

# The Die Hards

## THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. XI No. 1

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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," "Seringapatam," "Alubuhara," "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," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Fresenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "Albert, 1916," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fleurs-Courcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Bapaume, 1917," "Arras, 1917," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Arleux," "Pilckem," "Langemark, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughhar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

#### Regular Battalion

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

#### Militia Battalions

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

#### Territorial Army Battalions

7th Bn. (1/7th Bn. and 2/7th Bn. amalgamated after 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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##### NEW ZEALAND.

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

##### HONG KONG REGIMENT.

British Army Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.

Colonel of the Regiment: Lt-General G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C.  
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

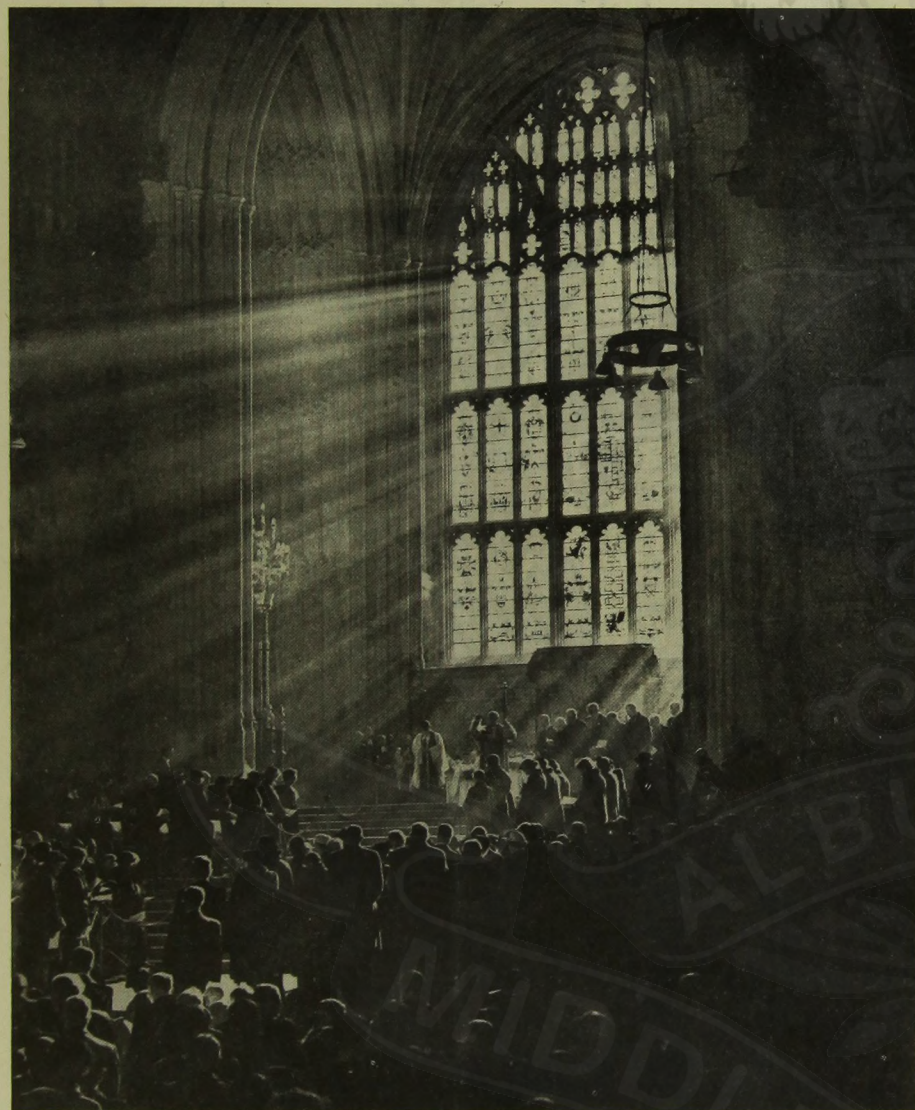
"The Die-Hards" is published in March, June, September and December, and copies may be obtained by application to the Editor.

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

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

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**Dedication of the Parliamentary War Memorial 1939-1945, in Westminster Hall, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 1952**  
*The Ceremony was attended by Colonel M. Browne and Major G. Brinley Ayre. Amongst those names recorded was "621223 L/Cpl. C. R. Rees, B Coy. 2 Mx., killed in action North West Europe June 9, 1944, a servant of the Houses of Parliament."*

*[Photograph reproduced by courtesy of "The Times"]*



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

## EDITORIAL

As this is the first number of the *Die-Hards* since the return of the 1st Battalion from Asia, it is perhaps not too late to welcome them back to Europe.

Details of the arrival in England and of the various ceremonies thereafter appear in the Battalion Notes, but we feel that it is only right to express here the grateful thanks of the Regiment to the Lord Lieutenant and the county for making the return so memorable.

We would congratulate the members of the Battalion on their fine showing during the period of great publicity.

The work involved in the very complicated programme must have thrown a considerable strain on the small Depot and Regimental H.Q. staff, and we note that this is deeply appreciated by the 1st Battalion. Those who attended as spectators, too, would wish to add their congratulations and thanks.

The New Year Honours produced one in particular over which all members of the Regiment will rejoice. It is hardly necessary to say that this is the award of the C.B.E. (Civil) to Col. Maurice Browne "for services to the Middlesex Regiment." Truly no honour could have been more worthily awarded and the reasons for the award so suitably worded. It must also be almost unique—but then so is Col. Browne!

Another honour, the O.B.E. to Lt.-Col. John Willoughby, will also have caused pleasure and we offer him, too, our hearty congratulations. As this does not end the list of those to whom congratulations are due in various spheres we spare the continued by saying congratulations to:—

Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., on being appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Middlesex.

Lt. A. W. Ramsay, 7th Battalion, on being awarded his Blue for Rugby football at Oxford University.

Lt. A. H. Catchpole, 7th Battalion, on being awarded his Blue for golf at Oxford University.

L/Cpl. Walley (Depot) on playing football for the Army v. Cambridge University XI.

Finally, as we write we hear the Lt.-Col. G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E., has been promoted to Colonel, and we send our congratulations to far off Malaya.

Details are included in this number of a competition to encourage the study of Regimental history. We are most grateful to the originator of this idea and for the promise of a handsome prize.

This should prove an interesting as well as an in-

structive exercise for anyone with imagination. We hope that there will be many entries.

Five pounds has been offered for prizes and its distribution will depend upon the number and quality of the entries. Should, however, the standard and number of entries warrant it the prize money will be increased. The best story will be published in *The Die-Hards*.

As a Coronation gesture, Major A. H. Cooper has kindly offered to present the usual momentos for the winners of the "Cooper" Cup in the autumn golf meeting. In addition he has suggested, if others will contribute, that a special Coronation prize be played for at the autumn meeting to take the form of the best aggregate for the medal round at the meeting. We are sure that his offers will be most kindly accepted and approved at the next meeting in April.

### DIRECTIVE BY THE COLONEL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

#### Westminster Abbey Appeal Fund

The Colonel of the Regiment has read, with interest, the story of the Million Pound Appeal for Westminster Abbey, just launched by the Prime Minister.

In view of the recent Remembrance and Thanksgiving Divine Service in the Abbey on December 19, attended by our 1st Battalion, at which the Colours were laid on the High Altar, the Colonel is confident all regimental ranks, past and present, will wish to contribute towards this appeal as their individual means permit. All contributions should be sent as soon as possible to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7. Postal Orders and cheques should be crossed "Abbey Appeal."

### Forthcoming Events

#### Golf

Spring Golf Meeting: Hendon Golf Club, April 23, 1953.

Home Counties Brigade Meeting: Goodwood Golf Club, nr. Chichester, May 7, 1953.

Autumn Golf Meeting: North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, September 19 and 20, 1953.

#### Cricket

Saturday, June 20 v. Free Foresters.

Sunday, June 21 v. Hampstead Heathens.

Monday June 22 v. Cryptics.

Tuesday, June 23 v. Incogniti.

Wednesday, June 24 v. I. Zingari.

Officers' Club dinner will take place on June 19, 1953. Full particulars will be circulated later.

The Secretary of the Officers' Club has for use of the members of the club two season tickets for M.C.C. These can be obtained on application.



# 1st Battalion Notes

BATTALION EDITOR:—MAJOR G. B. AYRE

## THE LAST DAYS—IN HONG KONG

The business of saying *au revoir* to all our friends in Hong Kong proved to be most energetic and wearing to the health and pockets of all. The last round started on October 14, when "S" Company provided a guard of honour at Flagstaff House on the occasion of the visit of the Military Commander of Macao to the Colony.

In the last week of October H.M.S. *Unicorn* paid a visit to Hong Kong and as this was to be the last time the ship was to meet the Battalion during its present tour a special ceremony was staged on board. On the 26th before a distinguished company the Band and Drums beat Retreat on the flight deck with a Royal Marine guard provided from the ship. The next day the following signal was received as the aircraft carrier sailed:

"On leaving the Colony the Captain, officers and ship's company bid farewell to their many close friends in the Middlesex Regiment. They are filled with pride to have been associated with the Middlesex Regiment, whose record is unequalled in the war in the East. The bond of friendship between the ship and the Regiment cannot but endure and we all look forward to the future when we may meet again. Meanwhile, we sincerely wish you a speedy return to England, a happy Christmas, a good and well-earned leave and all good fortune in Austria. P. R. S. Pennefather, Capt., R.N."

Meanwhile, the advance party of the 1st Dorsets had arrived and was busy taking stock of the contents of San Wai camp and our operational positions on "Birds" and "Cloudy." Finally, the Battalion marched to Fanling Station for the last time and entrained for Kowloon and Chatham Road Transit Camp on October 28. Before leaving a large Regimental badge in stone (25 yards in diameter) had been built on the north side of Lamb Hill, overlooking the camp, by the efforts of "A" Company. The upkeep of this badge has been left in the hands of the Hong Kong Regiment.

At this time H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent visited the Colony. Some members of the Battalion were presented to her informally and on October 29 the Band and Drums played a special programme at the Hong Kong Jockey Club race meeting held in her honour.

On November 2 the Battalion took part in an impressive and moving service when a memorial tablet and book of remembrance in commemoration of all ranks who died in the defence of Hong Kong, as prisoners of war and in Korea was dedicated by The Rt. Rev. R. O. Hall, M.C., Bishop of Hong Kong. H.E. the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, together with a

large congregation of families and friends, were present and filled the cathedral.

Before the start of the Service the Colours were brought into the cathedral and laid on the altar.

For the unveiling and dedication of the tablet and book, which had been placed in the centre of the cathedral, those who were made prisoners in 1941 and still serving with the Battalion played a special part. They were O.R.Q.M.S. A. E. F. Waldron, Drum Major C. Holdford, B.E.M., and Cpls. J. Fields and F. C. Hazlewood.

The bronze memorial tablet is set on a wooden stand with a glass case attached. In the case has been placed the book of remembrance, a page of which is to be turned over regularly by a member of the Hong Kong Regiment. After the dedication the Last Post was sounded by the Regimental bugles, followed after a minute's silence by Reveille.

In his sermon the Bishop said it was most appropriate to the special purpose of this service that seated in front should be representatives of our families. It was the families in London who suffered first in the last war while the Regiment was in the then comparative peace of Hong Kong. Of the two men whom he had known personally, the first, Col. Stewart, had told him what it meant to his men when almost every day he had to send for someone and break the news of some near relation killed or injured. "It's all wrong, Bishop, isn't it, that our families should suffer like this?" Thus, he pointed out, the Middlesex memorial began in the Colonel's office at Shamshuipo Barracks.

The next link which epitomised the real bond between the Colony and the Regiment concerned the other man he knew personally, Col. Newnham. Col. Newnham, who was finally executed with 29 others on Stanley beach after months of torture and relentless cross-examination, was one of five to be awarded the George Cross. One of those who shared his endurance and death was a Chinese sidesman of the cathedral, and Col. Newnham is reported to have said of him, "He was the bravest man I ever met." When led out to execution the Colonel asked this Chinese member of the congregation to lead in prayer the very mixed company of men and women. "You can imagine, therefore, how deeply we welcome this memorial, as the courage and suffering of your Regiment are most deeply linked with the courage and sufferings of this city," continued the Bishop.

"Yesterday, November 1," the Bishop said, "was All Saints' Day. Few were saints and it was silly and sentimental to call all those brave men who have died

saints. Today, November 2, is the day to remember these men, for it is All Souls' Day, on which the Church throughout the world prays for all those who have departed this life." As his text, which he had deliberately kept for the end, he gave:

"Let not your hearts be troubled,  
Ye believe in God, believe also in me.  
In my Father's house are many mansions.  
I go to prepare a place for you that  
Where I am there ye may be also."

After the service the G.O.C., Maj.-Gen. Cruddas, took the salute outside the Supreme Court, as the Battalion marched back to Queen's Pier and crossed to Kowloon on a special ferry which had kindly been placed at our disposal by the Yau-mati Company.

On the following day a parade was held at Chatham Road, when the new bugle call and Regimental march, "Lyemum" (composed by Drum Major Holdford and Bandmaster Jackson respectively), were presented by the C.O. to Major R. E. Jerrard-Tull, O.C. Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit. A contingent of 60 men of the H.K.C.T.U. were on parade, including Capt. P. J. Livemore, M.C. (Middlesex Regiment), the Adjutant.

At the end of this ceremony Maj.-Gen. Cruddas inspected a guard of honour from "S" Company under the command of Major I. H. Battye and the Band and Drums. Not easily given to compliments on such occasions, he then bade farewell in glowing terms to the officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s of the Battalion.

That evening 26 officers of the Regiment were guests of the Hong Kong Regiment at dinner in their Officers' Mess. After dinner Major Field, on behalf of the officers of the Hong Kong Regiment, presented the C.O. with a beautifully carved teak plinth surmounted by their Regimental crest, twin silver dragons over their motto, "Nulli Secundus in Oriente."

Finally, on November 5, the Battalion—26 officers and 492 other ranks—embarked in H.M.T. *Empire Fowey* for the U.K. Even to the end old associations kept cropping up. In the harbour were two other large vessels; alongside was the trooper *Danera*, which had carried the Battalion to Hong Kong in 1949, and further over was the *Felix Roussel*, in which many members of the Middlesex Regiment had worked as prisoners of war after her capture by the Japanese from the French in 1941. To round it off the pipe band of the 1st Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers, who had played the Battalion off on its departure to Korea, was welcomed once again to play us off on our departure from Hong Kong.

Promptly at 1500 hours on a lovely winter's day the *Empire Fowey* moved away from the quay with the 27th Infantry Brigade pennant and the Regimental flag flying from the mast. It was a perfect setting as we moved slowly up what is acknowledged to be one of the most beautiful harbours in the world towards Lyemum gap escorted by an assortment of junks, sampans and motor boats letting off the traditional Chinese crackers. At Lyemum gap the Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit had turned out in force to cheer us on our way and the Band played their new Regimental march. Shortly afterwards when we passed Stanley cemetery Last Post

followed by Reveille was blown as a last tribute to those of the Regiment buried there.

The Press in Hong Kong paid some fine tributes to the Regiment and below are extracts from the *South China Morning Post*:

"'DIE-HARDS' Departure"

"Hong Kong does not say good-bye to the Middlesex Regiment—only *au revoir*. The Battalion may not come our way again in this changeable world. But the links will remain. They are closer than any others that exist between the Colony and the many other regiments that have come and gone. The Middlesex fought and died with the Hong Kong boys in the bitterest experience of the Colony's history. The alliance that has been formed between the 'Die-Hards' and the Hong Kong Regiment is no formal one, but an association of blood and tears and, in more recent years, of laughter and sport in common. Hong Kong, too, takes pride in the fine record the Regiment set up as one of the first two British battalions to go to Korea.

"Hong Kong has a long and important role to play, whatever may be the future framework of its constitution and authority, whether as an entrepôt and cultural centre or as a seat of international organisations. But if ever it were given a permanent brigade as garrison the Middlesex would be a popular choice for one of the constituent battalions. The 15th U.S. Infantry was permanently stationed in Tientsin for a generation and the old 57th or 77th Foot might well play a similar role in Hong Kong in its next metamorphosis. It may seem a rather strange idea to those accustomed to the endless mobility of the British regiments of the line, but stranger things have happened and are happening nowadays. Meanwhile, Hong Kong lets the 'Die-Hards' go with great reluctance, for many are the friendships that have been formed, and the leave-taking had a personal intimacy rare in such associations."

In spite of many near misses by typhoons, we had the most extraordinarily calm seas and warm weather throughout. True to her reputation as the finest trooper, the *Empire Fowey* proved a comfortable and happy ship and we extend our thanks to Capt. Divers and Lt.-Col. Barry, the ship's company and permanent staff.

On arrival at Singapore the following message was received from the C.-in-C., Far East Land Forces:

"As you pass through Singapore I would like to take the opportunity of congratulating the Battalion on their splendid achievements during their service in the Far East and to thank you all for your good work. I wish all ranks a safe trip home, a happy Christmas and the best of good fortune in the future. Charles Keightly, Lieutenant-General."

Singapore and Colombo proved to be the only ports where shore leave was granted, as our calls at Aden and Port Said were short and at night. Life soon settled down into a steady routine designed to provide some training and plenty of entertainment for those who required it, together with the maximum amount of peace and relaxation for the remainder. The major attraction proved to be the Band, which blew itself to a standstill with regular concerts and dances, tombola and



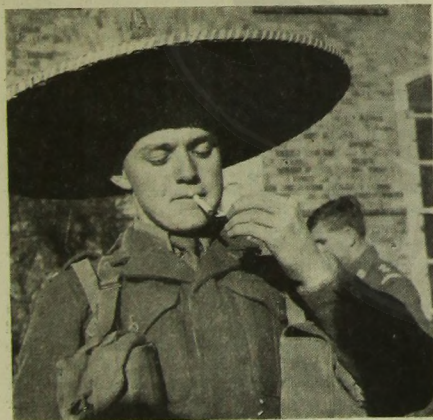
films. Many competitions were organised, the tug-of-war and boxing being particularly successful. For the cabin passengers the highlights were the children's party and the carnival dance. At the children's party the five yards crawl for the under 18 months provided excitement, as soon after the "off," on a roll of the ship, several contestants took to their feet and staggered over the finishing line. The pride of their parents was dampened by the subsequent disqualification of their entry and loss of a valuable cash prize.

The carnival dance got off to a fine start with a raid of Gurkha "Communists," all of whom issued a ten-point programme printed in red to the white-faced, white-livered "Imperialists" aboard the *Empire Fowey*:

1. Down with the "Die-Hards," who have murdered our comrades in Korea.
2. Up the Red Sea.
3. Cheaper drinks and longer hours.
4. Throw the white quoits overboard.
5. Remove the Imperialistic colours from the "Red Duster."
6. Up with the lower deck.
7. Sink all ships of the Mercantile Marine.
8. Open up the cells; release all prisoners.
9. Produce more children for the Red cause.
10. Raise the red sails on all the lifeboats.

Their final effort was the abduction of the lady of ample proportion at the moment of receiving the first prize for her dress, who it was thought might resist but did not.

In spite of bad forecasts, we had a calm and sunny crossing through the Bay of Biscay and did not get into battledress until rounding Ushant and meeting the arctic weather which the U.K. had been enduring.



"I was there—now I'm at Warley"



A contemplative study of Sgt. Jessup "easing springs"

#### HOME AGAIN

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
'This is my own, my native land!'  
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned  
As home his footsteps he hath turned,  
From wandering on a foreign strand?"

("Patriotism"—Sir Walter Scott.)

For a great many relatives and friends the story started over three and a half years ago; in fact, on June 15, 1949, when they said *au revoir* at Southampton as the troopship *Dunera* left for Hong Kong.

This story starts at the Polygon Hotel, Southampton, on Saturday evening, November 29, 1952, for it was there that a few of these same friends and relatives met for the second time, but in a noticeably happier frame of mind. "I wonder if Korea has made him look any older," "I hope he won't think that I have changed" and "I hear that the Battalion's in good shape. Not many of the old ones left, but some good National Servicemen," were among the remarks overheard. As a boy one was told how impolite it was to listen to other people's conversation and many times was scolded for being too inquisitive, but this was different. There was an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation, which was produced and shared not only by those who were staying in the hotel or who popped into the bar for a drink that night, but which was electrified by the many who arrived on the following Sunday morning.

One could not resist in continuing to eavesdrop on this particular morning, especially when the gentlemen of the Press arrived. They knew there was a good story

to be had and, if the sun continued to shine or their arc lights worked, some good photographs too. "We must get the R.S.M. to say a few words. He was with the Battalion in Korea and then in Hong Kong. Excellent in the field, so I'm told," and many similar remarks caused one to prick one's ears.

The official reception party arrived shortly after lunch, headed by Group Capt. A. Dore, the Vice-Lieutenant of the County of Middlesex and Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, the Colonel of the Regiment. Included in the party were Col. A. M. Man, Col. Parry, who is the Colonel of the Home Counties Brigade, Col. M. Crawford, Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, Lt.-Col. J. E. F. Willoughby, Major P. D. H. Marshall and, of course, Col. M. Browne, who left one in no doubt whatsoever as to how he was feeling on this momentous occasion. As the minutes rolled on the reception party, the Press and the many friends and relatives began to grow restless. Other visitors to the hotel must have wondered why so many people, some in uniform, some with cameras, some scribbling notes, were all casting furtive glances at the clock. Why so many were toying continuously with their hats, and the ladies present opening and shutting their handbags with considerable rapidity. Why was everyone popping up and down in their chairs or walking to and fro in a manner comparable only to the mythical Felix?

At last the moment arrived when Lt.-Col. "Scrappy" Ha, the Port Commandant, arrived with the glad news that the *Empire Fowey* was in Southampton Docks and would berth in half an hour. Although that was the moment for which all had been waiting, and in spite of the fact that everyone was at fever pitch, the hat which someone had been taking off and putting on for the last 20 minutes could not be found, neither could one of the senior officers who, a little earlier, had admitted that he was excited but felt he shouldn't show it. At last he appeared looking even more meticulously military than usual, and was heard soliloquising "That after all it was the 1st Battalion he was meeting."

Much to the relief of the hotel staff the entourage left the Polygon Hotel and, led by the Port Commandant, proceeded in convoy to Southampton Docks. The Press actually beat the pistol and got away to a good start, partly because they were all driving large cars but mainly because the labels which they fix to their windscreens allow them to disregard the normal road regulations and, what is more, appear to have some omnipotent affect on traffic signals and "Halt" signs.

Its amazing how silent people become just before the climax of an occasion for which they have been anxiously waiting, and probably it was wrong of somebody to shout and disturb the few minutes of peace. "There she is," he yelled, "and with the Regimental flag flying at the mast." Yes, there was the *Empire Fowey*, "Fair-weather" *Fowey* as she is called by the P. and O., steaming slowly through the docks to her berth, having beaten her own record in getting back from Hong Kong in 25 days at an average speed of over 17 knots. The driver also shared in the excitement, particularly when he was urged by the senior officer in the car to get a move on. If only we had had one of those Press labels!

She's the best "trooper" in the Service and a fine looking ship, but on this occasion she looked majestic with the Middlesex flag at the mast and flying the 27th Infantry Brigade pennant. It was only by good fortune and R.A.S.C. discipline that the driver did not follow her into the water. We were too far away to recognise anyone, but conjecture ran high, and by the time we had reached the berth there was a heated argument as to who was standing on the bridge; who was that on "A" deck; don't tell me that's old so and so! Perhaps you can sense the atmosphere which pervaded the quayside when, with many more friends and relatives, batteries of cameras, more Press and the band of the R.A.O.C. nobly playing in the bitter cold, we waited for the *Fowey* to tie up.

Had one been able to board the *Fowey* from the pilot's launch one could have gained an impression of the atmosphere in the ship, but it could be gathered quite easily from the remarks and general behaviour of the troops that they were glad to be home again. If one were asked to sum it up it might be said that it fell within the bracket of Sir Walter Scott's words on the one hand and the following, which one might have heard had one been on board:

Here I am once again in "Blighty,"  
Back to woollens and a flannel nightie.  
From N.A.A.F.I. noodles, Watson's fiz and chow rice  
To beer and "bangers" and dumplings; but how nice  
To be stationed in Zeltweg in the B.T.A. zone  
On lager and shnitzel, without cause for a moan.

To the strains of our Regimental marches and "Lass of Gowrie," the *Empire Fowey* tied up, and shortly afterwards the reception party were received on board by Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn and Lt.-Col. Barry, the ship's commandant. The Battalion was formed up in readiness on the starboard side of "B" deck, and in passing along the ranks one was impressed by the youth, smartness and fitness of these men. On behalf of the Lord Lieutenant they were welcomed back to England, and in particular to the County of Middlesex, by Group Capt. Dore, who followed the Colonel of the Regiment in his address of welcome. Both of them referred to the outstanding service which the Battalion had given in the Far East and to the additional honours which it had gained compatible with the highest traditions of the Regiment. They wished all ranks a very happy leave and the best of good fortune in Austria. In conclusion they said how much they were looking forward to the ceremonial marches and parades which had been planned to take place in certain county boroughs and on the Horse Guards Parade.

Meanwhile the ship was taking on the appearance of a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio, with cameras, arc lights and busy people searching for talent among the "bronzen" heroes. Having addressed the Battalion, the Vice-Lieutenant and the Colonel of the Regiment then met the Sergeants and W.O.s and spoke to each one individually before doing likewise with the officers. This interlude enabled the talent scouts to find the most photogenic soldiers for their Press and Movie news stories, and in no time the quayside was transformed into



a similar studio. Such were the scenes that followed that one expected Hedy Lamarr to appear in a boatswain's chair suspended from the rigging! In keeping with all good films it had its romantic side, when from time to time shots were taken of passionate embraces on the quayside where wives, sweethearts and friends were waiting to greet the one man who really mattered. Some of these photographs caused some embarrassment to those concerned, but others, so one understands, are likely to lead to a film contract or an advertising campaign for a patent medicine! The battle against lens and lights reached its climax when a Company Commander gallantly led his men along the quayside against fearful odds.

The Battalion was now well and truly home and the remaining hours of the night were spent in preparing for disembarkation and all its associated hazards in the

## Doings of the "Die-Hards"

### Warley Barracks

In the early hours of Monday, December 1, the Battalion entrained at Southampton Docks and at the scheduled time steamed away for Warley. It might have been a monotonous journey, especially after a night of little sleep, but it so happened that the time went fairly quickly. For one thing, we had the television team on the train making a film, cameramen and reporters from *Illustrated* and a number of other reporters as well. In addition, we were being continuously questioned by Major Charles Trestain as to whether we had seen a brown leather grip, and such was the expression on his face that anyone would have gladly given him one had they one to spare. It subsequently transpired that the bag contained his lunch and he was anxious that the bottles should not be broken. We arrived a little late at Brentwood Station, where we were met by the advance party, who took charge of the baggage, leaving the Battalion free of encumbrances to march to Warley Barracks. Considering this was the first march of any kind for over a month, the Press reports were most complimentary. Soon after the Battalion had fallen out "Cookhouse" was sounded, and like vultures the troops descended on the central cookhouse, where a special meal had been prepared for them. This also appeared on the television film and included a number of interviews made during the meal.

It would be wrong if mention was not made, at this stage, of the very good work done by the advance party under the command of Major Brinley Ayre. If variety is the spice of life, they must be either embalmed or have the ingredients of an excellent chutney! Among their tasks were Southampton arrival and trains, taking over Warley, accommodation, stores and an infinite variety of others, clothing and tailoring, cooks and rations, planning of flag marches, preparations for Horse Guards and Westminster Abbey, publicity, Press, B.B.C., television, newsreels, etc., and, above all, the provision of transport for all the ceremonial parades. Capt. Jimmy Flavell, R.Q.M.S. Lount and C.S.M. Copper provided the

form of movements, baggage, Customs, ration cards (once again) and numerous pieces of paper. Thanks to Lt.-Col. Hay and his staff, the whole procedure worked with clockwork efficiency and the Battalion was very grateful to the Customs officials and dockyard authorities for their tolerance and sympathy. Finally, the Battalion was firmly entrained on the following morning ready to leave for Warley Barracks, Brentwood, but still followed by representatives of the B.B.C. and the Press.

Although this is the end of this story, it is only the beginning of the next chapter, "The Doings of the 'Die-Hards,'" for much was to follow in the form of ceremonial parades, B.B.C. and television programmes and many social events. All these have been well covered by the Press and other mediums of publicity, so the following accounts are only brief summaries of each.

Warley team, whilst Capt. Tony Hodge remained at the Depot as staff officer flag marches and general factotum.

Warley is the home of the Essex Regiment ("The Pompadours") and we are extremely grateful to them for the valuable assistance they gave to the advance party. Their barracks might be described by a house agent as "A delightful period residence nestling in unspoilt woods, amidst truly rural surroundings." To a certain extent this is true, but the gilt wears off when one finds that the period is 1805 and the woods are full of notices warning trespassers and likely poachers that horrible things are liable to happen to them if they are caught inside. Nevertheless, the Battalion settled in quite comfortably and the square became a hive of activity with drill and even more drill; even the company commanders formed a squad and exercised their lungs in the large M.T. garage. It should be placed on record that one of them, when stepping backwards to allow his squad more room to march past, disappeared down an inspection pit and continued to command the parade with his cap level with the floor! Second only to the square and the M.T. garage was the Q.M. and his many assistants, who spent an equally hectic period running about with mouths full of pins fitting the Battalion out in new battledress, greatcoats and ties. Now it is all over the Q.M. has the business side to adjust in his ledgers and one hears on good authority that he would have preferred to have swallowed the pins! Anyhow, he did a great job and turned out the Battalion well for its various ceremonial parades.

Soon after arrival at Warley we had the pleasure of entertaining the Colonel of the Regiment and several senior officers to lunch in the Officers' Mess. They arrived in sufficient time for them to see something of the Battalion before going to the Mess. A little later on we had a similar occasion, when the Mayors of some of the Middlesex boroughs, Members of Parliament and the Vice-Lieutenant of the County honoured us with their presence. They also toured the barracks, visited the Sergeants' Mess and spoke to several other ranks.

Preparations in the form of rehearsals and fittings of clothing prevented the Battalion from going on leave until the night of December 19. It was arranged, however, that everyone should have a long weekend leave on the first weekend at Warley. Almost the entire Battalion went away until Monday night, to be reunited once again with their families.

Since mention has been made of preparations, we would like to record our appreciation of the hard work and valuable assistance rendered to the Battalion by Drill S.M. Dobson, of the Grenadier Guards. He produced a metamorphosis in the Battalion in the matter of a few days and when we saw him in London after the big parade he said how pleased he was with the result.

Now that the party is over Warley is just a name on a leave pass and will remain as such until the Battalion returns preparatory to packing up for Austria. The advance party leaves at the end of February and the main body in the middle of March. Although Zeltweg is our station, we take over at once, with one company, the British contingent of the quadruprite garrison of Vienna.

### On the Air

We knew that we had in the Battalion some unusual talent: the Adjutant, Capt. C. N. Clayden, is an ornithologist of considerable distinction and Major G. C. Dawson spends all his leisure hours 30 fathoms down studying deep sea monsters, but broadcasting and television was a speculation. However, now we are in no doubt whatsoever that we could provide some accomplished artists at comparatively short notice. Firstly, there is the Drum Major, who was absolutely first class in his broadcast in "In Town Tonight." He spoke extremely well and even played the Regimental call twice. What is even more remarkable is that this live broadcast followed a party in the studio, in which all the "important people in town tonight" took part, and among them was a very charming young actress who was playing the lead in one of the Christmas pantomimes. Secondly, we applaud the C.O. for his interview which he gave on television after the Middlesex Regiment newsreel. This programme was arranged at very short notice, and not only did the C.O. not know what was in store for him, but neither did he know the way to Crystal Palace. The outstanding point about his television broadcast, so I have gathered from the many viewers, was the completely natural and unaffected way in which he replied to the many questions. Having read the advertisements that "handsome men are slightly sunburnt," he created quite a precedent at the Crystal Palace by doing his show without make-up.

The *pièce de résistance* was the feature programme on the night of Friday, December 19, when for an hour the "Die-Hards" were on the air. This programme was written by Stephen Grenfell at very short notice owing to the disaster which befell Francis Dillon and Robert Pocock, who had the misfortune to be injured in a car accident ten days before the broadcast. It covered most of the incidents which can happen to a soldier in his service, with many flash backs to the past compared with their counterpart today. Nearly all the sound

effects were produced at Warley Barracks, and among them were familiar bugle calls, Orderly Room and a number of realistic scenes incorporating incidents in war, training and the lighter side of soldiering. A number of officers and their wives were invited to the B.B.C. to view the broadcast, and were well entertained beforehand by members of the Corporation. The studio was quite amazing and looked something like a cross between a cafe and a cloak room. A number of professional actors and actresses took part and the whole show was directed from a glass cage in which sat the producer and his staff. We sat in a small room with a glass panel and grinned through the window at the performers. Although the whole affair appeared to be most casual and light-hearted, it was executed with masterly precision and, as a result, was most interesting to watch.

### Hornsey, Finchley and Hendon

"What's the weather like?" was the first question everyone asked on waking up on Wednesday, December 10, the day when the Battalion was to march through Hornsey, Finchley and Hendon and show itself for the first time to the people of Middlesex. It did not look too good at 0530 hours, but our optimism was high and we were able to convince each other that it would be fine by 1000 hours, which was when we were due to debus. Of course it really had to be fine when all things were taken into consideration. For one thing the electricity failed at Warley on the previous night so blanching and "gimping" up had to be done by candle light and hurricane lamps until a late hour. Then there were the Colours to think of and the Drum skins and all the effort we had put in to make this march a great success so that the people of Middlesex would be proud of their Regiment. Well, we were lucky. The weather cleared up, the transport turned up and our box pleats stayed down!

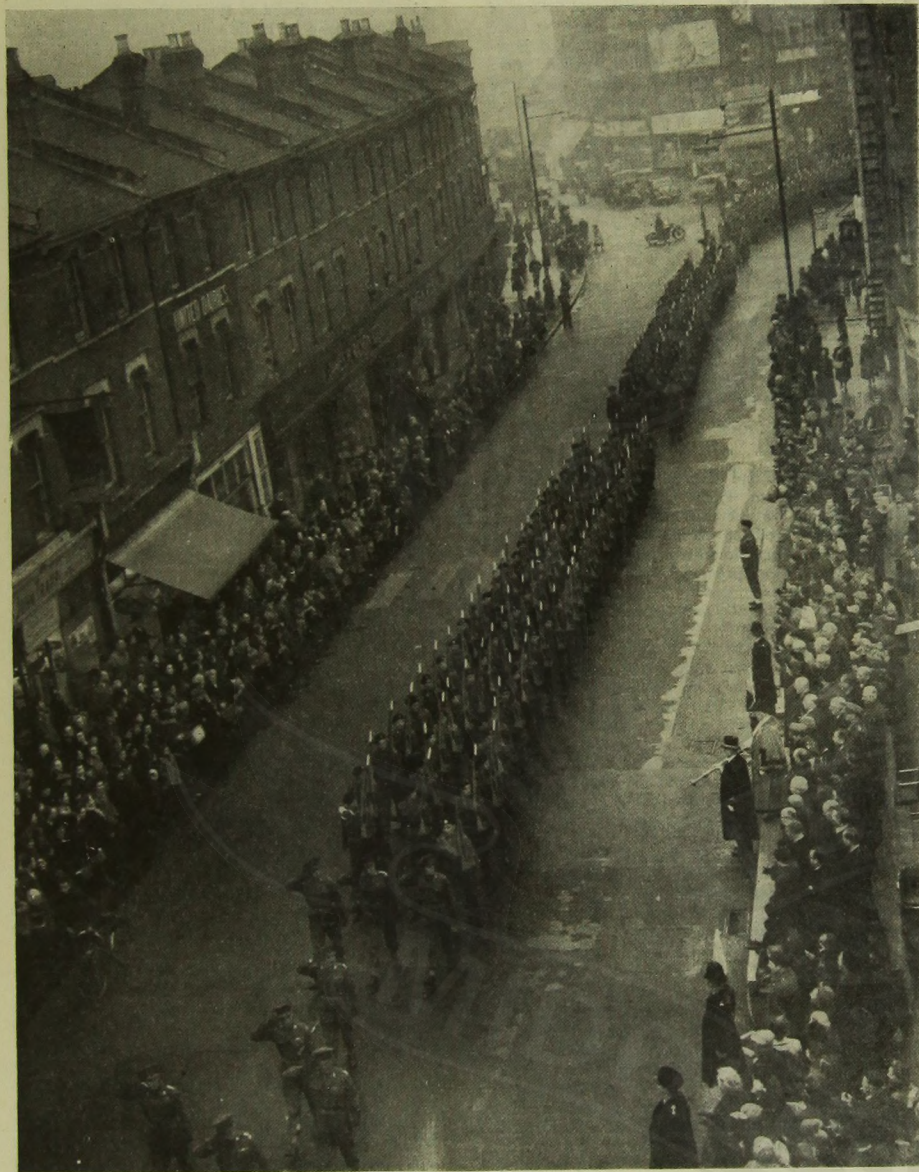
We started at Hornsey, having warmed ourselves with a cup of tea at the drill hall of the 7th Battalion, and marched off at 1030. It was not long before the Battalion got into its stride and almost immediately the Drum Major's mace was flying high into the air. Crowds gathered in the busy shopping centre near the saluting base where we marched past the Mayor of Hornsey, Alderman Lt.-Comdr. G. W. F. Pallett.

From Hornsey we moved on to Finchley, where we marched from Finchley Central Station along Ballards Lane to the Torrington in North Finchley. At the first saluting base, where the salute was taken by the Mayor of Finchley, Councillor E. Grant, we noticed a contingent of Cadets from Christ's College, Finchley, all trying very hard to emulate their older comrades who were marching by.

At the Torrington Hotel, where the Mayor took a second salute, was 83-year-old Charles E. Saunders, a real "Die-Hard" and an old campaigner of the South African War. He stood there, strictly to attention, with ten other South African War veterans, and not a muscle moved as bare headed he watched the Colours pass.

The streets were packed in this busy shopping area with young and old and many school children had been





The first Flag March. Battalion marching through Hornsey

given a special holiday to mark the occasion and swell the crowd. We should have no difficulty in raising a 2nd Battalion in two or three years' time, judging by the cheers and clapping of these potential recruits.

This march, which ended at the Torrington Hotel, produced the following telegram from a laundry which was a few hundred yards beyond where the Battalion halted.

"Three hundred little laundry maids waiting in the gutter,  
Waving little welcome flags, their hearts all in a flutter;  
Three hundred little laundry maids cheering but in vain,  
The 'Die-Hards' reached the Torrington and ne'er were seen again."

Needless to say such an amusing little *billet-doux* could not be ignored and, needless to say, Drum Major Holdford felt that he and his stalwarts could provide the answer. It was therefore proposed and eagerly accepted that the Corps of Drums should make a special visit to this laundry as representatives of the Battalion. Now, if you wish to make a Drummer blush, not by any means an easy feat, you comment on his snowy white collar—and don't believe him if he tells you that his mother uses Persil!

Following the Finchley march was a lunch provided for the entire Battalion by the three boroughs. It was held in the Finchley Drill Hall by kind permission of the 461 H.A.A. Regiment R.A. (T.A.), and attended by the Mayors and their Mayoresses, leading members of their Corporations, the Chairman of the Middlesex County Council, Deputy Lieutenants of the County and a number of senior officers of the Regiment, among whom was Col. M. Browne.

The three Mayors separately welcomed the Battalion and eulogised on its service in Korea and Hong Kong. They, with the other civic dignitaries, then drank a toast to the Battalion, to which the C.O. replied. In his reply Lt.-Col. Gwyn said that we were here in the spirit of a family. No regiment has had the support and complete backing of its people as we have had. He concluded by calling for three cheers for the boroughs of Hornsey, Finchley and Hendon.

Having heard the speeches on this occasion and sensed the feeling which undoubtedly exists between the county and its Regiment, one realises that there is a great unity between them. We, for our part, ask the county for its sons so that they might grow into men in the Regiment. They ask us to fly the flag well and truly and to do our duty not only as a regiment but as an individual. On this occasion, as on many others, they were extremely proud of all ranks in the Battalion. May they long continue to feel that way.

After an excellent lunch, but under a greying sky, the Battalion moved to Hendon, where for its first march of the afternoon it formed up in Hendon Park. It looked as though the weather was going to upset our plans and that it might affect the drum skins in the same way as the lunch was affecting our belts. The C.O. was discussing the advisability of casing the Colours and

as he was talking a gentle shower had already started. Nevertheless we all agreed that we had not felt a drop and that the show must go on—and on it went.

We left Hendon Park shortly after three and marched past the town hall, where the salute was taken by the Mayor of Hendon, Alderman S. R. C. Sumpter. Among the dense crowds which turned out to welcome the Battalion were 8,000 school children, so may be one day we shall once again have four Regular battalions! Also lining the route was a detachment of young recruits from the Depot under command of Lt. R. M. Cain. Many shops and public buildings were flying flags and bunting, and big "Welcome Home 'Die-Hards'" notices were seen.

At the Burnt Oak end of Hendon we marched past the Mayor for a second time, and here the crowds were exceptionally dense. Once again there were hundreds of children, masses of flags and bunting and almost hysterical cheering and shouting. It had been a long march and we were glad to see Deansbrook Road, where we halted to have tea as guests of the three boroughs.

And so to the end of a perfect day. During tea at Deansbrook Road Drill Hall the Mayor and Mayoress and many civic officials took the opportunity to wander round the drill hall and talk to the men whom they had been longing to meet. Many episodes from Korea and Hong Kong were recounted, and in spite of a very long and arduous day it was obvious by the laughter and jocular remarks that everyone was well satisfied with what he had done. We climbed into our buses at 1730 hours and, tired but far from downhearted, drove for two hours back to Warley. There was still tomorrow, another day of flag marches, and much blancoing, "gimping" and pressing to be done.

## Greenford, Ealing and Feltham

Once again it all depended on the weather, but this time it looked as though the weathercock has been crowing in our favour. Today, Thursday, December 11, we were to march through Greenford, Ealing and Feltham, and much effort had been put into our turnout. The tremendous welcome which we had received yesterday was still ringing in our ears as we left Warley Barracks at 0730 hours determined to produce an even better show.

We arrived at Greenford County School shortly before 10, where we were greeted by the W.V.S., who had most generously provided tea and sandwiches for the whole Battalion. How cheerful and kind they were as we greedily snatched our "char and wads." They have an uncanny knack of always being so charming and unruffled, even though they probably spent the preceding hour or two feverishly cutting sandwiches and the next two or three washing up.

The Battalion formed in the school grounds in the presence of about 500 children and marched out into the main road at Greenford, where the salute was taken by the Mayor of Ealing (Alderman Rowland Clay).

Lining the route were hundreds of children who had been given a special break in their lessons so that they might see the Battalion. No doubt they would welcome





One of the Flag Marches. Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn, Major G. B. Ayre, Capt. C. N. Clayden and R.S.M. Weller leading the Battalion and followed by No. 1 Company commanded by Major G. O. Porter

a repeat performance, if only to avoid the *alma mater*. Also standing near the saluting base were a party of American soldiers and as a certain sergeant-major marched by they were transfixed by his arm swinging, until one of them shouted, "Gee, it ain't natural." A middle-aged woman who was cheering lustily on the pavement was heard to say, "I can't help myself—I feel so proud of the lads."

The second march started in West Ealing and as we arrived at the debussing point the sun shone as on a summer's day. It really was a lovely morning, the occasion was a worthy one and everyone felt tremendously proud of the fact that he was one of the actors in this unique pageantry. If only we would remember on the cloudy days that it is still the same Regiment, could we not swell our chests a little more?

It was on this march that Drum Major Holdford excelled himself with his mace. Up in the air, round his back, out to the left and right, up again through the trolley bus wires. This really was a great thrill for the spectators, the majority of whom had probably never seen such a masterly achievement. No drum major could have equalled him and few would have had the nerve and marksmanship to throw the mace through such a labyrinth of wires and overhanging trees.

It was midday when we reached the Ealing Town Hall, where the Mayor once again took the salute. Here the crowds were at their thickest and among them were a number of ex-Servicemen. We continued on to

Haven Green, where the Battalion halted and formed into line to receive an official welcome from the Borough of Ealing. In his address the Mayor said how much he and the people had been looking forward to this occasion. He congratulated the Battalion on its exploits in Korea and finally called for three cheers, to which there was a lusty response.

As on the previous day, we were entertained to lunch, this time in Ealing Town Hall, where a wonderful meal, which included roast turkey, Christmas pudding and mince pies, was served. The arrangements for the lunch were made by the local W.V.S., and once again they were magnificent. Beer and cigarettes were offered freely and Pte. Moore, of "S" Company, was heard to say, "If this is the Army, I'm in it for life." At the end of lunch, when everybody was feeling that this was probably the best day in their lives, Drum Major Holdford jumped on to a chair and, having thanked the ladies of the W.V.S. for such a wonderful meal, called for three cheers.

Now it was Feltham's turn to see the Battalion and, as it happened, it was the Battalion's turn to see Feltham, for nearly everyone in the district was there in the street. It was here that crowds were most dense, and no welcome could have been more sincere or enthusiastic.

Although the sun was still shining, it was a little colder than before lunch, so we sat in the buses until the time to fall in. We were led on this march by two magnificent Police horses and by coincidence one of the

mounted constables had served in the Regiment. We wondered at first whether we were going to get as big a reception here as we had had on previous marches, but when we reached Feltham Station there were no doubts whatsoever in our minds. The people of Feltham had turned out in mass, the streets were filled with flags and bunting and an enormous banner stretched across the road with the words "Welcome home, 'Die-Hards.'" The Police lining the route were no longer the ogres of young children as they swarmed past them in an endeavour to fall in with the Band and Drums. Even Sgt. Ramsdale could not cope and for the last part of the march he was sprinting madly up and down between the Band and the leading company beseeching the "little darlings" to keep out of the way.

The salute was taken by Councillor A. C. Richards, Chairman of the Feltham Urban District Council, and flanking the dais were ex-Servicemen who had seen active service in Korea. On the dais with him was Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Secretary of the Middlesex Territorial Association.

The guard of the R.A.O.C. Depot turned out as we marched into their barracks and the road leading to them was lined with soldiers belonging to the various R.A.O.C. units stationed there. We fell out in a ceremonial manner in front of a large audience, most of whom were either stationed or employed in this large

vehicle depot. Then followed a very pleasant tea which the R.A.O.C. very kindly provided for us, and at 5.30 p.m. we climbed into our buses for the long drive back to Warley.

#### The Horse Guards Parade and Westminster Abbey

"Die-Hards" Day was the name given to Friday, December 19, by all the leading papers. It is certainly a day which all of us in the Battalion will remember for ever. No line regiment in the British Army has enjoyed more privileges and created more precedents than those granted to this Battalion on that unique and memorable occasion. Not only were we granted the unusual privilege and honour of parading on the Horse Guards Parade, but we were allowed to march through the heart of London with bayonets fixed, drums beating and Colours flying. Furthermore, Her Majesty graciously consented to allowing us to march through the centre of Admiralty Arch, a privilege which is normally reserved for royal and State occasions. At Westminster Abbey further concessions were granted in that never before has a line regiment had the honour of having its Colours received and laid on the high altar, its drums piled on the chancel steps and been allowed to sound Reveille and Last Post from inside the Abbey. Yet, in spite of these great honours, and the exceptionally high standard which was expected compatible with them, *The Times* reported



Drum Major Holdford and the Corps of Drums leading the Battalion past Buckingham Palace on December 19



to the effect that the drill and bearing of the Battalion was worthy of the place and of the occasion. This will go down in Regimental history as a great occasion, of which the Regiment for time in memoriam will always be proud. What an honour it is for all of us who took part, especially the National Service soldiers, to be able to say that we played a part in the writing of this chapter in our history.

We arrived at Wellington Barracks shortly after 0900 hours, and the Grenadier Guards provided us with refreshments. It was raining slightly and rather cold, and the terrifying thought that we might have to wear great-coats ran through our heads. Fortunately Jupiter was once again on our side, and by the time we started to fall in the rain had stopped and the sun peeped over the top of the Guards Chapel.

The guard of the Grenadier Guards turned out as we marched out across Birdcage Walk and round the Victoria Memorial in front of Buckingham Palace. Unfortunately no members of the Royal Family could be present on the balcony as we saluted, but we heard indirectly that Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh had read with interest the programme for our London parade and wished us the best of good fortune.

As we turned down The Mall we noticed the vanguard of mounted police and newsreel cameramen, who preceded us all the way to the Horse Guards Parade and then on to the Abbey.

Most of the spectators were already seated when we reached the Horse Guards Parade, and among the distinguished personages were Gen. Sir George Erskine, G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, Maj.-Gen. R. H. Bower, G.O.C. East Anglian District, Group Capt. A. F. W. Dore, Vice-Lieutenant of the County, Capt. Thompson and Hopkins, late Captains of H.M.S. *Unicorn*, Col. Maurice Browne and many civic dignitaries including Deputy Lieutenants of the County, Sheriffs, Mayors, Councillors and Aldermen of the county and county boroughs. Also present were a number of Members of Parliament whose constituencies lie within the county boundary.

It was a strange feeling marching and drilling on a square steeped in so much military tradition and famous for such parades as Trooping the Colour. One was also aware of the hundreds of eyes focused on the Battalion, and all on you if you made a mistake. Nevertheless, no mistakes were made and the ceremony proceeded without a hitch.

This was largely due to the training and rehearsals carried out not only at Warley but far away in San Wai, when for some weeks the Rugby field represented Wellington Barracks, the Guard Room was Buckingham Palace, the square The Mall and the Rugby field once again, but this time Horse Guards Parade, with the rugby posts as Admiralty Arch.

The Battalion was drawn up in line and after a General Salute was inspected by Lord Latham, H.M. Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex, and by Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., Colonel of the Regiment. Then followed an address by Lord Latham, the text of which is reported elsewhere in this journal. After the address the Band and Drums marched round the flank of the Battalion and halted in the centre of the square facing

the dais. Twenty drummers then slow marched towards the dais to receive 20 silver bugles, each inscribed with the Regimental badge and an inscription that it was presented in recognition of gallantry in Korea, August 1950-May 1951. These bugles were presented by the people of Middlesex and bought from a fund to which they subscribed. At the conclusion of the presentation the 20 drummers sounded a fanfare on the silver bugles and then rejoined the Corps of Drums.

The Battalion then formed up in close column of companies and, with the Band and Drums still in the centre of the square, marched past the Lord Lieutenant and the Colonel of the Regiment.

After the Battalion re-formed into line it marched off the Horse Guards Parade, through the centre of Admiralty Arch and down Whitehall, and as we were passing the Admiralty we remembered our close alliance with the aircraft carrier H.M.S. *Unicorn*. We saluted the Cenotaph as we marched on towards Westminster Abbey, where the Remembrance and Thanksgiving Service was to be held.

Throughout the march from Wellington Barracks to Westminster the streets were lined by the many who had been attracted by the music of the Band and Corps of Drums, by shoppers and business men and by many friends, ex-Servicemen, old comrades and by officers and other ranks who had served in the Battalion. Their names are too numerous to mention but we can say how glad we were to see them.

When we filed into the Abbey it was already full and many more old friends and ex-members of the Battalion were seen. Special seats had been reserved for the V.I.P.s and other important guests who were present on the Horse Guards Parade as well as for next of kin, families of serving members of the Battalion, M.P.s, Mayors and other civic dignitaries and for others who are closely associated with the Regiment.

The vestments of the High Altar and the Drums piled on the chancel steps produced a glorious colour background to the more sombre tones of the marble and stone pillars of this famous and historic building. One sensed a feeling of great dignity and reverence when the Dean, Chapter and clergy moved slowly through the choir stalls to take up their positions in the chancel. They were followed, during the singing of the first hymn, by the two Colour ensigns, Lt. W. M. M. Deacock and 2/Lt. M. T. Beagley, who in slow time marched to the chancel steps where they handed the Colours to the Precentor and to the Sacrist.

The service was conducted by the Dean, Dr. A. C. Don and the sermon was preached by the Chaplain General to the Forces, Canon V. J. Pike. In his sermon the Chaplain General reminded us that we had gathered together in one of England's most historical religious buildings for three main reasons. They were: Remembrance for the past and for those of the Battalion who did not come home; thanksgiving for the present and for our safe return; dedication for the future which, he said, offered us a challenge to live the Christian way of life, and to dedicate our lives to the service of God. After the close of the hymn the Last Post and Reveille were sounded on the silver bugles from within the Abbey. The congregation stood silently to attention as

the strains of these familiar calls echoed through the Abbey. It was a moving tribute to the past and a triumphant awakening for the future. If only we could remember in our daily lives the resolutions which we make secretly to ourselves on these moving occasions. Will the battalions of the future think as highly of us, who are now living in their past?

The service closed with the singing of the National Anthem, which was followed by the Blessing, and the Battalion filed out into Dean's Yard. As we were leaving a peal was rung on the Abbey bells, and it was then that Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, a famous soldier of the Regiment and now holding the office of Black Rod to the House of Lords, congratulated the C.O. on an amazingly good parade, excellent turn out and drill.

From Westminster Abbey we marched to the drill hall of the London Scottish (The Gordon Highlanders) T.A., where we were entertained to lunch as guests of the Middlesex County Council. The Chairman of the Middlesex County Council (Alderman W. J. Grimshaw) presided, and among the guests were senior officers of the Regiment, senior officials of the Middlesex County Council and Sir Edward Keeling (M.P. for Twickenham), who has always taken a great interest in the Regiment.

In replying to the toast of "The Regiment," the C.O.

thanked Lord Latham on behalf of all ranks for the generous gift of silver bugles and then went on to say, "There is no greater morale raiser to the soldier on active service abroad than to feel he is not forgotten by those at home. The cottage homes at Enfield, £4,000 raised for the Korean comforts fund and now 20 silver bugles. Surely no regiment in the Army today is better looked after by its county than we are." A toast which was not on the list, and which was a happy inspiration of the Chairman, was "To our comrades who did not return." Four hundred chairs scraped back as we stood in silent tribute to the memory of those men and to the example which they had set.

The band of the Scots Guards played selections during lunch, and it was nearly 3 o'clock before we fell in to march back to Wellington Barracks. So ended this unique day, which brought to a climax the generous and warm welcome which the people of Middlesex gave to their Regiment.

It would be an omission on our part if we did not mention the valuable assistance which the Battalion received from the reception committee and from Major Philip Marshall, Capt. John Moore and the Depot staff. Their foresight into the requirements for this important event and the timely and early preparations which they made directly contributed to the successful result which was achieved.



The Corps of Drums leading the Battalion through the centre of Admiralty Arch



## Presentation of Silver Bugles to the 1st Battalion

Speech made by Lord Latham, Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex, on the occasion of the presentation of 20 silver bugles to the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment on their return from Korea and the Far East on Friday, December 19, 1952, at Horse Guards Parade

*Col. Gwyn and all ranks of 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment,*

This gathering of representatives of the people of Middlesex and of members and friends of the Middlesex Regiment has assembled here today to welcome you back home from your service in the Far East, and also to pay tribute to you and your many comrades of all ranks who were with you in Korea, but who are not on this parade today. We are all greatly proud of the way you and they upheld, as indeed we knew you and they would, the high traditions of our county Regiment, known throughout the military history of our land and affectionately by every Middlesex citizen, past and present, as the "Die-Hards."

In the second World War the re-formed 1st Battalion fought against overwhelming forces of the enemy on land, at sea and in the air and added lustre to the imperishable glory of the Regiment.

In August, 1950, the Battalion was hurriedly moved from Hong Kong to be one of the spearheads to resist the forces of aggression in Korea. With the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders you formed the first British brigade to reach the Pusan bridgehead, from where you advanced almost to the frontier in North Korea, fighting in many actions under grim and cruel conditions. Then, as the tide of conflict changed, you fought a hard and difficult rearguard action to the south of Seoul and then again advanced to the line north of Seoul, now held by the United Nations forces. In these operations you marched some 1,500 miles. For some time the Brigade had to fight without their own supporting arms and until late in the winter of 1950 you had no warm clothing or comforts. In spite of the grim and cruel conditions and the bitter rigours of the Korean winter, all ranks maintained their unconquerable spirit and held fast to the proud traditions of the Regiment, deservedly winning many honours and awards.

Once again in the long and distinguished history and fame of the "Die-Hards" you of the 1st Battalion—one of the first of the units from Great Britain and the Commonwealth to take its place in the forces of the United Nations—relived the glories of Albuhera. It was your privilege and honour to be among those units

who had the formidable task of holding the line whilst the gathering forces of the United Nations were assembling. And you continued to do so until May, 1951.

Your casualties numbered 125 all ranks, nearly all of them young men in the prime of life, who once again proved, through the fires of combat, that in the men of Britain today there persist all the qualities of valour and steadfastness of free men fighting that men shall remain free. You and we deeply mourn the death of 31 of your comrades whose bodies lie in a far-off land. At this parade and at the service in the Abbey which is to follow we all pay our profound homage to those who gave their lives that others might live out theirs in freedom and security. To their relatives and friends we express our deep and heartfelt sympathy.

As Lord Lieutenant of the County, I can assure you that whilst you were fighting in Korea the thoughts of the people of Middlesex and of members of the Regiment at home were with you, and when they learned of your need of comforts in Korea they readily subscribed to provide them. I am sure that every contribution, great or small, was a token of kindly interest and feeling for everyone serving in the Battalion, as well as an outward and visible sign that you were not forgotten, far away though you were. I know that the fact that you were remembered by us at home, brought you even more joy and comfort than, perhaps, the comforts themselves, acceptable though no doubt they were.

The good people of Middlesex are greatly and justly proud of their County Regiment and its glorious past, which was so splendidly upheld and enhanced in the second World War, and now again by you of the 1st Battalion in Korea.

As a further mark of their esteem and affection for you and to express in a lasting way their grateful tribute to the gallant bearing and valour of the 1st Battalion in Korea, good friends of Middlesex and of the Regiment have subscribed to give to your Battalion 20 silver bugles, which I now have the pleasure and honour to present. May these bugles long remind you, and those who will follow you, that the valiant service of the 1st Battalion in Korea, for the cause of peace and freedom for mankind, was remembered by their friends at home.



*The presentation of Silver Bugles by Lord Latham, H.M. Lord Lieutenant of the County of Middlesex, behind whom is standing Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, Colonel of the Regiment*

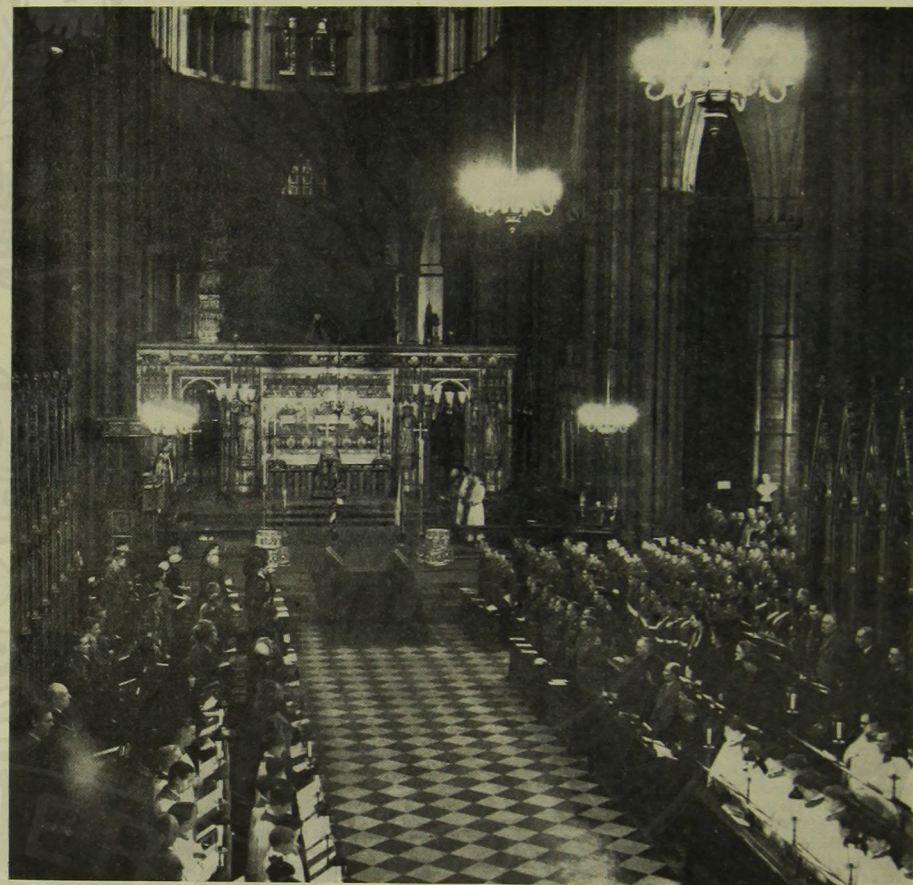


*No. 3 Company ("C" Company), under command of Major A. R. Waller, marching past on the Horse Guards Parade*





The Colour Party with Lt. W. M. M. Deacock (Queen's Colour) and 2/Lt. M. T. Beagley (Regimental Colour), followed by No. 3 Company ("C" Company), marching past Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament



The Colours at the Chancel steps in Westminster Abbey:

"The fighting man shall from the sun  
Take warmth, and life from the glowing earth;  
Speed with the light-foot winds to run,  
And with the trees to newer birth;  
And find, when fighting shall be done,  
Great rest, and fullness after dearth"

("Into Battle"—Julian Grenfell)



## Obeisance to Bacchus

"If all be true that I do think,  
There are five reasons why men drink,  
Good wine; a friend; or being dry;  
Or lest we should be by and by;  
—Or any other reason why."

\* Any homecoming is a good excuse for a party, but if the excuse is a big enough one or, for that matter, really necessary, then the party will be even bigger and better. Such was the case this time, when on Monday, December 15, the W.O.s and Sergeants held a reunion at the Depot, on Tuesday, December 16, the Regular officers dined at the Senior United Service Club, and on Saturday, December 20, the Colonel of the Regiment and the officers gave a cocktail party at the same club. From reports which have been received and judging by the appearances the following morning of those who attended, there is no doubt that Bacchus was well served. Great credit is due to the few who arranged these functions and to the many who travelled long distances so as to ensure that each party was a reunion in the true sense. Many seized the opportunity to spend a night or two in London, but whether this came within the spell of Bacchus is not disclosed. No doubt they enjoyed themselves. One of the photographs which appeared in a leading weekly magazine went slightly astray. It should have appeared on the advertisement page with the caption "Do you look like this in the morning?"

We were especially pleased that the W.O.s and sergeants were able to have a reunion, and most grateful to R.S.M. P. Donovan and the Depot for the excellent arrangements which were made. It is therefore important that we should include in this journal the report which C.S.M. McMillan wrote on this occasion.

"It must be many years since the Depot Mess played host to such a gathering of W.O.s and sergeants who came from far and wide to attend the Regimental reunion on December 16, 1952.

"The 1st Battalion was strongly represented, as also was the Depot Mess, 7th and 11th Battalions and many individuals at present in E.R.E. employment.

"Many of those present had served with the 1st Battalion during its recent tour abroad, including R.S.M. P. Donovan, who as mine host of the evening welcomed home the Battalion. During the evening he also read a telegram received that day from ex-R.S.M. P. J. McLoughlin (now landlord of the General Smuts Inn, White City), who wished to be remembered to all members and wished them luck for the future.

"Talk and wine flowed in almost equal abundance and from various groups in the assembly could be overheard the talk of old battles and incidents recalled to memory by sight of a familiar face.

"The evening ended with a buffet supper and time for all to go their respective ways, having enjoyed a very pleasant evening."

The photographs under the heading "We Saluted" are produced by kind permission of "Soldier" Magazine, Associated Press, "Hornsey Journal," Keystone Press Agency, Ltd., Fox Photos Ltd., and Edward Newnham.

## The March of the Middlesex Men

The plate glass quivers in the shop,  
With each explosion of the drum,  
The shopgirls squeal, the milk carts stop,  
Through Hornsey Town the "Die-Hards" come.

The "Die-Hards" come . . . from Pyongyang,  
From paddy fields and broken shrines.  
In Hornsey never poet sang,  
Yet magic gilds these steel-tipped lines.

The whirling mace soars ten feet high  
(Beware, beware, the trolley wires!)  
The bugles work their witchery,  
The drums stir up the old desires.

There's Ginger's girl, turned out to cheer!  
The bus men clap—let's have some more!  
An undertaker leaves his bier,  
And stands there, blinking, in his door.

A parched old man (like some who stared,  
Less comprehending, at Pusan)  
Stands heels together, bald head bared.  
The Colours pass. This waxen man

Once marched behind the fifes and drums.  
Yes, even in this human wraith  
There leaped the bitter pride that comes  
When all is broken, except faith.

The music beats on grimy walls,  
And posters crying suds and stout,  
And snack bars and masonic halls,  
And bagwash laundries . . . Scrub it out!

Scrub out the Gas Board, and the smile  
Of Rita Hayworth looking down.  
Scrub out this far from royal mile,  
Obliterate the khaki-brown.

And paint the scene a fiercer hue,  
Lay scarlet on, and more again,  
And daub the sky a Spanish blue,  
For these are Albuhera's men.

These same, returned from Asian quests,  
These ruddy lads with shaven heads,  
And blue-white ribbons on their breasts,  
The Fifty-Seventh, the Middlesex.

They pass. And some who heard the sound,  
And longed to join the schoolboy cheers,  
Go back to do their daily round.  
With glory booming in their ears.

E.S.T. (One who watched the parade.)

## Personalities

Time and space, that ever-present factor, prevents one from mentioning all the arrivals and departures within the period covered by this issue of the Journal. No doubt those who have been omitted will have been mentioned in other leading periodicals, among which one could suggest any of the racing papers, *Brevers' Gazette* and *Fur and Feather*. Nevertheless, herewith a profile on a few.

## Departures

For the reason that the prosecution of war is an art but its prevention is by science, Major Clinton Nolda has bought himself a second-hand pair of corduroy trousers and a polo neck sweater and, with slide rule, pestle and mortar has embarked for the land of the "boffins." We congratulate him on being chosen to attend the first special course at the Military College of Science. He has held officially or unofficially, legally or illegally, almost every appointment in the Battalion since he joined it in 1949. Among these is that of Editor of these notes, and in this capacity he will be sadly and badly missed. When he emerges at the end of his course he will have no doubt mastered all the "anisms" and "isms," thus making the possibility of a hot war even more remote.

Also leaving us at the same time is Major Rex Waller, whom we congratulate on being appointed as Training Major to the Territorial battalion. Fortunately he happens to be one of the few officers with a large wardrobe of mufti, and actually wore his own bowler on the Horse Guards recce. He joined the Battalion in October 1951 and commanded "C" Company throughout his stay. His wife thinks there is every possibility, with a certain amount of luck, that she might see a little more of him now than when he was in Hong Kong and she in Ealing.

We all congratulate R.S.M. Weller, M.M., on his promotion to Q.M. and on his appointment to the Depot. It is fitting that his tour with the Battalion should end with the Horse Guards Parade, the success of which was due very largely to his keenness and hard work. He always set a high standard and fine example in the Battalion, and in athletic meetings was invariably in at the end to collect a rosette. His H.Q.s on our operational positions in Hong Kong were a wonderful example of fieldworks, and he was heard frequently to say that one day he would climb "Birds" and "Cloudy"! Now that he is a member of the Depot Officers' Mess he is no doubt looking forward to entertaining, generously, of course, the numerous officers who will make a point of looking him up.

The Territorial Army's gain and our loss is the posting of C.S.M. Cooper and Sgt. Eastap to the 7th Battalion. C.S.M. Cooper has been in this Battalion for a number of years, having been Provost Sergeant and C.S.M. of "A" Company. Discipline and drill are his trump cards, and many soldiers have been heard to say that they would rather be his friend than his enemy.

We hope it is *au revoir* and not good-bye to Sgt. Dawtrey, who for some time has been M.T. Sergeant.

Nevertheless, he has swallowed the bait for a civilian job, to which, no doubt, there is quite a line! Others who have been caught in the civilian net are Cpl. Swift and L/Cpl. Shepherd, Ptes. Youd, Grainger, Garrett, Pragnell and Johns, to mention only a few. We have also waved good-bye to Cpl. Hardy, R.E.M.E., who did such sterling work with our M.T. Good luck to you all, and join up again quickly!

## Arrivals

From strategy to sanity comes Major John Ormiston, a recent graduate from the Joint Services Staff College. He is well known in the Regiment, even if a battalion is a little strange to him, and we are pleased to welcome him as Battalion 2IC. Provided he has the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon, the tact of Jacob and the pelt of Esau he should do well.

Also breaking in a new pair of boots is Lt. Brian Marciandi, who left his appointment as A.D.C. to the G.O.C. Land Forces, Hong Kong, shortly before the Battalion sailed. He has already made his presence felt as the getaway man with the Press and he can be relied upon to get a seat for almost any B.B.C. show.

Rather belatedly we welcome Lt. D. Pike, who joined the advance party before the Battalion reached home. Apart from a slight Spoonerism when he asked a woman reporter if he could see her rough proof, he has been accepted by the gentry of Warley and Brentwood. As food member of the Mess he is largely responsible for officers' morale and they in turn for his. No doubt he will bear this point in mind should he be tempted for a second time to order enough marmalade for 27 people.

From Airborne to "chairborne" (he is now running the central imprest account, poor chap) comes Lt. V. A. L. Holding. We are very pleased to see him in the Battalion, and especially in "S" Company, where he will command the Anti-Tank Platoon on completion of his forthcoming course. He is a "Digger" from "way down under," and 1946 he ventured away from Australia to join the 2nd in Palestine.

For a fleeting moment we caught a glimpse of Capt. "Nick" Carter, who rejoined the Battalion after so successfully passing the Company Commander's course at Warminster, but who is leaving almost immediately to become Adjutant of the Territorial Battalion. He has already gone into training for the summer T.A. camp, which probably accounts for the size of his Mess bill and the rather late nights which he is in the habit of keeping.

We also welcome Sgt. Bartle, who has joined "C" Company from the Home Counties Brigade Depot, Canterbury. From the 7th Battalion we are very pleased to see C.S.M. Pike, C.Q.M.S. Kendrick and Sgt. Morgan, all of whom are well known in this Battalion.

From among the talent at the Depot we have been lucky enough to extract Sgt. Bailey with his box of pink pills, Sgt. Moran (the Provost Sergeant) and Sgts. Colebeck, Cubitt and Bream. "Butcher" Bailey has been—or should one say has?—a familiar figure in the Battalion and many soldiers have suddenly felt better merely at the sight of him in his M.I. room.

C.S.M. Wild, who was C.S.M. of "B" Company in



Korea, has joined us from 6th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment (T.A.) and is warmly welcomed back to the Battalion and by "A" Company, where he has been posted.

### Congratulations

It was with very great pride that we read in the New Year Honours List that Col. M. B. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P., had been awarded a C.B.E. for services to the Regiment and that Lt.-Col. J. E. F. Willoughby had been awarded an O.B.E. for his services as G.S.O.1 of the 3rd Infantry Division, now stationed in the Middle East.

The award which Her Majesty has been gracious enough to bestow on Col. Browne is but a small token of the esteem and respect in which Col. Browne is held, not only by all ranks of the Regiment, but by the Army as a whole. It is common knowledge among a very wide circle that Col. Browne throughout his long military service has never swerved from his course of duty, even when his health has dictated that he should. He has devoted his whole life to the service of the Regiment, and may he continue to be closely associated with it for many years to come. We can have no better example than that which he has set as an officer who has always lived up to the highest maxim of "Ich Dien."

Those of us who know Lt.-Col. Willoughby are grateful to Her Majesty for recognising his services to the Army. He was appointed G.S.O.1 to 3rd Infantry Division at a most difficult time, when the situation in Egypt was reaching a crisis. His Division was ordered to move from Colchester to the Middle East at very short notice and when it arrived at its destination was faced with the difficult problem of restoring law and order and protecting British lives and property. Before taking up this appointment he was Battalion 2IC, having previously commanded "D" Company in Korea.

To Lt. I. Kyle-Milward on being granted a Regular commission and on keeping a 1908 Austin 7 "Flivver" upright on the road when the news was received. It is probable that he will be posted to one of the Highland regiments, which accounts for the fact that he has been seen by his batman rubbing thistle down into his knees. He has also demanded an extra porridge ration and enquired whether he will receive Colonial rates of pay if posted to Aberdeen.

It would be invidious to single out all those who deserve special mention for the success of the flag marches and London parade. However, it is felt that the Colour party deserve a pat on the back, especially the two Ensigns, Lt. W. M. M. Deacock and 2/Lt. M. T. Beagley, who carried the Queen's Colour and Regimental Colour respectively on all marches. To say the least, it was hard work and they are congratulated on their drill and bearing.

Although we are sorry to lose R.S.M. Weller, M.M.,

Please Support the Advertisers  
in this Journal

on promotion, we are all extremely pleased that C.S.M. Tarrant, of "H.Q." Company, has been chosen to take his place. Both these promotions are now a *fait accompli*, and R.S.M. Tarrant is now away on a special drill course with the Grenadier Guards. As a senior W.O. he has always been extremely popular with all ranks, in spite of the fact that on many occasions he has put the Company Commanders through their paces on the square! His personality and pleasant manner, coupled with a profound knowledge of Regimental duties, qualify him as an excellent instructor. In congratulating him on his promotion we wish him and Mrs. Tarrant a very happy time in Austria.

We congratulate C.Q.M.S. Firman on being promoted to W.O.2 and on his appointment as C.S.M. of "D" Company. For many months he has shown considerable skill in segregating the stores of "S" Company into their various platoon departments, and as a result there have been very few occasions when a Vickers has been fired from a 3-in. Mortar base plate!

"C" Company as a whole feel they should be included under this heading in the Journal since they claim to be the most photogenic company in the Battalion. The fact that they appeared in the popular Press more frequently than other companies cannot be denied, but was it their individualism that captured the eye of the cameramen? Of course there were numerous occasions when they were not photographed, but perhaps it was because they were then marching in step with the rest of the Battalion!

### Commiserations

Although sympathy does not help very much, we must record how sorry we are that Lt. Stanley Fothergill is still in hospital and that Capt. Johnny de Gaye has been badly wounded with the 1st Royal Fusiliers in Korea. Both officers are now in England and making steady progress. Lt. Fothergill had a serious motor cycling accident last summer in Hong Kong, as the result of which he has had a number of operations and a rather unpleasant time in hospital. He is now in Millbank Hospital, S.W.1. Capt. de Gaye called on the Battalion on his way to Korea with the 1st Battalion The Royal Fusiliers and complained that his job as P.R.I. was going to be rather dull and sedentary. However, on his first visit to the line he had the misfortune to bump into an enemy patrol and was wounded in the knee. He served with the 1st Battalion in Germany in 1946-48.

### APPEAL TO ALL OFFICERS, PAST AND PRESENT

The 1st Battalion is making a special effort to re-organise its Officers' Mess as near as possible to the pre-war standard. The P.M.C. would be most grateful, therefore, to receive uniforms of any description and Mess livery suitable for the Mess staff. It does not matter if it is old; it can be patched up.

Please send to Major G. B. Ayre, 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Warley Barracks, Brentwood, Essex.

### Random Jottings

1. Heard on the television that the Turks in Korea were most impressive and extremely good fighters. They wore long greatcoats and strutted about the place.

2. Also on the same programme that the Chinese did not actually attack to the strains of bugle calls, but to odd toots on a flute.

3. Overheard at Hornsey, when a company marched by gallantly led by their commander, a man of moderate stature, followed immediately by three of the tallest officers in the Battalion: "Stand up, Major."

4. And a little later: "Why, there goes a littl'un. Caw, they're all little."

5. When being drilled (or grilled) by the Guards drill sergeant-major: "... and you move your right hand smartly across your left breast. Hey, you, fourth man in the centre rank, if that's your left breast you're in the wrong Army."

6. Rumour has it that a certain field officer, about to join the Battalion, was wearing a hunting waistcoat under his dinner jacket at the Regular officers' dinner. This rumour is quite unfounded—jodhpur boots, yes!

7. On several occasions just before reaching a saluting base a company commander was heard muttering: "I give 'Eyes Right' on the left; if I don't I won't be right, because I know that right is wrong."

8. Our insight into the sanctuary of the B.B.C. showed that it was not all wine, women and song; in fact, there was hardly any singing.

9. C.S.M. speaking to new draft: "And if you find anything in your way when walking through the barracks, remove it. If it can't be moved, whitewash it. If it moves by itself, salute it."

10. "Saluting on the march wasn't one of the things they taught me at Cambridge, actually!"

11. Adjutant, finding himself alone on the square having dismissed the Battalion, catches eye of the Battalion 2IC. Adjutant: "Sir, are the Colours secured safely, sir." 2IC (rather puzzled): "Yes." Adjutant: "Oh, good!"

12. The optimist in "H.Q." Company whose leave pass was actually signed December 19, 1952, to December 16, 1953, has forgotten the invitation to Austria.

### SOUVENIR PROGRAMMES OF THE PRESENTATION AND THANKSGIVING SERVICE

There are still available a few programmes of the Presentation and Thanksgiving Service on the return of the 1st Battalion of the Regiment from the Far East. It is thought that many might like to purchase one as a souvenir and these can be obtained from the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7, at a cost of 1s. each plus postage.

Would new readers kindly complete the order form at the front  
of this Journal?

### From the "Spider"

"S" Company,  
Warley,

January 28, 1953.

Dear Sir or Madman,

After an agonising month, which crept by, we embarked on the *Fowey* to find luxury in comparison with the conditions of the voyage out. Our "Radar expert" immediately fell for a job and was seen consistently throughout the voyage looking for a "bod" or else in the scuppers "laying his kit."

Thanks to the superb condition of our men, plus the aid of two H.Q. wallahs, six stalwarts managed to pull their way to victory and the prize of 7s. 6d. in the tug of war. Subsequent inquiries have not yet decided whether it was due to the roll of the ship or "Thundercloud's" voice disturbing their opponents.

However at last Southampton and the appearance of a fine collection of bluenoses and greatcoats. After successfully surviving customs, arrival at Warley was noted by several members falling down and kissing the ground. The writer strongly suspects that this was due to ice on the roads and not to relief at having arrived in England.

At the barracks we were housed in a wooden "spider" in surprisingly good condition. Within five minutes of arrival all chimneys were smoking and remarks about the climate were also warming the air. By 1630 hours the entire area was quiet and for the night Warley was left in peace.

The next few days were full of drill, cleaning and more cleaning. It was noted that on almost every march a recent recruit to Civvy Street from our ranks selected a prominent position from which he could pass comments loudly on various people as they passed, thus probably fulfilling a life-long ambition. At last, at last the 19th and the Company departed on leave, except for one or two who departed for good. Notably our scribe with artistic tendencies and "Ginger" who will now be blowing holes in hillsides, to the danger of his fellow men. Also during this period "Taps" appeared and re-appeared plus his feet, and finally even they were pronounced fit. He has now departed to enlighten the 7th.

On January 19 a small sober group of 36 re-assembled at Warley and are busy endeavouring, after a month of easy living and rest, to pick up the threads again. Despite a long leave the Company managed to steal, scrounge, beg or borrow, 27 pints of blood for the National Blood Bank on Thursday. No doubt this was due entirely to the lure of a bottle of Guinness. Thoughts are now full of Austria and bugs, beer gardens and probably fraulein, not to mention the faint hopes of seeing there a Mortar, Vickers or 17-pdr. once more.

Ever in support of you,

A HIBERNATOR IN THE "SPIDER."



# Depot Notes

## GENERAL

On November 8 the annual short but impressive and moving ceremony took place at the Regimental plot in the Field of Remembrance, Westminster. The Depot was represented by the C.O. (acting as Staff Officer to the Colonel), Major Heywood, the Padre and an escort carrying the Regimental flag. As in former years, the Colonel laid the Regimental wreath and planted the first cross.

The service on November 9 took place in the gymnasium followed by a ceremony at the Regimental War Memorial. The service was conducted by the Padre, Rev. G. F. Tenneson, C.F., and a 7th Battalion drummer sounded the Last Post and Reveille. The Colonel of the Regiment was represented by Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., who took the salute at the march past.

Wreaths were laid by Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., on behalf of the Regimental Association; Major G. B. Ayre on behalf of the 1st Battalion; Major P. D. H. Marshall on behalf of the Depot; Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E., on behalf of Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O.

Floral tributes were also laid in memory of Pte. A. Sandell, who died whilst a prisoner of war at Osaka, Japan, and in memory of Pte. John Howard, 7th Battalion.

11th Parachute Battalion (8th Middlesex) (T.A.) was represented by a small party. Contingents from Home Postal Depot, Royal Engineers and 10th Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., also paraded.

It is hoped that more Old Comrades will be able to come this year.

All Depot activities were overshadowed by the return of the 1st Battalion, culminating in the parade on December 19. No one who stood on Horse Guards Parade that rather dull morning could help but feel proud of the Regiment and grateful to the Battalion for staging such an impressive display.

Much prior thought and planning had gone into the welcome home for the Battalion and with the arrival of the advance party at the Depot on October 30 ideas were co-ordinated and final plans put into action.

After the parade the relatives of those killed in Korea returned to the Depot in a coach, were entertained to lunch and visited the Officers' Mess and the Museum. Capt. Hodge, Lts. Norton and Rutherford, together with a representative party, entertained them. Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Norton were also present.

## TRAINING

With the advent of the 10-week training syllabus the Depot reaches one stage further towards its pre-war role. Recruits no longer go to Canterbury for 10 weeks' continuation training, as this training is now carried out at the Depot.

As the intakes still occur every six weeks, it means that they overlap, which will explain the many and varied activities now to be seen in the Depot.

The permanent staff has increased and more accommodation has been taken over from the Home Postal Depot, R.E., namely, "A" Block and offices in the Orderly Room block.

With the re-formation of the Home Guard the old liaison was quickly re-established. The units now use our 30-yard ranges a great deal and there is a permanent call on training stores. 20th Middlesex Battalion has now established one company headquarters in a hut in the barracks.

Great improvements have been made to the miniature range, mainly due to the hard work put in by Capt. Butterfield. The landscape target model contains moving individual figures, vehicles and sections.

## VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR

On January 9 the Depot received a visit from the Secretary of State for War, The Rt. Hon. Anthony Head, C.B.E., M.C., M.P., accompanied by the G.O.C.-in-C., Eastern Command, Lt.-Gen. Sir George W. E. J. Erskine, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., The Colonel was represented by Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P.

He first inspected the main quarter guard, all Regular soldiers and commanded by Sgt. Weller, and was then introduced to the officers and the R.S.M. The party then moved off for a tour of the barracks. He saw the potential N.C.O.s' cadre on the square, a 1st Middlesex draft on the miniature range, recruits at P.T. and weapon training, the barrack rooms, dining hall and kitchen, and finally the Regimental Museum. As only 45 minutes had been allotted to the Depot, the tour was extremely fast, although the Secretary of State for War did find time to speak to many soldiers.

After he had visited Home Postal Depot, Royal Engineers, he returned to the Officers' Mess for coffee.

Much work had gone into this visit, especially as it had snowed two days before and all the snow had frozen. The efforts were well rewarded despite the shortness of the visit and the adverse weather conditions.

## PERSONALITIES

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Major (Q.M.) H. Farrow, M.B.E., who has retired from the Regiment. Major Farrow, whose father was also a distinguished quartermaster in the Regiment, enlisted at the Depot in 1914, since when he has given 38 years of devoted and loyal service to the Regiment. We wish him and Mrs. Farrow the very best of good fortune for the future.

His successor is Lt. (Q.M.) S. Weller, M.M., whom we welcome on his first appointment as Q.M. in the Regiment.

Lt. G. Norton left us in December to join the Para-

chute Regiment. He had been Adjutant, Depot, since his return from the Battalion.

Padre Tenneson is due to leave us in March. We understand he is emigrating to Canada, where we wish him good fortune. We hope his successor will carry on the good work with his Sunday School, which the Padre has organised so well for the benefit of those children living in quarters in Inglis Barracks.

On December 27, 1952, C/Sgt. Phillips was discharged after 22 years' service with the Regiment. He had been in the Depot for the past four years. He was surely in the top rank of the most loyal and hard-working N.C.O.s. Our best wishes go with him in civilian life and we hope to see him many times at future reunions.

## TRAINING COMPANY

On November 20 the first intake to undergo 10 weeks' training entered the Depot and on January 16 the second intake arrived. Preparations to expand the Company and to undertake continuation training are now completed. In this connection we welcome C.S.M. Jaques back to the Depot as the first C.S.M. of the new era and congratulate C/Sgt. Dodkins, Sgts. Weller and Nicholson and Cpl. Broom on promotion.

At the London District Novices' Boxing Competition on November 6 Ptes. Boreham and Slack won their weights and Pte. Bristow was a runner-up. The Company was elated to note that the Regiment had a greater number of wins than any other Regiment or Corps in London District. We heartily second the C.O.'s congratulations to these recruits.

The last six-week intake passed out on November 12 and the inspecting officer was Col. Parry. The party in the gymnasium that night was enjoyed by all ranks.

The R.S.M. providentially returned from hospital in time to train the recruits for the lining of Horse Guards Parade on December 19. It was noticed that neither his voice nor energies had been impaired by absence and that the recruits were a credit to his instruction. Not only were they given the honour of lining the parade ground when silver bugles were presented to the 1st Battalion, but they also provided the fatigue parties for the many back-stage activities.

Both Platoons were taken to watch the 1st Battalion march through Finchley and Edgware. The reception given to Mons Platoon by the school children of Finchley was most gratifying, although the comment "They look so young" was felt to be a trifle unmerited.

The arrival of Father Christmas at the Children's Party, accompanied by a celestial choir of recruits led by Sgt. Hanlon, opened up new avenues of employment to the Company. No offers of film contracts have yet been received! It is felt that the M.T. may be responsible for the sight of Father Christmas pushing a truck round the Married Quarters after the party.

The New Year's Eve dance was attended by every member and voted a great, if costly, success. At midnight the officers and Sergeants brought the Seringapatam gun on to the dance floor, thereby reviving an old tradition.

Our good wishes go with C/Sgt. Phillips into civilian life and with Cpl. Bailey on his promotion to Signal

Sergeant of the 1st Battalion. We congratulate Sgts. Weller and Nicholson on attaining "B" gradings at Hythe and bid a reluctant farewell to Cpl. Moran, who has been of so much help to the Depot in its teething period and who, no doubt, is already making his presence felt in the 1st Battalion.

## SPORTS

### Football

During the last quarter the Depot has played a regular weekly football fixture against opponents in the London District Midweek Football League and also civilian and military teams from outside. Notwithstanding the flux of players due to the rapid Depot turnover, the results have been far from disappointing. The résumé of 12 matches played, of which four were won, one drawn and seven lost, does not give a true picture.

The regular players, L/Cpl. Walley, Pte. Julians, Cpl. Marable, Cpl. Brooks, Sgt. Nicholson and Cpl. Schneider, have always been ably backed up by the recruits of the current intake.

L/Cpl. Walley has shown that he is a player of some standing and this is borne out by his representing the Army v. Cambridge University F.C. in November.

It is good to note that of our successes both the Regimental Depots of the Royal Fusiliers and East Surreys are included, as were the 18th Company, R.A.M.C. (runners-up of last years' league) and a civilian club. The first round of the Minor Units' Knock-out Competition was against Home Postal Depot, R.E., resulting in a draw after an extremely exciting game. The replay saw us rather depleted in strength and we went down 4-1. Only half the season has passed and there are still a lot of matches in which to exact full retribution.

### Hockey

We entered the Eastern Command Minor Units' Hockey Competition and were unlucky enough to draw "H.Q." Eastern Command. Although the result was 5-1 against the Depot, the team played very well against players of Olympic and Army standard.

### Boxing

In the boxing field we have done extremely well this season. The London District Novices' Competition was held on November 6 at Chelsea Barracks. We entered nine competitors of varying weights of which Pte. Boreham won the feather-weight, Pte. Slack won the middle-weight and Pte. Bristow was runner-up in the heavy-weight. With opposition such as three full battalions of the Brigade of Guards, our heartiest congratulations go to all competitors and especially those who won their weights.

Cpl. Napolitano is a boxer of fine promise of the light welter-weight. He narrowly lost in the Army trials in October to the second seeded Army boxer. Since then he has represented the Army at Stoke-on-Trent against a German team and has boxed in a number of individual matches held by civilian boxing clubs with much success.





**The Main Quarter Guard**—from left to right : Pte. Milburn, Pte. Shinn, Sgt. Weller, Cpl. Schnieder, Pte. Humphrey, Pte. Harris (934), Pte. Harris (965), Pte. Rogers, Pte. Dominey



**Brigadier Head** speaks to Sgt. Bartle, Chief Instructor of the potential N.C.O.s Cadre



**Inspection of Barrack Rooms**



**Cambridge Club Children's Party. Fancy Dress Prize-winners**

*(These two photographs are reproduced by courtesy of J. J. Chivers, 105 Hadley Road, New Barnet)*



**Cambridge Club Children's Party**



## ENTERTAINMENTS

On December 17 the Christmas festivities were opened with a carol service held in the gymnasium. This was a Garrison service conducted by our Padre and well attended by all three units.

On December 20 the men's Christmas dinner took place. An excellent meal was provided and all credit is due to the Messing Officer (Lt. H. J. Evans), Cpl. Beedle, Cpl. Stubbings and the cooks.

That afternoon there was the annual Children's Christmas Party. This was ably organised by Major Heywood and the ladies of the Regiment, with the admirable co-operation of Mrs. Gill the N.A.A.F.I. Manageress.

## OFFICERS' MESS

The social activities of the last quarter of the year were mostly squeezed into the month of December, i.e. since the Battalion returned to these shores.

The C.O. visited Warley and the 1st Middlesex officers visited the Depot and were entertained to luncheon or dinner as the case may be. It was not, however, until the Regular officers' dinner on December 16 and the cocktail party on the 20th that most of us really got together.

The annual Children's Christmas Party was held on December 13. The ladies, as usual, put in a tremendous amount of work in buying and wrapping presents and decorating the tree. Instead of showing films this year an entertainer was engaged and amused both young and old with ventriloquism, conjuring and a Punch and Judy show.

On December 23 a ladies' guest night was held in the Mess and was a great success. Some 36 sat down to a very good Christmas dinner. There was a Christmas tree with some amusing and ingenious presents, and dancing took place until a late hour. Lt. H. J. Evans can be specially singled out for all the good work he put in to produce an excellent meal and the entertainment afterwards. Pte. Brown, the cook, deserves great praise.

On the occasion of the all ranks' dance on New Year's Eve, the opportunity was taken to invite officers' wives and friends to the Mess for a buffet supper. The dance was quite a success and the New Year was duly seen in around the Seringapatam gun, which was hauled into the gymnasium at midnight.

None of these Mess activities can take place without causing the staff a tremendous amount of work, and Sgt. Bullock and his diminutive Mess staff have worked wonders. Our thanks are due to them all for the cheerful way in which they worked, often for very long hours.

The movements of officers have been legion.

2/Lts. Blacktop and Ross returned for a few days before flying to Nigeria.

Capt. Butterfield is attached pending further posting. 2/Lts. Tymms, Lee, Weil, Mellon and Young are all with us for a time.

Lt. C. L. Lawrence came here to assist after breaking a bone in his leg by parachute jumping.

Others who came for brief visits were: The advance party of the 1st Middlesex (Major Ayre, Capt. Hodge and Lt. Pike). Majors Powell, Bellers, Porter and Nolda.

Capt. Carter. Lts. Marciandi and Fox. 2/Lts Fisher and Lobbb.

Capt. Buckman, the M.O., went for a round trip by sea to Hong Kong and was replaced by Lt. Crampton.

## SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last issue there has been a great deal of coming and going, but not a great deal of social activity until the end of December.

First of all we must say how pleased and relieved we were to welcome back the R.S.M. after his spell in hospital. He appeared looking as cheerful as ever and I think the members were more worried than he over his symptoms. In fact, they were completely off their beer.

At one dreadful stage the Sergeants' Mess stove gave up the ghost. For a time members had to eat up at "A" Block with food brought from the Mess cook-house. This was really roughing it. However, we were saved by the efforts of the powers that be and with a new stove the Sergeants' Mess cook has never looked back. Married men sneak in every so often for a square meal to enable them to carry on their arduous tasks. Even Sgt. Hanlon has returned to the flock.

We have had some reunions with odd individuals passing through. In hallowed tones we have remembered battles with bottles. The Charlie M., Bill Landreth, "Ginger" Breame, Jim Parker, Jack Bowyer and others have all helped to pass the long winter evenings.

We welcomed Sgt. Jaques and congratulate him on his promotion to C.S.M. By request he performed his renowned trick of "pulling one out alright."

Then we said "Hello again" to the advance party of C/Sgt. Cranfield and Sgt. Deamer. Another notable occasion. On December 10 we saw the Battalion march through Finchley and a mere civilian was heard to ask about the camouflage being carried in the rear of the Battalion. It was explained to the poor ignorant man that the camouflage was just Sgt. Jessup's moustache. It was truly magnificent and had obviously been regularly watered and carefully tended.

With the coming of C.S.M. Jaques we bid a reluctant farewell to Sgt. Bignall.

Just before the Christmas festivities started St. Bartle reported to the fold. He had a short leave and is now doing excellent work whilst waiting posting to the 1st Battalion. His dry humour makes him very popular and we will be sorry to see him go.

The less said about the New Year's Eve all ranks' dance the better for everyone. Our defence is that nobody got killed and "Close Order" Cubitt is limping much better now.

## Advertisements

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

## REGIMENTAL MUSEUM NOTES

Progress is certainly being made, but there is still a tremendous amount to be done. By the time the next notes go to print it is hoped that the numerous pictures may have been regrouped and rehung. We have now got all the show cases we can house in our present accommodation and almost all the small exhibits are under cover.

Donations continue to come in and in the last three months the following additions are gratefully acknowledged:

From Mr. David Vincent, 3 Stanway Drive, Cheshire

The medals of his brother, L/Sgt. Vincent, who was killed on March 14, 1915, whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion.

Mr. Vincent also sent the form of service used at All Saints Church, Stradbroke, Suffolk, on St. Luke's Day, October 18, 1952, when the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich dedicated two new bells "to the Glory of God and in memory of Charles Vincent, Norfolk Regiment, and Frank Vincent, Middlesex Regiment, who gave their lives in the first World War." (Eight bells previously existed in the church and these were tuned, rehung and rededicated at the same time. It is a pity that the Regiment did not know of the dedication and were not represented.)

From Mr. Leonard Price, Petone, New Zealand

The Maori War Medal of No. 2223 Pte. J. Shannon, 57th Foot.

From Capt. K. J. Carter

A photograph of the Republic of Korea's Presidential unit citation to the 27th British Infantry Brigade, together with a translation thereof. (The 1st Battalion formed part of the 27th Brigade along with the Argylls.)

From Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E.

One of the only two written operation orders or instructions received by Col. Man when he was commanding the 1st Battalion in Korea. It was sent by the Brigade Commander—then Brigadier Coad—and concerns keeping an escape route open for the trapped United States 2nd Division after the Chinese had intervened.

Col. Man has had this order framed and presented to the Museum.

From Mr. W. Bailey, formerly No. 4936 Pte. W. Bailey, 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment, and servant to Gen. Lumley

Two framed silk handkerchiefs embroidered with Colours and battle honours.

One framed photograph of the mule "Jimson."

One South African War emergency ration.

Queen Victoria's New Year present to her troops in South Africa.

Souvenir programme on the occasion of the return of the 2nd Battalion from the South African War.

A Spion Kop presentation packet of tobacco.

A collection of bullets and coins.

Three pom-pom shell cases.

One wooden box containing bangles, bullets, badges, etc.

One knobkerrie.

One case containing a bandolier, seven Kruger coins and native beads.

A complete record of the return of the Battalion and subsequent ceremonies is now being prepared.

## Cambridge Club Ladies' Guild

During the past three or four months we have been very busy under the guidance of Mrs. Marshall, our President. Owing to such small numbers of Middlesex wives, membership has been offered to all wives in the Married Quarters in Inglis Barracks. The response has been very good and much appreciated by the other wives, as they are able to meet once a week and therefore get to know each other. In October we held a Jumble and White Elephant Sale. All members were most helpful in producing clothes, shoes, toys, etc., and everybody worked hard in getting them all ready and set out for the sale, but the weather was against us with fog and rain. However, in spite of it all, it was a great success as we served teas and also had one or two raffles and made a very good profit which increased the funds by £12 11s. 0d.

Our Christmas whist drive was very popular. Again our thanks are extended to all willing helpers who helped to decorate and give the hall that festive touch. The Committee also helped with the Battalion and Depot Christmas party, buying and wrapping all the presents and decorating the tree.

We held our Club Children's Party on January 17. The children were in fancy dress and were all so good it was very difficult for the judges to decide who were the winners. The judging was carried out by Mrs. Green, Capt. Moore and Lt. Cain. The prizes were awarded to: Christine Firman, book club; Jane Ravenscroft, Victorian doll; Tony Markham, Guardsman; Rodney Lowe, Guardsman; Brenda Judge, basket of flowers; Patricia Firman, Coronation girl.

We would like to congratulate the mothers on their splendid effort and wholehearted support in producing the fancy dress costumes.

Membership of the club is open to all wives of serving and ex-Service men of the Regiment, and we would be pleased to see any who would care to join on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 p.m.

## Regimental Journals

A number of journals collected for binding has unfortunately been lost. It has been found possible to replace many of them, but to complete the set the following are still required:—

September, 1944: Vol. 7, No. 1.

September, 1945: Vol. 7, No. 5.

June, 1946: Vol. 7, No. 8.

March, 1947: Vol. 8, No. 1.

December, 1947: Vol. 8, No. 4.

March, 1948: Vol. 8, No. 5.

March, 1950: Vol. 9, No. 5.

September, 1950: Vol. 9, No. 7.

Would anyone who has any of these copies, and is willing to dispose of them, kindly inform the Administrative Officer, The Depot, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.





## STORY COMPETITION

A Prize of £5 is offered to the Best Story-Teller of the Regiment

A prize is offered for the best story of the events which led up to the situation depicted in Lady Butler's picture "Steady the Drums and Fifes," which is displayed above.

Although this story will be fictitious, the facts of the battle on which it will be based must be accurate.

Rules are as follows:

1. The competition is open only to present and past members of the Regiment.

2. Stories should not exceed 1,500 words.
3. The Editor's decision is final.
4. The winning story will be published in the Journal.
5. Contributions must reach the Editor by May 31, 1953.

Try your hand at short story writing. Make Regimental history!

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



The principle event of the winter has been the return of the 1st Battalion, and we were delighted that the first of their marches should have been through Hornsey and that we were able to assist in a small way at the memorable service in Westminster Abbey.

For the march the Battalion formed up in Linzee Road. There had been an early start and most of the men were glad of the fact that our normal conveniences have recently been enlarged. The 1st Battalion marched down Priory Road to Church Lane and then up past the Town Hall, where the salute was taken by the Mayor. From all quarters there have been good reports of this march and it will undoubtedly cement those close relations which exist between the borough and the Regiment.

On Sunday, November 9, we had our usual Remembrance Day parade. The attendance was not as large as we had hoped—possibly the information had leaked out that the boiler of St. Mary's Church had burst!—but those who did come had taken great trouble to be smart. The Band and Drums were in strength and gave a stirring lead. This year the Band also played the National Anthem in the Garden of Remembrance. On the return the Old Comrades led the Battalion, as they had done last year, to the appropriate tune—"The Boys of the Old Brigade."

During the winter we were pleased to welcome back our old friend Sgt. King and he has now assumed command of his brother in the Sniper Section. We understand that ex-Cpl. Thompson is thinking of returning and we hope to see him back soon.

Members of the Battalion continue to win fame. Lt. Alec Ramsay gained a Rugby Blue at Oxford and Lt. Alan Catchpole a golf Blue at the same University. Both are well known in the Regiment, having served with the 1st Battalion. Our M.O., Capt. Michael Ward, has been selected to go on the Mount Everest expedition. He has consented to write a personal account which we trust the Editor will accept in due course. To these three we extend our warm congratulations.

We also congratulate Drm. Cyril Smith on being awarded a Certificate of Gallantry for saving the life of an old man unable to escape from his house which had caught fire. This splendid act was done quietly and unobtrusively, and we are delighted that it should have received public approbation.

During the winter we were very pleased to receive swords from Col. Maitland, Majors Bower and Bartram, and from Lady King. These were given to form a pool so that on ceremonial occasions officers may be correctly dressed. The Q.M. held a number of classes at which several officers became remarkably proficient at sword drill. We hope that this summer they will have an opportunity of putting this experience into practice. In

passing we would say that the Battalion would be most grateful for the gift of any other swords.

In the last notes we mentioned our motor cyclists. On Sunday, November 23, the Battalion team (L/Cpl. Gipson, L/Cpl. Stimpson and Pte. Ricketts), together with Cpl. Wilson and Pte. Farley, entered for the motor cycle trials organised by the 2/20th Signal Regiment (T.A.). The Battalion team came in seventh out of 21, and we are informed that if L/Cpl. Gipson had remembered to put the air back into his tyres he would have done even better than he did.

On January 2/3 the Battalion entered for the Exeter trial. Our team again consisted of L/Cpl. Gipson, L/Cpl. Stimpson and Pte. Ricketts. Stimpson had a lot of trouble with his lights and it was a first-class effort on his part to complete the course. They left Virginia Water at 1050 hours on the Friday night and made their own way to Honiton. It was a bitterly cold night and there were some nasty patches of mist. Because of his lights Stimpson had to ride between the other two and that reduced their speed. Breakfast was taken at Exeter at 6 o'clock on Saturday morning. Then followed a trip round Devon and Dorset which included 12 observed sections—all were climbs on various types of soil. One of them had nine hairpin bends. On Pin Hill L/Cpl. Stimpson made a perfect ascent in spite of the fact that he had no lights. Our team arrived at Bournemouth, weary but whole, at almost 3 o'clock.

It had been a tough test. Although the results have not yet been received, we have heard that the team did well in spite of the handicap of riding B.S.A.s. We are due to receive some Matchless motor cycles and we hope that they will be here before the next trial at Easter, which is to Land's End. We should like to put two teams in for these trials and hope that some of our motor cycling enthusiasts will come forward.

The rebuilding of the T.A. Centre is now virtually finished. The architect (Col. Mackenzie, an old member of the Battalion) and the builders deserve our grateful thanks for an excellent job. The new canteen should prove popular when it has been finished.

There has been plenty of indoor miniature range shooting, though we have been seriously inconvenienced by not having the range at Hornsey until December. Once upon a time we thought 90 was a good score, now we hardly bat an eyelid at 95. At the end of the year the positions on the ladder were:

1. C.S.M. L. J. Tostevin	98
2. Cpl. A. Richardson ("C")	97
3. Sgt. J. Webb ("B") and L/Cpl. G. Charge ("B")	96
4. Sgt. F. Rider ("B") and Pte. I. McGlashan ("B")	95

In the first ten, eight belong to "B" Company. Congratulations to them, but what are the other Companies doing?

Good progress has been made with the Battalion War Memorial. It takes the form of an oak plaque which will be fixed to the wall of our Memorial Chapel, and an Altar Book which will also contain the names of those who were killed. The Bishop of Guildford, who was formerly our chaplain, is going to dedicate the memorial on Sunday, April 12, and it will be unveiled by Col.



Maurice Browne. In passing may we say how glad we are that his services on behalf of the Regiment have been officially recognised by the award of the C.B.E.

The next three months are going to see big changes in the permanent staff of the Battalion. In January R.S.M. Pike and C.S.M.s Morgan and Kenrick are going to the 1st Battalion. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. To the R.S.M. for maintaining discipline in such a way that we enjoyed being disciplined; to C.S.M. Morgan for keeping that intractable "H.Q." Company administratively sound and for remaining cheerful under every provocation; to C.S.M. Kenrick for being the most splendid instructor we have ever known and for keeping the Support Company on the right lines. We shall miss them greatly but we comfort ourselves with the thought that our loss is the 1st Battalion's gain. We congratulate all three on gaining the 1st Class Certificate of Education.

We take this opportunity of welcoming C.S.M. Cooper and Sgts. Eastap and Walsh. We hope that they will enjoy their time with us.

Finally we welcome our new R.S.M.—R.S.M. Tostevin. No one could better deserve this appointment and promotion. What the Battalion owes to him already can hardly be estimated and we are sure that he will make a great success as R.S.M.

#### "A" COMPANY

We have little to report since last going to press, save that we are once again back in the swing of evening parades. On December 11 the G.P.O. took over the T.A. Centre as a sorting office for Christmas and so once again we have had to break the continuity of work.

December 11 was also notable in that we had a record attendance—it was bounty night! The disbursement of bounties was followed by a social in the canteen, which was attended also by some of the wives and girl friends. The elder Merritt showed us yet another side of his versatile repertoire by entertaining us with songs, accompanying himself on his piano accordion.

A sequel to our social with the Hornsey Police, reported in our last notes, was a photograph which appeared in the *Hornsey Journal* giving rise to the impression that a certain officer has taken up weight lifting as a pastime.

On Wednesday, December 10, the Hornsey Police held a dance at Highgate, to which all members of the Company were invited. We are pleased to report that our relations with the Police remain as cordial as ever.

On December 31 "A" Company said good-bye to Lt. Maurice Baldwin, who has left the Company to venture in specialist fields as the Machine Gun Platoon Commander. Maurice Baldwin has been with "A" Company now for over three years and during difficult times he has done much to keep things going, and we wish him the best of luck with his new appointment.

#### "B" COMPANY

By the time this paragraph appears in print we will have said good-bye to C.S.M. Tostevin, who is leaving the Company, having been appointed to the Battalion as R.S.M.

Without exception we are all very sorry to lose him and it will not seem the same without "Dad" around. With our wishes for every success in the future go our sincere thanks for all he has done for the Company. Certainly whatever successes we have had in the shooting competitions have been due to his guiding hand.

Bounty night passed with the usual impromptu social afterwards. It was noted that as the stock of beer diminished the standard of play at the dart board improved. Jordan's darts were thought by some to be guided missiles.

The Company won the group final in the Middlesex 22 competition, but in the county final we were unplaced. This was a great disappointment and we hope next year to make considerable improvement.

We are told that camp will be somewhat later this year. This will perhaps allow us to have the Company weekends which were missed last year. This should help outdoor training, which is so hard to fit in.

We would like to welcome Lt. J. Phillips and congratulate him on his appointment as 2IC; at any time now, no doubt, we will be fielding a cricket team.

#### "C" COMPANY

Since our last report of activities in the Company normal winter training has been carried on despite the seemingly general small attendance on training evenings. We are still most fortunate in obtaining a very keen interest in the work from those men that do attend for training. Rebuilding work on the T.A. Centre is now in a state of near completion and we are already finding the increased space and better "lay-out" very beneficial as regards both training and social activities.

We have most regretfully said good-bye to C.S.M. A. Burrell, who has completed his service in the Regular Army and entered the hurly-burly life of a civilian as a bank messenger with our sincere good wishes for his every success in that sphere.

Unable to put in as much time as is necessary to the running of the Company, Capt. P. J. A. Pielow has handed over the command of the Company to Capt. L. F. Baker, but will be remaining with the Company as 2 IC.

We welcome Capt. Baker to the Company and feel sure that his command will be most able.

We have been fortunate in having no small number of National Servicemen of a seemingly very useful type drafted to us, and as to list them all would occupy far too much space we take this opportunity of welcoming them all again to the Company and assuring them that, with their co-operation, their stay with us will be as enjoyable and beneficial to all of us as is possible.

#### "S" COMPANY

Since the last issue of this journal "S" Company have moved into palatial new offices and stores. Each platoon has a store to itself and no more has the 3-in. mortar equipment to be moved from the tops of M.G. boxes before guns can be obtained for training. After the cramped space of the last few years and the continued additions of equipment we are indeed in luxurious

quarters. Communication, except by runner, is difficult; this, as always, is a mixed blessing.

We are now looking forward to the spring and lighter warm evenings, when we can get some training done out of doors.

We regret that C.S.M. Kenrick, our P.S.I., who has helped so much in the building up and training of the Company, is to leave us and wish him every success in the future.

#### 3-in. Mortar Platoon

Since the last issue of the journal the Platoon has gone nocturnal. The Platoon Commander decided it was high time that the lads got used to handling the equipment at night. Hampstead Heath was therefore invaded once a month by a band of men with monstrous loads on their backs creeping through the undergrowth. For nature lovers we would like to add that many species of wild life were disturbed from their natural haunts, as well as many of the domesticated type in their not so natural haunts. Still, as yet we have not trodden on anyone or anything. The mortars were erected in the right place and the exercise was carried out successfully. (N.B.—The Platoon actually lost nothing in the way of equipment.) A further exercise at night was carried out at Alexandra Palace and again successfully concluded, including the long carry back to the Centre. Pte. Tooby had great difficulty in carrying the two night aiming boxes; the chaps were a little disappointed at not appearing on television. This cloak and dagger work will reach a climax when the Platoon fires at night in January at Enfield. The inhabitants have been duly warned.

#### Sunday Exercises

The Platoon is regularly carrying out Sunday exercises at Enfield and the surrounding countryside, mostly consisting of selection of base plate positions, O.P.s and Section in Attack exercises, which have practically driven No. 1 Section Commander, Sgt. Bawden, into a state of delirium. The enemy one Sunday took the form of a herd of cows and, although the Mobile Fire Controller and his assistant managed to negotiate No Man's Land successfully, after much shouting and kicking at the beasts (much to the beasts' annoyance), the reorganisation detachment, represented by Sgt. Payne and Cpl. Humphries, called up by No. 31 set, walked into an infuriated herd of cows; they were seen through the binoculars investigating the possibilities of a base plate position on the bed of a deep stream with the cows standing on the bank taking an acute interest in everything they were doing. They were rescued by "Farmer" Bawden, who has, so we are informed, a way with cows.

The Platoon's intake of National Servicemen has dropped considerably; in fact, only one in the last three months, Pte. Cozzi, a welcome addition to our drivers. The Platoon now stands at two officers and 30 other ranks.

All members of the Platoon extend a welcome to the members of the 1st Battalion and invite them, if they can take it, to join in our schemes, etc. We also wish all readers the best of luck during the new year of 1953.

#### Entertainments

On Wednesday, December 31, the Battalion held its New Year's Eve ball at the T.A. Centre, Hornsey. This was the first dance held at Hornsey since New Year 1952, and was very well attended. Our new canteen, which was only completed the day before, was opened for the first time on this evening and proved a great success. At 12 o'clock, after the customary celebrations, there appeared to be some sort of hitch in the arrangements for releasing the balloons, but this was quickly righted and the balloons descended according to plan.

On Saturday, January 3, it was the turn of the children—the annual Children's Party. The party commenced at 2 o'clock with an hour's entertainment by a conjuror, who succeeded in gaining the attention of even the most restless of our visitors. It must be admitted that it was not only the children who were enthralled—there were quite a lot of fathers watching from the rear. After this there was tea, which was served in the new canteen, which was followed by the traditional visit of Father Christmas, who descended the chimney and distributed the presents. Just after 5 o'clock the party started to break up and all our visitors collected some oranges, sweets and a balloon on their way out of the hall.



Smartest Soldier Competition

Left—winner, Pte. R. Leggett; right—runner-up Cpl. A. Richardson



## SERGEANTS' MESS

After the 1st Battalion had settled in at Warley Barracks we were very glad to have the opportunity of joining with the Sergeants' Mess at the Depot in a very pleasant "get together" at Mill Hill on December 15 to renew old friendships with our comrades and chat over their experiences in Korea and Hong Kong.

Owing to the lack of adequate accommodation at the

Hornsey T.A. Centre it was not possible, hitherto, to have a suitable Mess. However, now that the new building contract is nearing an end, this disability has been removed and we were very pleased to celebrate the opening of the new Mess at a social evening held on January 17 and to entertain officers of the 7th Battalion and representatives of the Sergeants' Messes from the 1st Battalion, the Depot, 1st L.I.R. and 1st London Scottish.



The Corps of Drums, 7th Bn. The Middlesex Regt. (D.C.O.) marching past the Hon. Colonel, Brig. H. A. D. Murray, after the Remembrance Service

## Extracts from "London Gazette"

September 30, 1952

In pursuance of the Regimental Debts Act, 1893, notice is given that there is available for distribution amongst the next of kin or others entitled the sum of money set opposite to the name of each of the deceased officers and soldiers named in the lists which are published with this notice in the *London Gazette*.

Applications from persons supposing themselves entitled as next of kin should be addressed by letter to "The Under-Secretary of State, War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1," and marked outside "Effects."

List 768, Effects 1943

Fisher, D. A., Pte., Middlesex Regiment £25 4s. od.

Sixth Republication of List 744, Effects 1940;

Cooper, W. G., Pte., Middlesex Regiment £24 9s. 4d.

Moggeridge, A. C., Cpl., Middlesex Regiment

£31 8s. 7d.

Priest, T. J., Pte., Middlesex Regiment £2 15s 11d.

October 17, 1952

2/Lt. (acting Lt.) R. Brown (412296) from T.A. National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant (acting Lieutenant) August 7, 1952, retaining his present seniority.

October 21, 1952

2/Lt. R. D. H. Wilson (413406) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant June 29, 1952.

October 24, 1952

The undermentioned cadets to be 2/Lieutenants August 9, 1952:

22612404 David Keith McCullum (424046).

22594224 Harold Derek Tymms (424059).

Lt. R. J. Leighton (369343) is granted the acting rank of Captain September 1, 1952.

Lt. P. J. A. Pielow (385083) is granted the acting rank of Captain September 1, 1952.

[continued on page 45]

11th PARACHUTE BATTALION  
(Middlesex) T.A.

The quarter under review has been an extremely busy one for not only have we had our normal military training but also the rush of Christmas and New Year festivities. All Companies held children's parties, to which were invited the children of all ranks and it is reported that Father Christmas managed to appear in no less than three places at once. Of course, in this Unit where parachutes are in plentiful supply such a phenomenon is possible.

On Thursday, December 11, we were proud to take part in the welcome given to the 1st Battalion on the occasion of their march through the Borough of Ealing. Unfortunately this was on a weekday and as we are composed entirely of civilian soldiers it is difficult to find a large force who can get away on a normal working day. However, we found both markers for the saluting base and a small detachment for route lining from our "B" Company, whose drill hall is in Ealing. In addition, we assisted the W.V.S. in preparing lunch by providing transport and Pte. Kelly as an escort to the beer. Now that the 1st Battalion is closer we all hope that we shall be able to see very much more of them than we have been able to do to date.

This period has also been a busy one for the regular staff as the annual payment of bounties and other inducements has been made. In every case this has been arranged to coincide with some form of Christmas festivities, and as a result the takings in the various Company canteens have been much above average. In fact, it has been observed by a member of our regular staff that the Territorial Army can consume as much, if not more, liquid refreshment in the same space of time as the Regular Army.

We would like to extend to all Middlesex men, both serving and civilians, a hearty welcome at all our drill halls and we hope that whenever any "Die-Hard" is in our area he will call in and see us. We have established a good liaison with the Regimental Depot, and as a result we have obtained the services of Sgt. Hanlon who comes over regularly to give our embryo machine gunners instruction. We have every hope that he will be the first of many more who will come and help us to keep our Battalion in the Middlesex Regimental fold. "Die-hard" readers are reminded that although we are parachutists, we are still very much Middlesex and any soldiers who may leave the Regular Army and who like the thought of soldiering with a difference will be very welcome as members of this Battalion.

## The Journal

We ask readers to pass the order form  
at the front of this Journal to a friend

... Thank you

595 L.A.A./S.L. REGIMENT, R.A.  
(9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.) T.A.

Owing to business reasons, Majors H. H. Grey and H. Price have had to give up their T.A. activities and have been transferred to the T.A.R.O. We are all very sorry to lose them after having been with the Regiment so long, but at the same time we wish them the best of good luck for the future. We sincerely hope that they will continue to keep in touch with the Regiment at least by attending the various social functions. One gap has been filled by the posting of Major B. A. G. MacFadden, T.D., who has known the Regiment for some years and who has many friends in the unit. We welcome him to the "Die-Hard" gunners and hope he will be very happy with us.

On November 9 approximately 300 attended the Remembrance Day service in our T.A. Centre. The Honorary Colonel read the lesson and the Deputy Assistant Chaplain took the service. Wreaths were laid on the memorial by the Commanding Officer, together with the Honorary Colonel, O.C. 33 Middlesex (Independent) Cadet Battery, R.A., Col. Beech, 9th Battalion O.C.A., and Lt. Slade, Legion of Frontiersmen. Our own band provided the music and once again it was a treat to have them playing under the baton of Bandmaster Turner.

On November 26 we were honoured with the presence of Lord Latham, Lord Lieutenant of the county of Middlesex, when he "dined in." Lord Latham was shown the training that was taking place in the Drill Hall, gun park and lecture rooms; he admitted that he was most impressed with what he had seen, particularly the keenness amongst those members of the Regiment with whom he chatted.

On December 19 a strong contingent from 595 attended the presentation of the 20 silver bugles to the 1st Battalion by Lord Latham. It was interesting to note at Westminster Abbey some of our own National Servicemen, now volunteers, who had served in the 1st Battalion meeting old friends again for brief moments in the precincts of the Abbey.

This time of the year has been very much occupied with Christmas festivities. On December 5 a strong force of officers and their wives, including the Honorary Colonel and his wife, and some ex-officers of the Regiment with their wives attended the 82nd A.A. Brigade ball at the H.Q. of L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, Royal Fusiliers, at Paddington. It was a most enjoyable evening and we are happy to say that 595 produced the largest Regimental party. The scenery which was painted all round the Drill Hall depicted the view from the decks of a troopship, and again we are happy to say 595 was responsible for this.

On December 19 we had the all ranks' Christmas party, at which there were over 300 present, and we were happy to have with us Brigadier Widgery, our Brigade Commander. Mrs. Widgery presented two trophies to "Q" Battery for competition held at annual camp, 1952: Devereaux Cup for the lines competition and silver challenge cup for guard mounting. A very pleasant evening finished with the traditional



rendering of the "Die-Hard" song and "Auld Lang Syne."

On December 22 we held the Regimental children's Christmas party, at which there were about 100 kiddies. What with entertainers, Punch and Judy, ice creams and balloons, it was undoubtedly the party of the year for these kids; they all enjoyed it and not one of them was sick.

The year was rounded off on December 27 by the Sergeants' ball. Unfortunately, fog prevented many from being there, but, even so, 200 people had a very happy evening. Mrs. Dear, unfortunately, was unable to attend this owing to illness, but the C.O. wished everybody a happy New Year in a short address.

We have a full programme in front of us in the New Year, including a couple of weekend exercises, and the usual weekend training in preparation for our annual practice camp later in the year. We are determined, as in the past, to give a good account of ourselves at camp and to uphold the traditions of the Regiment.

#### REGIMENTAL H.Q.

Mention has been made elsewhere of the departure of Major H. H. Grey, T.D., and Major H. M. L. Price. We add our thanks for all they have done while with the Regiment and our best wishes to them both for the future.

We welcome Capt. L. F. E. Nichols, who has joined as Regimental Signals Officer. Under him, together with B.S.M. Strange, our Signals Section has already shown new life.

The winter months have seen us very busy running courses for officers, W.O.s, sergeants and lance-bombardiers. On the evening of December 12 and the whole of Sunday, December 14, Major Richardson, the Brigade I.G., ran a course for officers on the new Bristol Bofors gun; we had an excellent turnout for this short course, 25 officers being present, and all of us now feeling that we know a lot about the new gun.

The most impressive feature on courses were the lance-bombardiers, 12 of whom attended under the able instruction of B.S.M. McCarthy on guns and B.S.M. Hughes on searchlights. They showed great keenness and ability as potential instructors. Most of them are ex-National servicemen who have become volunteers (three of them were ex-1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.).

We wish them well and feel certain they are being watched by batteries for future promotion.

#### "P" BATTERY

Our O.C., Battery Major A. D. Buckland-Nicks, T.D., has been unable to make an appearance, due to frequent journeys to the Continent. During his absence Capt. R. Hughes has assumed command. We hope to see Major Buckland-Nicks back amongst us soon.

Due to the formation of "R" Battery, a percentage of the Battery is being posted. This means that we have lost our searchlights and a number of good personnel. To them we would say *au revoir* and good luck.

The main inter-battery sport taking place during this quarter has been the football competition. Unfortun-

nately, due to training and other activities it has only been possible to play one match. This "P" Battery won 3-1, even though playing a man short (this would have been two men short, but Capt. Hughes was "made" to volunteer for the other vacancy).

"Q" Battery were presented with their two camp trophies at the Regimental all ranks' party, much to our great disappointment. We are determined to add these trophies to our collection next year at annual camp.

#### "R" BATTERY

At the time of writing "R" Battery's story is a matter for conjecture and not yet history.

The adoption of a new establishment coming into operation at the beginning of 1953 has brought all the searchlight personnel of the Regiment together into this new Battery instead of, as heretofore, being organised in troops of the gun batteries. This arrangement appears to be to the liking of the vast majority of the "wick-wallahs" and, since the Battery contains a hard core of the most loyal members of the Regiment, whose enthusiasm since we first received a mixed gun and searchlight role has been second to none, we look forward to a successful career.

We are pleased to have at our disposal the services as P.S.I. of B.S.M. Hughes. When this appears he is due to be attending a detailed searchlight course at the School of Anti-Aircraft, Manorbier, from which he will no doubt return with his already extensive knowledge further fortified. For our T.A. B.S.M. W. E. Lockyer, the establishment of "R" Battery is a welcome return to a familiar atmosphere, as he began his service with searchlights. The blend of experienced and faithful old retainers and youthful new blood in the National Servicemen should produce the results we want and we look forward to having a really worthwhile report to present in the next issue.

I expect to see some of the challenge cups which we personally assisted "P" and "Q" Batteries to win in 1951 coming our way in 1953.

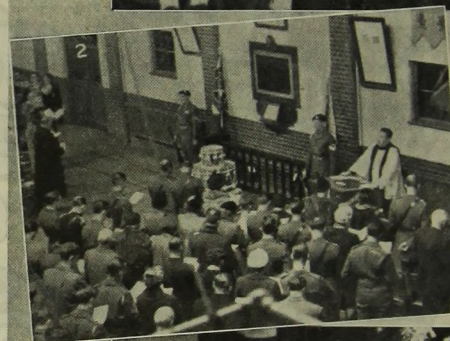
#### SERGEANTS' MESS

We look forward into 1953 with reasonable confidence in ourselves, as members of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, in our batteries and the Regiment to attain heights this year in training generally, in our Regimental social life—in fact, in *esprit de corps*—which have seldom been reached before.

There is an upsurge of spirit which is easily felt in the Sergeants' Mess and, in fact, outside the Mess also. This is mainly due to the increase in the Regimental strength as more and more National Servicemen join us, which has enabled us to take our proper shape of R.H.Q. and three batteries. The third battery, "R," has just been born, and a very healthy infant it is. Let us join hands in wishing B.S.M. Lockyer ("R" Battery B.S.M.) the very best of shooting, support from all ranks and the very best of drill and discipline.

Good luck, "R" Battery!

We say welcome into our Mess to two new members, Sgts. A. J. Vincent and K. A. Pedler, who are both settling down nicely in "P" Battery.



1. The younger children watch Punch and Judy show. 2. Remembrance Service, Sunday, November 9. The Rev. G. J. Stubbs-Bromley gives his address. 3. Colours being received back after the Service. Queen's Colour: Lt. A. Bell. Regimental Colour: Lt. M. Bussey. Escort: B.S.M. Lockyer, Sgts. Biddlecombe and Milne. 4. Sergeants' Ball: Rendering "Why don't they send away the old 'Die-Hards'?" led by R.S.M. Hunt and B.S.M. Lockyer.



As a whole the Mess congratulates the following:  
Sgt. R. C. Holder on his award of the B.E.M. in the New Year Honours List. Well earned and well done, Sgt. Holder.

Lts. Bussey and Bell, B.S.M. Lockyer and Sgts. Biddlecombe and Millie on their splendid demonstration of drill and turnout at the Regimental Armistice Day ceremony on November 9. (To our dismay we have since lost Sgt. Millie, who has gone to 567 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), as P.S.I.)

The Sergeants' Mess Entertainments Committee for the good work and much thought that was put into both the Regimental children's party and the Sergeants' Mess annual ball, which made them both very successful functions, thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned. Below is shown a photograph taken at the Sergeants' Mess ball of members gathered together singing the "Die-Hard" song, into which a very great deal of "zoomph" was put.

B.S.M. and Mrs. McCarthy on moving into a nice T.A. W.D. married quarters at Wembley, which has a huge garden. Good luck, Sergeant-Major!

#### Tail Piece

How nice it is to see in the Army magazine, *The Soldier* (January, 1953, pages 22 and 23), the Royal Regiment of Artillery and the Middlesex Regiment, depicting their respective battle honours together. Page 22 shows "G" (Mercer's Troop) Battery, R.H.A., in action at Waterloo, and opposite on page 23 we see Capt. P. L. Pearce Gould, of the Middlesex Regiment, describing the Battle of Albuhera, which earned the name of the "Die-Hards" for the Middlesex Regiment.

This is particularly nice for us in this Regiment, who, as 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.) (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.), feel we share in the undying glory of both regiments.

#### "Z" MAN'S RAGTIME SHOW

Down among the tent pegs where the "Z" men dwell,  
There's a strong aroma of a ghostly smell,  
Must be all the "bullshine" of the T.A. personnel;

It's the "Z" man's Ragtime Show.

All the aged veterans who served throughout the war,  
Called back to the Colours to endure a little more,  
Dodging all the columns that they always dodged before,

It's the "Z" man's Ragtime Show.

Driven to the camp site by a very comfy bus,  
R.S.M. with bulldogs there to make of us a fuss,  
Once we're past the main gate then he starts to bawl and

cuss,

It's the "Z" man's Ragtime Show.

Issued out with Army kit from the Quartermaster's Stores,

Told, "We're very sorry that we haven't any straw,"  
Sobbingly advise us to "kip down on the floor,"

It's the "Z" man's Ragtime Show.

Queue up in the cookhouse for the promised heated meal,

Knives and forks at ready with enthusiastic zeal,

Receive two hunks of "bully" beef as thick as orange peel,

It's the "Z" man's Ragtime Show.

Lined up for the first parade with sombre thoughts to think,

Personnel of R.H.Q. to rear of column slink,  
Find great reassurance from Sgt. Griffiths's wink,

It's the "Z" man's Ragtime Show.

Just below the line of tents, latrines are left to drain,  
Squads of civvy workers shelter in them from the rain,  
Pull out buckets—find them full—push them back again,

It's the "Z" man's Ragtime Show.

A grand parade of regiment is held upon the square.

The band, brought down from Kingsbury, begins to thump and blare,

Other ranks all stagger 'neath the medals that they wear,  
It's the "Z" man's Ragtime Show.

Saturated to the skin by bursts of heavy rain,

Muddled to the eyebrows where our weary heads have lain,

But even so, "Get up them stairs" will soon be cried again,

It's the "Z" man's Ragtime Show.

Signed Buzz Buzz.

P.S.—These are official secrets. DO NOT REPEAT.

The above is reproduced by courtesy of a "Z" Sergeant who attended annual camp with the 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.), T.A., April 1952. This song was presented on the occasion of the officers and Sergeants party at the George Hotel, Holsworthy, on the last Thursday in camp. The spirit of this party was truly that of the "Die-Hards."

#### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

##### Darts

An inter-Regimental darts contest was held early in December and run on the knock-out basis. This was won by Bds. Stewart.

The Regimental darts team were successful in the first round of the T.A. tournament, defeating the 571 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment on the final leg. Well done.

In Christmas week, on December 22, a further competition was held in conjunction with a .22 rifle shoot. There were 32 entries. The winner was Gnr. Cordaroy, the runner-up Sgt. Griffiths. All entrants agreed that the 1s. entry fee with a chance of winning a chrome biscuit barrel or cake tray was pretty good value.

In conclusion we wish our team every success in the darts tournament, and remind them we have a vacant space near the dart board awaiting the return of the shield we lost two years ago!

##### .22 Rifle

We are taking part in two league competitions and under the able coaching of Mr. Spivey our young members are developing. We hope to report some good news next time.

The annual "Good Luck Christmas Shoot," combined with our feathered friends, on Monday, December 22, 1952, made a really good evening. Over 70 "had a go," including the Colonel, members of the Regiment, O.C.A., senior Cadets and friends.

Our thanks go to Capt. Stanhope-Gant and Mr. Spivey for the organisation of a really first-class evening.

#### Musicians Wanted

Military band, all instruments. 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.), T.A. All band practice and fares paid. Band practice Sunday mornings. Apply Adjutant or Bandmaster, T.A. Centre, Honeyput Lane, Kingsbury, N.W.9.

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

(Affiliated Cadet Battery)

We offer congratulations to Lt. A. Humphries on his appointment as OC of the Cadet Battery, 2/Lt. Gloinson on being granted Cadet commission and the Cadet Battery on the following achievements in the Middlesex County Cadet Competition: first place in the P.T. competition and second place in the drill competition (in the drill competition only one point separated runners-up and winners).

Cadet B.S.M. Ryan on being awarded the cup for best all-round cadet in the Cadet unit in 1952.

We take the opportunity of saying *au revoir* to Capt. F. P. Smith, who has been O.C. for five years and, owing to his long illness, has had to be relieved of the command. We offer our best wishes for his final and complete recovery.

#### The County Regiment

During the past 13 years, since the commencement of the 1939-45 war, a great stride forward has been made in strengthening the Regiment's connection with the county of Middlesex. That union commenced 170 years ago, when the 57th Foot became the 57th West Middlesex Regiment, to be followed in 1807 when the 77th became the 77th East Middlesex Regiment.

Since that time the county connection has ever been slender and many members of our Regiment hardly realise and certainly did not know that the county had its own regular Regiment of the line with a glorious history in war and peace.

In certain areas such as Hornsey, Enfield, Highgate, Hendon, Finchley, Uxbridge, Ealing, Twickenham and Tottenham the T.A. units of the Regiment were well known locally, but the regular battalions, always stationed away, were seldom pictured as county units till after the 1939-45 war started. In the first Great War the Regiment was widely known in the Kingdom because of the huge number of service units raised and the duplication and even triplication of its T.A. battalions.

This lack of interest is often inexplicable to those members of the Regiment who served at the present Depot, which moved in 1905 from Hounslow (where a double Depot existed for the Royal Fusiliers and the county Regiment) to Mill Hill, where then the name of the station were the cold words "The Barracks." Not until the second war years was the title "Ingis Barracks" approved and adopted for the Regimental home, a name to thrill soldier and civilian alike as bound up with that famous colonel who called upon his

soldiers to die hard on the hard-fought field of Albuhera and established for ever the title "Die-Hards."

What is the lesson to learn from these brief facts? Surely that the name of our Regiment must be kept ever vivid before the people of Middlesex.

We have seen how the recent return of our 1st Battalion from a glorious record in Hong Kong and Korea has caused an inspiring outburst of county pride and affection for their own Regiment which none who saw those events in the first three weeks of December, 1952, can ever forget.

Let, therefore, every officer and soldier of the Regiment make it a duty born of love for the "Die-Hards" to keep their honour untarnished and their name ever gleaming before the people of Middlesex. Thus only can this task be continued. Let everyone go readily to county and borough functions and show by their presence that the Regiment belongs to the county.

M.B.

#### The Regular Officers' Dinner

The dinner was held on December 16 at the United Services Club and was given additional interest by the presence of the 1st Battalion officers, whom we were delighted to see there in force and whom the Colonel of the Regiment welcomed in his brief speech.

Although the majority of those dining were not, perhaps, as conversant with the geography of the "Senior" as they are with that of the "Junior," we venture to express the opinion that there is much to be said in favour of holding the dinner at a club rather than at an hotel and we are indebted to the "Senior" for the arrangements made by them which all contributed to making the evening an extremely pleasant one.

The recent announcement of the amalgamation of the "Junior" and the "Senior" gave added interest to the choice of a rendezvous.

Those attending were: Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall (Chairman), Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian G. Horrocks, Maj.-Gen. F. W. Ramsay, Brigadiers G. H. C. Pennycook, N. P. Procter, O. H. Tidbury, B. B. Rackham.

Cols. M. Browne, S. F. Hedgecoe, A. M. Man, Lt.-Cols. A. E. Green, R. A. Gwyn, G. Lerwill, S. Mirams, J. W. G. Ormiston, F. Gordon Parker, W. L. Roberts, L. F. Sloane-Stanley.

Majors G. B. Ayre, I. H. Battye, R. C. H. Bellers, R. D. Bennett, F. J. Bennett, I. R. Burrows, T. W. Chattey, A. W. Clark, A. H. Cooper, J. W. Doyle, E. L. Heywood, H. M. F. Langley, F. A. L. Lawrence, P. D. H. Marshall, P. F. Newman, D. C. L. Nolda, G. O. Porter, P. D. ff. Powell, C. A. Trestain, A. R. Waller.

Cpts. K. J. Carter, C. N. Clayden, B. K. Clayden, A. D. C. Eales, J. S. C. Flavell, R. E. Guest, R. A. Hodge, A. N. Jordan, M. F. Leonard, H. N. McLeod Martin, C. H. Mievill, H. J. A. Moore, P. L. Pearce Gould, B. A. M. Pielow, D. B. Rendell, J. N. Shipster.

Messrs. M. T. Beagley, R. M. Cain, R. K. Collins, H. J. Evans, V. A. L. Holding, G. Kitchener, C. L. Lawrence, N. F. Legge, B. H. Marciandi, J. I. D. Pike, J. S. B. Pollard, S. Rutherford, P. A. S. Wollocombe.



## "Field of Remembrance"

### WESTMINSTER ABBEY

At 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 8, 1952, the annual ceremony of remembrance took place at the Regimental plot in the "Field of Remembrance" outside Westminster Abbey. The plot was once more indicated by the Regimental flag being held aloft by a member of the Depot staff.

For some time before the commencement of the ceremony many past and present members of the Regiment, Mayors and Mayoresses and Chairmen of Urban District Councils of the County of Middlesex had begun to assemble, although it was noticed that the crowd was not as big as past years due, no doubt, to the cold and squally weather.

Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., Colonel of the Regiment, accompanied by Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., arrived and placed the Association wreath and the first cross in the plot and was immediately followed by Lord Latham, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the High Sheriff and the Chairman of the County Council. Further crosses were then planted by representatives of the boroughs and Urban District Councils of the county and past and present members of the Regiment. After the planting of the crosses prayers were read by the Depot Padre, Rev. G. Tenneson.

The Mayors and Mayoresses of Edmonton, Hendon and Hornsey and the Chairmen and ladies of Friern Barnet and Ruislip and Northwood were present.

## Obituary

BONE.—Ex-C.S.M. A. Bone, one of the oldest members of the 9th Battalion Old Comrades' Club, died on January 17. His cremation took place at Kensal Green on January 22, and a wreath was sent on behalf of the Regimental Association.

COCKERAN.—On January 17, in his 91st year, late S.M. Alfred G. Cockeran, who served with the 10th Battalion. At his own request no flowers were sent.

EMBERSON.—The death of E. J. Emberson on January 2 was announced, and a letter of sympathy sent to the widow. Emberson served as armourer to the Regiment from 1912 to 1922 (4th Battalion), and was Mentioned in Dispatches in November, 1916. A wreath was sent on behalf of the members of the Association.

GARNER.—We regret to notify the death of Lt.-Col. Wm. Garner, C.M.G., T.D., D.L., at his home, Ingleby, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, on January 16, 1953, after a very long illness. Col. Garner was Honorary Colonel of the 8th Battalion, and a wreath from the Regimental Association was sent for his funeral on January 20.

PEACOCK.—We very much regret to announce the sudden death on January 22 of Mr. Peacock, who was a tenant of one of our Memorial Cottages at Enfield. Mr. Peacock served with the Regiment in the 1914-18 War and was wounded in 1916. A letter

of condolence was sent to the family and a wreath in Regimental colours was laid on behalf of the Association.

PEARCE.—We regret to announce the death of ex-Pte. A. Pearce, late of the 4th Battalion, and a very regular member of the Depot "Die-Hards" Club. The Regiment was represented at his funeral and a wreath on behalf of the Association was sent. A letter of sympathy was addressed to his widow, who we also regret to announce, only survived him until Christmas Eve.

TREADWAY.—After being ill for some time ex-Sgt. J. W. Treadway, M.M., died on January 22 and was buried on January 29 at Falconwood Cemetery, London, S.E. Sgt. Treadway served in the 1st Battalion in the First World War. A letter was sent to the widow and a wreath was sent on behalf of the members of the Association.

## We have heard that . . .

Mr. K. C. Chia, M.A., both a solicitor and advocate, was a member of the 20th Home Guard Battalion with H.Q. in Inglis Barracks during the last war. He is now secretary of the Old Comrades' Association Club in Malaya, which meets from time to time to remember the Regiment and held a dinner party on Albuhera Day in 1952. Mr. Chia is a devoted member of that club along with many others, and they travel long distances, amidst the terrors of bandits, bombs and mines, in order to celebrate Regimental occasions.

From a letter in *The Times*, of about August 27, 1952, it is learned that the present 39th Foot, the Dorsetshire Regiment, was prior to Napoleonic Wars called the East Middlesex Regiment, a title to be borne by the 77th Foot from 1807 onwards to 1881, when the title became The Duke of Cambridge's Own (The Middlesex Regiment).

Capt. P. G. V. Bellers wrote on August 28 to say he hoped to obtain a staff post in Malaya to complete his Far East tour, as he expects to leave in April, 1953, and is working to pass the Staff College examination.

Lt.-Col. Hervey del Court has again reached Lavender Cottage, Hermanus, Cape Province, and has re-entered the social activities at which he is now an expert.

On October 24 the ex-Officers of our 2nd Battalion who served in 1917 under command of Brigadier E. E. F. Baker held their Dinner. Those in attendance were Brigadier Maurice Toye, V.C., M.C., now Commandant Civil Defence School, Lt.-Col. Taggart, Rev. Capt. Montgomery-Mann, T.D., Capt. Holman, M.C., Major P. C. Brooker, Major P. J. Carter, M.M., and Rev. J. A. Price. Montgomery-Mann entered the Church after the 1914-18 war. Many of the above served also in the 1939-45 war. Col. Maurice Browne was their guest.

Col. George Brown wrote on November 1 to say how interested he was to learn of the return of the 1st Middlesex on December 1. His health is better now, although still not able to do much. Major Dundas is recovering from his illness and he hoped later to see Col. Davy.

On November 8 a 1/10th Middlesex Remembrance Day Reunion was held at the Feathers Hotel, Westminster. An enjoyable evening was spent, and during it Col. Browne was asked to propose the toast of the Battalion and reply to a toast of the visitors. It is remarkable the number who attended, remembering this Battalion was disbanded after the 1914-18 war. Over 50 were present.

On the next Sunday the yearly Evening Remembrance Service of both Battalions of the 10th was held at Chiswick Church, where an inspiring sermon was preached by the Vicar. It was at Chiswick the two Battalions were raised. Col. Browne attended.

Major Newton is a sufferer with neuritis. His eldest son, who was in the Regiment, serves in the British American Tobacco Company at Liverpool. The younger son is at Colwyn Bay W.T. Station College, and was about to enter for the examinations.

On November 14 Major Stewart Sutherland, at Sungei Limau Rubber Estate, Trong, Perak, in Malaya, wrote. He had sent telegrams to meet the 1st Middlesex on arrival at Singapore, and received an appreciative reply. He is the chairman of our Malayan O.C.A. branch.

On November 16 news arrived from Gordon Kent in Kuala Lumpur, where he is I.O. in an Infantry Brigade. He had met Advance Party 1st Middlesex with Peter Bellers and "Teddy" St. Clair (now in R.A.S.C.), and been entertained by Brinley Ayre and "Jimmy" Flavell. He was looking forward to the arrival of Col. Weston.

Richard Allott's return to 1st Middlesex from Eaton Hall O.C.S. has been postponed to June, 1953, as he has been appointed Adjutant. It is the first time the post has fallen out of the Brigade of Guards.

On November 18 Col. Browne had the pleasure of lunching with Alderman and Sheriff S. H. Gillett, M.C., a former member of the 7th Battalion.

We are glad to hear from Mr. Hale, ex-R.S.M. (a T.B. sufferer caused by his war experiences as a prisoner of the Japanese) that his health has much improved. He is employed in the British Laundries Research Association.

The same good news comes from ex-Drum Major Drew, who for the same cause has recently returned from the tin mines in Malaya. He hopes soon again to be at work. He also was a prisoner-of-war in the last war, being also captured by the Japanese.

Ex-Sgt. Ringe and ex-L/Cpl. Peters are now working for Securicor Ltd., as is ex-Pte. Kent.

## Correspondence

January 26, 1953.

The Editor,  
Dear Sir,

1. According to the Army List of 1766 the 57th and 77th were both serving together in Minorca. I realise that this was not the 77th as we know it. I wonder if any of your readers could tell me what happened to this 77th which was in Minorca in 1766.

2. In this connection it would be interesting to know on what occasions the 57th and 77th did serve together.

I realise they fought together at Inkerman and were in the same barracks for about 10 days at Colchester in 1932.

Yours faithfully,

A. E. GREEN.

7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment,  
Priory Road,  
Hornsey, N.8.

February 3, 1953.

Dear "Stumps,"

1. After research and consultation with the Librarian, R.U.S.I., I can answer the questions in paragraph 1. In short, no other 77th existed beyond the two regiments referred to in the 77th history compiled by Woolwright (mentioned in paragraph 2 below). Neither of these regiments has any actual connection with our 77th beyond the number.

The Librarian informs me that a printer's error existed in the Army List of 1766, and it is curious how neither you nor myself spotted the error for it is very clear. Our failure is doubtless due to the innate belief in the printed word.

In the Army List (1766) the 77th comes between the 66th and 68th Foot and should have read 67th. The mistake is quite clear. The Librarian has also checked the officers there shown and has identified them in later and earlier Army Lists as belonging to the 67th Foot.

2. (a) 77th (Montgomery's) 1st Highland Battalion was raised in 1757 during the Seven Years' War (1757-1763). At the declaration of peace in 1763 that Regiment, after service in the American War (1757-1763), was disbanded, having existed for six years.

(b) 77th The Athol Highlanders was embodied in 1778 due to continued hostilities in North American colonies demanding an augmentation of the Army.

Quartered at Portsmouth in 1783, it was placed under orders for the East Indies, but this move being at direct variance with the terms of their enlistment, the men objected to the move and this led to the disbandment of this 77th Foot after a life of about five years.

Yours,

M. BROWNE.

Inglis Barracks,  
Mill Hill, N.W.7.

The Editor,  
Dear Sir,

The name of my brother, 6189352 Cpl. Sylvester Phelan, has been placed on the Stone in the Churchyard of the Parish Church of Holy Trinity, Old Brompton, Chatham, Kent.

The inscription is: "S. Phelan, Middlesex Regiment." He was an enlisted boy, joined the Regimental Band on the Great Lines at Chatham, 1917. He was then aged 14 years. He joined his Battalion (the 1st) after the Armistice, 1918. He had a course at Kneller Hall about 1921, served constantly until killed in Hong Kong Christmas, 1941. Served 24 years. At the end of his service I believe he was with "C" Company. We



placed a cross in your plot in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster.

Any further information, apart from that sent to my mother (now deceased), will be welcomed. I am the oldest surviving son.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) W. PHELAN,  
Pensioner, "The Buffs."

118 Benares Road,  
Plumstead, S.E.18.

#### SGT. L. CRITTENDEN

The Editor,  
Dear Sir,

I enclose a photograph of Sgt. Crittenden, The Middlesex Regiment, being presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by Lt.-Gen. Sir Lashmar Whistler, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., at a passing out parade of Royal Sussex recruits at Chichester on October 29, 1952.

Also enclosed is a brief outline of his service. Sgt. Crittenden is at present employed as the G.D. Sergeant attached to the Infantry Clerks' Training Centre.

(Signed) G. E. TAYLOR,  
Capt., Royal Sussex.  
Comd. Inf. Clerks' Trg. Centre.  
The Barracks, Chichester.

Enlisted July 18, 1933, at the Regimental Depot, Mill Hill.

On completion of recruits' training was posted to 2nd Battalion at Colchester.

Left Colchester for Ismailia in April, 1935.

Served with 1st Battalion in Egypt for 5½ months and rejoined 2nd Battalion at Portsmouth in 1936.

Drafted to Singapore in April, 1937, and stayed there eight months.

Proceeded to Hong Kong and was stationed there until December 8, 1941, gaining promotion to Corporal.

Japanese invasion on December 8, 1941; was wounded December 16, 1941, and was present at the Japanese massacre of the Little Sisters of the Poor, and was wounded on December 20, 1941, at St. Albans Convent; escaped by jumping through window and rejoined "A" Company (Capt. Man) at the Hennessey Road Typhoon Drain position.

Surrendered with the colony at 4 p.m. Christmas Day, 1941.

Two years P.O.W. at Shamshupo Kowloon, in hospital most of the time.

Was sent to Formosa on a salvaged Dutch ship which sank; rescued by the *Tayama Maru* and reached Kobe, Japan, in March, 1944.

Second Prison Camp (Nagoya) and Third Prison Camp (Toyama), both on the middle island of Japan (the island of Honsue).

Carried out various jobs in moulding shop at both factories, Nagoya and Toyama.

Released by U.S. Air Corps.

August, 1945, in very poor health—ber-beri and palagra, main trouble bad eyesight.

Flew to Okinawa and then to Manila.



Sailed to Honolulu in the U.S. transport *Dickmans Drift*.

Left at San Francisco as a medical case.

Proceeded to U.K. via Santa Fe route to Great Lakes of Canada.

Stayed at Halifax, Canada, and then crossed the Atlantic in the *Queen Elizabeth*.

Was placed in Brookwood Mental Asylum till March, 1946.

Certified fit but F.T., carried on in the M.T. as an instructor and passed a course at Army M.T. School, Borden. Gained promotion to Sergeant.

Left the M.T. due to nervous trouble; no accident.

Two years in the Orderly Room with Home Counties Group Training Centre, where employed as Release Clerk.

Posted to Canterbury on reactivation of Regimental Depots as Equipment Sergeant on the Q.M.'s staff, but was in hospital most of the time.

Posted to Chichester—the Infantry Clerks' Training Centre—in 1951 as G.D. Sergeant.

#### 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

#### EX-PTE. R. M. BUSH 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment "A" Company, 1937-41

October 13, 1952.

Dear Sir,

I am forwarding the enclosed cuttings from the *New Zealand Herald* hoping it will be of some interest to you back home. Would like to be remembered to all ex-Kobe House Boys, and to say that my leg injury is quite O.K. these days. Have settled down in N.Z. these last five years and doing quite well.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) R. BUSH.

24 St. Michael's Avenue,  
Pt. Chevalier,  
Auckland, New Zealand.

From the "New Zealand Herald," October 3, 1952.

#### OTAHUHU IS SHRINE OF MAORI WARS MEMORIES

A V.C. of the Maori Wars lies buried in the middle of an historic little graveyard at Otahuhu. He is Lt. J. T. Down, 57th Regiment, who won his V.C. at Poutoko as a 22-year-old in 1863, and died two and a half years later in a camp on a hill which now overlooks his grave.

The grave has a headstone inscribed: "Sacred to the memory of John Thornton Downs, V.C., Lieut., 57 Regt., who died in Camp Otahuhu, April 27th, 1866, aged 24½ years."

A note at the bottom of the stone states: "This tablet is erected by his brother officers."

Not far away, in the shade of a hedge which skirts the cemetery, is a communal grave inscribed: "Here lie the remains of men who served their Queen and country in the Maori Wars of 1863-65. They live in memory by their deeds." The graveyard contains the remains of many another warrior. There is, for instance, the last resting-place of Capt. Oates Joseph Travers, 70th Regiment, who died in 1864, and that of Staff Assistant Surgeon Robert Storey, Royal Artillery, whose age at the time of his death was 30.

The graveyard occupies the site of the town's first Anglican Church, Holy Trinity, built and dedicated by Bishop Selwyn 100 years ago this month. Although the original building has long since disappeared, a centennial celebration is to be held in the present church in Mason's Avenue, beginning on Sunday, October 12. The Archdeacon of Auckland, the Ven. T. A. Partridge, will conduct a service in the morning and the Archdeacon of Waitemata, the Ven. P. Houghton, will officiate in the evening.

Extract from "The Auckland Star," October 18.

#### BUTTON OF THE "DIEHARDS"

A button from the tunic of a soldier who served in Taranaki in the 1880's has been discovered by Mr. W. J. Baldock, at his home, 4 Brown Street, New Plymouth. The button belonged to the uniform of the 57th Regiment and bears a wreath of laurel leaves, a crown and

the word Albuhera, the name of the Spanish village where, on May 16, 1811, the Regiment earned the famous nickname of the "Diehards."

This item was also very kindly brought to our notice by Major J. Cropper, M.B.E., through the 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment), T.A.

Dear Sir,

It was with very deep regret that I read in *The Times* today of "Flash" Peareth's death as a result of a motoring accident. As Editor of *The Die-Hards* Journal I mourn his loss as a keen member of the Committee of the Associated Service Journals.

In addition, I learnt to have a great regard for him when I had the honour of living in your Mess 1937-39. I sympathise with you in your great loss and know that all our Regiment who had the luck to meet him will wish to be included.

Yours sincerely,  
N. P. PROCTER, Brigadier (Retd.),  
Chief Editor, *The Die-Hard* Journal.

Dear Brigadier,

Thank you very much indeed for your very kind letter and sympathy. "Flash's" death has come as a sudden and very great shock to us all here and to his many friends elsewhere.

It was very kind of you to write and I much appreciate your letter.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) P. J. LEWIS, Major.

The Depot, The Buffs,  
Canterbury.

#### TRANSLATION OF A LETTER FROM CAPT. ALFRED CORDONNIER, PRESIDENT OF THE DOUAISIE-BRITISH-CLUB TO BRIGADIER E. E. F. BAKER

February 2, 1953.

Dear Brigadier,

We were horrified to learn about the terrible disaster which has stricken your country. The whole of France feels deeply the misfortune which has befallen you and the people of Douai all join the rest of our country in their sympathy and grief for you.

The Douaisie-British-Club and its members also wish to tell you and their comrades of the Middlesex Regiment and all their friends in Middlesex and Great Britain of their profound sorrow. May this token of friendship and support help to comfort all those who are suffering pain and despair.

Please be kind enough to assure Mrs. Baker of the deep concern which we all feel here for this catastrophe, and especially to not forget to tell all the members of the British Legion of Amersham about it.

With kind regards and an expression of my own sorrow,

Yours sincerely,  
A. CORDONNIER.



## Coronation Parade of Ex-Servicemen, July 5, 1953

Arrangements have been made by the War Office, Admiralty and Air Ministry for a review by H.M. The Queen and march past of ex-Servicemen to take place in Hyde Park on Sunday, July 5, 1953, time not yet notified.

The review will follow a similar pattern to that held in 1937 and will consist of a parade, short religious service and a march past lasting some two hours in all.

Separate arrangements are being made for disabled ex-Servicemen by the Ministry of Pensions.

The Association has been allotted 190 vacancies and it is hoped that the Regiment will be well represented.

Will those ex-officers and other ranks who have not given their names to the club they belong to, and who are desirous of taking part, please forward their names by March 31 the latest to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

An allocation of seats for widows and relatives of ex-Servicemen to watch the proceedings is also being made and we should be pleased if readers of the journal would bring this to their notice.

## THE ROYAL MILITARY MEMORIAL CHAPEL, SANDHURST

### Memorial to His late Majesty King George VI

The Council of the Royal Military Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst, hope that this appeal will reach a large number of those Officers and their families, and indeed all who have been privileged to worship in the Chapel.

The dedication of the West End, the last portion of the reconstructed Chapel to be completed, took place in the first year of the reign of His Late Majesty King George VI, and His Majesty's very close association with the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst during the latter years of his reign is known to us all.

As regards the Chapel itself, the Council proposes that a Memorial Window shall be placed above the King George V Memorial Door at the West End.

Secondly, the Council proposes that the balance of subscriptions to the Memorial Fund, if sufficient, shall be devoted to providing a prize at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be named after His Late Majesty King George VI.

We most sincerely hope that all those who know and love the Royal Military Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst, will make a generous donation towards this visible and lasting symbol of our deep devotion to his memory.

DAVID DAWNAY, Major-Gen.,  
Chairman of the Chapel Council.

All donations to the proposed Memorial to His Late Majesty King George VI to be erected in the Royal Military Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst, should be sent to the Secretary to the Chapel Council (Lt.-Col. G. A. Sheppard), addressed as follows: Secretary to the Chapel Council, The Royal Military Academy Sand-

hurst, Camberley, Surrey. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to: "Sandhurst Chapel King George VI Memorial."

*The Colonel considers it will be appropriate that Regular Officers of the Regiment, past and present, should send their subscriptions to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, by April 30, 1953, in order that one cheque for the whole Regiment should be then forwarded to the Commandant R.M.A. with a list of subscribers and the amounts given by each.*

## Welbeck College

The object of the College is to provide suitable candidates for Regular Commissions in the Technical Corps of the Army. A free education will be offered to suitable boys of about 16 years of age who wish to go to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Boys who would normally have to leave school at that age in order to earn their living will be given special consideration.

While Welbeck College is intended primarily to produce officers for the Technical Corps, the Army Council may in special circumstances permit a boy to be commissioned in one of the other Arms.

The full strength will be 150 boys and the College will be organised into two "houses," each under a housemaster and with its own matron. The dormitories of each house are in separate wings of the College and games will be organised on a house basis. There is one dining hall and a boys' common room for the whole College.

Every boy will be expected to play games according to his aptitude. Facilities for recreational hobbies and cultural interests will be provided, and boys will be given every encouragement to take part in them.

### Conditions of Entry

The boys will remain at the College for two years, and as the entrance age to R.M.A. Sandhurst is from 18 to 19, boys will enter Welbeck between 15½ and 16½ years of age. Some flexibility will be allowed in this.

Applicants must fulfil three requirements:

First: That his headmaster should forward a testimonial certifying that the candidate is suitable on the grounds of character and that he is likely to be suitable for entry to R.M.A. Sandhurst between the ages of 18 and 19.

Second: That he should have reached the educational standard of the General Certificate of Education with passes at ordinary level in mathematics, science and one other subject; or in Scotland, that he should have completed the fourth year of a Senior Secondary Course, with passes as above on the lower grade of the Scottish Leaving Certificate or University Preliminary examination. If for any reason the applicant has not yet taken the examination, his headmaster's report on his attainment will be considered, but an education test may be imposed. Special consideration will be given to boys studying at technical schools or colleges, full or part time.

Third: Acceptance by an interviewing selection board consisting of four members, including a head-

master and a representative of the local education authority. The Board will visit specified centres in the United Kingdom and applicants will be informed where they are to present themselves. When visiting Scotland and Wales a Scottish and Welsh headmaster respectively will also serve on the Board. The expense of third-class rail or bus fares in excess of 7s. 6d. incurred by candidates in travelling from normal place of residence to the place of interview will be refunded.

A medical examination will be arranged locally at the time of the interview.

Fifty boys will enter in September and 25 in January each year. Applications must reach the War Office by January 10 for the September entry and by June 10 for the January entry. Selection Boards will be held in February/March and July respectively.

Application forms can be obtained from the Under-Secretary of State for War (A.G.10), The War Office, Whitehall, S.W.1.

On this form parents and guardians will be required to sign an undertaking that the boy, if accepted for the College, will be regarded as a candidate for the Royal Military Academy and, if successful, will serve at least five years as a Regular Commissioned Officer on the Active List.

Further details can be obtained from the Regimental Depot.

## Regular Forces Employment Association

Post-war conditions led to all kinds of complications, and one of these has been the position with regard to entry to Post Office. The regulations are that for ex-Regulars entry to positions as established postmen in the Post Office service can be obtained only through nomination by the National Association. When there are few vacancies and a number of men requiring this employment, as was the position before the war, these nominations are carried out in strict roster order, which is the reason why it is necessary for there to be one source of supply only. Already in some parts of the country vacancies occur so seldom that there are quite considerable waiting lists and in these places the roster is of importance in order to ensure fairness.

Immediately after the war the Post Office, like everyone else, had very many vacancies to fill and the position arose when men in most places could get straight in without any waiting at all. In one or two places this is still the case and the general scarcity has led to some Postmasters ignoring the normal methods of recruitment and engaging men who apply direct. In such instances the National Association has to be pulled into the picture in order to supply the necessary information and set in motion the proper machinery for keeping the Post Office records in order. There is a good deal of difficulty in many of these cases through the man already having started work, while the National Association cannot comply with the Post Office requirements easily without seeing him. It is for this reason that the regulations are being tightened up and men will save themselves and everybody else a good deal of

trouble and difficulty, not to mention time, if they will make a point of applying to their local branch of the National Association for information about Post Office employment.

It should be remembered that one of the privileges of the ex-Regular is the fact that he may remain on a Post Office roster and be taken out of other employment should he so wish when his turn for nomination to Post Office comes.

Non-Regulars are nominated by the local Employment Exchange, but only if unemployed, and the National Association has confirmed that there is no ex-Regular available for the vacancy.

## Old Contemptibles' Association

In order that the gallant deeds of the 1914 B.E.F. should not be allowed to pass into oblivion, the Old Contemptibles wish to erect a memorial to their dead. It is proposed to erect in the Crypt of the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields an archway and gate leading to a Chapel for Private Prayer which the Church Authorities are intending to throw open to the public. A drawing of the Archway has been prepared by the architect. The Arch will bear an inscription, "Mons to Ypres 1914," and on the walls below the Arch there will be a dedication to our comrades of the 1914 B.E.F. on one side, and some verses by Miss Beatrix Brice on the opposite wall. In addition, a Roll of Honour will be deposited in the Church. This will be the "Order of Battle" of the 1914 British Expeditionary Force and will include the name of every Unit serving in that Force up to November 22, 1914.

Any contributions should be sent to: Lt.-Gen. Sir J. R. C. Charles, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., The Hermitage, Ilminster, Somerset.

### LONDON GAZETTE—continued from page 34

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

Capt. (Hon. Major) G. D. Patterson (67608).

November 4, 1952

Lt. R. A. Hodge (337003) to be Captain November 1, 1952.

November 11, 1952

Lt. E. A. E. Moir (170465) to be Captain August 26, 1952.

November 14, 1952

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) P. G. Baker (189481) relinquishes his commission September 9, 1952, on appointment to the Australian Military Forces.

Lt. M. P. Fox (336941) relinquishes his commission November 15, 1952, and is granted the hon. rank of Lieutenant.

The undermentioned cadets to be 2/Lieutenants September 20, 1952:

22588600 Graham Leonard Blacktop (424967).

22597021 David Roderick Walter Gubbins (424977).

22641362 Gerard Chalmers Ross (425004).



November 21, 1952

2/Lt. G. R. Chadwick (418791) from Regular Army National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant October 1, 1952, with seniority September 1, 1951.

2/Lt. A. H. Catchpole (418799) from Regular Army National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant October 1, 1952, with seniority September 1, 1951.

November 28, 1952

Capt. (War Subs. Major) I. R. Burrows, M.B.E. (117327), to be Major November 27, 1952.

December 9, 1952

2/Lt. J. R. Hare (415600) from Middlesex Regular Army National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant September 2, 1952, with seniority March 10, 1951.

2/Lt. O. G. Richards (415731) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant December 1, 1951.

2/Lt. O. G. Richards (415731) from R.A.O.C. Regular Army National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant September 17, 1952, with seniority March 10, 1951.

December 23, 1952

22590944 Cadet Patrick James Lee (425257) to be 2/Lieutenant October 18, 1952.

December 26, 1952

Capt. A. E. Peasley (109238) to be Major December 30, 1952.

January 2, 1953

Lt. R. Stapleton (165315) to be Captain September 5, 1951.

January 2, 1953

Lt. G. C. Fortman (373760) to be Captain December 21, 1952.

December 30, 1952

Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., appointed Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Middlesex.

January 6, 1953

Capt. (Q.M.) S. G. Parry (167509) to be Major (Q.M.) January 10, 1953.

#### SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

January 13, 1953

22561591 Cadet Peter Raymond Young (425995) to be 2/Lieutenant November 29, 1952.

22586429 Cadet John Frederick Allen Weil (425741) to be 2/Lieutenant November 15, 1952.

January 20, 1953

Col. (Hon. Brigadier) N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C. (15639), late Infantry, having attained the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers December 24, 1952.

Major (Hon. Lt.-Col.) J. H. Clowes (15279), having attained the age limit for liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers January 20, 1953.

January 20, 1953

2/Lt. A. H. Catchpole (418799) from T.A. National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant October 6, 1952, with seniority September 1, 1951.

January 23, 1953

Lt.-Col. F. Walden (17951) retires on retired pay January 1, 1953, and is granted the hon. rank of Colonel.

January 27, 1953

The undermentioned Lieutenant-Colonel to be Colonel:

(Temp. Col.) G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E. (49963) from Middlesex January 15, 1952.

The undermentioned officer to relinquish his commission January 28, 1953, and is granted the hon. rank as shown:

Middlesex: Lt. F. M. Massey (200329), Lieutenant.

January 30, 1953

6200191 W.O.1 Sidney Charles William Weller, M.M. (426507) to be Lieutenant (Q.M.) December 20, 1952, with an antedate for seniority purposes only to January 23, 1952.

February 3, 1953

Major (Q.M.) H. Farrow, M.B.E. (185163) retires on retired pay, February 1, 1953.

## Army Art Society

There are probably many amateur artists serving in the Forces who have not heard of this Society. It is an entirely unofficial organisation and exists to encourage Art amongst past and present members of the three Fighting Services. For several years, very successful exhibitions have been held in London each autumn and these afford an opportunity for young artists—who often have the advantage of painting subjects overseas—to show their works and compare them with others. This adds a real interest and object to their hobby.

The work of serving personnel, of all ranks, is particularly welcome and intending Exhibitors are invited to apply now for particulars about the next (22nd) Exhibition. This will be held at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, from October 20 to November 7, 1953.

Applications should be addressed to: E. A. Callam, Esq., Hon. Secretary, Army Art Society, 66 Apsley House, St. John's Wood, London, N.W.8.

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