.

A. W. Ramsay (412276), April 24, 1952.

M. D. C. Watkins (413851), August 12, 1952.

George Benjamin Wallis (395410) (late A. Cdt. F.) to be 2/Lieutenant July 13, 1952, with seniority April 1, 1950.

Lt. H. Austin (333462) relinquishes his commission May 29, 1952, on enlistment in the Australian Military Forces.

August 22, 1952

The following officer is awarded the Efficiency Medal (Territorial):

Lt. J. A. Adams (321824).

August 26, 1952

Capt. (Hon. Major) A. F. Procter (97588), having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers August 27, 1952, retaining the hon. rank of Major.

September 9, 1952

Lt. R. G. Garrett (360355) is granted the rank of Captain April 2, 1952.

September 23, 1952

Lt. T. R. Condron (271938) to be Captain August 11, 1952.

The undermentioned officer Cadets from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, to be 2/Lieutenants August 1, 1952, with seniority August 1, 1952, except as otherwise stated:

Derek Edward Lobb (424387).

Ronald Dean Fisher (412301).

September 30, 1952

2/Lt. (a/Lt.) A. W. Ramsay (412276) from T.A. National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant (acting Lieutenant) August 2, 1952, retaining his present seniority.

## Engagement

### Major R. K. B. Allott and Miss P. Pound

The engagement is announced between Major R. K. B. Allott, M.C., The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), son of Major and Mrs. P. B. Allott, of Little Ashton, Lymington, and Patricia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Pound, formerly of Lewis.

## Births

PEAL.—On October 6, at the Yeatman Hospital, Sherborne, to Pamela (nee Pedley), wife of Major Adrian Peal (late Middlesex Regiment), a brother for Anthony. (*Daily Telegraph*, October 9, 1952.)

PIELOW.—On September 9, at the Military Families' Hospital, Woolwich, to Ann (nee Powe), wife of Capt. B. A. M. Pielow, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), a son (Simon Mark Benjamin).

## Deaths

JOHNSTON.—We regret to announce the death of Col. W. H. H. Johnston, D.S.O., M.C. During the 1914-18 war he took over command of the 11th Battalion from the late Col. H. P. Osborne. He originally served in the Dorset Regiment. Joined the Royal Fusiliers in 1914 and came to our Regiment to command the 11th Battalion. During the 1939-45 war he commanded No. 8 Sector The Home Guard.

CAMPBELL.—We also announce with deep regret the death of Col. Hugh Campbell, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., in September. Col. Campbell has been a member of our Officers' Club for many years and was Honorary Colonel of the Princess Louise Kensington Regiment.

DOWDALL.—We regret to announce the death of Mr. C. A. Dowdall, M.M., on Monday, October 20, 1952, whose burial took place at Harmondsworth, Middlesex, on Saturday, October 25, 1952. He served in the 4th and 1/8th Battalions and, during the 1914-18 war, with the 1st and 2nd Battalions, in which he was Battalion and Brigade runner. He joined the "Die-Hards" Club on its formation and until his health failed him two years ago was a regular attendant at all meetings and functions.

Mr. Dowdall came of a military family who have long years of Regular service. He was gassed in the 1914-18 war and discharged on pension as medically unfit for further service; this hastened his end.

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1952, AT 2.15 P.M.

Present—Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C. (Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P., Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Col. G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe, M.C., Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major P. D. H. Marshall, Major W. D. Ellis, T.D., R.S.M. P. Donovan, Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier E. E. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., A.D.C., Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Sgt. R. A. Bullock.

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

2. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary's report having been circulated with the Agenda was accepted by the Committee without comment.

Details of the report are as follows:

*Grants.* During the period April 1 to August 31 the sum of £781 17s. 6d. was dispensed in assisting 138 cases.

*O.C.A. Reunion Dinner.* All members on the Officers' Club and Regimental Association registers and all O.C.A. clubs have been notified of the O.C.A. Dinner to be held on November 1 next.

*Subscriptions.* A sum of \$1,195 has been received from the Band President, 1st Battalion, part proceeds of a band concert given by the combined bands of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the 1st Battalion to assist their Regimental Associations.

The exact amount in sterling will not be known for some weeks, as the cheque is drawn on the Kowloon Cricket Club Account.

3. *Finance Committee's Report.* The Finance Committee's report, having been circulated with the Agenda, was explained to the Committee by Col. Beach in the absence of Lt.-Col. Fox.

Details of the report are as follows:

(a) *Grants.* The amounts expended on grants during the quarter were as under:

Association Charitable Fund	£	s.	d.
Renny Fund	350	8	1
	107	18	6
	£458	6	7

Total authorised by Committee, £600.

The Committee recommend that the Secretary be authorised to expend a sum not exceeding £600 for the quarters ending September 30, 1952, and December 31, 1952, to assist necessitous cases.

(b) *Memorial Fund.* Mr. H. A. B. Claypole has been instructed to check and revise as necessary the maintenance account on an income and expenditure account basis.

(c) *Investment Changes.* The following purchases and sales of investments have been effected:

Association Charitable Fund	
SELL £4,958 10s. 2d. 3% Funding Stock, 1959-69.	
REINVEST in 3% British Electric 74-77.	
Renny Fund	
SELL £584 18s. 2d. 3% Funding Stock, 1959-69, and	
£2,545 15s. 10d. 3% Savings Bonds, 1955-65.	
REINVEST in 3% British Electric, 74-77.	
Officers' Club	
SELL £2,573 10s. 4d. 3% Funding Stock, 1959-69.	
REINVEST in 3% British Electric, 74-77.	
Officers' Club Charitable Fund	
SELL £704 15s. 4d. 3% Funding Stock, 1959-69.	
REINVEST in 3% British Electric, 74-77.	

(d) *Subscriptions to Other Charities.* The Committee recommends that the following subscriptions be made to other charities:

Officers' Club Charitable Fund	£	s.	d.
Royal School for Daughters of Officers	2	2	0
Regimental Association	5	0	0
Regular Forces Employment Association	50	0	0
Royal Soldiers' Daughters' Homes	8	0	0
Family Welfare Association	5	5	0
S.S.A.F.A.	10	10	0
Forces Help Society	10	10	0
Gordon Boys' Home	2	2	0
	£86	15	0

Wellington Gymkhana Club. £ s. d. 2 10 0

(e) *Salaries.* The Committee unanimously decided to recommend that the salaries of the Secretary and the Secretary's assistant be increased.

It was proposed by Col. Weston, seconded by Lt.-Col. Green and approved by the Committee that the subscription to the Gordon Boys' Home be increased from £2 2s. 0d. to £5 5s. 0d.

The Committee considered the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the salaries of the Secretary and Secretary's assistant be increased, and after a long discussion it was approved that a cost-of-living bonus for 1952 be made:

Secretary: £42 (subject to tax).

Secretary's assistant: £20 (subject to tax).

The Finance Committee's report was adopted with the above amendment and addition.

4. *Memorial Committee's Report.* Col. Beach informed the Committee that Mr. Claypole, the new Auditor, had prepared an income and expenditure account of the Maintenance Account and Capital Fund, which would be examined by the Finance Committee at their next meeting and a report prepared for the Regimental Association. He also stated that a garden competition had been held on the estate and that the gardens, on the whole, were in a very flourishing condition, but it would be necessary for the more seriously disabled occupants to have assistance. Major Hardcastle agreed to approach some residents in the area of Enfield to ascertain whether they would assist the occupants with the provision of plants, etc.

The Committee approved that the Middlesex County Council be approached to ascertain whether they would take over the area on the north side of the estate. This area cannot be used or developed by the Regimental Association owing to lack of funds.

5. *Regimental History Committee's Report.* Lt.-Col. Green informed the Committee that there had been little progress



since the last meeting. Commander Kemp had only recently been discharged from hospital after a serious operation and he had only been able to obtain very little data as yet in response to the letters that had been circulated asking for more detailed stories and information.

6. *Journal Report.* Brigadier Procter explained the present financial conditions of the fund. In addition, costs for the half-year ending June had increased by £49 2s. 1d. and, although the revenue from advertisements had increased by £32 6s. 5d. covering the same period, there would be a large deficit in the fund by the end of the year. He also stated that he had seen other regimental journal accounts which suffered similar financial difficulties to our own.

Col. Browne stated that, owing to the considerable cost of paper, which was a heavy liability on the funds of the Regimental Association, he felt constrained to discontinue sending out his newsletter. In its place Col. Browne promised to let Brigadier Procter have news and information of individuals from his private correspondence for insertion in the journal.

7. *Old Contemptibles' Association.* An appeal addressed to the Colonel of the Regiment for a contribution towards the erection of a memorial in the crypt of St. Martin's-in-the-Field to commemorate the Old Contemptibles was considered by the Committee.

It was decided not to use Regimental Funds for this, as our funds are urgently needed for cases of distress connected with the Regiment.

It was agreed, however, that a notice should be published in *The Die-Hards* journal inviting individuals to subscribe privately, should they wish to do so.

8. *Date of Next Meeting.* The date of the next meeting will be Thursday, February 26, 1953.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4 p.m.

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

Inglis Barracks,  
Mill Hill,  
London, N.W.7.  
September 30, 1952.

#### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952, AT 4 p.m.

*Present*—Lt-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C. (Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P., Col. G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt-Col. T. S. Wollocombe, M.C., Lt-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major P. D. H. Marshall, Major W. D. Ellis, T.D., Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., A.D.C., Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Lt-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L.

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

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

*Report.* During the period January 1 to September 9, 1952, 25 new members have been approved for membership of the Officers' Club.

Twenty members have failed to pay their subscriptions for 1952, although three reminders have been sent to them. A list of these has been sent to the Chairman.

*Expenditure.* The following amounts were expended during Cricket Week activities:

Cricket: £121 13s. 9d. Amount authorised: £150.

Dinner: £67 2s. 6d. Amount authorised: £75.

"At Home": £12 18s. 9d. Amount authorised: £40.

Due to the small number of entries (four) it was decided to cancel the tennis tournament for 1952. £25 was approved for this event.

The Secretary was instructed to remove the names of 18 members who had not paid their subscriptions for 1952 from the register.

3. *Invitations to Officers' Club Functions.* Lt-Col. Green stated that he felt that invitations to official guests and outside individuals should be controlled by the Committee of the Officers' Club. After discussion it was approved that:

(a) Private guests would not in future be invited to the Officers' Club Dinner, but private guests may be invited to the Officers' Club "At Home" and cocktail parties.

(b) The entertainment of official guests should be referred to the Committee of the Officers' Club.

(c) If O.C. Depot required financial assistance in order to entertain official guests he should refer the matter to the Club Committee.

4. *Officers' Club Charitable Fund.* It was proposed by Col. Weston, seconded by Major Hardcastle and approved by the Committee that the subscription to Royal School for Daughters of Officers be raised from £2 2s. 9d. to £5 5s. 0d.

5. *Officers' Club Dinner.* The date of the Dinner for 1953 was deferred. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain from the United Services Club, Army and Navy Club and Naval and Military Club if it was possible to effect a booking for June 26, 1953.\*

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.

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

Inglis Barracks,  
Mill Hill,  
London, N.W.7.  
September 30, 1952.

\*After full enquiries had been made it was ascertained that no satisfactory booking could be made for June 26. It was, therefore, decided that the Officers' Club Dinner should be held at the Junior United Service Club on June 19, 1953.

## Hong Kong Newsletter

Hong Kong,

October 1, 1952.

Dear Col. Browne,

It is some time since I have had occasion to write to you, but I promised "Roly" Gwyn that I would do so today, for last evening I motored out to Fanling to attend a big cocktail party given by the officers of the Middlesex Regiment. This was held in the ladies' club house and lawns of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club. There was a fine display of their mess plate, etc. The situation lent itself so well for playing of Retreat, lit up by searchlights. The Band, Drums, etc., put up an extraordinarily fine show. Indeed, all the arrangements reflect great credit on all concerned. After the show I and others, including Lt.-Gen. and Lady Airey, dined with the Gwyns at their bungalow. I have seldom enjoyed an evening so much.

On October 22 the officers of the Hong Kong Regiment dine those of the Middlesex Regiment and on Sunday, October 26, will be held the special service in St. John's Cathedral for the unveiling and dedication of your Regimental war memorial (of this I will write you in due course). Finally, on October 29 the Jockey Club are staging a special day's racing for the Duchess of Kent and the young Duke. At this your Band will be playing during the day and at the end will probably play Retreat, etc.

So you see their last days in Hong Kong are to be full ones. On Sunday, October 5, your Regiment is holding an open day out at Fanling for men of the Hong Kong Regiment, when various sports, etc., will be played, but I am unable to get out then. Fanling, I should mention, is some 21 miles out by road from the Kowloon Ferry, so it is quite an expedition for residents on this island, like myself.

I hope all goes well at Albuhera Close and you are keeping fit and well.

Yours sincerely,

HUGH D. L. DOWBIGGIN.

P.S.—I and many others will be sorry when your Regiment departs about November 4.

## Winter Sports for the Services

The five schemes detailed below are available to Regular, Territorial and Reserve personnel of the three Services and their families. All have been run at least three previous winters.

(a) *St. Moritz in Switzerland* (Combined Services Winter Sports Association).

16 days from £35 5s. 0d. (part payable in sterling) which includes hotel, all taxes and gratuities, ski school, funiculars, ski-lift, and third-class return rail travel from London (£20 5s. 0d. without travel).

Air travel by chartered aircraft or second-class rail travel are optional at slight extra cost. There are six consecutive periods of 16 days beginning on December 19, 1952, January 2, 16 and 30, February 13 and 27, and March 13, 1953.

(b) *Badgastein in Austria* (Army Ski Association).

January 17 to 31, 1953 (14 days). Terms are from 18s. to 22s. a day, including four meals and extras in the hotel, not including travel which is being arranged for Service rail parties from £11 15s. 0d. return (including meals and couchettes). The Army Ski championships will be held at Badgastein from January 27 to 30, 1953.

(c) *Obergurgl and Hochsölden in Austria* (Royal Naval Ski and Mountaineering Club).

16 days from £29 (part payable in sterling), which includes hotel, all taxes and gratuities,

ski school, ski-lifts and third-class travel. Departure dates: Hochsölden, December 27, January 10; Obergurgl, January 3, 1953.

(d) *Chamonix in France* (R.A.F. Winter Sports Association).

10 days for £37 12s. 0d., which includes hotel, gratuities, ski school, ski-lifts, ski equipment and third-class travel. Departure dates, January 5, 15 and 25, February 4, 14 and 24, 1953.

(e) *Scheidegg and Wengernalp in Switzerland* (Combined Services Winter Sports Association).

Any period from December to May. Service special terms from 21s. a day, including extras.

Those interested in these and other ski schemes should apply for membership of the Army Ski Association (Annual subscription: Regular officers, 5s.; Territorial and Reserve officers, 4s.; Other ranks, 2s. 6d.). The Association Badge costs 2s. 6d.; the Association Tie (white lion and crown superimposed on crossed ski-sticks on a blue background) costs 10s. 6d. Special terms are available for the purchase or hire of ski clothing and the hire of ski equipment, and for Winter Sports Insurance to save currency. Application forms and further details of the schemes can be obtained from: The Army Ski Association, A.S.C.B., The War Office, London, S.W.1.

## 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.

If you have enjoyed reading this issue of "The Die-Hards," will you recommend to non-readers of your acquaintance that they should take it in. Please support us, in order that we may achieve our ambition, which is to publish the finest Service magazine—Second to None.



Subscriptions for the Journal from March, 1953, to December, 1953, are now due in many cases.

Annual Subscription: 5/-

THE EDITOR "THE DIE-HARDS," The Middlesex Regiment,  
INGLIS BARRACKS,  
MILL HILL,  
LONDON, N.W.7.

Dear Sir,

I enclose a cheque value ..... being my subscription  
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Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

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