

LONG LIVE THE QUEEN



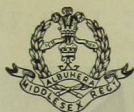
[Dorothy Wilding, London]

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. XI No. 2

JUNE, 1953

PRICE 1/-

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57th and 77th)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.

"Mysore," "Seringapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."

The Great War—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "17, '18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17, '18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooze, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fless-Courrette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancrre Heights," "Ancrre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume, 1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Pilleken," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Roslères," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazeubrouck," "Baillieu," "Kemmel," "Schervenberg," "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," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jencho," "Jordan," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murman, 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. (1st 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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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."

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 5/- (Post Free)

The Die-Hards

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

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

EDITORIAL

In this June of 1953 everyone of us will have in the forefront the Coronation of our young Queen. Some will be taking an active part in the ceremonies, processions or street lining, others will be arranging the strenuous efforts required to arrive at some allotted seat or standing place, or still more strenuously, trying to get a sight somehow, and even more will be taking part in some local celebrations arranged to mark the event. But whether we are actively taking part or merely watching and listening on the television and wireless, one thought will surely be in all our hearts—"God Save The Queen." Surely, too, when we hear the National Anthem played and sung we shall fervently hope she may be allowed "Long to reign over us happy and glorious," and that this Coronation may see the clouds roll by and a long period of progress and prosperity come to nations wearied of wars and uncertainty.

Since Her Majesty came to the throne we have had ample opportunity to see the unsparring way both she and the Duke of Edinburgh endeavour to encourage every activity worth while and to learn at first hand the conditions under which our people live and labour. We can feel confident that it will not be due to any lack of effort on their part if this reign, now in its early days, does not see prosperity and peace materialising. But a Queen can only give the lead and if we are once more to be a truly happy and glorious nation we must each follow that lead and actively play our part.

Many will have read of the return of Capt. Vyvyan Holt from Korea, where, until taken into captivity, he was Minister at Seoul; fewer, probably, know or remember that he was an officer in 9th Battalion before and during the 1914-18 War. Even in those days, when the morning coats and top hats were more frequently seen than they are now, it was somewhat startling to see Capt. Holt attending T.A. parades in this immaculate dress plus a monocle, when he arrived from his office to attend the evening parades.

After the war, although frequently abroad, Capt. Holt, when on leave, attended the Battalion camps—at his own expense—in order to keep up to date and the appearance of "Damme" Holt at camp was always more than welcome.

We rejoice at his safe return to England and wish him the best of luck in future.

Later in this number will be found a Crossword and an offer of a prize. The author of this puzzle has kindly offered to produce another if this first one proves popular. We hope that it will prove a success and are most grateful to him (he won't tell us his name) for this labour of love.

Few people realise that the Journal takes quite a lot of work to produce. We were, therefore, glad that the late sub-editor of the 1st Battalion was able to come and take part in the final work of the last issue. He confessed he had thought that a representative of the printers arrived and over a cup of coffee and a cigar, broad lines were drawn.

Having seen the Journal put to bed, he, at least, will regret to know that Mrs. Brooks, who has the literally stickiest part to play, has been ill for a month. We hope that she will be ready to play her part with ruler and paste pot for this number.

Correspondence

Capt. V. Holt, C.M.G., D.S.O.,
c/o Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

April 21, 1953.

Dear Sir,

I wish to convey on behalf of the Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club and Middlesex Regimental Association congratulations and best wishes on your return from captivity in Korea. It is hoped that your health has not been impaired by your privations as a prisoner of war.

Yours sincerely,

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

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

April 30, 1953.

Dear Major Clark,

Many thanks for your kind letter and congratulations on my release. It is pleasant to be home again and most gratifying to be remembered by so many Old Comrades of the "Die-Hards."

With kind regard,

Yours sincerely,

VYVYAN HOLT.

Junior Army and Navy Club,
Horse Guards Avenue,
S.W.1.

Regular Officers' Dinner, 1953

The next Regular Officers' Dinner will be held at the United Service Club (The Senior) on Friday, December 4, 1953. Details will be circulated later in the year, but will those concerned please make a note of the date now.

1st Battalion Notes

BATTALION EDITOR:

MAJOR I. R. BURROWS, M.B.E.

LAST DAYS AT WARLEY BARRACKS

Those of us who had been away for so long on leave returned at last to Warley Barracks. Quite a number professed to have forgotten where the place was, but, on being told that it was "First left after crossing the Essex frontier," managed to rediscover it, and the whole Battalion finally congregated for its move to Austria.

Before the move, however, the Battalion was called upon for yet another unusual task. The very widespread damage and great loss of life caused by the onrush of the sea over large areas of East Anglia confronted the civilian authorities with problems which would have been insuperable and from which further serious damage and casualties would have resulted if all the available resources of the Services had not at once been placed at their disposal. All troops were at once alerted and 100 men of "A" and "C" Companies were made available under the command initially of Major Battye and later of Capt. R. A. Hodge. This issue of the Journal contains in a separate article (Exercise "King Canute") an account of the work done by men of the Battalion in repairing the damage to the sea walls, and of some of their experiences in living aboard ships of the Royal Navy at this time. Their efforts in stemming the effects of the high tides were most successful and many congratulatory messages were received.

Brigadier F. C. Bull, D.S.O., Commander 11 A.A. Brigade, wrote in his order of the day: "The spirit of determination and cheerful enthusiasm displayed by all ranks has been fully in accordance with the highest traditions of the Service." Maj.-Gen. R. H. Bower, C.B., C.B.E., G.O.C. East Anglian District, who also visited the Battalion on February 6, 1953, included the following words in his message: "A magnificent job has been done under uncomfortable conditions." The G.O.C.-in-C., Eastern Command, wrote: "You have done all that was asked of you without fuss or grumble. Well done!"; and a message from the Secretary of State for War said: "It was an arduous job very well done." A message of thanks was also received from the Lord Lieutenant of Essex and a cheering telegram from Lord Latham, Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex.

Major Battye, after being relieved on flood work, took the advance party to Austria, and not long afterwards the main body of the Battalion was packing up for the move. The Commanding Officer also preceded the Battalion to Zeltweg, and Major J. W. G. Ormiston assumed command of the Battalion from February 28 until March 17, when the Commanding Officer resumed command on the Battalion's arrival in its new station.

THE ADVANCE PARTY AT ZELTWEG

The Austrian dream turned to reality when the advance party arrived at Zeltweg on February 27, 1953, though, in fact, it had been preceded by a strong team comprising the C.O., Major Ayre and Lt. Mason travelling independently. With it travelled the advance party of "A" Company, which, after a short pause, went on to Vienna to prepare the ground there. For months we had striven to get reliable and accurate information of what we might expect but, as in war, so much of it was confused and conflicting. On arrival the reasons for these contradictions were more apparent.

At Zeltweg we found a station where the immediate prospect was largely of mud with a building and repairing programme which was sadly behind schedule. Moreover we were faced with the prospect of some 500 men to feed and house within three weeks. Beyond that, given time, patience and some help, one could envisage a Zeltweg with a layout and amenities such as the Battalion had not known for many years.

The airfield was originally a Luftwaffe station, and the Battalion H.Q. and barrack accommodation are good, while "S" Company and the M.T. could not ask for better facilities for their transport than that provided by two large hangars. Builders, decorators, electricians and plumbers in insufficient numbers, however, were competing against time with the many essential tasks that had to be done for our arrival. With the thaw setting in outside and the efforts of the contractors inside, there was a tremendous amount of cleaning to do, apart from trying to solve the jigsaw of where to fit in the various sub-units which formed a part of Zeltweg Garrison. The situation was saved by the arrival of the long-awaited draft, some 80 strong, which had been with the Queen's. With the manpower now available, and with the application of considerable pressure on the contractors from all directions, we began to see results in the last week. It was a close thing, but March 16 saw the essentials completed, though much remained to be done.

OPERATION "KING CANUTE"

After the disastrous spring-tide floods of January, many troops were alerted to assist in repairing sea wall along the East Coast, and on February 7, 100 men from "A" and "C" Companies, under the command of Major Battye, were sent to repair the sea wall on Foulness Island at the mouth of the River Crouch.

The sea had breached some 2½ miles of wall and the worst breaches had to be repaired by February 15 when the next spring tides were expected.

Major Battye's party were accommodated in three H.M. Minesweepers. These ships were anchored in the mouth of the river and were under the command of

Commander Kerans, D.S.O., in H.M.S. *Rinaldo*; the other ships were H.M.S. *Cheerful* and H.M.S. *Cockatrice*.

The Battalion had met Commander Kerans before, when a guard of honour was provided for his ship H.M.S. *Amethyst* on her arrival in Hong Kong in August, 1949, after her escape down the Yangtze.

The men were taken from ship to shore each day in L.C.A.s and the midday meal was eaten on the sea wall. Repairing the sea wall was done purely and simply by filling and laying sandbags until the required height and depth were reached.

The enemy was the sea, with its allies the elements, but snow, sleet, rain and wind had to be ignored, and so the work went on.

On February 13 the three minesweepers were relieved by H.M.S. *Narvik* (an L.S.T. from Montebello) and the whole party, which by now had been increased to some 150 men of the Battalion, a Royal Engineers' Squadron and 50 recruits from the Regimental Depot at Mill Hill, were transferred to this ship.

Conditions were cramped and space limited, but the work had to continue. However, on February 18 all men of the Battalion were withdrawn and replaced by a Royal Artillery unit, and, although all were sorry to say good-bye to the Royal Navy, who had looked after the troops in their usual hospitable way, the thought of being away from the sea appealed to everyone.

During the 11 days the Battalion had been engaged in this operation some 2½ miles of sea wall had been repaired and this wall held during the dangerous periods of high tides.

THE MOVE OF THE MAIN BODY TO AUSTRIA

The time for the main body of the Battalion to move from Warley Barracks came at last, but not before many messages of farewell had been received from a number of senior commanders and other friends of the Regiment. These messages included good wishes from the following officers and officials, and were very much appreciated by the Battalion:

The Lord Latham of Hendon, Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex.

Group Capt. A. S. W. Dore, C.B., D.S.O., T.D., D.L., Vice-Lieutenant of Middlesex.

Lt.-Gen. Sir George Erskine, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command.

Maj.-Gen. R. H. Bower, C.B., C.B.E., G.O.C. East Anglia District.

Brigadier G. Taylor, D.S.O., Commander 49 Independent Infantry Brigade.

Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., A.D.C.

Col. F. W. P. Parry, Commanding Home Counties Brigade.

Colonel A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E.

Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., O.C. 7th Middlesex.

Walter Jones, Esq., Sheriff of Middlesex.

The Chairman of the Middlesex County Council.

The Mayors of Ealing, Finchley, Brentford and Chiswick, Heston and Isleworth, Willesden and Hendon.

The Chairman of the Enfield and Harrow Urban District Councils.

The main body of the Battalion left Warley in two trains on March 14 and "married up" at Harwich before embarking. Here they were met by the Colonel of the Regiment and by Col. Maurice Browne, C.B.E., M.C., and other officers who had travelled down to wish them *bon voyage*. The senior staff officer on the Embarkation Staff at Harwich was a W.R.A.C. Major, and as she had qualified recently at the W.R.A.C. Staff College we were fairly confident that she would embark us in the right ship, and not on a coaler or tramp steamer sailing for Great Yarmouth. The voyage across the North Sea was most comfortable, except for the one great failing common to sailors and to Nursing Sisters, i.e., the habit of waking one up at an unearthly hour in the morning, when one has only just managed to get to sleep. The Battalion had an early breakfast at the Hook, and then broke up again into two trains, *en route* for Zeltweg via the Rhine Valley. This part of the journey was extremely comfortable, and most interesting to the young soldiers who had not been on the Continent before. At Krefeld in Germany the Battalion was greeted by Maj.-Gen. B. A. Coad, C.B.E., D.S.O. (under whose command it had served in Korea) and also by Major G. Hodding and Capt. G. Forman, both of whom are on the staff in B.A.O.R.

The Battalion arrived at Zeltweg on the afternoon of March 16, and was welcomed at the station by the Commanding Officer and by Lt.-Col. J. Lake, M.C., G.S.O.1 at H.Q., B.T.A. "A" Company changed trains at Zeltweg and continued their journey to Vienna, where they are on detachment. Of the 30 officers and 510 other ranks who had returned from Hong Kong, 20 officers and 382 other ranks were still on strength, and they were joined in England by 9 officers and 125 other ranks, bringing the total of regulars to over 350. A further 2 officers and 80 other ranks of the Regiment who had been serving with The Queen's Royal Regiment in B.A.O.R. had arrived earlier in Zeltweg and had provided valuable assistance to the Advance Party. The total strength of the Battalion was now over 600, of whom over three-quarters are regulars.

THE BATTALION IN AUSTRIA

The Battalion—less "A" Company in Vienna—is now at Zeltweg Camp, which consists of hangars, well-built brick buildings and wooden huts on the south side of a large airfield. The airfield itself is no longer an R.A.F. station but is occasionally used by visiting aircraft; the hangars are used for a variety of purposes ranging from vehicle parks, Q.M. Stores, and indoor basket ball and hockey pitches to accommodation for a dog unit and storage for the Austrian Gliding Club's gliders and even for an Austrian circus.

We share the camp with a large number of other units, all of whom come under the Commanding Officer, as Commandant Zeltweg, for administration and discipline. The largest unit, who administered our Advance Party and with whom we have re-established the firm friendship dating back to Hong Kong days, is 11 Field Squadron, R.E., and other smaller units include a rear link of Royal Signals, an R.A.S.C. Barrack Office, a section of an R.A.S.C. Army Fire Brigade, a R.E.M.E. Recovery Section, an R.A.M.C. detachment, an Army

Post Office and the R.T.O., Zeltweg. A Field Security Section is also administratively responsible to the C.O. Our M.I. Room shares the Airfield Control Tower with a detachment of W.V.S. and with a section of the British Forces (Broadcasting) Network, Austria.

The airfield, like the small village of Zeltweg which it adjoins, lies in the centre of a flat valley, which is about six miles wide at this point and through which runs the River Mur. To the north and south of us, and at a greater distance at the ends of the valley to the east and west, are impressive mountain peaks, some of which are even now, in April, still capped with snow, despite many weeks of glorious sunshine.

The camp had not held a Battalion since the end of the war and the Garrison Engineer and his Austrian contractors fought a losing battle against time and financial limitations in their efforts to have the camp ready for us by the time of our arrival. The barrack blocks and cookhouse and nearly all the other essential parts of the camp were ready, and are clean, modern and well-designed. Two groups of brand new married quarters have been completed since we reached Zeltweg, and, although they show many signs of hurried construction, they are a great improvement on many we have known, and, as usual, we only wish that we had more of them.

A fine new NAAFI has just been opened, thus relieving the congestion in the small wooden hut with which we had to "make do" for the first few weeks. We have our own miniature range, as well as a 30-yard range, and plans for a 100-yard range have recently been drawn up and passed by a Board. There is a school for the children and a 16-mm. cinema, though we badly need a 35-mm. cinema and hope to have one eventually. Above all, the airfield provides us with plenty of excellent sports grounds, including five football fields, a rugger ground, a hockey pitch, an athletic track, and plenty of space for a prepared wicket for cricket and many other sporting activities. We have our own horses, and there is splendid riding in the countryside around us. We look forward with some confidence to being able to make Zeltweg the sporting centre of British Troops, Austria, and details of our sports activities so far are given elsewhere in this issue.

We miss "A" Company, who are away in Vienna, but we are glad to welcome numbers of them from time to time, for cadres, sports, etc., and we take the opportunity whenever possible of sending teams to Vienna to play them and to see "the bright lights of the big city," which are much missed by the majority of the Battalion. Zeltweg, although it has an Officers' Hotel and a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Hotel and over 30 other "gasthauses," is small and limited in entertainment value, and Judenburg and Knittelfeld, our two nearest towns, seem very "tame" when compared with Ealing and Tottenham. Graz and Klagenfurt, which are the nearest towns which offer organised facilities for British troops, are both over 65 miles away; fortunately we are able to run Recreational Transport to them for all ranks every week-end, and also for families once during the middle of each week. In addition, by the time this issue of the journal is printed, it is probable that the rotation of Companies in Vienna

will have begun, and that "B" Company will have taken over from "A" Company, for a while, the monopoly of the night-life of the capital.

There has been much to do in the camp, which, apart from having at one time been occupied by Russian troops, had been greatly neglected by our predecessors. The "wilderness," however, is beginning to "blossom like the rose," and every visitor to Zeltweg Camp comments on the improvement in its appearance. Our Medical Officer and the Royal Engineers have even solved the problem of the water-supply, which for some time was not fit to drink.

Easter was a pleasant break in our routine. An inter-platoon football competition and an inter-Company basket ball tournament were begun, and the Band gave a concert on the Saturday afternoon. In addition, many of us took the opportunity of seeing something of the beautiful countryside around us.

Visitors are very numerous, despite our remote location, and we estimate that the Commanding Officer must often welcome as many as ten in a day. We are naturally glad to be making so many friends so quickly.

The G.O.C.-in-C., British Troops, Austria, Maj.-Gen. R. E. Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O., of Arnhem fame, visited the Battalion on April 10, and, after inspecting the parade and addressing all ranks, made an extensive tour of the camp and had lunch in the Officers' Mess. We are sure that he knows how grateful we are for the many improvements for which his previous visit to our Advance Party had been responsible.

His Excellency the Ambassador, Sir Harold Caccia, arrived by air on April 23, and after inspecting a guard of honour saw various aspects of our training. After giving a most enlightening talk to all officers on the situation in Austria, he was entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess.

Among other visitors have been Lt.-Col. Lake, the G.S.O.1, H.Q., B.T.A., who lectured to officers and Warrant Officers, and Mr. Rosslyn Penney, the representative of the Foreign Office in Styria, who gave two lectures on March 25 for all ranks. At a less official level, we have also had visits from Messrs. Jimmy James and Frankie Howard, whose C.S.E.U. shows, although contributing less to our knowledge of the Austrian situation than our previous visitors, were listened to with at least equal attention and brought up-to-date news of U.K., from which—despite the comparatively short distance—we feel oddly remote. Fortunately the arrival of the families, in four parties, has done much to lessen this sense of being cut off from the outside world.

Most of the Austrians in the villages and small towns around us were initially reported to be mainly apathetic to British troops, but the Communist element was estimated to be as high as about 12 per cent. When we go out of camp we do so in pairs. This has not discouraged us, however, from doing everything possible to establish our usual good relations with the local population, and we have begun a programme of sporting activities with them, have invited them to Army games played in the Camp, and have entertained them in their own towns by concerts given by the Band and Drums.

We hope that the bouquet of flowers presented to the Bandmaster in Judenburg, after a recent performance, is a sign of a growing bond of goodwill between the local Austrians and the Battalion.

Despite the many tasks necessary in connection with improvements to the Camp, training has begun again with considerable vigour. Cadres in drill, fieldcraft and tactics have been held for junior N.C.O.s, and signals, mortar, anti-tank and M.T. cadres are also in progress. We have held one very successful Officers' Study Day, and are shortly to have a T.E.W.T. for officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants. One Battalion H.Q. exercise, two Company exercises and several other minor exercises have been held, and we also derived a great deal of benefit from being able to send six officers and five Sergeants as umpires to the BETFOR manoeuvres in Trieste, and Capt. M. F. Leonard as an observer to 2 Infantry Division manoeuvres in B.A.O.R.

Our immediate "training objective" is efficient participation in the forthcoming B.T.A. manoeuvres, known as Exercise "Blossom," in which the British Brigade group is to be opposed by an American battalion. We look forward to this exercise with anticipation marred only by the fact that, long before we arrived in Austria, it had been fixed for May 15-20, and we shall therefore be celebrating Albuhera Day on May 8-9 instead. However, we do not despair of finding time, even in the "heat of battle" on May 16 of remembering and making our Regimental Day in every way possible "in the field."

C.S.M. McMillan, Sgts. Dive, Beale and Walsh, Cpl. Anderson, L/Cpl. Partridge and Pte. Thorneycroft have already left to represent us at the Coronation, and the Adjutant, Capt. C. N. Clayden, and Lt. B. Marciandi are leaving shortly to join them. Lt. W. Deacock is already awaiting them in U.K. We only wish that the whole Battalion could have the honour of being there, but are looking forward to playing our own part in the celebrations in Austria, where the Band and Drums will be on parade in Vienna.

Looking further ahead we are awaiting with pride and pleasure the honour of having new Colours presented by the C.I.G.S. at the end of September.

"H.Q." COMPANY

We are now firmly established in our lines here in Zeltweg, although on arrival we were rather set back by the state of disorder of the Camp in general. However, it was with very pleasant surprise that we viewed our living quarters, to find that they were really first class, with plenty of room. Under the watchful direction of our new Company Commander, Major A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C., whom we welcome to the Company, we began slowly to organise things, and to make an efficient Company of ourselves after the upheavals caused by our return to Europe. Major Hewitt has replaced Major G. C. Dawson, whom we were sorry to lose when he was posted to Vienna as Garrison Adjutant.

We extend a hearty welcome to Sgt. Moran and Cpl. Power, who are conspicuous as Provost Sergeant and Corporal respectively. Sgt. Wilson of the "I"

staff is unfortunately "in dock" as a result of a traffic accident and we wish him a speedy recovery. Meanwhile, his "side kick," L/Cpl. Metzger, seems to be up to his eyebrows in maps and so forth. We must certainly include the nerve centre of things here in Zeltweg, i.e. the Battalion Orderly Room. Things are running smoothly under C/Sgt. Redpath, B.E.M., who sits in the chair formerly occupied by O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron, who has now gone to the Depot, taking our best wishes with him.

The R.A.P. is fully engaged in its usual gruesome task, but so far nearly everyone in the Battalion has been in a good state of health. Well done, Sgt. "Butcher" Bailey.

The Company has, we think, shown itself "second to none" by its prowess on the sporting field. This Albuhera Day we hope to repeat our success by again winning the shield. The basket ball team has been doing very well. It is comprised of Bandsmen except for one player, Pte. Sheppard, and recently won the inter-Company competition. The ball play was excellent throughout, and the match played against the Sappers was consistently punctuated by brilliant play. It is, however, most difficult to single out any players, because everyone was extremely good. Our Rugby seven-a-side team is very strong, the backbone being Capt. A. N. Jordan, Capt. C. N. Clayden and Lt. B. K. Clayden and (last but not least) S.S.I. Law, who, of course, is expected by all to be a superman. These players took part in the final B.T.A. Trial and did extremely well, showing considerable determination and energy. L/Cpls. Moss and Freeman and Drm. Thomas complete the team which we think really deserves to win the competition.

The football eleven managed to bring off a very close game against "C" Company in the first round of the inter-Company knock-out by the odd goal in nine, and are known to be considering taking on all comers. A special mention should be made of C/Sgt. Street, who shows considerable tact in his fine captaincy of the Company and Battalion teams. Ptes. Rouse, Wright and Shepherd and L/Cpl. Freeman form an excellent H.Q. contingent for the Battalion 1st XI, and other personnel are on the fringe of selection for this team. Pte. Colston never "lets one in" if he can help it, and we are very glad that he will remain with us for some time to come.

We are anxious to see that the Albuhera Shield stays in the Company Commander's Office, and we think it will, especially as we have such representatives as R.S.M. Tarrant (who will doubtless fight hard for the "mile") to keep the Company at the top of its form.

"A" COMPANY

Together with the rest of the Battalion, our last weeks at Warley were spent in preparation for the move to Austria and continuation of the flood relief work. Amid packing cases and thigh waders C.S.M. Wild fought to improve the standard of the Company's drill.

The advance party left on February 25, arriving in Austria two days later, and prepared for our arrival in Vienna.

We left England once again on March 14 and had a

long but pleasant journey across the Continent. Major Porter welcomed us at Zeltweg, where we stayed just long enough to transfer our baggage on to the Vienna train and drink a cup of tea. On the six-hour trip from Zeltweg to Vienna we saw the first Russian troops at the check point in the Semmering Pass, and so arrived in Vienna on the evening of Monday, March 16, being welcomed by C/Sgt. Burgess. Schönbrunn Barracks are pleasantly situated in part of the Schönbrunn Palace Park, the former Imperial country seat, about three miles from the centre of the town. They are well designed, being originally built for the German S.S. troops just before the last war.

The first task was to take over the duties of the Vienna Garrison Duty Company from "D" Company, 1st Royal Warwicks. Since then we have been busily engaged in Internal Security training with lots of practice, and for the rest of the time, drill and battle P.T. Many members of the Company are preparing for the Third Class Certificate of Education, and we have now zeroed all our rifles in preparation for this year's classification.

The command of No. 1 Platoon has been taken over by 2/Lt. D. E. Lobb from 2/Lt. Pollard, to whom we wish good luck on his Signals course in England. We have also sent a number of N.C.O.s and men to Zeltweg on Specialist Training with the Battalion, including 3-in. mortar and signal courses.

At the week-ends we have got to know and like the City of Vienna, with its cobbled streets and avenues. We have seen the famous Vienna Woods (now looking at their best), the Danube, and many fine old buildings, and have learned something about the local Viennese and our colleagues the Americans, the French and the Russians. In camp and on the sports field we have met a mixed variety of other troops, including Intelligence Corps, Royal Signals, R.M.P., R.A.S.C. and R.A.F. personnel. The Company is at the moment under the close eye of the new Garrison Adjutant, Major G. C. Dawson.

On March 28 "A" Company provided a guard of honour for the retiring French Commander, Col. d'Aviron, and on April 15 we were honoured by a visit from the C.O.C.-in-C., Gen. Urquhart, who watched an I.S. demonstration by No. 3 Platoon.

Some of the Company were able to watch the change over of the International Guard on April 1, an interesting ceremony in which the Russians, with their impressive band and goose-step, took over from the fast-moving French Chasseurs.

We have been happy to welcome some members of "B" and "S" Companies here for the week-ends, and have tried to show them something of Vienna. And now there are only five weeks left of our tour of duty in Vienna before we hand over to "B" Company and rejoin the Battalion at Zeltweg. With Albuhera Day and the Coronation ceremonies in the meantime we have a lot to do and plenty to look forward to.

While we were at Warley Barracks our sport was confined mostly to soccer practice, friendly matches and cross-country runs. On those cold Wednesday after-

noons when the whole Battalion turned out for the weekly run, "A" Company shone several times by winning an easy victory. This was due largely to Cpl. Cooper and Pte. Mills and the unexpected energy of Pte. Milton.

In Austria we are engaged in playing all the major games in the Vienna Garrison League, as well as some friendly matches and games with visiting teams from Zeltweg.

On the hockey field there has been some fine stick work from Major G. O. Porter, Capt. MacL. Martin and Pte. Thorogood. Pte. Wheat has shown us that his standard is up to his soccer ability, and Pte. Beasley has been doing some good goalkeeping. In the first game, a friendly match against the Q.M. Stores, we lost 4-0. Of the three six-a-side league games played, we won against the Intelligence Organisation by a long corner, and the Royal Signals 1-0, and drew with the Garrison H.Q. The Company is also taking part in the Garrison Knock-out Competition.

At soccer, the Brown twins have been playing well. Pte. Tattersall has scored several goals and Pte. Milton, our goalkeeper, has continued to save some fast shots. We were glad to get Pte. Cooper from the Battalion into our team, for he is very speedy on the left wing.

In the league games we beat Field Security, firstly 2-1 and later 6-3. We drew with the Royal Signals 4-4 and Garrison H.Q. 3-3. The games versus the R.A.F. at Schwechat Airport have been lively and well played but the scores were firstly 5-1 and later 5-2, both games being won by the R.A.F., who are a good team. Our last game was a friendly against the Intelligence Organisation, which we won 6-3.

The Company basket ball team has been practising hard and has played several league games. C.S.M. Wild, Cpl. Yerby, L/Cpl. Martin, Ptes. Pedlar and Dossett are our best players. The team played the Royal Signals and won 29-18, and the following week Garrison H.Q., this time winning 24-18. The next game, against the R.M.P., was a fast one which we lost 26-18, but which was redeemed by a game two weeks later in which we won 26-24. On April 25 "A" Company rugger seven, which had been training strenuously under 2/Lt. Lobb for a week or two, played "S" Company, who had come to Vienna for the occasion. It was an interesting and at times an amusing game. L/Cpl. Martin scored a try for "A" Company, which he also converted, making the total score 5-0. We have now to play "H.Q." Company.

The Company congratulates L/Cpl. Martin and Pte. Wheat for their all-round sporting prowess and also Pte. Brown for coming second in the Garrison .22 competition.

On April 23 we entered a quiz team, consisting of Ptes. Lawrence, Parrot and Brown, versus the R.A.M.C. on the British Forces Network Programme. The score was 14 points to both sides, and we all learned something. We are now thinking ahead to our athletics, cricket and swimming teams, and also the resumption of the inter-Company games at Zeltweg when we return to the Battalion in June.



THE CAMP ENTRANCE, ZELTWEG



BATTALION HEADQUARTERS, ZELTWEG

"B" COMPANY

Once again "B" Company is in existence. A draft of 46 men from the Depot formed the nucleus of the Company on February 17, and Capt. R. A. Hodge and 2/Lt. R. D. Fisher and personnel of the Company did excellent work as Battalion baggage party for the move to Austria. We were sorry to say good-bye to Capt. Hodge on arrival here, but our good wishes went with him to his complicated assortment of new appointments, i.e. Command of "D" Company (which exists in cadre only), Messing Officer and Officer i/c Riding Club.

The Company was made up to a strength of about 100 by the draft of Middlesex regular N.C.O.s and men who had arrived in Zeltweg from 1st Queen's in Germany some days before the Battalion reached here. We are very glad indeed to have them back with the Regiment, and our thanks are due to Major A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C. (now O.C. "H.Q." Company), who helped them so much to remember that they were "Die-Hards" throughout many long months with 1st Queen's.

The officers of the Company are now Major I. R. Burrows, M.B.E., Capt. M. F. Leonard, Lt. I. S. Rutherford, Lt. M. V. Hayward (an officer of the Regiment whom we welcome "home" from the Buffs) and 2/Lt. R. D. Fisher. We are fortunate in having with us C.S.M. J. Thom and C/Sgt. T. Perry.

During the past weeks we have been meeting—and, we hope, surmounting—most of the difficulties and problems of a recently reformed Company. Company training has been somewhat restricted by the amount of work necessary by all Companies to put the Battalion Camp in order, and by the number of men we have had to spare for the cadres designed to refill the serried ranks of "H.Q." and "S" Companies. However, we have enjoyed the exercises we have been able to do, and are also glad that leave to U.K. for the men of the draft from 1st Queen's is now in full swing.

In sporting activities the Company has made a splendid start. We understand we cost a certain Warrant Officer large sums of money by defeating "C" Company in our first football match, and we have followed this up by beating R.E. II by 13–2 and the very strong R.E. I team by 5–4. Our heartiest congratulations go to Pte. Longman and all his team, who we hope will go on to win the Inter-Company League. In platoon football, too, the Company made its mark, as No. 6 Platoon beat No. 4 Platoon, then the Signals Platoon (2–1) and finally R.E. I by 5–2 in the final, thus winning the Battalion Inter-Platoon Competition.

Ptes. Teer, Miller and Warn have all played well for the Battalion 1st XI, and Pte. Ellingham has been a consistent scorer of goals for the Company. We were all glad to see Pte. Teer playing for the B.T.A. team against the British Army on May 2, and also congratulate Pte. Warn on being selected as a reserve.

On April 2 "B" Company won the Inter-Company Cross-country Run, and Pte. Dixon later ran for the Battalion in the B.T.A. Championship. Pte. Basing, who had also run well in trials, was unlucky not to be well enough to run on the day of the Championship.

Lt. Rutherford and Pte. Dixon went to Klagenfurt with the Battalion seven-a-side rugby team, which reached the semi-final, and we also congratulate Pte.

Moses on coming in first in the recent Battalion Cycling Time Trial.

We look forward to the day when the various competitive events for the Albuhera Shield will again begin, and feel that we have a real chance of wresting it from "H.Q." Company.

"C" COMPANY

"C" Company was called out in the middle of February to man the sea wall on the flooded areas around Shoeburyness. The Company was embussed and we arrived at Burnham-on-Crouch, and were taken to the Minesweepers *Rinaldo*, *Cockatrice* and *Cheerful* by landing craft. Even if, in spite of our theme-song, we did not like to be beside the sea-side, we certainly saw plenty of it. Later all were transferred to the *Narvik*, from which in bitterly cold wind and rain we worked long hours with 26 Field Squadron, R.E. In crowded and cheerful conditions we were warm and well fed on board and in idle surroundings in the evenings some were able to replace and account for long-deficient kit.

We returned to Warley Barracks, and the work continued with daily fatigue parties detailed for sandbag filling. We bade farewell with regret to Major Waller, and welcomed an entirely new complement of officers. We were also glad to see C/Sgt. Bartle, who joined us from Canterbury.

On March 14 we crossed the Channel from Harwich to the Hook of Holland in S.S. *Vienna*. Small groups gathered on the deck watching the coast of England disappearing rapidly in the darkness, and were then glad to adjourn to the warm canteen below deck. On the following morning our first impressions of the Continent were disappointing—bomb-damaged buildings and piles of rusty scrap-metal lay around us. Spirits rose, however, when we were able to buy our first duty-free cigarettes and to see a Sunday morning film show in the nearby transit camp cinema.

During the journey across Holland we noted the clean and carefully cultivated appearance of the country, and were interested in the many football matches in progress and in the old windmills and the ancient town of Utrecht. German children gathered around the train when we halted at the frontier, and their requests for "pennies" and chocolate met with a generous response. In fact some friendships within the Company became strained when individuals found that their last few cigarettes had been tossed out of the windows by over-enthusiastic neighbours.

We continued our journey past the factory chimneys, blast furnaces and marshall yards of industrial Germany, but the scenery had changed entirely by the next morning. We were now surrounded by vast snow-capped mountain peaks, with small villages and wayside shrines at the foot of their pine-clad lower slopes. After a glimpse of the fortress city of Salzburg and of some of the blue Austrian lakes, we arrived at last at Zeltweg, where the villagers watched us apathetically as we descended and climbed on to the waiting lorries.

Since our arrival we have worked hard on innumerable improvements to the camp, as well as on numerous

exercises and other training activities. No. 7 Platoon have made the 30-yard range fit for use, and we have all had a hand in building roads and paths for the married quarters, and garden plots for the camp. We have enjoyed seeing a good deal of the local countryside during platoon marches. We had hoped that life would be quiet and stable in Austria, but at the moment there are many signs of a quickening tempo and of the many conflicting interests reminiscent of Hong Kong. With only two rifle companies here duties are heavy. Local contacts have taken some time to make, but we are glad to report that progress is being made and that the local beer is a good strong brew.

The Company has done very well in inter-Platoon and inter-Company sports. We were only just beaten in the basket ball knock-out competition by a strong "H.Q." Company team after an excellent game. "H.Q." Company again beat us in the seven-a-side rugby tournament, although we were not unduly discouraged by this as they had the nucleus of the Battalion team.

We miss C.S.M. McMillan, who is away in England preparing for the Coronation, and send him all good wishes for the parade on that occasion.

"S" COMPANY

This last quarter has been a particularly difficult one about which to write Company notes because we have done almost exactly the same as any other Company has done. We, too, have had leave, spent time on flood duties, travelled by train across the Continent, had first impressions of a new country, and eaten Wiener Schnitzel. It is only during the last three or four weeks that we've shaken down into any recognisable form as an individual Company instead of being just another sub-unit of the Battalion.

Perhaps our biggest achievement has been in persuading the M.T. Platoon to come on to our ration strength and we now perpetuate our welcome in print, noting that the Platoon can do our 857's for us, complicate our pay parades, not do our fatigues and tell us why, at any given moment, we can't have a truck.

Together with the M.T. we welcome Major Brinley Ayre as our new Company Commander, fully confident that he will, without bias, decentralise any extra duties on to the M.T. Platoon.

Rejoining the Company are Sgts. Moysse, Walters and Dive from their respective courses, and, with a deep sigh of relief, their Platoon Commanders bid them welcome. Lt. Pike also joins the Company from his anti-tank course, and assumes command of that invaluable Platoon. It is a pity that we only have 17-pounders to offer him, considering he is fully conversant with the new 120 mm. Finally, to all the new members of the Company we reiterate our welcome, taking a special note of their bearing, keenness and in some cases rapid promotion.

Regretfully, we have to say good-bye to Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E., and Lt. Mason. We wish the former success in his new command and to Lt. Mason, the mainstay of "S" Company sports, we say *bon voyage*,

and we hope M.E.L.F. is as good as B.T.A., but we don't think so. Ptes. Moore, Laing and Pragnall have also gone, but to places where no C.S.M. can ever find them. C.S.M. Budden assures us that they've had a flying start in that respect.

While it is yet difficult to tell how our individual cadres are going to "shape up" militarily, we have seen with pleasure the keen interest and considerable skill shown so far in sport. Ptes. Hearn, Bowler and Whitney have formed part of a nucleus of enthusiastic all-round players. Bowler particularly shone in the inter-Platoon knock-out competition, while Hearn has a natural eye for a ball, whether its cricket, hockey, soccer or basket ball. We shall miss him when he goes in May.

Sgt. Thorogood, at one time the only Company Rugby player on the active list, has now been joined by Lt. Legge and Pte. Alexander, and several speculative glances have been thrown at Major Ayre as well. In fact, everyone seems to be kicking or hitting a ball about, and one well-known person, notorious for his absence on the sports field, was even seen reflectively kicking a stone as he went to rest just as "No Parades" blew.

We look forward, too, to seeing Pte. Hayden, B.A.O.R. feather-weight champion, in action in the ring.

In closing we wish to offer our heartiest congratulations to Sgt. Dive for having been selected to represent the Regiment at Her Majesty's Coronation.

OFFICERS' MESS

The journey out to Austria, for those officers who came by car, made many of us feel that next year's Continental Road Rally might just as well be the "Monte Zeltweg" as the "Monte Carlo." The Commanding Officer and Mrs. Gwyn reached Bad Gastein safely for a skiing leave, after heavy snow had made it necessary to use chains on the mountain passes. Major G. B. Ayre and Lt. G. Mason had an exciting trip through Brussels, where reputations and bank balances were saved only by the former's sudden inability to dance with a wooden leg. Major A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C., and Capt. S. E. Honess—both of whom we are delighted to welcome back from Iserlohn, where they had been with 1st Queen's and Brigade Headquarters respectively—seem to have made the journey without difficulty; perhaps this shows that "practice makes perfect" as regards motoring on the Continent in winter. Capt. M. F. Leonard wisely discarded the A.A.'s advice on roads across the mountains in favour of that of a hotel-porter at Salzburg, thus avoiding the ice-covered 1-in-4 gradients on which Major G. C. Dawson and Major I. R. Burrows came to a spluttering halt and then began to slide gently back down the hill. 2/Lt. J. F. A. Weil flashed by easily in a large shooting-brake on his way to "A" Company at Vienna, and 2/Lt. J. B. Pollard even managed to find time for some pleasant social activities in Zurich in the course of a record-breaking trip from Warley to Zeltweg. Considering the snow, the state of the Austrian roads and the *joie de vivre* (*glück von leben*?) of the Austrian drivers we were all glad to have reached our destination without accident.

Major G. B. Ayre, as P.M.C., has made us all extremely comfortable in the Mess at Zeltweg, and, now that many officers are installed in married quarters, there is more room in the Mess, though we could still have wished for slightly more bedrooms. (This might also have enabled one field officer to keep his more notorious female visitors in a separate room!) The married quarters have their own tennis court, and will probably benefit from the shade of "Gypsy Wood" during the heat of the summer. "Schloss Gwyn," which seems at one time or another to have been occupied by Commanding Officers of all the Occupation Forces (including the Russians), stands splendidly in its own acre, slightly aloof from its semi-detached neighbours.

Major J. W. G. Ormiston has been credited by the Embassy with a wife for the purposes of the Coronation celebrations which he is to attend in Vienna, and Capt. V. A. Thomas, M.C., has been restrained from "opening a book" on who the lucky lady is to be. The language problem continues to cause most of us more difficulties than the inhabitants of this country, and our 2IC was somewhat mystified one evening recently in Graz when, having inquired: "Wo ist der gasthaus Weisses Hirsch?" he received the reply in perfect English: "Well, actually, it's a hell of a place to find."

Major I. M. Battye and Major S. G. Parry, whom we are very glad to welcome to the Battalion as Quartermaster, are comfortably installed with their families. We hope that the frequent use by visiting officers of the tricycle in their house will not result in a claim by the owner for "unfair wear and tear to G 1098."

We were very sorry to say good-bye to Major G. C. Dawson, who left us to become Garrison Adjutant, Vienna, but we are already appreciating the value of having a "friend at court." For the same reason our great regret at the imminent departure of Capt. A. N. Jordan for H.Q., B.T.A., will at least have its compensations. As Capt. C. N. Clayden is also soon to depart for U.K. and the Coronation, only Capt. Honess will be left out of the Adjutantal triumverate; as the "Cherry-pickers" are alleged to have said of their transport when under fire in the Western Desert: "If these terrible losses go on, we shall soon be down to establishment."

Capt. R. A. Hodge already worked wonders with our horses which were in very poor condition when we arrived. As Messing Officer, he is in a quandary about what to do when a small minority vote complains of having eggs every morning for breakfast! Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, Lt. B. K. Clayden, Lt. N. F. Legge and Lt. V. A. Holding have all been busy running cadres, and so is Lt. J. I. D. Pike when not engaged in answering War Office's query about a bill to the Mess from Mac Fisheries.

Hebrews 11, 32-38—but space must certainly be found for mention of the optimist who had to be charged with "W.O.A.S." Calling our tallest 2/Lieutenant a "bloated capitalist." Perhaps his punishment should have been to survey the bank statements of us all after the 7th of the month!

SERGEANTS' MESS

We welcome the following to the Mess and hope that their stay with the Battalion will be a long and happy one: S.Q.M.S. Jago, R.A.O.C.; Sgts. Powell, Lewis and Perrins, R.A.E.C.; Sgt. Kitching, R.E.; and Sgt. McWilliams, R.A.P.C.

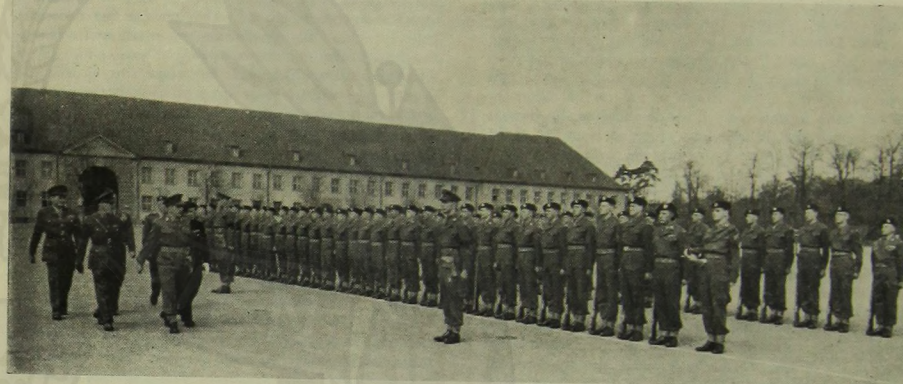
We wave rather a belated good-bye to C/Sgt. (now A/W.O.II) Corner, who has left us to cheer up the 7th Battalion (T.A.) with his pessimistic utterances, and we say *au revoir* to C.S.M. McMillan and Sgts. Beale, Dive and Walsh, who have returned to U.K. for a period of spit and polish before marching in the Coronation Parade in June. We also say "cheerio and good luck" to Sgt. Smallman, R.A.P.C., who was only in the place two minutes before he applied for and was granted a Resettlement Course in U.K., after which course he will, no doubt, have realised that he is far better off in the Army and will apply to come back to the fold.

We congratulate C/Sgts. Bartle and Morgan and Sgts. Cripps, Wilson and Bailey (Signals) on their respective promotions; also Sgts. Simmons and DaCosta (now at the Depot) on their marriages.

On Thursday, February 19, 1953, a party was held at Warley Barracks, the guest of honour being R.S.M. Weller, M.M., who, as we all know, is now Lieutenant (Q.M.) at the Depot. Normal speeches were made with perhaps slightly more than the usual quota of emotion since all those present had known Lt. Weller for a considerable length of time and were, without exception, extremely sorry to see him go. A presentation was made, suitably inscribed, in the form of a silver salver, and in making the presentation R.S.M. Tarrant promised to carry on the good work that his predecessor had done before him, and thanked him for having done all the spade work, although judging by the way that the new broom is sweeping, a few stones were still left on the garden.

In the early days of March yet another excuse was found to hold a party, although none will say that it was not warranted, for the guest of honour on this occasion was "Drummie," to whom we had to say farewell, loth as we all were, on his return to civilian life after 22 years' service, the majority of which had been spent with the 1st Battalion. Drum Major Holdford was, without doubt, the best-liked man in the Battalion, and worth any ten of those of us still serving on. A presentation, suitably inscribed, was made in the form of a clock, and although attempts at speeches were made both by the giver and receiver, emotion was running so high that nothing more than "Here you are—best of luck" and "Thanks, chaps—very nice—remember always" was heard.

By far the most stirring part of this particular function took place the following morning when the Drum Major, who had remained in barracks overnight, took his leave. As "Drummie" came down the stairs from his bunk he was picked up by some of the burlier members and chaired out of the Mess to the strains of "Charlie is my darling" and placed in the front seat of a 1-ton truck which was waiting outside the Mess. The Band struck up "For he's a jolly good fellow" and everyone joined in the singing, at the same time fastening



Col. D'Aviron, French Army, inspecting "A" Company's Guard of Honour, Schönbrunn Barracks, Vienna



Major G. O. Porter and Capt. H. N. MacL. Martin accompanying Col. D'Aviron during his inspection of "A" Company's Guard of Honour, Schönbrunn Barracks, Vienna

a hawser to the front axle of the vehicle. At a given signal the Mess members lifted the hawser and, to the strains of the Regimental Marches, "Drummie" was slowly pulled towards the barrack gate, where the Corps of Drums helped him on his way with a rousing Bugle Call. Most of the officers and many of the men turned out to cheer the Drum Major and to salute him as he passed the Guard Room of the 1st Battalion for the last time in uniform. Outside the gate the hawser was removed and all members crowded round to shake hands with, and mutter their farewells to, "Drummie"; it is certain that never in the history of the Regiment has there been seen a more human-looking bunch of W.O.s and Sergeants—many a hand was passed unobtrusively across a pair of eyes which for the first time were red with tears instead of the effects of wine. It will be a long time before we see a farewell such as this one was—a very long time indeed.

On Saturday, March 14, the Battalion once again got on the move—this time, however, we knew that within two days we would be unpacking and sorting our kit in what we hoped would be a better station than our last one. Everything went well—the trains were there, the Battalion was there, and the trains departed from Brentwood on time. On arrival at Harwich we were given a meal, which, although not the sort of thing one could give to a king, was much better than we had anticipated. With minor irritations we eventually got on to the boat and after a time were allowed to sleep the sleep of the just.

In the morning we awoke to find ourselves, as we had fully expected, at the Hook of Holland, and quickly we disembarked, changed what money we had left, and moved on to a very well-organised breakfast. At 1037 hours we entrained and most of us were agreeably surprised at conditions on the trains. Two trains were used, leaving at different times—the first taking "H.Q." Company and "A" Company (who were travelling on to Vienna) and the second taking the remainder of the Battalion. The journey was one of the most comfortable the Battalion has had, and the food was, considering the circumstances, of excellent quality and well served by the Austrian waiters. On the first day of the trip the train stopped in Germany and Maj.-Gen. Coad was waiting to greet the officers and men, many of whom he had known in Korea.

We awoke on the following morning to find ourselves just into the land of Strauss, and the scenery was typical of all the posters we had been looking at since we left Hong Kong—little valleys surrounded on all sides by snow-capped mountain peaks, with occasionally a small village nestling in the foothills. As the day wore on the sun climbed high in the sky and we began to feel a little of the heat that we thought we had left far behind us some months ago. When we eventually arrived at Zeltweg, the sun, strong as it was, did nothing to cheer up the rather dismal-looking village-cum-town that met our gaze—it is true that we were not expecting to be posted to a place with all the amenities of London or even one of the smaller suburbs, but we did expect something a little bit better than the American idea of Little Snoring Under Ooze.

However, for the moment we had no time to explore

the place to see if it really was as bad as it looked, as we were very efficiently whisked away in T.C.V.s to the barracks, where again it was a case of unpacking and sorting kit—a job of which we are fast becoming heartily sick. Our one consolation, small as it was, was the thought that at least we would not have to move from Zeltweg until we had got it into some sort of order; it is going to take us some time to lay out the gardens, lawns, tennis courts, etc., that are required.

Certainly all those who were in the Battalion in Hong Kong were very pleased when they saw our new Mess, since it provided a great improvement on the old Nissen hut that we called a Mess out there. As always, there are many things yet to be done, but on the whole we are quite satisfied with our hot showers, posh ante-room and lounge, the price of beer and spirits, the fact that one only has to crawl out of the bar, turn left and crawl up the stairs to be within 10 yards of one's bed, and the fact there are at least no monsoon ditches in which to fall asleep on the way back from a night out. Unfortunately, or fortunately, for us we are not just a Battalion Mess, since we share it with our friends of 11 Independent Field Squadron, R.E., several of whom we remember from Hong Kong. There have been no fights to speak of so far, and, from the way things are going now, it appears that the R.E. and ourselves are to be the best of friends—just so long as they do as they are told, or until the archway from the ante-room is completed.

On Saturday, March 28, the R.E. members officially recognised the advent of the Battalion by holding a social evening in the Mess in order to welcome us all to Austria. Needless to say the usual fun and games was held by all, 1st Middlesex emerging victorious in most of the games, though the R.E., with their platoon of Education Instructors, are going to be stiff opposition in the future tests of skill.

Plans have already been put into operation for the building of a hard tennis court in front of the Mess, and, to this end, much turf has already been lifted and has mysteriously disappeared in the direction of the married quarters, no doubt, where it will be relaid to save various people from having to dig their gardens and plant such things as potatoes and carrots.

Sport soon reared its lively head in the Mess, and on Easter Sunday a football match was arranged between 1st Middlesex and R.E. and attached. Needless to say the Battalion team asserted their superiority and won the match. S.Q.M.S. Jago, R.A.O.C., played a sterling game as goalkeeper for the R.E. in the first half, when his acrobatic leaps across the goal-mouth seemed nothing short of miraculous, but when he managed to hit the ball so hard that he broke one of his fingers, he decided to take his place among those who were running about in the middle of the field, and promptly proved that he was just as good without the ball as he was with it. For the Battalion team, the Bandmaster proved to be a sound goalkeeper and C/Sgt. Street let us see that he had played the game before. However, the right wing, which had as one of its stalwarts the R.Q.M.S., proved laboriously weak, due to the fact that most of its players seemed to have difficulty in breathing any kind of air that had no smell of tobacco, beer or whisky in it.

Since a considerable number of Mess members are now absent at meal times, it behoves us to say what it is that keeps them away—apart from the food. Having looked at the married quarters—during one or two tea breaks when we managed to get someone to invite us in for a "cuppa"—we have come to the conclusion that all ranks should be issued with similar quarters—as long as they are not required for longer than five years. The houses are all that we expected them to be—centrally heated throughout, ample storage space for all the spare kit that married men invariably seem to get hold of, plenty of light and air together with the certainty that within five years they will have all fallen down and a new lot will have to be built. However, since the Battalion will be away within that time, no one is worried. The furniture is very pleasing to the eye, and it is issued in sufficient quantity to take away the bareness that seems to exist in many married quarters. All the wives appear to be pleased with their new homes, although, as usual, there is something lacking, and here it seems to be the cupboard or shelf space in the kitchen; no doubt many husbands have already remedied that defect by nailing two or three pieces of wood together and have placed their work of art in the most awkward and inaccessible spot they could find.

A few members can be seen each evening bending their backs, and most probably breaking their hearts, in their efforts to tidy up the bit of rockery that surrounds their own particular house. Some have even managed to put a fence around their little patch, though how it was done without the use of a steam hammer beats me. Some, amongst them the R.Q.M.S., have found it much more expedient to cover up all the stones and rocks by the simple process of placing turves on top of them—this at least looks better than the bare rock, and is probably more comfortable to sit on.

The quarters are within the Garrison perimeter, looking out on to the main road to Klagenfurt, and are sufficiently near to the camp proper for the husbands to come over for their morning tea at 10.30 hours. There are no roads or paths at present, and this was quite a problem at one time when it rained quite heavily, and the area surrounding the quarters was turned into a sea of mud with a hard rock bottom on which quite a few ankles were twisted. However, it is not expected that there will be any more heavy rain until the autumn, by which time the whole place should be completely concreted and macadamised.

Shopping is not proving to be such a joy as many wives thought it would be, since most food is rationed, or is not yet obtainable in large quantities because the NAAFI did not have the forethought to lay in supplies for the large number of families that they knew were arriving. Shopping in Zeltweg itself would probably prove much easier, though possibly not quite so much fun, if only the wives could speak German, since, unlike the Chinese, the local people make no effort to learn English. A special German Class is being organised for the wives, so that they can at least go into a shop, point at something, and say "Was Kostet?"

The wives are, at the time of writing, still having daily bouts of hysterics at the antics of their offspring, who have, as yet, no school to go to. A temporary one

is being rushed up and will be ready within days, whilst a bigger and better "chromium-plated" effort is on the drawing boards. It is fully expected that by the time the big one is ready to open there will be twice as many children as there are now.

Still—the attitude is the same as always—here we are, here we've got to stay, so let's make the best of it.

BAND

The end of the first quarter of 1953 finds us emerging quite successfully from a rather unsettled period. The move to Austria was largely responsible for this although the departure into civilian life of two prominent Band personalities proved almost calamitous.

Cpl. Pantrini will be remembered as the leading light of the Dance Band and also as an enthusiastic member of the Battalion basket ball team. His absence has indeed been felt.

Bdsm. "Deathy" Leverington conscientiously fulfilled the role of Band Clerk and general factotum.

To replace losses and strengthen our establishment we welcome the enlistment of Boys R. Eaton, F. White, E. Hayell, B. Andrews, R. Jackson, P. Abunow and D. Cahill from the Boy Battalion.

Our first few days at Zeltweg found us without musical instruments and so, promptly furnished with an altogether different type of instrument, we took an excursion into the field of horticulture. The impression made upon the Company's area was immediate and lasting. "Major" Wark, our No. 1 horticulturist (for we have many) commenced sowing on the second day of our arrival and his constant affectionate dedication to his seed-boxes has won our profound amazement, if nothing else.

With the Coronation approaching we look forward to our first trip to Vienna, where, in conjunction with the Bands of the Cameron Highlanders and Green Howards, we are to participate in the Coronation celebrations.

Meanwhile, in England, the Battalion will be represented musically by Student Bandmasters L. C. W. Bently and D. Bayton, who will be amongst the Kneller Hall Trumpeters sounding fanfares in Westminster Abbey.

Student Bandmaster Bayton, we notice, continues to increase in rotundity and is causing considerable concern as regards the possible inadequacy of the Kneller Hall rostrum to hold his weight.

Band engagements during the period under review were very limited. Our only engagement in U.K. was the Combined Territorial Dance at Hendon on March 7.

Locally, since our arrival, we have made appearances at Zeltweg, Judenburg and Knittelfeld. The Austrians, although great lovers of music, appeared greatly appreciative of our renderings and we feel that in actual fact another link of goodwill has been forged. In Judenburg the Bandmaster was presented with a bouquet at the end of the performance.

In the field of sport, we have had our usual creditable attainments to mention. "H.Q." Company's winning basket ball team largely consisted of Band players, namely, Cpl. Stevens and Bds. Carson, Dawson, Duncan, Ingram and Torrie.

L./Cpl. Forsythe and Bds. Duncan and Pecksen

have been making frequent appearances in the Company soccer team, while in the Battalion soccer XI we are handsomely represented by our veteran sportsman C/Sgt. Street.

No opportunity has yet presented itself to show our prowess at hockey, but we look forward with justifiable confidence to future fixtures.

We heartily congratulate L/Cpl. Holt and Bds. Patrick on attaining first and third places respectively in the Battalion cross-country run and offer our commiserations to L/Cpl. Holt on being deprived of a possible first place in the B.T.A. cross-country event, owing to incompetent marking of the course.

Having had time to adjust ourselves to our new environment we find that prospects in all fields of Band activity appear most promising.

CORPS OF DRUMS

It is with much regret that we say good-bye to Drum Major Holdford, B.E.M. After 22 years' outstanding service he has retired to the precincts of the 7th Battalion Drill Hall. It was a fitting end to a long and fine career that he should lead the parade on December 19. He will be long remembered, and we hope he and his wife enjoy their retirement.

The Corps of Drums has had many changes and we are virtually reforming the Corps.

The following have left the Corps of Drums: Drum Major Holdford, B.E.M., Sgt. Leat, Cpl. Munday, Ptes. Stonestreet, Orme, Matthews, Butler and Bradley. New-comers to the Corps of Drums are: Drum Major Padley, Ptes. Ilbury, Jeffries, Medland, Bradley, Irving and Ottoway.

Cpl. Rudd has been promoted to Sergeant.

The Corps of Drums has recently take part in the parade for the C.O.C.-in-C., British Troops, Austria, and in the parade of the Guard of Honour for the Ambassador. Future commitments include the following: May 2, 1953: Retreat with Band. June 2, 1953: Coronation, Vienna.

Drum Major Padley has recently joined the Battalion and has stepped into the shoes of Drum Major Holdford; we wish him the best of luck and we are certain he will get every support from the Corps of Drums.

SIGNAL PLATOON

After his stay of five years with the Platoon we said good-bye to Sgt. S. Michel, who has gone to the School of Signals at Hythe as an Instructor. Their gain is very much our loss. We wish him all the very best of luck and hope to see him back with us in two years' time.

Sgt. D. Bailey has recently joined us from the Parachute Regiment and is already successfully filling the breach left by Sgt. Michel.

Sgt. Wright, back from a good course at Hythe, is busily teaching everyone in the Platoon (and especially the R.S.O., who is six years out of date), all the new Signal tactics, equipment changes and the new Voice Procedure. We hope that R.T. will now remain standard for many years to come—but then the Platoon have always been the supreme optimists.

Cpl. Mead has left us for the delights of Hythe and the Australian summer; the Platoon envy him not a little. We wish him the best of luck on his course.

The Platoon has a better than average football team; we lost narrowly to No. 6 Platoon in the semi-final of the inter-Platoon knock-out competition, though for this defeat we have only ourselves to blame. We have also managed to produce a Rugby football team, where much energy and steam is expended to the enjoyment and bewilderment of all.

Soon we shall be saying *au revoir* to many of our old faces. We shall be most sorry to see them go as they have all worked hard and cheerfully for the past 18 months under the most trying conditions. Our good wishes and the best of luck go to Ptes. Rouse, Dauner and Jeffries, who will be the first to go.

SPORT

Football

During the Battalion's stay at Warley Barracks nothing could be attempted in the direction of forming a Battalion team or running football inside the Unit. When the Battalion arrived at Zeltweg, however, the wheels began to turn in those directions.

A Battalion trial was held in mid-April, and it was soon seen that there was considerable talent available. An experienced team was picked, and a challenge was issued to 11 Independent Field Squadron, R.E., who share Zeltweg Barracks with us. The Sappers had played quite often together and promised us formidable opposition. The game itself was fast and well sprinkled with good play. The Battalion team did not settle down until after half-time, but then started to play as a team. Pte. Colston (Signals), in goal, played a fine game and in mid-field C/Sgt. Street (Band), playing at centre half, kept the defence well balanced. Of the forwards, Pte. Wright ("H.Q." Company), outside left, and Pte. Ilbury ("D" Company) made many chances for the inside forwards. The final score was 6-2 in favour of the Battalion, but this was a little flattering because two of the six goals were penalties.

The next Battalion 1st XI fixture was against a local Austrian team—F. S. Pöls. The team learned a great deal from this match, as the Austrians were extremely fast and played beautiful football. They lacked finishing power, however, and missed many opportunities. The Battalion team, although behind in the mid-field play, took their opportunities and won the match 4-2. The coach of this Austrian team has since volunteered to train and coach the Battalion team and has already taught them a great deal.

At the time of writing these notes, we are within one day of welcoming to Zeltweg the British Army team, who are playing the B.T.A. team on our No. 1 Ground. As the British Army team consists entirely of professional players now serving in the Army, and the B.T.A. team have a first-class record, it should be a game well worth watching. The Battalion has two representatives in the B.T.A. team, Pte. Teer of "B" Company (left half) and Pte. Wright of "H.Q." Company (outside left). Pte. Warn of "B" Company has been selected as a reserve half-back.

An Inter-Platoon Knock-out Competition has recently



THE BATTALION FOOTBALL TEAM, ZELTWEG, APRIL 26, 1953

Lt. Holding (Officer i/c), Pte. Warn, L/Cpl. Freeman, Pte. Coston, C/Sgt. Street, Pte. Teer, Pte. Shepherd, Pte. Ilbury, Pte. Rouse, Pte. Parry, Pte. Miller, Pte. Wright

been played. In the final, between No. 6 Platoon of "B" Company and the 2nd team of the R.E. Squadron, No. 6 Platoon won 5-2. The standard of play was extremely high, and could be compared with a good Inter-Company match.

At present an Inter-Company League is being run and "B" Company are heading the table, but as the League is very young anything can happen before its completion. The football season in Austria continues throughout the summer, and we are therefore looking forward to many excellent games.

Rugby

"Sine periculo frigit lusus."

The arrival of the Battalion in Austria coincided with the start of the rugby season, which is divided into two halves here, spring and autumn, each lasting about two and a half months.

Although having to compete with the multitudinous tasks of settling in to a new station, and despite being 68 miles from our nearest opponents, there has been no lack of activity in the rugby world. Due to the method of selection for the B.T.A. team the game has been played on a garrison basis for this part of the season, several members of 11 Independent Field Squadron, R.E., playing in the Zeltweg Garrison team.

After a well-attended trial game on March 25 the team was selected to play Graz and Vienna Garrisons at

Graz on March 28. In a hard-fought game, during which our backs never really got into motion, we lost 11-0. Graz then came to Zeltweg on April 1, when, despite an improved threequarter line, we lost again 8-3.

Sgt. Goodair, our new Cook Sergeant, proved himself a useful forward, and Sgt. Thorogood is still going strong. Ptes. Turner and Grayer will certainly be in the Battalion team, also L/Cpl. Freeman. Lt. Deacon's absence is felt. Capts. C. N. Clayden and A. N. Jordan, Lts. N. F. Legge and B. K. Clayden went forward to the final B.T.A. trial, and, although all played well and hard, only the former two were selected to play against BETFOR and the Italian Police on April 12-13 at Trieste.

Unfortunately Capt. Clayden injured his ankle during the trial and was unable to travel. Capt. Jordan captained the B.T.A. team which beat BETFOR 9-8 and the Italian Police 9-8; he is now allergic to garlic.

The Company seven-a-side tournament has reached the finals. "H.Q." Company beat "B" Company in the preliminary round and "C" Company in the next round. "A" Company defeated "S" Company, so "H.Q." team have a good excuse for a visit to Vienna. The Battalion seven will now be selected and will go to Klagenfurt on May 2 to take part in the B.T.A. inter-unit seven-a-side tournament which will be the swansong for Capts. Clayden and Jordan in Battalion rugby for a while.



SOME OF THE OTHER RANKS' MARRIED QUARTERS, ZELTWEG



A TYPICAL COMPANY BARRACK-BLOCK, ZELTWEG

Hockey

Fine weather at Warley enabled some of us to get an early start to the hockey season. We had a trial for a Battalion XI to play the Essex Depot team—which, incidentally, was reputed to be one of the best in the district. But fear of being defeated did not prevent us from playing them—the elements in the form of the floods did that. And so to Zeltweg. The move cost us the valuable services of Capt. K. J. Carter and O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron.

Within a fortnight of our arrival we had a pitch on the concrete airstrip, thanks to the quick work of 11 Field Squadron, R.E., and S/Sgt. Law and his staff. The fine weather looked as though it was going to give us time to practice, but three days of rain prevented an inter-Company trial, and we could only have a quick practice in the hangar before going to a B.T.A. six-a-side competition at Klagenfurt. There were two Battalion teams in the competition—both a little worried, perhaps, about their fitness for their first real hockey match. However both teams distinguished themselves. Unfortunately the Bandmaster, C/Sgt. Street and Cpl. Stevens were serving the Battalion musically elsewhere. With Capt. Clayden and Lts. K. Clayden and Mason we had a fast forward line; Capt. Martin—specially from Vienna—and our new R.S.M., Mr. Tarrant, helped to make a sound half-back line and our Adjutant, Capt. S. E. Honess, proved himself a stalwart kicking back. They beat our "B" team 3—1 in the semi-final much to the disappointment of a sympathetic touchline and, of course, of the members of the team, 2/Lt. Tymms, Ptes. Smith (96) and Hearn, C/Sgt. Morgan and Lt. Marciandi, and our ever-aggressive goalie, Sgt. Bailey. H.Q., B.T.A. Camp "A" team beat us 2—1 in a very close final, after which their captain said they could not have lasted the pace much longer. We felt that their team work deserved victory. Special mention should be made of our reserves, L/Cpl. Higgins and

Ptes. McCorrie and Grayer, who, with a crowd of Battalion spectators, gave us valuable support from the touchline. It was a very good day's sport and a pleasant finish for Lt. Mason's service with the Battalion. We send him our best wishes in his new Regiment, who have certainly gained an excellent hockey player. For the future we look forward to a knock-out eleven-a-side competition to end the spring season, and also to a match shortly with 1st Green Howards at Zeltweg.

Cross-country Running

The season opened with a series of weekly runs for the whole Battalion at Warley Barracks and these were a good guide in assessing Battalion runners. Running was then interrupted by the Battalion's move to Austria, but once we were settled down, a Battalion run was held to select a representative team. Several new promising runners came to light. These were included in the team, which consisted of L/Cpls. Holt, Metzger and Hart, and Ptes. Boreham, Patrick, Dixon, Brundell, Basing, Wicks, Walker, Cookson and Bockhart. L/Cpl. Holt captained the team.

The team was then entered as two teams for the Royal Engineers Cross-country meet at Zeltweg, where we gained first and second team places, and filled most of the first ten of the individual places. Foremost and worthy of mention were Pte. Peters (2) and 2/Lt. Tymms (22) for a good effort. The next meet was the end-of-season run at Klagenfurt, the B.T.A. Cross-country championship. The teams were the same with the exception of Walker, Brundell and Basing. The result was rather disappointing for luck was against us. Due to being twice misdirected, L/Cpl. Holt lost his easy lead and came in 23rd. The team was placed third. Our congratulations go to L/Cpl. Holt (23), Pte. Peters (2) and Pte. Wicks (12) for very good efforts.

The season closed with team enthusiasm and a creditable record, which we hope to better next season.

PACIFIC SAGA

(or "CALL ME 'KILROY'")

It was towards the end of October, 1944, when I eventually arrived at Hollandia in New Guinea, and reported to G.H.Q., S.W. Pacific Area. I knew the Americans would be surprised to see a British Army officer in their midst, so straightaway I explained my mission. Briefly, it was to learn something about the handling of amphibians in opposed landings. They told me that such a landing was taking place shortly, but no observers were allowed below Force H.Q. At this level I could not glean the information I was after and since the Australian G.H.Q., also at Hollandia, were looking after my interests, the matter was referred to them.

After considerable discussion, the Americans agreed to take me if I was prepared to join one of the Units

taking part. This was exactly what I hoped for, and so, after mutual agreement, it was decided that I should join the assault battalion as a "G.I." This caused much amusement among the Australians and Americans, especially when I was conducted to the American Ordnance Depot to draw my costume for this somewhat histrionic role. I was amazed at the size and excellent organisation of this depot, and in no time found myself in a clothing store which made Moss Bros. look like a market stall. "Which of our uniforms do you prefer? Will you wear long or short gaiters?" were the sort of questions I was asked. My choice was a pastel shade of olive green, long gaiters, rough hide combat boots, and a bucket-type helmet, and then, looking like a Gilbertian character, I went into the arms-and-equip-

ment store. Fingering through a most extensive armoury with the air of an expert about to buy a pair of Purdey's guns, I decided on a .300 carbine. They then insisted on issuing me with every conceivable item of personal equipment, such as mess tins, field glasses, water bottle, first-aid kit, etc., until every notch and buckle on my belt was straining under the weight. Thus equipped, I left my own uniform "in pawn" and embarked in the Force H.Q. ship which was to drop me off at my battalion.

We reached Morotai (Nei) after a short voyage, during which I spent most of the time in getting my equipment off and then putting it all on again. The Force Commander explained the operation to me. The Mapia atoll, comprising the islands of Pegun, Bras and Fanildo, was approximately four miles long and half a mile wide, and at low water it was possible to walk from one island to another over the coral reef. The garrison of the atoll consisted of a Japanese infantry battalion group, and it was considered that their morale was good. Our job was to destroy this force, and then establish air and sea navigational equipment. The plan was to land on Pegun Island and then, if necessary, hop across to the other two.

It was decided that only the Battalion Commander should know my mission; the rest of the battalion were to regard me as an eccentric and adventurous Englishman who wished to join an American unit. He welcomed me to his unit, and gave me the impression that I had joined an experienced "outfit," which had been well blooded in the landings at Buna. The battalion had been specially chosen for the coming operation.

An orderly led me to the platoon which I was to join, and my adventure as a G.I. began. With great trepidation I approached the lines where I was to live. Suddenly there was a cry of "Say, Handlebars." I continued on my way, when the same voice continued, "Hey, you, Whiskers." This was my introduction. A moustache, and in those days a rather large one, was something of a novelty in American uniform, and was responsible for the last link in my disguise, my *nom de plume* "Handlebars." "Gee, he's a Limey." "What have you got in your kitbag, your dinner jacket?" were the kind of remarks which quickly broke the ice. They were rather disappointed I did not change for dinner, as they understood that the proverbial Englishman always wore his dinner jacket, even in the jungle. It was then that they christened me "Tuxedo Handlebars," and by that nickname I was known for the fortnight I was with them.

Morotai was shared between 2,000 Americans and 5,000 Japanese. The former controlled the airstrip, around which they held a close perimeter, whilst the latter controlled the jungle, from where they debouched at night to cause havoc among the aircraft. We spent two nights there, and during that time the Japanese destroyed over thirty planes, a quantity of stores, and, *inter alia*, my kitbag. However, now that I was on the other side of Lease/Lend, I had no difficulty in replacing the contents.

On D-3 we embarked with our amphibians in nine L.S.M. My skipper was most entertaining and,

although he did not look the least bit like a sailor, nobody could have been more enthusiastic or co-operative than he. I spent a great deal of time with him on the bridge, and learnt that before the War he had commanded a chain of drug stores in New York. Occasionally, he would let me take over, and my nautical cries of "Ease to Ten" and "Full ahead together" would invariably be answered "Ten it is" and "They're both red hot."

We approached Pegun on D day in half-light, and, when about 2,000 yards from the beach, transferred into the amphibians under the cover of naval gunfire and rockets. This part of the operation was handled with great skill, and we formed up ready for the run-in barely two minutes ahead of the planned time. My immediate job on landing was to throw our large packs over the side, as they were found too cumbersome for a fully equipped man to wear if he had to jump out quickly.

As we approached the beach we saw the effect of the supporting fire. Not only did it remove the enemy, but most of the jungle as well. I unloaded and stacked the packs, and then rejoined my section. Our platoon commander was one of the first casualties, but by that time we had almost reached the far side of the island. Unfortunately, however, the Japanese must have spotted the convoy before the supporting fire started, as most of them had withdrawn up the island and, with the exception of small delaying parties, crossed the coral reef to Bras Island. We followed them up, as quickly as possible, but the jungle was almost impenetrable and the few tracks which did exist bore no resemblance to those marked on the map. It was during this advance that I witnessed an extraordinary scene. We knew that a party of Japanese were covering the track along which we were moving, so we planned to encircle them and, if possible, get a prisoner. Cautiously and quietly we moved forward, until we reached a slightly less dense area. Suddenly they stopped firing, and we heard a voice as though someone was giving orders. We rushed towards them only to be greeted by a loud explosion, and arrived just too late to see them commit hari-kari. They had laid down their arms, formed up in a circle and, on the orders of their N.C.O., held hand-grenades to their chests. They were fine-looking soldiers with far better physique than those I saw in Burma. How fanatical a creed to regard life so cheaply!

The object of the operation was still ahead of us. The entire enemy force, less about thirty, was now on Bras Island, and a plan had to be made to deal with them. By this time a few enemy planes were taking an interest in what was going on, and continually interrupted the battalion commander's orders. With the exception of an occasional reply, "Swell, Colonel," nobody else spoke until the orders were almost completed. It was then that the Intelligence Officer, who had been struggling manfully to take notes against the noise and distraction of the aircraft, sprang to attention and saluting smartly, reported "Aircraft overhead, Colonel."

The landing on Bras Island provided me with all the information I needed. Due to a difference between the maps and the naval charts, the supporting fire came

down on the wrong place, but it was too late to switch the two leading companies, who were already on their way in. We made slow progress towards the beach, most of the D.U.K.W.s and some of the Alligators were bellied on the coral reef. The left company ran right into an enemy position and suffered heavy casualties; the right company started to wade ashore. The only support was from two 105 mm. howitzers, firing from Pegun, but the assault went in and was finally successful. It was an infantry battle in an infantry country, and the Americans came out well on top. Nearly every man carried an automatic weapon, and fortunately had enough ammunition to see him through the assault stage. Most of the amphibians were hit, but only a few put out of action, although penetrated by everything from small arms upwards. The crews were magnificent and gave what support they could, after the troops had landed. The mopping up on Bras took the whole of the next day, and it was not until D plus three that we had achieved our object.

We held a small perimeter that night, just in case of further trouble, and sat around in our platoon area and chatted. In those few days I made some good friends, and lost some, and we all felt a toast to someone or something was indicated. In my pack were some tea cubes, which we brewed up in a helmet, and to which I added a flask of rum. To me it was the nearest thing to nectar, but my companions called it "Tactical Tea." We filled our mugs, and decided that our first toast would be the lasting friendship of our two countries.

AUSTRIAN HISTORY AND THE BRITISH ARMY

The history of Austria has been a story of almost continuous wars. Austrian troops took part in very great numbers in the World Wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45, and had already been engaged during the preceding four centuries in over 7,000 actions of all sorts. Although no Austrian Army exists to-day, Austria remains a country with a great military tradition. Regimental museums are still to be seen here, cared for with a devotion which brings to mind our own Regimental Museum at Mill Hill. One can still hear in some of them recordings of regimental marches of regiments which fought with distinction on nearly all the battlefields of Europe, when what we now know as a small country of about the size of Scotland, with a population roughly equivalent to that of Greater London, was the heart of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Although our own Regiment has only rarely been directly affected by the course of Austrian history, the part which Austria and Austrian troops have played in the history of the British Army is perhaps greater than is generally recognised.

William of Orange, as William III of England, led in person an English army in the Netherlands in 1691 and in subsequent years, with the object of assisting Austria to hold in check the attempted domination of Europe by Louis XIV of France. Although peace was

The Parade on December 19, 1952

The following extract is republished from a letter received by the Officer Commanding, The 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), from Mr. L. Stagpool:

"On behalf of myself and my family, I feel it to be a bounden duty to extend to you and those under your able command the deep appreciation of all those who are in any way connected with the 'Die-Hards' for the wonderful turnout on the Horse Guards Parade on December 19, 1952.

"Whilst I admit to being the eldest grandson of Drm. Dudley Stagpool, V.C., D.C.M., I do not admit to bias in my praise of the Battalion on that day. They were truly a great credit to the warriors of the days gone by, as well as an object lesson to our men of to-day.

"There were several old soldiers present on the 19th who proudly boasted of being Middlesex men, and the basis of their boast was obviously the spectacle in front of them: Your very smart Battalion, Sir.

"That there had been rehearsals goes without saying, but there must be more than just that. No command of men react in such a manner unless they are contented to work in harmony with their commander, and harmony there was, coupled with the will that comes only of determined men. They were simply grand!

"I am certain that my grandfather, always a difficult man to please, would have said of your Battalion: 'Well done!'"

signed in 1697, war again broke out in 1701 and during the years which followed, British and Austrian troops, under the brilliant leadership of Marlborough and Prince Eugene, gained together innumerable victories, including Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet, in the Low Countries and Germany.

In 1743 a British Army was again on the Continent, fighting the French, as a result of alliance with Austria. The battle of Dettingen in that year was the last occasion on which a King of England (George II) led his troops personally into battle. This same "War of the Austrian Succession" also gave rise to "The Forty-Five," the attempt of Bonnie Prince Charlie to reconquer England for the Stuarts, after landing in the Highlands of Scotland. Louis XV of France financed the expedition in the hope of knocking England out of the Quadruple Alliance of England, Austria, Holland and Saxony, formed against him in that year. It is indeed rarely remembered that the slaughter of the Highland clansmen by the Duke of Cumberland's English Army at Culloden Moor was indirectly due to a dispute over whether Maria Theresa should rule as Empress in Vienna.

By 1757, however, the cards of Europe's treaty-makers had been considerably reshuffled, and in the Seven Years' War England and Prussia were allied against Austria, France, Russia, Sweden and Saxony.

Once again Maria Theresa's attempts to establish Austria as a great military power in Europe were to have effects of great importance to us, since it was in that war that we broke the power of the French in Canada by Wolfe's victory at Quebec and in India by Clive's victory at Plassey. In Europe the war went initially less well for the English and their Prussian allies, whose situation, however, was vastly improved by the famous victory of Minden on August 1, 1759: "The British brigade began to advance straight at the French cavalry, who were protected by the crossfire of several batteries. Once launched, neither fire nor shock could check their progress. Presently the British had pierced right through the French line of battle. Of the six British regiments who went into action, 4,434 strong, 1,330 had fallen. Their feat is not to be measured only by losses victoriously borne, but by the astounding discipline maintained throughout the advance. They resumed their march, after beating off cavalry charges, with the cool precision of a peace-time review."

In the following year the Prussians, under Frederick the Great, aided by British cavalry under the Marquis of Granby, were again hard pressed by Austrian and Russian armies in Germany. When nearly surrounded by Austrians and Russians, Frederick gave a local peasant a written message, apparently addressed to Prince Henry, the commander of one of his other armies. The message said: "Austrians totally defeated today. Now for the Russians. Do what we agreed on." Frederick took care that the peasant and the letter should be captured by the Russians, who took fright and withdrew, thus leaving an escape route open for his forces.

Austria was at first our ally against Napoleon, but was later forced to submit and to supply him with troops for his armies. Few of the 34,000 Austrian troops ever returned home from his disastrous retreat from Moscow in 1812; and in 1813 an Austrian Army again took the field against Napoleon.

In 1814 Wellington's Peninsular Army was pressing northwards across the Spanish frontier into France, with Paris as its intended goal. Among the glorious victories which had made this possible were the battles of Albuera in 1811 and the later battle of El Bodon, in which the 1st and 2nd Battalions of our Regiment, respectively, gained immortal fame. Simultaneously, Austrian troops formed a part of the "Northern Arm" of the pincer-movement aimed on Paris; in conjunction with the Russians and Prussians they advanced through Germany and Northern France, and the Allies occupied Paris and forced Napoleon to abdicate.

The "Congress of Vienna" in 1815 convened to settle the affairs of Europe, broke up in haste when news arrived that Napoleon had escaped from Elba and landed in France. One hundred days later his military career was ended by the decisive victory of the British and Prussian Armies at Waterloo. It is generally known that it was the threat of the Prussians under Wellington which forced on Napoleon the tactical need to try to destroy the British Forces before the link-up. It is less often realised that it was because Napoleon also knew that Austrian and Russian forces would soon

be arriving to join Wellington and Blücher that, from the strategic point of view, he needed to crush those enemy forces already in the Low Countries before this further threat from the East materialised.

For nearly a century the effect of Austrian history on our own was less noticeable, but in 1914 the First World War, although awaited and planned for by Germany, was in fact begun by Austria. On June 28 the Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand, nephew and heir to the aged Austrian Emperor, Franz Joseph, was assassinated at Sarajevo. The assassins were Serbians and Austro-Hungary declared war on Serbia on July 28. Germany took the opportunity to enter the war and invaded Belgium, and as a result Great Britain honoured her pledge to Belgium and declared war on August 4, 1914.

Austrian troops were engaged in many theatres of war, but mainly in Italy, where, on October 24, 1917, with some German forces, they inflicted on the Italian Army (then fighting on the side of the Western Allies) a defeat at Caporetto, in Northern Italy, which will probably always be remembered as one of the great routs of history. In order to save the situation in Italy, seven French divisions, and Gen. Lord Plumer with four British divisions, were sent there, and the British troops found themselves opposing Austrian forces on the line of the river Piave, which flows into the sea between Venice and Trieste.

In June, 1918, the Austrians were forced by the German High Command to launch an offensive in Italy. They attacked on three sectors. Three British divisions under Gen. Lord Cavan decisively repulsed the centre thrust, and the Austrians suffered 150,000 casualties. The Allied advantage could probably have been pressed home to a decisive conclusion, but the Italian Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Diaz, was very cautious and did not deliver his blow until October, 1918. Although the Austro-Hungarian Empire was by this time clearly breaking up, the remaining forces of its army put up a good last fight, and defeated the Italian left thrust towards Monte Grappa. The Tenth Army, however, consisting of two British and two Italian divisions under Gen. Lord Cavan, forced the crossing of the Piave, despite the fact that initially the leading British division was marooned on a large island in mid-stream for three days by flood-waters. The enemy's front disintegrated, and Italian troops captured the Austrian headquarters. Udine was taken and Trieste was liberated. On November 4, 1918, an armistice was concluded with Austria and the Austro-Hungarian Empire was at an end. Half a million prisoners and 7,000 guns were captured, and of these, 25,000 men and 600 guns were taken by one British division. A political collapse in Austria followed, and the emperor went into exile.

Austria had had an army of about 2½ million men at the time of the armistice, of whom nearly 1½ million had been on the Italian front. By the Treaty of St. Germain in 1919, however, conscription in Austria was forbidden. This treaty limited the territory of Austria to the boundaries of the country as we now know it (stripping it of all the additional domains of the Empire) and

also contained a number of clauses similar to those imposed on Germany in the Treaty of Versailles. Between 1919 and the "Anschluss" with Hitler's Germany in 1938 the strength of the Austrian Army stood at only 20,000, enrolled by voluntary enlistment, and Austria had no air force or navy.

The Austrian Chancellor Schuschnigg was trying to unite all anti-Hitlerite Austrians against German domination in March, 1938, when Hitler's armies invaded and overran the country, and Austria ceased to be independent. Austrian troops in very large numbers were enrolled into all Hitler's armed services and fought alongside Germans throughout all the campaigns of the 1939-45 War, suffering tremendous casualties. Eventually, in 1945, Vienna was captured by Russian troops, and the British Eighth Army, forming part of Gen. Mark Clark's Fifteenth Army Group, entered Austria from the South after its victorious campaigns in Italy. The 1st Battalion of Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, affiliated to our Regiment, was among the first occupation units, as part of the British 78th Division. Austria was divided into four zones, occupied by the British, American, French and Russian forces, and Vienna was split into five sectors, having, unlike



Special Poster

"For Queen and Country"

(Published by kind permission of the Editor of "The Times")

A special Coronation poster will replace the ordinary and rather austere Army recruiting posters this summer. The current theme of "You're Somebody in the Army" is laid aside in favour of a less familiar note—the soldier's pride in his service for Queen and country.

The two men portrayed are serving soldiers, Cpl. E. Atherton, from Blackhall Colliery, Co. Durham, now serving with the Royal Horse Guards at Hyde Park Barracks, and—in battledress—C.Q.M.S. Raymond Dodkins, who was with The Middlesex Regiment in Korea and is now with the Regimental Depot at Mill Hill.

The poster, which was drawn by Mr. Eric Kennington, is reproduced in bright colours.

'The 43rd Wessex Division at War'

The Trustees of the 43rd Wessex Division Memorial Fund are now able to announce that the

WAR HISTORY OF THE DIVISION

by Maj.-Gen. H. Essame was published by Messrs. William Clowes & Sons, Ltd., Little New Street, E.C.4, on October 16, 1952.

Particulars from Regimental Association.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

GRAND CORONATION REUNION

All Ranks Past and Present Members,
with Ladies—The Middlesex Regiment

FRIDAY, 30th OCTOBER, 1953

7.30 p.m.—11.30 p.m.

at

SEYMOUR HALL

Seymour Place, W.1

(5 mins. due north of Marble Arch, 5 mins. due east of Edgware Road)

DANCING • CABARET
(THE WESTON BROTHERS)
REGIMENTAL TABLEAU

BARS and BUFFET

Special Room with Bar and Buffet (optional) for Veterans,
Old Comrades and Wives

Tickets 2s. 6d. single, 4s. double

From Secretary Regimental Assn., Depot, Mill Hill, N.W.7 or at Entrance, Seymour
Hall, on the 30th October, 1953

A NEARLY REGIMENTAL CROSSWORD

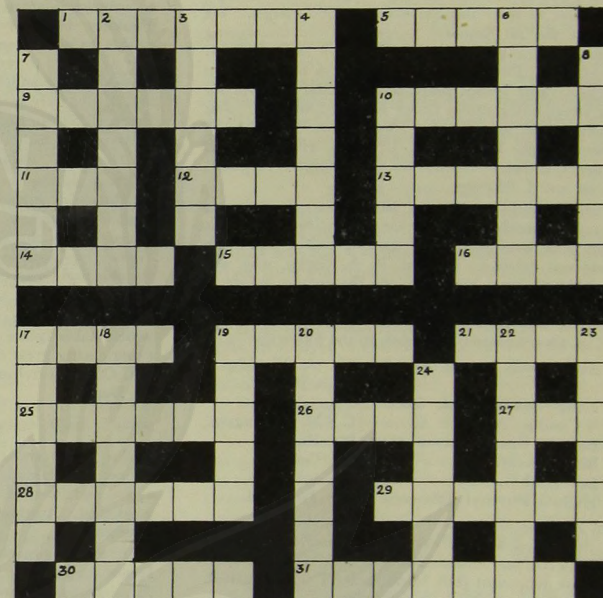
Three prizes, 5s. each, to the first member of the 1st Battalion, first member of a T.A. Battalion,
and first Old Comrade to send in an all correct solution.

ACROSS

1. On behalf of whom the 7th Middlesex will fight (7).
5. Egerton's hill? (5).
9. Place of tragedy in Palestine (6).
10. Colonel of 77th who commanded a Division in the Peninsular War (6).
11. Famous U.S. general and river of London once defended by the Regiment (3).
12. She needs no gunners (4).
13. Better on the arm than the backside (6).
14. She needs a cooling stream for a drink but for a V.C. he wants a pool (4).
15. Every soldier carries it but only one member of the Regiment has received it (5).
16. A county Colonel (4).
17. Tell—what? (4).
19. Had this Great War battle the makings of a bird? (5).
21. A valuable stone, O friend (4).
23. He won the V.C. in the Crimea (6).
26. Doubtless they go through it on the Hill (4).
27. Did muddled cunning see us through this battle (3).
28. All right within a zany to gaze (4, 2).
29. It might be groans (6).
30. Little Edward leaves the carminative and you have the anagram of a Great War battle (5).
31. Famous river line of Korea (7).

DOWN

2. Famous battle honour spelt correctly (7).
3. A large lizard which once visited a Mess after a party or a large muddled island (6).
4. Would he have commanded the Banderlog as well as he did the 57th in Hong Kong? (7).
6. W.C. (7).
7. Colonel commemorated in Canterbury Cathedral (6).
8. Trouble amongst the tribesmen (6).
10. They landed here from 18' (5).
17. Did he act as he wanted? (6).
18. He fought with the Lion but she carried our men to battle (7).
19. His company captured a battery at Inkerman (5).
20. No organ but an international footballer (7).
22. Many-sided wood of the Great War (7).
23. Ill-fated Maru (6).
24. Supple (6).



Support the advertisers who support you



Depot Notes

GENERAL

The Depot has been chosen as a concentration area for Coronation troops of the Home Counties Brigade, Home Counties District and East Anglia District before they move to their respective Coronation camps. We welcome the 1st Battalion party, who are undergoing arduous training under Lt. Deacock and C.S.M. MacMillan. They disappear most days on Marathon marches. The Depot party is also under training for their street-lining duties under R.S.M. Donovan. The following are to represent the Depot: R.S.M. P. Donovan, Sgt. D. Hanlon, Cpls. A. Hook and R. Clements, L/Cpl. A. Adair, Ptes. A. Milton, W. Milburn, A. Cole and J. Murray.

Two Passing-Out Parades have taken place during the quarter under review. On February 4 the first intake to undergo ten weeks' training passed out. The parade was taken by Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn, who was thus able to have a preview of the intake before it reached the 1st Battalion at Warley. The Corps of Drums of 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards took part. Lt.-Col. Gwyn presented medals to the following:

Meritorious Service Medal	Mr. A. W. Mason (ex-W.O.II).
Long Service and Good Conduct Medal	C.S.M. F. Jaques.
Best All-Round Recruit	Pte. Hartard.
Best Rifle Shot	Pte. Gould.
Best L.M.G. Shot	Pte. Brundell.
Highest Physical Efficiency	Pte. Townsend.

On April 15 the second two-week intake passed out and the Inspecting Officer was Lt.-Col. S. Terrell, O.B.E., T.D., late Commanding Officer, 11th Battalion Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex) (T.A.). Lt.-Col. Terrell presented medals to the following:

Meritorious Service Medal	Mr. J. J. O'Brien (ex-Sgt.).
Best All-Round Recruit	Pte. Donnelly.
Best Rifle Shot	Pte. Bell.
Best L.M.G. Shot	Pte. Thickbroom.
Highest Physical Efficiency	Pte. Evans.

Both these intakes have been fortunate enough to be posted to the 1st Battalion—the first complete intakes to join the 1st Battalion for some months.

In February the Depot was called upon to provide two working parties on flood relief. Two platoons of recruits commanded by Lts. Cain and Evans were launched on Operation "Canute." They came under the command of 636 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., whose task was to repair the breaches in the sea walls on Foulness Island. During the fortnight they were gladdened by the sight of platoons from the 1st Battalion working close at hand and old acquaintances were renewed over tots of the rum ration.

Inkerman Platoon re-lived the original role of the 57th by living like marines in H.M.S. *Rinaldo*, a mine-sweeper. They later transferred to L.S.T. H.M.S. *Narvik*. It was generally agreed that our conversion to ordinary infantry was wise. The C.O. made a visit to Foulness Island by helicopter. The Adjutant was unable to accompany the C.O. as there was no room and was heard to remark "very dodgy." Our working parties did splendid work and letters of appreciation and thanks were received from the Commander 11 A.A. Brigade and the Lord Lieutenant of Essex. A personal message was also received from the Army Commander. All these were published in unit orders.

Twice during the past three months the rural peace of Harefield village, which is *not* far from the film studios at Denham, has been broken by the arrival of recruits from the Depot on a thirty-six-hour scheme. With a few notable exceptions, everyone spent a comfortable night, especially the recruit who slept in a barrel.

Every effort is being made to finish the Training Company gardens in time for the annual inspection which takes place in July. The Quartermaster is experiencing great difficulty in restraining over-zealous N.C.O.s in search of bricks from altering the fabric of the Depot.

SHOOTING

The Depot shooting team, led by the Commanding Officer and trained by Capt. Butterfield, has been very active and, despite its recent beginnings, has made a good start. A number of small-bore matches have been arranged.

In the Regimental Depot Match (Small-Bore) the Depot scored 1,495 points. There were 27 entries and the sixth team scored 1,510. As this was the Depot's first match, the results were encouraging.

In a friendly match with the 7th Battalion on April 9, the scores were as follows:

Depot, 655 (top score, Major Marshall 96).
7th Battalion, 654.

In the N.S.R.A. Coronation Competition, the following have obtained qualifying scores for bronze medals:

Senior Section: Major Marshall, 194; Capt. Butterfield, 194; Sgt. DaCosta, 193. (Qualifying score, 190; H.P.S., 200.)

Junior Section: L/Cpl. Muirhead, 187; Pte. Rowbotham, 184. (Qualifying score, 180; H.P.S., 200.)

The London District Rifle Association Meeting was held at Pirbright under ideal conditions from April 21 to 24. In the team events the Depot was placed 3rd in the Household Cavalry Cup and tied with the R.A.S.C., London District, in the special Coronation Competition, but lost on a count of unexpended rounds,

two rounds, in fact! In the Dewar Trophy the Depot were beaten in the second round by the eventual winners, The Guards Training Battalion. The individual competitors who won prizes at the Meeting were as follows: Major P. D. H. Marshall, Capt. A. D. C. Eales, Capt. H. R. Butterfield, Sgts. DaCosta and Nicholson, L/Cpl. Eldridge, Ptes. Beesley, Dawson, Simmons, Driver and Walters. In the Individual Rifle Championship (District 48), final placings were as follows: Sgt. DaCosta, 20th; Sgt. Nicholson, 40th; Pte. Beesley, 42nd. Capt. Butterfield was placed 4th in the Individual Revolver Championship.

PERSONALITIES

Since the last issue of *The Die-Hards* we have bidden a swift welcome and farewell to Sgt. Dutch, who has now returned to the Royal Fusiliers on promotion to C/Sergeant. We welcome O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron, Sgt. DaCosta and Cpls. Slocombe and Clements from the 1st Battalion. Our good wishes go with C/Sgt. Redpath, who has rejoined the 1st Battalion. We congratulate C/Sgt. Dodkins, Cpls. Friggens, Watkins and Jones on promotion and Sgt. DaCosta on obtaining a "B" on a Guards Drill Course, Sgt. Nicholson on obtaining a "B" at Hythe, and Cpl. Hook on obtaining an "A" at the Joint School of Chemical Warfare.

Our good wishes for the future go with Cpls. Bartlett, Broom and Le Fevre and Pte. Schreeche-Powell, who have left us for civilian life.

OFFICERS' MESS

The change of the Adjutancy of the 7th Battalion brought Capt. Carter here to replace Capt. Pearce Gould, who has now sailed for Korea.

Padre Tenneson decided to emigrate to Canada with his family and bade us farewell on March 25. Our best wishes go with them.

Medical officers come and go at the rate of about one a month. Lt. Blake relieved Lt. Crampton and Capt. Sweetman now holds the fort.

Lt. Lawrence was with us for some five weeks before going out with Lt. Norton to the Airborne Forces in M.E.L.F. Lt. Beakley, who has also spent some time here, will probably have joined them long before these notes are published.

Lt. Fothergill stayed here for some days, but has now returned to Millbank, where we hope all may go well with him.

The following officers were all here for varying periods and have left us for the destinations shown in brackets against their names. We wish them all well, and hope that they will not lose touch with us:

Lt. Young (1st Middlesex), 2/Lt. Broome (Mauritian Guard, M.E.L.F.), 2/Lt. Birch (Nigeria Regiment), 2/Lt. Chynoweth (Malaya), Lt. Hayward (1st Middlesex) 2/Lt. Gedye (1st Middlesex), 2/Lt. Fardon (Nigeria Regiment), 2/Lt. Crowder (Nigeria Regiment), 2/Lt. Pitt (Mauritian Guard, M.E.L.F.) and 2/Lt. Hickey (Malaya).

Apart from the Colonel of the Regiment, who looks in quite often, the following officers are amongst those who have visited the Depot recently:

Brigadier Proctor, Brigadier Rackham, Col. Clayton, Lt.-Col. Samuel, Lt.-Col. Clayden, Lt.-Col. Unwin, Lt.-Col. Lerwill, Major Worton, Major Powell, Major Bellers, Major Chattey, Major Ormiston, Major Ayre, Major Trestain, Major Cummins, Major Farrow, Capt. Thomas, Capt. Clayden, Capt. Bellers, Capt. Jordan, Capt. Macdonald (late R.A.D.C.), Lt. Pike, Lt. Norton, 2/Lt. Fisher and 2/Lt. Ellis.

Major Waller, now Training Officer to the 7th Battalion, comes in to lunch on most days.

Col. Green we see daily; he is shortly off to Trans-Jordan to command the Arab Brigade. We congratulate him on this appointment and wish him and Mrs. Green a pleasant tour out there.

Major Newman and his wife have vacated the married quarter on the end of the Mess nearest the War Memorial and have bought a house in Mill Hill. Apart from losing them, London District have claimed the quarter, so we are the losers in two places. We hope that all will go well with them in their new home.

SERGEANTS' MESS

In February, C.S.M. Jaques was presented with his "Long and Undetected" medal. We all heartily congratulate him and wish him many more years of happy service with the Regiment. He christened it in the approved style, but somebody won it during the evening and we had a very worried W.O.II in the Depot for a few hours until it was returned.

We all enjoyed a first-class evening on February 19 as guests of 1st Middlesex Sergeants' Mess. How we envied them their luck in going to Austria.

"Dodgy" Deamer turned up at the Depot to await demob. and such a good tale did he tell of the horrors of the floods that he got three pairs of socks exchanged, free gratis and for nothing, one week before going out on release leave. The writer can well remember Deamer wearing the same three pairs of socks to a standstill in Hong Kong in 1949.

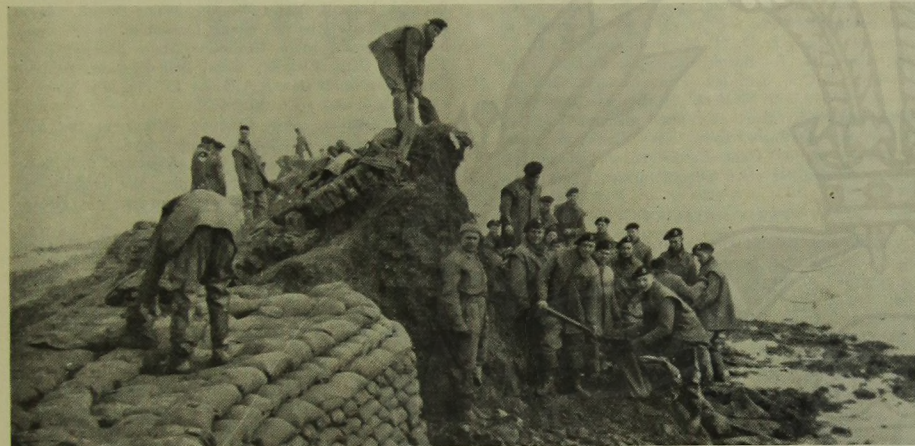
The Mess had a very happy social with the R.A.O.B. in March and can only admire the way that these civilians sink a rapid pint.

In March also, the Mess had a dance, which was very well attended. C/Sgt. "Docker" Dodkins herded in a flock of W.R.A.C.s. When a ladies' "Excuse me" was announced a certain young officer was seen to drop his beer and take to his heels!

At the beginning of April the R.S.M. and C/Sgt. Dodkins were invited to a social evening at "Australia House." They met W.O.s and N.C.O.s of all the Commonwealth and a sprinkling of Americans. Amongst the Diggers was an old friend of 1st Middlesex, R.S.M. Harrison of the 3rd R.A.R., Korea. He asked after all the characters that he knew in Korea and sent his best regards to them in Austria.

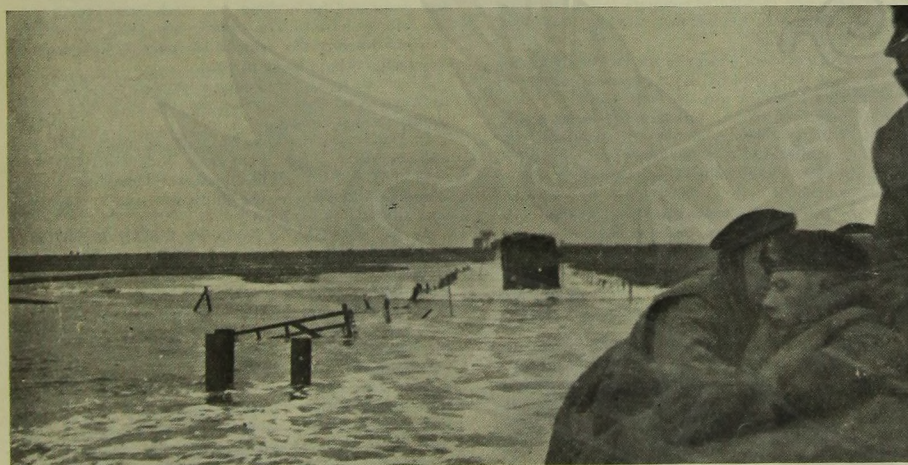
Soon after this we welcomed the Coronation party from the Battalion. There was the sad case of the C/Sergeant who they couldn't fit with a suit or hat. Now he is hanging around the Depot and a terrible rumour has spread that they can't get a boat to fit him to take him back.

Throughout March, the members of the Mess all wore worried frowns and rushed around muttering



OPERATION CANUTE

Depot recruits at work on Foulness Island. In the group are Sgt. Weller, Cpl. Napolitano, L/Cpl. Langford, Ptes. Cain, Johnson, Levy, Rawlings, Slight Thickbroom, Burling, Parry, Hull, Larcombe, Muirhead, Murdoch, Halsey, Blay, Ebbage, Barnes, King



OPERATION CANUTE

Lt. Cain's party being conveyed across Foulness Island in Matadors belonging to the Royal Artillery

Museum

The Museum has undergone considerable reorganisation. Lt. Moore has taken over the reins of office from Major Heywood. Major "Dick" Smith, on leave from the Gold Coast, very kindly came up and enlisted Lt. Moore into his team. He, in turn, called upon several young officers, including 2/Lts. Crowder, Hickey, Pitt and Birch, to give assistance and the work went ahead quite swiftly. The results of all their labours are just becoming apparent. We now have a little money to spend, as a grant of £100 was made from Association funds, for which we are extremely grateful.

The library has been removed altogether from the Museum building itself. This has given more room and the idea has been to try to put exhibits of the same period together. This, of course, had been the idea originally, but, during redecoration, the whole plan became sadly upset. We trust, however, that we are now on the right road once again and hope that considerable progress may have been made by the time these notes actually go to print. It will naturally take some time to rearrange the exhibits, but improvement is evident already.

We are most grateful to the undermentioned for their donations, which are enumerated below:

Mr. D. F. Campbell

Thirty-six gilt buttons of two patterns—77th Regiment, the property of the late Col. L. G. Oliver, D.S.O. *Mr. E. W. Horne* (of New Brunswick, Canada)

Hand-painted reproductions of the Colours of the 57th/77th of Foot and a photograph of a model hut in Shorncliffe in 1896, which was under the care of Cpl. (later C/Sgt.) Whelan.

Mr. W. F. Austin (late 4th Battalion)

A menu card from an Old Comrades' Dinner held on August 30, 1913, and autographed by Gen. Henry Kent. *Capt. A. N. Jordan*

A collection of exhibits from Korea, including an amber cigarette holder, a bugle, and various propaganda pamphlets, both American and Chinese, collected by the donor in April and May, 1951, when he was serving in that theatre of war. The cigarette holder belonged to a Chinese officer, and both the hat and bugle were obtained during a patrol carried out on the Imjin River on May 29, 1951.

Mr. H. L. Peyton

A copy of the Australian paper *Truth*, dated December 28, 1952, in which appears an account of the doings of two members of the 57th in the year 1826 when the Battalion was stationed out there. Also some extracts from *The Illustrated London News* of February 10, 1849. No. 3897 *Sgt. H. T. McDermott*

An extract from a letter written by the British Vice-Consul at Leige, reporting a statement made by a German General concerning "magnificent bravery displayed by The Middlesex Regiment." (Sgt. McDermott enlisted on October 4, 1891, and served in the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions.)

The Chairman of the British Legion, Rochester and Strood Branch

The three 1914-18 war medals of No. 14491 Pte. T. Gill, late of the 2nd Battalion.

about Logs, Tan, Hypoteneuse, Persian Oil and South Africa. The fatal time came at last and they sat for their Army 1st. They met a tubby Student Bandmaster named Bayton, also sweating it out, amidst the horrors of maths. and map reading. It was obvious by his appearance that music making is a very steady number.

We congratulate R.S.M. Donovan on the nice new medal ribbon he is wearing these days and we hope it will not be long before his "Rooty Gong" is presented.

C/Sgt. Taylor is looking forward to applying for Income Tax relief in the very near future, so we hear.

P.S.—Anyone want 13,250 gallons of black market water? Apply to Sgt. S. W. T. Hanlon.

SPORT

Football

Since the beginning of the New Year we have continued in the London District Mid-week League. Handicapped as we have been with irregular teams and constant changes in recruit intakes the Depot has done well to beat R.A.O.C., A.E.R., Feltham 5-4; C.I.D., College, Hendon, 5-1; and the Depot, Royal Fusiliers.

The rivalry between platoons of the same intake has continued to be very keen and the football shield is weekly contested for in great spirit.

Boxing

Since our last number the Depot has entered for all major boxing contests with considerable success.

On February 18, London District held their Individual Open Boxing Championships at Chelsea. The boxing was of an excellent standard, so at the end, when Cpl. Napolitano won the welter-weight, Pte. J. Howard won the feather-weight and L/Cpl. Bradshaw was runner-up in the light welter-weight, the Depot might be justly proud. The result was even more satisfactory when four full battalions were entered from the Brigade of Guards.

Later, the winners went forward into the Eastern Command Championships at Colchester. Pte. Howard again distinguished himself by winning the feather-weight after a fine performance. Cpl. Napolitano reached the semi-finals and only lost on points after a very hard fight.

Pte. Howard was then put forward to the Army preliminary rounds at Aldershot. He reached the semi-finals, where he was beaten by the eventual winner in a close fight.

Hockey

The one match played was against Kneller Hall, resulting in a draw 3-3, after a hard contested fight. Team was as follows: Major E. L. Heywood, Capt. A. D. C. Eales, Capt. K. J. Carter, Lt. H. J. Evans, Lt. (Q.M.) S. Weller, M.M., Bandmaster Jackson, O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron, R.Q.M.S. Etheridge, C.Q.M.S. Taylor, Cpl. Marable and L/Cpl. Cobby.

Cross-country Running

In February, London District held its cross-country championships for individual and team entries. L/Cpl. Adair, though handicapped by lack of training whilst on flood work, ran extremely well to be placed 7th out of a field of 64.

Mrs. L. Langford

A copy of a song dedicated to The Middlesex Regiment. This was found amongst her late husband's papers. (Bdsm. Langford served in the 1st/8th Middlesex Regiment during the 1914-18 war.)

Mr. J. O'Brien, M.S.M.

The "Lusitania" (German) medal. An exact replica of the medal which was designed and distributed in Germany to commemorate the sinking of the *Lusitania* by a German submarine on May 7, 1915.

1st Battalion

A .303 Vickers gun discovered near Stanley Camp, Hong Kong in 1952, when in possession of 25th Field Regiment, R.A., and almost certainly one of the guns used by the 1st Battalion, in defence of the Island in 1941, when the Japanese overran the Colony.

Two maps of Hong Kong and the New Territories, one being in relief, as used by the U.S. Forces.

A file, concerning the gift of a silver plaque by the officers, Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Force to the officers of the 1st Battalion, conferring upon them honorary membership of their Mess in perpetuity, in memory of their close friendship and association in war, December, 1941, has been added to the library.

In addition, the Museum has purchased a set of nine photographs of the Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance in Westminster Abbey on December 19, 1952.

A Letter to the Colonel of the Regiment

A letter dated April 20 has been received by the Colonel from Maj.-Gen. R. E. Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-Chief, British Troops in Austria, in which highly favourable comments are made concerning the 1st Battalion.

The G.O.C. refers to the keenness and energy displayed by all ranks to improve their quarters at Zeltweg, and as a result he anticipates the Station will shortly become the best in the Army in Austria.

He mentions with pleasure that all ranks, from their C.O. downwards, are prepared to put up with temporary inconveniences and annoyances in order that they may in the end reap the benefits to come.

The principal defect was the state of the new Married Quarters, but the Commander hopes in a month or so this will be remedied. The Colonel was delighted to learn this good news from so highly qualified a source.

He fully realises how for some four years a high percentage of married personnel in the 1st Battalion have suffered from separation from their families and have borne this hardship still giving of their best to promote the success of the Battalion in both peace and war.

Home Counties Golf Competition

The above took place at Chichester on May 7, 1953, and apart from a net score of 70 by John Worton, which won him the morning sweepstake, our players were playing below their usual standard and finished well down the course.

Spring Golf Meeting

It is a long time since so many players attended the Spring Meeting and this, plus the fact that a dull morning gradually turned into a lovely sunny afternoon, all helped to make an enjoyable day for those taking part.

Golfing tone was given to the event by the Oxford Blue, 2/Lt. A. H. Catchpole, who, as was right and proper, won the Scratch prize with a decent if not outstanding score.

On the other hand, the Committee, having debated the handicap of Capt. Guest long and earnestly and decided that his score at the Autumn meeting did not warrant any pruning, Guest cocked a snoot at them and returned the indecent score of 65 net. The Committee will have no mercy at the next meeting. Chattey and Guest won the Foursome after a tie with Bywaters and Unwin at 3 down. Apart from those two pairs the remaining couples scarcely displayed much team spirit as the next score was 7 down by the Colonel of the Regiment and the Editor of *The Die-Hards*. Having done well for seven holes, Proctor made two gross errors and not to be outdone Gen. Bucknall proceeded from then on to sweep his drives with great grace into the steepest banks and longest grass. Meanwhile Marshall was proving to Catchpole that golf is not an easy game.

Thanks to Hunt the dining room was decorated with some truly Regimental tulips—a nice thought.

We were pleased to see Col. Samuel up to watch our labours and also Mrs. Worton and Col. Browne.

Our thanks are due to Major Clark for all the administrative arrangements made and to the Hendon Golf Club, as usual, for their hospitality.

SPRING GOLF MEETING, HENDON GOLF CLUB

April 23, 1953.

MORNING ROUND

	Gross	Handicap	Net	Position
Capt. R. E. Guest ..	83	18	65	1
2/Lt. J. M. Phillips ..	86	16	70	2
Major J. R. B. Worton ..	86	15	71	3
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin ..	91	18	73	4
2/Lt. A. H. Catchpole ..	76	3	73	5
Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis ..	91	17	74	6
Major J. Bywaters ..	87	10	77	7
Brigadier N. P. Proctor ..	87	8	79	8
Major T. W. Chattey ..	93	14	79	9
Capt. N. B. McIvor ..	100	20	80	10
Gen. G. C. Bucknall ..	93	10	83	11
Major G. B. Anderson ..	99	16	83	12
Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollcombe ..	101	18	83	13
Major S. C. Jay ..	99	13	86	14
Lt.-Col. A. E. Green ..	113	24	89	15
Major P. D. H. Marshall ..	116	24	92	16
Major J. G. P. Hunt ..	113	19	94	17
Capt. P. L. Pearce Gould ..	124	24	100	18
Major G. W. Kempster ..	No card returned.			

Winner Scratch: 2/Lt. A. H. Catchpole.

Winner Handicap: Capt. R. E. Guest.

FOURSOMES v. BOGEY

Winners: Major T. W. Chattey and Capt. R. E. Guest ..	3 down
Runners-up: Major J. Bywaters and Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin ..	3 down
Gen. G. C. Bucknall and Brigadier N. P. Proctor ..	7 down
Major S. C. Jay and Major J. R. B. Worton ..	8 down
Lt.-Col. A. E. Green and Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis ..	9 down
2/Lt. J. M. Phillips and Capt. P. L. Pearce Gould ..	10 down
Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollcombe and Capt. N. B. McIvor ..	10 down
Major P. D. H. Marshall and 2/Lt. A. H. Catchpole ..	11 down
Major J. G. P. Hunt and Major G. B. Anderson ..	11 down

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



This one will not be an exception to the law.

The first and most important event has been the change in command of the Battalion. Major W. D. Ellis, T.D., was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel on March 16, 1953, and assumed command from Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., on that date. Since he took over command on May 1, 1950, Col. "Stumps" Green has impressed his personality on the Battalion and gained for us a fine reputation. The Battalion owes him a great debt and we are delighted to know of his promotion to the rank of Brigadier. He has been appointed to command the 2nd Brigade, Arab Legion. All ranks wish him success in his new appointment.

Col. Green was dined out by the Officers' Mess on Thursday, April 30, and presented with a silver table cigarette lighter.

Col. Desmond Ellis has firmly established himself as our new Commanding Officer, and we are very lucky to have such a capable and charming personality to command the Battalion. We wish him success and a long and happy command.

Major A. R. Waller, M.C., joined the Battalion on March 16, 1953. He has been appointed as Training Major and no more suitable person could have been found for this exacting and thankless job. Major Rex Waller has a wide experience of the Territorial Army both as a junior officer when he served in the 8th, 2/8th and 1st Battalions from 1938 to 1947 and as Brigade Major of our present 47th Infantry Brigade from 1949 to 1951. We welcome him and hope that he will enjoy his tour of duty with the Battalion.

Yet another change has taken place. Capt. P. L. Pearce Gould handed over Adjutancy on March 30 to Capt. K. J. Carter. "P.G." had worked very hard for the efficiency of the Battalion and has not spared himself in his work. The Battalion owes him a great deal for his unobtrusive attendance to the many matters which need constant attention and unflinching effort. Unfortunately we were unable to "dine him out" on April 30 as he sailed for Japan on that date. We now take this opportunity to thank him for his hard work in our interests. He has been given a Staff appointment in British Commonwealth Forces Headquarters at Kure and we are pleased to know of his promotion to the rank of Major.

Before he left us "P.G." staged another of his remarkable presentations of military history. This

time he chose the Battle of Inkerman and on the evening of March 5 we were privileged to see the battle recounted in minute detail and to hear an oration astonishing in its accuracy and perfection. He and his assistants were dressed in uniforms of the period and we were indebted to Major E. L. Heywood from the Depot for his inspired character study of a harassed officer. Our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier H. A. D. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., and representative parties from the 1st Battalion and Regimental Depot attended on this occasion.

On April 12 the Battalion War Memorial was dedicated and unveiled in Hornsey Parish Church. The Bishop of Guildford, the Rt. Rev. H. C. Montgomery Campbell, M.C., D.D., conducted the service and the Memorial Plaque was unveiled by Col. M. Browne.

The Battalion and Old Comrades paraded in Nightingale Lane at 10 o'clock, the Colours were taken on parade and we then marched to Church headed by the Band and Drums. It was notable that the Old Comrades outnumbered the Battalion by four to one and that once again we relied on a few of our stauncher members to represent what is now a very strong Battalion. At the Church there was a very full attendance, especially of next-of-kin, who numbered over two hundred. Nine past Commanding Officers attended and a number of distinguished civil personages, including His Worship the Mayor of Hornsey. After the ceremony the Honorary Colonel took the salute as the Old Comrades led the Battalion back to the Drill Hall.

We have a number of important events in front of us. On May 16 we are combining our Albuhera Day celebrations with the Borough of Hornsey's Coronation Programme and are parading through the streets of Hornsey. The Battalion will be inspected by His Worship the Mayor, Alderman G. W. F. Pallett, J.P., in Priory Park and our support platoons and signal platoon are giving a demonstration of weapons and equipment. The Corps of Drums will also Beat Retreat. Let us hope that Providence keeps the weather fine.

We are privileged to have the honour of finding a party to march in the Coronation procession and to line the route to Westminster. The Queen's Colour will be paraded on this occasion. On June 12 we are also honoured to find a party to line the route of Her Majesty the Queen's State drive to the Guildhall. Annual camp this year will be in Norfolk at Bodney South Camp and we are now preparing for it.

This quarter has been a very full one and it has not been possible to write up all the events in full. To mention two other happenings briefly. Companies have held training week-ends in succession and a lot of hard work has been put in to make them successful. The Motor Cycle Team has done extremely well and in our next issue we intend to publish an article on their activities.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The main event of the past few months was unquestionably the very enjoyable week-end spent at Pirbright at the end of February for the purpose of firing the

Annual Musketry Course. Despite the early date for this year's firing we were favoured with excellent weather, together with luxury coaches for both the outward and return trips. Under such ideal conditions it was only right and proper that everyone should exert himself to give of his best and that this was indeed so was reflected in the good results achieved. Of the 90 members attending, over 70 qualified with the rifle and all qualified with the sten. We also remember with gratitude the great assistance given by C.S.M. Burrell and N.C.O.s of other Companies who gave such valuable service both on the firing point and in the butts.

The opportunity has not been given until now to express our sense of loss at the departure of C.S.M. Morgan, our P.S.I. for the past two years. Possibly few of the Company realised what sterling work he did, but all knew him for his willing and cheerful disposition. All ranks send him their best wishes for prosperity in the 1st Battalion. In his stead we welcome C.S.M. Cooper, another glutton for work—and possibly for other things. We trust his tour will be a happy one and that during the course of it we will be able to find him a wife. Another serious loss has been that of Drum-Major Poulter, who, because of a change in employment, is not able to devote as much time as in the past to the Corps of Drums. We send him and Mrs. Poulter our best wishes for the future and we hope that their long association with the Drill Hall will not be entirely broken. Again we are fortunate in his successor in the form of Drum Major Holdford, who, of course, needs no introduction to our readers. We wish him and Mrs. Holdford a long and happy sojourn at Hornsey.

Since the beginning of the year, when it became known that the Battalion was to provide a detachment for the Coronation Day parades, speculation has been rife as to the names of the fortunate few who were to be chosen. The Company feels that it will be amply represented both in quality and quantity by the following: Lt. Blackler (carrying the Queen's Colour), C/Sgt. Leggett, Sgt. Moran, L/Cpls. Green, Derbyshire and Oliver, Ptes. Wood and Court, Bds. Levett.

Looming very large in our thoughts at the present are the prospects at this year's Annual Camp, which is being held in Norfolk in the middle of July. Despite the noticeable increase in our numbers since last camp there is no doubt that the C.S.M. will still have the greatest difficulty in raising the smallest fatigue party.

There have been numerous promotions recently within the Company, including that of Sgts. Smith, Thomas and Whitewood, Cpls. Rhodes, Plumpton and Lewis, and the appointments of L/Cpls. Chessum, Chesterman and Oliver. To these and others excluded by limitations of space we offer our congratulations.

As these notes were being prepared we received with dismay the news that C.S.M. Cooper is to leave us for "S" Company. We lose him with real regret and would like to thank him for the hard work he has already put in on our behalf. The blow has, however, been softened by the arrival of C.S.M. Corner, a pre-war member of the 2nd Battalion. We welcome him and trust that his tour of duty will be a happy one.

"A" COMPANY

Since the last issue of notes, training in "A" Company has proceeded slowly but surely. On March 5 we succeeded in beating "H.Q." Company by 7 points in the inter-Company shooting, and on April 16 we beat "C" Company by 4 points.

Thursday evenings see the Badminton Club thriving and our latest recruits are Wheeler and Sargent, who are both National Service volunteers.

C.S.M. Baker and L/Cpl. Crawford have been selected to join the representative party from the Battalion which is taking part in the Coronation parade. We congratulate L/Cpls. Sexton and Clarke on their promotion to Corporal and Ptes. Linden and the elder Merritt on their appointment as L/Corporals. Pte. Wheeler has recently married and we wish both he and his wife the very best of luck for the future.

By the time these notes appear we shall probably be back from annual camp, but meanwhile we are looking forward to our week-end in June, when we are going to live out.

"B" COMPANY

As the summer draws nearer there seem to be only three real subjects of conversation for us in "B" Company: the Coronation, the Australian Test team and the forthcoming annual camp. It is to be hoped that no one will object to these being coupled together, but be that as it may, here at Enfield our eyes are already looking beyond June and into July, preparing for camp.

As far back as March 6-8 we held our Classification (Rifle) week-end at Pirbright; the results of the shoot augured very well for camp. We had four marksmen, 20 first class, 23 second class shots and only eight failures, due, we were told, entirely to faulty rifles!

At the moment, the Company is preparing itself for a week-end exercise to be held deep in the wilds of Surrey, as opposed to a week-end amidst the rural charms of 4 W.E.T.C., Pirbright. It is hoped that all from the O.C. downwards will have both an instructive and enjoyable time; a lot, it seems, will depend upon our cooks.

We were very pleased to offer our heartiest congratulations to Sgt. Rider on the birth of a son; not yet old enough to join us at camp, we fear, but no doubt a future "Die-Hard." Almost in the same breath we should like to offer our congratulations and best wishes to Ptes. Bowker, Hutchinson and Pryor on their respective marriages.

Mr. Whitcombe, our caterer, has made a welcome re-appearance on the scene, after a serious illness. We are all pleased to see him back again behind the bar, looking as well as ever.

The following are to be congratulated on their promotions: Cpl. Leighton to Sergeant; L/Cpls. Wimbeldon, Patterson and Charge to Corporal; also Ptes. Chester, Broome, Hughes, McGlashon, Rogers and Unwin on their appointments to L/Corporal.

Last, but not least, we extend a warm welcome to Sgt. Eastap; he is already making his cheerful personality felt in the Company, and we are sure that we will all benefit from his up-to-date experience in Korea.

"C" COMPANY

In retrospect, the winter months usually seem discouragingly eventless at Company level—at any rate to the writers of *The Die-Hards* notes, but this year "C" Company has been happily amusing itself playing a military form of "General Post" in which key jobs are taken over, relinquished and handed on to the next player with a minimum of delay. Three Company Commanders have so far succeeded each other since camp, and four P.S.I.s—a fifth, we learn, will have arrived by the time these words are in print. Lt. Benbow has left us for Brigade H.Q. this month, and in the New Year we were joined by Lt. Richards, already a valuable addition to the Company.

Nor have the rest been allowed to stagnate. At a compulsory training evening held in March, "C" Company, which had successfully been concealing an advanced stage of pregnancy, suddenly propagated (after the manner of the most primitive forms of life) by splitting in half. This not altogether unexpected event provided the Battalion with an extra Company which, fortunately, there were some officers at hand to take over. They were accordingly offered the left-hand half (which was promptly christened "D"), together with a fifty per cent. share in C.S.M. Corner and the Company office.

Training has, however, continued jointly since that day, for in the problems it sets those attempting to split it, the modest attendance on Tuesday evenings bears a regrettable resemblance to the atom.

Nevertheless, the spirits of the faithful are encouraged at the prospect of a training week-end and of annual camp, both looming up with more than a promise (!) of a full complement on parade.

M.M.G. Platoon

Since the last appearance of the Platoon's notes, little of momentous importance has occurred, but progress towards efficiency has been steady and continued.

The Platoon has said good-bye to Capt. Baker, who has ended his second spell of command to take over "C" Company. We thank him for the care with which he attended to all our work and want to wish him well in his new appointment. We welcome Lt. Baldwin on taking over command of the Platoon and hope that he enjoys his stay with us.

On April 18-19, 1953, the Platoon went to Pirbright to fire Part I of the Machine Gun Course and to carry out tactical training. This was a great success, despite the small numbers and it was very encouraging to see that, although they swore that they had never handled a machine gun before, two carrier drivers, Durham and Stenning, scrambled through the heather as well as the next man. It is hoped to have another tactical week-end before annual camp at which we shall be able to complete the teaming-up of the Platoon, which is so essential to smooth running in the field.

On Albuhera Day the Platoon will have the honour of demonstrating a section of guns, together with other equipment, to the Mayor, Corporation and citizens of Hornsey.

The normal training has been a progressive approach

to the more technical aspects of machine gun duties and should reap good results in the future.

We are pleased to hear that some inter-Company postings are being effected, which will increase the strength of the Platoon to allow us to put two sections on the ground at annual camp. Although we do not yet know the names of the personnel involved, we give them a very hearty welcome and hope that we can very soon turn them into good machine-gunners and imbue them with the great enthusiasm which already exists in the Platoon. With them we feel that we shall be able to compete fully with our rivals in "S" Company, although we doubt if, with bullets alone, we shall be able to set Pirbright Heath on fire!

While the new additions will help us to put an adequate force on the ground there is always a need for further reinforcements and should any old machine gunner reading this feel that he would like to put hand to gun again, he will find a very warm welcome waiting for him at Battalion H.Q.

Mortar Platoon

Since the last issue of the Journal, the Platoon activities have been both novel and interesting: novel from the fact of their having been slightly off the general Mortar beat, and interesting on the score of the advanced training which we are now doing. The highlights of this period have been: (1) obtaining a range for firing sand-filled bombs only seven miles from the centre; (2) a night exercise against "B" Company; and (3) a tactical week-end camp at Pirbright in April.

Having come to friendly terms with one of the farmers at Enfield, we have been able to carry out both night and day shoots with sand-filled bombs—excellent practice for the Mortar numbers. Unfortunately, we keep losing them in the ground, and Capt. Garrett has tried everything short of catching the bombs as they descend to solve this problem. It has been partly alleviated by the use of a mine-detector, although one mortarman, handling the instrument at night, assured the Platoon Commander that he had discovered a bomb; on further investigation, he was found to have the detector-plate over the bootlace eyeholes in his boots! Still, so far, the Platoon has only lost two.

To wake things up a little, we decided to challenge "B" Company to a night exercise at Enfield, and at the appointed time, the opposing forces being lined up on either side of Enfield Chase, the red Verrey light was fired, the exercise began. Prisoners were allowed to be taken, but rifle-butts and clubs were strictly ruled out. The Platoon Commander led what he felt was a spirited charge against one of the outposts—and was promptly sat upon (it seems that the other four in his patrol disappeared in a different direction—so much for the bravery of the Platoon). However, the outposts were soon overwhelmed, and the patrols headed for the main position—more by luck than judgment. All the patrols, except one, arrived simultaneously, and battle was joined. It was a short, exciting affair, but very confusing, as two of the Mortar Platoon discovered after stalking each other for ten minutes. We hope to have a return with "B" Company at some later date.

Now for the week-end camp. The attendance of the

Mortar Platoon was outstanding; only a few members were absent, mainly due to work and illness. We had just the right count of men to exercise a Platoon H.Q. and four detachments. Saturday was spent in carrying out a Part II shoot and a short attack exercise, and although it was rather slow in its execution, the exercise was carried out successfully. It should be mentioned that at "O" Groups no interruptions should be made until orders have finished. It was with surprise, therefore (not to say astonishment), that the Order Group was interrupted by one of the Section's seconds-in-command with, "Sir, there's a girl making eyes at you from the teashop window!" Without more ado the problem was investigated; but, to the Platoon Commander's disappointment, it was found she only wanted to know "if the boys wanted char and wads."

Firing took place in the afternoon, and good shooting took place, even though great expanses of heath land were burnt down by the B.E. smoke—so much so, that fire and smoke swept the Base Plate Position, causing the ammunition to be moved rather quickly to the rear.

On the second day a short reorganisation exercise was carried out with a few of the chaps not feeling too well because of Saturday evening; but half an hour of Mortar drill soon had them as right as rain.

On the whole, the Platoon spent a good week-end. Carrier drivers were tested, and passed out with flying colours, and a Platoon Corporal has now been fully trained—although the Platoon H.Q. shuddered slightly when a fire order from the O.P. came back on the telephone to be answered in a semi-official voice: "Mutual Life and Citizen's Assurance Company—London Branch!"

So much for civilians who are soldiers in their spare time.

Anti-Tank Platoon

For the first time since its formation, the Anti-Tank Platoon paraded altogether for "S" Company tactical week-end on April 18-19 at Pirbright. The weather, fortunately, was good and some good and invaluable training was got in, under S.A.S. Instructor Evans, which should be a good background for camp.

We have at last got our .22 range working and hope to run it on Thursdays as well as Tuesdays. We have managed to find quite a few Badminton players in the Platoon, and have challenged "A" Company to a match on May 7 (may the best men win!) In this connection our congratulations go to Pte. Walding (ex-Royal Norfolks) on his very fine performance against the 9th Battalion.

Our congratulations also go to L/Cpls. Heigho and Leggett on their appointments. Our strength for camp will be 2 officers, 5 N.C.O.s and 26 other ranks, making a total of 33 compared with last year's total of 13. We hope to give a demonstration in Priory Park on Albuhera Day, but rather shudder at what the Park Keeper will say when he sees the gun and its towing vehicle! Our aim at the moment is to encourage the N.S. men to come in on one evening a month and to get a platoon spirit going that will knock the "Boodle Club" for six.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last appearance in print we have made steady progress with our Mess activities. We have held a few minor functions on Saturday evenings, mostly games evenings, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

These, we might add, are only the forerunners of greater events, because with the Coronation in view and the various local celebrations the Battalion is taking part in it looks as though we are in for a hectic quarter.

C.S.M. Baker and Sgt. Moran have had the honour of being selected to take part in the Coronation procession, and C/Sgt. Leggett, together with Sgts. Carter, Gribble, Leighton and Payne will be on the street lining.

They are all to be congratulated and to other members of the Mess who are disappointed because they are not taking part in this much-coveted parade, we offer our condolences.

It was noted that on the Battalion War Memorial Parade the Mess turned out in strength, their sashes lending a bright splash of colour to the parade. Many Old Comrades and friends came along to the "At Home" after the parade and spent a happy hour or two reviving old memories.

We extend a hearty welcome to our new members: Drum Major Holdford, Sgts. Jackson, Hollis, Smith, Leighton, Thomas and Whitewood, and hope that their stay with us will be long and happy.

Congratulations to Sgt. Rider on the birth of his first son and for being top of the Battalion .22 shooting ladder with the excellent score of 99. We have nothing to say about the first event, but with regard to the second there are several members after beating that 99.

The new P.S.I.s have now settled down to the "Night Shift" routine. C.S.M. Cooper has taken seriously to motor-cycling and is a member of the Battalion cross-country team; we shall doubtless hear more of his exploits anon.

In closing, we should like to send our regards to all old members and remind them that we shall always be glad to see them when they are around our way.

Balances due to Estates of Deceased Officers and Soldiers

In pursuance of "The Regimental Debts Act, 1893" notice is hereby 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."

6TH RE-PUBLICATION OF LIST 745

Effects, 1941	£	s.	d.
S. A. Merton, Drummer, Middlesex Regt.	7	9	4
W. H. Roberts, Pte., Middlesex Regt.	19	17	8

Effects, 1944	£	s.	d.
D. G. Willson, Pte., Middlesex Regt.	254	0	11

11th PARACHUTE BATTALION (Middlesex) T.A.

(8th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment) (T.A.)

Activity in the Battalion has been nearly all on a company basis in the period under review. The two main exceptions were the officers' party at the May Fair Hotel, which was a great success and will most certainly be repeated next year, and the Battalion Novices' and Inter-Company Boxing. The Battalion inter-company basketball has been going on during the period too. It is not yet finished but "C" Company look as though they will be successful again. In the Novices' Boxing "D" Company staged a comeback and were ahead on points. However they lost their lead to "C" and "H.Q." Company in the inter-company boxing, which was won by "C" Company, with H.Q. second.

The best loser's prize went to Pte. Price of H.Q. (welter), who put up a spirited resistance against Casey of H.Q., a much more experienced boxer. Both competitions produced many spirited fights and we wish to congratulate all the boxers, winners and losers, and thank them for three evenings' first-class entertainment.

After five years in command of this Battalion, Lt.-Col. S. Terrell, O.B.E., T.D., has left us to take up a staff appointment at Divisional Headquarters. All ranks of the Battalion join in wishing him good luck. Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby, T.D., has taken over and we hope that his command will be a long and happy one.

Brigadier Hopwood has recently left 44 Brigade and has been replaced by Brigadier Tighe-Wood, to whom we extend a most hearty welcome. On January 30, the Officers' Mess gave a farewell dinner to Brigadier Hopwood and from the tone of his speech it appears that he enjoyed his tour with the Brigade as much as we enjoyed serving under him. We appreciated the great interest he took in our activities and wish him the best of luck in his new job in Hong Kong.

We congratulate Ptes. Casey, McGrath and Cain on their performances as Brigade representatives in the Divisional Boxing Competition and Ptes. McGrath and Cain for their first-class boxing in the Territorial Army Boxing Finals.

A cocktail party was held at Hounslow on March 6, to welcome officers of 1 Middlesex back to U.K., which was attended by officers from 1 Middlesex, 7 Middlesex, 595 Light A.A. Regiment (9 Middlesex) and from the Depot. This was the first occasion in which the officers of all the existing Middlesex Battalions have met under one roof and we hope it will be the first of many such meetings.

"B" COMPANY (EALING)

Since our last notes nothing, which could be classed as "sensational," has occurred. There are two occasions which still linger in our memories. First and foremost we held a dance on Saturday, November 29, at Ealing Drill Hall, in aid of a Children's Party to be given a week later. Those present, to whom we were honoured in acting as host, were the Mayor and Mayoress of Ealing and Major G. W. Webber and his wife. C/Sgt.

Carlton, with the assistance of those living in the immediate vicinity, must be congratulated for all the hard work put in before and after the dance, and in the organisation during the happy occasion. C.S.M. Tucker was in fine humour and, as usual, the stalwarts of the Company remained long after the majority had left.

Capt. Courtney was very much in evidence at the children's party though well disguised as the dutiful, well-beloved Father Christmas. The Company was pleased to see 16 children from the C. of E. Orphans' Home, Mattock Lane, who were invited as our guests.

Turning our thoughts to a more serious aspect, we have been down twice to the Middlesex Depot to zero our rifles. An idle bystander will always hear the excuses made by L/Cpl. Bowditch, Ptes. Nelson and Edser; but no notice is ever taken.

"D" Company came down one evening to demonstrate judo, and were not only appreciated, but much admired. Finally, our basket-ball team have lost to "C" Company 10-16 and beaten H.Q. 16-2. Ptes. Robins and Edser and L/Cpl. Bowditch have played very well, closely supported by all the officers and Cpl. Wilson. We look forward to giving even better results in our next notes.

"C" COMPANY (HARROW AND WEALDSTONE)

Our first main event of this quarter was our Christmas Social and Dance which followed our Annual Bounty Night. Both evenings were well attended and were so successful that it was rumoured that Sgt. Covey, who is employed by the local Water Company, was arranging to connect up all the pipes in the Drill Hall with the beer cellars of the neighbouring public houses.

We were sorry to lose Sgt. Bunn, who has taken the big step of changing from a city career to farming in Wiltshire. Good luck to him and the cows.

The Company has repeated its 1952 successes by again winning the inter-Company Boxing.

Our boxing team consisted of Lt. Sillett, C/Sgt. Clarke, L/Cpl. Scott, Ptes. Cain, Roberts, Newman, Whatman and Tann.

Lt. Sillett not only won his bout in the novices' competition, but went on to win the final of the inter-company competition.

One additional success was our miniature range team, who came fifth in the Divisional "B" Competition. This was the highest place of our companies in this competition, but we are after winning next time.

We congratulate Pte. Martin on coming fifth in the T.A. Cross-Country Running Championship and being the first man in from 16 A.B. Division.

We regret to have to report that Pte. Haines has had to retire from boxing. This is a sad blow to the Company and, of course, also the Battalion, for Haines's prowess in the field of boxing has resulted in many points in the various competitions.

We extend a hearty welcome to Sgt. Reynolds, our new P.S.I. from the Middlesex Regiment; we hope that he will be the first of many "Die-Hards" who will join this Battalion.

"D" COMPANY (EDMONTON)

"D" Company is continuing in its usual manner, still sticking tighter than the "Proverbial" by turning up in good numbers on drill nights. The training has been devoted to a continuation of individual training and this has shown a marked improvement. N.C.O.s, both proper and potential, have, of course, received training more suitable to their capabilities.

There has been some enthusiastic work carried out by the devotees to the art of fisticuffs in preparation for the annual events in this sport, and from the results given later it will be seen that their labour has been well worth while.

For those who do not aspire to being pugilists, there has been ample fun and training in that Eastern style of torture, "Judo," and many hard throws have been taken. It has been rumoured that the concrete floor had to be renewed twice last year. This, however, is untrue and malicious.

For the more civilised and gentle of our numbers, who only prefer to exercise the right arm and throat, the canteen has flourished.

The Company has again been asked by the Edmonton Council to assist in their Annual Pageant in aid of the Old Peoples' Fund, which assistance was, of course, readily given, subject to permission from the War Office, and preparations are now in hand. There has been a rush to serve on the Committee since it was reported that some pretty young ladies were assisting with the typing. It is hoped that this year the date does not clash with the ideas of our own powers-that-be, as it did last year when we had to withdraw our support.

We have been concentrating on our weapon training in preparation for the various competitions which are to take place shortly. The whole Company has now classified and we hope that the results, which we will report of the coming competitions, will show that our efforts have not been in vain.

We welcome to the Company, 2/Lt. S. C. Tanner, who has joined us from the S.A.S. We have also had intakes from the Middlesex Regiment and the K.S.L.I., who bring to us a wealth of experience gained in Korea.

"H.Q." COMPANY (HOUNSLOW)

Since our last notes, we have had to say good-bye to Lt.-Col. S. Terrell, O.B.E., T.D., who has gone to Divisional H.Q. as a Staff "Wallah." We wish him the best of luck and hope that we will see a lot of him still, especially at camp.

Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby, T.D., took over command of the Battalion in April, and, known as he is to everybody in the Battalion, we feel sure that our 100 per cent. best wishes for the future will be echoed by every other member of the Battalion.

Life in "H.Q." Company has been developing from the indoor to the outdoor stage, starting in early March, with exercise "Paraduck" with "S" Company.

Both companies moved to a harbour area in Burnham Beeches, where two assault boats were assembled and then dismantled. At approximately last light Fantasians, represented by "H.Q." Company, leapt into a 3-tonner to go and guard Cookham and Marlow bridges against

attacks by 11 Paratroop Battalion, represented on the ground by "S" Company.

First blood came at Cookham bridge; Lt. P. Hall of "S" Company having got over Cookham bridge and disposed of sentry No. 1, waltzed back, and shouted: "O.K., Cpl. Trindall," but Cpl. Trindall, being dealt with by C.S.M. Wales, was in no position to answer, and L/Cpl. Ives shot Lt. Hall.

We upped bodies and helped them on their way to a rendezvous by truck, going on to Marlow bridge. Here, 2IC "H.Q." Company and C.S.M. Wales saw enemy patrol No. 2 and proceeded to "do" them.

With further body removals, the truck ably driven by L/Cpl. Garland found the Ferry Inn at Cookham, where both companies lowered the beer level considerably, further assisted by the M.T.O. and R.S.M.

The night spent in Burnham Beeches was 10 below zero but breakfast made up for it.

The early part of the morning was given up to boating on the Thames, started by Capt. Brotherton and Lt. Latham, and followed by Capt. Barber and Cpl. Upson.

The river was eventually crossed without loss, and two sections set out on a seven-mile "bash" to an inn, near Maidenhead, to be reached at approximately 13.00 hours for lunch.

Accomplishing this was thirsty work, it being a hot day, but the end was worth while, with lots of beer and an enormous lunch for all ranks.

We have had further classification on Ash Ranges, attended by about 60 all ranks. The weather was fine and some good results were obtained by the Company.

A portion of the Battalion Shooting Club, which is in "H.Q." Company, had a wet, but nevertheless enjoyable, Sunday at Bisley on April 12.

The Company wish to congratulate Pte. Casey for his boxing in the Divisional Final.

We have received many new arrivals, mostly National Servicemen. We are glad to welcome them to the company, and hope that they will enjoy their stay with us.

The Officers' Mess had a very good cocktail party and get-together for our other Middlesex Battalions, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

The Company, after much synthetic, is looking forward to the "Open" season for parachuting, starting in May.

SUPPORT COMPANY (HOUNSLOW)

The Company has continued specialist and general weapon training instruction on a platoon basis. We welcome Sgt. Cadman back to the Company after a year's absence. C.S.M. Vasey went on his A.P.J.I. Course during the period.

The Company had a very successful Children's Party, complete with a clown and performing dog, and the inevitable film show. About 70 children were entertained and fed, and appeared to enjoy themselves.

This has been a busy period for Support Company. We have had two classification week-ends on Ash Ranges, on February 21 and 22, and on March 21 and 22, and thanks to perfect shooting weather on both occasions we succeeded in completing all practices with the rifle, Sten and the Bren. On April 25 and 26 we fired the

3-in. mortars and the Vickers M.M.G.s on Hangmore Ranges, in addition to running a wireless and line signal scheme. A most enjoyable subsidiary exercise was carried out near the ranges at the "Hare and Hound" during the Saturday evening.

The first Company exercise of the year, Exercise "Paraduck," in which we were assisted by "H.Q." Company, took place on March 7 and 8 in the Marlow area, and included night patrolling a river crossing with assault boats, and a cross-country march. We camped in Burnham Beeches for the night, after spending a couple of hours enjoying the hospitality of the Ferry Inn at Cookham.

We have welcomed an encouraging number of volunteers during the period, including Lt. A. Woods, who has taken over the Mortar Platoon. We have started an Assault Pioneer Platoon, under the leadership of Cpl. Upson. In our bridging activities we have been most grateful to the 131 A.B. Engr. Regiment, R.E., who gave us a most helpful evening's instruction.

The Roue

There was a man a sneak a snake,
A frightful man a sheik a shaikh;
Of alcohol did reek this rake,
A Bacchus freak this Cupid fake.

One day he went to see his Sue
And sat her on his knee, he knew
That she preferred just tea for two,
But laced with Brie from witch's brew.

This poor young maid, well might she wail
After she heard him tell his tale
Then pickled like an eel in ale
He led her to a dell or dale.

Alone with him his drink she drank,
And slowly did she sink, or sank
Until she reached the brink or bank,
Of the river Styx which stinks, that's frank!

"THE JABBERWOCK" OF "S" COMPANY.

Extracts from "London Gazette"

February 6, 1953

22657045 Cadet Michael James Mellon (425877) to be 2/Lieutenant, December 6, 1952.

February 10, 1953

22654460 Cadet Joseph Broom (426096) to be 2/Lieutenant, December 20, 1952.

February 13, 1953

Lt. (Hon. Capt.) E. L. Skoyles (354925), from R.N.F., R.A.R.O., to be Lieutenant, February 14, 1953, retaining the hon. rank of Captain.

February 17, 1953

S.S. Commission. Capt. (Q.M.) L. T. Honeybun (205510) to be Major (Q.M.), January 19, 1953.

February 20, 1953

Capt. F. C. Brown (331086) relinquishes his commission, December 29, 1952, on appointment to R.A.F.

February 24, 1953

2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) A. R. K. Hardcastle (412195), from T.A. National Service List, to be 2/Lieutenant (Acting Lieutenant), November 19, 1952, retaining his present seniority.

February 27, 1953

Capt. J. Bywaters (121924) to be Major, February 11, 1953.

March 3, 1953

Major R. A. Gwyn (49853) to be Lt.-Colonel, January 15, 1952.

March 13, 1953

Lt. J. D. Messenger (304972) to be Captain, March 13, 1953.

March 17, 1953

Lt. Michael Vincent Hayward (415786), from Buffs National Service List, to be Lieutenant, March 18, 1953, with seniority March 10, 1953.

Major W. D. Ellis, T.D. (71676) to be Lt.-Colonel, March 16, 1953.

March 20, 1953

Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D. (7728), from R.A. T.A. Reserve of Officers, to be Major, March 21, 1953, retaining his present seniority.

March 24, 1953

2/Lt. M. T. Beagley (414802) to be Lieutenant, February 9, 1953.

March 27, 1953

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

Capt. (Hon. Major) R. G. Beloe (94852).

April 10, 1953

Capt. T. W. Creighton (164436) is granted the acting rank of Major, January 8, 1953.

Lt. (Acting Capt.) R. G. Garrett (360335) to be Captain, April 10, 1953, with seniority April 2, 1952.

The undermentioned 2/Lieutenants (Acting Lieutenants) to be Lieutenants on the dates shown:

D. J. Blackler (403274), November 19, 1952, with seniority March 13, 1951.

G. R. Fox (406072), January 25, 1953, with seniority May 29, 1951.

J. W. Scott (400354), April 6, 1953, with seniority January 19, 1952.

April 17, 1953

Capt. I. F. Campbell, M.C. (74682), H.P. List (late Middlesex), retires on ret. pay on account of disability, February 2, 1953, and is granted the hon. rank of Major.

April 21, 1953

22698630 Cadet John Derek Chynoweth (426777) to be 2/Lieutenant, February 14, 1953.

May 5, 1953

22602474 Cadet Raymond George Warren Fardon (427280) to be 2/Lieutenant, February 28, 1953.

22657150 Cadet Michael John Hickey (427286) to be 2/Lieutenant, February 28, 1953.

Short Service Commission. Capt. P. A. Mead (304971), from active list, to be Captain, May 5, 1953, retaining his present seniority.

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

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

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

These last few months have seen us more busily occupied than at any time since 1947 as, in addition to the loss of Major H. H. Grey and Major H. M. L. Price, Major A. D. Buckland-Nicks, T.D., has, for business reasons, found it necessary to transfer to the T.A.R.O., and we should like to take this opportunity of assuring him of our best wishes for the future, and our grateful thanks for all he has done while in the Regiment. Also, this, together with the impending departure of our Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, T.D., has meant a complete reshuffle all round.

We should like to congratulate those who took part in the Regimental Drill Competition on March 29, 1953, on the splendid performance and turn-out, especially to the winners, "Q" Battery, who also supplied the best "turned-out" man.

R.H.Q. came second, a disappointment in position, but great credit to those Administrative Personnel, and others, who really put in a tremendous effort.

This is the first year since we reformed that this competition has been held and it was indeed a privilege to have Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., and the R.S.M. of 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment to adjudicate it.

82 A.A. Brigade, R.A.—Aircraft Recognition Competition

This competition, held in March, was won by this Regiment, represented by "Q" Battery, with the result of 96 per cent., an average far higher than any other Regiment. We hope our friends in the 11th Parachute Battalion will feel quite confident in the future as they fly over the A.A. Gun Detachments manned by this Regiment. Well done to our "Q" Battery team, which included Lt. Cooper, Sgt. Abbott, Bdr. Leete, L/Bdr. Metherngham, L/Bdr. Cornes and Gnr. Chandler.

New Year Awards

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate Sgt. R. C. Holder on his being awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours List. This is in recognition of invaluable service to the Middlesex Regiment for 23 years. Well done!

Band

Our Regimental Band is performing splendidly under the Bandmaster, Mr. W. R. Turner, and has fixed up for a very full programme. We are always on the lookout for new Bandsmen and if any reader can play, or knows of a friend who would like to become a member of our Regimental Band, we should be delighted to interview him.

It is also our intention to form, in the near future, our own dance band.

"P" BATTERY

"P" Battery has continued to expand in the past three months, owing to the influx of National Servicemen. They settle into their new role quite quickly and are becoming good Gunners.

Reorganisation will shortly cause a reduction in our strength. Capt. Harris and Lt. Langford both leave the Battery to become Battery Captains of "R" and "SL" Batteries respectively. Lt. Brook, a newcomer to the Regiment, is joining the Battery to partially close the gap left by the two departing officers.

We have not been very successful in the Inter-Battery Competitions, our best achievement being second place in the Aircraft Recognition Competition, with one man short, but our individual percentage was higher than that of those in the winning team.

The final of the Football Competition has yet to be decided and we feel our Battery has a good chance of winning.

We congratulate L/Bdr. Milsom and Gnr. Downton on their having been selected for this Regiment's contingent to line the route for the Coronation procession.

"Q" BATTERY

The face of "Q" Battery changes. With regret we saw Major Mayhew posted to the "Celestial Heights" of R.H.Q. Capt. Hill has become Officer Commanding "R" Battery and Capt. Doyle has taken over the reins in "Q" Battery. Capt. Pugh replaces Capt. Hill as Battery Captain of "Q" Battery.

With the formation of "R" Battery, B.S.M. Lockyer left "Q" Battery and a new-old boy, B.S.M. Jenkins, has taken his place.

The Battery has, however, weathered well the storm of these changes; how well, may be seen from its successes during the last few months. The Regimental Aircraft Recognition and Drill Competitions were both won by the Battery. The two teams deserve hearty congratulations along with their instructors. The Battery's aircraft recognition team topped this performance by winning the Brigade Competition for the Regiment. L/Bdr. V. Williams and Gnr. F. Perkins are to be commended on being judged by Col. Green to be the smartest and second smartest soldiers respectively on parade at the Drill Competition.

A preliminary mild celebration was held at the "Prince of Wales." Further high jinks are to be held over a barrel of beer in the near future.

By the time this is in print Exercise "Quicksilver" will be a memory; "Q" Battery represent the Regiment on this occasion. Perhaps in the next issue we shall be able to report some of the inevitable howlers which will be committed during the exercise.

The Battery congratulates Sgt. H. Thomas on being selected as one of the Regiment's representatives to line the route of the Coronation procession.

"R" BATTERY

Our first four months of life have been extremely vigorous ones. Training has gone ahead with success, but perhaps the most notable feature of the period has been the opportunity many members of the Battery



Presentation of Challenge Cup by Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., to L/Bdr. V. R. Williams as the smartest and best turned-out soldier on the Inter-Battery Drill Competition

have had to put their training into practice, while at the same time rendering sterling service in an emergency. During the reconstruction following the flood disasters on the East Coast, we provided detachments to man a searchlight on Canvey Island for several periods. Apart from their operational role of providing artificial daylight for the repair work to go on at night, a job which they performed with conspicuous success, we gather that they were "socially" an asset to the Island. Nobody knows better than the Army how to provide "every mod. con." in the most unpromising surroundings. We also heard something about our chaps showing Regular Army detachments present how to change carbons. The excellent work done earned well-merited thanks from the Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, and congratulations from the G.O.C., Eastern Command, to which we may, perhaps, be permitted to add our own.

We held our first Battery get-together in the Regimental Canteen on April 24 and hope that this may become a regular feature of Battery social life, with an ever-increasing attendance. Darts, snooker and television provided entertainment for all, with a modicum of liquid refreshment to oil the conversation, and plenty of excellent sandwiches. Judging by the difficulty experienced in removing Capt. Stanhope-Gant and Mr. Spivey (a member of the Old Comrades' Association, for whose services as instructor we are most grateful) from an almost proprietary interest in the dart-board, there is going to be a lot of secret practice put in before the next meeting.



"Q" Battery, winners of Inter-Battery Drill Competition, 1953

The forthcoming Coronation period is going to be a busy one. We congratulate Bdr. Halls and L/Bdr. Anderson, also Gnr. Goulding, on being chosen as three of the Regiment's six representatives to line the Coronation route. We shall have the honour to send a lamp and detachment to help illuminate Buckingham Palace on Coronation night. Later, we are to provide several members of the contingent to line the route for Her Majesty the Queen's state drive to the Guildhall, and a detachment for the Searchlight Tattoo.

Behind all this festive activity lies a background of serious training, leading up to annual camp. Owing to another change of establishment, we are shortly to become the Searchlight Battery in name as well as in fact, and as such we hope to continue and expand the good work already begun.

We make no apology for returning to the subject of the chaps who helped in flood relief, in order to republish their names as follows: B.S.M. McCarthy, B.S.M. Hughes, B.S.M. Strange, Sgt. Packer, B.S.M. Lockyer, Sgt. Mitchell, Bdr. Oakley, Bdr. Arrowsmith, Bdr. Silvester, L/Bdr. Anderson, Gnr. Bonner, Gnr. Cordaroy. "Bai goom, they'm a gradely lot."

SERGEANTS' MESS

Congratulations

As a whole, the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess would like to congratulate the following on their well-earned promotion: Major J. R. Doyle, R.A. (T.A.) and Major R. Hughes, R.A. (T.A.), to command "Q" and "P" Batteries respectively. Sgt. J. Penny, "Q" Battery, and Sgt. P. Simmonds, R.H.Q. (the latter is now R.A.P.C. (T.A.), permanently attached to this Regiment). Cadet B.S.M. Piper, the new B.S.M. of 33 Middlesex (Indep.) Cadet Battery, R.A., affiliated to this Regiment.

We welcome Sgts. Penny and Simmonds into the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess (we are considering an "initiating ceremony" in the near future), where they will find themselves among friends from the moment they cross the threshold, and where, we sincerely hope, through the years to come they will spend very many happy times among sincere comradeship.

It may be of interest to add that Sgt. Simmonds, R.A.P.C., also enters that ecclesiastical body—R.H.Q.—where he will be warmly welcomed by the R.S.M., no doubt, as he will shoulder a lot of the "Pay" worries.

A few words on the tragedy of the Canvey floods in February this year. The parties we sent off in that awful weather, to afford light for the night working parties, and who have since been so warmly congratulated for their work, contained a very high proportion of Sergeants' Mess members, by name: B.S.M.s Lockyer, McCarthy, Hughes and Strange, Sgts. Packer and Mitchell.

We say "Well done" to them, and to all those who took part in the grand work that was done.

Throughout this quarter training has continued at high pressure; and will continue until after we have shown our worth at practice camp at Stiffkey, in early September. Both regimentally and socially we are looking forward to a very enjoyable camp. The R.S.M. has already carried out a provisional recon, and reports very favourably on the camp generally. That age-old fear of the bar running dry will not haunt us during this year, with the brewers' establishment about two miles down the road!

The focal point of our more recent "drill and duties" training was at Wembley, on Sunday, April 26, 1953, when we competed in the 82 A.A. Brigade "Drill and Duties" Competition. We are sorry to have to report that we did not win, but we have sound good reason for being proud of our regimental team and we say to them: "Well done."

Our Mess social life has progressed very nicely up to the present during this year. All our socials have been tremendous successes, thanks to the staunch support of the home team, which, we are glad to say, includes Capt. C. H. T. Barber, R.A., and officers of the 33 Middlesex (Indep.) Cadet Battery, R.A. We should like to publish our sincere thanks to the following O.C.A. members and their wives for their loyal support and help to the Mess at all times: Mr. and Mrs. A. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. R. Maggs and Mr. and Mrs. L. Spivey.

We are glad to say these O.C.A. members are coming to see us in camp at Stiffkey and spend a short holiday there as guests of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.

The highlight of our entertaining and social life, even in this festive Coronation year of 1953, will be held on Friday, May 1, 1953. The W.O.s and sergeants are saying good-bye, on this day, to our Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, T.D., R.A. (T.A.), who is being "dined out" in our Mess, at the conclusion of his tenure as C.O. of the Regiment. It is a great day for us to have this honour and privilege, yet one tinged with regret at his leaving us. It is, however, nice to think,

as is the "Die-Hard" practice, that we shall see Col. Dear often in the future, both during camps and at social functions.

Tailpiece

There are happy events ahead in the form of—but no—far better to tell you of these in our next contribution.

Regimental Rifle Club

The Club is now settling down to an extensive summer programme. We have just finished firing in two winter leagues—the Local Area Inter-Regimental Competition and our own Brigade Competition—and finished about half-way in each, which is very encouraging, as the majority of the Club is composed of young soldiers who have just taken up .22 shooting.

We are looking forward to running two teams next year (one in each league) so as to ease the fixture list, which at times becomes a little congested.

The shooting in general has very much improved, so that now the O.C.A. members, instead of walking off with the highest score with ease, would have to fight hard to equal any of the Service members' best four shots.

We have had two friendly matches recently; one against the Wealdstone Police, which we managed to win by 1 pt., and the other, against the Royal Marines O.C.A., which we won by 27 pts.

We are running a competition on Monday, June 1, open to all serving members of the Regiment, O.C.A. members and ladies, and we are going all out to make it a real Coronation competition, with a prize for everyone. We are now in the midst of firing for inter-battery trophies, and the various competitions organised by the *News of the World* and *Sunday Dispatch*, which should keep us pretty busy up to annual camp.

In saying our *au revoir* to our Commanding Officer we add our grateful thanks for the encouragement he has always given to the Rifle Club. We extend our warmest welcome to Major B. MacFadden, T.D., as our new President.

In conclusion, we should like to inform the R.S.M. that the telescope with which he did the sighting on the miniature range has now been straightened out.

Badminton

Some close matches, and a very friendly social atmosphere, is bringing a very successful season to a finish.

Recent results include:

- 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regt., R.A., v. St. George's Club, lost 3—4.
- 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regt., R.A., v. 7 Bn. Middlesex Regt., won 5—2.
- 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regt., R.A., v. C.I.V. Inspectorate team, lost 1—0.

With young players now joining, and learning fast, we look forward to next year, and our entry into competitive league play.

Athletics

The Regiment managed to raise a team for the T.A. Cross-Country Championships held at Old Dalby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, on March 21, but, owing to last-minute casualties, we were reduced to three individuals. Runners like that old stalwart, B.S.M. Lockyer, and Gnr. Perkins of "Q" Battery, ran well, coming in 20th.

We are now busy limbering up for three athletic meetings and hope to report our conquests in the next issue.

A Story for Army Psychiatrists

(with acknowledgments to "Peterborough")

A lady speaker at a luncheon made the following apology for having to leave early: "I have an appointment with my psychiatrist at 3 p.m. and if I am not there in time he starts without me."

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1953, AT 2.15 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., A.D.C., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wolcombe, M.C., Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major W. D. Ellis, T.D., Major P. D. H. Marshall, Major G. C. Dawson (representing Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn), R.S.M. P. Donovan, R.S.M. R. Tarrant, Sgt. R. A. Bullock, Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D.

1. *Election of Chairman.* Proposed by Brigadier Rackham, seconded by Lt.-Col. Green and carried unanimously that Lt.-Col. Roberts be re-elected.

Lt.-Col. Roberts thanked the Committee for the great honour they had again bestowed upon him by re-electing him for a fifth year of office.

On behalf of the Committee, Lt.-Col. Roberts said he wished to make two happy commentaries which would be recorded in the Minutes, if members agreed:

(a) It was with great joy we received the pleasing news that H.M. The Queen had bestowed upon Col. Maurice Browne the honour of C.B.E. No individual was more worthy of reward than Col. Browne for his great service to the Regiment. Col. Browne thanked the Committee with sincere gratitude.

(b) It was with pleasure we welcome Major Dawson and R.S.M. Tarrant, who attended as representatives of the 7th Battalion. These remarks were warmly endorsed by the Committee.

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

3. *Secretary's Report.* The Secretary's report, which was circulated with the Agenda, was approved by the Committee.

During the last year ending December 31, 1952, 280 cases were assisted with grants totalling £1,095 8s. 10d.

The Secretary requested authority from the Committee to expend a sum not exceeding £600 for the quarters ending March 31, 1953, and June 30, 1953, to assist necessitous cases. This was approved by the Committee.

4. *Finance Committee's Report.* The Finance Committee's report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting was discussed and the following recommendations were approved:

- (a) (i) That £2,000 be transferred from Current Account to Deposit Account.
- (ii) That a grant of £100 be made for the year 1953 to enable O.C. Depot to start work on the reorganisation of the Regimental Museum as directed by the Colonel of the Regiment.
- (iii) That a sum not exceeding £250 be authorised for a new and enlarged type of Regimental Reunion.

(b) Lt.-Col. Fox explained the Accounts for the year 1952. He said that he had reduced the amount of paper in the com-

pilation of the various accounts, after consultation with the new Auditor, Capt. Claypole.

(c) Lt.-Col. Roberts reminded the Committee that the £2,000 Mabel Renny legacy and the income from its investments would be reserved for future maintenance of the War Memorial Cottage Homes at Enfield.

(d) Lt.-Col. Fox moved that the Audited Accounts for 1952 be adopted. This was seconded by Brigadier Procter and approved by the Committee.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Lt.-Col. Fox for the considerable amount of trouble he had taken in order to prepare and present the accounts so clearly.

5. *Journal Committee's Report.* Brigadier Procter stated that, although there had been an increase in revenue, this was offset by the increased cost of production, though every effort had been made to reduce the deficit. It was decided to instruct the printers to arrange deliveries so that individuals did not receive copies prior to units and vice versa.

6. *War Memorial Report.* (a) The Committee met for the last time on January 13 and received the Capital Account prepared by the Regimental Chartered accountant.

(b) All outstanding capital commitments had been met. There were still amounts to be received which would be reported from time to time.

(c) The Chairman asked for instructions from the Committee as to future management. It was decided that the day-to-day management should be continued as at present, with the exception that Major A. R. Waller should take the place of Lt.-Col. A. E. Green when he gave up command of the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment.

(d) Major Hardcastle confirmed that the Trust Deed, Clause 2, states that the charity shall be administered and managed by the Executive Committee for the time being of the Regimental Association.

(e) Col. Beach, Chairman of the Management Committee, reported that, with the consent of the Chairman of the Regimental Association, a letter had been sent to the Middlesex County Council asking whether they would consider extending the present lease of the land or granting the Association the freehold. This is being favourably considered, but in any case would require the approval of the Minister of Health, so the final result could not be foretold.

Meanwhile, the County Council have been asked to consider if they would negotiate the sale of the land at present surplus to requirements possibly to the North Eastern Regional Hospital Board. They had consented to do this. A question was raised whether in the event of a sale taking place the amenities of the present site would be preserved. Col. Beach pointed out that, in any case, any offer made would come before the Association for consideration, but in the meantime this point would be kept in mind while negotiations were proceeding.

(f) Col. Beach reported with regret the death of Mr. Peacock, and asked for guidance as to how the vacancy should be filled. After a long discussion it was decided that the trustees should decide how long Mrs. Peacock could remain at "Albuhara Close."

(g) Col. Beach reported that with the exception of a few shillings all rents had been paid up. The estate was in fairly good order generally. Enfield had replanted and staked the trees on the verges which had died, but some of the gardens had not yet been developed owing to the disability of the tenants and the very rough nature of the soil. He was pleased, however, to report that the M.C.C. had granted a sum of £250 to help improve conditions, and Major Jones, in conjunction with the Park Superintendent of Enfield, were going to meet the Management Committee in the very near future to decide how to utilise the grant to the best advantage.

(h) The question of naming of the cottages was again raised and the Chairman of the Association promised to initiate proceedings to reconsider this matter.

7. *Regimental History Committee's Report.* The Chairman explained that Major Ellis had assumed the Chairmanship of the Regimental History Sub-Committee in succession to Lt.-Col. Green, who was shortly going abroad.

He wished to thank Major Ellis for undertaking the work. He also thanked Lt.-Col. Green for all his efforts.

Major Ellis explained his detailed report which had been circulated at the meeting. The Committee approved the report.

8. *Reunion.* The Chairman explained that it had been suggested that Old Comrades' functions as now organised were somewhat outdated. They catered more for the older generation rather than for the present generation, who rarely appeared at any functions.

There was therefore a danger that attendances would decrease year by year unless something was done to attract the younger men. After a full discussion the following proposals were agreed:

- (a) That a function similar (but on a smaller scale) to the Alamein and Burma Reunions be held.
- (b) That a live entertainment be given to include a Regimental or dance band, cabaret, etc.

(c) That a few speeches by distinguished guests and by the Colonel of the Regiment be made.

(d) That wives and girl friends be admissible.

(e) That refreshments be available in the form of a running buffet and bar, to be paid for by individuals.

(f) That a ticket of 2s. 6d. per single ticket and 4s. for a double ticket be made for admission and that a subsidy of £250 be provided from the Association funds.

(g) That the occasion be referred to as "The Middlesex Regimental Reunion" and not as the "Old Comrades Reunion" (this latter title discourages the young).

(h) That the Old Comrades' tea at Mill Hill and the O.C.A. dinner be not held, in order to make more money available for one big event.

(i) That a sub-committee under O.C. Depot should make detailed plans.

(k) It was proposed by Major Marshall, seconded by Lt.-Col. Green, that, although no special Old Comrades' gathering would be held this year at Mill Hill, during Cricket Week arrangements would be made for refreshments to be available for Old Comrades and their relatives should they attend. They were cordially invited.

9. *Return of 1st Battalion.* It was proposed by Brigadier Rackham and approved by the Committee that a vote of thanks be recorded to all who were responsible for the arrangements made to welcome home the 1st Battalion on their return from the Far East.

10. *Coronation Seats.* The Committee approved that a grant of £8 be expended in purchasing two seats for disabled members of the Regiment and for two standing places for Old Comrades. O.C.A. Clubs to be circulated to ensure that any eligible members are given the opportunity to apply. A ballot for the tickets will be arranged by O.C. Depot. Names of all known disabled personnel will be included in the ballot.

11. *Other Business.* The Chairman referred to certain letters which had been written by an Old Comrade to the Secretary and to Col. M. Browne. The letters contained criticisms and suggestions with regard to several Association matters.

The Secretary was instructed to inform the Old Comrade that: (a) The contents of the correspondence had been made known to the Chairman and members of the Regimental Association as requested.

(b) Certain of the suggestions had already been considered by members of the Association prior to the receipt of his letters, and plans were being prepared to implement them. Other suggestions were being considered. Details of these matters will appear in the *Die-Hards* journal.

(c) Certain criticisms were considered unjustified. As these had already been replied to by Col. Browne, the Association considered that further comment was unnecessary.

12. *Other Business.* On behalf of the Committee, Brigadier Rackham congratulated Lt.-Col. Roberts on being appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Middlesex. Lt.-Col. Roberts made a characteristic response.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.50 p.m. *Date of next Meeting.* The next meeting will take place at the Middlesex Guildhall on Thursday, May 28, 1953.

A. W. CLARK, Major,
Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.
Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.
March 11, 1953.

It is published for information of the Committee that the War Office, Air Ministry and Admiralty have issued a notification that ex-officers and ex-servicemen will be reviewed by Her Majesty The Queen on Sunday, July 5, 1953, in Hyde Park.

All O.C.A. Clubs have been circulated and a notice has been put in the March issue of the Journal. Members of the Regimental Association have been allotted 190 vacancies. In the event of applications being received in excess of 190 a ballot will be applied.

Ex-officer members of the Officers' Club will be circulated by the Secretary and a proportional allotment made.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1953, AT 5.10 P.M.

PRESENT—1st Battalion: Major G. C. Dawson (representing Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn). 2nd Battalion: Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E. 3rd Battalion: Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L. 4th Battalion: Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollock, M.C. 5th Battalion: Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O. 6th Battalion: Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P. 7th Battalion: Major W. D. Ellis, T.D. 8th Battalion: Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., A.D.C. 9th Battalion: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Depot: Major P. D. H. Marshall, R.S.M. P. Donovan. 1st Battalion: R.S.M. R. Tarrant. Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Chairman). Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

1. CHAIRMAN. Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Lt.-Col. Roberts was appointed an additional ex-officio member and elected Chairman.

2. REPRESENTATION. In opening the proceedings Lt.-Col. Roberts explained:—

(a) That ex-officio members consist of the Officers Commanding Battalions and Depot, together with representatives of disbanded Regular, Militia and Territorial Battalions. Also the R.S.M. of the Regular Battalion serving at home.

Each ex-officio member may nominate a representative if unable to attend any meeting.

(b) The duties of ex-officio members are:—

(i) To assist in the Management of the Regimental Association.

(ii) To elect up to 12 other "elected members" to the Regimental Association.

(c) A situation will arise after March next when O.C. Depot will be the sole representative of Regular Serving Officers and Other Ranks available to attend meetings of both ex-officio members and those of the Regimental Association.

This is obviously an inadequate representation of Regular Serving personnel and it is felt that other Regular Serving personnel available in this country should be appointed on ex-officio Regimental and Officers' Club Committees.

(d) There was a need for more O.R. representatives on the Regimental Association Committee.

3. MEMBERSHIP. The meeting approved:—

(i) That Major A. R. Waller, M.C., be elected a member of the Regimental Association vice Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, 2nd Battalion, after Col. Green vacates his present appointment.

(ii) That when the R.S.M. of the 1st Battalion was not serving in this country, the C.S.M., Depot, be nominated in his stead.

(iii) That the R.S.M. at the Depot be nominated as an additional ex-officio member.

4. FURTHER REPRESENTATION ON THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION. It was agreed that there should be more O.R.s' representatives on the Association. The following were invited to become members of the Regimental Association provided they were able to attend meetings:—

Mr. C. Holford, B.E.M. .. 7th Battalion.
R.S.M. L. Tostevin .. 7th Battalion.
C/Sgt. R. Dodkins .. Depot.
Mr. G. H. E. Duffield, J.P.
Mr. J. Bell, M.B.E.

5. PERSONAL. A letter from Col. Crawford was read tendering his resignation from the Regimental Association and Officers' Club Committees as he was now unable to attend meetings owing to residence in Scotland. The Committee accepted with great regret Col. Crawford's resignation. The Chairman paid a tribute to Col. Crawford's past zeal and activities on various Committees and stated he would write a letter on behalf of the Regimental Association to Col. Crawford.

6. OTHER BUSINESS.

(a) The Secretary was instructed to write to Lt.-Col. Gwyn and ask him to nominate a Regular Serving Officer to represent him at Association meetings whilst he was out of the country.

(b) The Secretary was also instructed to write to Mr. A. Todman to ascertain whether he wished to retire on account of business commitments.

(c) Lt.-Col. Green was asked to nominate a successor as ex-officio representative of the 2nd Battalion prior to proceeding to his new appointment.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6 p.m.

A. W. CLARK, Major,
Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.
Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.
March 11, 1953.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sirs,

I am so very sorry not to have answered your kind invitation before, but I have been abroad. Perhaps the Editors of *The Die-Hards* would be interested in the enclosed short notice.

Yours sincerely,

The Old Cookhouse,
Old Park Lanes,
Farnham, Surrey.
M. L. POOLE.

In St. George's Church, Ypres, Belgium, a small brass has been erected to the memory of Lt.-Col. Poole of The Middlesex Regiment. It is in the chancel just above the one to Lord French. The inscription reads:

"In memory of Lt.-Colonel Francis Garden Poole, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.L. (1870-1950), Middlesex Regiment, and his devoted work as Secretary and Treasurer, Ypres British Settlement, 1924-1949."

At the Patronal Festival this year, on April 26, this brass with three others was unveiled and dedicated by the Dean of Belgium, the Rev. Philip Moore, M.A.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON FEBRUARY 26, 1953, AT 4.50 P.M.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., A.D.C., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollock, M.C., Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major W. D. Ellis, T.D., Major P. D. H. Marshall, Major G. D. Dawson (representing Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn), Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Lt. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D.

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

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

3. *Secretary's Report.* The paid membership of the Club on December 31, 1952, was 205. Eleven additional members have joined the Club since January 1, 1953.

The following programme has been arranged for Cricket Week, 1953:

Friday, June 19—Officers' Club Dinner and "At Home" (Junior United Service Club).
Saturday, " 20—Cricket Club v. Free Foresters.
Sunday, " 21— " v. Hampstead Heathens.
Monday, " 22— " v. Cryptics.
Tuesday, " 23— " v. Incogniti.
Wednesday, " 24— " v. I. Zingari.
All the above matches to be played at Mill Hill.

4. *Audited Accounts for 1952.* The Committee approved that the Audited Accounts for 1952 be adopted.

5. *Grants—Officers' Club Charitable Fund.* (i) The Committee approved that, providing the Army Benevolent Fund Grant is received during the current year, the sum of £50 be transferred to the Officers' Club Charitable Fund.

(ii) That the Officers' Club make a grant of £15 to the Officers' Club Charitable Fund and that the latter fund then makes a donation of £25 to the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers in response to their rebuilding scheme appeal.

6. *Accounts.* The Committee approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to transfer £400 from Current to Deposit Account.

7. *Arms Day Refreshments.* Major Marshall explained to the Committee the expenditure of £15 is ad-incurred for refreshments for guests on Remembrance Day, 1952. It was approved that O.C. Depot be reimbursed this amount. It was also agreed that O.C. Depot be authorised to expend a sum not exceeding £15 for guests' refreshments on Remembrance Day, 1953.

8. *Entertainment of Mayors and Civic Authorities in Middlesex.* The Committee approved that a grant not exceeding £75 be made to O.C. Depot to enable him to entertain mayors and civic authorities of the county of Middlesex during 1953.

9. *Officers' Club Dinner and "At Home."* The Chairman informed the Committee that arrangements had been made for the "At Home" to be held at the Junior United Service Club on the afternoon of the Dinner, i.e. June 19, 1953.

10. *Grants—Officers' Club.* The following grants were authorised for 1953:

Cricket	..	..	..	..	£ s. d.
Dinner	..	..	..	..	150 0 0
At Home	..	..	..	..	75 0 0
Golf	..	..	..	..	40 0 0
Tennis	..	..	..	..	50 0 0
					25 0 0
					£340 0 0

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.

A. W. CLARK, Major,
Secretary, Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club.
Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.
March 11, 1953.

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

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Many people are aware that in the World Wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45, additional battalions of our Regiment were formed to meet the call for more Infantry the Queen of the Battlefield, and the Arm without which objectives can be neither seized nor held. This fact is often forgotten in times of peace.

In the 1914-18 war the growth of the Regiment out of four Regular and four Territorial Battalions (7th, 8th, 9th and 10th) forming a Middlesex Brigade (T.A.), and ably reinforced by two Militia Battalions, was unique in our long history. After war commenced all four Territorial Battalions were quadrupled and additional Service Battalions were raised. In all 46 Battalions stood to arms and 26 of these served in no less than ten theatres of war. The remainder acted in defence of Great Britain and other British possessions and trained the necessary reinforcements for the Field Battalions overseas.

Included in this category were the two Militia Battalions, 5th and 6th, which trained reinforcements and carried out defensive tasks in the Chatham area called The Nore. Their aid was beyond value.

In the 1939-45 War the Regiment started with two Regular Battalions and two Territorial Battalions.

Also there was a Territorial Regiment formerly the 9th Battalion, which prior to that war had first been selected for a R.E. Searchlight role, which later became an A.A. R.A. Regiment and is to-day 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)).

This former 9th Battalion from the start of its new role clung to the Regiment, in which it had served ever since 1907 when the T.A. was formed by Lord Haldane, and before that when it was a Volunteer Battalion. Many attempts to cut it away from its parent growth were resisted with vigour and tenacity. The Unit served at home to meet air attack and also in N.W. Europe.

In the T.A., Units of our Regiment rank second in the T.A. order of precedence and that is a source of pride and any attempt to ignore it is strongly resisted—not always successfully, as witness the order of March in the Coronation ceremonies of 1953, when the 7th Battalion takes its Regular Regimental order in accordance with War Office instructions, and not the T.A. order of precedence.

Differing in start time from the Great War, 1914-18, the two T.A. Battalions (7th and 8th) were doubled, and were numbered 1/7, 2/7, 1/8 and 2/8 not long before the war started in September, 1939. After the outbreak of war two more Battalions were formed for Home Defence and training purposes, namely, 10th Battalion (later renumbered 30th Battalion) and again later a Young Soldier Battalion (the 70th Battalion). Both these units lasted to all intents and purposes throughout the war.

All four Field Territorial Battalions fought overseas in N.W. Europe (inclusive at Dunkirk of 1/7 and 1/8). Service of the former 9th Battalion has already been stated.

The two Regular Battalions fought in Hong Kong,

1941 (1st Battalion) and in N.W. Europe (2nd Battalion), including Dunkirk Retreat.

The 1/7 Battalion fought at Dunkirk, in North Africa and Sicily and in N.W. Europe final campaign. The 2/7 Battalion fought in Sicily and Italy (to end of campaign).

The 1/8 Battalion was in action during the Retreat to Dunkirk and in the final campaign in N.W. Europe.

The 2/8 Battalion, after the capture of the 1st Regular Battalion in Hong Kong (Christmas, 1941), was reconstituted as the 1st Battalion and fought in the final N.W. Europe campaign.

It is, however, interesting to note that long years ago our 1st Battalion, then 57th Foot, formed a second unit called 2/57th Foot.

The causes for its birth resemble closely those which caused our T.A. Infantry Battalions to be doubled in number in the 1939-45 war. Also it is to be stated that never again were our Regular Units to be so treated (the 3rd and 4th Regular Battalions were formed during the South African War) in that they were not formed out of existing Regular Battalions, but were new growths.

The raising of the 2/57th took place in May, 1803, and was clearly due to the fear of invasion by Napoleon, which danger arose during the brief and uncertain period of history following the Peace of Amiens.

There seems no doubt from the early stations of this Battalion that it was intended to resist invasion, although later the Battalion was also required to provide drafts for the original 57th Regiment (never called, however, 1/57th as arose in the two later World Wars of the twentieth century).

The 2/57th was at first stationed at or near Ashford, Kent (not to be confused with Ashford, Middlesex), on formation, where the Record Office of our Regiment existed in the 1939-45 War, in which place, due to bombing, valuable historical records of our Regiment were destroyed, and as those of the 1st Battalion (in Regimental possession) were lost in Hong Kong, no duplicates exist, and Regimental research work is very handicapped, and always will be so.

In October, 1804, this 2/57th, after some eighteen months of existence, moved to Jersey, Channel Islands, where it provided for defence and also trained drafts to join the 57th overseas on garrison duty, and in the operations of the Peninsular War.

In August, 1811, the Unit moved to the Chichester area, being quartered in Steyning, Littlehampton, Eastbourne and Chichester.

In January, 1814, the Unit returned to Jersey. Many years later in the twentieth century and before the First World War, the 2nd Regular Battalion (77th Foot) was stationed in Guernsey (note the title of the Regiment was The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment), which had existed from the introduction of the Cardwell system in 1881, and so remained till just after the Great War, 1914-18, when the present title was adopted, much to the regret of the writer of this article).

The 2/57th, after some twelve years' existence, was disbanded in 1815, all effective personnel being sent to the 57th Foot.

A set of Colours of the Unit now rests in our Regimental Museum, and came from Gen. Sir Hew Dalrymple, a former Colonel of the 57th. In his time Colours were provided by Colonels of Regiments, and when no longer in use returned to the donor.

Lt. Rex Cain helped me in this article by finding the details of the 2/57th in *The Story of The Middlesex Regiment* by Kingsford, and I am much indebted to him.

Deaths

WARDEN.—On March 18, 1953, at Buckland-Tout-Saints, Kingsbridge, South Devon, Lt.-Col. C. W. Warden, 57th Regiment (Middlesex Regiment). Col. G. L. Brown attended the funeral on behalf of the Regiment.

CROSS.—Ex-C/Sgt. B. Cross died on March 25, 1953, and was buried at Wealdstone Cemetery on April 1. The Regiment was represented at his funeral by an N.C.O. of the Depot and Mr. C. Maggs, a member of the 9th Battalion O.C.A.

Ex-Cpl. Albert E. Cousins died on Tuesday, February 17, at Brookwood Hospital, where he had been a patient for some years. He served with the 11th Battalion in France during the 1914-18 War. A letter was sent to his widow and a wreath in Regimental Colours.

Lt.-Col. A. F. Randolph, C.M.G., D.S.O., died, at his home in Worthing on February 7 at the age of 87. He was the son of the late Canon E. J. Randolph and was born in 1865. Educated at Charterhouse and Sandhurst, he served with The Middlesex Regiment from 1884 to 1904. From 1905 to 1909 he was with the 3rd Battalion The Suffolk Regiment. During the 1914-18 war he served on the staff of 23 Division until 1917, and was subsequently at the Machine Gun Training Centre until 1919. In 1927 he was made a Deputy Lieutenant for Sussex.

Major R. T. Guscott, M.B.E., attended on behalf of the Regiment.

Obituary

Col. C. W. Warden

An old friend writes:

"The commission granted to Charles Wallace Warden in 1874 was probably the first commission obtained without payment; and the day he carried the colours into action in the Zulu campaign seems to have been the last time this was done. In the 1914 war he commanded the 16th Battalion The West Yorkshire Regiment, while under training. On the eve of the Battalion going overseas it was decided that he was too old to go. This was a great disappointment to all ranks, and a very bitter blow to him.

"He was a lightweight and fearless rider who was usually well up whether with hounds or in a steeplechase. At Derryquin he had ample facilities for sailing and shooting, but found time to take a close and personal

interest in his gardens, which were really good. The malignant activities of Sinn Fein resulted in his first wife's health being undermined and to their leaving Ireland. Subsequently he settled in Devon, where again he devoted much time to his estate and gardens, though like other landowners he had to resign himself to widespread deterioration during the recent war.

"For the greater part of his life he had occasional twinges to remind him of an encounter he had with an elephant some 70 years ago. The elephant ripped him from his waist to his neck, and then threw him away. His companion recovered him from the undergrowth, had him placed face downwards and then proceeded to fasten up the gash. C. W. W. was then carried face downwards on a litter till a doctor was available, when multiple injuries to his ribs and elsewhere were attended to."

Brig.-Gen. J. Hamilton Hall, C.M.G., D.S.O.

It is a feature of army life that those whose departure is at all noteworthy die twice, once when they retire and again when they finally fade away.

When Brig.-Gen. Hall retired a complete history of his career appeared in the *Journal of May, 1925*. When he died the obituary in the daily papers was an insult in its inadequacy and would have been better omitted, but it is not our intention, even so, to repeat the notice of 1925. Jackie Hall was not a popular hero, and never tried to be one, but he was a great regimental soldier who left an enduring mark on those who served under him.

I was too young to know him in the days when he was captain of the football and cricket XI's of the Battalion, and, in fact, I only met him when he took over the 1st Battalion in 1919. Having arrived at the Depot and seen the set-up, I was only too keen to get to a Unit. I was luckily asked if I would like to join the 1st Battalion Cadre. I said yes, and never could I have made a better decision.

I owed the fact that I was a Regular officer to Col. V. L. N. Pearson. To his careful watch I avoided a loss of 18 months' seniority, and when, thanks to his teaching, I found myself Adjutant to the 1st Battalion, Col. Pearson looked at me when we met at the Club, and said, "So you're Adjutant to Jackie Hall; pick his brains for all you are worth, he taught me all I know." Then, if not before, I realised that by a thorough grounding by Col. Pearson my path to success with Col. Hall had been made easy.

Jackie Hall was of a generation when a liver in the morning was common and it was wise to avoid him until he had broken his fast. Even after that he was quick to anger, but each burst of temper cleared the air and was over and done with. If you were wrong you had a storm burst over you, but if you were keen it passed directly. Having given me the most imperial rocket one morning he sat down to write Confidential Reports. After a short while his cricket-battered forefinger beckoned me, and he said, "Old boy, is this all right?" What he had written would have done justice to a Wellington or Alexander and bore no signs of the interlude of a short while before.

He had an almost impish sense of humour and delighted to go over to the 3rd Battalion and win an evening's bridge against Major Hingley, a member of the Portland Club, saying, "Old boy, let's go over and upset Hingley's theories." Having taken part in such evenings I can well understand the expert's horror at losing to such unconventional calling.

Before a certain C.-in-C.'s inspection, Jackie announced to the Q.M. and myself that on the great day every door must be unlocked and open except one. We then went round barracks and selected the exception, a small out of the way store room quite unused. The inspection went its stately way, and the C.-in-C. was polite but disappointed, until we reached the pre-arranged booby-trap. The closed door received a severe boot, and gave way, displaying a spotlessly clean, but useless little store. The inspection was a success.

It is often thought that 30 years ago officers did not work. That was not so with Lt.-Col. Hall as a C.O., and one might frequently be kept working until midnight, sorting out the Battalion roles of personnel and planning for the future. He achieved his object and I believe the 1st Battalion were able to account for everyone on their books before any other unit and had the unique experience of having Records apply to them for information rather than the normal reverse procedure.

He loved the Battalion's games and apart from playing cricket himself and giving much sage advice, he used to horrify his senior officers by refusing to be enclosed by the sacred area of fireplace—settee and arm chairs kept for senior officers—and would break out and talk to Captains and Subalterns about the day's football.

After his retirement he was seen very little and ill-health kept him out of social affairs for a long time, but I feel that apart from all that he intentionally cut himself off and preferred not to hang on the fringe of things which he had run and even initiated years before, such as the Regimental Association. He was, I believe, intimate with few, he was feared by many, but he was respected and revered by those who had really been his students.

EX-ADJUTANT.

Brig.-Gen. Wright, V.C.

Brig.-Gen. Wallace Duffield Wright, V.C., who was awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery during the Kano-Sokoto expedition in West Africa in 1903, died at his home at Chobham, Surrey, on Wednesday, March 25, at the age of 77.

Born at Gibraltar on September 20, 1875, he was the son of the late J. S. Wright. He was gazetted to the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) in 1896. In the course of the operations on the North-West Frontier, he was severely wounded. After nearly five years' service, Wright was attracted by the stories he had heard of service conditions in Nigeria, and accordingly he took up employment under the Colonial Office with the West African Frontier Force in Northern Nigeria.

The day on which his conduct was so conspicuously brave that he was recommended for the Victoria Cross was March 24, 1903. The enemy were advancing in

great strength when Wright took up a position directly in their path. Although he had with him only one officer and 44 men he repulsed for two hours the repeated and determined charges of 1,000 horse and 2,000 foot. Wright's little party inflicted severe losses upon the enemy, who at last began to fall back in good order. Not satisfied with the great success he had already achieved he gathered his men together and pursued the retiring enemy to such good purpose that they were soon in full retreat.

His first employment as a staff officer after graduating from the Staff College, Camberley, was at the War Office, where he served as G.S.O.3 from 1909 to 1911. He was then appointed Brigade Major, 3 Brigade, Aldershot Command, which post he held until January, 1914, when he was selected to be G.S.O.2, for service with the West African Frontier Force. When the operations in the Cameroons had been successfully concluded Wright returned to England with the object of proceeding to France, an ambition which was gratified in 1916. He remained on the Western Front for the remainder of the war. He was appointed to command 3rd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment on August 14, 1920, and commanded them until they were disbanded on September 1, 1922.

In 1927 he retired, having been appointed C.B. the year before. It was not Wright's nature, however, to pass his time in idle leisure, and his friends were not surprised when he turned from military matters to politics. His opportunity came in the autumn of 1928, when a Parliamentary vacancy was caused by the death of Major Kenyon-Slaney, M.P. for the Tavistock Division of Devon. He continued to represent the constituency in the Unionist interest until 1931, when he did not seek re-election. During the earlier part of the last war he held important posts in the A.R.P. service in the West Country. He was a member of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms from 1932 to 1950.

In 1919 he married, in Paris, Flora MacDonald, daughter of the late R. H. Berwick, of Atlanta, Georgia, who survives him together with a daughter of the marriage.

Col. William Garner, C.M.G., T.D., D.L.

The death of Col. William Garner, C.M.G., T.D., D.L., at Budleigh Salterton, Devon, severs one of the few remaining links of the old Volunteers. He joined the 2nd (V.B.) Middlesex in the 1890s as subaltern in the Uxbridge Company. The formation of the Territorial Army in 1907 found him as second-in-command of the 8th Battalion and in 1911 he took over command. He and his wife gave unstinted service in the years before the 1914-18 war in bringing the Battalion up to strength and to a high standard of efficiency. By August 1914, the Battalion was over establishment with a high percentage of volunteers for overseas,

earning the distinction of being an Imperial Service Battalion. For the first six months the 8th did garrison duty in Gibraltar, going to France in 1915. The carnage round Ypres virtually wiped out the Battalion. Garner was wounded and on recovery he took command of a training battalion in England, being awarded the C.M.G. in 1917. After the war he became Honorary Colonel of the 8th Battalion, remaining so until the Battalion changed its style and title after the Second World War.

He will always be remembered as a kindly man, with a high sense of duty. With the hard work in training there was a keen appreciation of the value of the social side. The annual prize-givings, the children's parties and the entertaining he and his wife did in their house at Hounslow laid the foundations of a happy unit. If our generation would set ourselves their standards volunteering would become a real pleasure.

He is survived by his son, William, who served with the 3rd Battalion and now lives in Burnham, Bucks.

To him all old 8th officers and men extend our thanks and our sympathy.

COL. MAX SUMMERS.

Reprinted from the *London Gazette* dated December 30, 1952 (extract).

The Newton Driver Services Club Rustington, Sussex

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Telephone: Rustington 377 or 1444.

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

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1952

		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
ACCUMULATED CAPITAL FUND:				ESTATE ACCOUNT (1-20 Albuhera Close):			
Balance January 1, 1952		34,093	6 11	Balance January 1, 1952		37,407	14 1
Add: Donations		393	7 10	Additional expenditure during year to complete		4,187	19 9
Covenant (net)		37	10 0	Note.—The above houses have been built on land held on lease expiring 2148.			
Income Tax deducted from Covenants received year to April 5, 1952		135	14 4	CASH AT BANK		2	2 3
				CASH IN HAND		1	0 0
Less: Secretary's expenses		10	0 0				
Postages and cheque book		1	3 0			3	2 3
			11 3 0				41,658 16 1
			34,648 16 1	DEBTORS:			
LOAN ACCOUNT:				Tenants—			
Enfield Urban District Council		6,917	8 5	Net amount re Rates, gas and electricity		46	10 11
LOAN REDEMPTION RESERVE		82	11 7	Rent and maintenance		8	0
CREDITOR:							46 18 11
Regimental Association—Balance of loan		10	0 0	INSURANCES PAID IN ADVANCE			33 15 0
			41,658 16 1	CASH AT BANK			304 1 2
ACCUMULATED INCOME FUND:							
Balance January 1, 1952		194	5 4				
Less: Adjustment of error in Accounts to Dec. 31, 1951		130	11 5				
			63 13 11				
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for year		147	1 10				
			210 15 10				
SUSPENSE ACCOUNT:							
Housing grant received from Enfield U.D.C. for period April 1, 1951, to September 30, 1952		470	0 0				
Less: Interest on loan		169	13 7				
Amortisation provision		82	11 7				
			252 5 2				
			217 14 10				
CREDITORS:							
Audit fee		15	15 0				
Income Tax deducted from Ground Rent		9	6				
			16 4 6				
			£42,103 11 2				£42,103 11 2

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1952

EXPENDITURE		£ s. d.	INCOME		£ s. d.
To Insurances		47 7 0	By Rents		280 0 0
Salary—Housing Manager		25 0 0	Maintenance receipts		52 0 0
Audit fee		15 15 0			
Postages and cheque book		1 3 1			
Ground rent (gross)		1 0 0			
Prizes for Garden Competition		6 0 0			
Repairs and maintenance:					
Cookers and refrigerators		15 12 2			
Pathway		4 3 10			
Sundry		3 4 0			
Fencing and privet hedges		45 13 1			
		68 13 1			
Balance, surplus for the year transferred to Accumulated Fund		147 1 10			
		£312 0 0			£312 0 0

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information supplied and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

4 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.
February 11, 1953.

HALL, WINDER & CO., Chartered Accountants.

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF THE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT

1951 Total		Renny Fund	Association Fund	Total
£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
47,776	ACCUMULATED FUNDS:			
	Balance January 1, 1952	22,083 10 7	25,694 8 1	47,776 7 8
	Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	88 0 7	635 1 9	723 2 4
	Less Loss of sales of Investments per annexed schedule	22,172 0 2	26,327 9 10	48,499 10 0
		172 18 7	201 9 7	374 8 2
		21,999 1 7	26,126 0 3	48,125 1 10
149	CREDITORS:			
	Audit fee	15 15 0	22 1 0	37 16 0
	Grant due to Die-Hards Journal		181 16 7	181 16 7
	REGIMENTAL HISTORY			
925	Balance January 1, 1952		925 10 0	925 10 0
	Subscriptions for copies in advance	9 3 4		9 3 4
5	Less Expenditure during year	13 0		13 0
			8 9 7	8 9 7
2,014	MRS. M. RENNY LEGACY:			
	Balance January 1, 1952	2,014 1 4		2,014 1 4
	Add Interest for year	15 14 3		15 14 3
			2,029 15 7	2,029 15 7
£50,869		£22,014 16 7	£29,293 13 0	£51,308 9 7

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR

1951 Total	EXPENDITURE	Renny Fund	Association Fund	Total
£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
50	To GRANTS AND ALLOWANCES:			
37	Regular Forces Employment Association		50 0 0	50 0 0
5	Sundry charities		44 18 0	44 18 0
1,969	Depot Chapel		5 0 0	5 0 0
	Individual cases	461 15 8	1,534 11 9	1,996 7 5
		461 15 8	1,634 9 0	2,096 5 8
2,061	Wreaths		19 0 6	19 0 6
32	O.C.A. Reunions		106 0 0	106 0 0
112	ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:			
82	Postages	13 1	78 10 1	79 11 2
63	Printing and stationery	15 7 0	84 13 5	99 10 5
543	Salaries and expenses	164 0 0	423 17 0	587 17 0
39	Travelling and office expenses		55 5 10	55 5 10
4	Cheque books		4 0 2	4 0 2
38	Audit Fee	15 15 0	22 1 0	37 16 0
11	Extra copies of 1950 accounts			
112	Grant—Die-Hards Journal—Deficiency for year		181 16 7	181 16 7
5	Spion Kop Reunion			
11	Hong Kong Roll of Honour			
65	Hong Kong Memorial Plaque			
72	Men's Memorial Plaque			
48	Opening ceremony—War Memorial Homes			
8	Remembrance Day expenses			
	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR	88 0 7	635 1 9	723 2 4
£3,306		£745 11 4	£3,244 16 1	£3,990 7 5

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information supplied
4 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.
February 11, 1953.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT CHARITABLE FUND

DECEMBER 31, 1952

1951 Total		Renny Fund	Association Fund	Total
£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
47,243	INVESTMENTS PER ANNEXED SCHEDULE:			
	(a) At cost			
	(b) At mid-market price at December 31, 1938			
	(c) At cost	21,898 8 11	2,740 7 11	46,864 17 7
	(Mid-market value December 31, 1952—£39,234)			
1	FURNITURE AND FITTINGS AT NOMINAL VALUE		1 0 0	1 0 0
41	STOCKS AT COST:			
	Badges		7 12 2	7 12 2
	Regimental ties		10 4 0	10 4 0
	LOAN—WAR MEMORIAL FUND CAPITAL ACCOUNT		10 0 0	10 0 0
1,570	CASH AT BANKERS	116 7 8	1,334 13 0	1,334 13 0
	Regimental History		933 19 7	933 19 7
2,014	MRS. M. RENNY LEGACY:			
	Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Deposit Account		20 15 7	20 15 7
	Investment at cost, per annexed schedule		2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0
	(Mid-market value December 31, 1952—£2,083)			
			2,029 15 7	2,029 15 7
£50,869		£22,014 16 7	£29,293 13 0	£51,308 9 7

THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1952

1951 Total	INCOME	Renny Fund	Association Fund	Total
£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
450	By GRANTS AND ALLOWANCES:			
	Army Benevolent Fund		1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0
14	51st Highland Division Trust Fund		20 0 0	20 0 0
690	M.C.C. Sunday Entertainments Fund		517 10 0	517 10 0
19	O.C. Depot, Middlesex Regiment		30 15 6	30 15 6
110	P.R.I., 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment		168 10 8	168 10 8
10	P.R.I., 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment		10 0 0	10 0 0
	Band President, 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment		73 15 10	73 15 10
10	217th Battalion Middlesex Regiment		25 0 0	25 0 0
	O.C., 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment		10 0 0	10 0 0
	O.C., 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), (9th Battalion)		20 0 0	20 0 0
	17th Battalion balance of funds		39 17 3	39 17 3
1,303	"DIE-HARDS" CLUBS AND O.C.A.S:		1,915 9 3	1,915 9 3
2	Hornsey			
3	Uxbridge		1 19 6	1 19 6
2	Hounslow			
3	Mill Hill		2 19 6	2 19 6
6	217th Battalion O.C.A.		8 13 0	8 13 0
6	9th Battalion O.C.A.		5 6 0	5 6 0
16	Staines			
1	Ealing			
1	Romford			
9	12th Battalion O.C.A.			
382	SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS		450 2 6	450 2 6
1,536	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS (GROSS)		847 1 3	1,592 12 7
1	PROFIT ON SALE OF O.C.A. BADGES	745 11 4		745 11 4
7	PROFIT ON SALE OF REGIMENTAL TIES		1 17 6	1 17 6
4	W.V.S. REFUND OF POSTAGES			
24	EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME FOR YEAR			
£3,306		£745 11 4	£3,244 16 1	£3,990 7 5

and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

HALL, WINDER & CO., Chartered Accountants.

OFFICERS' CLUB ACCOUNT

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1952

1951 £	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1951 £	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
3,838			3,521		
ACCUMULATED FUND:			INVESTMENTS at cost per annexed schedule		
Balance January 1, 1952 ..	3,838	4 0	(Mid-market value at December 31, 1952—£3,570.)	3,686	12 4
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ..	126	8 6	258 CASH AT BANKERS ..	220	8 0
	3,964	12 6	63 DEBITOR:		
Less Losses on sales of Investments ..	89	1 6	6th Battalion Funds ..		
		3,875	26 STOCK OF TIES ..	5	5 0
25 PROVISION FOR INCOME TAX ON 3% DEFENCE BOND INTEREST ..			8 STOCK OF CRICKET BALLS ..	5	11 0
9 CREDITORS:			507 HELD IN TRUST FOR 3RD BATTALION:		
Audit fee ..	9	9 0	Investment at cost per annexed schedule ..	509	10 4
P.M.C., Depot Mess ..	15	1 4	Cash not re-invested ..	2	6 3
595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A., re Cricket Week ..	12	10 0	(Mid-market value December 31, 1952—£510.)	511	16 7
		37			
4 SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID IN ADVANCE ..		5 5 0			
507 FUNDS HELD IN TRUST FOR 3RD BATTALION:					
Balance January 1, 1952 ..	506	16 7			
Add Profit on sale of Investment ..	5	0 0			
		511			
£4,383		£4,429	£4,383		£4,429

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1952

1951 £	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1951 £	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
30			476		
To Donations:			By Subscriptions and Entrance Fees ..	474	13 4
P.M.C. for Depot Mess ..	30	0 0	26 " Interest on Investments:		
Wellington College ..	5	5 0	Net ..	55	15 0
Wellington Gymkhana Club ..	2	10 0	Gross ..	19	10 5
15 Royal School for Daughters of Officers ..		37	75	5 5	
45 " Expenses of Cricket Week ..	164	16 11	78 " Interest on Investments held in Trust for 3rd Battalion Middlesex Regiment:		
37 " Less Receipts ..	30	0 0	Net ..		
		134	Gross ..	19	10 4
150 " Golf Meeting ..	184	8 6	11 " Profit on Sales of Officers' Club Ties ..	4	0 6
37 " Dinner ..	117	6 0	3 " Receipts from Cocktail Party ..	55	11 0
108 " Less Receipts ..		67	2 " Less Expenses ..	54	15 3
40 " "At Home" ..	19	11 3	21 " Profit on Sale of Investments ..		15 9
10 " Less Receipts ..	6	12 6			
21 " M.C.C. Season Ticket ..		12			
9 " Wreaths ..		9			
10 " Remembrance Day Expenses ..		4			
5 " Administration Expenses:		15			
Salary and Expenses ..	60	0 0			
42 Postages, Printing and Stationery ..	36	8 6			
9 " Audit Fee ..	9	9 0			
		105			
111 " Expenses of Visit to Mons ..		10			
21 " Income Tax on 3% Defence Bonds ..		3			
100 " Donation to Regimental History ..					
40 " Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ..		126			
£589		£574	£589		£574

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information supplied and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.
4 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.
February 11, 1953.

HALL, WINDER & CO., Chartered Accountants.

COTTAGE HOMES ACCOUNT

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1952

1951 £	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1951 £	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
3,632			678		
ACCUMULATED FUND:			INVESTMENTS PER ANNEXED SCHEDULE:		
Balance at January 1, 1952 ..	3,631	16 0	(a) At Mid-Market value, December 31, 1938 ..	678	3 9
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ..	14	9 2	(b) At Cost or Par Value ..	1,195	13 3
	3,646	5 2	(Mid-Market Value December 31, 1952, £1,526.)	1,873	17 0
PROVISION FOR FUTURE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE:			1,874		
200 Grant from Regimental Association Charitable Fund ..	200	0 0	1,653		
133 Less Expenditure on Repairs and Renewals to date ..	133	10 0	PROPERTY ACCOUNT at Cost ..	1,653	0
		66	DEBITOR:		
67		66	Eastern Command ..		11 0 0
2 CREDITOR:			174 CASH AT BANKERS ..		176 19 7
Audit Fee ..		2 2 0			
£3,701		£3,714	£3,701		£3,714

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1952

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
1951 £		£ s. d.	1951 £		£ s. d.
24	To Land Agent, Eastern Command, for rent	24 0 0	22	By Grant from Eastern Command in aid of rent	22 0 0
6	„ Water Rate	5 15 4	58	„ Interest from Investments (gross)	57 14 4
12	„ Insurance	13 17 0			
2	„ Audit fee	2 2 0			
34	„ Repairs and maintenance	19 10 10			
2	„ Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	14 9 2			
£80		£79 14 4	£80		£79 14 4

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information supplied and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.
4 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.
February 11, 1953.

HALL, WINDER & CO., Chartered Accountants.

OFFICERS' CLUB CHARITABLE FUND
BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1952

1951 £	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1951 £	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,409			1,141		
ACCUMULATED FUND:			INVESTMENTS at cost per annexed schedule		
Balance January 1, 1952 ..	1,408	12 2	(Mid-market value Dec. 31, 1952—£1,230.)	1,269	5 8
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ..	30	0 10	270 CASH AT BANKERS ..	99	11 6
	1,438	13 0			
Less Loss on sale of Investment ..	71	17 10			
		1,366			
CREDITOR:					
Audit fee ..		2 2 0			
£1,411		£1,368	£1,411		£1,368

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1952

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
1951 £		£ s. d.	1951 £		£ s. d.
37	To Grants	5 5 0	50	By Grant from Army Benevolent Fund ..	
—	„ Donation: ..		36	„ Dividends from Investments (gross) ..	42 12 10
	King Edward VII Wireless Appeal ..	5 5 0			
2	„ Audit fee ..	2 2 0			
47	„ Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	30 0 10			
£86		£42 12 10	£86		£42 12 10

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information supplied and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.
4 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.
February 11, 1953.

HALL, WINDER & CO., Chartered Accountants.

THE "DIE-HARDS" JOURNAL
BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1952

1951 £		£	s.	d.	1951 £		£	s.	d.
73	ACCUMULATED FUND:				25	MUSEUM at cost	25	0	0
	Balance January 1, 1952 ..	72	18	3		DEBTORS:			
91	BANK OVERDRAFT	191	4	1	11	Units for bulk issues	31	10	0
40	SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID IN ADVANCE ..	45	6	3	61	Advertisements	69	0	0
	CREDITORS:								
4	Audit fee	4	4	0	72				
2	Income Tax on deposit interest ..				2	STOCK OF JOURNALS	100	10	0
					111	ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE FUND:	6	6	0
						Grant due for year to date ..	181	16	7
£210		£313	12	7	£210		£313	12	7

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1952

1951 £	EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.	1951 £	INCOME	£	s.	d.
467	To cost of printing and distribution (four issues)	594	16	4	213	By Advertisements	258	5	9
60	„ Salary and expenses	60	0	0	4	„ Interest on Post Office Savings Bank deposit			
6	„ Sundries	9	9	6	220	„ Subscriptions	228	7	6
4	„ Audit fee	4	4	0	111	„ Grant from Association Charitable Fund being excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	181	16	7
11	„ Income Tax, Schedule "D"						£668	9	10
£548		£668	9	10	£548				

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information supplied and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

4 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.
February 11, 1953.

HALL, WINDER & CO., Chartered Accountants.

**"WE TILT AT THE TELEGRAPH" OR
"Peppering Peterborough"**

In March there appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* under "London Day by Day" written by "Peterborough" a reference to Lord Woolton's recovery. This ended with the words, "The spirit of the Fusiliers at Albuhera is not incongruous in the architect of the Conservative victory in 1951. His recovery is perhaps due more to that spirit than to 'red meat.'"

This was too much for your Editor, who immediately wrote and said that whilst he had no desire to detract from our Fusilier comrades, surely "Peterborough" would have been more correct in likening Lord Woolton's spirit to that of the 57th at Albuhera.

Nothing daunted we received the following from E. R. Cooke, Esq., the Managing Editor: "I am obliged for your letter of the 11th inst., about our 'Peterborough' paragraph on Lord Woolton. I can assure you that we were correct in referring to the Fusiliers at Albuhera. If you will read Napier (Book 12) on the Battle you will find that the formation which won the Battle of Albuhera was the so-called 'Fusilier Brigade,' which was composed of the 7th and 23rd Regiments."

We replied: "Ref. 'Peterborough' on the Fusiliers at Albuhera. I thank you for the courtesy of your

reply CRC/T of 18th March and very much regret the labour I must have caused for someone who had to look up Napier (Book 12). This is no wordy warfare and I accept the fact that 'Peterborough' had in mind the counter-attack which the then Colonel Hardinge, as Staff Officer, directed on his own responsibility.

"In Woolright's History of the 57th Regiment, p. 166, you will find that he says: 'The splendid charge of these troops (4th Division) led by the 7th and 23rd Fusiliers finally decided the battle.'

"As I said in the first place, I accept your explanation, of course, but I suggest that Lord Woolton has shown the spirit of the "Die-Hards" on Albuhera ridge rather than that of the 4th Division.

"As Chief Editor of the *Die-Hards Journal* I trust you will not object to me publishing your letter if, as is possible, I am pestered with questions about the rather curious anomaly."

I received in reply the following: "I am obliged for your further letter of the 23rd instant. Of course I have no objection to your quoting my reply." Unfortunately we are under a gentleman's agreement not to publish the last part of his letter. But in case anyone read "Peterborough" and saw the particular reference, we mention this correspondence to show that we sometimes read a paper and at least make the Managing Editor's stooge search Napier up to Book 12 in what we feel was an orderly retreat.