

# The Die Hards

## THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. XI No. 3

SEPTEMBER, 1953

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

(57th and 77th)

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

"Mysore," "Serangapatam," "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," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17, 18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume, 1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Ploeghem," "Langemark, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcapelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Bailleur," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Deirran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumania," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

#### Regular Battalion

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

#### Militia Battalions

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

#### Territorial Army Battalions

7th Bn. (1/7th Bn. and 2/7th Bn. amalgamated after 1939-45 War.  
8th Bn. Now 11 Bn. The Parachute Regiment (8th Bn. Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A.).  
9th Bn. Now 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regt. R.A.  
(9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment, (D.C.O.) T.A.).

#### Affiliated Unit

H.M. Royal Navy, H.M.S. Unicorn.

#### Dominion and Colonial Alliance

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

##### NEW ZEALAND

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

##### HONG KONG REGIMENT

British Army Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.

Colonel of the Regiment: Lt-General G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C.  
Officer Commanding 1st Battalion: Lt-Col. R. A. Gwyn.  
Officer Commanding Depot: Major P. D. H. Marshall.  
Officer Commanding 7th Battalion: Lt-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D.

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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.

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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

The Coronation is now a thing of the past, and whether one was watching in person on the route or on television, supplemented by a visit to a film to get the colour, it was a magnificent day.

Personally we had one great disappointment. Having sat with eyes glued to the television for hours, wrapt in the majesty and pageantry of the actual Coronation, one had hoped to see and identify the Regiment in the marching columns. We think we did identify them but were reminded of an occasion when, having just become the proud owner of a Cine Kodak we took F. O. Sweeney running the first 50 yds. of a 100 yds. he did in 9.8 seconds; the film was alright but unfortunately it was over before the audience realised what was on.

### CONGRATULATIONS

(a) To Lt.-Col. G. Lerwill, O.B.E., Major I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., and Major J. Bywaters, M.B.E., who were awarded the honours shown in the Coronation Honours List.

(b) In quite another sphere, to Sir Hildreth Glyn-Jones, T.D., late of the 7th Battalion, who has been appointed one of Her Majesty's Judges. It would appear that his first case is most certainly his cup of tea as he is an expert on poisons.

(c) To Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., on becoming a Brigadier in Transjordan. Being a very thorough officer he took pains to have Arabic lessons before leaving.

### AN APOLOGY

We deeply regret that the photograph of H.M. the Queen, reproduced in our last issue, was placed on page 47 and not on page 48 as arranged. The error was not made by anyone at Mill Hill and an apology has been received from the printers where the transferring occurred.

## Forthcoming Event

### "FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE"

The Annual Regimental Ceremony on our Plot in the Field of Remembrance and Westminster Abbey will this year take place on Saturday morning, November 7, 1953, at 11 a.m. All those who wish to be present should be in position by 10.45 a.m.

## Westminster Abbey Appeal

The following amounts have been received to the Appeal for Repairs to Westminster Abbey:—

	£	s.	d.
Col. M. Browne .. .. .	10	0	0
9th Battalion Middlesex Regiment O.C.A. Club .. .. .	3	3	0
O.C. 7th Battalion .. .. .	2	2	0
Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall .. .. .	1	1	0
Brigadier A. E. Green .. .. .	10	0	0
O.C. 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.) (T.A.) .. .. .	5	5	0
Major P. L. Pearce Gould .. .. .	5	0	0
2/Lt. D. K. McCullum .. .. .	3	3	0
Lt.-Col. W. H. C. Davy .. .. .	1	1	0
O.C. 1st Battalion .. .. .	30	0	0
O.C. Depot .. .. .	5	0	0
Total received to date .. .. .	£56	15	0

## A Note on the Officers' Pensions Society

The Officers' Pensions Society is an association of retired officers, widows, and the relatives of serving and retired officers. It was formed in 1946 with the objects of procuring improvement in retired pay and pensions of officers and their dependants, and promoting the interests of its members.

The Society is the only body comprising officer members of the three Armed Services, whose policy is controlled solely by its members. It is non-party, and the members of its council are unpaid. Gen. The Lord Jeffreys is its President, and it has the active support of many distinguished officers of the three Services.

The recent increases in officers' widows' pensions, which had remained basically unaltered for over 100 years, and the abolition of the widows' means test were achieved by the efforts of the Society, the support of other Service associations, and the representations by Members of Parliament.

Officers have now realised the necessity of having an organisation to represent their interests in these matters, and the Society's membership of over 6,700 is rapidly increasing.

Full particulars and membership application forms can be obtained from—

The General Secretary,

Officers' Pensions Society, Ltd.,

79 Petty France,

Westminster, London, S.W.1.

# 1st Battalion Notes

BATTALION EDITOR:—MAJOR I. R. BURROWS, O.B.E.

Before the Battalion arrived in Zeltweg the camp had the reputation of being a "bad station," and the attitude of the local Austrian population was rumoured to be anything but friendly. It is good to be able to report that the improvement in the camp and in the relations between the British Army and the Austrians, which was so noticeable during our first six weeks here, has steadily improved throughout the past three months. It seems a long time now since all ranks were confined to camp on May Day, on the advice of the local Public Safety authorities, lest there would be "incidents" as a result of the local Communist or Nationalist sympathisers. Moreover, the more friendly spirit which we believe now exists, as least as regards a large proportion of local inhabitants, is not due only to the fact that the Battalion has provided band concerts in local towns and has entertained the Austrians at football matches and the massed bands display. These activities have undoubtedly helped very greatly, but basically we believe that the all-important factor is that the Austrians respect a Battalion which has pride in itself and its traditions and which has shown a determination to live in friendship with its neighbours.

Within the camp itself improvements continue and the green lawns, flower beds, new trees and well-kept playing fields are the envy of our many visitors.

We have now, with the aid of the Field Squadron's bulldozer, constructed an excellent 100 yd. range just outside the camp perimeter. An old slag heap provides an efficient stop butt and at the time of writing the Battalion's rifle team, under the leadership of Major Battye, is putting in many hours of practice in preparation for the forthcoming B.T.A. Rifle Meeting.

The new N.A.A.F.I. building, with its spacious restaurant, W.V.S. rooms, tavern and adjoining Corporals' Club, opened in May—nearly two months behind schedule. But all are agreed it was well worth waiting for since it is without doubt the best of its kind the Battalion has enjoyed since well before the war.

An adjacent concrete building, formerly garages, has now been converted into a fair-sized cinema, and we hope that this will be enlarged to accommodate a 35 mm. projector and sound screen together with up-to-date theatre facilities by the time winter arrives.

Approval has also been given for the building of a squash court which will be of immense value to us during the snowy months when normal outdoor games are virtually impossible.

The garrison bookshop, run by Miss Metcalfe of the Y.W.C.A., is now functioning, though many of its fittings and display cabinets are yet to arrive. In the same building is the attractively furnished Wives' Club Room and the new N.A.A.F.I. families' shop.

The children's school is now finished and will be put into use when the September term begins, while the

church merely needs the final decoration and furnishing.

Perhaps our greatest triumph in the world of "self help" has been the completion of a large swimming bath outside the N.A.A.F.I. block. A rectangular pit, some 20 yd. by 10 yd., was first dug out and its sides faced with boarding. Six large tarpaulins sewn together by the shoemakers and tarred along the seams were then lowered in and fastened. Some old wooden hangar doors make excellent surrounds and a conveniently placed fire hydrant provides a ready supply of (icy) water.

Great praise must go to our G.E. (Lt. Wise) for his technical advice and assistance, and to Mr. Tarrant for his enthusiasm and driving force behind this somewhat ambitious project. The bath was "declared open" by Phillip Gwyn, who plunged in and swam two lengths before it was half full!

### SPRING TRAINING

From November last year, when the advance party left and the Battalion started packing up in Hong Kong, until early April, when we finally got settled in Zeltweg, no real training had been possible. During the same period some 200 men had joined us and 130 had left—the majority of whom were specialists. Intensive activity was therefore necessary to make up for the lost six months, to build up the depleted specialist platoons and N.C.O. ranks, to train and balance the rifle companies and to create and exercise an almost entirely new Battalion H.Q.

Time was indeed short if the Battalion was to make any showing in the B.T.A. spring manoeuvres which were to begin in the middle of May.

Rifle company exercises, cadres, convoy drives, signal exercises, T.E.W.Ts, H.Q. schemes and model discussions all clamoured for inclusion in the full training programme. Everyone worked with a will and proved that no amount of unkind weather, including blinding snowstorms, could damp their enthusiasm.

Exercise "Blossom" began early on May 15 and last for five days in beautiful sunny weather amidst the most picturesque scenery. It is doubtful if there have been many major exercises which have been more enjoyed by all who took part—at the same time by the end, though short of sleep and very dirty, we all felt we had learnt a great deal about operating in this difficult and rugged terrain.

With only two rifle companies taking part, and the Battalion operating alone on an isolated axis, many interesting situations developed during the initial three days' withdrawal, and *ad hoc* formations, somewhat novel deployments and impromptu transport and communication arrangements were very much the order of the day.

All parts of the Battalion were fully exercised and kept



alert by an energetic enemy who performed remarkable feats of endurance and mountaineering skill in his continual endeavour to encircle our forward positions and disrupt our long and tortuous lines of communication.

After a successful withdrawal we established a strong defensive position on the hills overlooking the River Mur, and the Regimental flag was soon to be observed flying proudly from the ruined keep of an ancient Austrian castle—the vital ground in the “B” Company area.

“C” Company gallantly beat off a succession of strong armoured and infantry attacks, while a composite force made up of eager volunteers from “A” and “B” Echelons dug in to await the expected enveloping movement down the valley to our rear.

The main enemy thrust, however, was switched and it fell to our friends, the Cameron Highlanders, on the far side of the river, to fight the last battle of the exercise—to the accompaniment of the skirl of their pipes and the formidable explosions of the many American training aids.

Everyone will have his own memories of it, but all remember two amazing escapes; a platoon of “C” Company were in a three-tonner when it turned over during the very long approach march and the only injury was one bruised knee, and later in the exercise five men of the Battalion and the driver were just clear of a burning R.A.M.C. ambulance before its brake cables snapped and it careered backwards down a hill and over a 200-ft. cliff. Happier reminiscences are the capture of the American “enemy” company commander on our front by Lt. I. S. Rutherford, and the C.O.’s completely successful determination to “defeat the umpires as well as the enemy” when held by a retaliatory night ambush set up by the same American company.

#### ALBUHERA DAY

It was naturally a disappointment that the Battalion—apart from “A” Company on detachment in Vienna—was unable to celebrate Albuhera Day on the day itself owing to the B.T.A. exercise. The celebrations on May 8 and 9, however, were extremely successful and most enjoyable. The Drums Beat Reveille around the camp with traditional vigour on the 8th, undeterred by a reception involving buckets of water and a stout defence of locked doors in at least one area. On the morning of the 9th they remedied their having omitted to serenade the married quarters in Gypsy Wood on the previous day; all those dwellers in Gypsy Wood who had been most hospitably entertained in the Sergeants’ Mess on the evening before made a mental note to ensure that Reveille after Albuhera Day in future years should be unheralded by loud drumming or the strident sound of bugles.

A very full Albuhera programme included a victory by the W.O.s and Sergeants over the Officers at hockey, an excellent football match (Corporals and Lance-Corporals v. Privates), a 22 rifle competition, won by “C” Company, an inter-Company football tournament, a display of the Regimental silver and an athletic meeting. No one was surprised to see the R.S.M. streak away with the old soldiers’ race, and everyone was equally

delighted to see him manage to find a prize for every child who entered in the children’s race. Mrs. Battye proved that she can both peel a potato and run to the finishing tape with remarkable speed, and was greeted by an admiring cheer of “Well run, Mrs. ‘C’ Company.”

The officers very greatly enjoyed entertaining the W.O.s and Sergeants in the Officers’ Mess, and the ceremony of the Albuhera Cup, from hand to hand of officers, W.O.s and Sergeants, in the Sergeants’ Mess in the evening, and the very generous hospitality of the Sergeants’ Mess which followed it, were in the best traditions of the Regiment. Capt. R. A. Hodge (Messing Officer) and his staff provided an excellent Albuhera supper for the Corporals, Lance-Corporals and Privates.

On Sunday, May 10, the Battalion held a Drumhead Service, which we were lucky enough to have almost completed before the heavens opened and slashed us with driving sleet as we marched off the parade ground.

#### WARMBAD RANGES

Almost immediately on our return to Zeltweg we began sending Companies in turn to Warmbad Ranges for classification. The ranges lie in the wooded, hilly country in the south-west of the British Zone, towards the Italian frontier, and are served by a small tented camp which Capt. “Naps” Jordan took over with a small semi-permanent staff. Under his excellent administration each Company thoroughly enjoyed its six days there, despite frequent bad weather. The “casuals” then fired and, finally, we held the Battalion Rifle Meeting there. “C” Company were the winners with “A” Company runners-up. Major I. H. Battye and C/Sgt. Bartle won individual matches and Ptes. Rushbrook and Digby of “A” Company won the title of best L.M.G. pair.

The W.O.s and Sergeants beat the officers by the narrow margin of 149 to 144 points, while Cpl. Hart, of “C” Company, won the Unicorn Cup and Cpl. Gibbs, of “S” Company, took the Pool Bull.

#### THE CORONATION

Meanwhile our minds were very much on the Coronation, and in heart and spirit we were with those members of the Regiment who had the great honour of being present in person on that unforgettable occasion. Never were the wireless, the newsreels and the Press a greater blessing, for they enabled us to share in some measure in the national and personal rejoicing and celebrations of all at home. All ranks were delighted and proud at the award of the O.B.E. to Major I. R. Burrows and the Coronation Medal to the C.O., Major J. W. G. Ormiston, Major G. O. Porter, Capt. C. N. Clayden, R.S.M. R. Tarrant, R.Q.M.S. Griffiths, C/Sgt. Perry, Cpl. Hazelwood and Pte. Rowe.

In Austria, too, the Coronation was celebrated with all the dignity and pageantry our limited number of troops and resources allowed. The C.O. and Mrs. Gwyn, a number of other officers and their wives and a contingent of other ranks, with “A” Company already in Vienna, were able to attend the Coronation parade in the capital, including the displays by the



Lady Caccia, Mrs. Gwyn, His Excellency the Ambassador (Sir Harold Caccia) and the Commanding Officer among spectators at the Display by the Massed Bands and Drums at Zeltweg.



Massed Bands and Drums of the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), 1st Battalion The Green Howards and 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders at Zeltweg.



massed bands and drums and by the Highland dancers; the Battalion was also honoured by invitations to the Coronation ball, to the garden party at the British Embassy and to many other festivities.

Despite excellent weather for the celebrations in Vienna, snow fell in Zeltweg on Coronation Day and so it was most fortunate that our main celebration in the camp had been fixed for June 9, when we had a gloriously sunny evening for a visit by the massed bands and drums of our own Battalion and of the 1st Battalion The Green Howards and the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, with their Highland dancers. His Excellency the Ambassador, Sir Harold Caccia, attended with Lady Caccia, and we were delighted also to welcome a very large number of other guests from all over Styria. Our Band and Drums gave a splendid performance under Bandmaster Jackson and Sgt. Judd and thoroughly earned the leave which they are now enjoying after these and many other successful engagements. After the display the officers of the Battalion entertained a large number of guests at an open air cocktail party on the lawn in front of Battalion H.Q., and it is clear that our guests thoroughly enjoyed what was one of the best evenings since our arrival in Austria.

In addition a children's party was held in honour of the Coronation and each child received an inscribed medallion to mark the occasion.

#### OTHER MIDSUMMER ACTIVITIES

"B" Company relieved "A" Company in Vienna on June 6, and we were very glad to welcome "A" Company "back to the fold." They had earned a great reputation in Vienna for their smartness and efficiency. We look forward to having the whole Battalion together once again when "B" Company is relieved in their turn by the 1st Battalion The Green Howards on August 15.

Meanwhile Capt. V. A. Thomas, Lt. G. Kitchener and Lt. M. V. Maynard were with the M.M.G. Platoon for the concentration at Schmelz, a field firing area high up the mountains about 10 miles from Zeltweg. Despite the differences in standard training of the M.M.G. Platoons from various battalions concentrated there, and despite the appalling weather conditions which included 6 in. of snow at times, Capt. Thomas carried the concentration through to a successful conclusion.

A number of officers and N.C.O.s were again at Schmelz at the end of June to see demonstrations of fire power and a company in attack by the 1st Battalion The Loyal Regiment from Trieste. The link between British troops in Austria and British troops in Trieste is close and we are benefitting from it considerably. Our neighbours in Zeltweg Camp, No. 11 Independent Field Squadron, R.E., are in Trieste at present and have kindly consented to welcome our Assault Pioneer Platoon there for a short stay in order to give them training in bridging and watermanship.

Liaison with our American and French allies is also proving most valuable. Lt. I. S. Rutherford, 2/Lts. P. R. Young and M. S. Gedy, Sgts. Smith and Cubitt and Cpl. Wonnacott have all enjoyed hanging precariously by ropes halfway up sheer rock faces during

mountain warfare courses run by the American Army, and Major A. G. Hewitt and 2/Lt. D. E. Lobb are reported to be covering great distances in route marches during an attachment to the French forces in Austria at a place rejoicing in the name of Ober-Gurgl.

In the meantime training is going ahead at a good pace within the Battalion. Platoons have been "out and about" in the country around Zeltweg and we have been holding a drill and duties cadre in Vienna and M.M.G., 3-in. Mortar, Carrier, Assault Pioneer and stretcher bearing cadres at Zeltweg as well as a course for pay clerks and another fieldcraft and minor tactics cadre.

Finding the right men for all those cadres is at times difficult and we have therefore been particularly glad to welcome two drafts from the Depot to the Battalion. The first draft arrived on the evening before Exercise "Blossom" and were "hurled straight into the battle." They settled down with admirable speed and by the end of the exercise had already become tried and valued members of their platoons.

The other way in which to solve our occasionally acute shortage of manpower is, needless to say, to persuade more of our N.S. men and Regulars to extend their service, and in this connection we were very glad to welcome visits recently to the Battalion and to "B" Company in Vienna by Maj.-Gen. Whitfield, the Director of Recruiting from the War Office. He left with us some new and original ideas on how to tackle this problem and we hope to have even more success in the future.

We should not be a true 1st Battalion if all these training and other commitments had prevented us from enjoying to the full all the many sporting activities which are possible in Austria. Football, basket ball, hockey, cycling, riding, tennis and golf have all been in full swing, and "B" Company have had plenty of swimming in Vienna. The cricket team has made an excellent start and all ranks have very much enjoyed the inter-Company matches. We have had a "potted" sports meeting (as well as the one on Albuhera Day) and a full and most successful three-day athletics meeting; we have great hopes of resounding success in the B.T.A. Athletics Meeting at the end of August. Readers will find full details of our achievements in the various games and sports in later pages of this journal.

#### LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

During the past three months we have seen a remarkable relaxation by the Russians of the very tight control they formerly exercised over movement into and out of Vienna and the Soviet Zone of Austria. At the time of writing they are again making diplomatic moves regarding the possibility of a State Treaty for Austria. It remains to be seen whether such a treaty will at last be agreed and signed. If so the departure of all non-Austrian troops from Austria would presumably be one of the clauses and we might find ourselves looking for a new home. All this, however, is in the realms of conjecture and, in the meantime, we look to the more immediate and more certain events in the future. The Command Rifle Meeting and the B.T.A. Athletics Championship lie ahead. We are also looking forward

to providing Battalion H.Q. and "A" Company for a composite British battalion which is to act as the "enemy" for the American manoeuvres in October, and we are hoping that the B.T.A. autumn manoeuvres in November will prove as enjoyable and useful as did Exercise "Blossom" in the spring.

#### OFFICERS' MESS

The Mess itself is one of the most attractive we have enjoyed for many years. Suitably housed and surrounded by our own silver and trophies members have turned their attention to the garden, which, with a combination of hard work and a rewarding climate, has now reached the same high standard as the interior. This, added to the fact that we are strategically situated as a halfway house between Klagenfurt and Vienna, may account for an abnormally high rate of visitors. These vary from staff officers combining business with fresh air, to civilians engaged on geological survey.

The amenities enjoyed by bachelor officers are closely rivalled by their married counterparts in Gipsy Wood. This International settlement has in the past been inhabited by the R.A.F., the Germans, the Russians and finally the Sappers and ourselves, which may account for a certain "insouciance" and "je ne sais quoi" which undoubtedly hangs over the district. The newly constructed houses are still surrounded by an area of mud and contractors' rubble, but the householders' morale has been considerably raised by an issue of Government lawn mowers—the somewhat optimistic forerunner of a verdant future!

All the Albuhera celebrations throughout the Battalion were an undeniable success, and the part played in them by the Officers' Mess, we think, would have pleased even the sternest critics. For this our thanks go to the P.M.C., Major G. B. Ayre, and to his committee. It is difficult to know what to select for special mention—the display of our silver, the arrangements for the entertainment of the warrant officers and Sergeants, the detailed drill for filling and removal of an infinite variety of wine glasses at dinner, the personal selection of trout at the Kallwang Trout Farm by Major Ormiston and the P.M.C., or the very enjoyable impromptu dance at the Werks Hotel. We enjoyed them all.

From the traditional ceremony of Albuhera celebrations, the Mess staff were called upon to switch their activities to a 15-cwt. truck and the exigencies of "Exercise Blossom." While the customers to the Mess tent varied from our own Battalion H.Q. and tired Company Commanders, seeking a little respite from the rigours of the front, to a cosmopolitan selection of high-ranking allied observers, umpires, and innumerable members of the directing staff—united only in their unstinting praise of our 24-hour service.

Soon after the Albuhera celebrations we welcomed to the Mess the officers of the Royal Artillery battery which had come from Germany to fire the Royal Salute in Vienna for the Coronation and to take part in training in Austria. They were with us at intervals for several weeks and gave us valuable support during Exercise "Blossom."

Above all, however, we look forward to the presentation of the new Colours by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff on September 26. It will be for us all—and, we know, for all past members of the Regiment everywhere—a proud and historic day on which this honour is to be bestowed on us.

The Coronation celebrations in Vienna found the Battalion well represented, with our Band and Drums taking part in the Massed Bands performances and "A" Company very much "At Home" in Schönbrunn Barracks. A strong team of officers and their wives enjoyed the many and varied ceremonies taking place at this time. On June 1 the Camerons took over International Guard duties from the Americans—the parade was followed by a reception given by the U.S. General Officer Commanding in the Palace of Justice Buildings. That evening the R.A. Battery from B.A.O.R. gave us a most enjoyable cocktail party in the Park Hotel "in preparation" for the 21-gun salute they were to fire the following morning.

To everyone's intense relief June 2, unlike its rainy predecessors, was fine and sunny with just enough wind to keep the flags of the Commonwealth of Nations fluttering from their poles. The parade itself at Schönbrunn Barracks will long be remembered by all who were privileged to attend, not only for the spectacle itself, which was superb, but also for the sincerity of the Austrian enthusiasm.

Following the parade, a most successful reception, given by Maj.-Gen. Urquhart, was held in the Officers' Mess, to which a very large number of Austrian dignitaries and members of the occupying powers had been invited. All were impressed with the friendliness of the Russian guests, especially those of us who had not had the opportunity of meeting them at close quarters before.

This most historic day was brought to a climax by the memorable and colourful Ball given by Sir Harold and Lady Caccia at the British Embassy. The glorious setting, the gay Viennese orchestra, the dresses of the ladies, the splendid display of foreign orders and decorations of the men will long remain in our minds.

Next day the Massed Bands performed in the grounds of Schönbrunn Palace—perhaps the most picturesque gathering of the whole tour, and on the 4th those officers who were unable to attend the Ball were present at the Embassy Garden Party, at which our Band had the honour of providing music.

Shortly after the celebrations in Vienna we welcomed our Colour Party back from London, where, by all accounts, they had distinguished themselves, despite the weather. Upon returning the Colours to the Battalion, the two ensigns, Lt. Deacock and Lt. Marciandi, marked the occasion by presenting to the Mess a handsome silver colour-bracket, suitably engraved, as a record of this historic occasion.

Capt. C. N. Clayden, "der dritte mann" of the officer Coronation contingent, did not return, however, having been posted to the Depot as Training Officer. Norman Clayden went to Hong Kong in 1949 as I.O. of 28 Infantry Brigade—part of the 40th Division rushed



to the Far East as a result of the Chinese Communist forces' advance towards the border. He rejoined the Battalion in Korea in early 1951 and on its return to San Wai Camp was responsible for the re-formation of Support Company. In the autumn of that year he became Adjutant, which arduous appointment he held until May this year.

His duties in the office and the conduct of the "Paper War" did not prevent him taking a lively interest in the other activities of the Battalion. He was the mainstay of the rugby, hockey and basket-ball teams, and played in the All-Hong Kong XV and the Land Forces' Hockey XI. He also found time to continue his ornithological studies. That he managed in the midst of these manifold activities to study for and pass the Staff College Entrance Examination is a subject for awed amazement and congratulation. We wish him the best of luck at the Depot and at the Staff College.

Our congratulations also to Capt. Honess on his success in the Staff College Examination. No doubt he will now soon forsake us for the realm of theory and fairy tales.

June and July—the holiday period—found many of our officers dispersed. Major Ormiston, Lt. Legge and

#### "H.Q." COMPANY

Albuhera Day this year was celebrated on May 8, and in accordance with ancient custom the camp was rudely awakened by the Corps of Drums.

After the normal festivities during the morning a "potted" sports meeting was organised most efficiently by Capt. J. S. C. Flavell. After varying fortunes the Company was placed third. The tug-of-war team, coached by C.S.M. Pike, won the final round against "B" Company.

May 15 dawned bright and clear and ahead of us were five days of Exercise "Blossom" in delightfully hot weather. The Battalion formed up in column and at 0915 hours left camp in groups of three to four vehicles. "B" Echelon were the last to leave, ably guided by the Q.M. and the M.T.O. Throughout a most enjoyable exercise they were the envy of the Battalion, at least of those who had time to stop and think of the inequalities of war. One resting place in particular was quite delightful. It was with the utmost difficulty that Battalion H.Q. eventually managed to evict them from this Utopia.

Two days later we saw them once more, encamped in an apple orchard. The setting was so peaceful and so well had the Q.M. and the O.C. "S" Company sited themselves that it was with the greatest reluctance that the Adj. had to tell them to pack up and go home as the exercise had ended.

Very shortly after the sunny days departed and apart from the odd day or two we have had overcast clouds and much rain. We feel that the cricketers from Australia would liken Zeltweg to Old Trafford, the only difference being that Old Trafford is in Lancashire and Zeltweg is not.

Lt. Pike were cricketing most successfully at the Depot, while Messrs. Rutherford, Young and Gedy were distinguishing themselves on a mountain warfare course in the American Zone. Major "Sherpa" Hewitt and 2/Lt. Lobb favoured the French Zone, where on a diet of champagne, nature and langouste à la mode the former succeeded in climbing one of the highest mountains in Austria. His impressions are published later in these notes.

The Commanding Officer paid a quick visit to London to discuss the arrangements for the Presentation of the New Colours with the Colonel of the Regiment, the Depot staff and the various departments in the War Office concerned. Whilst at home he and Mrs. Gwyn had the honour of attending a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

We were all sorry to lose Naps Jordan to H.Q., B.T.A., and wish him all success in this his first staff appointment. At the same time we welcome Major and Mrs. Chattey. The former would appear to have timed his arrival nicely to judge from the number of horse shows that are now being organised throughout the country. Welcome also to 2/Lts. Crumley, Riches and Green, who have recently joined us from the Depot.

The annual classification held at Warmbad, near Villach, suffered from particularly unpleasant weather. It was therefore quite surprising to see some very good results returned from many of our members who never see the sunshine from one day to the next.

May 28 was cold and cheerless. Since this was the day on which the official B.T.A. summer began many red and shivery knees were seen and, alas, except for the ladies, the shivery knees persist even though they may not be so red.

Finally the classification period drew to a close with the Battalion Rifle Meeting. The Company came third in the final placings although we did manage to gain one first, two seconds and a third place.

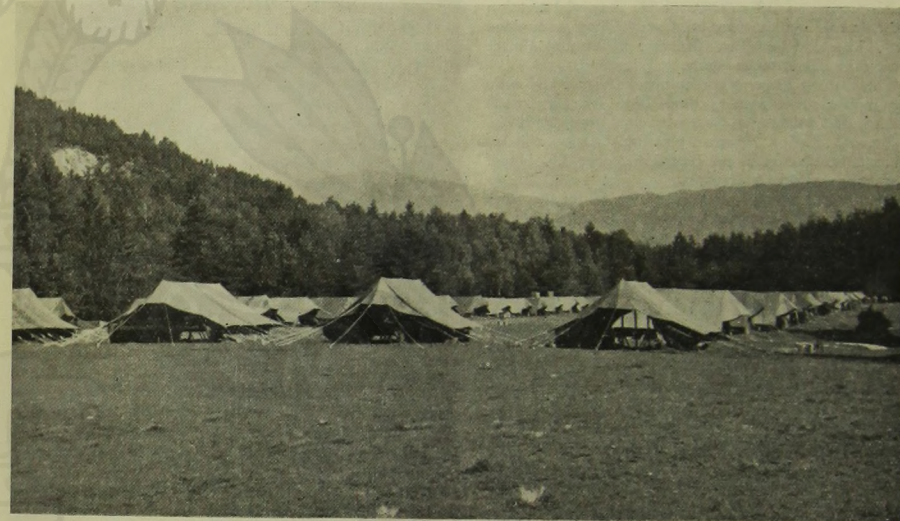
#### SIGNAL PLATOON

The normal functions of Albuhera Day this year were interrupted by Exercise "Blossom," a five-day withdrawal exercise set in country which in some respects reminded us of parts of Korea.

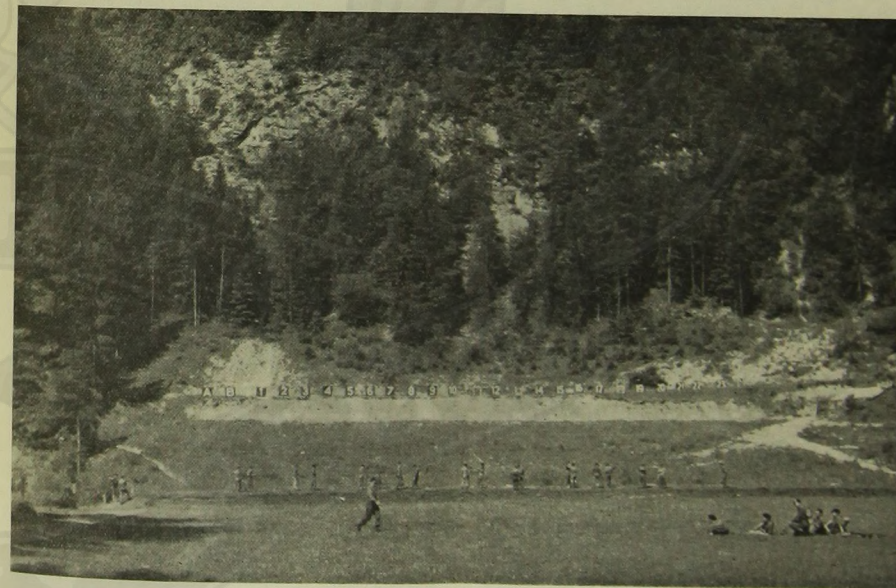
Although the Platoon was considerably under strength and many of the "old China hands" have long since departed, the Platoon acquitted themselves quite well. Many lessons were re-learned and some were sadly forgotten. Those of us in Battalion H.Q. soon found out that the Austrians love to surround their apple orchards with high tension cables. The next Signal cadre will take a brief course on "flag-wagging" under the guidance of the 2 IC, we hope!

More of the old faces continue to disappear with alarming regularity. We wish them all the very best of good fortune.

Our congratulations go to L/Cpls. Jenkin and Cheesman on their promotion to Corporal, and to Pte. Turner



WARMBAD RANGE CAMP



THE RANGES AT WARMBAD



on his promotion to Lance-Corporal. A special mention must be made of the very hard and willing work done by Cpl. Jenkin and Ptes. Harvey, Forey and Carter during the recent range course at Warmbad.

The Platoon threw away its opportunity of winning the inter-Platoon soccer competition by very weak tackling and finishing in their semi-final round with No. 7 Platoon. L/Cpl. Freeman and Pte. Colston will represent the Platoon in the Battalion soccer XI. Their play improves with every game.

To all those who will soon be leaving us for the peace and tranquillity of England we send our best wishes for their future, and to all those recently recruited into the Platoon we hope their stay will be a long and happy one.

### CORPS OF DRUMS

The Albuhera celebrations, held on May 8 and 9 this year, saw the Drums, as usual, in great form. On the first morning, having got the Battalion out of bed, the Drums adjourned to the Officers' Mess to arouse the officers—a much more difficult task. Reville was also beaten in Gypsy Wood to the delight of the children and agony of the Q.M., who had only just got to bed. The Drums succeeded in turning the Adj't's house into a beer keller, aided by the C.O. who was observed, dressed as for Korean winter warfare, handing bottles of beer through the window.

Then came the sad moment—saying goodbye to Capt. C. N. Clayden on the morning of May 10. With due solemnity he was “drummed” out of the gate to return to the Depot. Incidentally, the Drums send their heartiest congratulations to him on passing the Staff College entrance examination.

Immediately following these celebrations the Drums quickly reverted to their Active Service role and took to the field as Defence Platoon. They played a noble part in helping to delay the enemy forces during the Command exercise and on two occasions some of them spent many hours behind the enemy lines wreaking havoc on all and sundry.

Then came the Coronation parades in Villach, Vienna, Graz and Klagenfurt with a final parade at home in Zeltweg. All parades were voted to be a great success. It was most unfortunate that Drum Major Padley had to step down from the parade because of an injured knee. Sgt. Rudd took over the mace at a moment's notice and received many congratulations for a first-class performance.

For these parades the Drums supplied the majority of buglers and drummers and despite many changes in the routine throughout Coronation week they took everything in their stride and could never be faulted.

Now the Corps of Drums has gone on leave *en bloc* to return in early August. From then until the end of September a tremendous amount of work will have to be done preparing for the Colour presentation ceremony.

With great reluctance the Drums say goodbye to Sgt. Rudd and Ptes. Stevens and Beard. It is also sad to record that L/Cpl. Newman has had to leave us, having been granted a compassionate posting to the U.K. A hearty welcome is extended to Ptes. Morrison and Rich who, we know, will do their utmost to enhance the spirit and tradition of the Corps of Drums.

### THE BAND

The wheel of events has been turning very rapidly for us during the period under review.

Our first major move since our arrival in Austria was to Spittal, where in conjunction with the Bands of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and the Green Howards we assiduously rehearsed beneath a very unsympathetic sun the Coronation massed bands display which was subsequently to entertain thousands of spectators in Austria during the Coronation period.

The actual Coronation parade on June 2 in Schönbrunn Barracks, Vienna, was a complete success. On the following day a modified but no less spectacular display was given in the extremely beautiful Schönbrunn Park. Similar displays were given at Graz on June 5 and at Klagenfurt on June 7 and, finally, at Zeltweg, after which the bands returned to their respective units.

Other Band engagements have kept us fully occupied, and in Vienna our musical duties, other than that of massed bands, included playing at a cocktail party at the British Embassy, which will be long remembered as the day we sampled caviare. The dance band also “let their hair down” at the Coronation ball in the Sergeants' Mess, Schönbrunn Barracks, playing until 4.30 a.m.

We continued our series of concerts in neighbouring towns by appearing at Leoben where, as usual, the Band was made very welcome, and on two occasions we visited Klagenfurt, i.e., for the R.A.S.C. Corps Week and later to play at the B.T.A. Annual Fete. Yet more mileage was covered when the Band attended the Battalion Rifle Meeting at Warmbad Ranges near Villach.

This formidable list of engagements has left us with very little time for sport. Do we hear cries of disbelief from various Regimental departments? However, our basket ball team, always on form, defeated both “A” and “C” Companies quite recently. Our efforts at cricket have, we are graciously prepared to admit, so far met with little success.

As usual we have strength gains and losses to mention. Recent departures from the fold include L/Cpl. Sam Forsythe and Boy Eaton. L/Cpl. Forsythe has been for many years the stalwart of the Band football and cricket XIs and we mourn his going. On the brighter side we welcome Bdsman. Peapell, who has come to us from the Buffs band.

In conclusion we are happy to announce that this busy period comes to a very appropriate end with our departure, *en masse*, for U.K. leave.

### “A” COMPANY

After a very pleasant two and a half months detached duty in Vienna we handed over to “B” Company and rejoined the Battalion at Zeltweg on June 6. All of us have our regrets on leaving Vienna and the many friends that we made there.

Unfortunately it was not found possible this year to arrange the normal Albuhera Day athletic meeting in Vienna, and instead an inter-Platoon sport competition was arranged. No. 2 Platoon won both the 22 shooting and the hockey (how are the mighty fallen, Company

H.Q.). No. 1 Platoon won the Association football and Company H.Q. the basket ball. By winning two events No. 2 Platoon were declared the winners and were presented with the Porter Cup by Mrs. Norman Martin at the end of a very exciting and extremely keen competition. This cup was given by Major G. O. Porter for the champion platoon. Mention must be made of No. 3 Platoon who, though failing to win any one event, came second in the final placings.

In the evening the Garrison Sergeant, aided and abetted by C/Sgt. Burgess, produced a very fine Albuhera dinner which, in customary fashion, was served by the officers, W.O.s and Sergeants of the Company. After the dinner an Albuhera dance took place, to which we invited all members of the garrison. Cpl. Warner most ably carried out the duties of M.C. and during the interval we were entertained to some “hot” music by L/Cpl. Jones on the drums, Pte. Crawly on the piano and Pte. Spencer on the double bass. This very capable trio gained quite a reputation in Vienna and were on more than one occasion invited to play at the American Club.

On June 2 a Coronation parade was held at Schönbrunn Barracks and all ranks were able to see this parade in comfort. Judging by the number of fatigue parties that the Company was required to find this was only a just reward. We congratulate Cpls. Anderson and Partridge on being members of the party which represented the Battalion at the Coronation parade in London.

Immediate following our arrival at Zeltweg we were again on the move, this time to Warmbad Ranges to fire our annual course, where C.S.M. Wild showed how very easy it was to qualify as a marksman on the L.M.G. Whilst on the subject of shooting we must congratulate the Company shooting team on coming second at the Battalion Rifle Meeting, and in particular Ptes. Rushbrook and Digby on becoming the Battalion L.M.G. pair. It was a very fine performance considering the very short time this Company had had for training.

With the move from Vienna and visits to Warmbad Ranges there had been very little time for sport in the Company, but one achievement that must be recorded is the beating of “H.Q.” Company by seven runs and “C” Company by over 80 runs at cricket. Were it not for losing some of our best players on release the winning of the Albuhera Shield would not be impossible.

Release from National Service is taking many men whom both the Company and the Battalion can ill afford to lose, and whilst regretting their departure the Company wishes them the very best of luck for the future. We were also very sorry to lose Sgt. Gould on posting to Canterbury, Cpls. Waldron and Meekings to “B” Company and Cpl. Jones to “C” Company, but we congratulate the last three on their promotion. We welcome to the Company 2/Lt. Riches who has taken over No. 2 Platoon from 2/Lt. R. K. Collins who, we suspect, was temporarily quite unable to resist the social life of Vienna. Also recently joined are Sgt. Davies and Cpl. Laden from “C” Company, and we extend to both of them a friendly welcome.

### “B” COMPANY

The past three months have been full of movement and interest, with the main emphasis changing from field training to barrack square and ceremonial soldiering. At the beginning of the quarter we were engaged on Company exercises, such as “Greenshield,” in which we provided an “enemy” for “C” Company and gave them two lively days, and “Longstop,” in which they returned the compliment. Both sides had experience—and some amusement—from ambushing and being ambushed.

After an excellent week-end of Albuhera celebrations—in which our tug-of-war team under C.S.M. Thom and Sgt. Colebeck and a three-mile team of L/Cpl. Basing, Pte. Dixon and Pte. Brundell all did particularly well—we welcomed a new draft from the Depot on the day before the B.T.A. Exercise “Blossom.” They, and the rest of the Company, had about ten hours sleep in five days, but thoroughly enjoyed the exercise. Pte. Day brought in an enemy prisoner single-handed over several miles of difficult and unknown country by night; too many of us found out that warnings about “local water” should be taken seriously, and all of us discovered, after having been twice ambushed, that the ambushers can be made to pay dearly for their initial advantage if one goes at them hard enough.

Further discoveries were made at Warmbad Range Camp, such as, for example, that Cpl. Willmoth (whom we were sorry later to lose to “H.Q.” Company) was our champion rifle shot and Cpl. Ford our best L.M.G. shot. Three N.C.O.s also found out that if one digs a drainage ditch uphill in very wet weather it drains the rain into the tent and not out of it.

We were unlucky to be on the move to and from the range camp on Whit Monday and Coronation Day, and to Vienna on the Queen's birthday at 4 a.m. in the morning. However, we have been able to take other days as holidays instead in Vienna where a holiday is doubly worth having. In fact, Vienna in general is extremely worth having and all ranks have agreed, since we took over here from “A” Company, that it is one of the most pleasant stations in which we could serve. This fact is becoming more widely known and we have been delighted to welcome here many visitors from Zeltweg; some have come for temporary duty with the Company and some for local leave, and we have been glad to see them all, including “A” Company's cricket team who beat us in an exciting game in the series to count for the Albuhera Shield.

Major Nash (Intelligence Organisation) and Major Dawson (Garrison Adj't.), both of our Regiment, have helped us greatly in Vienna in innumerable ways. It is presumably due to their joint efforts that we now each possess a green Vienna pass bearing a photograph in which most of us look like fugitives from a chain gang.

Vienna has certainly been an education to us, and by that we do not mean only the brand supplied by Sgts. Perrins and Powell of the R.A.E.C., though we have had plenty of that too. Duties have been many and various, ranging from custody of the married families' gate by the Company Police and of the school bus by Pte. Page to the provision of the Internal Security Platoon for use in



the event of riots in the city, and from vigorous D.D.T. spraying by Pte. Harvey to garrison main quarter guards by all members of the Company. For our leisure moments there have been basket ball, cricket and an excellent open air swimming pool as well as all the amusements of Vienna.

For the first four weeks of our stay here we had "A" Company 1st Camerons as our good neighbours. We were sorry to see them go at the beginning of July but glad to have seen their beating of Retreat at Schönbrunn Barracks and their changing of the International Guard outside the Palace of Justice on July 1, when we provided part of the cordon to hold back the crowds.

Maj.-Gen. R. E. Urquhart, D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. British Troops, Austria, visited us on June 30, and Maj.-Gen. Whitfield, Director of Recruiting, came to see the Company during July. Both Generals complimented the main quarter guard, and Pte. Littlejohn is especially congratulated on having carried out all his drill and duties as a sentry excellently, despite a cut hand sustained in the last few moments before Maj.-Gen. Urquhart's arrival.

Changes of personnel have been, and are still, innumerable. Nearly 70 officers and men have left the Company on courses, release, posting, inter-Company transfer, etc., since the Company was re-formed in mid-March. Major I. R. Burrows has just handed over command of the Company to Major T. W. Chattey and Capt. R. A. Hodge has taken over the post of Company 2 IC from Capt. M. F. Leonard, who is going to the Company Commanders' course at the School of Infantry, Warminster, with Major Burrows. We welcome Major and Mrs. Chattey and Capt. and Mrs. Hodge very sincerely and hope that their stay with "B" Company will be very happy. Lt. I. S. Rutherford left us for a mountain warfare course and has since become Weapon Training Officer, 2/Lt. R. Collins has gone on a long parachute course in the U.K. and 2/Lt. D. Fisher will be leaving the Company before long for an M.T. course. We are very sorry to lose them all but glad to have with us 2/Lt. J. W. Green, R.E.M.E., and 2/Lt. P. R. Young. Sgt. Walsh, who left us to be present at the Coronation, is still away for that purpose! We fear that the powers that be in England want to keep him, but we welcome Sgt. Walden in his place. Promotion took L/Cpl. Pryor to "C" Company as a Corporal, but brought Cpl. Sharpe "back to the fold" and also Cpls. Waldron and Meekins from "A" Company. Regrettably, soon, we shall be losing Cpl. Hawkins and Pte. Julians on release, but our very good wishes go with them.

The Company football team scored a great success by winning the inter-Company league before we left Zeltweg. We shall all remember the typically "B" Company victory over the R.E. first team after being 2-4 down at half time. In cricket and athletics, since our arrival in Vienna, we have had fewer successes, despite occasional wins. There is no doubt at all, however, of the extent to which all concerned have enjoyed all the games we have played and, when beaten, we go down fighting—and flying—keenly. The Company took several medals at the French Athletics Meeting on their national day, July 14, and Cpl. Edey took the cup

for the javelin. Many other individuals won medals in the Vienna Garrison Sports. Athletics, too, largely helped No. 4 Platoon to win the inter-Platoon shield, and to our congratulations to them we add congratulations to No. 6 Platoon who led in the drill and duties section of the competition.

From many points of view we shall miss Vienna when we leave here on August 15, but we hope very much that present suggestions of the presentation of the Colours taking place in Vienna will be approved and that it will bring us back to this city, albeit temporarily, for a ceremony which we hope to remember with pride throughout our lives.

### "C" COMPANY

The present time is one of change, for during the next few months more than 40 of the N.S. men in the Company are due for release. May saw the departure of Cpls. Rogers and Claydon together with the first release group. A "C" Company social (popularly known as Operation "Gosser") has been planned for July 17 in order to bid a hearty farewell to the 51.15 group.

After some weeks of speculation by the Company, C.S.M. McMillan at last rejoined us from the Depot on June 21, together with the new draft. The example of 29 young soldiers fresh from the rigours of basic training, added to the C.S.M.s loudly proclaimed intention of winning the Battalion drill shield, has caused the old hands amongst us some moments of apprehension.

This new blood, however, is already proving its worth in Battalion sporting activities and we have high hopes of retaining the Battalion cricket shield and of doing well in the athletics. The football season passed off successfully with Ptes Bentley 30, Bentley 67, Parry and Harding as the most noteworthy amongst our players. Sgt. Potter proves an invaluable asset to the Company sports and, by playing golf for the Battalion, shows a more sedate disposition at heart than we may have realised.

In spite of the nearness of the beer cellars of Villach the Company did very well at Warmbad Ranges in the annual classification. Since the Battalion Rifle Meeting, also at Warmbad, the Company Commander has been proudly displaying to all and sundry the inter-Company shooting shield in his office window. We offer our congratulations to the Company team, enthusiastically coached by C/Sgt. Bartle, and, in particular, to Cpl. Hart for winning the Unicorn Cup.

Training continues as keenly as ever, and the new draft were quickly introduced to the Austrian terrain and climate. We have taken part in Exercises "Green-shield" and "Longstop" and, according to all accounts, did well in defending "vital atomic plants" against attack by the "Fantasians." We all had a thoroughly good time on the big B.T.A. Exercise "Blossom" in spite of the generally believed rumour that "Charlie" Company had been "wiped out." Sgt. Smith has recovered from his narrow escape from a large and infuriated negro and is now diverting his attentions to slightly less risky mountain warfare.

We are now looking eagerly ahead to our long-awaited two months in Vienna, and the cosmopolitans amongst us intend to become experts on Viennese life.

We welcome 2/Lts. Gedye and Crumley and much regret the imminent departure of 2/Lts. Young and Tymms. We say "Au Revoir" to our many friends, hoping that they may always "keep in step" in civilian life and that barrack square prophecies on their behalf may never be proved true.

### "S" COMPANY

Since the last issue of the journal the numerous and varied specialist platoons of Support Company have led a life alternately tranquil and busy. The initial excitement and strangeness of Austria soon became replaced by the acceptance of normal military routine, and fatigues and guards, etc., became the order of the day. With the advent of summer, however, the monotony was somewhat broken by various exercises and individual training in which all platoons took part, and great value was obtained from them by all ranks. It may be true to say that soldiering is definitely a routine, but at least Support Company specialists can say that it is a varied routine!

Exercise "Blossom," which took place in the middle of May, proved a difficult task for all platoons, but we are glad to record that all ranks worked extremely hard and put up a good show. The M.M.G. Platoon in particular had a great deal of work to perform during the five days. Individuals who also deserve a mention during the exercise include L/Cpl. Osborne of the Mortar Platoon for becoming a master of camouflage and Cpl. Higgins of the Anti-Tank Platoon for splendid control and use of his detachment. On the reverse side, the Anti-Tank Platoon Commander must remember in future that an umpire during an exercise really knows best (whatever one's personal feelings) and when informed he is dead must not reply—to use his own words—"I refuse to be dead! Can't you make it a flesh wound?" But then perhaps the Anti-Tank Platoon Commander can be excused as he seems to spend so much of his military service on cricket tours that he forgets military etiquette! One pleasing factor which was brought out during "Blossom" was the co-operation and help given by rifle companies to their faithful and hard-working "Supporters." No longer do we seem "a b—nuisance" and the platoons of Support Company would like to express their appreciation to all the various rifle company 2 ICs and C/Sergeants for hard work performed on their behalf. May this long continue!

The end of Exercise "Blossom" brought individual platoon training under the eagle eye and forceful personality of our Company Commander, Major Ayre, who, when spared from his never-ending task of sorting out the replies to his seemingly inexhaustible number of returns, always makes his presence felt. Lt. Geoffrey Kitchener took his M.M.G. Platoon to Shmelz at the beginning of June for the annual M.M.G. concentration for all infantry units in Austria. The concentration was commanded by our own Capt. V. A. Thomas, M.C. All enjoyed firing their guns again and thousands of rounds were expended in this worthy cause. Soon afterwards there followed the A.R.A. M.M.G. cup competition at Warmbad, where everything augured well until one gun had the misfortune not to score anything

out of a possible 130, which proves how much team work counts. However, considering that even drivers had to be impressed at the last moment to make up this particular gun's crew, the shoot was in no sense a total failure. Now that several new members of the Platoon have recently successfully passed a strenuous cadre better results are expected in the Fire Control cup competition which is to take place in September.

In addition the Anti-Tank and 3-in. Mortar Platoons have not been idle and, apart from running individual platoon cadres, have found time to organise several small exercises of their own accord. Both platoons are looking forward to their range classification; the Anti-Tank Platoon is going to Germany for this purpose in November and the 3-in. Mortar Platoon will be doing its firing at Shmelz in August.

The Assault Pioneer Platoon must also not be forgotten, even though it has been reduced to small numbers. Valuable work has been done by Sgt. Dive in training prospective members of the Platoon, and the proposed visit to No. 11 Field Squadron, R.E., in Trieste, for a three-week wet bridging course is being eagerly awaited by all members of the Platoon.

Quite recently word came round that the Company is to be granted the honour of providing the British guard in Vienna for the month of October. This will mean a great deal of painstaking work for all ranks of the Company but we feel sure that everyone will pull together and make it a really successful tour of duty. C.S.M. Budden will certainly get us up to scratch in drill and C/Sgt. Kendrick will undoubtedly do his best to fit the Company in immaculate attire despite the Treasury and perplexities of Q.M. administration.

New faces seem to be continually replacing the old members of the Company. Quite recently we regretfully said "Goodbye" to Lt. Holding and to L/Cpl. Jenner, who decided to return to Civvy Street. At the same time we have welcomed many new members including Lt. Deacock (fresh from Netheravon and the Coronation) as the new Mortar Platoon Commander, and we are also very glad to have with us Lt. Hayward, who has joined us from "B" Company. In conclusion we congratulate Cpls. Higgins, Adams, Bourke, Clarke and Godfrey and L/Cpls. Burrow, Bradshaw, Boyne, Forcey, Gower, Gaylor, Hanley, Hoit, Kent, Lyons and Mister on their recent promotions.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

Without a doubt everyone is glad to see the end of this quarter since from start to finish it has been one mad rush to get things done—the Company exercises, the Albuhera celebrations (coming as they did immediately before Exercise "Blossom"), the Coronation celebrations and attendant work, the annual range shoot and the general overall rush to get the camp up to the required standard. All of this has meant much hard work for the majority of senior N.C.O.s, who will probably be overjoyed to get back to the less exhausting work of ordinary training and sporting programmes.

We welcome back to the fold C.S.M. McMillan, Sgts. Beale and Dive from the U.K. Coronation party and extend our greetings to Sgts. Sutton and Raab, R.A.E.C.,



who have joined the Mess from Vienna and Spittal respectively. We also say "Au Revoir" to Sgt. Rudd, who has left us for the perils of Civvy Street.

We take this opportunity to congratulate Sgts. Hope and Davies on their promotions and hope that their stay in the Mess will be a long and happy one.

In the "Hatched, Matched and Despatched column" we offer our congratulations to C/Sgt. and Mrs. Morgan who are now the proud parents of a bouncing baby girl of some 8 lb. whom they have decided to name Geraldine Mary, and who now has much more hair than her poor floor-pacing father. Congratulations also to Sgt. and Mrs. Copp, R.E., who have a small daughter weighing some 6 lb. 5 oz. at birth, and to Sgt. and Mrs. Preston. In the event of the female birthrate continuing at its present high level it is proposed that a Middlesex W.R.A.C. Territorial Battalion be formed here in Zeltweg. We cannot leave this column without mentioning Sgt. Walden, who has recently returned from U.K. leave during which he got married, no doubt to a very beautiful young lady whom we will all welcome to the Mess on her arrival and whose charm we feel sure will compensate us for the fact that he will probably only rarely set foot in the Mess again except on a Saturday night.

Due to the fact that Exercise "Blossom" had previously been arranged on a date that interfered with our normal Albuhera celebrations, Albuhera Day was celebrated in Zeltweg on May 8 and 9. As usual the Sergeants visited the Officers' Mess for their annual liquid lunch and the officers returned the compliment in the evening by visiting the Sergeants' Mess, where the beer and spirits flowed like water and many old tales were retold with nothing lost in the telling. The silent toast was drunk soon after the arrival of the officers, after which the N.C.O.s of the R.A.E.C. detachment and R.E. Squadron moved in to join the "Die-Hards" in their celebrations, which continued, needless to say, until the "wee sma' hours." The annual Albuhera dinner, which took place prior to the toast, was certainly up to standard, but it was a sad reminder that even in Austria one feels the pinch of rationing.

The Coronation of our beloved Queen raced upon us, and due to the fact that the Band was in Vienna for the Coronation parade, very little could be done in the way of a celebration at Zeltweg until their return. However, C.S.M. Budden and the members of the Entertainments Committee arranged a trip to a small village called Rachau where a Coronation dinner was held, together with a liquid celebration the like and extent of which has rarely been equalled in the Sergeants' Mess. On June 13 we held our Coronation ball in the Corporals' dining room, and under the expert guidance of C.S.M. Budden the evening was an unqualified success in spite of the fact that people would persist in throwing the Union Jacks on the floor when they were handed out; perhaps the fact that one had to leave the floor if found in possession of one when the music stopped had something to do with it. Congratulations must, I think, be showered on our new "cookie," Sgt. Medlock, who produced one of the most wonderful

buffets that has ever been seen in the Battalion Sergeants' Mess. The rumour that the C.O. is to reduce him to the ranks so that he can be put to work in the Officers' Mess is, however, understood to be quite untrue.

The annual range classification, which took place over a period of some seven weeks, culminated in the Battalion Rifle Meeting at Warmbad Ranges on June 27 and 28. C/Sgt. Bartle distinguished himself by leading his team ("C" Company) to victory in four events, whilst Sgt. Wright (77) was the not very proud winner of the wooden spoon. The Sergeants' Mess team repeated their success of last year by again beating the officers' team in the annual Officers v. Sergeants rifle shoot.

Throughout the quarter the R.S.M. has been "co-opting" fatigue men from every conceivable place to assist him in the preparation of a tennis court in front of the Mess. The court has now been completed except for minor points (i.e., beer bar in background!), and many of our younger Sergeants are very busy trying to get up to the standard set by the R.S.M. and the Bandmaster. C/Sgt. Kendrick, "Sportsman of the Year," is complaining that when he goes to bed at 5 a.m. on Sunday mornings he cannot get any sleep because of the noise made by the tennis enthusiasts who are up bright and early for their practice.

A snooker tournament, which has been in progress for two months, is now in the semi-final stage, and the winner of the match between Sgt. Fry, R.E., and Bandmaster Jackson will meet C.S.M. Budden in the final, the result of which should be known before the next issue of the Journal.

C.S.M. Wild, together with Sgts. Gould, Stewart and Cubitt, have now returned to the Mess from their period of detachment with "A" Company in Vienna, which they were sorry to leave. We are glad to have them back but sorry to lose, in their place, C.S.M. Thom, C/Sgt. Perry and the Sergeants of "B" Company who have replaced them in Vienna.

## SPORT

### Football

Responsibility for Battalion football has recently changed ownership on Lt. Holding returning to civilian life. During his tenure of office he "got the ball rolling" and ran a successful inter-Company league from which it has been possible to discover a great deal of talent. Emphasis has been on friendly games with Austrian local teams and some good matches have been played; we have no doubt that this has helped to cement the friendship which amateur football always engenders. It is plain that we have more talent to draw from than we have had for a long time, and the B.T.A. championships later in the year are faced with some confidence.

The result of the inter-Company football league was as follows: 1, "B" Company; 2, "H.Q." Company; 3, R.E. 1; 4, "C" Company; 5, R.E. 2; 6, "S" Company.

In Battalion matches we have only lost one match and have had several good wins as the following record shows: Beat St. Pils, 5-2; beat Judenburg Blue Devils, 7-1; beat 1st Battalion The Loyal Regiment,



THE COMMANDING OFFICER WITH OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS OUTSIDE THE OFFICERS' MESS ON ALBUHERA DAY



BAND CONCERT AT KNITTELFELD



3—2; lost to Judenburg Town, 2—15; beat Knittelfeld Electric Works, 5—2.

We have had to cope with the uncertainties of leave, release, the absence of a Company in Vienna and many other factors, which have made the composition of the Battalion team very variable. The following players have all been included at various times and we congratulate them on the good results during the quarter: C/Sgt. Street (capt.), Sgt. Potter, L/Cpls. Freeman, Longman and Teer, Ptes. Parry, Wright, Harding, Coleston, Van, Ilbury, Tattersall, Holmes, Stanley, Ratcliffe, Bentley, Redmond, Warn, Miller, Bassett and Julians.

### Cricket

Cricket began under great difficulties at Zeltweg. No ground was initially available, cricket screens were non-existent and many other essentials necessary to our national game were not forthcoming. However, after many conferences (both official and unofficial) with the athletics and hockey officers, and after much persuasion by the cricket officer, it was agreed that the athletics-cum-hockey ground would be used for cricket during the summer. Thanks to a great deal of work by a few stout-hearted helpers of all ranks, the season is proving a great success. Special mention must be made of S/Sgt. Law of the A.P.T.C. for having built for us an excellent cinder wicket which is rumoured to be one of the best in B.T.A.

Only two Battalion fixtures have been played to date and we are glad to be able to report that we have won them both. The Battalion XI beat No. 11 Field Squadron, R.E., by 62 runs (Sgt. Bailey 43, Sgt. Potter 4 for 6, Lt. Pike 4 for 10) and the 1st Battalion The Green Howards by 2 wickets and 89 runs (Lt. Legge 75, Major Ormiston 35, Sgt. Potter 5 for 30). During the remainder of the season we look forward to many more matches. A team from No. 6 Armoured Division from B.A.O.R. is visiting B.T.A. shortly and is to play the Battalion XI on July 28-29. After that there are the B.T.A. major unit knock-out competition, the Battalion inter-Company knock-out competition and many other fixtures which we shall look forward to reporting in detail in the next edition of the Journal.

It is safe to say that the Battalion has a strong side, with Major Ormiston, Lts. Legge and Clayden and Pte. Cruikshank forming the backbone of the batting and Lt. Pike and Sgt. Potter as the mainstays of the attack.

In conclusion we were glad to hear that Major Ormiston, Lt. Legge and Lt. Pike had represented the Battalion during the Regimental Cricket Week, and we congratulate Lts. Pike and Clayden on having been members of the team which represented B.T.A. in the tour of B.A.O.R. in June.

### Hockey

After our successful start in B.T.A. hockey (and that in spite of our lack of practice) with a team of experienced players, we now have to start moulding our new material into a team.

We beat the 1st Battalion The Green Howards 13—0.

Capt. C. N. Clayden scored six goals (his last match for the Battalion) and Bandmaster Jackson scored five times.

In fairness to our opponents, however, it must be added that they had only just arrived in the Command and many of their players were at Warmbad Ranges. On the next day, Albuhera Day, the Sergeants beat the Officers in an excellent game with a score of 3—0, in spite of the officers' efforts in the last five minutes to score just one goal—and perhaps in spite of the referee's efforts too! Special mention should be made of the Band who, having roused us all at 7 o'clock, delayed the start with a performance in the middle of the pitch.

Immediately after "Blossom" we played No. 12 Wireless Squadron from Graz in the B.T.A. knock-out competition. The absence of Capt. Clayden and various members of the Band made our XI much weaker and the score of 4—1 in favour of our opponents does our team less credit than it deserved. There was a noticeable lack of speed and unity, though all played extremely hard. We must not fail to record McCorrie's goal which he scored going full speed from the bottom corner of the circle.

Six-a-side games in the hangers next winter and inter-Company matches in the spring should produce the speed of foot, stickwork and team understanding so essential on hard pitches. We wish good luck to all concerned for next season.

### Athletics

Many of us who served with the Battalion in Hong Kong will remember how in early 1952 we wielded picks and shovels to construct a running track for the annual meeting. This year, however, we were more than fortunate, for in the middle of Zeltweg Barracks is a really first-class cinder track, presumably constructed by the Germans in pre-1939 days. In addition "B" Company have had the use of a track at Schönbrunn Barracks, Vienna, and have competed in the French Athletics Meeting and in the Garrison Athletics Meeting there.

This year's Battalion meeting was held on July 22, 23 and 24. It was an individual athletic meeting and its aim was the selection of the best athletes for training and moulding into a team for entry in the B.T.A. championships to be held in August at Klagenfurt.

The three days selected could not have been better. The weather was perfect throughout. Under the direction of Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, the Battalion Athletics Officer, heats and preliminaries were run on the first two days with the finals on July 24. The results were most gratifying and the meeting proved that we possess athletes capable of high performances. Unfortunately we appear to be rather weak in both pole vault and hammer and greatly miss such individuals as Drum Major Holford and Sgt. Small. However, training is taking place at this moment and we should be able to improve in both these events before the B.T.A. championships.

Results of the individual events were as follows:  
Long jump, L/Cpl. Thomas, 18 ft. 8½ in. Hammer, Cpl. Hazelwood, 77 ft. 1½ in. 5,000 metres, Pte. Spaytom, 18 min. 27 4/5 sec. Shot, Lt. Deacock, 32 ft. 8½ in.

800 metres, Pte. Scotheam, 2 min. 16 3/5 sec. 110 metre hurdles, Lt. Deacock, 19 2/5 sec. 200 metres, Pte. Woodward, 25 sec. High jump, Pte. Evans, 5 ft. 3 in. Discus, Lt. Deacock, 107 ft. 4 in. 1,600 metres, Pte. Scotheam, 5 min. 5 sec. 100 metres, Pte. Woodward, 12 sec. Javelin, Pte. McGregor, 129 ft. 11 in. 400 metres, Sgt. Lewis, 56 sec. Pole vault, Pte. Smith, 7 ft.

Lt. W. M. M. Deacock received the silver cup for being the outstanding athlete of the meeting.

Mrs. G. O. Porter kindly presented the cup and medals to those athletes gaining first, second and third places.

### Golf

The Battalion entered a team in the B.T.A. inter-unit golf competition and were unlucky to be drawn against last year's winners, the R.A.M.C., in the first round. The match was played on June 29 and 30 at Dellach, a few miles south of Klagenfurt. Neither Major Chattey nor Sgt. Potter had seen the course before the day of the match but the former produced some really steady play in both the foursomes and the singles. At the end of the foursomes, which were played on the afternoon of the 29th, the Battalion were eight holes down. On the following morning the R.A.M.C. increased their lead in the singles, Major Chattey being our only player to win his match.

Results were as follows:

Foursomes—Major Chattey (14) and Lt. Hayward (18) v. Major O'Dyer (5) and Major Lewis (11), 3 down. 2/Lt. Tymms (18) and Sgt. Potter (16) v. Capt. Church (5) and Capt. Stevens (7), 5 down.

Singles—Major Chattey v. Major O'Dyer, 1 up. Lt. Hayward v. Capt. Stevens, 4 down. 2/Lt. Tymms v. Major Lewis, 9 down. Sgt. Potter v. Capt. Church, 4 down.

Despite having thus lost the match by 24 down, all concerned thoroughly enjoyed the games and, with more practice and greater knowledge of the course, we look forward to successes in the future. We congratulate Major T. W. Chattey on having been selected as a member of the B.T.A. golf team.

### Cycling

After initial difficulties due to the cycles needing considerable repair, the Battalion Cycling Club is now well established and enjoys considerable support.

2/Lt. R. D. Fisher handed over the secretaryship of cycling activities in North B.T.A. to 2/Lt. M. Gedye, and on June 11 we were the hosts for the North Zone

B.T.A. 25 mile time trial. Despite a drizzle throughout the race several good times were recorded and the Battalion took the first two places. Results were as follows:

1, Pte. Sacker ("D" Company), 1 hr. 9 min. 54.5 sec.; 2, Pte. Moses ("H.Q." Company), 1 hr. 10 min. 5 sec.; 3, Pte. Taylor (1st Green Howards), 1 hr. 10 min. 16.5 sec.

The Battalion team was the winning team in the inter-unit competition. Possibly the good times were in part due to the incentive of free tea from the N.A.A.F.I. van at the finish. In addition there were prizes which were presented by Major T. W. Chattey.

Since this trial our membership has grown by leaps and bounds. We had a club run to Schloss Liechtenstein and many other runs are planned for the future. B.T.A. have promised as 20 more cycles and there is talk of a possible ten-day tour of Austria later in the year.

We hope to move into more spacious premises in the near future, in one of the hangars. Lastly, a word of praise for the storemen, who do a thankless job well.

### STOP PRESS

The following telegram has just been received:  
"Late news for *Die-Hards* journal. B.T.A. Command Rifle Meeting results. 1st Middlesex won Steele for best aggregate score Sten Team Cup and L.M.G. Team Cup."

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**"B" COMPANY FOOTBALL TEAM, WINNERS OF THE INTER-COMPANY FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
 Rear Rank (left to right): Cpl. Ford, Pte. Ellingham, L/Cpl. Whittle, 2/Lt. R. D. Fisher, Pte. Young, Pte. Warn.  
 Front Rank (left to right): Pte. Miller, Pte. Bassett, L/Cpl. Longman, L/Cpl. Teer, Pte. Payne.



**PLAYERS IN THE CORPORALS AND LANCE-CORPORALS VERSUS PRIVATES FOOTBALL MATCH ON ALBUHERA DAY**  
 Referee: Sgt. Potter.

**CORPORALS—**(Left to right): L/Cpl. Thomas, L/Cpl. Robinson, L/Cpl. Freeman, L/Cpl. Spenceley, Cpl. Edey, L/Cpl. Moss, Cpl. Milligan, Cpl. Searle, L/Cpl. Welch (last but one in rear not known), L/Cpl. Ruane.

**PRIVATES—**Ptes. Wells, Shepherd, Ilbury, Colston, Rouse, Wright, Van, Teer, Parry, Harding, Longman.

## In a Viennese Swimming Pool

I simply loathe cold water; in fact I'm not frightfully keen on water of any temperature or form, and that's how it really started! It was a very hot day, and having carved my way through a mass of living shnitzel, I left the centre of Vienna and headed for the Gloriette Swimming Pool, which is reserved for the Allied Forces.

Although Keats rhapsodised over the benison of hot water I was prepared to accept a slightly lower temperature, and so with great relish I visualised myself lying submerged and refreshed in this delightful pool. Imagine my chagrin when I discovered that the pool had been freshly filled that morning and that the water was only a few degrees above freezing point. Perhaps that is an exaggeration, but I knew that if I threw myself in not only would I be almost paralysed but I would emerge with a mottled effect, looking rather like a piece of kitchen linoleum. I therefore decided to risk the hazards of a local Austrian "schwimmen-bad," and so, equipped with my canary-coloured briefs, I made a nervous and unobtrusive entry. Through the fence I had already observed some of the "hazards" as they tripped lightly across the grass and dived gracefully into the refreshing water. "Strength through joy" and "You, too, can have a body like mine" were my immediate impressions of this gay but somewhat overpowering scene. I quickly changed and then, flexing my muscles so that I might be less conspicuous among the suntanned Adonises, I surveyed the three swimming pools. One was full of screaming children, the second was being cleaned and refilled and the third was full of clean water and a few swimming contortionists. This was the one which took my fancy, so keeping my feet together and with my hands stretched out in front of me I poised myself on the brink. What happened in the next few minutes is rather hazy. This bath had also been freshly filled from an underground spring and was so cold as to cause my circulation to change direction. My arms were coloured with patches of blue and brown as I climbed up the steps looking rather like a piece of camouflage material. I realised then that the others in the pool were simply showing off in front of their admiring frauleins and that the whole thing was sheer bravado. I crept away to a quiet place in the sun and lay down to thaw out. It was whilst I was appreciating the warmth of the sun and oblivious to my immediate surroundings, except for the girl in the black swim suit who happened to be sunning herself a few yards away, that I was

suddenly aware of someone standing beside me and a voice in broken English saying, "You will excuse me if I molest you, no?" I looked up to see a cosmopolitan species of a man who might well have crawled out of a salad almost anywhere in the Balkans! He repeated his question, "May I please molest you for a few minutes, no?" I did not wish to hurt his feelings so instead of replying tersely to his unusual request I replied, "Well, I'm not awfully keen, actually, but what is it all about?" He then paid me the great compliment of pointing out that I was British, and that as he was taking an examination in English in a few days' time he would like to ask me a few questions. When I asked him how he knew my nationality, when attired only in a swim suit, he made some fatuous reply from which I gathered that, as everyone else was either covered with sun-tan oil or doing handstands, my ancestry was less Latin and less Aryan than that of others in the schwimmen-bad.

It was obvious to me from the beginning that, being a student thirsting for knowledge, and regardless of whether the salad from which he had emerged was in Asia Minor or anywhere else, he knew more about England than I. It was therefore with considerable apprehension that I agreed to his cross-examination. "Let's start with your ancient and glorious history," he said. "Tell me what you consider to be the major events since the Plantagenets." I racked my brain and mumbled the names of Wat Tyler, Will Rufus, Mr. Gladstone, etc., etc., and ended triumphantly with "1492: Columbus sailed the ocean blue." I kept looking at the clock and saying that I must go now, but he always had one more "little question." One of these little questions was on the history of Parliament and on the relationship between the two houses. He scribbled furiously as I talked and in the end had made copious notes. His only chance of passing this examination lies in the hope that he will be unable to read his writing! At a quarter to five I said that if I didn't go now I would miss tea. At that his eyes lit up. "Tea," he said, "that is an English custom; tell me something about your customs."

I had been answering his questions for well over an hour, and really was at the end of my tether. "Tea," I said, "is not only a custom, but a stimulant when one is extremely tired." In conclusion I added: "It is customary for us to be kind and courteous to people of other nations. It is only when our patience is exhausted that we kill them." He hurriedly bid me "Auf Wiedersehen."

## Chasseur Alpine

I was attached to the French Army in Austria for the last fortnight in July. I joined them, with Pte. A. McDonnell, my batman, in the Eastern Tyrol, and was posted to the 3rd Company of the 7th Battalion Chasseur Alpine. We were a little shattered to find that we were to carry out platoon and company training with the Chasseurs in the Oetzal Alps, one of the highest group of mountains in Austria; I had not climbed a mountain for a long time and McDonnell had only climbed the

stairs of the Piccadilly Hotel, where he had been employed before joining the Army.

However, we had little choice in the matter, and soon found ourselves, fully equipped with ice axes, ice grips, ropes and packs and other mountaineering equipment, on our way by train to the mountains. The whole Battalion, with their transport and mules, travelled in one long train, a very gay train in which the Chasseurs sang songs the whole way and never failed to whistle at every girl we passed.



We left the train at one o'clock in the morning and began our first long march up to the mountains, marching over twenty miles throughout the day until we reached the Sammar Mountain Hut, 7,671 feet, at eight in the evening. McDonnell, who had by this time made many friends with the French soldiers, particularly distinguished himself by carrying the packs and weapons of Chasseurs who were exhausted and by completing the march without any outward signs of exhaustion himself. Many of the soldiers, whom I later became to admire very much for their fortitude, were totally exhausted by this first climb and march and I was amused by one who, having reached the hut at over 7,000 feet flung down his pack and rifle and, after a volley of oaths, said, "And to think that the highest I've ever been before was the second storey of the Eiffel Tower!"

From the hut, which was situated at the foot of three glaciers in the most beautiful and awe inspiring scenery, we set out each day to climb up to the snow and to train in movement across rocks, ice and snow. Each day we climbed a different peak, many of them over 10,000 feet high. One of these was the Similaun, 10,821 feet, for which we crossed the Italian frontier, and from the top of which we had a magnificent view of the Swiss and Italian Alps, the Dolomites and the Austrian Mountains.

Our rations came up daily with the mules, but although we appreciated the daily issue of red wine we were always hungry and we missed our breakfasts desperately. Reveille each day was at 3 or 4 in the morning and after breakfast of only a cup of coffee and a piece of bread we set out for eight hours of marching and climbing over 3,000 feet before we had anything else to eat. My meals in camp, except for the scarcity of the food, were always most amusing because of the gaiety of the officers and sergeants, a very fit and happy crowd. Many were veterans of Indo-China with amusing stories to tell. In the evenings they used to take me down to a mountain hut used by civilian

## Regular Forces' Employment Association

In the last article produced by this Association it was suggested that a talk with the Association's local Jobfinder would be of assistance to the man about to take his discharge from the Service. This applies equally to the man who has already left it but has not yet succeeded in what we call resettling himself in civil life.

A tradesman may dislike his trade or be forced to live in an area where there are no openings for that trade, in which case he will need to try in some other direction. A non-tradesman has no obvious line to follow. This is where the Jobfinder comes in because he knows a great deal about finding out the latent possibilities in a man and the way they can be developed.

It should be remembered, however, that employment is a two-sided affair. The employer has just as much right to engage or reject an applicant as the applicant

tourists, where we drank cognac and played a dice game known as "Soixant-neuf."

The Company was unlucky at first with accidents. On a rope descent over rocks the Company Commander's rope gave way and he fell a great distance and fractured his skull. In a blizzard one man was killed by a boulder in an avalanche and another had his spine fractured. Fortunately we had no more serious casualties. Most of the soldiers were National Servicemen and all were very young—some of the Sergeants were only nineteen, and although they were rather upset at the number of accidents, they never failed on the marches or climbs and their endurance was outstanding.

On our last day with the 3rd Company we set out on a very difficult march of over eight hours, up a gorge of loose rocks and boulders, up the face of a glacier, then for a long walk over the glacier, crossing many crevasses on the way, until finally we cut our way, foothold by foothold, in the ice and snow for almost 1,000 feet. Here McDonnell was put through a ceremony to pass him out as a fully-trained Chasseur and was forced to take down his trousers, place his shirt over his head and sit in the snow. Later, at Battalion Headquarters, we were presented by the Commanding Officer with the Regimental Badge as a reward for both having completed our tasks and having passed out as proper Chasseurs.

Our final climb was to the top of the Wildspitz, 11,322 feet, which is the second highest mountain in Austria. For this climb we joined the 2nd Company and spent a night in the Breslauer Hut, 8,400 feet. We set out at 3.30 in the morning and reached the peak while the snow was still frozen by half-past six. The view from the top, with the rising sun turning the mass of snow-capped peaks all round us into deep crimson, was magnificent and well worth the effort of the climb.

We returned to Zeltweg feeling very fit and well. I thoroughly enjoyed my attachment with the Chasseur Alpine and I am most impressed with their keenness and courage.

SHERPA.

has to accept or reject the job. Also while the employer is expected to be just and reasonably considerate to the people he employs, they should play fair with him. Unfortunately there are a number of men who accept a job and then fail to turn up for it. This makes for bad feeling and causes Jobfinders a good deal of hard work to convince such employers that this kind of behaviour is not in accordance with that of most ex-Regulars. It does not occur to the man who fails to turn up that in addition to being rude he is adversely affecting the reputation of his fellow ex-Regulars, but this is very much the case.

Because the Jobfinder is the link between the man seeking employment and the employer with a vacancy to fill he is the person who gets the blame when either side fails to keep a contract. His objection is to gain a reputation for good selection and sound advice not for his own benefit but in order that his recommendations may be of real value.

# Depot Notes



[J. J. Chivers, Photographer, 105 Hadley Road, New Barnet

B.Q.M.S. Scott.

Left to right: L.A.C. Satyaver, Pte. Katina, Pte. Milburn, Pte. Cole, Cpl. Clements, Cpl. Adair, Cpl. Hook, Pte. Milton, Cpl. Anderson, Pte. Murray, L/Cpl. Partridge, Cpl. Sun, L/Cpl. Chambers, Cpl. Chin, Cpl. Carmo, Sgt. Pomeroy, Sgt. Wong, Sgt. Hanlon, Sgt. Beale, Sgt. Dive, C.S.M. Walker, Sgt. Sun Hong, Cpl. Tinson, Cpl. Tang, L/Cpl. Lowcock, R.S.M. Donovan, Lt. Cain, Lt. Moore, Lt. Quah, Col. Browne, Major Stewart, Lt.-Gen. Bucknall, Major Marshall, Lt. Brooke, Capt. Eales, Lt. Marciandi, C.S.M. Macmillan.

## GENERAL

Capt. C. N. Clayton has now taken over command of Training Company from Capt. A. D. C. Eales, who, as his initials most appropriately suggest, is now the A.D.C. to the Governor-General of the Sudan. Our best wishes go with Capt. Eales in his new appointment. His previous experience of the Sudan will stand him in good stead.

Although the number of National Servicemen has decreased considerably the high number of regular enlistments has never varied. The high percentage of

National Servicemen converting to Regular engagements has also been maintained.

On June 7 forty recruits attended a Coronation Drumhead Service at Hendon Park, which was organised by the civic authorities, the salute at the march past being taken by the Mayor of Hendon.

The 15th Intake of Recruits passed out on July 8. The parade was taken by Brigadier R. N. Anderson, C.B.E., D.S.O., B.G.S. H.Q. Eastern Command. He is no stranger to the Regiment, knowing both the 2/7th Battalion in Italy during the war and the 2nd Battalion in Palestine after the war. The Corps of Drums of



the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards took part. Brigadier Anderson presented medals to the following:

Best All-Round Recruit ..	Pte. J. Curson.
Best Rifle Shot ..	Pte. D. Perry.
Best L.M.G. Shot ..	Pte. D. Perry.
Highest Physical Efficiency ..	Pte. J. Griffin.

The Inspector of Physical Training, Brigadier R. H. L. Oulton, O.B.E., visited the Depot on July 6. He spoke very highly of what he had seen in the Battalion, especially "B" Company when stationed in Vienna.

The Annual Administrative Inspection was held on July 21. Maj.-Gen. G. F. Johnson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. London District, carried out the inspection. Much hard work and long hours by all ranks had to be put in to prepare for the inspection, which was rewarded by the G.O.C.'s satisfaction at the turnout and drill of the Depot and by his favourable comments during the tour of inspection.

The B.B.C. sent a recording van to the Depot to collect material for a broadcast to Denmark. The Commanding Officer, R.S.M. and Sgt. Weller made recordings in English (1) which were included in the programme broadcast on the Overseas service of the B.B.C.

Plans are going ahead for a parade to be held in these Barracks on Sunday, October 18, to mark the affinity of the Home Guard of the County to the Regiment.

The parade has the blessing of the War Office and there will be on parade representative detachments from the Depot, the 7th Battalion, 11th Battalion Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex), 595 L.A.A. Regiment (9th Middlesex) and the Home Guard Battalions.

#### CORONATION—JUNE 2, 1953

The highlight of the past quarter was, of course, the Coronation on June 2, 1953.

The representative contingent from the Depot was: R.S.M. Donovan, Sgt. Hanlon, Cpl. Hook, Cpl. Clements, L/Cpl. Adair, Ptes. Milton, Cole, Milburn and Murray. Our detachment formed part of the street-lining contingent and was drawn up at the Hyde Park Corner end of East Carriage Drive.

The selection and training of the detachment formed but a small part of the Depot's responsibilities.

At this juncture a word about the assembly system might not be out of place.

There were three distinct stages leading up to the concentration in London of all troops required for the Coronation—processional, street lining and administrative.

The first was termed the "Assembly Area," which, in the case of troops in U.K. was their own unit and in the case of Infantry Battalions serving overseas, was their Regimental Depot. Thus the 1st Battalion contingent joined us here on April 15 in order that they might concentrate on Coronation training and the issue and fitting of the new No. 1 Dress.

The next stage was known as the "Concentration Area." These were selected units in the Greater London area who were made responsible for the concentration

of a large number of troops, for the checking of their kit and for their final despatch to London.

The Depot thus had some 50 officers and 272 other ranks here for the period May 27-29 inclusive. These were both processional and street-lining troops for the whole of the Home Counties Brigade and East Anglian District and also included a large number of Territorials.

The Depot resources were strained to their limit over these three days and every single bit of accommodation was crammed with troops, including such places as the Gymnasium and Top Mob. Store.

A first-class scale model of Hyde Park Corner, showing the exact position of each street-lining detachment, was constructed. All ranks were briefed on this model and knew to the exact kerbstone where they were to be.

The final stage was that of the move into the Coronation Camps, which, in our case, were Kensington Gardens and Olympia.

The Regiment as a whole was represented by two officers and 46 other ranks lining the route and five officers and 15 other ranks in the procession; these figures include both the former 8th and 9th Battalions.

#### AT HOME TO OUR ALLIED REGIMENTS

On June 5 we were very pleased to receive officers and other ranks of our allied Regiments who were representing their Regiments at the Coronation. A photograph was taken, a copy of which appears in this issue. This was followed by successful lunches in the respective messes. After lunch a tour of the Depot was made, including a long session in the Museum. Both the Battalion and Depot Coronation parties assisted in entertaining our guests.

#### ALBUHERA DAY

Albuhera Day this year followed the traditional pattern of events. A knock-out seven-a-side football competition was run. The "Coronation Cup" was won by recruits from Mons "A" team. This was followed by the traditional match between the officers and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants. It was one of the best battles of its kind for some years. There were no casualties and details will be found elsewhere.

An excellent dinner was served in the Dining Hall. The work put in by Lt. Weller, together with the cooks, was greatly appreciated.

#### OFFICERS' MESS

On Albuhera Day, five officers of the 7th Battalion, including the C.O., Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, were entertained to dinner.

The following other members of the Regiment also joined us: Major Marsh, Major Waller, Major Newman, Major Farrow and Capt. Pielow.

Padre Gibbins stayed here on the night of May 15-16.

Towards the end of May an influx of officers arrived on Coronation duties. Our 1st Battalion representatives were here already—Capt. Clayden, Lt. Deacock and Lt. Marciandi—and altogether we had over 50 officers in the Mess for a short period.

On Coronation Day itself—June 2—we had invited a few people in to watch the proceedings on T.V. and

partake of a cold buffet lunch with refreshment fitting the occasion. If the T.V. set has been a source of annoyance at times, it certainly came into its own on this day, and all those responsible for that T.V. broadcast deserve the highest praise; it was superb.

On June 4 Gen. Bucknall brought his brother, and Gen. Baker of the United States Forces, to luncheon.

The following day we entertained representatives from Allied Regiments of the Dominions and Colonies. Major E. G. Stewart, Royal Hong Kong Defence Force, Home Guard, Lt. J. Brooke, Adjutant of the Wellington West Coast and Taranaki Regiment, New Zealand, and Lt. F. Quah, Hong Kong Regiment, lunched in the Mess, and we were very glad indeed to see them here.

June 6 was Derby Day and a party of 23 went by coach to Epsom. The Administrative arrangements suffered a severe set back when it was discovered, half-way there, that all the sandwiches had been left behind. Fortunately this was not the case with the liquid refreshment! In the end the sandwiches *did* appear, having been brought down by Cpl. Jones in his own car, but the P.M.C. was by this time beyond recovery. The weather was perfect, but somehow the form of the horses did not quite come up to expectations.

Cricket Week brought numerous officers and their wives to the Depot, and John Ormiston lived in the Mess—on and off! The results of the matches appear elsewhere.

About one hundred Cadets from Mill Hill School paid a visit to the Mess on July 3.

At a Guest Night on July 8, Brigadier Anderson, B.G.S. Eastern Command, Col. Methuen, late Argyll and Sunderland Highlanders, and Major Hodgson, A.G.2 (O), War Office, dined with us. Father Quinlan also brought Capt. Buckley along.

Gen. Bucknell, Col. Gwyn and Major Jarrad lunched here on July 16.

On the 21st, the day of our Annual Inspection, Maj.-Gen. Johnson, the new G.O.C. London District, and his staff were with us for luncheon as well as Major Jarrad, the Brigade Major, Home Counties Brigade.

Apart from those actually playing in Cricket Week, whose names can be seen in the results of the matches, the undermentioned are amongst those who have visited us: Capt. Mievill, Major Bellers, Mr. Tatham, Capt. Rendell, Major Honeybun, Major Ward, Lt.-Col. Man, Col. Wollocombe, Capt. de Gaye, Col. McCarthy (now R.E.), Col. Lervill, Major Bennett, Capt. Badham, Major Cummins and Capt. Jordan.

Young officers continue to come and go, and in recent months the following have been, and left for, the destinations shown in brackets: 2/Lt. Riches (1st Middlesex, Austria), 2/Lt. Crumley (1st Middlesex, Austria), 2/Lt. Kitchen (Nigeria Regiment), 2/Lt. Leak (Att. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, pending a course), 2/Lt. Temple (Gold Coast Regiment), 2/Lt. Smith (Nigeria Regiment), 2/Lt. Armstrong (1st K.A.R.), 2/Lt. Enthoven (Sierra Leone Regiment), 2/Lt. Hall (3rd K.A.R.), 2/Lt. Beaumont (1st Middlesex, Austria), 2/Lt. Vince (1st Middlesex, Austria), 2/Lt. Grobel (1st Middlesex, Austria). We hope that they are all managing to enjoy life.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

This quarter's Sergeants' Mess notes could not possibly start without apology for all those nasty things that were written about C/Sgt. Perry; we most humbly beg forgiveness. Not only did they find a boat big enough to take him across the drink, but also his No. 1 suit arrived at the Depot before Coronation Day. We really are sorry that Nobby was robbed of his chance to represent the Regiment on Her Majesty's Coronation Parade. In Nobby's place we got Sgt. Walsh.

Doesn't anyone want this very excellent but part-worn Sergeant? He's been posted from 1st Middlesex to 7th Middlesex, back to 1st Middlesex, home to the Depot for the Coronation, detailed for 7th Middlesex camp, but we've still got him! We did try to poison him off, but after a couple of weeks the hospital discharged him as incurable. It looks like the Depot is stuck with him until he's released to plague the poor innocent civilians.

Albuhera Day was a great day for the Depot Sergeants' Mess. Toggled up in "Any Old Order" we marched to the Officers' Mess and challenged them to battle. Admired cheers from the local populace we marched on to the football pitch and prepared ourselves. The fire hoses were run out, the nets camouflage draped over our goal mouth and handfuls of dough made ready; several watching W.R.A.C. expressed great surprise at Sgt. Beal's figure. He failed to convince them that it was all done by muscle control.

The football - cricket - hockey - rugby - baseball - battle training match was won when the Sergeants put down smoke over the area and scored a couple of points, goals, runs, or tries. The goal posts have now been repainted and are in working order after being broken over the R.S.M.'s head. Don't fret, he was wearing a paratrooper's helmet!

We visited the Officers' Mess after we had made ourselves decent, and quite rightly consumed a fair proportion of their liquor. In the evening we had a Social in the Mess, which went down very well, but a certain tall 1st Middlesex Sergeant, who had got an "A" on a drill course, was seen to slip a "Mickey Finn" into an innocent girl's glass.

Since our last issue we have welcomed Sgt. Pullen into our midst. He has joined Matovani and his Strings on "Q" Stuff. Without wasting any time, he celebrated the arrival of an addition to his family. We wish him, his wife, and his child, all the very best of luck.

Sgt. Crittenden joined us before annual inspection and came in very handy to do all the jobs that need doing, for which there is usually nobody available; he is now going to the Married Families Hostel at Brighton. We are sure that he will be a daddy to them all.

An old Middlesex man we are glad to welcome to the Sergeants' Mess is Jerry Beedle. Just so that he doesn't feel too much like a new boy, that excellent cook, Jack Stubbins, has also joined our ranks. Good luck and many free rounds to both of them.

The Mess provided eating facilities for all the Home Counties people on the Coronation. Naturally every T.A. Unit brought at least one more Sergeant than the Messing Committee (Sgt. Markham) had budgeted for.



This made the Messing Committee (Sgt. Markham) very niggly and he was heard to say, "You wouldn't get it in Civvy Street." This has now been adapted as an official motto for all Mess matters.

We renewed many old friendships with people who served with us—C.S.M. Busty Mitchell (Royal Fusiliers) and Sgt. Doughy Baker (Queen's) being amongst the most prominent. Little Baker always was noisy.

On June 5 the Depot was "At Home" to officers and other ranks of our Allied Regiments representing their Regiments at the Coronation. After the usual photograph, visit to the Museum and a conducted tour around Barracks, the W.O.s and Sergeants spent a very enjoyable couple of hours in the Mess.

From Canada there were R.S.M. W. G. Adams (Royal Rifles of Canada), B.Q.M.S. R. C. Scott (31st Field Regiment, R.C.A.), and Hong Kong was represented by C.Q.M.S. J. E. Y. Walker, Sgt. Sun Hong of the Hong Kong Regiment, and six members of the Hong Kong Defence Force whose names we are unable to record.

After all the music, ceremony and panic had died away, we said a reluctant farewell to the 1st Middlesex Coronation Party. Really, we were glad to see them go, for they nearly had us ordering uniform blazers to wear when out of uniform.

To close. One C/Sergeant of our acquaintance still hasn't got that Income Tax reduction, and the other has been sulking ever since he passed three subjects of Army 1st and received a postcard addressed to "Big Head."

## SPORT

### Cricket

With the cricket week behind us, the Depot settled down to its own cricket season.

#### Results:

1. East Surrey Regiment, 165 for 6 wks. dec.  
Depot, Middlesex, 98 for 6 wks. (Lt. Col. Green, 30).  
Match drawn.
2. 18 Company, R.A.M.C., 155 for 7 wks. dec.  
Depot, Middlesex, 65 (Pte. Massey 27).  
Lost.
3. Royal Engineers, 125 (Capt. Clayden 3 for 19, Cpl. Jones 2 for 15).  
Depot, Middlesex, 129 for 5 wks. (Major Marshall 32, 2/Lt. Lumsden 30).  
Won.

### General

Evening recreation for the Recruits has been started and several enjoyable evenings playing hockey, basket ball and athletics training have produced some good results. This training was ably assisted by Major Heywood, Lt. Weller (Q.M.), R.S.M. Donovan, R.Q.M.S. Etheridge, O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron and Cpl. Marable. This wealth of experience has greatly assisted in improving the recruits' ability to play games.

The Depot has a full hockey fixture list ahead of it as well as a team in the football league. A team will be entered in the basket ball competition and in the shooting world we have entered for the Prince of Wales Cup and the Regimental Depot Match.

## Officers' Club Dinner

The Annual Dinner was held at the Junior United Service Club on Friday, June 19, 1953. Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., Colonel of the Regiment, presided, and the following attended:—

Brigadiers: H. A. D. Murray, O. H. Tidbury, A. M. Toye, V.C., and B. B. Rackham.

Colonels: G. Beach, N. B. Blair, M. Browne, S. F. Hedgecoe, J. N. Lamont, A. M. Man, N. Moller, and W. A. Stewart.

Lt.-Colonels: H. Cook, A. H. Farley, G. L. Fox, G. Lervill, C. M. M. Man, S. Mirams, F. Gordon Parker, J. D. Robbins, W. L. Roberts, S. H. Short and T. S. Wollocombe.

Majors: W. P. M. Allen, R. G. Bare, R. C. H. Bellers, F. J. Bennett, B. K. Cattell, A. W. Clark, C. F. Denton, H. Farrow, J. A. Hamilton, H. K. Hardcastle, E. L. Heywood, S. C. Jay, A. T. Jones, R. A. Kaye, P. D. H. Marshall, J. Millard, P. F. Newman, J. W. G. Ormiston, H. T. Pemell, H. Sherwood, A. R. Waller and M. P. Weedon.

Captains: C. H. T. Barber, P. G. V. Bellers, K. J. Carter, C. N. Clayden, H. A. B. Claypole, J. de Gaye, R. E. Guest, J. D. Gunnell, R. J. Leighton, J. Mayhew, A. G. Petrie, Revd. T. Quinlan, C.F., D. Sax, J. N. Shipster, J. R. Taverner, W. Ward, C. G. Webber and J. A. A. Williams.

Lieutenants: M. J. Abbott, M. E. Baldwin, R. M. Cain, R. T. Douthet, H. J. Evans, A. R. K. Hardcastle, P. J. T. Lane, M. McDavid, H. J. A. Moore, J. I. D. Pike, B. St. G. A. Reed, J. R. Spooner and S. Weller.

Due to sudden illness, the following were unable to be present although they had signified their intentions to be present: Cols. H. W. W. Gray and R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, Major H. M. L. Price and Capt. L. C. D. Doidge.

### At Home

The "At Home" took place on the afternoon of June 19 at the Junior United Service Club and was attended by 85 members, their wives and friends, and widows of former club members.

## Extract from the 'London Gazette' dated March 31, 1953

### 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 officer's and soldier's name 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."

Effects 1941. Groves, A. A., Pte., Middlesex Regiment, £10 19s. 6d.



OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER, 1953

## CRICKET WEEK, 1953

The results during the week were highly satisfactory, the first two matches being drawn and the remaining three won. This in spite of the fact that stalwarts like Col. Joe Weston, Brigadier "Stumps" Green and "P.G." were missing for the first time for some years, and also that the bowling was a bit thin and lacked variety.

The Free Foresters match ended in a fairly creditable draw. The Foresters, aided by some deplorable fielding and catching on our part, declared at 343 for 4, Tyrwhitt-Drake scoring 208, in the course of which he had at least five "lives." We were left with two and a quarter hours in which to get the runs, and with Weedon, Ormiston and Unwin out for 59 the most we could hope for was a draw. With Worton and Clayden batting steadily this was safely accomplished.

With our captain again losing the toss, a feat he successfully accomplished on five consecutive mornings, the Heathens made 265 for 6 and again we were scoring against the clock. The first three wickets fell for nine runs, but whilst Jimmie Unwin was in there was always a chance. When he was bowled for 39 we were struggling. We achieved a draw, however, John Worton carrying his bat for 28, an innings which he

described as a fighting one but to which other people applied rather ruder adjectives.

Against the Cryptics the fielding improved with consequent success to the bowlers. Unwin and Pike divided the wickets, Unwin successfully separating their last pair by hitting one on the chin, necessitating a short retirement to the local hospital. We knocked off the necessary runs for the loss of six wickets, Jimmie Unwin getting 67 not out.

The Incogniti match was the most exciting of the week, the winning hit being made in the last over. They declared at 286 for 6 of which Manners, the Navy player, made a very good 147. We started quite well, John Phillips getting a very nice 48, but it was entirely due to a really magnificent innings of 151 not out by Jimmie Unwin that we won. He hit a six—his seventh—off the first ball of the last over to win. He has never played a better innings on the Depot ground.

On the last day we dismissed a strong I Zingari batting side for 100, Clayden and Unwin taking four wickets apiece, and won comfortably by six wickets.

It was a most successful week. It was sad, however, that David Pike, about whose batting capabilities one heard more and more each day, did not get an innings. "Sindbad" Illingworth, on leave from Nyasaland, made his first appearance since 1939, and kept an end going manfully in addition to making some of the few catches.



## FREE FORESTERS v. MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

FREE FORESTERS	
T. W. Tyrwhitt-Drake, c Ormiston b St. George	208
F. C. Hawker b Illingworth	58
M. Webster, b Pike	16
J. E. Conington, b Pike	12
A. Ramus, not out	33
J. Drew, not out	4
Extras	12

Total (for 4 wks. dec.) 343

D. S. Shuttleworth, R. Shaddick, R. R. Shorto, J. D. C. Noble and P. Auster did not bat.

## MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Major J. R. B. Worton, b Shaddick	62
Major J. W. G. Ormiston, b Noble	5
Major M. P. Weedon, b Auster	5
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin, b Shaddick	20
Lt. H. J. Evans, c Ramus, b Shaddick	4
Capt. C. N. Clayden, not out	54
Capt. W. A. W. St. George, not out	4
Extras	22

Total (for 5 wks.) 175

S. E. Illingworth, Major P. D. H. Marshall, Capt. J. I. D. Pike and Cpl. Marrable did not bat.  
Result: Match drawn.

## HAMPSTEAD HEATHENS v. MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

HAMPSTEAD HEATHENS	
J. Garrard, b Pike	14
J. Hake, b Unwin	10
J. M. Shuttleworth, b Clayden	70
N. M. Hall, b Clayden	39
J. F. R. Park, b Pike	50
A. Bush, b Pike	7
A. L. Warr, not out	47
J. Sutherland, not out	10
Extras	9

Total (for 6 wks. dec.) 265

R. U. Skene, A. W. Massey and P. B. Berliner did not bat.

## MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Major J. R. B. Worton, not out	28
Major J. W. G. Ormiston, b Hake	1
Major M. P. Weedon, run out	0
P. C. Kay, c Orr, b Skene	2
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin, b Park	39
Lt. H. J. Evans, c Massey, b Sutherland	19
Capt. C. N. Clayden, not out	0
Extras	11

Total (for 5 wks.) 100

W. A. W. St. George, S. E. Illingworth, R. E. Orr and Capt. J. I. D. Pike did not bat.  
Result: Match drawn.

## THE CRYPTICS v. MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

THE CRYPTICS	
R. F. B. O'Callaghan, c and b Pike	1
S. W. Houghton, c Clayden, b Pike	17
T. S. Pearsall, c Abbott, b Unwin	2
S. J. Tucker, c Illingworth, b Unwin	12
L. W. Hawkins, b Unwin	26
G. F. Boston, c Phillips, b Pike	0
D. L. Carroll, b Pike	0
A. Crum, c Unwin, b Clayden	8
G. Melhuish, b Unwin	20
D. Price, retired hurt	11
D. Cooper, not out	17
Extras	8

Total 132

## The Story of Aldershot

by Col. H. M. Cole

If you are collecting books of military historical interest and can afford 30s. we call your attention to this book. If you do not collect and cannot afford the price, see that your Library get it for you.

## MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Lt. N. F. Legge, c O'Callaghan, b Melhuish	12
F. L. Abbott, c Cooper, b Melhuish	6
W. A. W. St. George, c Tucker, b Cooper	7
Lt. J. Phillips, c Boston, b Cooper	10
Major Ormiston, c Carroll, b Melhuish	33
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin, not out	67
A. Goldman, st Carroll, b Melhuish	2
S. E. Illingworth, not out	1
Extras	1

(Total for 6 wks.) 140

Lt. H. J. Evans, Capt. C. N. Clayden and Capt. J. I. D. Pike did not bat.  
Result: Middlesex Regiment won by 4 wks.

## THE INCOGNITI C.C. v. MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

INCOGNITI C.C.	
R. F. B. O'Callaghan, c Illingworth, b Unwin	11
D. Lomax, c Worton, b Illingworth	8
J. E. Manners, c Illingworth, b Clayden	147
H. F. D. Gillett, c and b Illingworth	4
K. Vane-Percy, b Clayden	24
G. W. S. Waites, c Unwin, b Pike	15
E. Hamilton-Hill, not out	43
A. P. H. Hartley, not out	8
Extras	26

Total (for 6 wks. dec.) 286

R. E. Moss, G. C. Melhuish and A. J. W. Bavin did not bat.

## MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Major J. R. B. Worton, c Bavin, b Waites	33
Lt. N. F. Legge, st Lomax, b Manners	10
Lt. J. Phillips, b Waites	48
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin, not out	151
S. E. Illingworth, c Manners, b Waites	3
W. A. W. St. George, c Moss, b Melhuish	9
Lt. H. J. Evans, run out	2
Capt. C. N. Clayden, b Vane-Percy	14
Major J. Ormiston, not out	8
Extras	11

Total (for 7 wks.) 288

Major P. Marshall and Capt. J. I. D. Pike did not bat.  
Result: Middlesex Regiment won by 3 wks.

## I ZINGARI v. MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

I ZINGARI	
Lord Cobham, b Unwin	43
R. Kellert, c Ormiston, b Illingworth	0
H. F. Gillett, b Unwin	28
E. M. P. Welman, c Illingworth, b Unwin	11
N. L. Foster, b Clayden	0
K. A. Sellar, c Pike, b Clayden	1
A. McCordqudale, c Clowes, b Unwin	0
N. S. Hotchkin, lbw b Clayden	3
R. A. Gatehouse, c Marshall, b Clayden	9
Major J. Worton, c Ormiston, b Pike	0
B. J. Hodgson, not out	0
Extras	5

Total 100

## MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Lt.-Col. J. Clowes, b Hodgson	1
Lt. N. F. Legge, lbw b Gatehouse	11
Lt. J. M. Phillips, lbw b Hodgson	38
P. C. Kay, not out	30
Capt. C. N. Clayden, c Gatehouse, b Hodgson	11
Major P. Marshall, not out	14
Extras	7

Total (for 4 wks.) 112

Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin, Major J. Ormiston, Lt. H. J. Evans, S. E. Illingworth and Capt. J. I. D. Pike did not bat.  
Result: Middlesex Regiment won by 6 wks.

## 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 WESTERN 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



## CORONATION REVIEW OF EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

HYDE PARK, JULY 5, 1953

At this parade before Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh the Association was represented by a contingent of 210 ex-officers and other ranks headed by Col. M. Browne. Other ex-officers who took part were Cols. H. W. W. Gray and N. Moller, Lt.-Cols. J. H. Clowes and J. D. McFarlane, Majors A. H. Cooper, A. W. Clark, H. C. Ellis, A. V. Weller, M. P. Weedon, P. B. Allott and W. Ward, and Capt. R. E. Guest and J. A. A. Williams. The Association had to appoint a Sub-Divisional Commander as well as their own Contingent Commander, and these two posts were ably filled by Major W. Ward and Capt. R. E. Guest respectively, and our Standard was carried by ex-C.S.M. A. Todman.

After Her Majesty was received with the Royal Salute a short service followed, conducted by the Dean of Ripon, the Very Rev. F. L. Hughes, who was Chaplain-General to the Forces during the war, the Lesson being read by the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, the Rev. H. Martin. The Archbishop of Canterbury delivered an address.

The Queen then, with the Duke of Edinburgh and Lord Tedder, entered a field motor vehicle and drove slowly round the ranks. After which, from her dais, the Queen spoke the following simple words which were clearly heard by all:

"In greeting you, I would say this: Though it is as ex-Service men and women that you are here today, I know very well that you do not regard your service as ended; that you still give it in the same spirit that you showed as members of the forces and that you will not fail to give your services again, if your country repeats the demands, which it made in 1914 and 1939.

"There is no need to remind you that the celebrations of my Coronation are only made possible by the determination which inspired everyone, men, women, and children, throughout both those great wars, to sustain to the end, at whatever cost to life and property, the struggle to safeguard our Commonwealth and our ideals.

"The ex-Service movement so well represented in this parade is, I am glad to say, as firmly based as ever. As members of various organisations, you keep alive the comradeship which is one of the few blessings that spring from the darkness and the evil of war.

"Your presence here is a proof that you realise that your country still has work for you to do. You must never think that it is any less important than it was when you first began your service.

"The whole world is still troubled. Though we all trust that we may not again have to pass through the furnace of war, much depends on the strength of purpose that we can, in our daily lives, devote to the cause of peace. The power of the Commonwealth weighs mightily in the balance. All that we can do, both as individuals and collectively, to strengthen its spiritual and material forces, helps us towards the goal of peace.

"My husband and I have many personal links with the fighting services. Our interest in them is deep seated; our gratitude for the loyalty and devotion to duty shown by those who have served or who now serve in them is unbounded.

"I thank you with all my heart for what you have done in the past and are still doing today. May the coming years bring you the happiness and prosperity which you so well deserve."

The entire parade then marched past Her Majesty to the Band of the Brigade of Guards in full dress, and so ended a very impressive ceremony which will long be remembered by those who took part.

In conclusion, it may interest many to know that the following telegram has been received by the Secretary of the Association from Lord Tedder: "I have received the following signal from Her Majesty quote I was much impressed by the splendid review of ex-Service men and ex-Service women in Hyde Park yesterday and by their bearing both during my inspection and as they marched past stop I should be very grateful if you as Commander of the parade would convey my warm congratulations and best wishes to all the organisations that took part signed Elizabeth R unquote I am extremely proud to have had the honour of commanding you on such an occasion—Tedder."

Col. A. M. O. A. Passingham and Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts were amongst those spectators who watched the parade.

## Conditions for Meritorious Service Medal

Many requests are being received from ex-members of the Regiment and notice should therefore be taken that all previous rules for the grant of the Meritorious Service Medal have been cancelled.

The present rules are extensive and strict and cannot be printed in the journal. Any future applications should be to the Secretary of the Old Comrades' Association, who holds a copy of the rules. To save time it is advisable for applicants to visit his office and study the rules before making a formal application.

It is noted that an irreproachable Army character is essential. Periods of service clear of Regimental entries are not to be regarded as annulling serious sentences as is provided, on the other hand, for the award of an exemplary character on discharge.

The candidate must have been a Regular soldier and have served 22 years with the Colours except in certain circumstances, such as discharge on reduction of establishment or disability attributable to military service. The applicant must have served in a Regular unit in or above the rank of War Substantive Sergeant and be in possession of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

It is pointed out that it is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain this high award unless previously recommended for it before discharge by a former C.O.



## "MAKE IT SNAPPY"

*We have probably all of us had this request made to us, with or without colouring, by our seniors, but we doubt if Mr. George Jones-Walters got this order on the Queen's Review of Ex-Servicemen—or did he? and is he one of those soldiers who always take everything literally?*

*Anyhow, here is Mr. Jones-Walters' letter and the snapshot he took on that occasion.*

*We are most grateful to him for sending us a copy and allowing us to print it in the "Die-Hards" Journal, and feel it a great privilege as doubtless many daily papers would have given their eyes for it—Editor.*

10 Manor Gardens,  
Sunbury-on-Thames.  
July 24, 1953.

The Secretary,  
Regimental Association.

Dear Sir,

You may like to have the accompanying print for either (a) the Association album, (b) the office or Mess notice board or (c) the Secretary's private collection.

It was taken during the march past at the Ex-Servicemen's Review in Hyde Park on July 5 by a small camera

slung round my neck and pointed by my left hand, which also held my hat. Of course the "aim" was completely blind as we were at "eyes right" at the time, so it was great luck that the Queen appears so nearly central.

Her Majesty has accepted a print of the photograph and expressed some amusement at the manner in which it was taken. She did actually observe me in the act of pressing the button and gave me a very charming smile. Apart from the man marching on my immediate left I am fairly certain that nobody else knew a photo was taken. Unless he himself was a photographer I very much doubt if my left hand neighbour knew.

My service with the Regiment is many years behind now (1915-16) and I met nobody I knew at the Review, but I did thoroughly enjoy my day and felt it a great privilege to fall in with the "Die-Hards" again. I suppose I must look forward to Her Majesty's Jubilee parade for the next chance, though I'm afraid I shall have to sit with the Chelsea boys by then!

Yours sincerely,

GEO. JONES-WALTERS,

ex-16th and 24th.



## DOUAI AND THE CORONATION

Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, commander of the 2nd Battalion when it captured Douai in 1918, has received letters from Monsieur Warusfel and Capt. Cordonnier, President and Vice-President of the Douais-British Club, in which they describe the celebrations which took place in Douai for the Coronation. They also sent photographs and newspaper cuttings in touching confirmation of the way in which the whole population of Douai showed their friendship and intense goodwill for us and our Queen.

On the initiative of the Club a Mass was celebrated in Douai on the Sunday before the Coronation in order to comply with the Queen's expressed wish for prayers on her behalf. On the day itself a parade was held at the Town Hall and, headed by the city band, the members of the British Club and representatives of all the organisations in Douai, marched to the British cemetery where Monsieur Warusfel laid a wreath on the memorial. Standards of the various organisations (of which there were about half a dozen on parade) were lowered as the wreath was laid, while the national anthems of both countries were played.

A large party assembled to watch the television of the Coronation, which had been organised by the British Club, and later a banquet was held at the Taverne Liègeoise at which the Mayor, Monsieur André Canivez, presided. He and Monsieur Warusfel both made speeches extolling the traditional friendship of the *entente cordiale*, and the latter recalled the relief of Douai by the 2nd Battalion. The toast of a long and prosperous reign to our Queen was honoured by the singing of "God Save the Queen" with enthusiasm and deep sincerity.

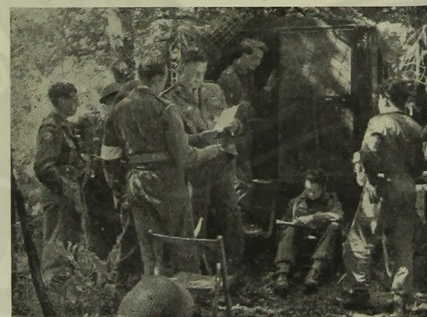
In the letters which Brigadier Baker received he was asked to express to all members of the Regiment the best wishes for its success and prosperity from all members of the Club.



Ex-Servicemen at the Memorial in the British Cemetery, Douai.



Monsieur Warusfel laying a wreath on the Memorial in the British Cemetery, Douai.



Exercise "Old Brock"—The Command Post.

Left to right: Capt. Easeman, 264 Field Regiment, Major R. J. P. Cummins (steel helmet), Major A. R. Waller, M.C., (steel helmet), Major Dickenson, Royal Sussex (Umpire), Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D., Lt. Peter Lane, I. Sec., Pte. Fry (C.O.'s operator).

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



This is an inspiring and memorable time and we in London have been privileged to have a close view of the great events of June and are honoured to have played our part in them.

During the last three months many calls have been made on the Battalion, but, thanks to the

gallant response by the Territorial members, who must have given nearly all their spare time, in addition to many periods away from their employment, we have been able to carry out our heavy commitments.

In May we held our Albuhera Day celebrations and Hornsey Coronation Parade. In addition to the Coronation and H.M. State Drive to the Guildhall in June, Company pre-camp tactical training week-ends were held. A reconnaissance of the camp training was carried out on the 13th and 14th, while the Commanding Officer attended a Divisional Exercise and, of course, we were represented at the Regimental Dinner and Cricket Week, where our Band played on the first Saturday afternoon. Throughout the month the usual feverish preparations for annual camp continued. In July we proceeded to annual camp at Stanford Practical Training Area in Norfolk and this claimed everyone's undivided attention.

It is not intended to mention all these events in detail, but a few words on some of them would probably be of interest.

Our Coronation celebrations commenced in May and we launched the Borough of Hornsey Coronation programme on May 16. The Battalion held a joint Albuhera Day and Coronation parade in Priory Park, Hornsey, where we were inspected by His Worship the Mayor, Alderman G. W. F. Pallett, J.P., who then addressed us. Previous to this the Battalion had marched round Hornsey, led by the Band and Corps of Drums. After the parade, Company and Platoon weapons were on show and Support Company gave a demonstration of the 17-pdr. anti-tank gun, 3-inch mortar platoon and M.M.G. platoon in action. Finally, the Corps of Drums Beat Retreat. In all a successful afternoon with the weather on our side for once.

The Battalion was then entertained to an excellent tea by the Hornsey Borough Council in our T.A. Centre.

We were pleased to have Col. M. Browne, Brigadier Murray and Brigadier Paley, our Brigade Commander, with us for the afternoon. In the evening a successful and enjoyable Albuhera All Ranks Dance was held.

Thus we were already getting into harness for the great event of June.

The Battalion was privileged to find two Coronation parties. A processional party, commanded by Capt. Jerry Gunnell with C.S.M. R. Baker, Sgt. F. LaRoche, Cpl. L. Jones and Cpl. C. Patterson and a street-lining party of one officer and eighteen others which was part

of the Home Counties Brigade Contingent. The street-lining party, which was posted inside the park at Hyde Park Corner by Apsley Gate, was commanded by Lt. David Blackler, who carried the Queen's Colour. The other members were C/Sgt. H. Leggett, Sgts. F. Carter, F. Gribble, L. Leighton, F. Payne, J. Webb and J. Moran, Cpls. D. H. Burnett and A. Richardson, L/Cpls. G. Derbyshire, R. Oliver, J. Hughes and D. Burt, Ptes. E. Bass, F. Miller, D. Clark, R. Jordan and T. Tuffnell.

After the T.A. Centre had been turned alternatively into a tailor's shop and a drill shed, Major Percy Newman and Capt. Nick Carter reported that the contingents were ready, and on May 27 they proceeded to the Depot, where once again they were subjected to further drill under our Adjutant and R.S.M.s Donovan and Tostevin—wretched chaps.

Eventually they moved to their Coronation Camps, one party to Olympia and the other to Kensington Gardens. Much has already been written and seen of Coronation Day; perhaps all it is necessary to say is that our two parties fared much as all the other troops taking part, but in spite of the weather were thrilled and honoured to have been part of this great occasion.

On Friday, June 12, the Battalion was part of the 44 (Home Counties) Division Contingent lining the route for H.M. the Queen's State Drive to the Guildhall. Our party of three officers and twenty-five other ranks was commanded by Capt. Peter Garrett, who was responsible for one hundred yards of the route in the Strand near the Savoy Hotel.

Finally, in our Coronation notes, we congratulate Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D., Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., Capt. J. D. Gunnell, W.O.1 Tostevin, Bandmaster Gillyat, C/Sgt. Leggett, Sgt. Munds, Sgt. Simmonds and L/Cpl. Barry on the award of the Coronation Medal by H.M. the Queen.

This year, before proceeding to annual camp, each Company held a tactical training week-end for which the National Servicemen were called up. The aim was to include in their platoons and sections those who had joined the Battalion since last camp and to give Company, Platoon and Section Commanders and men an opportunity to get to know each other and form their teams so that constructive training could immediately be started at annual camp. "D" and "S" Companies based their week-end at one of the Divisional training centres at Pirbright and Sevenoaks, but O.S.C. "A," "B" and "C" Companies decided to brave the elements and went off into the country, where they lived out and administered themselves. The general programme was individual and section work and a night patrol exercise.

Company wireless operators were instructed by the Signal Officer and Signal Sergeant, and the M.T.O. tested potential drivers. In most cases a Company party was held on the Saturday evening. There is no doubt that these week-ends are of great value, but a bigger attendance is required to obtain the maximum benefit.

On July 7 the Quartermaster set off with the advance party for Bodney South Camp, Norfolk, where the Battalion was to spend its annual camp this year. We



had been to Stanford Practical Training Area for camp in 1950 and knew from experience that there were not many amusements in that part of the country and so we expected to have a very full training programme. Nevertheless, we are sure that none of us bargained for the hectic fortnight that was to come from July 12 to 26, nor for the appalling weather. We knew that the Battalion, as part of 47 Infantry Brigade, was to take part in a Divisional exercise for four days of the second week. This, of course, was to be the culmination of our camp and our training during the first week and was directed to this end.

On a dull and wet Sunday afternoon the Battalion arrived in camp nearly 600 strong. Thanks to the hard work of the advance party everyone was soon settled in and had a good meal.

Companies were on the training areas by 9 o'clock on the Monday morning and our previous preparations, Company week-ends and reconnaissances had proved their worth. In spite of the bad weather, we had completed our programme, each Company had done platoon training, a Company attack exercise under the Commanding Officer and classified on the Bren gun. On Friday the Battalion carried out an all-day deployment and attack exercise which was directed by the Brigade Commander. During this week enjoyable visits to each other by the officers and Sergeants had taken place; the Sergeants held a dinner night and on Thursday the officers held a guest night, which the Colonel of the Regiment attended. The Band gave a series of concerts in the dining hall and recreational transport was run to Norwich and Watton each evening.

It was to be expected that at the week-end a well-deserved rest would be taken by the majority, but no, Companies ran coach trips to Yarmouth and returned with hilarious stories of their outing.

Unfortunately the Battalion Rifle Meeting that was to have been held on Monday, July 20, had to be cancelled owing to bad weather. On this day we were visited by the Army Commander, Brigadier Rackham, and our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier Murray, who stayed on for another day. In the evening a cocktail party was held and the Band and Drums Beat Retreat.

On Tuesday we moved out on the Divisional Exercise "Old Brock III." The next four days were to severely test our administration, battle procedure and ability to keep awake, but except for the expected creaks we are glad to say that all three stood up to the strain. There were many amusing incidents during these four days, but we will confine ourselves to a brief outline of the events and leave the rest to the Companies' notes.

On Tuesday, the Battalion moved to a preliminary concentration area where orders were received for a night move of about 20 miles to an assembly area.

On Wednesday we were subjected to a most frightening strafing by U.S.A. Sabres and any movement or bad camouflage was spotted. Air photographs later confirmed the action by the aircraft. The Battalion came through the test well, particularly Major Cummins and his heavily concealed "A" echelon. On Wednesday night another move forward, on an occupation of a

defensive position, followed on Thursday morning by incessant enemy attacks and still more strafing by enemy aircraft. About 8 o'clock on Thursday evening orders were received for us to attack as soon as possible after first light and so the exercise finished at 11 o'clock on Friday morning when we had captured our objective.

What does one remember most? Perhaps breakfast at 3 o'clock in the morning, followed by a stand-to until 4.30. We wonder!

On Sunday morning we returned to London and civilisation, leaving our Quartermaster to clear up the mess.

It is thought in retrospect that most of us agree that although perhaps not a very enjoyable camp, we had learnt a good deal and should be pleased with the way the Battalion acquitted itself on the first major higher formation exercise since 1945.

### "H.Q." COMPANY

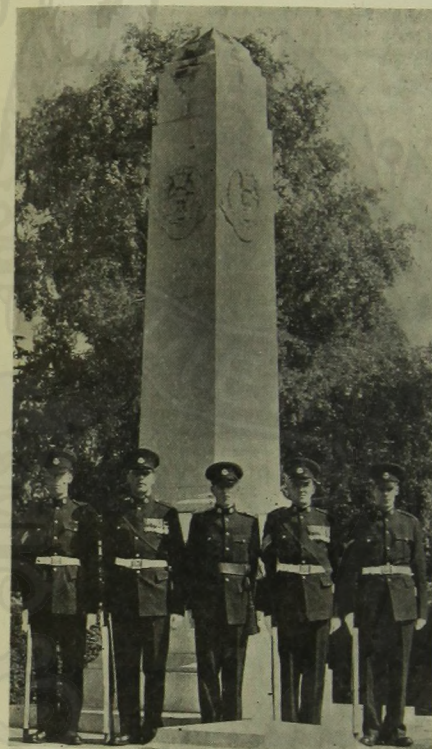
History has recorded that a certain Tudor Queen stated that she would die with Calais engraved on her heart. Be that as it may, it is undeniable that countless Territorials and National Servicemen must have Bodney indelibly imprinted on their memories. By which the reader may have probably gathered that we have but recently returned from Bodney South, where was spent this year's annual camp. The fifteen days in Norfolk if arduous, were also valuable in that it was possible at this camp, more than at any of its predecessors, to weld the Company together. During the three-day exercise, held in the second week, it was clearly demonstrated that the Company with a little more training would be quite useful in the field.

The Band and Drums continue to improve both in bearing and musical ability and the concerts given by the Band in the Central Dining Hall and other places were much appreciated. The Corps of Drums, who were ungentlemanly enough to beat the Band at football by four goals to one, made amends later by combining with their victims to give us a full musical Retreat, probably the first of such ceremonies where both have combined since 1939.

During the strenuous period in camp nearly all gave of their best, but it is doubtful if any worked harder than C/Sgt. Leggett and Sgt. Jackson. Both seemed tireless and the former, particularly during the course of the exercise, put many less than half his age to shame by his energy and cheerfulness. It was also pleasant to see how well the Regimental Police worked in the field and also the cooks, who produced excellent fare, punctually, and under trying conditions.

It is with a sense of loss that we record the departure to Canada of Sgt. Morrell, R.A.P.C., who has been attached to the Company for over eighteen months and has revealed to us his profound knowledge of all pay matters. All ranks send him and Mrs. Morrell their best wishes for the future.

Finally, the Company congratulates C/Sgt. Leggett on the award of the Coronation Medal. It is the feeling of us all that never was an award more richly deserved.



7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)  
Coronation Procession Party.

### "A" COMPANY

The last edition of *The Die-Hards* saw "A" Company on the point of departing for a week-end camp on Puttenham Common. The weather for the week-end was very fair and this was much appreciated as we were going to live "under the stars." Actually we did not live particularly roughly as we had the luxury of tents. Some very useful work was done, with special reference to section and platoon attacks. After a very hot Saturday afternoon's work we paid a visit to the "local" and a lot of useful work was done there.

The night operation consisted of a lamp snatch and several of the Company will long remember one particular snatch of a lamp from outside someone's tent. The convoy control between Guildford and London has to be much complimented and the record time in which we returned to Highgate is all to the credit of the dispatch riders.

We all duly assembled for camp on the Sunday and were hoping for some fine weather to commence our

fifteen days, but unfortunately the rain which poured down that day was a forerunner of many more rainy spells.

Looking back, though, the camp was not at all it could have been, the weather was appalling, but most of us enjoyed our fifteen days. Such is the paradoxical character of the British soldier.

The bad weather and the other tortures were to a very large extent counteracted by the remarks that were passed from time to time. To quote but a couple. When the Company Commander's jeep was very nearly mangled into a lump of scrap iron by an oncoming three-tonner being driven somewhat recklessly, the only comment made was "That was rather naughty." Another time, when one Platoon Commander was asked whether there were any enemy out in the path of an "Advance to Contact" exercise, he replied that there were not, and that the soldier in question would have to imagine their presence, the comment was made, "Coo, chasing perishing ghosts again."

One of the highlights of the first week was the Company party. On this memorable occasion a number of officers were initiated into the mysteries of the "knees up." Another happy occasion was when an officer and two drivers discovered "that they were open all day on Market day."

The other event of a social nature was the coach trip into Great Yarmouth. From the number of dreamy eyes and fond farewells when we left the "big city" it would appear highly likely that a large number of the Company will have spent their summer holidays in Yarmouth by the time this edition appears.

Turning to the second week the great event was, of course, the Four-day Scheme. The beginning of this was very effectively marked by our "Don R" chasing a double-decker bus out of the night convoy and a little later by the same "Don R" having difficulty with his motor bike, culminating in his spending that night on some obscure railway station in the Fen country.

Digging presented a problem—particularly as ideas on the dimensions of "five feet" were found not to be uniform. However, weapon pits became steadily deeper as we moved nearer the front, so much so that in our last position the smoke from a brew of tea which took nearly an hour and a half to make (and it might be said that this brew was not cooked over a candle) was not noticed, even though a lot of petrol was used.

The majority vote was that the scheme was quite a "giggle" and most of us recall it as having had its enjoyable moments.

The following are to be congratulated on their promotions: Cpl. Sexton to Sergeant and L/Cpl. Pearson to Corporal, and the following on their first appointments: Ptes. Barnes, Prescott, Roberts and Wheeler to L/Corporals.

We would also like to congratulate Capt. Gunnell on his being awarded the Coronation Medal.

Finally, we hope to welcome many more volunteers to the Territorial Army and a small but encouraging number of people have already been "sworn in."

Our training this winter will be based on the things that were noticed as lacking at camp and we hope we shall see a large gathering of wives and lady friends at our social evenings on Thursdays.





"B" Company Tactical Week-end.  
Part of Lt. Hardcastle's Platoon.

#### "B" COMPANY

Having just finished camp, it is only natural that these notes should consist very largely of anecdotes concerning it; if anyone should quibble on this score, then I apologise and make an immediate offer to put my job of writing these notes into his hands.

Regrettably camp seems to have been dominated in a most depressing fashion by the weather; however, given time, no doubt the less happy memories of Bodney and Tottington will be forgotten and only the amusing incidents remembered. Chief amongst the latter was our trip to Yarmouth on the middle week-end (embarked upon, I may say, with some trepidation by the Management). However, the attractions of Yarmouth proved less irresistible than was at first imagined, consisting as they did chiefly of bloaters, and we were able to embus safely by 8 p.m. for the pub of our choice, where we were to hold our Company Party.

Once it was seen that there was a sufficiency of drink, its success was assured. In fact for certain people, who shall be nameless, there seemed to be rather too much to drink, if such a thing is possible. Amongst the many memories of the party, the picture of Sgt. Eastap decorously topped with a sombrero, and Jordan dressed as a form of cowboy, complete with M.C. flashes (and a rather smaller than 10-gallon hat), doing a form of primeval war dance together, will be remembered; as also will be the Company Commander's attempts to prevent L/Cpl. Rann from teaching him Judo; unfortunately he was once again successful. *Mirabile dictu*, We all got back to camp safely, but I have my doubts as to whether everyone slept soundly.

As a direct result of the camp it is intended to form a Company soccer team this coming winter as there seems to be enough playing support. The only drawback is the provision of pitches and fixtures, but no doubt with the passage of time these troubles will be sorted out.

As a final memory of camp and paragraph to these notes, I should like to pay tribute to C/Sgt. Leahy's success at camp; especially with the food. He and his cooks worked absolute wonders with what they were given. "B" Company can indeed count themselves lucky to have been so well fed.

#### "C" COMPANY

In May "C" Company held a tactical training week-end at Pirbright. It was unfortunate that a certain vagueness about the actual map reference, which with better luck might have secured the Company from supervising visitors, served instead perversely to divert C.S.M. Corner and the rations. However, as the three cooks detailed to accompany us appeared unaccountably to have another and more important engagement, the outlook for the Company's feeding had in any case not been particularly bright, and the blow was accepted with stoicism. It was somewhere about half-past three in the afternoon when the Commanding Officer, who had rashly decided to join us for lunch, finally received a dubious sausage on a piece of bread.

For the rest of the week-end two C.S.M.s sweated in their shirt-sleeves as stop-gap cooks, while the remainder of the Company, encouraged by the example set and animated by the food, performed exuberantly in the heather (Fieldcraft). It must be recorded that the Company Orderly Officer received no complaints throughout the week-end, though whether this was due to the excellence of the messing or to the seniority of the cooks is the reader's guess.

An account of the other training event of this latest quarter-annual camp, from which the Company, scarcely 24 hours back, is still reeling, can perhaps be left to the next issue of *The Die-Hards*. Two names might, however, be mentioned here: Lt. Carter, who, at the eleventh hour, came most opportunely to command No. 8 Platoon, and L/Cpl. Butters, who, with considerable care and trouble, prepared himself for the C.O.'s Orderlies Competition to find himself the only entrant. He thus became the winner by a walk-over, which was a pity, since there was every reason to believe that he would have won against pretty stiff outside competition.

Meanwhile the remorselessness of the reveille bugle, of the perpetual rain, of the R.A.F. air-strikes are still vividly with us, but to the writer quite the most vivid piece of remorselessness was the Company's estimate (inadvertently overheard during the four-day exercise) of their O.C.'s age!

#### "D" COMPANY

We were warned recently that a most unusual occurrence was taking place within "C" Company. Mutterings were heard about a fourth rifle company. In fact "C" Company during March all of a sudden gave birth to an offspring which is growing healthier and stronger every day, despite allusion to its primitive beginnings. For a few days at camp we found ourselves once again phased into "C" Company, but you may be sure that we shall not easily give up our identity again.

We must first thank Capt. J. Walters for being the first Company Commander and are sorry that owing to

business reasons he has had to leave. It was left to Lt. McDavid, who eventually assumed command, to see us through our teething troubles and we hope far beyond. Unfortunately we very soon lost our half-share in C.S.M. Corner, whose aid was invaluable. C.S.M. Bignall has, however, taken over the joint responsibilities of P.S.I. of the two companies. We also have C.S.M. Burrell, who, we understand, will be able to come in the evenings now he is not on night duty.

Our first major problem was to find some section commanders for camp, at which we hoped to work with two platoons. We set about this task at Sevenoaks, during the first week-end in May. Most of the time was spent in section training and also night patrolling. The less said about the food the better, but suspicious smells of toasting came from both our huts one evening, so a patrol was quickly formed to find something to go with it. Driving tests were also taken and passed, in spite of one broken barrier. A few were introduced to the new signal procedure and so we came away prepared, to a certain extent, for camp. Finally before camp we spent a day at Mill Hill "zeroing" brens, as everyone had to classify at camp on this weapon.

By the end of camp there were not many features of the Stanford battle area which we did not know intimately. Sometimes it was soaking wet bracken, or perhaps swarms of flies on the sun's occasional appearance, or even the non-existent cart track the Company tried to find, which will remind us of those long days spent on tactics right up to Battalion level. On travelling to our area, we one day (owing to an error by the range warden) found ourselves in the front line of 131 Brigade during their big exercise. Whether they did actually withdraw we never discovered, but our Company signaller had the satisfaction of hearing each platoon in turn replying "Wilco Out" to his order. Sgt. Nicholson, from the Regimental Depot, was attached to us for the first week and was of great service with his up-to-date experience of training recruits, one of whom as a waiter in the Officers' Mess had obviously been an apt pupil. Also we must mention the hard work put in by C/Sgt. Colbourne before and during camp when dealing with all the administrative details of a new Company on top of his orderly room duties.

The distribution of officers and N.C.O.s in the Company is as follows:

Company H.Q.: Lt. M. McDavid, Lt. P. S. Liddell, C.S.M. Burrell, C/Sgt. Colbourne and L/Cpl. Winters.  
No. 10 Platoon: Lt. F. Holm, Sgt. Richardson, L/Cpls. Oakman, Gritty and Clarke.

No. 11 Platoon: Lt. R. M. Fox, L/Cpls. Hughes, Fletcher, Gardner and Humm.

We congratulate all those who have been promoted.

#### "S" COMPANY

Any remarks about annual camp, rain, or Norfolk would be superfluous as these subjects are fully covered in Platoon notes.

We welcome C.S.M. Cooper as P.S.I. and trust that his stay here will be a happy one.

Congratulations to the following on their very well earned promotion: Cpl. Jones to Sergeant; L/Cpls.

Frazer, Burt, Oliver and Carter to Corporal. Also to the following on their appointment to L/Corporal: Ptes. Durham, Stenning, Tuffnell and Beauchamp.

Now for the future. Winter training starts in September and interest having been sufficiently aroused at annual camp for most of us to realise what must be learnt or relearnt we should go from strength to strength until again next summer our theories will be put to the test.

Finally, to everyone reading these notes who are or who know old "S" Company men, a welcome awaits them at Priory Road, Hornsey, and much valuable work is to be done.

#### M.M.G. Platoon

One feels that originality in post-annual camp writings is a thing to be sought and seldom attained. Everyone is bursting to tell their particular news in the first paragraph, but, to be fair, the "joyous fifteen days" is the culmination of a year's work. Small activities find their justification in that brief period and so, in the case of the Platoon, first mention must be made of a tactical week-end held at Depot, Mill Hill. It was here that the newest recruits to the Platoon got their blooding. It was a week-end in which "basic principles" was the slogan, although, towards the end of Sunday, everyone broke into a gentle canter and much knowledge "got across" with happy results at a later date.

And now to camp. The period for training was clearly divided into two sections in that the first week was intended to strengthen the year's individual training and, for this purpose, the Platoon was split into two squads, the Tactical squad, consisting of most of the N.C.O.s and trained men, under the Platoon Commander, and the Drill squad, which contained the new recruits, with the 2IC and Sgts. Simmonds and La Roche guarding their interests. The second week was largely under Battalion arrangements, of which more later.

In the Tactical squad, advanced handling, the procedure for attack and defence and camouflage were studied and a high standard, particularly in the last subject, was obtained. The Drill squad also reached for the stars and amazed many people, especially as at the end of their individual training most of the squad had had only five whole days on the gun. On the first Wednesday the squads combined in digging defensive positions and again the "beginners" did some very gallant work. Q.M.S.I. Swift of the Support Weapons Wing, School of Infantry, came to us on this day and gave us many invaluable hints on concealment and working in the line.

It was during this first week that "brewing-up" was brought to perfection, after the 2IC nearly removed himself to the M.R.S., due to a too-near acquaintance with a faulty petrol cooker which was subsequently changed. This last-named item of equipment gave us a distinct feeling of superiority over the Drainpipe Boy Scouts, who were forced to rely on very smoky wood fires.

Thursday of the first week was used for a Battalion deployment exercise and the Platoon had a quiet day,



during which camouflage again loomed large in our thoughts. This aspect of training promises to be very important in any future war and we feel that at least here we shall not fall down.

The second week provided the final test in the form of a Brigade exercise. The Platoon set off near the rear of the Battalion and drove for interminable miles to a concentration area, during which one of the older carrier drivers started a coloured coon act, which role he never really relinquished. In fact, a concert party might be arranged in the future! The exercise then proceeded to gain momentum and the Platoon went with it. Many valuable lessons were learnt in the next two days, including digging a gun pit, line routine, vehicle discipline, voice procedure and generally living in the field. The whole effect was quite realistic, the Platoon Commander going "in the bag" for a brief spell and, although everyone was very tired afterwards, it was generally agreed that it was interesting and instructive, and, occasionally, humorous. Now all we wait for is the next one.

Congratulations are in order to Cpls. Carter, Burt and Oliver on their promotions and to L/Cpls. Stenning and Durham on their appointments.

A short spell of leave now beckons in August and after that winter training will again occupy our thoughts, during which we shall take the Rifle Classification course and recommence Platoon training towards yet bigger and better things.

### 3-in. Mortar Platoon

At annual camp training started well to time on the first day. All equipment had been drawn up on the previous week-end and the Platoon was deployed as a full H.Q. and two complete sections—needless to say it poured with rain and we moved into two sheds at Waterloo farm for training, one acting as O.P., the other as the Base Plate Position. Although everyone was saturated, the day's training was quite useful as it enabled everyone to get used to each other. The highlight of the day was when Lt. Reed and L/Cpl. Humphries engaged enemy tanks in front of the farm; the number two's in each case thought it more advantageous to look up the tube to sight rather than by the normal method. Needless to say a rapid course of instruction was held immediately afterwards.

The Platoon, after being caught out last year as far as "brewing up" was concerned, arranged adequate supplies. L/Cpl. Stimpson, being i/c tea as well as the carriers, arrived with brews at all times of the day and night, according to his whim.

On the Tuesday, the Platoon had their first shoot, which was quite good considering the state of the ammunition, which was American and made in 1943 (much too old, and manufactured for Charge I only). It follows, of course, that the Platoon Commander and 2IC spent a lot of time blowing up blinds and misfires, the explosions getting louder and more devastating as the camp progressed.

At this time, Platoon drill was slightly altered for no apparent reason; instead of "start up" it was "let 'em roll," and instead of "O.K." on the wireless set, it

was "yep." This was further encouraged when F/O. Flinn of the Canadian Air Force joined the Platoon as Air Liaison Officer. Sections were even renamed "outfits."

We understand from F/O. Flinn that the Sabre Jets he flies can do anything except fly in ever-decreasing circles until they finally disappear. It was worth having him, although every "goddam" piece of equipment of the Platoon was manufactured in Canada, so much so that we felt that we were the Mortar Platoon of the Royal Rifles of Canada.

### Anti-Tank Platoon

The Platoon arrived at annual camp at full posted strength, less three men. Alas, the "best laid schemes of mice and men" went slightly astray when the Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. Brooks, decided that Norfolk air was not sufficiently bracing and retired to hospital; he recovered sufficiently, however, to take an active part in the Brigade exercise.

During the second week of training and on the Brigade exercise we fielded a Platoon H.Q. and three gun teams; all learnt very thoroughly how to dig a gun pit and why not to site a gun at cross roads. The Platoon felt that they had learnt a lot "the hard way" and were pleased to know that the General enjoyed himself.

After a three-weeks' close period we look forward to winter training and shall, in the light of recent experience, be prepared to train all who come.

Congratulations to Sgt. Jones and Cpl. Frazer on their promotion.

### Assault Pioneer Platoon

The patient work and persuasive tongue of Sgt. Hollis has produced over the last year the nucleus of a Platoon. Strengthened by some National Servicemen we went to camp eleven strong. Hence we feel that as well as making ourselves heard throughout the Stanford Training Area we should also appear in print so that those who may not realise how many and varied our activities are may obtain an idea of what we do, besides digging command posts.

As we are assault pioneers our tasks are similar to the R.E.s, but on a smaller scale. Our training so far has included mine laying, lifting and breaching, booby traps, and demolitions including cratering. In theory we also undertake to operate the Ack Pack flame thrower, to make improvised bridges, and to master the art of watersmanship. We hope to have some training on at least one of these subjects during the coming year.

At camp on training we were alternatively lost and found and our demolitions were the only sure way to pin-point us. However, as long as there is an Assault Pioneer Platoon on the establishment our appearance in these notes will, we hope, be permanent.

The demonstration given for the Battalion was quite well done, although a couple of Harvard training planes were nearly shot down. They were quite worried by our B.E. smoke bombs bursting so close to them. The bad ammunition, too, caused slight consternation on the Base Plate Position as shrapnel from the "cook offs" was passing over the heads of the Mortar numbers.

Most of the second week was spent on the exercise, which, needless to say, was welcomed with mixed feelings by the Platoon, as shocking rumours had been handed down from other Battalions who had already completed the exercise. The weather on the whole was fair, although it did rain heavily on occasions. Little happened during the first two days, but the tempo gradually increased from 04.00 hours on the Friday. The Platoon went into action quite well, watched by members of "C" Company. The Base Plate Position was reached through a very large puddle which Cpl. Inns once tried to cross on his motor cycle. Although he was willing, the bike was not, and he had to be pulled out. After the Platoon had been in action for about five minutes, we received a message over the air to "cease fire and join 'B' Company"; this was done with plenty of zip and the Platoon "phased" itself on to the road, where it was met by Major Waller. He

informed Lt. Reed that a mistake had occurred—"B" Company wanted us to fire, not to "cease fire." So we went back once more to the Base Plate Position to the delight of "C" Company. The chaps stood up to counter attacks, tank attacks and air attacks very well, although at one time in the harbour area they were found in an open field playing cricket with a B.36 overhead. These are more commonly known as a "four fan two squirt high altitude destruction ship" by our American allies.

It was satisfactory at the end of camp to find that all the N.S. men had volunteered, except the Platoon Commander's driver (probably due to the fact that he had deposited his Platoon Commander in the mud from the jeep too often) and on return to Hornsey to know that next year the Platoon will be going to camp full strength.

Until the next issue, *au revoir* and good mortaring.

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

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

In the last quarter the Coronation overshadowed all other events. The Battalion was represented by Major Webber and four O.Rs. in the marching procession, and Lt. Reckitt and 18 O.Rs. in the street lining party. The turn-out and bearing of both parties were excellent and they were congratulated by the commandant of the Parachute Regiment Depot. Only ten Coronation Medals were available to the Battalion and these were duly presented by the Honorary Colonel, Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P. I should have found it much easier to award 50 medals rather than 10, because there are undoubtedly that number, and probably more in the Battalion, who by their enthusiasm, length of service, attendance, interest and display of the volunteer spirit deserved recognition. As it was the ten were awarded to a cross-section of all ranks in the Battalion and many thoroughly deserving cases had, perforce, to be left out.

In the field of sport the Battalion has three T.A. representatives who have been awarded T.A. honours—Lt. Brooks (athletics), Sgt. Brown and Pte. Casey (boxing). I hope that in the coming year we shall increase our number of honours ties. Congratulations to "C" Company on winning the Harrow T.A. Units Sports Meeting for the second year running. The outstanding athlete there was undoubtedly Pte. Blaxall.

A great deal of time in the summer is always devoted to shooting. This year has been no exception. The Battalion Shooting Club, fostered by Major Boys, Lt. Buck and the R.S.M., has been a success and though no prizes have been won a firm foundation has been laid for next year's shooting. Space is regrettably not available to mention all those who devoted much time and practice to improving our scoring in the Brigade and Divisional meetings. The following stalwarts, however, managed to extract yet another day off from their employers and represented the Battalion at Bisley: C.S.M.

Wales, C.S.M. Tucker, Sgt. Crosby, Sgt. Covey, Sgt. Easby, L/Cpl. Furness, Pte. Nelson, Pte. Hopley and Pte. Young. The Battalion W.T. and shooting meeting was a great success and for a change was held in perfect weather. Once again it was proved that success goes to those companies who produce the maximum number of teams. "B" Company won the W.T. cup and "D" Company the shooting cup. Congratulations to Sgt. Easby on winning the Sergeants' Mess championship and C.S.M. Vasey the P.S.I.'s cup.

Parachuting so far this summer has been confined to a week's ballooning at Wormwood Scrubs and one day at White Waltham. Many in the Battalion, however, have qualified as parachutists at Abingdon, including the Adjutant and L/Cpl. Kemp, M.M., of "H.Q." Company. The latter, a member of the Corps of Drums, was said at the school to have been the best T.A. trainee ever.

Camp this year is a "C" type one with the emphasis on Battalion and Brigade exercises. With this in mind an officers' T.E.W.T. was held in the Aylesbury area. This was well attended and I was particularly pleased to see a good turn-out of our "country members," i.e. officers who by reason of their place of work, etc., are unable to join us very often. The Companies, too, have all had W/Es out training, and I am confident that there will be considerable competition at camp to be the first Company complete at the various R.V.s and the first on to their objectives on exercises. A guard competition and an inter-Company drill competition is also being held at camp, and from my observations round drill halls it is apparent that competition will be fierce here too.

The Band has been much in demand this summer. Bandmaster Snare has a keen and efficient band. They have played over a large area from Canterbury to Beaconsfield and Marlow to Westminster to the delight of their audiences.

Coming events include the world premiere of the film "The Red Beret" on August 13. The Band and 150 other ranks of the Battalion, with 50 men from the 10th



Battalion will march from Wellington Place to Leicester Square, via Piccadilly, to free seats in the cinema. This is excellent publicity and should be of first class recruiting value. I hope that many wives will be able to meet their husbands at the cinema and be able to sit with them through the show. I am hoping for good jumping weather in August when we shall have another week's ballooning on Eton College playing fields at the Slough and Windsor Carnival. Finally we look forward to camp. In the first week I hope we will consolidate W.T. and leadership lessons taught during the year and, in the second, we must prove ourselves the most efficient Battalion in the 16th Airborne Division in the biggest airborne exercise held since exercise "Long-stop" in 1947.

#### "H.Q." COMPANY

The greatest event since our last notes was the Coronation. "H.Q." Company had the honour of having the following personnel on parade: R.Q.M.S. Johnson, Cpl. Sharp, Cpl. Warner, Cpl. King, L/Cpl. Kemp, M.M.I., Pte. Kemp and Pte. Ives. We wish, also, to congratulate Lt.-Col. Corby, T.D., R.S.M. Pestell, Sgt. Beale and Cpl. Sharp on receiving the Coronation Medal.

On June 12, on the occasion of Her Majesty's State drive to the Guildhall, the Company was represented, in lining the route, by the Company Commander, C.S.M. Wales, Sgt. Phillips, Cpl. Warner, Cpl. Sharp, Pte. Batty, Pte. Eckersall and Pte. Lloyd.

The Company has been fully employed in producing the M.T. sinews of war for all schemes run in the Battalion and, taken with rifle practice shoots and the Divisional rifle meeting, it has just about been run off wheels, but the M.T. have nevertheless thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

In the Brigade rifle meeting Lt.-Col. Corby was second in the individual scores for the Queen Mary competition, which, the rest of us in the Company consider, deserves a special mention.

The Band has been doing quite remarkably and should, by next year, be playing at every regatta on the Thames and will also have every function in the area in its apparently bottomless bag.

Our Corps of Drums under C.S.M. Wales is also going from strength to strength, and we are very proud of them. They were on parade on a Coronation church parade on May 31 and in Ealing on June 7 and July 18.

The Company held a heavy drop cadre to initiate the Battalion to this dark and deadly secret weapon, on June 7. The necessary loading and laying out was done on the 6th by Sgt. Phillips and Sgt. Riordan, ably assisted by a Staff Sergeant from No. 44 Airborne Workshops, who brought a crane. The Company Commander also got his hands dirty.

Support, "B," "C" and "D" Companies, with Sgt. Brown and Pte. Elmes of "H.Q." Company, on the 7th reduced the loaded Landrover to a driveable Landrover and then reloaded in the parachutes. Everyone agreed that it was enjoyable and well worth while.

Three members of the Company were, thanks to the kindness of our Royal Engineers, allowed to participate in exercise "Gun Snatch." On Saturday they watched

the doling out of Landrovers and rafting equipment from C.119s and on Sunday doled out our own Landrover. Pte. Payne, the driver, with L/Cpl. Sandeman, of "B" Company, jumped with the North Somerset Yeomanry, collected the vehicle after an exercise on the deck in which they were "pressed men," drove back to the Division week-end camp and then up to London. The visions of walking were thin air!

Parachuting having opened in May with ballooning at Wormwood Scrubs during the week May 18 to 22, the weather promptly scrubbed the first and second days but on the last three evenings a large number of sticks dropped. One stick had a Cook's tour on the last evening with views of the White City Stadium, the prison ("clink"), Old Oak railway marshalling yard and the cemetery, twice. The courier, Sgt. Phillips, was more concerned about when the winch lorry would settle down; the remainder of the stick when they could jump, and jump they did.

Finally we have our Adjutant, Capt. Mieville, back in a sound condition after "P" Company and a parachute course.

#### SUPPORT COMPANY

During the last three months the Company has had a varied and fairly busy time. Our activities have ranged over such fields as the Coronation, parachuting from a balloon and the usual range firing and exercises.

We had representatives at the Coronation, both in the marching party and in the street lining party, and Sgt. Hawkins and Cpl. Evans were awarded the Coronation Medal. The Company paraded with the Hounslow British Legion on May 31 and, after attending a church parade, marched through the town. We also sent demonstration teams consisting of detachments of the Signal, M.G. and Mortar platoons to the B.O.A.C. Carnival at London Airport and to the annual gymkhana of the Combined Cadet Forces of Whitgift Middle School at Croydon. The latter was a particular success as it took place on the day after the water drop by the 16th Battalion, and the schoolboys and the public generally showed tremendous interest in the exhibits. The cadets of the school disturbed the equanimity of the demonstrators by asking their usual crop of embarrassing questions of advanced ballistics, ionised layers, magnetic influences and the like. We also acted as the G.P.O. truck for the Royal Artillery demonstration.

We sent a strong contingent to assist in lining the route for the visit of Her Majesty to the Guildhall on June 12.

The parachuting season started with a week's ballooning at Wormwood Scrubs where, unfortunately, the weather was rather bad, but the majority of the Company succeeded in getting in a couple of descents. We also took part in a parachuting demonstration at White Waltham airfield on May 25.

We had enthusiastic teams at Ash Ranges for the Battalion and the Brigade rifle meetings, and although the only prize winner was our P.S.I., C.S.M. Vasey, who won the Battalion P.S.I.'s cup, the Company showed a great improvement on last year.

In the field of soldiering we provided the supporting

weapons for "B" Company during their week-end exercise at Aldershot on June 20. Our Pioneer Platoon, now commanded by Lt. P. Lawrence, has made great progress. Cpl. Upson and L/Cpl. Otterway have attended a course on mines, booby-traps and demolitions, and they now wander around the countryside with malignant eyes calculating how much explosive would be required to blow up all the railway bridges in Surrey.

#### "B" COMPANY

Since our last contribution the Company has entered the summer season with considerable enthusiasm. With the advent of May the Company was well represented at the Battalion rifle meeting held at Stoney Castle. Of the eight cups to be won "B" Company returned to Ealing with six of them and held high hopes for a successful Brigade meeting to be held the following week-end. The Company was well represented at the latter engagement by Capt. Lee, Sgt. Crosby, Pte. Nelson, Pte. Hopley and L/Cpl. Furness, but unfortunately the 14th Battalion were still far and away the better shots.

Monday, May 18, was originally the date set aside for the week's ballooning at Wormwood Scrubs, but owing to the unsettled English climate it was not until the Wednesday that descents were carried out. There was no lack of parachutists and, as always, the tall stories were being exchanged at a fast and furious rate.

A dozen volunteers, whose employers had no objection to their having the day off, formed part of an Airborne contingent lining the route for H.M. the Queen's State drive to the Guildhall on Friday, June 12.

A Company week-end was held in the Aldershot area on June 20/21, during which time the weather was luckily fine. Ptes. Cooper and Kelly were a source of inspiration to the attacking platoon, and so were Pte. Nelson and L/Cpl. Bowditch to the defending unit. The two latter mentioned were still carrying mosquitoes a week later, much to the consternation of the majority of the Company.

We conclude by extending a hearty welcome to our new P.S.I., Sgt. Reynolds (Middlesex Regiment), who, after a refresher course at Abingdon, joined us in the middle of May. Those readers who know Sgt. Reynolds well will be very pleased to learn that he was runner-up in the P.S.I.s competition at the Brigade rifle meeting.

Congratulations are sent by all the Company to Maylin-Tuck, Steers and Nichols on successfully completing their basic parachute course at Abingdon.

On the next occasion we send in our notes camp will take up considerable space, so until then "Ich Dien."

#### "C" COMPANY

The last few months have provided the members of "C" Company with a full and varied programme. Early in April we were all more than pleased to welcome back S.M. "Taffy" Roberts on his return from the Middle East to resume the duties of P.S.I. Quite like old times!

Most week-ends have been occupied with some form of interesting and very useful training, consisting of the

C.O.'s weapon training week-end in May and followed by a highly successful Company training in the Worthing area. The different air (and beer) proved very invigorating.

Most parachuting members of the Company had a chance to "hit the silk" during the Battalion jumping week at Wormwood Scrubs, and we also supplied a stick for a most well-organised air display at White Waltham airfield, which turned out most successful.

The Company was well represented by certain picked members on the Coronation parade and again on Her Majesty's State drive to the Guildhall.

More recent events include our annual adoption parade around Harrow and Wealdstone and a more than enjoyable day of field firing in the Aldershot area.

So here we are, all straining at the leash and primed up ready to be away on the big event of the year, annual camp, and put into practice all our learning and show "C" Company tops once again.

#### "D" COMPANY

Jumping has started again and the Company enjoyed three nights at Wormwood Scrubs (outside) and many of the men got in at least one drop.

Normal training has been carried on during the evenings when the attendances have been good.

We have been lucky to obtain permission to construct a .22 range. This is to be done by unit labour and we are looking for volunteers. (We are broadminded and will allow anyone to participate even if they do not belong to "D" Company.)

Another great asset is a covered way connecting the drill hall to the canteen. It is a great advantage in this lovely English summer weather not to get wet outside before doing so inside.

A representative of the Company was invited to attend a Conference with the Mayor of Edmonton to introduce the Work of the Ex-Services Welfare Society to the district. This society provides for ex-Service men and women who have become mentally deranged through service, and does a tremendous amount of good to these unfortunate people. They are sadly in need of funds and any Company holding raffles, etc., at dances could do far worse than devote the proceeds to this cause. If anyone wishing to do so will contact the Company we will be pleased to let them have the address and more details if required.

We congratulate both Mr. Tanner and Mr. Sanderson on their promotion to full Lieutenant.

We congratulate Mr. Brooks on achieving the following success in the T.A. athletics: 1st, 120 yds. hurdles; 2nd, high jump; 3rd, 100 yds.

The Company did extremely well in supplying four out of the Battalion's five competitors.

The Company is doing very well as we have yet a further tribute to make, and that is to congratulate Cpl. Monkman on being awarded his brown belt (international) for Judo.

We welcome the following to the Company: Capt. Courtney from "B" Company, Lt. Mackintosh and Lt. Strong, whom we hope will be happy among the "Dog" crowd.



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

### REGIMENTAL H.Q.

Since the last issue of this journal Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, T.D., has relinquished command and his place has been taken by Lt.-Col. B. A. G. MacFadden, T.D. This is the first time in the history of the Regiment that command has been given to an officer who is comparatively new as a "Die-Hard." However, Col. MacFadden can be assured of the fullest support from all officers, W.O.s, N.C.O.s and men, and we consider ourselves very fortunate indeed in the choice of our new C.O.

We offer congratulations to the following officers, N.C.O.s and men: Sgt. H. E. W. Thomas, Bdr. E. J. Halls, L/Bdr. F. A. Milsom, L/Bdr. K. G. R. Anderson, Gnr. W. A. Downton and Gnr. E. A. Goulding, who represented the Regiment, lining the route, on the occasion of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on June 2, 1953, and Lt.-Col. B. A. G. MacFadden, T.D., Capt. C. H. T. Barber, R.Q.M.S. A. E. Devereaux and Bdr. E. J. Halls, on the award of the Coronation Medal.

The last three months has seen our Regiment very busy, and our activities have ranged from taking part in a Brigade exercise, "Quicksilver," in which "Q" and S/L Batteries performed commendably, to participating in local Coronation celebrations and supplying gun and S/L equipment for exhibition and floodlighting at the White City, Lyons sports meeting and Hendon Borough Show, as well as sending representatives to Aldershot to take part in the T.A. athletic championships. Space will not permit the full reporting of all these activities, but we hope the Editor will not blue pencil our following report on the Searchlight Tattoo written by Capt. Shaw, O.C. S/L Battery.

### Searchlight Tattoo, White City, 1953

It was my privilege to be in command of the searchlight detachments at the opening performances of the Searchlight Tattoo, the second of which was attended by Her Majesty and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh.

The part played by the four searchlight detachments, mounted high over the arena on four precipitous scaffolding towers, was extremely effective, enhancing the stadium lighting more than might be imagined, and the detachments, which included "Die-Hards," are to be congratulated on the bright way they picked up the alien technique of "theatrical" spotlighting and combined it with the more familiar signals procedure from the control room.

Some of the lighting plots were quite complicated and the telephonist on each detachment received, acknowledged and relayed an almost continuous stream of orders for lighting cues. There were periods during Air Chief Marshal Joubert's and John Snagge's commentaries when the control room microphone was "live" and signal silence was essential. During these periods the detachments maintained continuity of their

lighting role with commendable unison and initiative.

The distant flutter of a diminutive flag above "Dog" equipment (for the information of those who spotted it) bore the Middlesex colours of scarlet and gold and was fashioned from two cushion covers by B.S.M. Lockyer's wife.

Many complimentary observations were received about the searchlight's contribution and these were passed on to the personnel concerned. Perhaps the most effective scenes from our angle were the Bruneval Raid, where we picked out the objectives in a darkened scene, Beating Retreat by the Royal Marines and the finale, where in the completely floodlit stadium we helped to emphasise the flashing helmets of the massed bands and the white gloves and spats of the drummers and pipers.

Col. G. R. G. Hart, producer of the show, has extended his congratulations for the fine work of the following personnel who composed detachments during the week: B.S.M. Hughes (P.S.I.), B.S.M. Lockyer, Sgt. Mitchell, Sgt. Raynor, Sgt. McCarthy, Bdr. Halls, L/Bdr. Gilbert, L/Bdr. Daniels, Gnr. Bardley and Gnr. Lawlor.

### BAND

Since our last account of the Regimental Band we are pleased to report a magnificent response for new Bandsmen joining us.

We are fortunate now in having all members in No. 1 dress.

There are, of course, still a few vacancies to be filled and we shall be delighted to interview anyone who would like to join us.

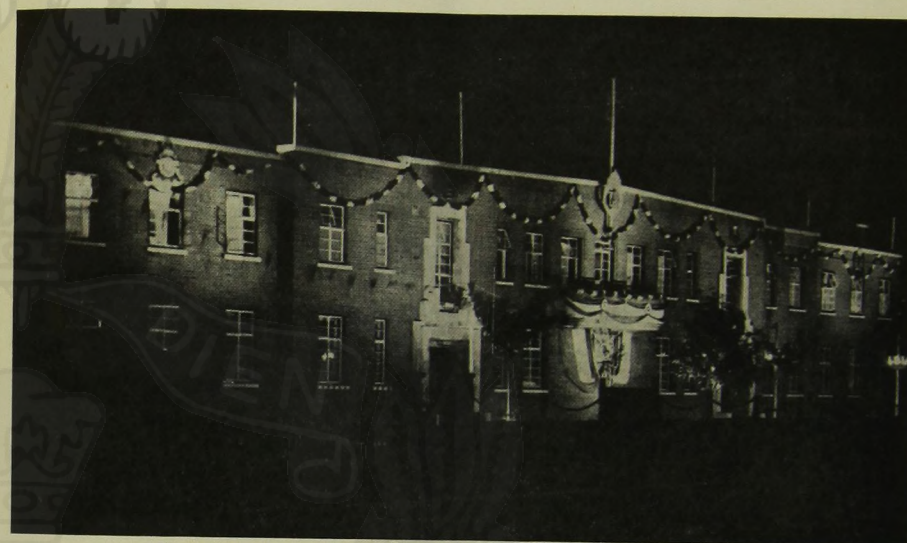
Under the baton of Bandmaster Turner the Band has very successfully performed at quite a number of engagements, which included the Officers' Mess cocktail party, Kingsbury Community Coronation celebrations and march past and the Mayor of Wembley's annual cricket match.

### PRELUDE TO CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

London Town was visited by many thousands of people, both before, during and after the Coronation. Those whose homes brought them out north west were seen to slow down and pause a moment outside the T.A. Centre to admire the decorations and floodlighting which had been carried out by the permanent staff and friends of the Regiment.

The cheerful way in which our R.S.M.s, P.S.I.s and civilian staff tackled every type of job which was given to them earned, during the Coronation, not only the thanks of all members of the Regiment, but also the thanks and admiration of the local inhabitants and visitors who have had the good fortune to live in or pass through Kingsbury during those eventful weeks.

We say a very special "thank you," therefore, in conclusion, to R.S.M. Hunt, B.S.M.s McCarthy, Hughes and Strange, Sgts. Packer and Fisher, and Mr. Maggs (O.C.A., 9th Battalion) for all the hard work they did and originality they showed in the decorating of the outside and inside of our premises for the Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II.



Final effect of three weeks' work. The Coronation Decorations and Floodlighting.

### OFFICERS' MESS

The Officers' Mess "dined out" Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, T.D., on May 9, 1953, with 26 officers in attendance. Presentations were made by the Honorary Colonel, Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., D.L. This was a very sad day for those of us who had the privilege of serving with and under Lt.-Col. Dear, who had given unstinted service to the Regiment since 1939. We would like to take this opportunity of conveying to him our grateful thanks for all he has done in the past and also our wishes for a most successful future in the world of commerce.

The Mess held two functions over the Coronation period. A ball at the T.A. Centre on Friday, May 29, 1953, which over 100 officers and their wives and guests attended. Dancing continued till 2 a.m., and as this function was voted a great success it looks like becoming a hardy annual. A cocktail party was held on Sunday, June 7. Guests to this function included the Mayor of Wembley, the Brigade Commander and officers who had served with the Regiment since 1947 and for various reasons had to transfer to T.A.R.O. The Regimental Band played in the forecourt below the Officers' Mess balcony and greatly added to the enjoyment of the function.

### ATHLETICS

Our small group of stalwarts did very well for themselves at the Queensbury and District sports held at Headstone Manor on June 20. They succeeded in gaining four first places and winning the 440 yds. sprint relay and the medley relay.

All the cars we had brought to the ground were pressed

into service to carry away the trophies and prizes, loads of glass dishes and sundry crockery!

The team was: L/Bdr. Cornes, who showed promise of great things to come when he comes up against sterner opposition, Gnr. Page, who won the 100 yds., Gnr. Perkins, Gnr. Meadows and Gnr. Tingle.

On June 27 we were represented at the T.A. Athletics Championships at Aldershot. All ran very well. It was bad luck for Gnr. Page who, although he ran the 100 yds. in 10.3 seconds, had the misfortune to be in the fastest heat, coming third, thus excluding him from the final. L/Bdr. Cornes did very well in the face of strong opposition, coming third in the three miles.

We hope to send some strong opposition to the Harrow inter-Regimental sports on July 25 and see some keen rivalry at the inter-Battery sports on August 8.

### W.O.S' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

As reported in our last contribution, our past C.O., Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, T.D., was "dined out" by the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess at a dinner held on Friday, May 1, 1953. From beginning to end it was unanimously agreed that the dinner was a huge success. It was one of those occasions where those concerned arrived determined to enjoy themselves—and did so.

Wines flowed freely, tongues wagged incessantly and the dinner was excellent in every way. Every member was present on this important occasion and in addition to Lt.-Col. Dear we were also lucky enough to have the following as guests: Lt.-Col. B. A. G. MacFadden, T.D. (our new C.O.), Dr. F. McConnell-Thompson, Major T. Mayhew, Major G. Wickers and our Adjutant, Capt. C. H. T. Barber, R.A.



## PRESENTATION TO MESS

On May 16, 1953, at the 9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) O.C.A. dinner, the wife of the late Sgt. P. Thres, "B" Company, 9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A., kindly presented the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess with the bugle which belonged to her late husband whilst serving.

## WELCOME

As new members of our Mess we welcome the following wholeheartedly: Bandmaster W.O.1 W. Turner, Sgt. (Bdsm.) F. Buckman and A/Sgt. M. W. O'Brart.

The two former we have all known for a long time and are already settled in as members, whereas A/Sgt. O'Brart has just joined the Regiment from No. 22 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A., B.A.O.R., and entered our Mess for the first time on Wednesday, July 1, 1953. He was "at ease" immediately.

## CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to the following:

To B.S.M. Hughes and family on moving into a nice W.D. married quarter in Edgware.

Again to B.S.M. Hughes on his successful examination result for the Army Second-Class Certificate. Very

## Extracts from "London Gazette"

May 8, 1953

Major E. N. Cunliffe (23974), having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers, May 9, 1953, retaining the rank of Major.

Lt. R. B. Wells (7563), having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers, May 9, 1953.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the award of the 1st Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration upon the following officer:

Major D. C. Lawrence, T.D. (67550).

May 12, 1953

2/Lt. A. H. Catchpole (418799) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, May 11, 1953.

2/Lt. G. P. Chadwick (418791) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, May 11, 1953.

May 15, 1953

Capt. (Hon. Major) A. H. M. Field, T.D. (31328), having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers, May 16, 1953, retaining the hon. rank of Major.

June 2, 1953

The undermentioned officer relinquishes his commission, June 3, 1953, and is granted the hon. rank of Lieutenant:

Lt. W. Allman (304966).

22706014 Cadet Michael Crowder (427395) to be 2/Lieutenant, March 14, 1953.

22696486 Cadet Michael Sidney Gedye (427386) to be 2/Lieutenant, March 14, 1953.

well done, Sergeant-Major. Here's wishing wings to the pens of B.S.M. Strange and B.S.M. Packer for their attempt yet to come.

To B.S.M. and Mrs. McCarthy on the birth of a son.

To B.S.M.s Lockyer and Hughes, Sgts. Raynor and Mitchell on their splendid work of positioning a searchlight on a high tower and the manning of it during the S.S.A.F.A. tattoo held at the White City during the week ending July 18. A very great deal of hard work was carried out expertly and cheerfully, bringing, as it could only bring, credit on our Regiment.

## CAMP 1953

We are now in the final stages of preparation for moving to camp at Stiffkey on August 29, where, we think we are justified in saying, we should see some really good results with our shooting and searchlight training as a result of a year of strenuous work.

Socially we have a good programme worked out for our Mess, but we will report on this in our next contribution.

## TIT-BITS

Talk about originality—our Mess breeds it—who in the Royal Regiment of Artillery has ever heard of a B.S.M. Taxiist?

June 10, 1953

The undermentioned officers relinquish their commissions, June 6, 1953, and are granted the hon. ranks as shown:

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) G. L. Baker (320286)—Major.

Major S. Maddex, M.B.E., T.D. (36388), having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers, June 6, 1953, retaining the rank of Major.

June 9, 1953

Lt. P. F. Morgan (416637) resigns his commission, June 3, 1953.

22660327 Cadet Eric Ronald Pitt (427799) to be 2/Lieutenant, March 28, 1953.

June 12, 1953

Capt. G. W. P. Hodding, T.D. (36681) (Employed List 3), to be Major, April 1, 1953.

Lt. P. Bolander (149466) relinquishes his commission on June 13, 1953, and is granted the hon. rank of Lieutenant.

Capt. (Hon. Major) E. D. Skinner, T.D. (93411), having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers, June 13, 1953, retaining the hon. rank of Major.

Lt. H. L. Irvine (41890), having exceeded the age limit of recall, ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers, June 13, 1953, retaining the hon. rank of Captain.

June 16, 1953

Capt. R. H. Last (120532) to be Major, June 17, 1953.

Lt. R. C. F. Perry (204434) relinquishes his commission on June 17, 1953, and is granted the hon. rank of Captain.

## Correspondence

*Extract from a letter dated July 14, 1953, to Col. Broome from 2/Lt. M. J. Hickey, "C" Company, 1st Malay Regiment, Bukit Serampang, Tangkak, Johore, Malaya.*

I have now been in Malaya eight weeks and am settling down very nicely indeed.

I arrived at "A" Company only the other day, June 1, having just completed my jungle training at Port Dickson, a course that every platoon commander whether N.S. or Regular has to undergo. The course was split up as follows. In the morning we attended the actual jungle training, which was followed in the afternoon by a language course. The whole course lasted only one month, which the instructors at the Training Wing, Port Dickson, thought would be sufficient for us to lead a platoon in the jungle.

Altogether 15 N.S. and S.S. officers have come to the Malay Regiment in the last few weeks. Before we came only Regular officers were here. I am afraid we are the last, at least for a short time, as the vacancies for the 62 subalterns wanted this year for the Security Forces here will be filled by Malays who are shortly passing out from Eaton Hall and one or two from Sandhurst.

The Pre-O.C.T.U. Wing at Port Dickson sent 40 men to Eaton Hall three months ago. These are the men who will be filling the vacancies. I heard at Port Dickson from the O.C. of the Pre-O.C.T.U. Company that these fellows had won every single competition at Eaton Hall, kit lay-out, drill, assault course, hockey matches, etc. I am not at all surprised at them doing well at drill because here the drill is as good as I have seen, especially the turn-out. These men are all volunteers and therefore they take a special interest in everything they do. The only thing they are poor at is shooting, not being a military country they have no background. They have a great sense of humour and are very loyal, but their only drawback is that they have to be pushed all the time as they are very lazy.

Our Company is situated better than the others as we are in the centre of a rubber plantation and therefore it is fairly clean. There are some terrible swamps near by though which I have had the misfortune of going through. Just to give you an idea, I went out the other day with my platoon to look for two tracks which cut across the swamp and are suspected to be tracks used by bandits. Well it took six and a half hours to travel 1,500 yds., all the time up to our waists and sometimes up to our chest, also having to cut our way through the tall grass which sometimes grows in the swamps. On the other hand another swamp we went through was a tree swamp. This was far easier going as we "swam" in between the trees and roots.

I am afraid I have no bandits to my credit yet but there are plenty about. "D" Company, the Company next to ours, nearly had another bandit to their credit as one of their platoon commanders shot a bandit on the edge of a bandit camp that they came across next to a swamp, but he was only wounded and they lost his blood trail. They returned, however, and found plenty of docs, clothing, food and red star hats that the bandits wear.

2/Lt. W. A. Ellis (415783) to be Lieutenant, December 15, 1952.

2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) P. S. Liddell (403173) to be Lieutenant, June 14, 1953, with seniority March 13, 1951.

2/Lt. R. M. Fox (418125) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, April 20, 1953.

2/Lt. R. M. Fox (418125), from Regular Army National Service List, to be 2/Lieutenant, January 27, 1953, with seniority August 4, 1951.

Lt. D. A. Phillips (208698) resigns his commission, October 25, 1952, and is granted the hon. rank of Major, June 26, 1953.

Lt.-Col. and Bt.-Col. W. H. Godfrey, M.B.E., M.M. (7488), having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers, June 27, 1953, retaining the rank of Lt.-Colonel and Bt.-Colonel.

Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D. (7728), having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers, June 27, 1953, retaining the rank of Major.

July 7, 1953

The undermentioned Officer relinquishes his commission on July 8, 1953, and is granted the hon. rank of Lieutenant:

Lt. J. S. Staplehurst (368209).

July 10, 1953

Capt. D. A. Jewson, T.D. (7747), having exceeded the age limit to recall, ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers, July 11, 1953, and is granted the hon. rank of Major.

July 14, 1953

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

Capt. (Hon. Major) J. C. Binns (87523).

July 17, 1953

Lt. V. A. L. Holding (378179) resigns his commission, June 24, 1953, and is granted the hon. rank of Lieutenant.

July 21, 1953

22718456 Cadet George James Riches (428524) to be 2/Lieutenant, May 16, 1953.

2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) P. J. T. Lane (412286) to be Lieutenant, July 16, 1953, with seniority February 21, 1952.

July 28, 1953

2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) R. M. Fox (418125), from T.A. National Service List, to be 2/Lieutenant (Acting Lt.), May 18, 1953, retaining his present seniority.

August 4, 1953

The undermentioned Cadets to be 2/Lieutenants, May 30, 1953:

22725959 William Gordon Anderson Crumley

(428793).

22725954 Harold Malcolm Kitchen (428807).

22726043 Marshall Smith Lumsden (428810).

22674955 Derek Temple (428830).

Lt. M. F. Lutter (407226), from Active List, to be Lieutenant, August 4, 1953, retaining his present seniority in R.A.R.O.



From The Royal Rifles of Canada, Headquarters, Drill, Hall, Quebec.

Dear Sir,

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I have to advise that the picture "Steady the Drums and Fifes The 57th Regiment, Die-Hards" has been received by us here at our Headquarters in Quebec City.

May I, on behalf of all the Officers of The Royal Rifles of Canada, extend our sincere appreciation for your kind thoughtfulness in this connection. I assure you that the gesture is most appreciated. This picture will take an honoured place in our Officers' Mess, and will at all times be a constant reminder of our association and affiliation with the "Die-Hards."

With kindest personal regards,

I am, yours very sincerely,

(Signed) J. D. Cain, Lt.-Col.,

The Royal Rifles of Canada.

To Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C.,

Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment

(Duke of Cambridge's Own),

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

## The (D.C.O.) Middx. Regimental Association (Malaya Branch)

The second Annual "Albuhara Day" Dinner since the liberation of Malaya was held in the Harlequin Restaurant, Kuala Lumpur, on Saturday, May 16, 1953. The following members attended: Major G. Stewart Sutherland (in the chair), Mr. K. C. Chia, M.A. (Hon. Secretary), The Hon. Mr. Justice Charles Abbot, Mr. J. Clegg, Mr. W. D. Ure, Capt. Gordon Kent. The guests were Col. G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E., and Lt/Cpl. Tomlin. The attendance of members was limited on account of the fact that those who would have attended normally were absent in England on leave. We were glad to hear that "Drummy" Drew is recovering from his illness in U.K. The usual telegrams were exchanged. A telegram had been sent to the 1st Battalion in Austria, but, unfortunately, no reply had been received up to the time of the conclusion of the Dinner. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed, and it is to be hoped that a much larger assembly will foregather in 1954.

It was gratifying to realise that members had come from as far as Singapore, Malacca, Negri Sembilan and Perak. An apology was received from a member in Kedah, who was unable to attend on account of pressure of local business.

Thanks are due to Capt. Gordon Kent and Mr. K. C. Chia, M.A., for their valuable assistance in making the function the success that it was.

## Births

WEEDON.—On April 12, 1953, at the London Hospital, E.1, to Jean d'Esther (nee Leslie), wife of Major Martin Weedon, M.C., a daughter.

MARSHALL.—On July 11, 1953, at the Military Families' Hospital, Woolwich, to Pamela (nee Gil-mour), wife of Major P. D. H. Marshall, a daughter.

## Deaths

BROWNIE.—On June 3, at his home in Congleton, Cheshire, J. R. C. Brownie. Mr. Brownie had asked to be included in the contingent to parade at Hyde Park on July 5 before H.M. The Queen and it was only when his programme, ticket, etc., were sent him that we heard of his death from his wife, to whom a letter of sympathy was sent.

SCHNEIDER.—Cpl. Kenneth J. Schneider of the Training Company, serving at the Depot, died on June 3. A wreath was sent on behalf of the members of the Association.

## Grove-White

On August 8 Major P. Grove-White died in hospital in Hythe. His funeral, on August 13, was attended by Lt.-Col. E. T. Pain on behalf of the Regiment, and a letter of sympathy was sent to the widow from the Association and Officers' Club.

## Obituary

### C. F. Bell

On May 17, 1953, C. F. Bell died in London. Behind this bare statement there is a story of quiet courage and fortitude worthy of the highest traditions of the Regiment.

Bell enlisted in the 6th Battalion in 1911, after which we believe he served with the 3rd Battalion and was wounded in France in 1915. The following year he was one of a draft sent out to the 2/10th Battalion in Egypt and was soon recognised in his Company as a cheerful, smart and reliable soldier. If his Company officers were sometimes inclined to regret that promotion did not attract him they knew that in Bell they had not only a man on whom they could depend, but one whose example and influence were felt throughout his section.

In the second battle of Gaza on April 19, 1917, Bell was one of the many casualties in the Battalion. Unfortunately his wound was severe and there was no cure for the damage to his spine. For some years after the war he was in a hospital for disabled men near Clapham Common and there some of his old Regimental friends sought him out. It was not hard for them to realise that the cheerful and uncomplaining nature of their old comrade, condemned to lie on his back for the rest of his days, set an example to all the other patients and was a definite help to the Matron and her staff. The time came when the authorities decreed that this hospital was among those that were redundant, and the patients were to be transferred to some of the larger hospitals for disabled men. Rather than that this should happen, the Matron, Mrs. Squair, who had decided to retire, arranged to undertake the care of Bell in her own home.

Throughout the long years no grouse ever passed his lips against the fate that laid him low, and his interest in the doings of the Regiment never failed. Many years ago when the Regimental Association heard of his disablement they decided to include him in those who

received a regular "tobacco allowance." It was typical of the man that, overcoming his first reluctance, he accepted the grant only because it was a token of the Regiment's interest in an ex-member. Some time later he asked that the allowance might be discontinued because he "felt sure that there must be others who need it more than I do."

It seems fitting that such a man of the Middlesex Regiment should answer the great "Fall In" so nearly to the anniversary of Albuhara. The Regiment, and particularly his old friends of the 2/10th Battalion will remember Bell's uncomplaining courage during 36 years of disablement, and they would also record their thanks and appreciation to "Matron" for her devotion and kindly care of their old comrade. They are also mindful of the faithful regularity with which Sgt. Carter and Cpl. Surfleet visited Colin Bell over a period of 25 years.

## THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1953, AT 2.15 P.M.

Present—Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier E. E. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., A.D.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. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wolcombe, M.C., Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major P. D. H. Marshall, Mr. C. Holford, B.E.M., R.S.M., Lt. Tostevin, C/Sgt. R. Dodkins, Mr. G. H. E. Duffield, Mr. J. Bell, M.B.E., C.S.M. Jaques (representing R.S.M. Tarrant—1st Battalion), Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major D. C. L. Nold (representing Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwynn), R.S.M. P. Donovan, Sgt. R. A. Bullock.

Prior to the commencement of business the Chairman welcomed on behalf of the Committee the following newly elected members: Mr. G. H. E. Duffield, Mr. J. Bell, M.B.E., R.S.M., Lt. Tostevin, Mr. C. Holford, B.E.M., and C/Sgt. R. Dodkins. He felt sure that they would be helpful and constructive in all matters connected with the Regimental Association.

Mr. Duffield replied on behalf of the new members and thanked the Committee for their welcome and invitation to serve on the Committee which they greatly appreciated.

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, who authorised the Secretary to expend a sum not exceeding £600 to assist necessitous cases in the quarter ending September 30, 1953.

During the four months ending April 30, 1953, the sum of £568 10s. 2d. has been expended in assisting 84 cases who were in need of financial assistance. Several cases were referred to the Chairman for decision.

A grant of £500 has been approved by the Army Benevolent Fund for the year 1953: £250 was received on April 1 and the balance of £250 is due to be received in July next. This is £500 less than for 1952.

3. *Finance Committee's Report.* The Finance Committee's report was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

(a) *Consideration of accounts.* The Statements of Accounts as prepared by the Secretary for the quarter ending March 31, 1953, were examined and passed without comment.

(b) *Covenants.* The Committee considered the subject of introducing a form of covenant to subscribers to the Association Charitable Fund, and the Chairman said he would raise the question at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

(c) *Investments, etc.* The Committee approved of the following change of investment: Redeem £108 10s. 8d. 24½ National War Bonds 1951-53, purchase £123 18s. 7d. 3½ Saving Bonds 1960-70. The Committee also approved that the sum of £37 4s. representing the half-yearly dividend for the Mrs. Mabel Renny Fund, be placed in the Deposit Account.

(d) *Other business.* The Committee recommended for approval of the Executive Committee that the following grants be made:

Empire War Memorial Fund, £5 from Association Funds and £5 from Officers' Club Funds; Embankment Fellowship Centre, £5 from Association Funds; British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, £5 from Association Funds.

(e) *Regimental Reunion.* Lt.-Col. Roberts reported to the Committee that the sum of approximately £250 would be required as a subsidy for the Regimental Reunion at Seymour Hall on October 30. He submitted a tentative programme of expenditure, which was agreed to by the Finance Committee.

Lt.-Col. Fox explained the principle of subscriptions by covenant in respect of the Association Charitable Fund. It was approved that a form of covenant as drafted by Lt.-Col. Fox be circulated to past and present members of the Regimental Association with an explanatory letter for 1954 and onwards.

Lt.-Col. Fox proposed that the Finance Committee's report be adopted. This was unanimously approved.

4. *Journal Committee's Report.* In the unavoidable absence of Brigadier Procter, the Chairman invited questions concerning the production of the Journal.

(a) Mr. Duffield said he would like to see more news concerning retired officers and other ranks, to relieve the Association of individual sport achievements.

(b) Mr. Holford said he would like to see more detailed reports of individual sport achievements.

(c) Lt.-Col. Green asked whether any decision had been reached by the Journal Committee in respect of reducing the number of issues published annually.

The Chairman said he would refer the above matters to Brigadier Procter.

5. *War Memorial Committee's Report.*

(a) Col. Beach informed the Committee: (a) That improvements had been made in the gardens of the Cottage Area with the co-operation of the Enfield Urban District Council. (b) That half of the grant of £250 from the Middlesex County Council had been expended on the grounds. (c) It was proposed to purchase fresh soil to improve the condition of some of the gardens. (d) That further progress had been made to relieve the Association of the responsibility for the vacant site north of the estate.

(ii) *New tenants' agreement.* The Chairman informed the meeting that there was some concern about the tenancy agreement among the occupants of the cottages after the death of Mr. Peacock. The point at issue was the passing of the tenancy to his widow.

A meeting of representatives of the occupants of the cottages and a representative committee of the Regimental Association, composed of Lt.-Col. Roberts, Major Hardcastle and Major Denton, was convened and held at the cottage of Mr. Peacock, after which an agreement (copy attached) was drawn up by Major Hardcastle.

Lt.-Col. Wolcombe proposed and Mr. Duffield seconded, and it was unanimously approved that the agreement be adopted.

The Secretary was instructed to circulate copies of the agreement to all occupants of the cottages, through Major Jones, for signature and subsequent filing.

In reply to a question from Lt.-Col. Ellis, the Chairman explained that due to the present housing situation the widow, Mrs. Peacock, would be permitted to remain in occupation for an extended period if necessary.

(iii) *Names of cottages.* The Chairman informed the meeting that there had been great difficulty in reaching agreement about the naming of the cottages. After lengthy discussion it was finally approved that the names of the cottages shall refer to any battle actions in which the Regiment participated and that names of individual members of the Regiment should not be adopted as this might lead to invidious distinctions and might not appeal to posterity so much as battle names.

Major Marshall was requested to prepare an extensive list of famous battle actions so that the Executive Committee could select 20 names for the cottages.

Col. Browne informed the meeting he had received a letter from the widow of the late Col. C. W. Warden stating that the Colonel had made provision in his will for a legacy of £1,000 (to become effective after his widow's death) towards the cost of building another cottage on the estate. Mrs. Warden stated she would also make a legacy in her will of a further £1,000. She requested that the cottage be named after the testators.

The Committee expressed great appreciation of this high-minded action.

6. *Reunion.* Details in connection with the Reunion at Seymour Hall on October 30 were circulated with the Agenda, and the Committee approved of the decisions arrived at by the sub-committee, and approved the suggested expenditure of the £250 subsidy.

Mr. Duffield commended those responsible for this innovation.

7. *Coronation Parade of Ex-Servicemen on July 5.* The Secretary reported that he had been able to obtain allocation of tickets as follows: Numbers wishing to attend the parade increased from 190 to 210; 60 tickets for relatives wishing to witness the parade; 12 tickets for widows wishing to witness the parade; and 4 seats for disabled members wishing to witness the parade. Permission for a standard to be carried on parade has been approved (the sum of £5 was approved by the Committee for the purchase of a standard).

Tickets will be issued to the Regimental Association for distribution. Souvenir programmes and order of religious service will be sent with the tickets, but programmes need not be brought to parade, but order of service must. Further instructions were to be issued at a later date.



8. *Regimental History.* The progress report in respect of the Regimental History was distributed at the meeting. Lt.-Col. Ellis reported that slow progress was being made, delay in returning drafts from co-ordinators being mainly responsible, but he has taken action to get this expedited.

Col. Browne thanked Lt.-Col. Green for his valued services in connection with the initiation of the production of the Regimental History; his thanks were approved by the Committee.

9. *Cottage Homes Treasurer.* It was proposed by Lt.-Col. Roberts, seconded by Col. Browne and approved by the Committee, that Lt.-Col. Ellis be appointed Treasurer to the Middlesex Regiment War Memorial Trust vice Col. Crawford, who had resigned from the Committee owing to his domicile in Scotland.

Lt.-Col. Roberts, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated Lt.-Col. Green on his appointment to command a Brigade in Jordan and expressed the hope that he would have great success and happiness out there. He also thanked him for all the energy and initiative he had shown in the work of the Association.

Lt.-Col. (now Brigadier) Green expressed his sincere gratitude. The next meeting will take place at the Middlesex Guildhall on Thursday, September 24, 1953, at 2.15 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.5 p.m.  
A. W. CLARK, Major,  
Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.

#### THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Ingils Barracks,

Mill Hill, N.W.7

#### MIDDLESEX REGIMENT WAR MEMORIAL HOMES

Memorandum as to the procedure which the Association intends, after consultation with the Tenants' Committee, to adopt in the event of death of a tenant of any of the Homes.

1. A widow, but no other person, whether a relative or not of a tenant, shall be regarded as entitled to preferential treatment in accordance with this memorandum.

2. A widow on remarriage or on subletting any part of the home will forfeit all rights to the preferential treatment mentioned herein.

3. The Association will, subject to the above and to the note at the end hereof, take no action in relation to the termination of the widow's occupation for six months after her husband's death. On the expiration of the six months the widow shall be requested to search for alternative accommodation. If within three months after such request the widow shall have been unable to find alternative accommodation, the matter is to be referred to the Association who will endeavour to obtain suitable alternative accommodation, and when, but not before, such alternative accommodation has been obtained, the widow will be expected to vacate the home.

4. The alternative accommodation is to be suitable as regards economy and amenities. The suitability of the alternative accommodation shall be referred (if necessary) to the decision of a special committee consisting of two members nominated by the Committee of the Regimental Association (one of whom is to be a serving or past warrant officer or non-commissioned officer or other rank) and the Chairman of the Tenants' Committee. The special committee shall in considering the suitability of the alternative accommodation have regard to the finances of the widow and the amenities of such accommodation. The decision of the special committee shall not be challenged but shall be accepted by the widow and the Tenants' Committee, and such last-mentioned committee will be expected to co-operate with the Regimental Association in procuring the availability of the home for another disabled or infirm member of the Regimental Association.

Note—Nothing in this Memorandum shall affect the overriding right of the Association to terminate the tenancy by one week's notice as provided by paragraph 9 of the Conditions of Tenancy.

I have received a copy of the above which my wife and I fully understand. We appreciate the effect of the Association's decision as set out above.

Date..... Signed.....

#### THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1953, AT 4.5 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., D.L., D.L., J.P., A.D.C., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wolcombe, M.C., Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major P. D. H. Marshall, Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., G. Beach, C.B.E., T.D., J.P., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D., Major D. C. L. Nolda (representing Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn).

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

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

Subscriptions and entrance fees received for the four months ending April 30, 1953, total £412 13s. Of this sum £9 9s. represents entrance fees for 9 new members. The number of subscriptions for the Officers' Club Dinner received to date is 37, and subscriptions for the At Home number 27, plus 19 widows and guests.

(Since this report the numbers for the above have increased to 75 and 83 respectively.)

3. *M.C.C. Tickets.* The Committee approved that if more than two applications are received by the Secretary for the M.C.C. tickets in respect of the Test Matches, that a ballot shall be taken in the presence of the O.C. Depot, and tickets allotted irrespective of rank, etc.

4. *Officers' Club Dinner.* The Committee approved that two representatives of allied Regiments, Lt. J. Brooke (1st Battalion Wellington West Coast and Taranaki Regiment) and Lt. F. E. C. C. Quah (Hong Kong Regiment), be invited to attend the Officers' Club Dinner on June 19 as guests of the Officers' Club.

5. *Assistance from 6th Battalion Fund.* It was approved by the Committee that the Managing Trustees of the 6th Battalion Fund be approached to ascertain whether that fund could make grants to O.C. Depot for the benefit of serving officers in respect of Armistice Day refreshments (£15) and entertaining civic dignitaries of the County of Middlesex (£75). Col. Browne said that he would submit the request to the next meeting of the Managing Trustees.

6. *Grant.* The Committee approved of the Finance Committee's recommendation to make a grant of £5 to the Empire War Memorial Fund to augment a similar grant from the Association Funds.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.35 p.m.

A. W. CLARK, Major,

Secretary, Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club.

## The Infantry Boys' Battalion

The technical arms of the Services have, for some time, realised that to attract the right type of Warrant and non-commissioned officers they must catch them young. The Army Apprentices' School and similar units were established to train enlisted boys with this end in view.

The Infantry of the Line has been curiously slow to realise that the quality of leadership is best developed by special training during the formative years between 15 and 17 and the only opening for infantry boys was as band boys. In 1952 the Infantry Boys' Battalion was formed at Tuxford Camp in Nottinghamshire with the aim of producing soldiers of high calibre who will in due course become regular Warrant and non-commissioned officers of the Infantry of the Line.

Boys enlist into the Infantry Regiment of their choice between the ages of 15½ and 16½ and go straight to the Boys' Battalion, where their first weeks are spent becoming acclimatised to military life. They then start a graduated course of education and military training which continues until they reach the age of 17½, when they join the Regiment which they have themselves selected. No boy will join his Regiment until he has completed a full year's basic training.

The educational instruction, which is supervised by officers of the R.A.E.C., aims to pass boys through the various educational examinations which are necessary qualifications for high non-commissioned and warrant ranks in the Army. Therefore boys who gain them

while serving in the Boys' Battalion become, in due course, fitted for promotion without further study.

Military training during the first year covers all platoon weapons, platoon tactics, physical training and drill. At the end of a year the boy is in advance of a recruit who has completed his ten weeks' basic training at the Depot.

If at the end of a year's training the boy is still under 17½ he starts second-year training which includes instruction in support weapons, wiring, mine laying, all N.C.O.'s duties and methods of instruction. He is also taught to take squads in P.T., drill and to referee or umpire a game.

Throughout the boy's training, games and hobbies are encouraged and every facility is readily available to teach new games or to improve those to which the boy is already accustomed. Training to develop initiative, endurance, courage, leadership and the team spirit continues throughout the course.

When the boy joins his Regiment at the age of 17½ he should be fit for immediate appointment to Lance-Corporal. He has a flying start on every other junior non-commissioned officer in the Battalion because of his previous careful and prolonged training and has every opportunity to achieve swift promotion to the higher ranks.

Tuxford Camp, the home of the Boys' Battalion, is on the fringe of the Sherwood Forest. It is a modern, centrally-heated camp situated in a pleasant countryside which is easily accessible by road or rail from any part of England. The boys are given ten weeks' leave a year during training. Three weeks at Christmas, three weeks at Easter and four in the summer. While on leave the boys receive full pay and ration allowance and travel to and from home at public expense.

Boys are paid 2s. 6d. a day on enlistment; 3s. 6d. a day after the first year and 4s. a day after the second year. At the age of 17½ boys come on to a man's rate of pay. All uniforms, sports equipment and medical attention are free.

A Boy is required to enlist into the Regular Army before joining the Boys' Battalion. The terms of service on enlistment are that he will serve with the Colours up to the age of 18 and thereafter for a period of 8 years with the Colours and four years with the Reserve or for 12 years with the Colours.

To qualify for enlistment a boy must be of school leaving age, of good character, a British subject, normally fit for service and must be at least 4ft. 7ins. tall and weigh not less than 5 stone 4 lbs. A boy may enlist at any recruiting office or at the Regimental Depot.

Those members of the regiment and old comrades who have boys of their own or of their acquaintance would do well to consider the prospects offered by the Infantry Boys' Battalion. The boy who enlists as a "Die-hard" and avails himself of the splendid training at Tuxford Camp has prospects and opportunities which are new in the history of the regiment. Further information about this scheme may be obtained from O.C. Depot or any recruiting office.

## HISTORY OF REGIMENTAL MARCHES

### THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN), 57th AND 77th FOOT

By Col. M. Browne

1. The present march was introduced towards the end of 1948, and owes its introduction to the amalgamation of the two Regular Battalions caused by the reorganisation of the Infantry of the Line on the conclusion of the Second World War (1939-45).

2. The present march was drawn up by the former Bandmaster of the 2nd Battalion, now Lt. A. E. Thirlle, A.R.C.M., Director of Music at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst—a distinguished Army musician. Many years before, during the Colonelcy of Gen. Sir Ivor Maxse, K.C.B., D.S.O., C.V.O., the then Bandmasters of the two Regular Battalions had been asked by the Colonel to draw up a Regimental march to include both Battalion marches, and had protested it was not possible to do so for technical reasons, which as above stated were eventually surmounted. The two former marches were "Sir Manley Power" (57th Foot) and "Paddy's Resource" (77th Foot).

3. Formerly several marches had existed and were in use in the Regular Militia and T.A. Battalions, and a brief history of each appears in this story.

4. "Sir Manley Power" (57th Foot). This quick-step was named after Maj.-Gen. Sir Manley Power, who commanded the 2nd Brigade of the 3rd Division in the citadel of Valenciennes in 1816 during the occupation of Paris by British troops after the Peninsular War and the Waterloo campaign. This general officer is believed to have found the musical score of this march in a French camp. The march very likely dates from this period as the custom of Marching Past in quick time only then commenced to be generally used.

"Sir Manley Power" remained the Regimental quick-step of the 57th Foot until the period 1848-53. At that time the 57th was stationed in Richmond Barracks, Dublin, and tradition states that the G.O.C. took exception to the march, which he considered to be "all drum and damned noise." Another account states he considered it to be an impossible time for marching.

The Commanding Officer of the 57th was ordered to find another and more suitable march to supersede "Sir Manley Power." A new march, "Jock o'Hazledean," was accordingly chosen as resembling "Sir Manley Power" in some degree, and this march remained the 57th quick-step until 1896, when the War Office authorised the re-adoption of "Sir Manley Power" which was not forgotten during the period when "Jock o'Hazledean" was in use.

In 1886 the music-writer of the Band of the 57th (A. Stephens) was instructed to make a score of "Sir Manley Power," and this score was sent to Bandmaster Pougher, The Coldstream Guards. That Bandmaster was instructed to make an introduction to the quick-step embracing the Regimental Call.

The quick-step "Sir Manley Power" was then used only at the finish of Band programmes and on guest



nights in the Officers' Mess, having been superseded on all other occasions by the new quick-step, a combination of "Jock o'Hazledean" and "Lass of Gowrie."

5. "Paddy's Resource" (77th Foot). This quick-step was composed by Band Sergeant Paddy O'Connor in 1855 during the Crimean War and whilst the 77th Regiment was lying before Sebastopol.

Tradition states that the Commanding Officer wished the Regiment under his command to march to a quick-step, which should be unique and played by no other band in the British Army, and which should be reminiscent of an Irish air. So on an improvised table and on the blank side of envelopes this quick-step came into being. "Paddy's Resource" is to this day included in the march of the sole Regular Battalion of the Regiment, being the second portion of the march ("Paddy's Resource").

6. Highland or Gaelic March (slow-step). The only slow-step, the existence of which can be traced, is the Highland or Gaelic March, which was introduced by Lt.-Col. John Campbell of Strachur, an Argyll Highlander, who assumed command of the 57th Regiment in 1775 after the Seven Years' War. Tradition does not relate how long this march was used, but this slow-step is in use to the present day.

Members of the Regiment will remember that we and The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders are mutual members of each other's Messes in memory of service together in the 1914-18 war and in Korea (1950-51).

7. "Lass of Gowrie." As has been already stated, this quick-step was adopted after the use of "Sir Manley Power" was discontinued by the 57th Regiment, when stationed in Dublin about 1850. "Lass of Gowrie" was probably not brought into being until 1857. The quick-step is a combination of two Scottish airs, "Jock o'Hazledean" and "Lass of Gowrie," and the reason for its introduction was stated to be due to a Scottish Bandmaster named Wallace, who was with the 57th in Malta after the Crimean War. This march was supposed to resemble "Sir Manley Power."

In 1861 the music-writer of the Band of the 57th (A. Stephens) was instructed to make a score of the march "Lass of Gowrie" and this score was forwarded to the War Office, which authorised its use and had it printed as the Regimental March. This march was also used by the 3rd and 4th Regular Battalions (disbanded after the First World War in 1922).

8. The double-step of the 57th Regiment was "Monkey Musk," of which no details are available. The use of this march was discontinued about 1875.

"The Jolly Die-Hards," another double-step composed by Bandmaster C. Moore, is still played at the end of Band programmes and on Albuhera Day. The date of its adoption cannot, however, be traced.

9. Most of this information (except paragraphs 1 and 2) is taken from a letter dated October 31, 1931, sent by Gen. Sir Ivor Maxse to the U.S., The War Office.

10. Members of the Regiment will recollect that a

Special Order of the Day, signed by Col. M. Browne, granted permission to H.M.S. *Unicorn* to play the present Regimental March on all appropriate occasions in memory of the friendship between the 1st Battalion and H.M.S. *Unicorn* during the Korean War.

## QUIET RECREATION IN 1877

(From the *Ceylon Observer*, Monday evening, July 16, 1877)

THE ACCIDENT IN THE JUNGLE NEAR TRINCOMALIE.  
A NARROW ESCAPE FROM A ROGUE ELEPHANT.

"We are glad to receive information as to the accident referred to the other day by our Trincomalie correspondent. A short time ago His Excellency the Lieut. Governor gave permission to Lts. Denton and Warden of the 57th Regiment to shoot some rogue elephants about whose depredations there had been great complaints near Trincomalie and Mannar. The gallant young officers left on the sporting excursion at once, the spice of danger giving zest to their anticipation. It was while pursuing the rogues in the eastern jungles that the accident took place. It occurred some 80 odd miles from Trincomalie, where Mr. Warden was taken up by a rogue in his trunk, dashed under a tree and then the brute crushed the tree down over him and knelt on it, luckily just missing Mr. Warden's side. Everybody who knew of the accident has been very anxious since it occurred, but on Saturday a welcome telegram was received in Kandy saying that Mr. Warden was safe back in Trincomalie nearly well again, he was only badly bruised. It must have been a most narrow escape and Mr. Warden being so much liked in the Regiment, his brother officers are all immensely relieved."

DEAR JANET,

I am writing the other part. George Woodrow got a newspaper and letter sent to her from Charlie. I will copy part of it. "We had poor sport in the jungle; however, it was good fun while it lasted and very exciting as the wily elephant is extremely hard to kill and is apt to come at you whenever it sees you. I had a fearfully narrow escape of being killed by the second elephant we saw; it was a well-known rogue and we got leave to shoot only on the condition that we should go after rogues (i.e. bad and dangerous elephants that have attacked and killed men—much like man eaters). We had been out in the jungle ever since 4.30. We, Denton, our Adjutant, and self, at about 10.30 came up to the beast standing in the jungle. The first I saw of it was its head just peeping through the trees as it was my first shot I went forward and fired at about 18 yards distance. The moment he received my shot he charged straight at us, but firing at the same time we rolled him over and then running in poured a volley into his head. He got up, however, none the worse and charged again, but again firing at the same time we managed to turn him and he returned slowly into the jungle. As we were both very tired and Denton had

## Cambridge Club Notes

During the past quarter, the Club has made very good progress, both in membership and financially. We organised a Coronation Raffle every week, which produced almost enough to cover the cost of a coach to take members and their children to Clacton for a day. We had a lovely sunny day on July 28, (one of the few fine days of that month), and set off at 8 a.m. arriving at Clacton at 11.30 a.m. The children thoroughly enjoyed their day on the beach, also some of the mothers



Club Outing to Clacton, July 28

who ventured to change into bathing costumes on the beach—and go for a swim—in spite of the chilliness of the water. We left Clacton at 6 p.m. arriving back at the Depot after a most enjoyable day just before 10 p.m.

On May 27, we also hired a coach for an evening tour of the Coronation decorations and lights, followed by supper at the Corner House, Piccadilly. We were all very impressed with the decorations, and altogether thoroughly enjoyed the evening, arriving home about midnight.

Instead of a birthday party this year, it was unanimously agreed we should go to a theatre and have supper afterwards. Seats have been booked for the autumn and we are looking forward to that evening out.

Our thanks are extended to the new committee which was formed in April, for their well organised support and hard work. Mrs. Wilson has worked hard on entertainments with the able support of Mrs. Bullock, also our non-Middlesex members on the committee have been most helpful and a jolly good team.

Our monthly whist drives continue to be a great success. They are held on the third Wednesday in every month at 8 p.m. in the Old Comrades' Hut, so what about it, some of you Old Comrades? Come along and bring your wives. You will be sure of a friendly welcome and a most enjoyable evening, with good prizes and lots of raffles, and refreshments are free!

We are holding a Sale of Work with jumble and white elephant stalls on November 14, at 2 p.m. in aid of the Children's Christmas Party. Teas will be available. Please come and bring your friends.

Congratulations of all members are extended to Major and Mrs. Marshall, O.C. Depot and our President on the birth of their daughter on July 11.

heavy gun to reload, I snatched up a light gun and ran after him, if you can call forcing your way through the jungle running. The elephant was so badly wounded that I soon came up to him, and thinking that he must come down I fired two barrels into his ear at about 8 yards distance; he did not seem to take much notice, but went on slowly. Then I reloaded and following him up gave him two more. He then turned on me and hastily reloading I fired my right-hand barrel at his forehead as he was charging, but finding that did not stop him and only having one more cartridge I bolted. He chased me for about 60 yards and then seeing that I could not escape I turned round and forced my last barrel into his mouth in hopes it would reach his brain. But just as I pulled the trigger he wrenched the gun out of my hands and broke it across his knee and then catching me up in his trunk threw me to the ground. I fell between his legs and in his blind rage he tried to kick me to death, but he was too weak with loss of blood, and I easily kept safe by catching hold of one of his legs, and so kept myself from going under his feet. He then fell down and somehow or other I managed to roll under a fallen tree and when he got up again he could not find me. I lay perfectly quiet and he went round beating every bush with his trunk to find me, but failing to do so he proceeded to kneel five or six times on what I suppose he thought likely places of concealment not succeeding in touching me he deliberately lay down and rolled right over the tree on the other side of which I was. He then got up and went slowly away.

"I thought he had broken my back, but afterwards Denton came up (though all this takes a long time to tell I don't suppose from first shot till Denton came was more than 5 minutes) and he had me carried home, sending to Trincomalie 80 miles off for a doctor and boat. I, of course, was awfully cut about and had one rib broken, also the doctor says a slight concussion of the spine, but, thank God, am all right now and ready to have another go at them. The doctor came in due time (one of our own men) and took me down the river to Trincomalie in a boat and from there I came on to Kandy by easy stages in a bullock bandy. We had heavy guns, too, so elephants are not so easily killed, four 12-bore rifles and an 8-bore.

"P.S.—Denton, our adjutant, killed both the other elephants after I was laid up, but with a great deal of difficulty."

## The Journal

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

... Thank you



## Officers' List—Regular Army

COMPILED AS AT AUGUST 12, 1953

Rank and Name	Location
Col. G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E.	Director of Operations Staff, Bluff Road, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.
Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E.	Headquarters, Northumbrian District, Catterick Camp, Yorks.
Brig. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E.	Commanding, 2nd Brigade, Arab Legion, Jordan, M.E.L.F. 2.
Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn...	1st Battalion, British Troops in Austria, B.T.A. 5.
Maj. J. R. B. Worton	Depot Training Establishment, Royal Military Police, Inkerman Barracks, Woking.
Lt.-Col. L. H. J. de la M. Herepath.	"Q" Branch, H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Major P. D. ff Powell	Attached H.Q., South-West District, Exeter.
Major R. W. D. Sword, M.C.	No. 5 Army Defence Company, Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, Yorks.
Major H. Marsh	D.A.Q.M.G., H.Q., 1st A.A. Group, London, S.W.1.
Major R. C. H. Bellers	Attached Depot, O.C. and Battalion, Nigeria Regiment, R.W.A.F.F., designate (October) G.S.O.1, H.Q., 3rd Infantry Division, M.E.L.F. 26.
Major G. O. Porter	1st Battalion.
Major T. W. Chattey	1st Battalion.
Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton	Logistics Division, S.H.A.P.E.
Major W. P. M. Allen, M.C.	A.Q.M.G., H.Q., Eastern Command, Hounslow, Middlesex.
Major J. W. G. Ormiston	21C, 1st Battalion.
Major A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C.	1st Battalion.
Lt.-Col. C. M. M. Man, M.C.	Commanding, Army Air Training and Development Centre, R.A.F. Station, Old Sarum, Wilts.
Major G. B. Ayre	1st Battalion.
Major H. F. M. Langley	Army Apprentices School, Arborfield, Berks.
Major G. C. Dawson	Garrison Adjutant, Vienna, Austria.
Major P. D. H. Marshall	Commanding, Depot, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.
Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E.	1st Battalion.
Major D. C. L. Nolda	G.S.O.2, M.T.3, The War Office.
Major A. R. C. Waller, M.C.	Training Major, 7th Battalion (T.A.), T.A. Centre, Priory Rd., Hornsey, N.8.
Major F. J. Bennett	Depot, Buffs, Home Counties Brigade Depot, Canterbury.
Major R. K. B. Allott, M.C.	1st Battalion.
Major J. W. Doyle, M.C., T.D.	D.A.Q.M.G. (M), G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Major E. F. Thompson, M.C.	D.A.A. and Q.M.G., North-East Sub-District, Kaduna, Nigeria.
Major I. R. Burrows, O.B.E.	1st Battalion.
Major P. Collins, T.D.	Intelligence Officer, S.I.M.E., M.E.L.F.
Major P. L. Crutchfield	D.A.A.G., East Anglia District, Colchester, Essex.
Major H. N. MacL. Martin	1st Battalion.
Major P. L. Pearce Gould	D.A.A. and Q.M.G., British Sub-Area, Korea, B.A.P.O.3.
Capt. R. D. Hutchings	H.Q., 3rd Infantry Brigade, M.E.L.F. 10.
Capt. D. Sax	Staff College, Camberley, Surrey.
Capt. G. Kent	I.O., H.Q., 18 Infantry Brigade, F.A.R.E.L.F.
Capt. D. B. Rendell, M.B.E., M.C.	G.S.O.3, M.O.3, The War Office.
Capt. C. N. Clayden	Training Officer, Depot, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.
Capt. S. E. Honess	1st Battalion.
Capt. E. A. H. Jeffcoat	Australian Staff College, Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia.
Capt. P. W. Galvin	Staff College, Camberley, Surrey.
Capt. J. B. Matthews	1st Battalion, Royal Sussex Regt., Fowler Barracks, Perham Downs, Wilts.
Capt. M. F. Leonard	1st Battalion.
Capt. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	Staff College, Camberley, Surrey.
Capt. A. D. C. Eales	A.D.C. to Governor General of the Sudan, The Palace, Khartoum, Sudan.
Capt. C. H. Mievile, M.C.	Adjutant, 11th Bn., Parachute Regt. (8th Mx.) (T.A.), T.A. Centre, Hanworth Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.

Rank and Name	Location
Capt. P. G. V. Bellers	Staff Captain, H.Q., 51 Brigade, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham.
Capt. M. E. W. Morton	King's African Rifles.
Capt. J. de Gaye	H.Q., A.L.F.C.E., Fontainebleau, France.
Capt. J. S. C. Flavell	1st Battalion.
Capt. K. J. Carter	Adjutant, 7th Battalion (T.A.), T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.
Capt. A. N. Jordan	G.S.O.3 Training, H.Q., B.T.A.
Capt. R. A. Hodge	1st Battalion.
Capt. B. A. M. Pielow	G.S.O.3, M.I.3, The War Office.
Lt. H. J. A. Moore	Adjutant, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.
Lt. B. K. Clayden	1st Battalion.
Lt. W. M. M. Deacock	1st Battalion.
Lt. N. F. Legge	1st Battalion.
Lt. J. I. D. Pike	1st Battalion.
Lt. L. C. Sharpe	The School of Infantry, Warminster.
Capt. G. G. Norton	3rd Battalion, Parachute Regt., M.E.L.F. 28.
Lt. R. M. Cain	Depot, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.
Lt. G. Kitchener	1st Battalion.
Lt. H. J. Evans	Depot, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.
Lt. B. H. Marciandi	1st Battalion.
Lt. C. L. Lawrence, M.C.	3rd Battalion, Parachute Regt., M.E.L.F. 28.
Lt. P. A. S. Wolcombe	Infantry Boys' Battalion, Tuxford Camp, Notts.
Lt. S. H. Fothergill	Depot (Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich).
Lt. I. S. Rutherford	1st Battalion.
Lt. M. T. Beagley	3rd Battalion, Parachute Regt., M.E.L.F. 28.
Lt. R. K. Collins	Airborne Forces Depot, Aldershot, Hants.
Lt. J. S. B. Pollard	1st Battalion.
Lt. M. V. Hayward	1st Battalion.
2/Lt. D. E. Lobb	1st Battalion.
2/Lt. R. D. Fisher	1st Battalion.
Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E.	7th Battalion (T.A.), T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.
Major C. A. Trestain, M.B.E.	H.Q., Southern Command, Salisbury, Wilts.
Major S. G. Parry	1st Battalion.
Lt. S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	Depot, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

## SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Rank and Name	Location
Major E. C. K. Kendall Sadler, T.D.	1st Battalion, King's African Rifles, Zomba, Nyasaland.
Lt.-Col. L. G. Lohan, T.D.	Logistics Div., H.Q., A.L.F.C.E., Fontainebleau, France.
Major G. C. D. Scott Lowe, T.D.	Depot Training Establishment, Royal Military Police, Inkerman Barracks, Woking, Surrey.
Major A. E. Peasley	H.Q. Hanover District, B.A.O.R.5.
Major J. Bywaters, M.B.E.	W.O.S.B. (O.C.S.), A Camp, Barton Stacey, Wilts.
Major G. W. P. Hodding, T.D.	The Rhine Army Leave Centre, B.A.O.R. 4.
Capt. V. A. Thomas, M.C.	1st Battalion.
Capt. H. Lambert	2 Section, S.I.B., R.M.P., Moascar, M.E.L.F.
Capt. J. L. Gray, M.C.	Embarkation Establishment, Port of London.
Major F. N. Howarth	D.A.P.M., S.I.B., Ops. 4 H.Q., S.I.B., 8 Lennox Gdns., S.W.1.
Capt. K. S. Simpson	Q Branch, B.A.O.R.1.
Capt. C. U. Sayers	Claims Commission, Western Command, Chester.
Capt. F. R. A. Hill	Commanding 166 Provost Coy., Nesscliffe Camp, Shrewsbury, Salop.
Major E. C. Morey	Claims Branch, H.Q. Eastern Command, Hounslow, Mx.
Major R. H. Last	Claims Commission, The War Office, S.W.1.
Major J. A. Goebbels	D.A.P.M., 166 Provost Company, Bullford, S.W.1.
Major C. E. Rome	G.S.O.2, G.S. (W.1), War Office, S.W.1.
Capt. R. G. Taylor	Station Staff Officer, Munster, B.A.O.R.
Major E. L. Ellidson	Claims Commission, The War Office, S.W.1.
Capt. L. Hunt	6th Armoured Division, Provost Company, B.A.O.R.

Rank and Name	Location
Capt. F. V. Simms	H.Q. Movement Control, Southampton.
Capt. P. J. Livermore, M.C.	Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit, B.A.P.O.1, Hong Kong.
Capt. L. W. Driver	Army Physical Training, Aldershot.
Capt. J. Brown	2051 Independent Mauritian Guard Company, R.P.C., M.E.L.F.1.
Capt. H. R. Butterfield	Depot, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.
Capt. A. R. Cowan	5th Battalion, Nigeria Regiment, R.W.A.F.F., Kaduna, Nigeria.
Capt. R. Stapleton	2nd Battalion, Gold Coast Regt., West Africa.
Capt. D. A. Phillips	Special Military Intelligence Staff, H.Q., Malaya.
Capt. P. J. Leahy	Camp Commandant, H.Q., Pembroke Area, Malta Garrison.
Capt. H. C. Pond, M.C.	No. 2 Public Relations Service, Korea.
Capt. G. C. Forman	The Rhine Army Leave Centre, B.A.O.R.4.
Capt. J. D. Messenger	5th Bn. Nigeria Regt., R.W.A.F.F., Kaduna, Nigeria.
Capt. L. E. B. Adamson	Training Battalion, The Malay Regiment, Port Dickson, N.S., Malaya.
Capt. H. L. Baxter	Staff Captain, Provost H.Q., Northern Army Group, B.A.O.R.
Capt. W. F. Turner	1st Battalion, Gold Coast Regt.
Lt. D. H. Jewell	2 Base Workshops, M.E.L.F. 11.
Lt. I. G. Thomas	Depot, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.
2/Lt. A. R. F. Smith	No. 1 Training Bn., R.E.M.E., Blandford Camp, Dorset.
2/Lt. P. R. Young	Royal Military Police Depot, Woking.
2/Lt. P. W. Birch	3rd Battalion, Nigeria Regiment, R.W.A.F.F., Abeokuta, Nigeria.
QUARTERMASTERS	
Major L. T. Honeybun	London Assembly Centre, Goodge Street, W.1.
Major R. W. J. Smith	Gold Coast Regiment Training Centre, R.W.A.F.F., Kumasi, Gold Coast.
Capt. H. I. Burnett	District Barrack Officer, Quatering Office, R.A.S.C., B.A.O.R. 23.
Lt. J. W. Badham, M.B.E. (T.Capt.)	Hamburg District Transit Camp, B.A.O.R.
Lt. H. J. Jennings	23 (K) King's African Rifles, Archers Post, P.O. Isiolo, Kenya, East Africa.

## FORCES HELP SOCIETY AND LORD ROBERTS' WORKSHOPS

## A Work of Great Achievement

It was the South African War which made clear the need for an organisation which would make itself responsible for the welfare of our soldiers and sailors—both during their service and after leaving the Colours. With this object in view the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society came into being at the end of 1899 with H.R.H. Princess Christian as its first President.

At a later date, after the formation of a separate and independent Air Force, the name of the society was altered to the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Help Society. The society operated under this title until 1948, the year in which Service women, previously dealt with by the society as auxiliaries, became part of the Regular forces. To cover this new situation in its designation, and also to incorporate one of the main features of the organisation's work, the society became, as it is known today, the Forces' Help Society and Lord Roberts' Workshops.

The headquarters of the society are situated at 122 Brompton Road, London, S.W.3, but there are branches all over the British Isles and abroad.

During last year alone some 85,000 serving and ex-Service men and women were assisted in a variety of ways—e.g. when on leave while out of touch with their units, in obtaining compassionate leave to settle business affairs, in training problems, in obtaining grants to meet civil commitments and general help in domestic problems. The work on behalf of ex-Service men and women comes mainly within the category of rehabilitation and settlement, but there are many other things that are done to make the transitional period from Service to civilian life a little easier for the men and women who have served with the Colours. The society might purchase trade tools to start a man in a business, help him towards the cost of fitting up his home, during sickness and convalescence, and even help him towards the cost of dependants' funerals. Indeed the work that is done at the London headquarters of the society, in every city and town and in many of our smallest villages, covers the widest possible field and can only be summarised by the expression "welfare plus"—for this is welfare work at its highest level. More than three million individual cases have now been investigated by this voluntary society in a little over 50 years—a wonderful record.

The society also runs a number of centres which cater in the main for the medical needs of men and women suffering from injuries to the spine, where apart from receiving remedial treatment they are trained in clock assembling, invisible mending, etc., with a view to becoming home workers in these occupations.

Throughout the year the society's Overseas Service works to capacity and from every theatre abroad a steady flow of cases are dealt with. This work might involve tracing missing relatives and reuniting them with Service men and women serving abroad, investigating business releases and dealing with housing, domestic, legal and resettlement problems—and places as far afield as Jamaica, India, Australia, Malaya and Korea have been covered by the society's representatives.

Conforming to the wishes of the Services the society concentrates on tours and lectures to encourage members of all the Services not to conceal their problems, but rather to bring them to the society, which is well equipped to solve them and in such a way minimise the deterioration which anxieties must have on their efficiency as Service men and women.

One of the main features of the society's work, however, has been to train and provide permanent employment for ex-Service men who have a 50 per cent. or higher rate of disability. In order to carry out this work three workrooms were established at the end of the South African War. Here men were taught the making of toys and small articles of furniture. When Lord Roberts died in 1914 it was felt by the Committee of the society that the great Field-Marshal could not have a more fitting memorial than the extension, on a large scale, of the workshops in which he had always taken so great an interest. As a result the workshops as known today are named after him.

There are now nine fully-equipped factories—at Fulham, Liverpool, Bristol, Colchester, Brookwood, Edinburgh, Inverness, Dundee and Belfast—where dis-



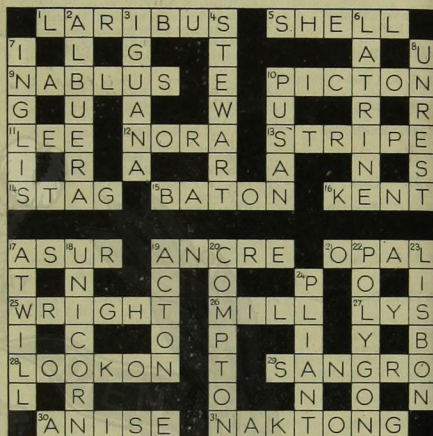
abled men are trained and employed on productive work suited to their particular disabilities. They are enabled to earn good wages and, what is more important, to retain their independence and self respect.

The days when toys were made have been left far behind, and at the present time these factories are energetically engaged on the drive for essential goods. Cabinet making, joinery, mattress and brush making, basket making and decorative lacquer work, etc., are all undertaken. The men trained and employed at these factories are all ex-Service men and the average rate of disability is about 65 per cent.

As distinct from the great financial and moral benefit to men employed in the workshops, the physical benefit derived is very striking. Many men can now be seen at work who have actually recovered the use of their limbs and hands. Orthopaedic experts say that this is because the right kind of exercise has been given to the injured limbs, but perhaps the improvement is more due to the employment of the mind on definite and interesting work and the often quite unconscious use of the disabled limb to assist the sound one which carries out the main part of the work.

This, then, is the work of one of the oldest of our voluntary societies working on behalf of men and women of the Services, and the remarkable achievements obtained in these difficult times reflect the greatest credit on all concerned.

## Solution Crossword Puzzle No. 1



### CROSSWORDS

No correct solution has been received to No. 1



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