

The Die Hards

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



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

(57th and 77th)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.
"Mysore," "Seringsapatam," "Alubuhara," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyreness," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular,"
"Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."
The Great War—45 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "18," "La Bassée, 1914,"
"Messines, 1914," "17," "18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17," "18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg,"
"Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme," 1916, "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood,"
"Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume,"
"Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Ploeghem," "Langemark, 1917," "Menin Road,"
"Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal
du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy,"
1917-18, "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915,"
"Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18,"
"Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

Regular Battalion

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

Militia Battalions

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

Territorial Army Battalions

7th Bn. (1/7th Bn. and 2/7th Bn. amalgamated after 1939-45 War.
8th Bn. Now 1st Bn. The Parachute Regiment (8th Bn. The
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.).

Amalgated 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.
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The Royal Rifles of Canada.

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Toku, Taranaki, New Zealand.

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British Army Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.

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Officer Commanding 1st Battalion: Lt.-Col. J. E. F.

Willoughby, O.B.E.

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 April, August 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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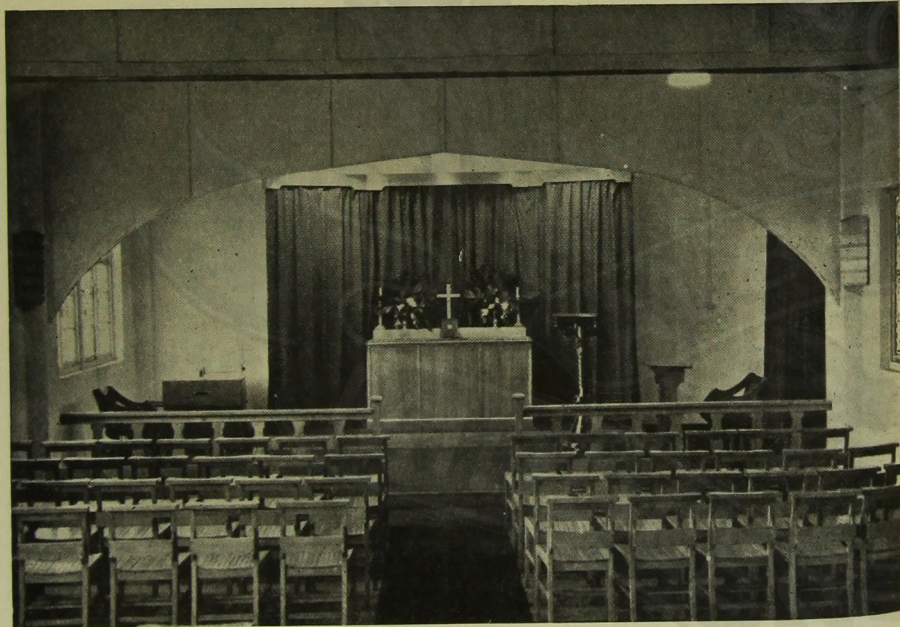
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Christmas Message by the Colonel to all Ranks of the Regiment

The Colonel of the Regiment sends his best wishes to all ranks of the Regiment, their families and friends for a very happy Christmas and hopes they will all enjoy good fortune and happiness in 1955.



REGIMENTAL CHAPEL, INGLIS BARRACKS

A Visit to Austria

For those who have not had the chance to visit our 1st Battalion in their admirable station in Styria, these notes from a recent visit may be of interest.

The barracks at Zeltweg lie near the main road from Rome to Vienna (200 kilometres to north-east), amongst the flat lands of the Mur valley. Beautiful mountains up to 2,500 metres surround the plain, the autumn colours of the forests topped by early snow forming a striking background. The country around provides pleasant facilities for shooting, trout fishing, riding and skiing for those who care for these activities.

The airfield, of German construction, which forms the base provides excellent accommodation for the Battalion and its families, and ample room for work and games of every sort. Local amenities are good. The camp cinema shows good and up-to-date films and is much appreciated. The N.A.A.F.I. provides essentials, but the prices are too high and the range of goods unsatisfactory. This is to be put right with the new manager. There is an excellent bookshop and library. Our Padre has worked up a pleasant little church which is well attended by all ranks. Sermons are brief and much to the point.

The drawback which most of our men and their families feel is the distance to a town of any size with its amenities to which they are accustomed. The occasional visit to Graz, a charming industrial town with excellent shops (50 kilometres across the mountains to the east) or Vienna compensates to some extent for this.

Our 1st Battalion carrying out its traditional ceremonial parade is indeed a stirring picture. I can assure our readers that its performance reaches the highest standards. Its steadiness under arms and precision of drill deserve warm congratulations.

I had ample opportunity during the visit to watch all ranks at work and play and am satisfied that their discipline, soldierly bearing, smartness of turnout and professional efficiency, as well as moral and physical fitness, are at a high level. All ranks appeared cheerful and well.

The married quarters are light, warm and comfortable. One of two minor complaints, such as intermittent failures of electric current (usually, of course, just before cooking times) and failure of contractors to clear up after periodical redecoration, are being attended to. Wives and children seemed cheerful, well and happy.

The drill competition was being disputed with spirit and an excellent display of good drill and turnout, "C" Company being adjudged the winner.

At weapon training and shooting, athletics and Rugby football we have carried all before us. I was delighted to see that high-spirited rugby is now being played regularly on company level and great progress is being made. I had the impression that our soccer requires a good deal of drive and polish before it reaches our usual standards and I dare say lack of competition may account partly for this. Hockey is very popular and games are

being played with local and Yugoslav teams and have provided good sport.

We have a whole company on detachment (in rotation) in Vienna. This company forms the basis of our portion of the Allied garrison and has periodically to take over the International Guard duties at Allied H.Q. These duties devolve in turn on us, the Americans, French and Russians and form a subject of the keenest competition. I am glad to say we hold our own adequately and with our Band and Colours make a brave show. The period in Vienna is a highly prized change and respite, and is keenly appreciated by all ranks. The barracks and accommodation arrangements in Vienna are as good as I have seen anywhere.

Vienna itself is an attractive city, now recovering its spirit and the destruction of war. While but a ghost of the old city with its ancient splendours, cosmopolitan sophistication and light-hearted population it is beginning, nevertheless, to renew some of its old charm. Marvellous relics of its past can be seen in countless churches, museums and palaces. For those who appreciate music there is plenty of every sort of high standards. For those who enjoy the relaxation of good food and light frivolity pleasant and amusing evenings may be had without great expense.

Our 1st Battalion has done well in maintaining its traditional standards of hospitality and are on excellent terms with our military friends, ministerial and Allied officials and also with the Austrian community.

While much is being done to prepare the way for Austria to take her proper place in the community of nations, it is difficult to imagine that such a desirable event will be easily or quickly achieved. Much must depend on the attitude of our Russian associates.

It behoves me to end with a word of hearty congratulation to all ranks of our 1st Battalion on the excellent performance which they are putting up in Austria and to send them our cordial appreciation and good wishes.

May they finish their tour with success and happiness before the time comes next summer for them to continue their distinguished career and add new laurels to it in their new station.

November 2, 1954.

G.C.B.

Forthcoming Events

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| April 29, 1955 | Spring Golf Meeting at Hendon Golf Club. |
| June 17, 1955 | Officers' Club Dinner and At Home to be held at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W. |

Cricket Week

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| June 18 .. | v. Free Foresters at Mill Hill. |
| June 19 .. | v. Hampstead Heathens at Mill Hill |
| June 20 .. | v. Cryptics at Mill Hill. |
| June 21 .. | v. Incogniti at Mill Hill. |
| June 22 .. | v. I Zingari at Mill Hill. |

1st Battalion Notes

BATTALION EDITOR: MAJOR G. C. DAWSON

Editorial

Autumn, with its "mists and mellow fruitfulness," is with us again, and as we look back over the last three months we see them as a busy period of training and sporting activities, in which we have more than held our own. There have been a number of ceremonial occasions, but we have had fewer visitors than usual.

A well-known health product advertisement in recent years advised the human race to "speed up its metabolism," i.e. the process by which the body keeps itself fit by replacing old cells by new ones. If change and replacement are good for vigour, our Battalion "metabolism" has certainly been speedy in these last months and we ought to be astonishingly healthy.

Training

During June and July, in addition to a Battalion exercise, all companies spent a week at Warmbad Ranges, about 100 miles away towards the Italian border, and fired their annual classification there with good results. The Battalion and Command Rifle Meetings followed, and in the Command Meeting, which was organised and administered by the Battalion, our company teams and individual competitors won nearly every event. We also later sent a Battalion team to the BETFOR Rifle Meeting in Trieste.

During August and September each company had a fortnight of field firing and mountain training at Schmelz, 15 miles away in the hills. The Battalion is becoming increasingly mountain-minded, as, in addition to a vigorous Mountaineering Club, several companies have "taken to the hills" during their exercises. The Machine Gun Platoon also completed its machine gun concentration at Schmelz during August with the Machine Gun Platoons of 2nd L.F. and 1st Loyals from Trieste. We are glad to record that they managed to hit the target in their night shoot (which was more than at least one of the other battalions could do) and thus proved that the Battalion has not forgotten its former prowess with the Vickers.

Our all too brief period of having the Battalion together for training ended on July 15, when "A" Company relieved 1st Loyals as duty company in Vienna. Since then "B" Company has relieved "A" Company on September 15 and will in its turn be relieved by "C" Company on or about December 1. As a result we shall, unfortunately, be again without one company for the next major training activity on our horizon, i.e. the forthcoming U.S. Army exercise in Austria, in which the Battalion is to act as enemy. At the moment it appears far from certain whether we are to represent a brigade or a division, and we shall not be surprised if

eventually we are requested to try and look like a corps. At all events, we are to be fully motorised. Discussion rages fiercely on whether we shall be less hungry on "compo" or on American rations, and on how much rum one needs for seven nights in the Austrian mountains in November. Doubtless we shall discover and must hope that the "dollar scrip" allotted will obtain for us whatever the W.D. issue does not provide.

Snow has appeared on the neighbouring hills and the morning air is crisp and frosty. There is much activity in the winter clothing and ski equipment departments, which are evidently expecting the early ski-ing conditions predicted by the local inhabitants. So far, however, all local predictions have been sadly wrong. This year the cable railway up to Schmelz is closed, as it is worn out and neither the British nor the Austrian administrations will spend the money to renew it. The road up is very poor and the top half is usually closed by snow for about three months each year. We are now busily stocking the camp with fuel, reserve rations and other commodities for the coming ski-ing season. Even so, the ski training will of necessity be somewhat more limited than last year, particularly as regards the use of Schmelz by families.

Ceremonial

"A" Company recently carried out flag marches with the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums in three towns near Graz on the border of the Russian Zone of Austria. In addition, the Battalion has marched through Zeltweg and through Knittelfeld. These marches serve to remind the Austrians that the British Army is still here and, curiously enough, seem to be welcomed rather than resented by the local inhabitants. "A" Company, in particular, were most hospitably entertained.

The ceremony of changing the International Guard in Vienna on October 1 was performed by "B" Company, with the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums and with some welcome reinforcements from "C" and "S" Companies. For the first time the guard marched past the saluting base in slow time, with both Colours on parade, and the American and French commanders were generous in their praise. The Russian commander clapped—and will presumably go straight to Siberia as a result. All companies are now practising intensively for the Battalion drill competition to be held while the Colonel of the Regiment is visiting us at the end of October.

No quarter would be complete without at least one guard of honour, and on this occasion it fell to "A" Company to provide the guard of honour for Gen. Zhadov, the Soviet Commander-in-Chief in Austria,

when he paid a formal visit to Maj.-Gen. Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. British Troops in Austria, at Schonbrunn Barracks in Vienna. Major R. K. B. Allott, M.C., commanded the guard, Lt. I. G. Thomas commanded the second division of the guard and 2/Lt. I. M. E. Lloyd carried the Regimental Colour.

There was a ceremonial beating of Retreat twice during September. On the second occasion the local Austrian population attended in large numbers and we entertained a number of them in the Officers' Mess afterwards. We look forward to doing so again during the Colonel's forthcoming visit.

Sporting Activities

The current quarter has seen the Battalion achieve success in many fields of sport, and particularly in cricket, swimming, athletics and riding.

As we are the only Battalion in Austria, this is as it should be, although the totals in officers and other ranks of other units far outnumber the strength of this Battalion.

The Battalion cricket XI won the B.T.A. knock-out competition, won its match in the BETFOR Cricket Week at Trieste and also defeated an R.A.F. XI from Gutersloh in Germany.

At swimming our team, from what was originally virtually a non-swimming station, completely defeated teams from the battalions garrisoning Trieste despite the univalued swimming facilities there on the Adriatic. The Zeltweg swimming pool, constructed from tarpaulins and filled by fire hoses with water of alpine temperature, is enough to test any but the most enthusiastic swimmer. Yet R.S.M. Tarrant, who achieved the construction of the pool last year, trained and led the Battalion team to victory in both the B.T.A. and BETFOR Swimming Championships this year.

In the B.T.A. Individual Athletics Championships our competitors broke one B.T.A. record and won six out of 14 events, and also achieved 11 second places and seven third places. Had there been any team award for the highest unit aggregate we should easily have won it.

As regards riding, Major T. W. Chattey, Capt. B. A. M. Pielow and other competitors have represented us with distinction at gymkhanas at Klagenfurt and Graz and a most successful and enjoyable gymkhana was held at Zeltweg, at which we were glad to welcome a number of British and Austrian competitors from elsewhere in the zone. Major T. W. Chattey, who organised this event, must have enjoyed the rather amazing report of it in a local paper, which is reproduced in translation in the Saddle Club notes.

Sgt. Potter won the bogey competition and Pte. Stevens won the Stapleford competition in the B.T.A. Autumn Golf Meeting and are to be congratulated on these successes against formidable opposition of players who are able to practice much more regularly owing to being nearer the course than the 70-odd miles players from Zeltweg have to travel.

Major R. K. B. Allott, M.C., was able to make the first entries in a handsome new game book he has presented to the Officers' Mess with some bags of partridge, etc., at Schwechat airfield near Vienna.

Pte. Palmer, of "D" Company, took part in the international Tour of Austria 10-day cycle race, or at least in the first half-day of it, for he was unfortunate to be found to be in most urgent need of an operation for appendicitis in the middle of the Russian Zone. He was virtually smuggled to safety in Vienna as soon after the operation as he was fit to move and is now the proud possessor of the only Battalion scar from behind the Iron Curtain.

At tennis the warrant officers and sergeants very narrowly defeated the officers in an excellent match, and we later sent three players to the B.T.A. Tennis Championships.

All too soon the summer—or lack of it—was over, and we have now started the football and hockey seasons successfully with victories against R.A.S.C. (Austria) and an Austrian club side from Vienna respectively. In addition, rugby has begun with a vigour and enthusiasm rarely equalled before. Inter-company matches at 15 a side (instead of the usual limit of sevens for company games) are proving extremely popular.

Comings and Goings

There was a time—some of those present with us now can remember it from pre-war days—when a battalion had some stability and when the ceaseless ebb and flow of National Service and short-term Regulars, the claims of extra-regimental employment and the increasing number and frequency of staff appointments did not change the face of a unit within a matter of months as they do today. There was a time, too, when seven moves for a company in 15 weeks would have seemed an absurd improbability in a country at peace. Those days are gone; we live at the mercy of continual change and rotation and console ourselves with the reflections that variety is the spice of life, that new brooms often sweep usefully clean, and that, however many horses we may change in midstream, we may yet "put our shoulders to the common weal and plant in firmer soil the dove of peace."

There have been more goings than comings during the recent quarter; we are under strength in other ranks and our losses in subalterns have been such that those eligible for the Orderly Officer's roster scan the horizon hopefully for reinforcements from the Depot.

We have lost Capt. A. R. Cowan on his appointment as Staff Captain "A" at H.Q. B.T.A. (on which we congratulate him) and also Capt. J. D. Messenger, who came and went to the same H.Q. so fast that we hardly saw him. 2/Lts. J. C. J. Grobel, M. J. Beaumont, P. J. Langford, D. E. C. Vince and G. J. Riches have completed their whole-time National Service and Lt. R. D. Fisher has also left us for service at the Depot.

Capt. G. Kent and his family, Capt. L. E. B. Adamson and 2/Lts. P. A. Highton and M. Nersworthy have joined us and we are very glad to have them all. We are also delighted to have Lt. H. J. Evans back with the Battalion on rejoining us from the Depot.

Major J. D. B. Bailey (R.W.K.), now that he has passed B.A. with second class honours in Mandarin Chinese, has a posting to Malaya which, oddly enough, will enable him to use this achievement. We wish him

every success in the operational research which he is to undertake there.

Visitors

We have had less than our former quota of visitors during recent months, but were very glad to welcome the G.O.C.-in-C., Maj.-Gen. R. E. Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O., on September 23. The success of the inspections and visits planned for him paled into insignificance beside his enjoyment of the projection room of the garrison cinema, where Mr. Deacon entertained him with a truly Frankenstein monstrosity for converting d.c. current into a.c. and with a press-button curtain-opening device. Maj.-Gen. Urquhart also visited "B" Company at Schmelz, but was, unfortunately, prevented by a very thick mist from seeing the field-firing exercise which was to have taken place.

Mrs. Urquhart has also visited the garrison twice, and on the second occasion attended a most successful S.S.A.F.A. Fete and Funfair organised by the Battalion, in which each platoon at Zeltweg ran a sideshow. Major V. A. Thomas, M.C., again showed himself a master-auctioneer-cum-dog-race-organiser, and the Fete raised a very useful £67 for S.S.A.F.A. Funds for the garrison. All members of the Wives Club gave splendid support, and helped to run several excellent and profitable stalls. Mrs. Willoughby's grand raffle was the champion money-spinner of the afternoon.

Mr. Skilling from the War Office visited us to inspect Works Services, and we were able to show him the newly completed N.A.A.F.I. Families Shop on the ground floor of Barrack Block III. The charred remnants of the former shop, and of the old R.E. Cinema, have now almost disappeared, and Mr. Skilling was quick to point out to us that it not only costs money when we burn things down and when we install the amenities elsewhere, but also further money to pay for the demolition of the fire-wrecked ruins.

The Provost Marshal, Brigadier R. H. Maxwell, C.B., paid a surprise visit to Zeltweg recently, and it would perhaps be as well to add that the reason was the need for petrol on his way to Vienna by car, and not any disciplinary matter. We were sorry not to be able to entertain him for a longer period, as there are a number of officers and other ranks with the Battalion who still remember with pleasure serving in the 2nd Battalion when it was under his command as commander of a sub-district at Haifa in Palestine in 1948.

Six Petty Officers and 18 ratings of the Royal Navy from Trieste visited Zeltweg for four days at the end of July. It was perhaps, unfortunate, that they arrived at a time when the bulk of the Battalion was away at Vienna and Warmbad, but all who remained in camp combined to entertain and interest them and they appear to have thoroughly enjoyed their brief stay.

We were particularly glad to see Major P. D. H. Marshall at Zeltweg early in September for four days, for his annual visit as Depot Commander. He took a keen interest in everything connected with the life of the Battalion in this isolated station, and particularly—and understandably—in the future allocation of officers' married quarters, for he is to rejoin the Battalion early next year.

In conclusion, all ranks look forward very greatly to the impending visit of the Colonel of the Regiment from October 22 to 30. We plan to show him all the activities of the Battalion at Zeltweg and Vienna and hope that he will greatly enjoy these days with the 1st Battalion.

"H.Q." COMPANY

In July, "H.Q." Company had an enjoyable time at Warmbad ranges, though not a particularly successful one, but we did win the B.T.A. falling plate competition, which was the most spectacular event of the day. Thanks are due the Sgt. Harris, R.E.M.E. for his coaching and leadership. Sgt. Harris also won the individual rifle competition of B.T.A. His score was actually equal with that of Major G. C. Dawson, (O.C. "C" Company), but Sgt. Harris was awarded the prize as he had a higher score in the rapid practice. The Company congratulates him and Pte. Gifford, who was second in the young soldiers' competition. Pte. Gifford showed himself to be a consistent shot with much promise.

The fairly frequent fine weather at Warmbad, in contrast to that of Zeltweg, together with the local amenities of Villagh and the Warmbad Hotel swimming pool, had a heartening effect on all ranks.

There have been many changes in the Company. Major F. J. Bennett has taken over command from Major J. D. B. Bailey. Capt. L. E. B. Adamson has joined the Company replacing Capt. A. Cowan as 2IC. C.S.M. Pike, who rendered sterling service to the Company for many months, has left to be R.S.M. of the 7th Battalion, T.A., at Hornsey; we send him and Mrs. Pike our very best regards. We welcome C.S.M. Bartle, C/Sgt. Whitehead and Sgt. Boag, (R.A.P.C.), to their respective appointments. Lastly, we congratulate L/Cpl. Byers on the birth of a son born on September 23, 1954, at Klagenfurt.

Signal Platoon

We have spent little time in Zeltweg over the past three months, due mainly to classification at Warmbad, closely followed by field firing at Schmelz. We have lost some older members of the Platoon who have left us for civilian life: Cpl. Forey, L/Cpl. Morley and Ptes. Marden, Overton and Thornton. We wish them all the best of luck for the future. However, we welcome to the Platoon Cpl. Metzger, who has joined us from the Battalion Intelligence Section, and Pte. Baker, who has returned from a parachute course. We will soon be saying goodbye to L/Cpl. Wheat, Pte. McDonnell and the Gould twins—all have served us well.

The Platoon returned some very good shooting results at Warmbad and thoroughly enjoyed the week spent there; we supplied five members of the Company team. Ptes. Anderson, Overton and McDonnell are to be especially congratulated for the part they played in the smooth running of the range. Companies were universal in praise of their efforts. Field firing at Schmelz, however, has proved the most enjoyable part of our training this quarter. We spent a week acting as the third platoon of "A" Company and fired or threw practically every known weapon as well as revising our tactics and fieldcraft and finished by taking part in a

36-hour Company exercise, which proved great fun.

In the world of sport we have not been as successful as usual, though we seem to have been represented in most Battalion teams: L/Cpl. Small swam in the B.T.A. championships; Pte. Gould (97) went to Trieste with the cricket XI; the R.S.O. captained the tug-of-war team in the B.T.A. athletics; and Sgt. Bailey has been a consistent mountaineer. In Company sport we have been well represented, supplying half of "H.Q." cricket XI, though we have not had a successful season. We have now started training the Platoon soccer XI, which has not had much luck yet. However, the material is there.

We are about to begin a very strenuous programme: 23 potential signallers are to be posted to the Platoon and must be at least partially trained by mid-November, when we take part in the American exercise to which we are much looking forward. We wish ourselves more success with our wireless than last year, when the American equivalent to our sets proved trans-oceanic.

After November we will be praying for some early snow and hoping that we will go to Schmelz in the first party as last year.

M.T. Platoon

The highlight in the M.T. world has been the energetic preparation for a R.E.M.E. inspection, which lasted two weeks and resulted in a favourable report on the Battalion transport. With the inspection finished it is now proposed to set aside Tuesday of each week for training. The first day proved highly successful; all drivers marched to the top of Flatschacher and learned something about map reading *en route*. Concentrated training is also proposed in convoy and camouflage work in readiness for an exacting scheme in November.

Ptes. DaCosta, McKenzie and Green are congratulated on their promotion to lance-corporal.

BAND NOTES

Let us say, at the outset of these notes, that we have no intention of entering into competition with our colleague journalists as slavish imitators of the inimitable Anthony Armstrong, "A.A."

These notes will be set down with the utmost brevity, since every time we attempt to be ironic the editor reaches for those scissors, and what sets out to be mordant ends up moribund.

At the end of June, after a hectic three weeks' hard work at Folkestone and at the Depot at Mill Hill, the Band went on leave to recuperate.

Bdsm. "Turkey" Dawson and "Beano" Rose, however, had little time to rest, as they took the opportunity to get married and by doing so brought the number of married personnel in the Band up to five. We extend to them both our sincere congratulations.

On July 16, 1954, the Band returned from leave and on the same day we started our journey back to Austria, minus two of our older members, namely, Bdsms. Cross and Sgt. Hannam. The latter will be missed not only as a solo clarinetist, but also for his ability on the sports field. We wish them both the best of good fortune in civilian life.

We must here correct an error in the last Journal's Band notes, which stated that Sgt. "Mutt" Hazlewood

had left us. In actual fact, he was due for demob, but at the last moment signed on for another period, and by doing so gave us a little more time in which to find another BB flat bass player to fill the position he has held so well for so long.

Hardly had we time to get settled in back at Zeltweg than we were once again on the move, this time for the Battalion Rifle Meeting on July 22 at Warmbad, where between "volleys" we entertained those taking part. All credit goes to the N.A.A.F.I. who supplied the "nerve."

On Saturday, July 24, we travelled back up the line to Klagenfurt for the annual B.T.A. fete in aid of local charities, where we gave a military band concert, followed in the evening by a dance. On Sunday we returned to Zeltweg.

If any of the Band ever did have any doubts as to whether the Austrian people appreciated our kind of music they were dispelled when we gave a concert in the nearby town of Murau.

Because of bad weather we played indoors, with our audience almost down the bells of our instruments. This cramped condition, however, in no way hindered their or our styles, and the applause at the end of each piece was, to say the least, terrific.

At the conclusion of the concert we were entertained in the "local" by the Burgermeister, who said that he never enjoyed himself so much and would we please, please, come again.

August saw us once again in Vienna, this time with "A" Company who supplied the guard of honour for a visiting Russian General.

Whilst at Schonbrunn, we performed the ceremony of beating Retreat to a very large audience of Austrian civilians; on this occasion many American servicemen were also present, to watch this ancient ceremony.

After Vienna the Band went with "A" Company on a flag march through three towns in the Graz area which lie close to the Russian border.

In each of the towns we visited (Fuestenfeld, Friedberg and Hartburg) "A" Company marched in led by the Band and Drums. Then the Company fell out and the Band played a short programme. After the concert all those taking part adjourned to the largest *gasthaus* for a "refresher," after which we again formed up and marched out of the town.

On each occasion our performance was warmly appreciated and the Burgermeisters of all three towns issued invitations to come again.

Mention must be made that on all these engagements we were under strength, owing to Cpl. Beechey and Bdsms. Aburrow being in hospital. Both of them have now rejoined L/Cpl. Holt, who has been "holding the fort" during their absence.

In the sporting line we lost to a far superior side when we met "B" Company in a football game at Schonbrunn Barracks; the final score was 7-1 in their favour. Previously we had met a combined Vienna garrison team at hockey and won by 7-2. Our supremacy was short-lived, however, as in a return match the other day, when we were without our star inside forward, Sgt. Grogan, we lost by 3-2.

In conclusion, we would like to say to all past



CORPS OF DRUMS, ZELTWEG, SEPTEMBER 16, 1954

*Standing (left to right): Drms. Stannard, Tollafeld, Poyner, Hamwell, Ploverright, Fletcher, Grew, Sanders, Irving, Jeffereys 71, Thomas, Corrie, Hart, Davidson, Whiteley, Palmer
Seated: L/Cpl. Bennett, L/Cpl. Rigden, Capt. B. A. M. Pielow, Lt.-Col. J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E., Drum-Major Lewis, Cpl. Poulter, Drm. Sweetman
Absent on duty and leave: Drms. Jeffereys 40, Morrison, Slade, Gifford, Phelps*

members, "Drop us a line some time," and we will in return keep you informed of our future activities.

THE CORPS OF DRUMS

Having returned to Zeltweg from some naturally well-earned leave at the end of June, we left immediately for Warmbad Ranges, where most of us managed to improve our shooting.

At the end of July we returned to Zeltweg to await the arrival of our new Drum Major from the Welsh Guards, Drum Major Lewis. His arrival was welcomed by all and drum, bugle and flute practice was tackled with renewed vigour.

We welcome six new drummers into the fold this quarter, namely, Drms. Fletcher, Corrie, Hart, Hamwell, Grew and Wells, who, we hope, will soon become qualified drummers.

Cpl. Thomas and Drm. Roberts left us a few weeks ago for civilian life; we wish them the best of good fortune in the future.

We also regret the loss of L/Cpl. Stannard, who was injured in a car accident and has now returned to England to recover after spending some time in B.M.H., Klagenfurt. All the members of the Corps of Drums wish him a speedy recovery and the best of luck to him and Mrs. Stannard.

During August we found ourselves once again in Vienna, this time with "A" Company, who supplied a

guard of honour for a new Russian general. We also beat Retreat at Schonbrunn Barracks.

On our return to Zeltweg we had a sad duty to perform at the funeral of L/Cpl. Brunton, whom many of us knew very well.

A few days later we left with the Band and "A" Company for a series of flag marches in the Graz area. We covered quite a few miles and were feeling blown dry by the time that we returned to Zeltweg.

In Zeltweg we have performed the ceremony of beating Retreat twice; on both occasions a large audience of appreciative Austrian civilians attended.

We have just completed another International Guard change in Vienna, when "B" Company took over from the Americans, and another Retreat beating at Schonbrunn Barracks, both of which took place in winds of near gale force.

"A" COMPANY

Since the last issue of *The Die-Hards* Journal, "A" Company has divided its time between duties in Vienna, field firing at Schmelz, and a short stay in Zeltweg. On July 15, the Company took over garrison duties at Vienna from the Loyals and soon settled in to the routine peculiar to the place. On the same day, we lost the services of Cpl. Peck who was posted to the Depot as a training instructor. Until the later days of August life for the Company proceeded without incident, though

Vienna was not without its novelties for those who had not hitherto been there.

During July Pte. Pettit was posted to "H.Q." Company after successfully attending a driver's course, Pte. Smith (53) departed to Aldershot to attend a P.T. instructor's course, Pte. Bronson assumed duties as a lance-corporal in the Regimental Police at Klagenfurt and Pte. Sculthorpe returned to civilian life on completion of his National Service. The Company regretfully bade farewell to Sgt. Cubitt who departed to Mill Hill *en route* to Malaya, and wish him every success in his new post.

Cpls. Silley and Ebbage are to be congratulated on their substantive promotions to their present rank, and Ptes. Burton, Howling, Humphrey, Mahoney, Rogers and Steadman, on promotion to lance-corporals. Congratulations, too, to Cpl. Littlejohn on gaining a "C" grading in a fire-fighting course held at Klagenfurt and to Pte. James on successfully passing a clerk's course at the same place. Pte. Barnard was posted from "A" to "C" Companies and Pte. Baggle joined us from "B" Company, serving with the Regimental Police whilst in Vienna. L/Cpl. Pollecutt departed to "H.Q." Company as a regimental policeman.

On Wednesday, July 21 the garrison held an athletics meeting in which we were represented in the 400 metres by Pte. Pease, and in the medley by L/Cpls. Humphreys and Pte. Evers (200 metres), Pte. Reading (400 metres), and Cpl. Mills (800 metres); unfortunately, we could not provide a winner, despite a gallant effort by Cpl. Mills in the last stages of the medley. 2/Lts. P. A. Walden and I. M. E. Lloyd acted as judges and Sgt. LeMaitre as a steward. In the Battalion inter-company swimming championships our team did not meet with the success that its keenness and training deserved, gaining only 27 points, though later in the month we did well to come third in the Vienna garrison swimming gala with 50 points. Pte. Evers, in particular, excelled in the plunging, while the team proved themselves consistent rather than brilliant.

Sgt. Warner, L/Cpls. Burton and Mahoney and Ptes. Wetherall, Evers, Pearlman, Clarvis, Reading, Hill, Walker and Smith (30), represented the Company in the Battalion inter-company shooting competition and moved to Warmbad on July 22. Two days later the Company cricket team travelled to Schwechat, where they lost to an R.A.F. team by 55 runs to 35 runs, owing to the R.A.F. fast bowler, who devastated our batsmen by means little short of intimidation. Up to date the team had played three, won one, and lost two in the Albuhera League.

During the last fortnight of July Cpl. Muirhead was acting as weapon training instructor at the "H.Q." B.T.A. annual summer camp, Pte. Fletcher had left the Company to play in the Corps of Drums, and Pte. Graham came to us from "H.Q." Company.

In August 2/Lt. Norsworthy joined the Company; having recovered from his surprise at being in Vienna after only 24 hours in Austria, he soon settled into the routine, and discovered the assets of such a city. Three days later Cpl. Elston arrived to join the Company with a draft also fresh from U.K. Most of the draft belonged to "B" Company and eventually stayed in Vienna when "A" Company left. By now the monthly change-over

of the International Guard was imminent; this time the Americans were taking over from the Russians and for a week the Americans came to practice on our barrack square. After watching a few American parades, certain members of the Company were beginning to wonder why they had not joined the U.S.A.F. The Americans, with equal surprise and envy, watched the R.S.M. take a rehearsal of the guard of honour which "A" Company provided on August 31 for the courtesy visit of Gen. Zhadov, the new Russian C.-in-C. in Austria. Major R. K. B. Allott, M.C., commanded the parade and the Regimental Colour was carried by 2/Lt. I. M. E. Lloyd. The Company well deserved the congratulations they received on their turn-out and drill.

Sgt. Warner is to be congratulated on gaining substantive promotion to his present rank, and Pte. Reading on representing the Battalion shooting team at Trieste, after proving himself a success at Warmbad.

September saw a sad depletion among the ranks of our officers. 2/Lt. G. J. Riches, who had been with the Company for over a year, could not be prevailed upon to stay for a longer period, and returned to his bowler hat and umbrella, having attempted to grow his hair to the accepted standard of civilian Chelsea. We are sorry to see him go, and not without daring to hope for his return, we wish him luck in his future career.

2/Lt. I. M. E. Lloyd left us for the U.K., where for six months he is attending courses. Now Lt. I. G. Thomas has left us for the U.K. where he has to go as a result of his R.C.B. He was as grieved at leaving as the Company was to see him go, and we can only hope to see him back with us in the near future. It would be a loss both to the Battalion and the Company if he were transferred to another regiment.

On September 17 two days after returning to Zeltweg, the Company carried out a two-day flag march in the area of Graz with the Band and Corps of Drums. Due to the hospitality of the Carmeliter Platz Barracks in Graz, every man found a bed for the night, though the cooking facilities left much to be desired. However, C/Sgt. Breame, overcoming the weather and the dark, "set up shop" in a garage and produced meals worthy of any such occasion. On the first day the flag patrol moved by M.T. to Fürstenfeld where 350 people showed their appreciation of the marching and the excellent concert. The population entertained us royally (at the instigation of the Company Commander?) and for the first time known the Company, with Band and Drums at the head, marched straight up to the front doors of a brewery. The next day, after a more or less comfortable night, the patrol arrived at Friedberg, where the reception was even warmer than on the previous day. Every man in the Company, the Band and the Drums was entertained by the townsfolk, with beer, schnitzels and steaks in appreciation of the concert. In the afternoon, feeling well pleased with life, the Company embussed for Hartberg, the last of our ports of call. Here, once more the reception was enthusiastic and once again everybody was entertained in a nearby *gasthof*. Some doubt arose as to whether the patrol would ever reach Zeltweg, owing to a lack of petrol which suddenly presented itself, but this seemed to worry few people, as the local population (particularly

the younger generation) really began to show their appreciation of our presence. However, petrol supplies proved sufficient and the majority of the patrol reached Zeltweg at about 0130 hrs., while three vehicles arrived at a later hour, having met with a breakdown on the way.

On Wednesday, September 22, the Company moved to Schmelz, where its annual field-firing course has been in progress. For the course, the Company has been split into two Platoons, owing to many men being away on leave and to an even further deficiency of officers now that 2/Lt. P. A. Walden has gone to Jordan for three weeks' leave. We are pleased to welcome Capt. L. E. B. Adamson and Sgt. Moran, who have been attached to the Company for the duration of the course. They have spent much effort and time on our administration, and with C/Sgt. Breame have supplied us with really excellent meals, and have made life more comfortable for us than it might otherwise have been.

The field firing itself has been most successful and not without a few refreshing memories: Sgt. LeMaitre, fresh from his Arnhem celebrations, proving that the older generation is just as agile as the younger generation when it comes to climbing mountains (certain weary persons trying to cross the widest part of the stream in the dark on a very successful two-day scheme), the Company Commander's injured sense of fair play when he learned that certain locals had been fishing for trout with a cheese bait, and S.M. Wild in the N.A.A.F.I. trying to prevent a tableful of mouth-organists from saying "Oompah."

Now the Company eagerly anticipates November's Anglo-American exercise and ski-ing later in the year. We are fitter now in all respects than when we left Vienna and we look forward to a successful time ahead.

"B" COMPANY

Sport has figured a great deal this quarter, including cricket, swimming and shooting. At cricket we won the matches against "H.Q." 1 and 2 teams, also winning one match against "A" Company. We lost against "S" and "C" Companies after good and interesting games. 2/Lts. Crumley and Highton (who has just joined the Company and on his second day with the Company took eight wickets for 10 runs) and L/Cpl. Miller have represented the Battalion at cricket. The swimming sports day arrived with traditional inclemency, but we managed to enter a team without too much use of the whip. Our only success was, however, C.S.M. Thom's brilliant plunge, which earned him a second place. C.S.M. Thom also swam with distinction for the Battalion and won the BETFOR plunge.

The Company had a successful shoot at Warmbad during the Battalion Rifle Meeting, Sgt. Steward's name figuring prominently on the score board and prize list. The Company achieved first place in two individual rifle events and second in the team rifle. Sgt. Steward won the Unicorn Cup (without dropping a single point) and the Enfield Trophy.

The Command Rifle Meeting was blessed with good weather and the Company did extremely well. We won the Services Cup for the best aggregate for the whole meeting and the L.M.G. Unit Team Cup. We scored first and third places in the L.M.G. pairs (Sgts. Steward

and Partridge, 1st; Sgts. Weller and Longman, 3rd). We came second for the Victory Cup and the Sten unit team event and we got third place in the Young Soldiers' Competition, and Sgt. Weller won the pool ball. The Company team consisted of C.S.M. Thom, Sgts. Steward, Partridge and Weller, Cpls. Whittle and Ford, L/Cpl. Patterson and Ptes. Whitbread and Rogers. C.S.M. Thom, Sgt. Steward and Cpl. Whittle were also in the Battalion shooting team. C.S.M. Thom, to whom all these successes were due, deserves our heartiest congratulations on raising the standard of shooting in the Company. He has not spared himself in achieving it.

On August 15 we moved to Schmelz. There we fired all the platoon weapons and explored the vast ranges in innumerable platoon and section exercises. We—most of us—followed Walter (the mountain guide) over the hills and far away, taking in our stride (!) the Zirbitz Kogel and the Kreis Kogel. We noted the absence of our Company Commander, who inexplicably was otherwise employed that last day!

Gen. Urquhart's visit was marred by our inactivity, caused by the mountain mist, which halted proceedings as effectively as the rain did on our first day in Schmelz.

Leaving Schmelz, we found ourselves with less than clear three weeks in which to prepare for Vienna. At the same time we lost C/Sgt. Perry to the Quartermaster as a/R.Q.M.S., and eventually to "D" Company, so C/Sgt. Morgan had the harrowing job of picking up the threads of a new Company, together with fitting out the Company for Vienna. We had a preview of Vienna when we drilled morning, noon and night—or so it seemed.

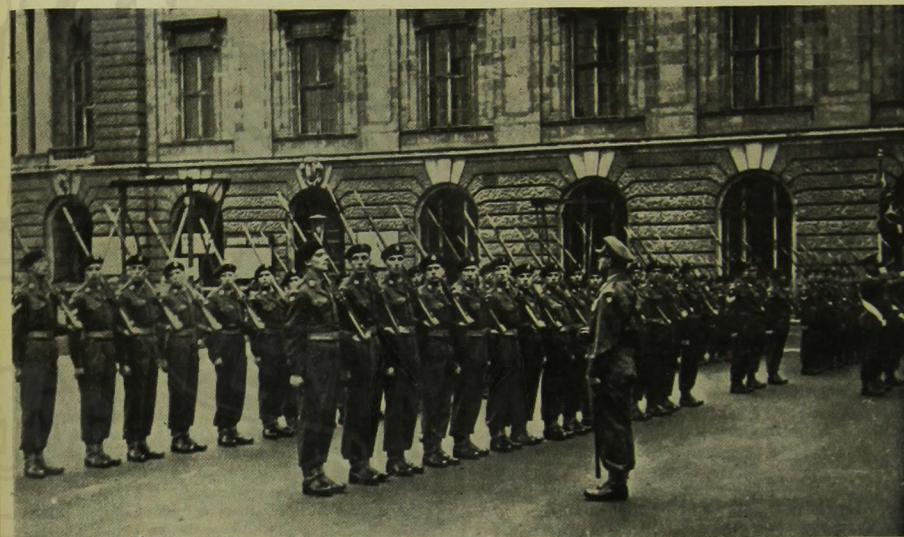
The advance party for Vienna left on August 12 and the road party on the 10th under C/Sgt. Morgan. The latter was stopped at Semmering and the Russian guard, seeing the Colour-Sergeant's pram, became suspicious and delved deeper. Discovering a rocket launcher they said: "Sorry, no heavy weapons like this!" C/Sgt. Morgan had visions of salt mines in Siberia. The Colour-Sergeant conducted an excellent conference with the Russians, who were represented by one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, five majors and six captains. However, we lost. So, returning to Zeltweg, they set off again the next day and passed uneventfully through the Russian Zone to Vienna.

On September 1 the rest of the Company left by train and at last we arrived at the city of bright lights and International Guards to take over from "A" Company. For the remainder of the month our time was completely taken up by drill and rehearsals of the change-over parade. We met the Americans on the drill square and were as intrigued by their drill as they appeared to be by ours.

On October 1 we took over the Vienna International Guard duties from the Americans in the forecourt of the Hofburg Palace. In spite of the efforts of the Austrian national press to discourage the civilians from watching the ceremony as a protest against this outward symbol of the occupation, there was a fairly large crowd of spectators.

The guard was commanded by Major A. S. J. de S. Clayton and the Colours were carried by Lt. W. M. M. Deacock and 2/Lt. I. M. E. Lloyd.

The guard was composed mainly of "B" Company,



Major A. S. J. de S. Clayton, with "B" Company, before the ceremony of changing the International Guard in Vienna on October 1, 1954



The Regimental Band and Corps of Drums and "B" Company on parade during the ceremony of changing the International Guard in Vienna on October 1, 1954. The guard is commanded by Major A. S. J. de S. Clayton and the Colour Party consists of Lt. W. M. M. Deacock, Lt. I. M. E. Lloyd, C/Sgt. Morgan, Sgt. Walden and Sgt. Steward, with R.S.M. R. Tarrant in attendance

with an additional 10 men from each of "C" and "S" Companies. The Band and Drums were also on parade. We were grateful for the excellent support of these invaluable reinforcements throughout the rehearsals and the parade.

For the first time our guard carried both the Queen's and Regimental Colours and the divisions marched past in line in slow time. Thanks to the efforts of the R.S.M. and C.S.M., the standard of drill and turnout was exceptional. The Americans, who have eliminated most ceremonial from their drill manual, were most impressed by our display and the Company Commander has received warmest congratulations from the American Commander in Vienna as well as from all the American officers who were watching.

They were not alone in their praise. The Russian G.O.C. was seen to clap immediately after our march past and to turn to his A.D.C. and pass an obviously complimentary remark. We can only hope now that we shall maintain this high standard when we hand over duties to the French on November 1.

After the ceremony all our troops taking part were entertained most hospitably by the Americans at their P.X. Rumour has it that two remarkably senior members of the party were seen to return to their quarters in Cadillacs complete with blonde upholstery in the very small hours of the following morning.

We congratulate Sgt. Longman, Cpls. Barnes and Halls and L/Cpls. Coster, Dixon, King, Miller and Munn on their promotion. We are particularly pleased over the promotion of Sgt. Longman, who is one of the two first N.S. men to reach the Sergeants' Mess in the Regiment. We have said goodbye to Sgt. Weller, who has gone to the 7th Battalion, Sgt. Partridge to the Depot and several others who have gone on N.S. release. We all congratulate C.S.M. Thom and Sgt. Walden and their wives on the happy events which have increased the ration strength of their respective families.

On October 4 the French organised a three-Power shooting competition. The matches were five rounds application with the rifle at 200 yards, five rounds snap with revolver or automatic pistol at 20 yards and 20 rounds fired in five exposures, each of three seconds, with the sub-machine gun. The target used was completely different from any in use by us normally, consisting of a figure of a standing man, and hits on the target are scored according to the area on the body. Scores do not always seem to tally with the damage which would be inflicted in the event of a hit being scored in the same area on a living target, and this may have accounted for our lack of success with the rifle, in which we came third out of four teams competing.

However, we won the sub-machine gun match after a reshoot with the Americans. The Military Police, who fired the automatic pistol match, came second after scoring a possible number of hits, but their grouping had been adjudged second to that of the Americans, who also scored a possible number of hits.

As a result the British team won the overall competition and were presented with a magnificent cup which had been given by the outgoing French Ambassador as the prize for the overall winners. Un-

fortunately, this must remain the property of Vienna garrison.

Sgt. Steward repeated his former successes and won the individual rifle competition, while Cpl. Ford won the individual Sten competition.

The competition provided a most enjoyable afternoon's sport for all taking part and for the spectators, but it is perhaps well that we have in Major Clayton an officer with great experience in handling inter-Allied affairs, as even at such a small three-Powered affair as this meeting some problems required the approach of the diplomat rather than that of the simple soldier.

"C" COMPANY

L/Cpl. Brunton

All ranks of the Company felt keenly the loss of L/Cpl. Brunton, who died in Judenbug Hospital on September 12, 1954, after a Sten gun accident. Our sympathy goes out to his relatives and friends at home, who were remembered at Annabichl Cemetery when L/Cpl. Brunton was buried with military honours on September 15, 1954. The bearer party and firing party were provided by the Company, the remainder attending as mourners. The Commanding Officer attended as chief mourner, laying a wreath for the officers. Other wreaths were laid on behalf of "C" Company, No. 9 Platoon, the Sergeants' Mess, the rank and file of the Battalion and H.Q. B.T.A.

At the beginning of the quarter the main Company activity was centred at Warmbad Ranges for the annual range classification, the outcome of which would affect all of us for the coming year either financially or "socially." Those who were considering the financial aspect and that extra star came away quite satisfied in the main, though there were a few members of the Company whose shooting gave rise to a remark which would not bear repetition in cold print.

Based largely on the results obtained during the classification, the Company team was selected to compete in the Battalion and Command Rifle Meetings, which were held at Warmbad towards the end of July. The Company team, captained by Major G. C. Dawson, consisted of Sgts. Simmons and Hartard, Cpls. Hart (31) and Hart (91), L/Cpls. Redmond and Simons and Ptes. Carey, Cairns, Hannibal, Rayner, Perry and Waghorn. The team did extremely well to finish in second place in the Battalion meeting and had Major Dawson been permitted to use his 9-mm. Luger at the longer ranges it might may well have turned the scales in our favour.

The same team competed in the B.T.A. Command Rifle Meeting, which immediately followed the Battalion Rifle Meeting. Once again we had no small measure of success and consequently were able to return to Zeltweg with the Victory Cup and the Young Soldiers' Rifle and L.M.G. Team Cups and a considerable amount of prize money.

The Company rifle team owe much of their success to the energy and enthusiasm of Major Dawson, who spent so much of his spare time in training and coaching them whenever the Battalion ranges were available, and sometimes when they were not. Pte. Rayner, too, is to be



COMPANY SWIMMING TEAM

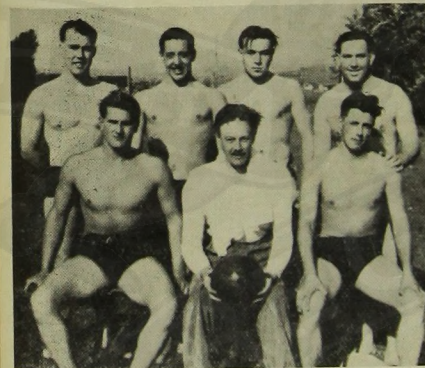
Standing (left to right): Pte. Green, Cpl. Blackwell, Cpl. McIntosh, Pte. Abrams, Cpl. Hart 31, Major G. C. Dawson, Pte. Dickens, Pte. Gregory
Seated: Pte. Waghorn, Pte. Blower

congratulated for his consistent shooting as a young soldier competing in his first year of service.

On July 20 the Battalion swimming and water polo competition was held at Zeltweg, having been previously postponed due to unfavourable weather. The combination of the "old firm" of Ptes. Abrams and Dickens, ably supported by the remainder of the team, made it more unfavourable for the other Companies on this occasion and the Company ran out easy but worthy winners in both the swimming and water polo.

The Battalion entered a team in the BETFOR Swimming Championships and we congratulate Cpl. Blackwell and Ptes. Abrams, Dickens, Blower, Gregory and Green upon their efforts in the successful Battalion team.

To crown a most successful season the Company



COMPANY WATER POLO TEAM

Standing (left to right): Cpl. McIntosh, Pte. Abrams, Pte. Green, Cpl. Hart 531
Seated: Pte. Dickens, Major G. C. Dawson, Pte. Blower

swimming team then went to Klagenfurt to compete in the B.T.A. Swimming Championships, which were held on the famous Wörthersee on August 27, and now hold the B.T.A. Swimming Challenge Shield. The Company on this occasion was represented by Cpl. Blackwell and Ptes. Abrams, Blower, Dickens, Green, Gregory and Waghorn.

Cricket

The 1954 season began while the Company were stationed in Vienna. Taking advantage of the good indoor cricket net facilities, we were able to polish up stroke play and bowling even when the weather was up to Old Trafford standard. In a practice game on May 22 Capt. Leonard's XI played Sgt. Potter's XI and provided great encouragement in the degree of enthusiasm and proficiency displayed by all who turned out.

The first game, versus Intelligence Organisation, Vienna, resulted in a convincing win for the Company. Batting first, we scored 112 for 7 (the game was restricted to 30 overs), Capt. Leonard and Pte. Fullman each scoring 22. Intelligence Organisation were then dismissed in 17 overs for 60 runs, Pte. Bentley taking 5 for 11 and Sgt. Potter 5 for 21.

Our next game, versus R.A.F. Schwechat, again resulted in a win. "C" Company scored 91 for 9 (Pte. West 21) and the R.A.F. 53 (Pte. Bentley 5 for 13, Sgt. Potter 3 for 26).

An interesting all-day game was played against Intelligence Organisation on May 30, although again the result was an easy win for the Company: "C" Company 105 for 6 dec. (Capt. Leonard 27 not out, Pte. Bentley 27), Intelligence Organisation 37 and 54 (Pte. Bentley 7 for 16 and 8 for 18, Sgt. Potter 3 for 19).

The final positions of the Albuhera League are not yet known, but it would appear that "C" Company will take second place to "S" Company, although with one game still to play, "S" Company are two points behind (four points are given for a win).

At the risk of sounding unduly self-satisfied, we feel that, by and large, we have had a good season, but particularly so in the way in which everyone played with great keenness and for the sake of the game. We are proud to record that no fewer than five Company players were selected to play for the Battalion (Sgt. Potter and Ptes. Fullman, Hannibal, Bentley and Rayner) in various games played this season. We shall, unfortunately, have to do without the stalwart services of Sgt. Potter next season, as he has now left us to join "D" Company. To a large extent the successes we enjoyed this season were due to his efforts.

During the last week in August a Battalion individual athletics meeting was staged at Zeltweg to determine the best talent to compete in the B.T.A. meeting which took place in Klagenfurt early in September. From a large number of entrants the following personnel of the Company are to be congratulated for their respective performances in the B.T.A. meeting:

Ptes. Bentley and Harper: first and third respectively in the high jump.

Cpl. Hart (91) and L/Cpl. Redmond: second and fourth respectively in the three miles race.

L/Cpl. Roche: second in the pole vault.

Pte. Holmes: second in throwing the discus.

Pte. Harper: third in the one mile race.

To turn to the more serious side of soldiering the Company went to Schmelz on August 27 for a fortnight's field firing. We moved up in a heavy downpour, but, despite the usual cheerful pessimism, the following day heralded a fine spell which lasted for the remainder of our stay. During the training period each man fired all platoon weapons, took part in section and platoon exercises, using ball ammunition and, in addition, spent two half-days with the Battalion mountain guide completing a cable railway, an *abseil*, a *prusik* and some elementary rock climbing. The final two days were mainly spent in marching, with, we suspect, a well-timed halt at a convenient *gasthaus*; it was good training none the less and it certainly made our march back to Zeltweg just too easy after toiling the heights to the Zirbitzkogel. The enthusiasm put into this fortnight made it both enjoyable and instructional for all and the general summing up was, "When do we go again?"

We have, unfortunately, had to bid farewell to a number of personalities during the last quarter. Both 2/Lts. J. Grobel and P. Langford recently completed their full-time service and left for U.K. Cpls. Dyson and Davies have both joined the Depot staff. L/Cpl. Simons finally realised his ambition and went to join a Parachute Battalion. He will be sadly missed and, in particular, leaves a gap in our athletics team.

L/Cpl. Snell has joined the 7th Battalion and will doubtless meet many more of the Company who have joined there earlier.

Pte. Surman, for so long our diminutive Company storeman, and Pte. Barnard have both completed their Regular engagements and have gone to make their way in Civvy Street. Whatever they may be doing, we all wish each and every one of them the very best of luck.

To end on a congratulatory note, we congratulate Sgt. Hartard and L/Cpl. Roche on their respective promotions, and most hearty congratulations to Sgt. and Mrs. Simmons upon the birth of a daughter on September 27, 1954.

"D" COMPANY

Slowly, but ever so surely, with the passage of time the Company gets stronger and stronger; in the last three months alone our numbers have been increased by a total of no fewer than two live (?) bodies. It is true that during the quarter we have welcomed nine new faces in the shape of 2/Lt. D. E. Lobb, C/Sgt. Perry, Sgt. Harper (R.E.), L/Cpl. Lacey and Ptes. Daw, Jenkins, Chippis, McDonald and Humphries, but our welcomes were interspersed with regrets as we said our fond or otherwise farewells to C.S.M. Bartle, Sgt. Perrins (R.A.E.C.), and Ptes. Ilbury, Blaydon, McLeary, Ketch and Hanwell, some returning to civilian life and some being posted to other companies within the Battalion. Wherever they may be, and whatever they may do, we all join in wishing them the most of the best at all times.

Not so slowly, and certainly much more surely, the Company is making its presence felt within the Battalion, both from the military and the athletics point of view. Early in the quarter, whilst the Company rifle team was practising for the B.T.A. shoot, it rather surprisingly

(from everybody else's point of view) took fourth place in the Battalion Rifle Meeting, defeating both "A" and "H.Q." Companies. The team, consisting of 2/Lt. Lobb, C.S.M.s Gooledge and Bartle and Ptes. Whitbread, Ketch, McLeary, Hart, Harris, Rawlings and Jones, then went on to take third place in the Victory Cup and second place in the L.M.G. team competition, and reached the semi-finals of the falling plate competition at the B.T.A. Annual Rifle Meeting held at the end of July.

The excellent results achieved by the Company shooting team (thanks for which are due to its training under C.S.M.s Gooledge and Bartle), apart from its prestige value, also seem to have had a good effect on the Company as a whole, as the results of the Battalion Sports Meeting shows. Spurred on by our successes in weapon training, no fewer than 30-odd members of the Company entered for a variety of events in this Meeting and, although not all were good enough to win medals or places in the events of their choice, certainly not one was anything but a credit to the Company. With very few exceptions, the majority of our entries were from men who had never before attempted the events for which they entered, and our congratulations go to Rawlings (200 and 1,600 metres and javelin), Burns (800 and 1,600 metres), Saunders (1,600 and 5,000 metres and high jump), Whiting (discus, javelin and shot), Cornew (high jump, hammer and shot) and Boyne and Sewell, who both entered for the javelin. The Company is fortunate in having two very good athletes in Sgt. Lewis (R.A.E.C.), who took second place in the 100 and 200 metres and first place in the 400 metres, and Pte. Robinson (late of Southgate Harriers), who took first place in the 800, 1,600 and also the 5,000 metres, a notable achievement indeed. Mention must also be made of C.S.M. Gooledge, who took first place in the hammer, and of W.O.2 Butcher (R.A.E.C.), who took third place in the pole vault and javelin. Our thanks go once again to C.S.M. Gooledge and W.O.2 Butcher for their enthusiasm and encouragement during our period of training.

A week or so later the B.T.A. Annual Athletics Meeting was held at Klagenfurt and, as a direct result of our successes at the Battalion meeting, several members of the Company were nominated to represent the Battalion namely, C.S.M. Gooledge (hammer and tug-of-war coach), W.O.2 Butcher (R.A.E.C.) (javelin, discus and pole vault), Sgt. Lewis (R.A.E.C.) (200 and 400 metres), Pte. Robinson (800, 1,600 and 5,000 metres), Pte. Saunders (1,600 and 5,000 metres), Pte. Burns (1,600 metres), Pte. Whiting (shot and javelin) and Pte. Cornew (shot). Although the Battalion entries made the Meeting a rather one-sided affair, the Company can be justly proud of the fact that out of the 25 medals won by the Battalion no fewer than seven were won by members of the Company, i.e. C.S.M. Gooledge took first place in the hammer, W.O.2 Butcher took third place in the pole vault, Sgt. Lewis took third place in the 200 metres and second place in the 400 metres, Pte. Robinson took first place in the 800, 1,600 and 5,000 metres and Pte. Cornew took third place in the shot.

One might excuse us if we were now to relax and rest on our laurels, but no—we are now concentrating on welding together a soccer team, which so far this season

has, in its three matches, lost two and won one games; not a bad effort considering that there are no more than a handful of players from which to choose our team. The team is now beginning to work together and has high hopes of emerging at the end of the season as the best Company team. The following have played for the team so far this season, but it is difficult so early in the season to say who are the mainstays, although already several have shown their worth: W.O.2 Butcher, L/Cpls. Lacey and Anderson and Ptes. Boynes, Saunders, Robinson, Whiting, Sewell, Chipp, Burns, Cornew, Whitbread, Rawlings, Harris and Cuddilay.

Early in September the Company was once again called upon to show its worth in that it was required to organise two sideshows in a fete run for the benefit of S.S.A.F.A. L/Cpls. Sacker, Jenkins and Richardson and Ptes. Palmer and Saunders worked extremely well to produce a sideshow in which contestants tried to knock down a top hat worn by Pte. Saunders, who, in order to escape damage did most of his large body behind a large screen. In addition, W.O.2 Butcher and Sgt. Lewis (R.A.E.C.), ably directed by their orderly, Pte. Burns, produced a miniature casino with the aid of a bicycle wheel and some decorated cardboard, which was a great success. Between them the two stalls collected a total of £6, which compared very favourably with the amounts collected by other Companies.

Another success in the field of sport which must not be overlooked was Sgt. Potter's performance in the B.T.A. Golf Meeting, in which he took first place in the bogey competition and second place in the medal competition. This success is all the more outstanding since there are no facilities at Zeltweg for golf practice and the meeting was probably the first time for many months that Sgt. Potter had played golf.

L/Cpls. Sacker and Vale (developing, printing and enlarging done here cheap) have recently been on a Vienna historical course and have now gone almost completely Viennese, talking of nothing but the Stadtsoper, St. Stephan's Dome and all subjects Austrian.

Our congratulations this quarter go to L/Cpl. Jenkins on his promotion and to Pte. Burns on his elevation from Education Centre fatigue man to Education Centre orderly and Regimental Librarian, which means the same thing under the Dewey decimal classification system.

In closing it is our reluctant duty to say farewell to our Company Commander, Major H. N. MacL. Martin, who is leaving the Battalion for a new post as Brigade Adjutant with the Home Counties Brigade in November. In the past 12 months under his able direction and guidance the Company has grown both in stature and importance and now commands a most healthy respect from the rest of the Battalion in all aspects of military and athletics training, as may be realised from our successes in the .22 shoot, the Battalion Rifle and Athletics Meetings and the B.T.A. Rifle and Athletics Meetings.

Major Martin's place in both Company and Battalion hockey and cricket will be hard to fill and, although we wish him every success in his new appointment, we also wish that he could have stayed to see our ambition—to become large enough and able enough to enter the

annual Albuhera competition—fulfilled, as it most certainly will be in the not too distant future.

"S" COMPANY

The summer and early autumn is always a disruptive period for "S" Company. The Assault Pioneers disappear to Trieste, the Machine Gunners concentrate, and the Anti-Tank Platoon vanishes to Germany. It is seldom possible to get together as an integrated whole.

Nevertheless, July, August and September have proved to be a period of very considerable achievement. Despite our rather disappointing classification results, the Company ran out worthy winners at the Battalion Rifle Meeting and, in addition, obtained easily the best score in the A.R.A. shoot for the Company Shield. Ptes. York and Dunkley and Lt. Deacock and C.S.M. Kenrick are particularly to be congratulated on gaining first and second positions respectively in the L.M.G. pairs. In the B.T.A. meeting the Company team (C.S.M. Kenrick, L/Cpls. Dixon and Turton and Ptes. Dunkley, Murray and Woolley) won the Sten match and our young soldiers did well to come second in their event. We also received many kindly comments on the administration of the two meetings, for which, under the general direction of the Weapon Training Officer, we were made responsible.

The alteration of the date of the Battalion Swimming Meeting rather caught us on the hop, as several of our experts were on leave and the Machine Gun Platoon, which contained half a dozen of the team, was not available owing to the firing of the A.R.A. competition for the Machine Gun Cup. In the circumstances we did extremely well to obtain third place. The following represented the Company on this occasion: 2/Lt. Beaumont, Sgt. Dive, L/Cpl. Jakeman and Ptes. Burrow, Nicholas, Owen, O'Rawe, Shepherd, Sims, Smith (98), Wright (47) and Young. Ptes. Blackwell, Owen and O'Rawe and Cfmn. Ansell and Peachey, three of whom missed the Battalion meeting, later went to Trieste and participated in the Battalion's handsome win in the BETFOR Swimming Championships. Pte. Blackwell is especially to be congratulated on his brilliant diving.

This year we made no mistake about the cricket and were only prevented from obtaining a possible of five wins by a last-minute alteration of the rules, which did not quite allow us time to get our opponents out. In the final match, against "A" Company, Pte. York took 8 for 28 (including the hat-trick, all clean bowled) and the Company Commander (Major Ormiston) and Capt. Pike put on over 100 for the opening partnership. Major Ormiston's average for the Albuhera Shield matches runs well into three figures, as he has only once been out. In conjunction with "C" Company we have provided the backbone of the Battalion side which won the Command cricket competition.

Our athletes also performed extremely creditably in the individual championships on August 28 and contributed the following to the Battalion team which swept the board in the Command championships on September 10 and 11: Lt. Deacock (second in putting the shot and the 110 metres hurdles, fourth in the 400 metres), Pte. Green (second in the 200 metres, fourth



"S" COMPANY, WINNERS BATTALION RIFLE MEETING, 1954

Back row (left to right): Major J. W. G. Ormiston, C.S.M. Kenrick, Sgt. Gibbs, Lt. W. M. M. Deacock
Middle row: Pte. Murray, L/Cpl. Dixon, Pte. Woolley, Pte. Downey, Pte. Green 26, Pte. Miles 93, Pte. Brundell, L/Cpl. Turton
Front row: Pte. Dunkley, Pte. Castle, Pte. York, Pte. Spurge, Pte. McGregor, L/Cpl. Gower



"S" COMPANY, WINNERS OF THE INTER-COMPANY CRICKET COMPETITION, 1954

Standing (left to right): Pte. Bell (scorer), Pte. Cookson, Cpl. Clarke, Pte. Woolley, Pte. Smith 86, Pte. Ilbury, Pte. Sparkes, Pte. Payne (12th man)
Sitting: Cpl. Evans, Capt. J. I. D. Pike, Major J. W. G. Ormiston, Sgt. Dive, Pte. York

in the 100 metres), Pte. Miles (third in the 110 metres hurdles) and Pte. Smith (86) (winner of the pole vault, second in the high jump), also Ptes. Keefe, Macgregor, Reynolds and Skinner and Cfmn. Ross.

On the training side, the Assault Pioneer Platoon obtained an excellent report on its attachment to No. 66 Independent Field Squadron, R.E., in Trieste and have since carried out invaluable practical training in demolitions, cratering and the breaching of minefields at Schmelz. The M.M.G. Platoon, after much intensive training and practice for the A.R.A. competitions and outstanding results in practices, unfortunately failed to come off on the day, though they were clearly the best trained of the platoons taking part in the B.T.A./BETFOR concentration. The Mortars followed up a period of intensive training with some very successful field firing, and the Anti-Tank Platoon, after a three weeks' cadre programme, is shortly away to Germany to put theory into practice.

A really first-class fortnight's field firing and mountain climbing was enjoyed at Schmelz during September. The weather might have been kinder, but on only one occasion were we confined to indoor training. All the Company's secondary armaments were well and truly fired and the Mortar and Assault Pioneer Platoons also indulged their own particular crafts. We also had a great purge on the camp area and received very complimentary remarks from our many official visitors, all of whom observed that Schmelz had never looked so clean and tidy.

Finance appears inevitably to play a dominating part in all our lives these days, so it may suitably be mentioned that the four sideshows produced by the Company on the occasion of the fete in aid of S.S.A.F.A. on September 8 took over £12, which was a great tribute to the energy and ingenuity of those concerned. Our nearest rivals were "H.Q." Company with £6 2s. 7d., so it was a comfortable victory. We are proud to report, too, that 100 per cent. of the Company have become subscribers to the Regimental Association.

During the quarter we have had regretfully to bid farewell to 2/Lt. Beaumont, Cpl. Whitt, Ptes. Cameron, Evans, Hayden, Sims, Smith (98) and Toms and Cfmn. Ansell, all of whom will be badly missed and carry our good wishes with them. In their stead we welcome L/Cpl. Skippon and Pte. Ilbury back to the fold and Cfmn. Pleass and Ross from the Command Workshop. All have quickly made their mark.

We also bid a warm hail and farewell to Capt. Kent, who has achieved much in his short time as our third 2IC in six months. As we are now on our fourth Company Commander in nine months it is a nice mathematical calculation as to which appointment offers the greater security of tenure.

C/Sgt. Burgess has been on some well-merited leave in the U.K. with his family, Sgt. Moysse having officiated most efficiently in his absence. Sgt. Power and his wife are enjoying leave in Malta. As we go to press comes the news that Mrs. O'Rawe has presented her husband with a bouncing boy. Pte. O'Rawe at last looks more proud than harassed and we offer him and his wife our warmest congratulations on their first child.



**3-in. MORTAR PLATOON (Schmelz, Sept. 1954)
Taking it Steady**

Left to right: Ptes. Young, Blackwell, Eynon, Cox, Giles, Green 26, Short and Fletcher

Mortar Platoon

In July, before going to Warmbad, the Platoon took part in force in a Company convoy drive, which gave our drivers much needed practice in running maintenance and long-distance driving as well as acting as a refresher in the intricacies of bivouacking and field cooking.

During the last two weeks of August we had some intensive mortar training preparatory to going to Schmelz and we finally went "up the hill" again on September 9. The first two days of the period were spent in mountain walking and rock climbing, which, apart from being interesting, provided a basis for the more arduous training to follow. This year we were blessed with the use of all the ranges with Jeeps borrowed from the M.M.G. Platoon and, above all, with a full complement of men for training, so that with reasonable weather and good administration at camp we were able to achieve a very great deal. Every man took part in Parts I and II shoots and all had their share of manhandling the weapons up to the ranges, so that they do not now seem half as heavy as they did. Bivouacking and cooking at 6,000 ft. laid a good foundation for similar conditions which we must expect to encounter on manoeuvres in November. The only pity was that after a time we found our mortars and sights were getting rather "tired" and obviously suffering from their dual role as drill and operational equipments. Perhaps we shall manage to get some spare mortars for training purposes in the future. Nevertheless, our drivers, mortar numbers and fire controllers all benefited enormously this year and we are confident of our ability to get on target in minimum time with maximum bombs.

We were unfortunate not to have Sgt. Power with us for Schmelz, as he has gone to Malta for a long leave. Sgt. Gibbs, however, returned just in time to accompany us.

The Platoon has been well represented in Battalion and B.T.A. sports this summer. In the Battalion Swimming Meeting Cfmn. Ansell and Pte. O'Rawe did



ANTI-TANK GUNNERS AT THE TOP OF THE ZIRBITZKOGEL

Standing (left to right): Cpl. Evans, Pte. Woolley, Pte. Lipscombe, Capt. J. I. D. Pike, Pte. Joyce, Pte. Kent, L/Cpl. Dixon, Pte. Hawkins
Sitting: Pte. Wright 47, Pte. Green 54, Pte. Reynolds 09, Pte. Walters, "Walter," Pte. York, Pte. Bishop, Pte. Parry

well and then went on to Trieste, where Pte. Blackwell won the diving for B.T.A. and Pte. O'Rawe came second in two events. In athletics Pte. Green won the Battalion 200 yards and obtained two seconds in the B.T.A. individual meeting, while Pte. Miles did well in the hurdles.

L/Cpl. Tappin and Ptes. Green, Impey, Denning and Jones were selected to go on attachment to Vienna to help "B" Company with the International Guard. We hope they will spread the gospel on their return to us, for we are still recovering from our nomadic existence in the mountains, where through our uncanny attraction for rain it is alleged that most of the Platoon now have webbed feet.

Anti-Tank Platoon

Since the last issue of *The Die-Hards* the Anti-Tank Platoon has spent a varied and interesting two months.

In conjunction with the other platoons of "S" Company, we spent most of July at Warmbad Ranges. Every member of the Platoon, with one exception, passed the annual range course and L/Cpl. Dixon and Ptes. Murray, Woolley, Dunkley and York had the honour of being included in the Company shooting team that won the Battalion Rifle Meeting held on July 23 and 24. Ptes. York and Dunkley are particularly to be congratulated on winning the L.M.G. pairs, a most creditable performance.

On our return to the fold at Zeltweg at the beginning of August we were inevitably saddled with a long period as duty company and had a busy time catching up with the sporting fixtures we had missed during our absence.

The main highlight of September was a brief visit to Schmelz. Everyone spent a most enjoyable four days there, which varied from rock climbing under the experienced guidance of Walter, the Battalion mountaineering guide, to section attacks under the equally experienced but somewhat more pronounced guidance of C.S.M. Kenrick! The latter in particular was a novel experience for a specialist platoon (or so we said), but proved most informative if somewhat exhausting. Equally exhausting was the so-called "country walk"—to quote Company Detail—which necessitated climbing the Zirbitzkogel Mountain, a mere 2,397 metres high. It was definitely hard going, but the beer which awaited our arrival at the summit proved most refreshing and the unforgettable view from the top of the mountain was ample reward for our exertions.

On return to Zeltweg, intensive Platoon training took place in preparation for our forthcoming visit to B.A.O.R. in October, when the Platoon will be firing the annual gunnery course at Hohne ranges. All ranks are looking forward to this visit, which should prove of immense value.

Personalities always come and go, but the Platoon will

be particularly sorry to say goodbye to Cpl. Bourke, who is leaving Austria for Eire in October. Cpl. Bourke has been a member of the Platoon for several years and his presence will be badly missed. We recently said goodbye to 2/Lt. Beaumont, and all ranks wish him the best of good fortune in civil life and with the Anti-Tank Platoon in the 7th Battalion. Others who have recently departed are Ptes. Evans and Hayden, two stalwarts whose places will be hard to fill. We are, however, glad to welcome back Cpl. Evans from his course at Netheravon and congratulate him on his excellent report. We also await the return of Sgt. Moyse to the Platoon. Since standing in for C/Sgt. Burgess during his leave he has become more perplexed and worried each day. It is hoped that the Platoon Sergeant will eventually return safe and sound after his martyrdom is over.

In conclusion, we congratulate several members of the Platoon on representing the Battalion at the following sports: Cricket: Capt. Pike, Cpl. Evans and Pte. York. Athletics: Ptes. Woolley and Evans. Swimming: Pte. Owen and Cfmn. Peachey.

Assault Pioneer Platoon

The last quarter has been a particularly successful period for the Platoon.

When the spring cadre had been completed most of the new members, and certainly all the old members, were due for leave. We then brushed the leave cobwebs away with an intensive three weeks' course of training at Trieste. It was our second visit there and after we had renewed old acquaintances in the 66th Independent Field Squadron we settled down to training. One of the highlights was the breaching of a minefield by night. L/Cpl. Rock made a very successful reconnaissance (in spite of pouring rain), which allowed the Platoon to have the gap completed long before daylight. Another was the night task of preparing a bridge for demolition. We expected splashes when Pte. Hyam hung upside-down under the bridge whilst he prepared the electrical circuit, but were disappointed. The O.C. of the Squadron, critical as he is known to be, could find little of which to complain. In the off-duty hours the Platoon made the most of Trieste's fine swimming facilities.

Trieste—then classification at Warmbad. Warmbad—then field firing at Schmelz. Here we were fortunate, as the Command Ordnance Corps ammunition expert asked us to help him to carry out some interesting demolitions. These were of a larger nature than is normal whilst training. We practically transformed the countryside and made the noise of the mortars firing on the other range seem very diminutive.

Ptes. Macgregor and Reynolds upheld the Platoon's name at the Battalion Athletics Meeting, coming second and fifth respectively in the throwing the javelin. Pte. Macgregor also, since he has finished his education course, has been campaigning for the cultural and educational uplift of the Platoon.

Now that the flowers have succumbed to the morning frosts the snow must be on its way, so we end this quarter looking forward to the winter ski-ing.

M.M.G. Platoon

At the beginning of July we went to Warmbad, where we were met by Lt. (Q.M.) Lobb. Our arrival coincided with that of the summer and we had three weeks of almost continuous sunshine. During the first week we fired the annual rifle and bren range courses. Our results were not as brilliant as we had hoped, but in the end we managed to provide our fair share of the Company shooting team. At the beginning of the second week we fired the A.R.A. Machine Gun Cup competition. Again our scores were not as high as we had hoped after all the preliminary training put in and some very encouraging practice shots, but we feel that the experience gained will stand us in good stead next year. We then provided part of the butts and fatigue parties for the Battalion and Command Rifle Meetings. Everyone worked extremely hard for long periods, especially Sgt. Young, who was in the butts every day, was Orderly Sergeant every other day and was in charge of tent-erecting parties. We returned to Zeltweg on the first day of the August Bank Holiday.

After the holiday Sgt. Redmond rejoined us from Netheravon and we left for Schmelz to take part in the machine gun concentration with the Machine Gun Platoons of 1st Battalion The Loyal Regiment and 2nd Battalion The Lancashire Fusiliers from Trieste. We had 10 days at Schmelz entirely devoted to training and fortunately the weather was once again on our side. We practised direct and indirect fire drills, both "dry and "live," and finished up with an exercise to test what we had learned. During our spell there we fired the Machine Gun Fire Control Cup competition and once again our results were a little disappointing. The drivers are to be congratulated on keeping all the vehicles on the road during the concentration despite their continuous use over appalling roads and across country.

It was the middle of August when we returned to Zeltweg for a well-earned fortnight of administration before setting off once more to Schmelz for the annual field firing, from which we have just now returned.

SERGEANTS' MESS

In the past quarter we have welcomed into the Mess C/Sgt. Whitehead from U.K., Sgts. Longman and Hartard on their promotion, Sgt. Lewis, our new D.M., from the Welch Guards, Sgt. Harper (R.E.), from somewhere in Austria and, last but not least, we have welcomed for the second time "Mutt" Hazlewood, who at the last minute decided that the Battalion would not be the same without him and returned with the Band after their tour of U.K. In the same period we bade *au revoir* to C.S.M. Pike and Sgts. Weller and Partridge, who are now with the 7th Battalion, also to C/Sgt. Turner whom we all congratulate on his promotion, (and who, with typical "twister's" luck, wangled a posting to the big city of Vienna), to Sgt. Cubitt now on his way to a posting in Malaya, to Sgt. Perrins (R.A.E.C.), on his release to civilian life and to Sgt. Howarth, of the Ammunition Section, who has been posted back to Klagenfurt.

The social side of Mess life here in Zeltweg has been quiet over the last three months. We did, however,

have the pleasure of welcoming a naval party from the Mediterranean Fleet early in July, and a good time was had by all, with some rather stiff rum issues.

Early in August the Officers' Mess issued a challenge in the shape of a tennis tournament and probably the thought of free beer at the expense of the officers was the main reason for finding so many tennis enthusiasts among Mess members. At least 20 of us began to practice our overhead backhand drives and so forth in readiness for the great occasion and when it came it was generally assumed that we would emerge the victors in what could only be a one-sided battle. As there were so many contestants, it was decided that half of the games would be held on the Sergeants' Mess court, whilst the other half would be held on the Officers' Mess court, and there was considerable excitement when the draw for games took place, since everybody was anxious to see who their opponents were. The tournament was a great success in spite of the fact that the officers' team had obviously been in secret training. We managed to win by a narrow margin of three points. The day's play concluded with tea for the players, their wives and spectators at the Officers' Mess and everyone will agree with us when we say that it was a most enjoyable afternoon.

At about this time we welcomed back to the fold for a short time Sgt. Beale, who had returned to Zeltweg for a spot of leave with his wife, whom he met and married here a short time ago. In mentioning this we would like to extend a welcome to anyone else who would like to spend a spot of leave in the backwoods, especially now the ski-ing season is approaching us.

At the end of July the B.T.A. Annual Rifle Meeting was held and resulted in many wins for the Mess. Members who obtained these results were Sgt. Harris

(R.E.M.E.), who won the individual rifle competition; Sgt. Stone (R.A.S.C.), who won the individual sten competition; Sgts. Steward and Partridge, who won the L.M.G. pairs competition, and Sgt. Weller, who won the pool bull. Another success was at the BETFOR Swimming Gala, where C.S.M. Thom excelled himself and won the plunging with a plunge of some 55 ft.

Mess members were also fairly prominent in the Battalion Athletics Meeting, when Sgt. Lewis (R.A.E.C.), took first place in the 400 metres and second place in the 100 and 200 metres, Sgt. Wright took third place in the 400 metres, Sgt. Smith took second place in the shot, C.S.M. Goodge took first place in the hammer and W.O.2 Butcher took third place in the javelin and pole vault.

Following directly upon the Battalion Athletics Meeting came the B.T.A. Meeting, in which C.S.M. Goodge took first place in the hammer, Sgt. Lewis (R.A.E.C.) took third place in the 200 metres and second place in the 400 metres, and W.O.2 Butcher took third place in the pole vault. The meeting, on the whole, was much too one-sided to merit a long discourse on the Battalion's achievements, as will be seen from notes elsewhere in the Journal. Also noted elsewhere in the Journal are the fortunes of the Battalion cricket team, but mention must be made of the part played by Sgts. Potter, Bailey and Marable, who have all played for the Battalion this season on one or more occasions; indeed, Sgt. Potter played in all matches and has now added a B.T.A. Championship cricket medal to his collection, which included two from the B.T.A. Golf Championship, where he won the bogey competition and came second in the medal competition.

Congratulations this quarter go to B.M. Jackson and C/Sgt. Morgan, both of whom have been awarded



BATTALION ATHLETICS

C.S.M. Goodge receiving his prize for winning the hammer

the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal; also to Sgt. Smith, who, rumour has it, is taking over the Gasthaus Kohler in partnership with Inga. We congratulate Sgt. and Mrs. Simmons on the birth of a baby girl, Linda, weighing 5 lb. 4 oz. at birth, this in defiance of the tradition that only colour-sergeants' wives have baby girls. George has already indented for a set of denim overalls (small) and is busy mugging up his lecture notes on "How to Blanco Kit and Polish Brasses" so that he can instil a soldierly sense of discipline and cleanliness into Linda at an early age.

What with our loss of "Twister" Turner, Ernie Pike, Bob Cubitt, Ken Partridge and Sgt. Weller, together with their wives, and also the fact that the B.M. has been wandering all over Austria with his troupe of pseudo-musicians, and that the R.S.M. has been away for the shooting, swimming, fishing and athletics competitions and the R.Q.M.S., together with W.O.2 Bartle and C/Sgt. Burgess, have all been away in U.K. on leave and the children have returned to school at Klagenfurt, the quarters during the past three months have been very quiet, the only noise having come from the hordes of workmen who have been busy laying out decent roads for us—a sure sign that we are about to leave Austria—but until that time comes we will manage to sweat it out here with our beer at 6d. a pint and our fags at 1s. a packet.

Athletics

The season was approached with more preliminary training than usual and, due to a series of potted sports and inter-company meetings, companies were able to discover more and better talent than is usually the case. It has been heartening to see athletes taking matters into their own hands and training themselves in their own time, the secret of success in any sport. This, coupled with time and assistance from the Battalion, gave good results in the B.T.A. Athletics Meeting, which proved the climax to the athletics season.

The preliminaries to the Battalion Athletics Meeting on August 25 were blessed by hot sun and ran well and according to time, as such things will in good weather. These heats augured well for some exciting tussles in the finals on August 28. The following are the results of this meeting:

RESULTS OF BATTALION ATHLETICS MEETING
 100 metres: 1, Pte. Homer "H.Q."; 2, Sgt. Lewis "D"; 3, Pte. Green "S". 12.1 secs.
 200 metres: 1, Pte. Green "S"; 2, Sgt. Lewis "D"; 3, Pte. Ashman "B". 24.28 secs.
 400 metres: 1, Sgt. Lewis "D"; 2, Lt. Deacock "S"; 3, Sgt. Wright "H.Q.". 55.0 secs.
 800 metres: 1, Pte. Robinson "D" (Battalion Standard); 2, Pte. Hannibal "C"; 3, Pte. Rayner "C". 2 min. 8.5 secs.
 1 mile: 1, Pte. Robinson "D"; 2, Pte. Harper "C"; 3, Bds. Patrick "H.Q.". 4 min. 48.2 secs.
 3 miles: 1, Pte. Robinson "D"; 2, Cpl. Hart "C"; 3, L/Cpl. Redmond "C". 16 min. 24 secs.
 110 metres hurdles: 1, Lt. Deacock "S"; 2, Pte. Miles "S"; 3, L/Cpl. Wilson "C". 19.4 secs.
 Long jump: 1, Pte. Homer "H.Q." (Battalion Standard); 2, Pte. Kirk "B"; 3, Pte. Van "H.Q.". 19 ft. 8 in.
 High jump: 1, Pte. Bentley "C" (Battalion Standard); 2, Pte. Smith "S"; 3, Lt. Deacock "S". 5 ft. 4 in.
 Javelin: 1, Pte. Green "S"; 2, Pte. McGregor "S"; 3, W.O.2 Butcher "D". 127 ft. 5 in.
 Hammer: 1, W.O.2 Goodge "D"; 2, L/Cpl. Small "H.Q."; 3, Cpl. Hart "C". 98 ft. 8 in.



Pte. Robinson, winner of the B.T.A. three-miles in record time

Shot: 1, Lt. Deacock "S"; 2, Sgt. Smith "C"; 3, Pte. Miles "S". 33 ft. 4 in.
 Discus: 1, Lt. Deacock "S"; 2, Pte. Holmes "C"; 3, Pte. Green "C". 102 ft. 4 in.
 Pole vault: 1, L/Cpl. Roche; 2, Pte. Smith "S"; 3, W.O.2 Butcher "D". 8 ft. 3 in.

Pte. Robinson ("D" Company) well deserved the cup for the best performance of the day with his 2 min. 8.5 sec. 800 metres.

After the Battalion Sports training commenced for the B.T.A. Individual Athletics with an 0615 hrs. "warmer" and 1500 hrs. training plus P.R.I. barley sugar. On the day in Klagenfurt a good showing was made and more important still was the good sportsmanship displayed by all the Battalion entrants. Apart from the successful individuals, as shown in the following results, mention must be made of the unsung heroes, such as Pte. Burns ("D" Company), who entered as an "individual individual," trained hard, but did not quite get to the tape soon enough. These sportsmen must not be discouraged and can take a lesson from the many athletes whose success one reads about, often due to perseverance.

RESULTS OF THE B.T.A. ATHLETICS MEETING

100 metres: 2nd, Pte. Homer (11.5 secs.); 4th, Pte. Green; 5th, Sgt. Crogan.
 200 metres: 2nd, Pte. Green (23.4 secs.); 3rd, Sgt. Lewis.
 400 metres: 2nd, Sgt. Lewis (52.3 secs.); 4th, Lt. Deacock (54.3 secs.).
 800 metres: 1st, Pte. Robinson (2 min. 4.6 secs.); 4th, Pte. Rayner (2 min. 10 secs.); 5th, L/Cpl. Dixon; 6th, Pte. Hannibal.
 1,600 metres: 1st, Pte. Robinson (4 min. 46 secs.); 2nd, Bds. Patrick; 3rd, Pte. Harper.
 5,000 metres: 1st, Pte. Robinson (16 min. 32.5 secs., B.T.A. record); 2nd, Cpl. Hart; 3rd, Bds. Patrick; 4th, L/Cpl. Redmond.
 100 metres hurdles: 2nd, Lt. Deacock (18.4 secs.); 3rd, Pte. Miles (18.8 secs.).
 Hammer: 1st, C.S.M. Goodge (89 ft. 5 in.); 2nd, L/Cpl. Small.
 Long jump: 2nd, Pte. Homer (19 ft. 7 1/2 in.).
 Weight: 2nd, Lt. Deacock (32 ft. 7 in.).
 Discus: 2nd, Pte. Holmes (103 ft. 2 1/2 in.); 3rd, Lt. Deacock.
 High jump: 1st, Pte. Bentley (5 ft. 1 in.); 2nd, Pte. Smith; 3rd, Pte. Harper.
 Pole vault: 1st, Pte. Smith (9 ft.); 2nd, L/Cpl. Roche; 3rd, C.S.M. Butcher.
 Tug-of-war team: second.

Pte. Robinson ("D" Company) did well in this meeting to clip the B.T.A. record for three miles and Ptes. Homer ("H.Q."), Rayner ("C") and Holmes ("C") and L/Cpl. Roche gave their best performances to date.

At the commencement of the season a committee set Battalion athletics standards and, although by no means easy, the following have qualified this year for a standard medal:

Pte. Homer "H.Q."	100 metres (11.5 secs.)
Pte. Green "S"	200 metres (23.4 secs.)
Sgt. Lewis "D"	200 metres (23.5 secs.)
Sgt. Lewis "D"	400 metres (52.3 secs.)
Lt. Deacock "S"	400 metres (54 secs.)
Pte. Robinson "D"	800 metres (2 min. 4.6 secs.)
Pte. Rayner "C"	800 metres (2 min. 10 secs.)
Pte. Homer "H.Q."	Long jump (19 ft. 8 in.)
Pte. Kirk "B"	Long jump (19 ft. 7 1/2 in.)
Pte. Holmes "C"	Discus (103 ft. 2 1/2 in.)
Lt. Deacock "S"	Discus (102 ft. 4 in.)
Pte. Smith "C"	Pole vault (9 ft.)
Pte. Bentley "C"	High jump (5 ft. 4 in.)

The season is virtually over, but we still have the inter-Allied meeting in Vienna on October 16. At this meeting we shall assist Vienna garrison with certain selected athletes.

Cricket

The full results of the Battalion 1st XI matches were as follows:

Played seven. Won five. Drawn one. Lost one.

Matches Won

August 1	1st Middlesex: 108 (Capt. Pike 50 not out, Pte. Fullman 36).
	R.A.F., Gutersloh: 102 (Major MacL. Martin 4 for 24, Pte. York 3 for 28).
August 12	2nd Lancashire Fusiliers: 65 (2/Lt. Highton 4 for 15, Capt. Pike 2 for 15).
	1st Middlesex: 95 for 8. (2/Lt. Crumley 26, Major Ormiston 23 retired).
September 1	Royal Signals (Austria): 104. (Capt. Pike 5 for 51, 2/Lt. Highton 3 for 27).
	1st Middlesex: 106 for 8 (Pte. Fullman 45, 2/Lt. Crumley 31).
September 3/4	R.A.P.C. (Austria): 50 (2/Lt. Highton 5 for 22, Pte. Bentley 4 for 9) and 86 (Capt. Pike 7 for 29).
	1st Middlesex: 107 (2/Lt. Highton 30, Capt. Pike 20, 2/Lt. Crumley 19) and 33 for 1 (Major Ormiston 31 not out).
September 5/6	R.A.O.C. (Austria): 43 (Capt. Pike 5 for 17, 2/Lt. Highton 3 for 21).
	and 100 (Capt. Pike 6 for 19, 2/Lt. Highton 2 for 10).
	1st Middlesex: 110 (2/Lt. Crumley 36, Pte. Bentley 26) and 44 for 6.

Matches Drawn

Royal Signals (Austria): 132 (Major Martin 5 for 28).
 1st Middlesex: 112 for 6 (Capt. Pike 38 not out, Major Ormiston 22, Pte. Hannibal 21).

Matches Lost

1st Middlesex: 49 (Cpl. Spenceley 15).
 117 Company R.A.S.C.: 75 (Capt. Pike 3 for 26, Pte. York 3 for 7).

As can be seen from the match results, the Battalion cricket team had a most successful season, although the actual number of fixtures was somewhat restricted compared to the previous year. With the exception of the R.A.S.C. fixture—the first match of the season—no side managed to beat the Battalion and it is pleasant to record that this summer we really did manage to win the B.T.A. major unit knock-out competition after all. In the 1953 season our high hopes were dismally shattered, but this year they happily bore fruit.

The team was definitely not as strong as in 1953. While practically all the bowlers were still here, only Major Ormiston remained from the imposing array of batting available last year. New players were gradually discovered, but it is true to say that at no time was the batting consistent or strong. Invariably when the stars failed to score the side were out for mediocre totals. On the other hand, the bowling was impressive and it was undoubtedly this department of the game which won the matches. Good bowling consistently redeemed bad batting and the Battalion were fortunate to possess such sterling bowlers as Capt. Pike, 2/Lt. Highton, Major MacL. Martin and Pte. Bentley, to mention a few. Unfortunately, the same could not be said about the fielding, which, with the notable exception of Sgt. Potter, remained at a low standard throughout the season and generally let down the bowling. It is true that extensive training and duty commitments normally prevented concentrated practice in this department, but, nevertheless, excuses should not really be made. This state of affairs should definitely be rectified next year.

Of the actual matches played, the most exciting match of the season was against Royal Signals (Austria) in the first round of the B.T.A. knock-out competition. After dismissing the opponents for 104, the Battalion, thanks to good knocks by 2/Lt. Crumley and Pte. Fullman, were in a good position with 97 runs on the scoreboard and with six wickets in hand.

Then came disaster and a dismal succession of rapid "ducks" changed the score to 101 for 8. The Signals definitely felt themselves on top and everyone's excitement rose to boiling point when Major Martin walked to the wicket. But, happily to record, our worst fears were unfounded, for with a nonchalant but confident sweep of his bat the remaining runs were scored over slips' heads. A most creditable knock. Another good match was against the R.A.F., Gutersloh, who visited us from B.A.O.R., when a good 50 from Capt. Pike enabled the Battalion to win by six runs. In addition, a pleasing five-wicket victory was recorded over the 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers when the Battalion XI toured Trieste during August. Finally, the season ended at Klagenfurt on September 6, when the Battalion played R.A.O.C. (Austria) in the final of the B.T.A. Championship. Thanks to a devastating three-wicket opening over by Capt. Pike, the R.O.A.C. never recovered from such a bad start, and the Battalion eventually won the competition with five wickets in hand.

With regard to personalities, Major Ormiston followed up his great batting performances of last year with a



1st BATTALION CRICKET XI, 1954, WINNERS OF B.T.A. MAJOR UNIT KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION

Standing (left to right): Pte. Bell, Pte. Fullman, Sgt. Potter, Pte. Hannibal, Pte. Bentley, Cpl. Evans, Pte. York, Pte. Gould, 2/Lt. Beaumont

Seated: 2/Lt. Crumley, Capt. J. I. D. Pike, Major J. Ormiston, Major H. MacL. Martin, 2/Lt. P. Highton

magnificent 96 for B.T.A. against BETFOR. Capt. Pike made himself into a useful opening bat, while 2/Lt. Crumley developed into a most successful hard-hitting batsman towards the end of the season. Others who showed promise and batted well on occasions were Ptes. Fullman and Hannibal, but, generally speaking, the middle lacked stability and the tail any wag.

Capt. Pike again carried the brunt of the bowling on his shoulders, but he was supported much better than last year. 2/Lt. Highton, who, unfortunately, arrived fairly late in the summer, immediately proved invaluable as a fast bowler and did lion-hearted work in the later matches, while Pte. Bentley could always be relied on to bowl accurately and well when called on. Others who must be mentioned are Major MacL. Martin, Sgt. Potter and Ptes. Gould and York, all of whom proved more than useful change bowlers. Another who must be mentioned is 2/Lt. Crumley, whose wicket-keeping improved out of all recognition from last year and proved a vital factor in the winning of matches. Also C/Sgt. Burgess and Pte. Bell, who carried out the duties of umpire and scorer respectively, must not be forgotten. In fair weather or foul, they were always there and their support and enthusiasm did much to make the season a success.

In conclusion, Major Ormiston, Capt. Pike and 2/Lt. Highton are to be congratulated on being selected to play for B.T.A. during the summer.

Leading averages for Battalion games were as follows:

BATTING					
Name	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Highest Score	Average
Capt. Pike	8	2	160	50 not out	26.66
2/Lt. Crumley	9	1	130	36	16.25

Major Ormiston	8	2	96	31 not out	16.0
Pte. Fullman	6	—	93	45	15.5
Sgt. Potter	7	1	48	12	8.0
Pte. Hannibal	7	—	42	21	6.0

Also batted: 2/Lt. Highton, 30, 0, 4.
 Pte. York, 0, 0, 1.
 Pte. Dawson, 4, 7, 0.
 Major MacL. Martin 5, 0.
 Cpl. Spenceley, 15.

BOWLING					
Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Pte. York	29.4	6	75	11	6.81
2/Lt. Highton	56.5	17	144	17	8.47
Capt. Pike	117.5	27	255	30	8.5

Also bowled:	Major MacL. Martin	4 for 24
		5 for 28
		0 for 6
Pte. Gould		2 for 26
		2 for 34
		1 for 1
Pte. Bentley		2 for 25
		0 for 4
		4 for 9
		1 for 1
		1 for 18

SHOOTING

The Battalion Rifle Meeting was held at Warmbad on Friday and Saturday, July 23 and 24. The highlight of the shooting was the keen competition between Major G. C. Dawson, Cpl. Hart (31) ("C" Company) and Sgt. Steward ("B" Company) for the individual championship (Unicorn Cup). In the end Sgt. Steward won with a "possible" in all matches and Major Dawson was the runner-up. "S" Company won the Inter-Company Shield. "C" Company were second and the Officers (believe it or not) beat the Sergeants in their annual match.

The Regimental Band played on both days of the meeting and the prizes were presented by the C.O.

The B.T.A. Small Arms Meeting was also held at Warmbad on Thursday and Friday, July 29 and 30. It was run on a minor units basis (i.e. Companies), except for an open match between the local garrisons and the gendarmerie battalions, in which two Battalion teams were entered. The Battalion, as the only major unit in B.T.A., was made responsible for the organisation and smooth running of the meeting.

The results were a runaway victory for the Battalion; even "D" Company, with its very small strength, won two prizes. Detailed results as under:

RESULTS OF B.T.A. COMMAND RIFLE MEETING

Victory Cup (h.p.s. 1,610).—Part 1: 1, "D" Company, 453; 2, "C" Company, 447; 3, Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., 414. Part 2: 1, "C" Company, 387; 2, "B" Company, 373; 3, "D" Company, 300. Total scores: 1, "C" Company, 834; 2, "B" Company, 786; 3, "D" Company, 752.

L.M.G. Unit Team.—1, "B" Company, 256; 2, "D" Company, 250; 3, Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., 236.

Sten Unit Team (h.p.s. 1,350).—1, "S" Company, 872; 2, "B" Company, 848.

Young Soldiers' Rifle and L.M.G. Match (h.p.s. 800).—1, "C" Company, 422; 2, "S" Company, 413; 3, "B" Company, 381.

Open Rifle Match (h.p.s. 720).—1, "A" team, 447; 2, "B" team, 395; 3, Gendarmerie Carnthia, 166.

Individual Rifle (h.p.s. 130).—1, Sgt. R. Harris, R.E.M.E. attached 1st Middlesex ("H.Q." Company), 92 (won tie with Major Dawson. Decided on result of practice 3.); 2, Major G. C. Dawson ("C" Company) 92; 3, Sgt. E. Steward ("B" Company) 80.

Individual Sten.—1, Sgt. Stones, R.A.S.C., 172; 2, Capt. Walker, Royal Signals, 171; 3, Sgt. Isles, R.A.S.C., 166.

Inter-Unit Felling Plate Match.—Winners: "H.Q." Company. **L.M.G. Pairs** (h.p.s. 300).—1, Sgt. E. Steward and Sgt. C. Patridge, ("B" Company), 181; 2, Capt. R. Irwin and Capt. R. Walker, (Royal Signals), 172; 3, Sgt. D. Weller and Sgt. R. Longman, ("B" Company), 166.

Individual Pistol (h.p.s. 108).—1, Lt.-Col. Headley, R.A.Ch.D., 75; 2, Major J. E. B. Morris, R.A.S.C., 72; 3, Capt. R. C. Walker, Royal Signals, 67.

Service Cup (for best aggregate).—Winners: "B" Company.

Pool Bull.—Winner: Sgt. D. Weller, "B" Company.

At the beginning of September the Battalion team was invited to Trieste to take part in the BETFOR Small Arms Meeting. The team was unable to find its true form and failed to obtain first place in either the rifle or L.M.G. matches. Sgt. Steward and Cpl. Hart (51) reached the final of the individual rifle match and Pte. Rayner was second in the young soldiers' competition.

With the approach of winter our attention is turning to .22 shooting. Company teams have been entered for the B.T.A. .22 competition and the A.R.A. Small-Bore Competition. If we can retain last season's form, we should be able to repeat last season's successes.

Swimming and Water Polo

The inter-company swimming and water polo took place at Zeltweg on Tuesday, August 20. "C" Company took the honours, Ptes. Dickens and Abrams being the outstanding swimmers.

RESULTS

200 Metres Free Style Relay.—1st, "C" Company: Cpl. McIntosh, Ptes. Waghorn, Gregory and Dickens.

400 Metres Free Style.—1st, "C" Company: Pte. Abrams, Pte. Blower.

50 Metres Back Stroke.—1st, "C" Company: Pte. Blower.

50 Metres Breast Stroke.—1st, "H.Q." 1: R.S.M. Tarrant.

Plunging.—1st, "C" Company: Major Dawson and Cpl. Hart.

100 Metres Free Style.—1st, "C" Company: Pte. Dickens.

Diving for Plates.—"S" Company: Pte. Owens.

Inter-Rank Relay.—1st, "H.Q." 1: Lt. Pollard, S/Sgt. Law, L/Cpl. Small and Pte. Richards.

Obstacle Race.—"S" Company: Pte. O'Rawe.

Diving.—1st, "C" Company: Ptes. Dickens and Abrams.

200 Metres Medley Relay.—1st, "C" Company: Ptes. Waghorn and Blower.

Pillow Fight.—"S" Company: Cpl. Blackwell, Ptes. Abrams and Owens.



BATTALION SWIMMING TEAM

Standing (left to right): Bds. Marriott, Cpl. Blackwell, Pte. Gregory, Cfmn. Peachey, Pte. Green.

Seated: Pte. Blackwell, Pte. O'Rawe, R.S.M. Tarrant, Pte. Owen, Pte. Abram.

Absent on duty: Pte. Gifford, C.S.M. Thom, Pte. Dickens, Pte. Blower.

Final Placing.—1st, "C" Company; 2nd, "H.Q." 1; 3rd, "S" Company; 4th, "H.Q." 2; 5th, "A" Company; 6th, "B" Company.

The water polo competition, which took place (except for the final) prior to the swimming meeting, resulted in some well-fought battles. In the final "H.Q." 1 did battle with "C" Company and after a very close game "C" Company won 2-1.

Whilst at Trieste we had a friendly game with the Lancashire Fusiliers and won 10-0.

In the B.T.A. water polo competition we beat R.E.M.E. 10-0 and in the final beat the Royal Signals 8-0.

The water polo team consisted of R.S.M. Tarrant and Ptes. Stanley, Ansell, Abrams, Dickens, Marriott, Green and Blower.

BETFOR Swimming Championship, Trieste

After the inter-company competition a team was selected to train under R.S.M. Tarrant for the BETFOR Command Swimming Championship at Trieste on August 21. This resulted in a comfortable win for us, the final positions being:

	Points
1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment	84½
1st Battalion The Royal Regiment	57
2nd Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers	51½
R.A.S.C., BETFOR	48
R.E., BETFOR	21
24th Infantry Brigade and 66th A.O.B.R.A.	18
227th Provost Company, R.M.P.	6
20th Infantry Workshops, R.E.M.E.	4
BETFOR, Signals	2

Individual Placings.

Plunging.—1st, C.S.M. Thom.

400 Metres Free Style.—1st, Pte. Abrams; 5th, Pte. O'Rawe.

Diving: One and Three Metres.—1st, Pte. Blackwell. **Five Metres**.—1st, Pte. Blackwell; 2nd, Pte. O'Rawe; 5th, Pte. Dickens.

100 Metres Breast Stroke.—4th, Cfmn. Peachey.

100 Metres Back Stroke.—2nd, Bds. Marriott; 5th, Pte. Donald.

100 Metres Free Style.—2nd, Pte. Dickens; 4th, Cfmn. Ansell.

33 Metres Breast Stroke.—3rd, Pte. Green; 6th, Cfmn. Peachey.

4 x 33 Metres Free Style.—2nd, 1st Mx. team: Ptes. Gregory, Green and Dickens, Cfmn. Ansell.



Two competitors in the pillow fight

33 Metres Back Stroke.—2nd, Pte. Blower; 5th, Pte. Donald; 6th, Bds. Marriott.

33 Metres Free Style.—4th, Cfmn. Ansell; 5th, Pte. Green.

4 x 33 Metres Medley Relay.—4th, 1st Mx. team: Pte. Donald, Cfmn. Ansell and Peachey and Pte. Dickens.

B.T.A. Swimming Championship, Austria

After our very successful result in the BETFOR Swimming Championship we returned to Zeltweg for a week's training and selection of two Company teams to take part in the B.T.A. Championship, as this meeting was to be run on a minor unit scale. The teams selected were "H.Q." and "C" Companies. "C" Company proved easy winners and positions were as follows:

	Points
"C" Company, 1st Middlesex Regiment	67½
"H.Q." Company, 1st Middlesex Regiment	30
R.A.S.C., B.T.A.	30½
R.A.M.C., B.T.A.	26
R.E.M.E., B.T.A.	25
Inter O.R.G., B.T.A.	23½
Royal Signals	11

Individual results were as follows:

50 Metre Free Style.—1st, Pte. Dickens, "C" Company; 2nd, Pte. Green, "C" Company.

100 Metres Free Style.—2nd, Bds. Marriott, "H.Q." Company; 3rd, Pte. Blower, "C" Company.

200 Metres Free Style Relay.—1st, "C" Company: Ptes. Green, Gregory, Blower and Dickens; 2nd, "H.Q." Company: L/Cpls. Small and Elliot, Ptes. Snutch and Rich.

Three Metres Diving.—1st, Pte. Blackwell, "S" Company (individual entry and B.T.A. and BETFOR Champion for 1954); 2nd, Pte. Dickens, "C" Company; 4th, Pte. Abrams, "C" Company.

100 Metres Free Style.—1st, Pte. Dickens, "C" Company; 4th, Pte. Gregory, "C" Company; 5th, Pte. Gifford, "H.Q." Company.

200 Metres Medley Relay.—1st, "C" Company: Ptes. Blower and Green, Cpl. Blackwell and Pte. Dickens; 2nd, "H.Q." Company: Bds. Marriott, Pte. Snutch, R.S.M. Tarrant and L/Cpl. Small.

800 Metres Free Style.—1st, Pte. Abrams, "C" Company; 2nd, Pte. Gifford, "H.Q." Company.

400 Metres Free Style.—1st, Pte. Abrams, "C" Company; 2nd, Bds. Marriott, "H.Q." Company.

SADDLE CLUB

The main event in the equestrian life of Zeltweg has been the Battalion gymkhana. This was held on Sunday, August 29, on the rugged ground. We were fortunate in having such an ideal position for it and on the day the ground resembled a high-class English show ground.

The cricket and rugby enthusiasts very decently allowed us to erect the jumps on their hallowed grass



Major Chattey jumping Brown Jack in the open jumping

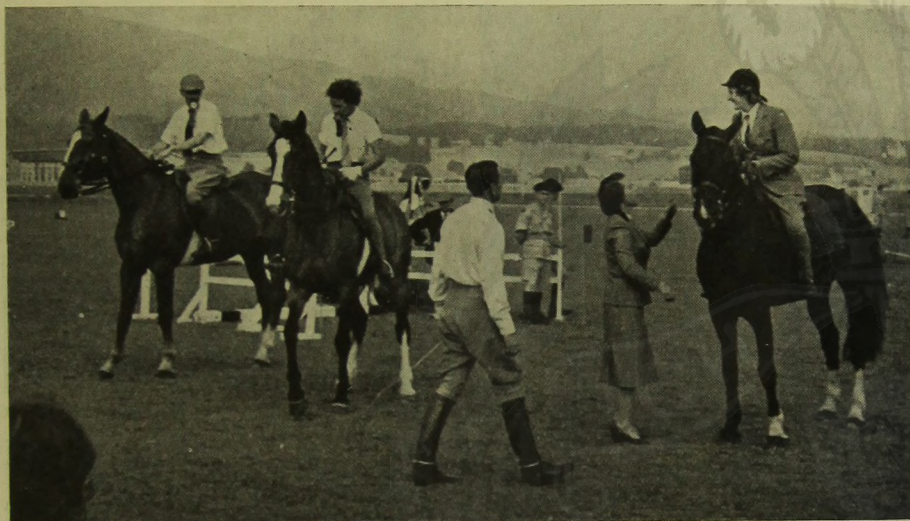
and even consented to the digging of a water jump! All the jumps were made in the Battalion and were up to British show standard.

Most officers of the Battalion were co-opted as officials, the chief judge being Major A. S. J. de S. Clayton and announcer Major J. W. G. Ormiston. Prizes were kindly presented by Lt.-Col. and Mrs. J. E. F. Willoughby, Mrs. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Mrs. T. W. Chattey, Mrs. F. J. Bennett and Mrs. J. D. B. Bailey.

All the riders from H.Q. B.T.A. and also two Austrian competitors from Graz made the journey. We invited the local Austrians to attend and were both amazed and gratified when about 2,000 of them did so. This was quite the largest crowd ever seen at Zeltweg for a sporting event.

The show began after lunch with the beginners' riding class, which was won by Miss Julia Bennett on Bill II. Master Charles Clayton did well on Tardo and Mrs. Butcher (wife of W.O.2 Butcher, R.A.E.C.) completed the Regimental entry on Toby. The bending race, or, as the Austrians call it, the slalom race, was won by Capt. B. A. M. Pielow on Taslo. Miss McLeod from H.Q. B.T.A. was second and Miss Clare Willoughby was third. The "Choose Your Own Line" jumping over some 15 obstacles was won by Mrs. Parker of H.Q. B.T.A. and the well-known Austrian show jumper, Dr. Mathias, was second on Kronprinz. We were third with Capt. B. A. M. Pielow on Taslo.

The next event was a V.C. race, in which the riders rode bareback, jumped two fences and rescued a wounded man. This was won in cracking style by Pte. Goldsmith, our head groom, on Toby. Our other grooms, Ptes. Clayton and Fuller, also competed in this. The final event was the open jumping and here we had bad luck. Both our entrants, Major T. W. Chattey on Brown Jack and Capt. B. A. M. Pielow on Taslo, were "blown out" for taking a jump out of sequence. This was particularly galling, as we had laid out the course ourselves. The final event of the day, the handy hunter course, was also a victory for H.Q. B.T.A.



BATTALION GYMKHANA

Mrs. Clayton (followed by Major Chattey) presenting rosettes for the bending race. Miss Clare Willoughby, Miss McLeod and Capt. Pielow

An account of the gymkhana which appeared in the local Austrian press is published below.

As these notes go to press we are faced with the prospect that, owing to an unexpected War Office decision, the horses have to be either sold privately or put down.

Translation

Press cutting from *Murtaler Zeitung*, local independent paper, on September 10, 1954:

HORSE-SPORT AT ZELTWEG

A riders' tournament in Upper Styria is not a common sport occurrence and those who decided to see on Sunday two weeks ago the riders' competition, arranged first class by the British unit at the airfield, Zeltweg, did very well.

Fourteen beautiful, good prepared and trained tournament horses (two of them from Graz), a first-class riders' show, very interesting maintained parcour and all this surrounded by sunshine, flags and excited public must have impressed even the layman.

The programme started with a test for beginners and unskilled riders in riding in pace, trot and gallop.

Much more interesting was the slalom, which was ridden in groups off our riders through output lines similar to ski-slalom.

For the next number on the programme, which started under the name "Choose Your Own Line," reported eight competitors, between them the well-

known tournament riders, Dr. Mathias and Mr. Gaulhofer, from Graz.

For a better knowledge of the competition:

Within 15 disposed obstacles (bushes, barriers, pits, double barriers, etc.), the first and fifteenth have to be taken as numbered. The obstacles between one to 15 could be taken by the competitor in a sequence to his mind.

Bad points (turn over of obstacles or shyness) have been added to the time attained.

In this pretty difficult competition Mrs. Parker, even in Austria a very well-known tournament rider, in a splendid manner and in a perfect holding took the victory with the horse Wait For Me and so beat the best tournament rider from Graz, Dr. Mathias, with his horse, Kronprinz.

The third winner was Capt. Pielow, who also won the slalom on his horse Taslo.

At the so-called Victoria Cross Races, a gymkhana in which the participants on unsaddled horses have to take a small obstacle, pick up a sack and return over the barrier again, the public was laughing to the ears.

Point No. 5 of the programme was jumping over 10 obstacles approximately 1.20 m. high the sequence of which was to be exactly kept. In this competition all first-class riders were on the start.

Kronprinz, according to his fame with his rider, Dr. Mathias, took the second prize, after Col. Parker, the husband of the tournament rider, Mrs. Parker (Col. Parker and Mrs. Parker are stationed at Klagenfurt).

The third prize was won by the beautiful young rider, Miss McCloud, on her horse Dolly.

Miss McCloud, a pretty girl, was classified in the following competition. Horse and rider were as one.

Bushes and fences have to be jumped, trunks taken, gating to be opened, to mount and dismount the horse, during the ride to light a cigarette, to cross a river (in imagination only) and to pass all the difficulties of a wood.

There were some oppositions and horse and rider were not always of the same opinion.

But of one opinion were the public, and this means that the gymkhana was a first-class arrangement.

MOUNTAINEERING NOTES

Weekend mountaineering has been quite regular during the last quarter and the numbers who have put their trust in the manila rope are now nearly 30. The arena for our training is still the Hochswab, where we seem to be blessed with good weather at least until 1600 hrs. on Sundays.

Our guide, Walter Wretchko, proves a patient and invaluable teacher, and with one or two Austrian climbers and Lt. Deacock it is usually possible to have six Nos. 2 up at one time. Next year it is hoped to make guides of some of this year's better climbers, when we may increase the numbers able to climb.

L/Cpl. DaCosta qualifies as the first soldier to make a 3,000-metre peak in Dachstein and has also made a grade 4 climb in the Dachstein Turrilspitze. The glacier was negotiated under snow conditions.

L/Cpl. DaCosta and Pte. Palmer have set up as an independent team and climb when the opportunity presents itself. It is hoped to add ski-mountaineering to our prowess in the winter and we might just make the Gross Glockner this autumn.

The following have qualified for the Stein Club by collecting stones on the head whilst climbing: 2/Lt. McManus, L/Cpl. DaCosta and Pte. Pease. Pte. Cox, our driver is also by way of being a trout fisherman and is expected to hook something within the next year or so.

Depot Notes

For the first time in many months the Depot has been blessed with a remarkably quiet period, but at the time of going to press London has been disrupted by the dock and bus strikes. However, if called upon, we are ready to play our part as we did in operations "Tanker" and "Canute."

At long last the outside woodwork of all buildings is receiving a fresh coat of paint, and believe it or not, the new brick and railing entrance to the Barracks has been completed. The unsightly shelter just inside the gateway has been removed and the gates themselves have been painted and rehung. It is intended to sow grass inside the entrance, and the G.E. has promised to cut the hedge down Bittacy Hill. With the facial treatment completed, the Depot can now stand up to the coming winter with a somewhat brighter outlook than in the past.

We were delighted to welcome Col. G. H. L. Dowbiggin, O.B.E., late Colonel of the Hong Kong Regiment, who visited the Depot on August 26 and 27. He could not have chosen a better time as he witnessed a passing-out parade ceremony. He has since returned to Hong Kong with favourable impressions, we hope, which he has no doubt passed on to our Allied Regiment.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Lt. Evans who has departed for the 1st Battalion. His place has been taken by Lt. R. D. Fisher, from the Battalion, whom we welcome for his first tour at the Depot.

We heartily congratulate R.Q.M.S. Etheridge on his award of the Meritorious Service Medal. The medal was presented to him by Major-Gen. C. F. Johnson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. London District, during the passing-out parade ceremony on October 13.

We wish all ranks in the Regiment a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

TRAINING COMPANY

On August 27 Brigadier W. L. Steele, O.B.E., Chief of Staff, London District, took the salute at the passing-out parade of the 24th Intake of recruits.

Medals were awarded as follows:—

Best All-round Recruit	23040530	Pte. P. Ohlson
Best Rifle Shot	23203590	Pte. J. Raffael
Best L.M.G. Shot	23040530	Pte. P. Ohlson
Highest Physical Efficiency	23040588	Pte. B. Rann

Altogether 205 parents and friends of the recruits attended to watch the parade.

During the last quarter a number of changes have taken place with the coming and going of the instructing staff. Lt. Evans left us in mid-September for service with the 1st Battalion in Austria and has been replaced by Lt. Fisher. Cpl. Elston and L/Cpl. Fearnie have also been posted to the Battalion. The losses and the vacancies already existing have made the task of instructing a difficult one. We are, however, looking forward to the arrival, in the near future, of replacements from Austria.

Apart from the normal training activities it has been a reasonably quiet period. Opportunity was taken between Intakes to prepare the miniature range for the winter season. Great improvements have been made due to the hard work put in by Sgts. DaCosta and Clements.

The annual classification on the open ranges has been completed and the emphasis, especially in regard to the Permanent Staff, is now on education.

The second passing-out parade during the quarter was that of the 25th Recruit Intake on Wednesday, October 13. The officer taking the parade was Major-Gen. G. F. Johnson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding London District.



CAPT. AND MRS. A. N. JORDAN

Also in the photograph are Capt. C. N. Clayden, Capt. B. K. Clayden, Lt. B. H. Marciandi and Capt. K. J. Carter

Medals were awarded as follows:—

Best All-round Recruit... 23040522 Pte. J. Cobb
Best Rifle Shot... 23056985 Pte. F. Bracey
Best L.M.G. Shot... 23056956 Pte. M. Kiely
Highest Physical Efficiency 23057006 Pte. R. Wadmore

We welcome from the 1st Battalion Sgt. Partridge and Mrs. Partridge, who are already in married quarters.

OFFICERS' MESS

Throughout the quarter we have had a considerable number of R.N., R.A.F. and R.E. Reserve officers staying with us whilst undergoing their annual training with the Home Postal Depot R.E.

It has been refreshing to see so many new faces, but their presence did cause considerable strain on the mess staff.

Sgt. Bullock, having served as Mess Sergeant for over three years, is now on a pre-release course prior to leaving the Army. He has been a tower of strength and we will miss his ever thoughtful and efficient service. We wish both him and his wife every success in the future. The new Mess Sergeant is Sgt. Turner, who has been posted from the Training Company.

Between August 14 and September 4 there has been a spate of weddings. Capts. Jordan and Legge and Lt. Beagley have joined the happy band of "married pads." Members of the Mess were able to attend each of the ceremonies.

Lt. Hugh Evans has now left us for the 1st Battalion



CAPT. AND MRS. N. F. LEGGE

Also in the photograph are Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, Capt. B. K. Clayden and Lt. B. H. Marciandi

in Austria. He was a great one for Mess parties and always put much thought and energy into the organisation of them. We wish him well.

Naturally, apart from the Reserve officers already mentioned, there have been many people passing through both ways. They have been too numerous to mention all by name. We were, however, particularly pleased to have as our guest for one night Col. G. H. L. Dowbiggin, O.B.E., from Hong Kong, also Col. Andrew Man who recently moved from Catterick to the south coast. He was looking remarkably well.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The writer of these notes can understand why he is posted from the Depot. When our present C.S.M. arrived here, we were so full of television, newsreel and newspaper photos and stories of the handsome C.S.M. that we completely forgot to welcome him officially in the Sergeants' Mess notes. Then a third son was born into the Clan Budden and this writer was on leave. No excuse, I know, so I do apologise most humbly for not congratulating the parents on the birth of Stephen.

The Mill Hill Motor Club is increasing in size and wish me to protest against the libel in last quarter's notes that there would be a sale of u/s vehicles. Part worn, if you please, Sgt. Milburn (R.A.P.C.) sold, buried or dumped his £4 motor bike and now has a car. The R.Q.M.S. has acquired a magnificent machine, which is no stranger here, having occupied a corner of the drill shed for several years and it has been hidden or disguised on many an Admin. inspection. The last owner, now serving in the Battalion, will no doubt be interested to hear that the engine has been seen (and heard) turning over on more than one occasion, but the wheels have yet to make their first power-driven revolution. Sgt. Partridge has arrived with a powerful-looking Riley Saloon that can only take second place to those in the know) has returned to motor cycling after

a brief but somewhat expensive excursion into the motor trade.

Before we are any older, welcome to Sgt. Partridge and his good lady. Others who have arrived, and we are taking no chances this edition, are R.Q.M.S. Lount and Sgt. "Bill" Landreth. They have both returned here from the Far East on completion of their tours.

We congratulate R.Q.M.S. Etheridge on being awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, and we are all looking forward to seeing the medal presented on the next passing-out parade. The Q.M.'s store has been ransacked for a pair of ready gimped boots and the brightest sash available. Sgt. Turner is also to be congratulated on his promotion to Sergeant in the vacancy made as Officers' Mess Sergeant by Sgt. Bullock's expedition into civilian stewardship. We will miss Sgt. Bullock's elegant cigarette holder at our Mess functions and wish him every success in the profession of his choice. We will let all members know which pub he is managing as soon as possible, in order that they may all catch him for as many free drinks as they can.

We seem to have had many C/Sergeants in transit in the Depot. Contrary to rumour, Charlie M. was posted to No. 6 Travelling Wing, Cambridge, as a W.O.2. Congratulations to him and we hope that he is enjoying life as a married man. Best of luck to C/Sgts. Street and Ridgway who have joined the ranks of the Fireside Lancers. We hear that Don Street has a job with Ford Motor Works Band.

We send our heartiest congratulations to "Butcher" Bailey on his outstanding achievement. We suppose that it is only a matter of time before he is transferred to the R.A.E.C.

On the education side, Sgt. Pullen, who sat and passed his A.C.E. 2nd Class many years ago, was recently told that he could not be granted his sub. rank until he passed his 2nd. When he came down and the dust and debris settled, a telephone call to Records caused a major fuse in the switchboard to blow. However, we are happy to say that we are now friends with the Officer IC Records once again, and Sub. Sgt. Pullen is now smiling.

We all enjoyed the wonderful sight recently of an R.S.M. blushing. It started off a coy pink tinge and finished like a flaming sunset. The place was a concert for the recruits and Permanent Staff in the Naafi, and the cause was a young lady singing "You Made Me Love You." She sat on the R.S.M.'s lap and ran her fingers through his hair. The troops really "lapped it up."

A visit recently to a cocktail party in Australia House made a very enjoyable evening, in the course of which we met R.S.M. Borer and a party of East Surreys. One of our Sergeants decided that it was quicker to roll down the magnificent marble staircase. We are pleased to say that no harm was done to the Sergeant, who swore the following day that he had come down by lift!

An old friend of the Sergeants' Mess, who is well known to the older members of the Battalion, left his castle in Mill Hill a few days ago. The man in question is Mr. Parker, who has finally left Barrack Stores a mere

73 years young. I do not know what career he is going to pursue, but I did hear it suggested that he leaves to start as G.P.O. messenger boy and work his way up to Postmaster-General.

Sgt. Toms, at present serving with the Paratroop Regiment, visited the Mess last week. He is anxious to rejoin the Regiment. He told us that "Tony" Mansfield had transferred to the Paratroop Regiment, so we can cross him off our carefully amended copies of the seniority roll. C/Sgt. Waterfield (Pawney Maidam) is still debating whether to honour the Middlesex or the Para with his presence.

Since our last edition, Sgts. "Sailor" Mason and Dickie have returned from drill courses. A visit to Pirbright shows that all the instructors now walk with a roll like true matelots. Sgt. Edey never did get on his course. He claimed to be ill so successfully that he was whipped into hospital for a couple of sharp operations. He is now at Netley on convalescence. No doubt he will be glad to go on a course for rest when he finally rejoins the Depot.

Did you hear of the Warrant Officer who found a 10s. note at the bar? He couldn't find the owner, so he bought a round of drinks with it, then found that he had dropped it himself.

We will close, hoping to see as many old familiar faces as possible at the Regimental Reunion on October 29.

SPORT

Cricket

Those who read Mr. E. W. Swanton's column in the *Daily Telegraph* may have realised that this year has not been a particularly good one for the enthusiasts of our summer game. Although the rain and drizzle washed out six of our games, the matches we did play were enjoyable, even though a little one-sided.

After a thoroughly dismal start to the season the team settled down quickly and invariably played attractive cricket. The rate of scoring was maintained at about 100 in the hour, and on one occasion it was scored in 45 minutes. Lt. H. J. Evans, Ptes. Rowson, Raffael and Brookes (41), all hard hitters of the ball, were mainly responsible for the Depot's campaign for "brighter cricket."

Capt. K. Clayden, Cpl. Adair and Pte. Burton bowled well throughout the season. Burton, in particular, bowled with imagination and, unlike our other bowlers, appeared not to mind too much when one of his more deadly balls was hit into the pond.

But however successful the batting and bowling performances of individuals may be, matches will never be won if the fielding of the team is below the standard of that expected of a Schools' Under 15 XI. On two occasions the fielding was very good indeed, but generally it was weak and just not good enough. Catches that any self-respecting schoolboy would hold without even a blush of pride were either ignored or dropped like hot bricks. The results tell their own story.

To end on a happier note we must thank C.S.M. Budden for umpiring most efficiently, and to our horror always impartially.

L. Cpl. Nye has kept the score for us this season and

his entries have been beautifully and accurately made, rarely have a scorebook been so neatly kept.

Results and averages are as follows:—

v. 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), T.A.	..	..	..	..	Lost by 74 runs
v. R.A.F. Hendon	..	..	..	..	Lost by 85 runs
v. A.E.R., H.P.D.R.E.	..	..	..	..	Won by 93 runs
v. London Assembly Centre	..	..	..	..	Won by 58 runs
v. Depot East Surrey Regiment	..	..	..	..	Lost by 28 runs
v. H.Q. Eastern Command	..	..	..	..	Lost by 28 runs
v. London Assembly Centre	..	..	..	..	Won by 95 runs
v. Depot Royal Fusiliers	..	..	..	..	Won by 8 wickets
v. Depot East Surrey Regiment	..	..	..	..	Lost by 4 wickets
v. H.Q. A.A. Command	..	..	..	..	Won by 8 runs
v. 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E.	..	..	..	..	Won by 57 runs
Played 11, won 6, lost 5.					

Batting Averages

Name	Innings	Not Out	Highest Score	Total	Av.
Pte. Raffael	5	—	59	141	28.5
Capt. Carter	3	1	25	50	25
Pte. Rowson	11	2	67*	211	23.4
Pte. Burton	5	1	48*	71	17.7
Capt. K. Clayden	11	—	49	100	17.2
Lt. H. J. Evans	8	—	37	137	17.1
Pte. Brookes	3	—	29	40	13.4
Capt. J. S. C. Flavell	5	—	27	61	12.2
Major P. D. H. Marshall	8	—	32	88	11
Lt. B. H. Marciandi	4	1	11	40	10

*Not out

Bowling Averages

Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Av.
Pte. Raffael	10.5	3	22	6	3.6
Pte. Burton	61.5	7	182	19	9.1
Cpl. Adair	65	10	201	22	9.5
Capt. B. K. Clayden	98	12	339	33	10.2

MUSEUM NOTES

Col. Dowbiggen, who many of us knew in Hong Kong, visited the Depot this summer and made a most welcome visit to the Museum. He very kindly gave a most generous gift to the Museum Fund.

Major Scott-Moncrief has presented to the Museum many of his father's old uniforms which are still in excellent condition. Brigadier-Gen. Scott-Moncrief commanded our 3rd Battalion before the Great War of 1914-18 and also fought in South Africa and the Zululand campaign.

We are also most grateful to Mrs. Warden for the gifts of her husband's uniforms. These, too, are in excellent condition.

Mrs. Rowley, wife of Brigadier F. Rowley, has presented some magnificent heads of antelope which were shot many years ago by her husband. We shall very shortly be rivals to Roland Wards.

CAMBRIDGE CLUB

After rather a quiet six months we are once more beginning to think about Christmas and the activities involved. Early in the year we lost a number of our oldest members to the Battalion and elsewhere, among them Mrs. Till, who is enjoying herself very much, we hear, in Fontainebleau. More recently we were very sorry to say good-bye to Mrs. Newman, who now has her own tobacco and confectionery business at Carshalton, where we wish her the very best of luck in her new venture. Both she and Mrs. Till have been regular and staunch members of the club since the early days, being several times on the committee. Mrs. Bignall recently moved out of quarters and now lives too far away to come to the club meetings, and Mrs. Bullock

leaves us in October to become a "civilian" once more. We shall miss them all very much and, as for all our old members, there will be a very warm welcome whenever any of them can find the time to visit us.

Our outing to the seaside this year took place at the end of July, and we again went by coach to Clacton. The weather was not very kind but everyone enjoyed themselves in spite of it.

The club birthday party, in the form of a visit to the theatre, had to be postponed for various reasons, but we are hoping to see at the end of this month if the seats can be booked.

We have decided to hold our Christmas party for the children in our own club room and not jointly with the Depot as we did last year, and members have voted for a fancy dress party, which was such a success in 1952.

In order to raise funds for the party we had a jumble sale with games and raffles on October 3, which made a clear profit of £7 10s. Our monthly open whist drives are going very well and we are getting quite well known locally in the neighbourhood. We are always very pleased to see old comrades and their wives at these drives, which are held on the second Thursday in each month at 8 o'clock.

Finally, we would like to wish all our old members and the wives of the 1st Battalion a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

OLD COMRADES' CLUB

Mill Hill Branch

By the time these notes appear in the journal we shall have had another Regimental reunion. The reunion will take place at the Seymour Hall on October 29, 1954, and if it is supported as well as it was last year we can look forward to a bumper attendance and a very enjoyable evening. As far as the club at Mill Hill is concerned we are not blessed with many bumper attendances and we often wonder what really does happen to "old soldiers" when they leave the Regiment. We now have a first-rate clubroom at Mill Hill with everything one could possibly desire, and on behalf of the club we do beg of you personally to pay us a visit on the last Saturday of each month and bring along your wives and friends.

We are running our annual Christmas draw at the club again this year and books containing five 2s. 6d. tickets can be obtained from the Secretary or at the club if you attend in November.

On behalf of all old comrades we send our good wishes to all ranks serving in the 1st Battalion and our Territorial units.

Please do remember to pay us a visit as soon as you can, its your company we want, not your money!

RETIREMENTS

Major R. W. D. Sword, M.C.

Educated at Stowe, Major Roddy Sword joined the 1st Battalion in Palestine in 1930 from the R.M.C. Six years later he had a short tour with the King's African Rifles and rejoined the Regiment in May 1938, being posted to the 2nd Battalion. He saw service with this Battalion with the B.E.F. in 1939 and 1940 and

won his M.C. at Louvain. He again left the Regiment for a tour in Africa later in 1940, this time with the R.W.A.F.F., serving with the Nigeria I.T.C. and with the 5th Battalion Nigeria Regiment. He rejoined the 1st Battalion in 1943 and was with them in North-West Europe and B.A.O.R. as 2 IC, and for a short time in command until 1947. He returned to East Africa to become 2 IC and to command the 6th Battalion King's African Rifles in 1948. He came back to Europe in 1951 and served in B.A.O.R. until he finally returned home in September on retirement after a total of 24 years' service.

Lt.-Col J. B. Worton

Lt.-Col. John Worton was educated at Haileybury and joined the 1st Battalion in Ireland from the R.M.C. in 1921. He went to Germany with them in 1922 and served with them until 1930, when he became Adjutant of the 9th Battalion, an appointment that he held for

7th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(D.C.O.)

EDITORIAL

There is little to report in this edition as T.A. Centres are only now beginning to function again after their customary hibernation period following annual camp.

However, we have been most successful in several shooting events during this period, especially the 44th Home Counties Infantry Division Rifle Meeting and the A.R.A. Kolar Cup competition. These events are more fully recorded in our shooting notes, but we must offer our congratulations to those shooting stalwarts who have done so well. A photograph of R.S.M. Tostevin (the non-shooting captain) receiving the Hong Kong tankard from Maj.-Gen. R. C. M. King, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commander 44th Home-Counties Infantry Division, is shown on this page.

The Band have been especially active during this period and have completed several successful outside engagements which have been of great assistance to the Band funds. Bandmaster Gilyatt is to be congratulated on his constant efforts to improve the quality of the Band's performance and all of its members are very proud of their progress. We are very sorry that Mr. Gilyatt has been sent to hospital for a month or so and hope that he will soon be out and about in his usual good health and spirits.

In spite of the fact that our first-joined National Servicemen are completing their part-time training and leaving the Battalion, our numbers increase with each fortnightly intake. We will very soon be up to the higher war establishment of an infantry battalion. Although we are exceedingly well provided with volun-

teer officers, we are woefully short of volunteer N.C.O.s and are still relying on our faithful few veteran Territorials who support the Battalion through thick and thin. We hope that our younger N.C.O.s will continue to serve on when their National Service commitment is finished and follow the example set by their seniors. Major Waller has just returned from a visit to Denmark, where he was attached to the Danish Army. He intends to give a talk on the Danish Army's organisation and training methods later in the year. Several officers have recently attended courses at the School of Infantry Tactical Wing. These courses are specially organised for Territorial Company Commanders and Platoon Commanders and are extremely well run, judging by the unsolicited testimonials given by returning officers. It is hoped that some more officers will be able to attend next year's series of courses. There has been one addition to the permanent staff in the person of Sgt. D. P. Weller, who has joined "D" Company as P.S.I. Sgt. M. Eastap is at present attending a guards drill course at Pirbright. He has been seen at Enfield from time to time hoarse but erect. "A" Company are very proud of their badminton team and are prepared to take on all comers in their lofty beamless hall at Highgate. They will be providing the Battalion "C" team in the T.A. Small-Bore Shooting League. They are also challenging all comers at darts and table tennis. "B" Company have a new Commander in place of Major Tom Creighton. Owing to pressure of business and domestic affairs Major Creighton has had to temporarily give up his T.A. activities. Although Tom Creighton will be missed very much, we are sure that his successor, Capt. A. R. K. Hardcastle, will carry on in his stead and keep the Company spirit going. "C" Company have been pleased to learn that C.S.M. Bignell is to stay with them for another year, for he is a tower of strength to them and has a great deal of experience and accumulated wisdom. They wish Sgt. R. Bates, who leaves them in October (owing to occupational and family reasons), the very best of luck.

"H.Q." Company send their best wishes to Sgt. W. Snell, who has left the M.T. Platoon and has taken a new appointment as Mess Sergeant in the Army Commander's Mess at Eastern Command. We wish him every success in his new job.

"S" Company have had a number of marriages recently and send their congratulations to Capt. Leighton, Sgt. Jones, L/Cpl. Martin and Pte. Howard. They are particularly sorry to lose Sgt. Bawden, who has been "invalided out" of the T.A. as a result of a badly fractured ankle received on an "S" Company weekend. It is very bad luck that such a keen Territorial should have his service compulsorily cut short in this way. We will be very pleased to see him at any time. The Machine Gun Platoon fired in the N.R.A. M.G. Cup with creditable results and we are hoping to see their names in the next issue of the N.R.A. programme. The Company are looking forward to seeing the new Continental Bentley that C.S.M. Cooper has purchased.

Our training this winter is directed at fitting us for our part in the Divisional exercise which we will carry out at annual camp next year. The scope for training is wide and the time, unfortunately, short, but we hope to cover the ground in time and look forward to good attendances on training evenings, tactical weekends and T.E.W.T.s.

BATTALION RIFLE CLUB

The Battalion Rifle Club has completed a successful season, due mainly to the keenness of the members and the hard work put in by ex-R.S.M. Tostevin.

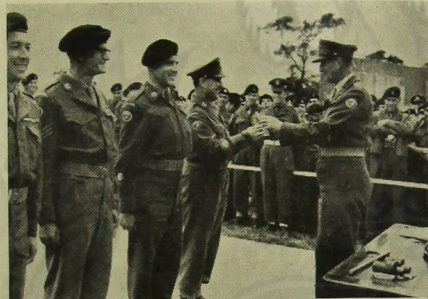
The Battalion team competed most successfully in the 44th (H.C.) Infantry Division T.A. and Home Counties District Rifle Meeting, which took place at Hythe Ranges on August 28 and 29. The Battalion team was placed 17th out of a total of 38 teams competing, some of whom were from Regular units.

The Battalion team, consisting of R.Q.M.S. Howes, C/Sgts. Colbourne and Brooks, Sgts. King and Charge, Cpls. Eastlake and Hughes and Pte. Bavester, had a clear-cut victory by 56 points to win the Hong Kong tankard competition. Pte. Bavester gained special mention by obtaining the highest score in practice 1 of the main event and fourth place in practice 4.

The .22 rifle shooting season is now open and the Battalion has entered teams for the various competitions, about which more will be written in the next copy of *The Die-Hards*.

An elimination shoot for the Kolar Inter-Divisional Challenge Cup was fired at Pirbright on Saturday, September 25. As a result of this shoot four members of the Battalion, namely, C/Sgts. Colbourne and Brooks and Sgts. LaRoche and King, were selected for the Divisional team, consisting of 16 members. The competition was fired on Sunday, September 26, and the results are still awaited, as it was a decentralised shoot. Good scores were returned and our Brigade did well to provide seven of the 16 members of the 44th Infantry Division team.

The Middlesex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Rifle Meeting took place at Ash Ranges on Sunday, October 30, under ideal firing conditions. The Battalion team



HONG KONG CUP COMPETITION, 1954

Maj.-Gen. R. C. M. King, D.S.O., O.B.E., presenting the Hong Kong Cup to R.S.M. L. J. Tostevin on the occasion of the Battalion winning the competition at the 44th Home Counties Infantry Division (T.A.) Rifle Meeting, September 1954.

The team was composed of: R.Q.M.S. H. Howes, C/Sgt. R. Colbourne, C/Sgt. A. Brooks, Sgt. R. King, Sgt. L. Charge, Cpl. D. Eastlake, Cpl. A. Hughes and Pte. J. Bavester.

consisted of R.Q.M.S. Howes, C/Sgts. Colbourne and Brooks and Sgts. King, Richardson and LaRoche. They fired well, but were beaten into second place by our old rivals, 11th Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex). Sgt. King tied for second place in the individual competition, but the result was decided by the results of the rapid practice and Sgt. King went into third place. The meeting was a great success, largely due to the planning of Major A. R. Waller and the statistics control of Major R. J. P. Cummins, Capt. P. J. T. Lane, 2/Lt. G. C. Ross and C/Sgt. C. J. Munds.

We hope that more of our younger members will come forward to join our veteran shots on the open and miniature ranges and to gain places in the Battalion teams. We look forward to an even more successful season in 1955.

SERGEANTS' MESS

It will be seen elsewhere in these notes that the Battalion won the Hong Kong tankard in the Divisional Rifle Meeting in September. We were fortunate in having the non-shooting captain and five members of the team that won the Hong Kong tankard in the Mess. We must heartily applaud the efforts of R.S.M. Tostevin, R.Q.M.S. Howes, C/Sgt. Colbourne, S/Sgt. Brooks and Sgts. Charge and King in finally winning this magnificent tankard. This, we feel sure, is a fitting close to R.S.M. Tostevin's Regular service.

A farewell social was held for R.S.M. and Mrs. Tostevin at Hornsey on Saturday, August 28, at which a presentation was made by R.Q.M.S. Howes on behalf of the Mess. A happy family spirit prevailed and everyone enjoyed the evening very much. A welcome stranger who attended this function was the one and only "Duke," W.O.2 Hobson, now in the R.A.S.C. We look forward to seeing the "Duke" again now we are open for business.

We welcome to our midst R.S.M. Pike and Sgt. Weller and their families and hope that their stay will be both a long and happy one. R.S.M. Pike is, of course, well known to the older members of the Mess, as he was R.S.M. at Hornsey from 1950 to 1952.

We welcome into the Mess the following members and congratulate them on their promotion to sergeant: Sgts. Iddenton, Jones ("A" Company), Charge, Rod-bard, Wright and Drum Sgt. Payne.

We also extend our congratulations to Orderly Room C/Sgt. Munds on his promotion to colour-sergeant.

We are sorry to lose Sgt. Jones (Anti-Tank), but a new wife and Ministry of Transport examinations did not allow him sufficient time, so he has regretfully said goodbye to us at Hornsey.

We wish R.S.M. Tostevin all the luck in the world

11th Bn. THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT

(8th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A.)

Shooting, as always, has again played a prominent part in the Battalion's summer activities. At the Divisional Rifle Meeting in June we achieved better results than last year, being second in the Volongdis and L.M.G. match, third in the Lathbury Cup and fourth in the China Cup and Queen Mary. Bisley followed soon afterwards and we had the great satisfaction of being T.A. champions in the L.M.G. match and winning the Cambridgeshire Cup. The team (Lt. Laurence, Cpl. Falla and Cpl. Furness) scored 145 and were second to the Small Arms School team by only one point.

In the T.A. Athletics Championships L/Cpl. Blaxall, of "C" Company, was second in the 220 yards. We hope he will rectify this next year, but congratulations all the same.

Ballooning and aircraft exercises have suffered this summer, like everything else, from the filthy weather. Nevertheless, in spite of rain and wind, we managed to drop, in a lull, all companies on the Frensham D.Z. on July 3 and 4. Dropping the next day had to be cancelled due to bad weather, but not before all companies had managed to get in a useful night's training. Our ballooning week, August 3 to 6, was again spoilt by the weather and jumping was only possible on two nights.

Camp this year was at Digbate, just outside Folkestone. After a bad start of two soaking wet days the weather improved and remained good for the rest of camp. Our contention that the seaside is the best place for T.A. camps was amply justified and there is no doubt that a good time was had by all. The chance to practise amphibious operations at Hythe, Sandgate and Lydden Spout was also greatly appreciated. The companies entered into all activities at camp with great enthusiasm and rivalry in the various competitions was intense. Results were as follows:

Best Guard: "A" Company.
Lines Competition: "H.Q." Company.
Drill Competition: "B" Company.

in his venture into civilian life and hope that he will not forget the location of the Mess at Hornsey, where he has so many friends.

Congratulations are extended to R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Howes on the birth of their son and heir on April 13, 1954.

LIST OF PROMOTIONS

A list of current promotions is shown below:

W.O.1: A/R.S.M. E. Pike.

W.O.2: Sgt. L. Montague.

Corporal: Ptes. W. Lack, L. Stevens, A. Smith, D. Howard, J. O'Callaghan and D. Stanley.

Lance-corporal: Ptes. D. Rawlings, R. Sonnenfeld, C. Taylor, B. Bourne, J. McLaren, R. Arnold, A. Custance and G. Perry.

Platoon Defence Competition: No. 5 Platoon.

Company H.Q. Defence Competition: "B" Company.

M.T. Competition: "E" Syndicate (Ptes. Jones and McCourt, "H.Q." Company; Ptes. Miller and Kemp, "B" Company).

The M.P. Platoon, looking very smart with their "56" and Pegasus signs on all vehicles, pool and our own, functioned very smoothly and deserve a pat on the back for their efficient service to the companies. The Pioneers were extremely noisy, but evidently did some work as well, as they even earned a compliment from the Sappers for their clearance of a minefield on Exercise "Cockney Caper." This is praise indeed.

At camp we completed classification over the weekend and all those who had not jumped yet this year achieved two balloon descents at Hawkinge on the middle Saturday in perfect weather.

In the second week Exercise "Cockney Caper" kept us occupied from Wednesday on. For this we returned to Stanford P.T.A. The non-jumpers were air landed and placed on the D.Z. at Frog Hill and the Battalion, after a very doubtful start, eventually dropped and joined them in perfect weather, having emplaned at Manston and flown most of the way through or over thick cloud. Congratulations to Capt. Reckitt, incidentally, on achieving a happy landing after a more than usually rapid descent. Thanks, David; the law of averages should be favourably affected. Our objective was Tottington village and, in spite of the operation developing into a night attack due to the late start, success was achieved. Part, at any rate, of the enemy were captured and their three-tonner by Mr. Lindsey and his "cut-off" force north of the village. The jump back on Hawkinge had, unfortunately, to be cancelled on the Saturday due to bad weather and the Battalion was air landed at Manston instead.

The Band and Drums, as always, did us well at camp. The Band, after having their tent blown down twice on the first night, moved into barracks at Shorncliffe, where their instruments could be better preserved. The Drums, looking very well in their new No. 1 dress, played every night on guard mounting. The Band and Drums co-operated in an impressive searchlight, or

rather champ-headlight, tattoo at the conclusion of the Officers' Mess cocktail party. They also beat Retreat on the Leas at Folkestone.

We much regret that Capt. John Spencer has had to leave us as a result of an attack of polio whilst in U.S.A. We will miss him greatly and so will his company, "C" Company. On the other hand, we welcome back to the fold Capt. B. Robertson-Browne, late of 9th Parachute Battalion. He goes to "D" Company at Edmonton.

The Battalion successfully concluded the shooting season by taking part in the annual rifle meeting of the Middlesex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association at Ash Ranges on October 3.

The results were:

Inter-Unit Rifle Competition for the Middlesex Challenge Shield.—1st, 11th Parachute Battalion; 2nd, 7th Middlesex Battalion.

Individual Rifle Competition for the Cheylesmore Cup.—1st, Cpl. D. Falla, 11th Parachute Battalion; 2nd, Lt. P. Laurence, 11th Parachute Battalion.

Inter-Unit L.M.G. Competition for the Middlesex Justices' Shield.—1st, 11th Parachute Battalion "C" team; 2nd, 11th Parachute Battalion "A" team.

Individual Pairs L.M.G. Competition for the Association L.M.G. Challenge Cup.—1st, Lt. T. Buck and Lt. Cpl. D. Slade, 11th Parachute Battalion; joint 2nd, Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby and Sgt. J. Stuyvesant, 11th Parachute Battalion; Lt. P. Laurence and Cpl. D. Falla, 11th Parachute Battalion.

Unit Championship for the de Salis Challenge Trophy.—1st, 11th Parachute Battalion; 2nd, 7th Middlesex Battalion.

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

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

R.H.Q.

We again went to annual practice camp at Stiffkey in Norfolk and, according to the camp report, for the second year in succession the Regiment has been passed as operationally fit.

The weather throughout was absolutely shocking and, although everybody got soaking wet several times a day, morale throughout was magnificent. We were told by the local inhabitants that it was the worst summer that they could remember and this was borne out by the report that during the first week of our camp more rain had fallen over that area than in any month of August for the last 25 years.

On Friday morning, August 6, the B.B.C. Film Unit came down to the firing point, where several members of the Regiment were interviewed for a broadcast for the radio newsreel which came over the air on the Saturday evening. Unfortunately, although five people were interviewed, only Major Doyle was heard on the actual broadcast and his voice was heard as far away as San Salvador by Capt. Vyvyan Holt, who wrote to Col. Lamont to tell him of this fact. The same evening, in the middle of the Officers' Mess guest night, we were asked to fire three guns so that the B.B.C. Film Unit could record tracer by night for use in a series of films which could be relayed over television during the winter months.

The G.O.C.-in-C. A.A. Command, Lt.-Gen. Sir Maurice S. Chilton, K.B.E., C.B., and the G.O.C. 1st A.A. Group, Maj.-Gen. G. D. Fanshaw, C.B.,

D.S.O., O.B.E., visited the Regiment during our deployment on the Langham Airfield and that same afternoon came on to the firing point. Unfortunately, as always happens, we started off with five guns firing, but by the time the C-in-C. arrived at our position four had ceased to fire due to usual end of camp wear and tear, with the remaining gun firing very intermittently, manned by a very "green" detachment. As can well be imagined, the "fur began to fly." However, a good recovery was made, as later we carried out a night shoot, which was completely uninterrupted by stoppages, with several hits being recorded and the maximum number of rounds being fired. So much so that the G.O.C., who was dining in the Mess with another regiment, decided to come down and lend us his support and congratulated the unit.

The usual lines and guard mounting competition took place and there was very keen competition from all sub-units. The standard in the lines was of the very highest order and, although R.H.Q. again won, there was very little to choose between them and the Searchlight Battery. Considering that the Searchlight Battery had been out on two deployments under the most shocking weather conditions, the standard of their equipment and layout was truly excellent. The guard mounting competition was a surprise to everybody. It was won this year by the R.E.M.E. L.A.D. and the congratulations of everyone went to them for their turnout and high standard of drill, unfortunately not always appreciated in this branch of service.

It was very remarkable that during our fortnight's stay at Stiffkey, which accommodates three units, there was not a "Gunner" cap badge to be seen, as there were in camp with us the Royal Fusiliers and the Cambridgeshire Regiment. Like ourselves, they are all very proud possessors of the Queen's and Regimental Colours. We understand that this has never happened before at Stiffkey.

During one of the few periods when the rain ceased we were able to carry out on the middle Saturday our usual ceremonial parade. The inspection and march past were taken by our Honorary Colonel, Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D. Congratulations were received from both the other regiments in camp on the standard and turnout achieved.

Several of us were very fortunate in visiting Weybourne H.A.A. Camp to see the first demonstration in this country of the latest American anti-aircraft gun, the "Sky-Sweeper." Unfortunately, due to the amount of shipping in the vicinity, the firing was restricted, but what we did see we all agree was most impressive.

Sub-units held their own social functions separately. R.H.Q. held theirs at the Bull Hotel in Walsingham. What an evening! Our Commanding Officer (Lt.-Col. B. A. G. MacFadden, T.D., R.A.), the Adjutant (Capt. C. H. T. Barber), the 2IC (Major J. Mayhew) and Major (Q.M.) G. W. Vickers joined in the fun. Having won both the cups at camp, there was much back slapping, as the reader can imagine. It was a particularly proud night for our Chief Clerk, Sgt. R. C. Holder, B.E.M., whose son, Cpl. T. R. Holder, R.E.M.E., was guard commander of the prize-winning guard.



GUNS AND S/Ls IN CLOSE SUPPORT DURING A NIGHT SHOOT

BAND

The Band again made camp an occasion different from that experienced by most other units, and, although not at full strength yet, were enthusiastically received wherever they went. Fortunately, our numbers were augmented by the bandsmen from the Cambridgeshire Regiment, who this year were unable to bring their own Bandmaster. Bandmaster Turner, therefore, was for this period able to call on a full Band. Besides playing for guest night in the Officers' Mess and the guest nights of the other units in camp, most of the band practices were held in the camp N.A.A.F.I., which was a tremendous success. We again send out a cordial invitation to any reader of *The Die-Hards* magazine who may be interested in joining the Regimental Band to visit the Drill Hall, Honeyport Lane, Kingsbury, N.W.9, any Tuesday evening for band practice.

"P" BATTERY

Camp is once more over and we are settling down to indoor training during the dark evenings. We again had an excellent camp with regard to gunnery and aircraft recognition training, but our hopes of carrying off the guard mounting and the lines cups did not materialise. All the points in the *Sunday Times* gunnery competition were obtained by us and we again congratulate Capt. Dennis on the high results achieved in the aircraft spotters' tests.

On the sporting side we have reached the final of the Regimental football competition and are awaiting the

chance to convince Searchlight Battery that it is a waste of time for them to oppose us in the final.

The Regimental Rifle Meeting was held on a windy day and we could not cope with the conditions as well as the other batteries. Gnr. Zimmerman tied for the O.R.s' Cup, but lost it on the count out. As we now hold none of the small arms trophies, our cupboard is going to be rather bare until next year.

Arising out of their excellent performance at camp, the following are to be congratulated on earning promotion: To B.Q.M.S.: Sgt. A. E. Barnden. To Bombardier: L/Bdrs. W. Brunson, P. W. Barnett, F. A. Green and D. Mulhall.

"R" BATTERY

The Battery had another successful annual camp. In common with the rest of the Regiment, the training put in during the year was consolidated and a great deal of valuable experience gained in the various branches of the rather staggering range of specialist activities which a battery now embraces. Somewhat in the manner of that versatile lady, Salome, in the barrack room ditty, we have to run, jump, fight, drive trucks, spot, plot and shoot, and this we seem to do successfully without, to extend the comparison, making a song and dance about it.

The shooting was again of a high standard. We had the pleasure of seeing No. 1 Detachment record the first hit credited to the Regiment on the first morning of shooting. This, of course, is not an end in itself and it

was the general standard which was particularly praise-worthy, especially in view of the fact that all our layers were new to the eye-shooting control method, which is now exclusively used.

Probably the event that will stay longest in most people's minds was the ill-fated Langham Scheme, which, nevertheless, provided plenty of instruction and not a little amusement. Last year the exercise inspired the "Langham Lament"; this time some of the language it provoked would be too much even for the subaltern's choir. The weather was nothing short of demonic. "R" Battery provided the administrative staff and all its gun detachments and specialist teams (these were, of course, augmented by other batteries), so pretty well everybody in the Battery experienced the joys of the English countryside in summer. Only the absence of landing craft and D.U.K.W.s prevented the proceedings having the full appearance of a combined operation and several sites needed frogmen to keep their communications going. It was creditable that the vehicles got us out and home without being water-proofed; the wireless sets did not fare so well, some of them taking on the role of "containers, water, G.S., in lieu of," according to B.S.M. Strange. We started wet, continued wet and finished wet. One consolation was that the umpires got as wet as we did. However, we survived and before the end saw the exercise operating smoothly or, perhaps more appropriately, sailing in calm waters.

SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY

Annual training at Stiffkey provided the usual fortnight of hard work and hard play. Movement and deployment are becoming second nature and the movement during our two exercises was smooth and on time in spite of the complication of transport, some of which was veteran, some borrowed and all short!

Although the Regimental exercise was wet and uncomfortable, the aircraft flew and were well and promptly illuminated and this at least precluded the usual rag of the gunner critics that we were picking them up by their navigation lights.

The night shoot produced the normal argument about whether the guns could do without the searchlights and vice versa and was settled with as much finality as "Which came first: the chicken or the egg?"

We reached the final in the football competition when rain stopped play. We shall play it off with the other finalists, "P" Battery, as soon as we can.

There was a good proportion of promotions, well earned, and we are glad to see Bdr. Gilbert going to the Sergeants' Mess.

OFFICERS' MESS

Again guest night was held on the first Friday in camp and, although on this occasion the dinner had to be speeded up due to the visit of a television film unit, we dined in the Mess that night 51 officers and were privileged to have with us as guests six past Commanding Officers of the Regiment, including our Honorary Colonel. Also present were Brigadier Rowlandson (our Brigade Commander), Brigadier Rackham and Col. Smith, last year's Mayor of Wembley.

This was our first camp when we had on strength our own Padre, and on behalf of the Officers' Mess I would like to say how very pleased indeed we were to have him with us. (I am told that next year he is going to take even more money off the subalterns at cards.)

The Officers' Mess visited the Sergeants' Mess, which has become the usual practice at annual camp, and an extremely good evening was had by all. This is the first occasion we have held this gathering in camp and it was agreed by everyone it was more acceptable than going outside to some local hostelry, where hours are restricted and charges prohibitive. On these occasions we always seem to find new talent, and this year was no exception. Lt. Peter Hammond, who has only recently joined the Regiment, amused us with a range of entertaining stories, all of which were passed by our resident Padre. Lt. Adam Locket again organised the subalterns' choir and it is hoped that he will supply for this edition a few verses of "Langham Lament."

We were privileged to entertain for lunch Lt.-Gen. Sir Maurice S. Chilton, K.B.E., C.B., and Maj.-Gen. G. D. Fanshaw, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., when they visited Stiffkey, together with Lt.-Col. M. Raisin, T.D. (commanding 625 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A., T.A. (Royal Fusiliers)), and Lt.-Col. Reg Beckett (commanding 629 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A., T.A. (The Cambridgeshire Regiment)).

SERGEANTS' MESS

From July 31, 1954, until 15 days later, on August 14, the Sergeants' Mess, as a whole, went with a swing and impetus seldom met today in Regular Army unit Messes.

The high standard of bar service, staff generally, cuisine and general happy air and comfort enjoyed by 40 of the members was directly due to the grand work, understanding and experience of our P.M.C., R.Q.M.S. A. E. Devereaux, and those committee members who worked so jolly well under his direction. The Messing Committee, comprising B.Q.M.S.s Graham and Pedlar and Sgt. Fisher, come in for a special word of praise.

The items of our Mess camp life that will linger for long in our memories are, firstly, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' dinner night held on Sunday, August 8, when 40 Mess members and three members of the O.C.A. sat down to a grand dinner. "Dinner drill" pamphlets had been prepared by the P.M.C. and this ensured the dinner procedure was followed to the letter. This is to be an annual occasion. Secondly, the officers' and sergeants' party held in the Sergeants' Mess on Wednesday, August 11. This was attended by some 80 Officers' and Sergeants' Mess members. Brigadier J. C. Rowlandson, C.B.E. (commanding 7 A.A. Brigade), was our guest of honour. Space does not allow for all the details; suffice it to say a jolly grand time was had by all concerned. The third item of note was the "get together" of officers and sergeants in the Sergeants' Mess after our ceremonial parade on Saturday, August 7, when no less than five ex-Commanding Officers, including our Honorary Colonel, Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D., also joined us. Snatches of reminiscence could be heard in conversation everywhere; there was more than a touch of pride in the reflection that an unbroken link in the service of the Regiment, the old

9th, could be traced back to the last century, through the reigns of two queens, four kings and two major wars. A lovely atmosphere prevailed and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. This occasion is to be instituted annually hereafter.

The ceremonial parade, held on Saturday, August 7, has been fully reported elsewhere and therefore here we merely wish to congratulate the Sergeants' Mess contribution to the Colour party escort, who carried out their Colour drill exceptionally well indeed and were congratulated by all present. Those concerned were: W.O.2: B.S.M. A. J. Vincent. Sergeants: Sgts. J. H. Penny and W. A. Turnbull.

BIRTH

B.S.M. and Mrs. Biddlecombe are to be congratulated on the birth of a son, Graham Richard, born at Hampstead on August 7, 1954.

PROMOTIONS

The undermentioned are heartily congratulated on their promotion to ranks shown and newcomers into our Mess life are warmly welcomed:

To Sub. W.O.2 B.S.M.: B.Q.M.S. L. C. Biddlecombe.

To Sub. W.O.2. A.Q.M.S.: S/Sgt. J. Davies (R.E.M.E.).

To Sub. B.Q.M.S.: Sgts. K. A. Pedlar, A. Barnden and J. J. Griffiths.

To Sub. Sergeant: A/Sgt. F. W. Silvester and Bdrs. R. L. Gilbert and F. J. Woodley.

We are now looking forward to our Regimental Armistice Service held, as usual, in our main hall, where we hope for a bigger attendance this year than ever before.

Footnote: The old 9th!

REGIMENTAL RIFLE MEETING

The annual Regimental Rifle Meeting took place at Purfleet Ranges on Sunday, September 26, 1954. Even the possibility of rain did not damp anyone's ardour, as there were nearly 50 competitors, and the little rain there was fortunately did not worry us.

There was some very good shooting in all events, although the effects of the "Cherry Tree" seemed to reflect in the scores of the members of the advance party! Capt. P. H. Harris won the Regimental Rifle Championship (Harrow Rifle Club) and the Officers' Challenge Bowl (Harris Bowl). Capt. Harris seems to have some peculiar attachment to the Harris Bowl, having won it now three times during four years. This must be altered next year.

The runner-up in the Regimental Rifle Championship was Sgt. Gilbert, a newcomer to the Sergeants' Mess, who also took the Sergeants' Mess Cup.

Some very good shooting was seen from Gnrs. Brewster, Tron and Zimmerman, who were the highest scoring O.R.s. Gnr. Brewster took the Harrow Rifles Recruits' Cup. Gnrs. Tron and Zimmerman were level pegging for the O.R.s' Cup (Dancocks Cup) and this was awarded to Gnr. Tron by counting out, as he had the higher snap score. Anyway, well done, all three!

The inter-Battery rifle event (Scholl Cup) was won

by "R" Battery in the remarkably good time of 14 seconds.

In the Bren Championships the Passingham Cup was won by R.H.Q. for the inter-Battery Bren and then B.S.M.s Hughes and Strange shot off for the British Legion Cup. B.S.M. Hughes took the cup, only dropping one point in the re-shoot, much to the disgust of B.S.M. Strange, who was hoping to add yet another plaque to his collection.

The Honorary Colonel, Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D., kindly presented the cups and plaques to the prize-winners and complimented the Regiment on the high standard of shooting.

The O.C.A. were, as ever, there in strength to mark for us in the butts and Mr. Campkin won the O.C.A. Championship for the pewter mug.

The pool bull did extremely well, largely due to Mr. Waters's salesmanship, and over £6 was taken, the only trouble being that no one won it! The money will therefore be put towards the good luck shoot on the .22 range in the Drill Hall at Christmas.

Finally, in the training period up to Christmas a rifle training course is being run on training nights, which we hope will benefit those who are not always able to turn up on club nights and to rouse the interest of other potential marksmen. Moreover, the range will be open almost every Friday evening throughout the winter for practice.

NEWS LETTER BY M.B.

Older T.A. members of our Regiment will remember their Brigadier T. S. Muirhead, known to me since the 1914-18 war. I had a letter from him on June 5. He is happy, as he always was, and living at Folkestone. He knew our Colonel during four years of the 1939-45 war as chief umpire to the 43rd Division when Gen. Bucknall was its commander. In consequence of very hard work in all weathers he suffered from bronchitis and at one time thought a lung was affected and has to be careful. He says in his own Regiment (the Northamptonshire) they have some six sons of officers. I am glad to say we are equally fortunate and some are soon to arrive in our ranks. He wishes to be remembered to all he knew in our 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions and to Gen. Bucknall.

I have heard from Pearce Gould (the Army List is wrong in placing a hyphen) on the Commonwealth Divisional Staff in Korea. He is much looking forward to his return to our 1st Battalion towards December next. He has found the staff (including officers from Australia and New Zealand) most friendly at their H.Q. in Kure, Japan, an old Japanese naval base, rather squalid and abounding in vice, but set in a bowl of emerald green hills beside an inland sea studded with islands. Married officers have no Army quarters and only wealthy people can have their wives out. When he wrote it was hot and sticky; a later letter of August 21 reported a typhoon, but luckily only a portion hit his locality.

On August 12 I heard from Eric Sadler, now a lieutenant-colonel and chief Administrative Commandant at Nairobi. He seemed to be generally moving

in high Government circles and is now at home on three months' leave.

On August 27 I heard from Brigadier Frank Rowley's widow offering us several excellent trophies shot in India, Burma and Abyssinia. A move was being made into a flat and no room could be found. We are glad to have them and they are excellent specimens.

On July 20 I heard from Martin Weedon in Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia, where he is with a big trust firm. He hopes his step-son will enter our Regiment later on (now 14 years). The boy is at Harrow and we shall always be glad to get officers from the public schools, and especially the sons of our former officers. He stayed during the end of July with Chris Man and, I understand, shows promise of being a future Regimental cricketer. Martin now has Mrs. Weedon with him and the two younger children. His job is at H.Q. of two large copper mining groups. He tells me Rhodesia has a big future ahead now federation is in process and he anticipates their H.Q. will move in 1955 to Salisbury, the Federal capital. He hopes to be at home on leave for several months in 1957 and to meet us all again.

Hervey Del Court wrote on July 19 from Hermanus to say he hopes to be in U.K. in June, 1955. He tells me that Air Vice-Marshal D'Albiac (whose son is to join us in September) was in the same form at school with him and Basil Rackham. He (Air Marshal) stopped with Hervey in Palestine whilst en route for India.

Hervey had recently been to Cape Town and had enjoyed the Sadlers Wells Ballet there. He also refers to Canon Lewis John Collins, Precentor of St. Paul's, who has received much press criticism on account of his call to stop the colour bar. Many of us remember Rudyard Kipling's remarks on visitors to India, who, knowing little, wrote much. However, the World Council of Churches in U.S.A. has reinforced the Canon's view that it is a Christian obligation to do away with such racial bars although perhaps time is needed before it can be done everywhere. He sends Col. Crawford a message of greeting from Mrs. Hope Beaumont, a neighbour of Hervey's who has been a guest at Dunscore.

I have had several letters from Capt. Vyvyan Holt at San Salvador, always covered with lovely stamps which make me popular with many here, and not least Cpl. Grimes, a keen collector. He (Capt. Holt) tells me all is quiet in his country, but unrest is about with neighbours, as we read in the Press.

Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks wrote on July 29 to say how shocked he was by Brian Sutcliffe's death. He promises to attend the Regimental reunion on October 29 at Seymour Hall, Marble Arch, and I am to have the honour of attending with him the Abbey service in commemoration of Florence Nightingale's Crimean centenary on November 4 and of lunching with him in the House of Lords.

On August 27 Brigadier Stumps Green wrote to tell me about a water-colour depicting Major Gilbey and Capt. Lempriere of the 77th (relative of Bill Heywood's) and a party of his company attacking the Russians at Sevastopol. We have purchased this picture, as it received praise from our Depot officers. It is very rare. He believes the situation in the Arab states will improve as a result of our agreement with Egypt over

the Canal base. He had recently received and entertained friendly Egyptian members of the Arab League. He is, as are all of us, distressed at the troubles in Cyprus, where they are exploited by the Greek religious bodies. He asks for Regimental news and I have replied fully.

I have news (September 10) from Brigadier Pennycook that his son will be shortly called for National Service and we have arranged for him to join our Regiment. I gather both he and Brigadier Toye expect to be at an important Civil Defence conference on December 3 (our Regular officers' dinner night). I wrote to remind him of the event and instinct told me that would be his excuse, and I was correct. The same thing happened on another year.

I was interested to see that Maj.-Gen. R. A. Hull, late R.A.C., is appointed G.O.C. British Troops in Egypt and to be temporary lieutenant-general. He is the son of the Maj.-Gen. Hull who commanded our 4th Battalion at Devonport prior to the 1914-18 war and took the Battalion to the First World War, fighting at Mons and Le Cateau. Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe, then serving in that unit, was Adjutant and Major Thorpe was a subaltern. Later the General became a famous fighting divisional commander. After the conclusion of hostilities he suffered from an internal complaint and died not long after our first post-war Regular officers' dinner, which he attended. He was present and Gen. Kent, the famous Colonel of the Regiment who had fought with the 77th in Crimea, and later was to command that Battalion for 13 years, was chairman. This Maj.-Gen. Hull was Brigade Major to my father at Portsmouth and so knew our 2nd Battalion well, to which I was attached for training whilst in the Guernsey Light Infantry Militia (1903-05).

I had a letter on September 16 from Peter Bellers asking to serve with our 1st Battalion in the New Year. He was then with the Brigade H.Q., 51st Infantry Brigade, M.E.L.F. I was able to assure him that that had already been ordered by the War Office. He referred to the disheartening conditions of service in the Canal Zone, which we realise. The troops appear to be concerned mainly with care and packing of base stores. When his Brigade was at Barnard Castle they saw a lot of Col. Andrew Man. He passed the Staff College examination in 1954 and may get a nomination for the course commencing early in 1956.

Our Brigade Colonel, Col. Sykes Wright, has recently married and our best wishes from our Colonel were sent to him.

Col. Mervyn Crawford's daughter, Cecilia, was married to Capt. Neal (formerly of our 9th Middlesex) on September 11 and great accounts of the vast celebrations have reached us. I much regret to say Mrs. Walker, his mother-in-law, who has been ill for some years, died on the same day. Many of us here when Col. Crawford was commanding the short-lived P.T.C. and the 1st Battalion remember her well and her kind and strong personality drew affection from us all. I myself, as a relative of Col. Crawford, was sad not to be present at the wedding.

Col. Roberts and myself were delighted to see Roger Latham acting at the Piccadilly Theatre on September 23 in "The Party Spirit." It was a splendid show and

Roger was the living image of an ancient Tory member. Robertson Hare and Ralph Lynn were also in the cast, and those who know those players can well imagine how excellent was the performance.

"STEADY, THE DRUMS AND FIFES"

During my service I have been told many stories about the most famous Regimental picture, "Steady, The Drums and Fives," painted in 1897 by Lady Butler, a famous artist, who painted many military pictures. The picture belongs to the officers of our 1st Battalion, the former 57th Foot, which won the title of "Die-Hards" at Albuhera on May 16, 1811. It was a battle which brought to the Regiment high honour and ever since has helped our ranks to fight against all odds and never to give in, cost what it may.

When I first served in the Regiment 50 years ago as a young second lieutenant many senior officers referred to the drummers in the picture and told me the models had been drummers who were serving in the Regiment at Dover, where Lady Butler painted the picture.

These stories were untrue, and manifestly so, for neither of our then Regular Battalions, 1st or 2nd (57th and 77th), were serving at Dover in that year. The 1st Battalion was in Southern India and our 2nd Battalion had been at Ahmednagar, the Deccan, before that year till the unit reached Woolwich, and thence to move to South Africa to engage in that long drawn out campaign.

Through the help of Miss Dorothy Longe, a daughter of my first Commanding Officer in the 1st Battalion, I was put in touch with Lady Butler's relatives and learning from her son, the Rev. R. U. Butler, O.S.B., O.B.E., I can now tell the true story of the figures.

Lady Butler's husband, Gen. Sir William Butler, was G.O.C. of the South-Eastern District with his H.Q. at Dover, and, I assume, in the castle, and hence the location of the painting. One son, now Rev. R. U. Butler, was the model for most of the drummers depicted. A younger brother, who is also still alive, was the model for the small drummer boy standing without a headress in the front line, and being encouraged by the friendly hand of the N.C.O. laid on his head, whilst the latter exhorts them all by the words, "Steady, The Drums and Fives," chosen as the picture's title. The Rev. R. U. Butler, then a boy of 16, home for his school holidays, stood for that N.C.O. and for most of the other drummers, including the youth holding back his impatient comrade who is waving his sticks and shouting "Advance," the drummer near him with his arms folded and the wounded man with a bandage around his forehead.

He tells me also that Lady Butler, who was always most exact and correct in regard to details of uniform, arms and equipment, had a beautiful coloured tunic, white breeches and black leggings made specially by Sir William Butler's military tailor, and thus was able to add greatly to the rich pictorial effect of the whole animated Corps of Drums in the foreground.

Readers will recollect, I feel sure, that Lady Butler also painted a picture to show the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in battle and called, I believe, "The Thin Red Line." We are fortunate in possessing our picture,

whilst the famous Highland regiment (with whom, in memory of Korea, we are in each case honorary members of each other's Messes) has not the same good fortune, a fact which must cause much sorrow when they view our masterpiece.

Golf

REGIMENTAL AUTUMN MEETING

The meeting, held once more at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, can most briefly be summed up in the words, "Bywaters, The Ladies and North Hants Golf Club."

Various casualties at the last minute reduced the Saturday entry to a golfing farce, but it was a pleasant day. The extraordinary situation arose, too, of three persons winning the divot, which, being absurd, it was decided to play off on Sunday in the second leg of the Jay Cup.

In the afternoon the Cooper Cup was a neck-and-neck race in more senses than one and in the end Wollocombe and Bywaters arrived on the 15th tee at the same time as the other two pairs, but accumulating more points on the last three holes won by a clear margin. The judges were unable to divide the other two pairs, who dead-heated.

The scores tell their own tale, but, with the exception of Bywaters, never has such bad golf been played by so few. In the evening the ladies and Messrs. Ellis and Carter joined the party and once more we adjourned to Major and Mrs. Jay's delightful house, where for an hour Major and Mrs. Jay dispensed potent tonics in delightful surroundings.

Back to the Club and a jolly dinner party, which somehow reached 15 in number.

All most enjoyable and service and food remarkable (we rate the Harvest Thanksgiving as worth the price of the whole dinner). Very well fed, the A.G.M. got down to business, and the minutes are appended with other notes.

Saturday dawned marvellously and everyone arrived most promptly. Quite a sensation was the arrival of a new member, Lt. Hendry, with wife and dog—of the former, more anon; of the latter, thank goodness, nothing need be recorded, an exemplary dog.

Of course, as play started the weather sulked, but for a time some interest in the Jay Cup's fate was revived when Procter went out in 38 and it appeared that, if Bywaters cracked, his lead of 12 strokes might be strained.

It was enough and he won by 10 strokes with a 76 and 77, good going in the conditions on an almost strange course. Procter, with a 75 net, won the morning sweep and eliminated himself from all hopes of the divot which became a duel between Jay and Wollocombe, the last out.

Wollocombe won with 88 net to 87 net. Jay did his best with two eights for the 17th and 18th holes, but we suppose he felt that two nines instead would have been too obvious. Anyhow, Wollocombe can always play, with Roger Latham's handsome divot in his hip pocket and keep his spirits up.

The prize for the noblest effort, if we could afford

such a prize, should have gone to Capt. "Nick" Carter for taking 164 recorded shots, or to Lt.-Col. Ellis for recording them all. These are real "Die-Hards."

The prize for members of the Society and the Golf Club was won by Major A. D. Shaw Porter, of N.H.G.C., with 67 net, and the handicapping committee met at once with shears in their hands.

The innovation of mixed foursomes was a great success. Thanks to Mrs. Le Patourel, sister of your correspondent, ladies of N.H.G.C. volunteered to partner Middlesex men who had no female partners of their own. The result was great fun with some surprisingly good results. First and foremost we might say that it would have been a bad day for the bookies, as the favourites came in first and second. Mrs. Hardcastle and Worton produced 39 points and were followed by Miss Le Patourel and Bywaters with 36. The field ranged between 29 and 24 points.

Mrs. Hendry, playing with her husband, putted extremely well and when Lt. Hendry said that he had had his fair share of the rough we had to remind him that his partner had had more than a ration of bunkers. Our view is that if Mrs. Hendry played with Worton and Hendry had Miss Jean McDonald it would be a fair match.

After tea Mrs. Wollocombe presented the prizes and thanked the ladies of North Hants Golf Club for helping to make it such an enjoyable afternoon.

Non-golfers who came included Col. and Mrs. Weston, Mrs. and Miss Worton, Master M. Wollocombe (a bit short of pocket money), Mrs. Ellis and that self-effacing dog.

When all but the Colonel of the Regiment and the acting Golf Secretary had gone the latter got his reward. The General, with two sixpenny pieces, refused to try his luck. To prove how right he was, the Golf Secretary inserted his last and only sixpence, remarking, "This will show you what a waste of time it is." He pulled the handle and walked away and lo and behold he had the jackpot (12 balls and 10s.), a very nice reward by Fortune for some pleasant labour.

The results were:

	Saturday	Sunday	Aggregate
Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe	106-18=88	106-18=88	176*
Capt. J. Bywaters	85-9=76	86-9=77	153†
Major S. C. Guy	103-15=88	102-15=87	175
Capt. R. E. Guest	97-15=82	100-15=85	167
Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall	94-12=82	N.R.	—
Brigadier N. P. Procter	97-9=88	84-9=75	163‡
Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis	—	104-17=87	—
Capt. K. J. Carter	—	104-24=140	—
Lt. A. M. Hendry	—	N.R.	—
Major J. R. Worton	—	N.R.	—

* Wins Divot.

† Wins Jay Cup, Scratch Cup and Handicap Cup.

‡ Wins Sunday Sweep.

COOPER CUP

	Points
Bywaters and Wollocombe (2nd Battalion)	25
Bucknall and Guest (1st Battalion)	21
Jay and Procter (10th Battalion)	21

MIXED FOURSOMES Stapleford (A)

	Points
Mrs. Hardcastle and Worton	39
Miss Le Patourel and Bywaters	36
Mrs. Wollocombe and Procter	29
Mrs. Hendry and Hendry	26
Mrs. Oldfield and Guest	26

Mrs. Rowland Price and Jay	26
Mrs. Churchill and Ellis	26
Mrs. Le Patourel and Wollocombe	25
Mrs. Vulliamy and Bucknall	25
Mrs. Quick and Carter	24

A.G.M.

(1) *Minutes.* Passed unseen.

(2) *Captain.* Proposed by Lt.-Col. Wollocombe and seconded by Major Jay that Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall be elected captain for the coming year. Passed unanimously.

(3) *Committee.* The Committee was re-elected *en bloc* (no one was quite clear who were the Committee, but as all seems to go well it was left to Major Clark to fill in the names). Committee: Brigadier Procter, Major Jay and O.C. Depot.

(4) *Divot.* It was decided that the tie for the divot be played off on Sunday in conjunction with the Jay Cup second round.

(5) *Prizes.* It was proposed by Brigadier Procter and unanimously agreed that in future no replicas will be provided unless there are 12 entries for singles and six pairs for foursomes. This will not prevent the winners' names going on the challenge cups.

(6) (a) *Thanks.* Proposed by Lt.-Col. Wollocombe and seconded by Capt. Bywaters that a vote of thanks be passed to Major Clark for all he does towards the ground work of these meetings.

(b) *Thanks.* Proposed by Lt.-Col. Ellis and seconded by Capt. Guest that a vote of thanks be passed to the North Hants Golf Club and staff for their hospitality. Passed with acclamation. The opinion of all members and wives was that the condition of the course, the feeding, service and hospitality were outstanding.

(c) *Thanks.* Proposed by Lt.-Col. Ellis and seconded by Lt.-Gen. Bucknall that a particular vote of thanks be passed to Major and Mrs. Jay for their unbounded hospitality and most happy party. Carried with more than unanimity.

(7) *Publicity.* Major Jay suggested that more people would come if there were greater publicity. Without coming to any definite conclusion the meeting were in agreement and appeared to favour a small leaflet at the Regimental dinner. On this subject it was raised later that there are several young officers who would like to play, but who are not members of the Officers' Club. We should be delighted to see new members and they either join the Officers' Club and automatically are eligible or they pay the same amount to the Golfing Society and automatically join the Officers' Club.

(8) 1955. Lt.-Col. Ellis proposed and Capt. J. Bywaters seconded that the N.H.G.C. be asked to allow us to hold the meeting at N.H.G.C. in 1955. Passed unanimously. (Note.—Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25, have been fixed.)

(9) Proposed by Gen. Bucknall and seconded by Major Jay that this meeting record their appreciation of the Secretary for the meeting's efforts. Lt.-Col. Wollocombe said it would be no use, as the Secretary would not record it. It is recorded and was passed.

Extracts from "London Gazette"

REGULAR ARMY

August 6, 1954

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

2/Lt. D. E. Lobb (424387) to be Lieutenant, August 1, 1954.

2/Lt. R. D. Fisher (412301) to be Lieutenant, August 1, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

The undermentioned Lieutenants are granted the acting rank of Captain on the dates shown:

J. F. Willmer (409912), May 30, 1954.

P. S. Liddell (403173), June 14, 1954.

P. J. T. Lane (412286), July 16, 1954.

REGULAR ARMY

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

August 10, 1954

Capt. V. A. Thomas, M.C. (140008), to be Major. June 30, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

August 24, 1954

2/Lt. M. S. Gedye (427386) from Regular Army National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant, July 25, 1954, with seniority March 14, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Capt. (Hon. Major) P. R. H. Elliott, T.D. (30243), having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the T.A. Reserve of Officers, August 25, 1954, retaining the hon. rank of Major.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

September 3, 1954

The undermentioned Cadets to be 2/Lieutenants, July 10, 1954:

22936314 Peter Albert Highton (436265).

22932395 Michael Norsworthy (436255).

REGULAR ARMY

September 17, 1954

Lt. B. K. Clayden (376139) to be Captain, September 19, 1954.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (CLASS III)

September 24, 1954

Capt. P. J. Leahy (359905) (Emp. List 4) from Active List to be Captain, September 24, 1954, retaining his present seniority.

REGULAR ARMY

October 1, 1954

Major R. W. D. Sword, M.C. (44205), retires on ret. pay, October 1, 1954.

Capt. D. B. Rendell, M.B.E., M.C. (180657), to be Major, October 2, 1954.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

Capt. (Q.M.) G. H. J. Drury (356114) relinquishes his commission on completion of service, October 1, 1954, and is granted the hon. rank of Captain (Q.M.).

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (CLASS III)

Capt. F. V. Simes (312133) (Emp. List 4) from Active

List to be Captain, October 1, 1954, retaining his present seniority.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

October 5, 1954

Maj.-Gen. (Hon. Lt.-Col.) G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C. (5026), late Infantry, having attained the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, September 14, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Glider Pilot and Parachute Corps. Para. Hon. Lt. Vivian Albert Lester Holding (378179) (late Middlesex) to be Lieutenant, August 31, 1954, with seniority February 25, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt. (a/Capt.) P. S. Liddell (403173) from Active List to be Lieutenant, August 31, 1954, retaining his present seniority.

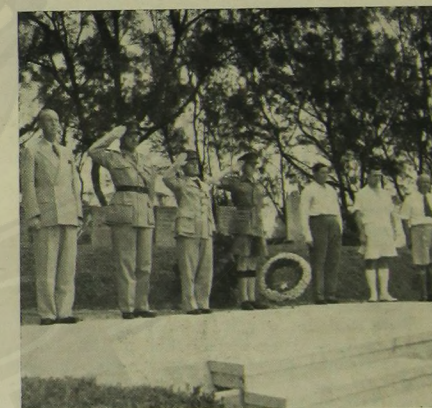
Lt. F. Holm (406077) from Active List to be Lieutenant, August 24, 1954, retaining his present seniority.

AMENDMENT

September, 1954, issue: Under "Extracts from 'London Gazette'" notice dated June 11, 1954, should read:

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Lt. (a/Capt.) M. E. Baldwin (377236) to be Captain, June 10, 1954, with seniority October 8, 1953.



ALBUHERA DAY, 1954

at Stanley Cemetery, Hong Kong, when a wreath was laid in commemoration of all ranks of the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), who fell in the defence of Hong Kong in December 1941.

Left to right: Mr. H. M. Howell, "Hatch" Howell of "Lisbon Maru" fame; Major G. C. D. Scott-Lowe, T.D., D.A.P.M., Middlesex Regiment; Senior Chaplain to the Forces, H.Q.L.F.; Capt. J. H. E. Moore, Middlesex Regiment, Adjutant to the Hong Kong Regiment; Mr. W. T. J. Lane, M.B.E., ex-R.Q.M.S. 1st Battalion; Mr. Green, ex-Private 1st Battalion, fought in defence of the Colony, prisoner-of-war; Mr. Havtin, ex-R.C.M.P., fought in defence of the Colony and knew the 1st Battalion well.

Pilgrimage to Belgium

ON AUGUST 22 and 23, 1954

On August 22, 1954, was held at Obourg the ceremony of Remembrance at the commemoration plaque erected by the people of Obourg and dedicated to the unknown soldier of "D" Company of the 4th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment who gave his life in covering the retreat of the Company on August 23, 1914.

The impressive 40th anniversary of the first battle of the 1914-18 war was charged with the emotion, not only of our own memories of that day, but also with the deep and mutual affection and esteem which, with the passing years, draws us ever closer to our old friends and allies.

Our Regimental poppy wreath and one from Major H. E. L. Glass were laid beneath the plaque and the floral tributes by children and adults of Obourg converted the space into a garden of flowers eloquent of the old and precious friendship which shall for ever endure between us. After the playing of the Last Post and Reveille and the anthems of our two countries, the people of Obourg and ourselves were received by the Bourgmestre in the Maison Communale, where was offered the *vin d'honneur*. We were then entertained at luncheon in the building of the Vauxhall Gardens in Mons, where further welcome was extended to us in several charming speeches by Gen. Demart, Monsieur Demarbre and Captain-Commandant Lepape, to whom I had the pleasure to reply.

I regretted that Monsieur G. Licope, Chief of the Cabinet of the Bourgmestre of Mons, was unable to be present, but he was entertaining Col. Gordon and Col. Ritchie from Northern Ireland.

On this pilgrimage I was proud to have with me G. J. Smith, F. Rogers, G. H. Corby and H. Bird, whose unflinching courtesy so readily responded to the affection and welcome extended to us wherever we went, and whose demeanour is always in the best tradition of our Regiment and our people.

On the morning of August 23 a long and imposing procession led by the Royal Harmonie and other bands and the flags of various national associations, and followed immediately by the delegation of the 4th Middlesex Regiment, marched to the British memorial, where I placed our Regimental wreath and Mr. Dabarn, representing the British Ambassador in Brussels, placed at the same time that from the British Embassy. Wreaths were also placed by Col. J. Ritchie, leader of the Ulster-Scots "Forty Years After" pilgrimage to Belgium and by the Belgian "Anciens Combattants."

The Bourgmestre of Mons then gave a reception in the Grand Salon in the Hotel de Ville to the delegations of the "Old Contemptibles," at which Monsieur Demarbre made a moving speech of welcome.

In the afternoon Captain-Commandant Lepape of the Reserve of Grenadiers, Monsieur van Hoegaerden and Monsieur Dupont drove the British visitors first to Mauberge and then to Peronne and Binche, where the same warm and generous welcome as in Mons and Obourg were extended to us by the Bourgmestres.

The day ended with a pilgrimage to the British

cemetery of Saint-Symphorien, so devotedly tended by Mr. James Fitzgerald.

In 40 years a military alliance has grown into a deep and enduring friendship and it is with a deep sense of proper pride that we humbly and gratefully accept the loyal devotion of a great people.

B. WILMOT-ALLISTONE.

Correspondence

Brigadier A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E.,
H.Q. Arab Legion,
M.E.L.F. 2.

September 25, 1954.

The Editor, *The Die-Hards* Journal.

Dear Sir,

"CHAMPION SHOT"

I thought the following might be of interest to your readers, particularly as we have never aspired to be a great shooting Regiment.

According to the latest *Small Arms School Corps Journal*, a medal was awarded annually from 1869-82 to the "Best Shot in the Army." In 1879 this was won by Pte. H. Morgan of 77th Foot. I wonder whether this appears in the records of 77th?

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) A. E. GREEN.

Extract from History of the 77th Foot

"They were best shooting Regiment and 'H' Company the best shooting Company 1877-78. In 1878-79 were again so. In 1880 for third time in succession. 'H' Company (Capt. Fenton's) and the 77th were the best. Pte. H. Morgan, 'B' Company, was declared best shot in Army and L/Sgt. A. MacFarlane of Depot best judge of distance."

T.A. Centre,
444 High Road,
Finchley, N.12.

TUDOR 7639.

October 6, 1954.

Dear Sir,

We of the 28th Middlesex Home Guard Battalion are very pleased to announce our victory at the London District Rifle Meeting. Fifty-seven teams were competing for the Brighton Cup and we brought the cup home to Finchley.

We feel that our success was in no small measure due to the practice that we have been able to put in on the 30 yards range at Inglis Barracks, which has been put at our disposal by the Officer Commanding the Depot The Middlesex Regiment, and we would like to put on record our appreciation of his help.

The enclosed photograph shows the winning team. Names, from left to right, are: Pte. Poulton, C.Q.M.S. Bruno, M.M., Sgt. Dickinson, Capt. Centa and Cpl. Copping.

If the sceptics who criticise the Home Guard as being old and useless could have seen the keenness with which this cup was contested, then we feel sure that they would be the first to admit that, if ever it became



necessary, the Home Guard could and would give a good account of themselves.

It may interest some of your readers who are ex-members of the Middlesex Regiment, and who might be free to join the Home Guard, that our Headquarters are at the T.A. Centre, 444 High Road, Finchley, and that we have two companies at the Headquarters of the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment at Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.

We would welcome into the Battalion any who live in the Finchley, Wood Green or Hornsey districts.

Yours faithfully,

B. C. WILLOUGHBY, Captain,
for P.R.O., 28th Middlesex
Home Guard Battalion.

LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN CAPT.

MICHAEL ASHBY AND CHARLES SMITH, ESQ.,
LATE PRIVATE, 2nd (VOLUNTEER) BATTALION
THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

September 9, 1954.

Captain Michael Ashby.

Sir,

In reply to your notice in the last issue of the Regimental Gazette re 8th and 18th Battalions. I was a private in the 2nd (Volunteer) Battalion The Middlesex Regiment in 1887, Hounslow Company, Headquarters Whitton Park, and remained a member until joining 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment at Aldershot on February 14, 1888.

I was posted to "E" Company, 2nd Volunteers, as Regimental instructor in 1903 and discharged in February, 1909, on completion of 21 years' service as Regimental instructor. During the 1914-18 war I served with the following: 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, returning to the 14th (R.) Battalion Middlesex at my own request, and after a short period transferred to 7th

Battalion (Leeds Rifles) West Yorks until peace was declared, holding the rank of R.S.M.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Yours faithfully, an old "Die-Hard,"

CHARLES SMITH,
Late 8th Battalion,
The Middlesex Regiment.

20 St. Heliers Avenue,
Hounslow, Middlesex.

September 17, 1954.

My Dear Old Comrade,

I was delighted to have your letter of the 9th inst. and will pass it on to the Regimental Secretary, Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E., Depot The Middlesex Regiment O.C.A., Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

"1887." That'll shake 'em! My goodness, they were indeed volunteers in those days. My only regret is that the 8th Battalion O.C.A. has almost disappeared and would suggest you take up your membership with the "Die-Hards" O.C.A. at the Depot. I shall, of course, be proud to add your name to my own roll of 8th Battalion members. I'm quite sure that your record of service is one that will take some beating. When next the Battalion camp in the Stanford, Norfolk, area I'll arrange for you to come over and meet the new Battalion, now designated 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex Regiment) (Duke of Cambridge's Own). I'm sure that Col. Maurice Brown, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., until quite recently the Colonel of the Regiment, will be more than pleased to read your letter. He himself was serving as early as 1903.

We still have 200 good type volunteers and over 50 per cent. of National Service men have become volunteers, so you see we are doing our best to keep up the tradition of the dear old 8th.

With every good wish from the "Die-Hards" to an old comrade.

Yours very sincerely,
MICHAEL ASHBY.

Charles E. Smith, Esq.,
"Pinchaford,"
Deopham Road,
Kingham, Norwich, Norfolk.

September 24, 1954.

To Capt. Michael Ashby.

Sir,

Thank you for your letter of September 14. With reference to your kind offer re attending the camp at Stanford, Norfolk, I reside within hearing of the guns, but regret that your kind offer of attending the camp cannot be accepted owing to my sight and cannot get about in new places.

I have got into touch with Major Clark, O.B.E., with reference to O.C.A. Your remarks about my record of service make a very poor stand against my father and brother.

Father's record: No. 2920 Sgt. Thomas J. Smith of the Royal Regiment. In possession of two medals Crimea, with clasp for Sebastopol. On his discharge from the above Regiment he joined the 5th Battalion

Royal Elthorne Militia stationed at Uxbridge. He then got promoted to the permanent staff as O.R. clerk, being promoted Q.M.S. just before the Regiment became the 3rd Middlesex Regiment and moved to Hounslow. He took his discharge at Hounslow after 33 years (I believe), his pension being 1s. per day; at the age of 70 he received an extra 9d. per day for war and wounds service.

My brother's: Capt. J. T. Smith, M.B.E. Joined the 5th Battalion Royal Elthorne Militia in 1878 as drummer. Enlisted 50th Brigade March 7, 1878, in which he served until transferred to the Duke of York's School, Chelsea, where he continued to serve until the school moved out of London. After a short period (various employment) he joined the 9th Battalion Essex, posted to the Reserve Battalion Middlesex Territorial Association 1914. Served 1914-18. Mentioned in despatches, retiring rank captain, awarded M.B.E. June, 1919. I believe he completed 28 years' service, war service additional, total about 33 years' service.

The family was connected with the Middlesex Regiment about 90 years more or less. I am in possession of the Albuhera number of *The Die-Hards* Journal of May, 1931.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. SMITH,

An old "Die-Hard."

P.S.—I am in possession of a group of permanent staff of 3rd Middlesex that moved to Hounslow.

Deaths

O'BRIEN.—The death occurred on Saturday, September 25, 1954, of ex-Sgt. J. J. O'Brien (Shamus), who was well known to many. His funeral on the 30th inst. was attended by an N.C.O. of the Regiment, who also placed a wreath on behalf of the Association.

RAMSAY.—On October 1, 1954, Maj.-Gen. Frank Ramsay, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., of Cattistock House, Cattistock, Dorset. Cremation private. No flowers, by his request.

MICKLEBURGH.—On October 6, 1954, at the age of 66 J. H. Mickleburgh, late member of the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the Regiment. Cremation took place at Golders Green on October 11 and was attended by an N.C.O. from the Depot. As well as sending a wreath on behalf of the Association, a Union Jack was provided for draping the coffin.

CROSS.—The death occurred on October 9, 1954, of Capt. H. E. Cross at his home in Herne Bay. He was aged 71 years and his cremation was attended by Mr. J. E. Painter, late R.S.M. of the 1st Battalion, on behalf of the Association.

DUNDAS.—Major A. C. Dundas, O.B.E., died on October 14, 1954, after a long illness. He was aged 74 years. He was commissioned in the Regiment in 1903 and retired in 1926. Col. G. L. Brown attended his funeral and a wreath was sent from the Association.

KAY.—On October 16, 1954, at his home in Cowley, Middlesex, Lt.-Col. P. C. Kay, D.S.O., M.C., J.P. His funeral on October 22 was private and at his own request no flowers were sent.

HAY.—We have only just received news of the death last January in Canada of Major C. R. Hay at the age of 73. He joined the Regiment in 1900, obtained his majority in 1915 and retired in 1920. He served in the 4th and 6th Battalions and was at the Depot from 1912 to 1914.

MAJ.-GEN. F. W. RAMSAY

Maj.-Gen. Frank William Ramsay, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., died on October 1st at the age of 78.

The son of the late Brigadier-Gen. W. A. Ramsay, he was born in 1875, and was gazetted to the Middlesex Regiment in 1897. From 1898 to 1900 he served as A.D.C. to the Governor of Madras, and during the South African War he saw service as a special service officer with mounted infantry, being awarded the Queen's Medal with five clasps. From 1907 to 1911 he was 2IC of the 2nd Mounted Infantry, and during the 1914-18 war he served in France and Flanders. In 1916, the year in which he was awarded the D.S.O., he took command of the 48th (Irish) Brigade, and was seven times mentioned in despatches.

He was made a C.M.G. in 1917, and after commanding the 58th (London) Division and the 30th Division was in 1919 appointed to command the 6th Infantry Brigade. He was made a C.B. in that year. In 1925 he took command of the 20th Indian Infantry Brigade, and in the following year he took command of the 5th Quetta Infantry Brigade. He retired with the rank of major-general in 1929. In 1932 he was made a justice of the peace for Suffolk, and in 1944 he became a justice of the peace for Dorset. He was the author of a book on the training of polo ponies, which appeared in 1928.

He married in 1929 Amy Frances, daughter of the late F. G. Hohler and widow of Lt.-Col. A. St. Leger Glyn, of Sudbury, Suffolk.

Obituary

MR. H. E. CROSS

A member of the former Wealdstone Urban District Council and a local resident for many years, Mr. Harry Edward Cross, of Albuhera, Westcliffe Gardens, Herne Bay, died on October 9. He was 71.

Born in Forest Gate, London, he ran away from home when he was 14 and joined the 3rd Battalion Essex Regiment, afterwards transferring to the Middlesex Regiment. After war service in South Africa, he returned to England with the rank of corporal and continued his service with the Regiment's 2nd Battalion. Following promotion to sergeant and service at the depot at Mill Hill, he went with the Regiment to the Channel Islands in 1907, serving there until 1910, when he was posted to Bordon camp, Hampshire.

In 1911 he was appointed sergeant-instructor at the Drill Hall, Wealdstone, and he organised many local rifle shooting competitions. An excellent billiards and snooker player, he won many tournaments, and at one time he was lightweight boxing champion of the Regiment. He was also referee or timekeeper at many of the Kodak boxing tournaments.

When the first world war broke out he was posted to

India and he also served in Mesopotamia, being mentioned in despatches. In 1916 he was promoted to R.S.M. and in 1918 received his commission.

After the armistice Mr. Cross returned to England, and although his family still lived at the Wealdstone drill hall, he took command, at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, of the same company in which he served as corporal in 1905. He retired from the active list in 1919, having served for over 22 years.

He received his discharge from the Reserve of Officers in 1931, but from March 1936 he helped to form the new Territorial company which became known as the 344th S.L., R.E., and recruiting was so rapid that the single company was re-formed into a new regiment, the 58th S.L. Regiment, R.E. Mr. Cross was until his death a vice-president of the Cornflower Club, the Harrow Territorials Old Comrades' Association.

After the beginning of the second world war and the appeal for Local Defence Volunteers, he helped form one of the first platoons of Kodak employees and, later, commanded one of the Kodak companies as a Major. He was also appointed Deputy Executive A.R.P. Controller.

LT.-COL. P. C. KAY

Lt.-Col. Peter Crichton Kay, D.S.O., M.C., for many years a leading figure in horticulture, died at his home at Cowley, Middlesex, on October 16. He was 66.

The son of P. E. Kay, of Finchley, he was educated at Highgate School and served with distinction during the 1914-18 War, commanding, at a young age, the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment for over two years in France. He was awarded the D.S.O. and M.C. and twice mentioned in despatches.

In 1951 the Royal Horticultural Society conferred on him the Victoria Medal of Honour, their highest award, in recognition of his outstanding work for over 30 years. As chairman and managing director of Lowe and Shawyer, Ltd., and of W. E. Wallace and Son, Ltd., he was a leading authority on the growing of flowers in immense quantities for market and he worked untiringly in the interests of the flower industry. He was a past president of the British Flower Industry Association and was a former member of the National Farmers' Union Council.

In 1921 he married Ada Marjorie, daughter of W. Goodyear, who survives him together with a son and two daughters.

MAJ.-GEN. FRANK RAMSAY, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

I have been asked to write a personal note about Frank Ramsay. Frank Ramsay's boyhood was spent largely with his father's regiment, the 4th Hussars. As the C.O.'s son, and with his good looks and already brilliant horsemanship, he was a general favourite with that regiment.

It was decided that he should seek entry to the Regular Army by the Militia competition examinations. He was gazetted to a Royal artillery militia regiment. In those days candidates for commissions far exceeded the number of vacancies. Frequently there were more than six competitors for every vacancy. Frank's early life

and lack of regular school training had not fitted him for passing such hard competitive examinations. He was allowed, however, to do an attachment at our Depot, then at Hounslow. Here he attracted the attention of Major Sharpe, the O.C. Depot, and a brilliant graduate of the Staff College. He undertook to coach the attractive young Militiaman and duly got him through the examination. On being commissioned he was posted to the 1st Battalion, then serving in Southern India. With his year's service only, he was appointed A.D.C. to the G.O.C. Southern India. In 1901 he was sent, with the temporary rank of captain, for service with mounted infantry to South Africa. I was already serving with another battalion of mounted infantry. I well remember my first chance meeting with Ramsay. Always immaculately dressed, he was a noticeable figure in any company.

At the close of the South African War it was decided to amalgamate the scattered sections of mounted infantry in their own regiments. Ramsay was sent to command our company. He was an ideal mounted unit commander: the Middlesex company soon established a reputation for horsemanship and when it was decided to send a detachment of Boers as mounted infantry to Somaliland it was the Middlesex horses which were allotted to them as being the best trained in the country.

Then followed a few years of peace-time soldiering at Hounslow, Portsmouth and Devonport. At the first station Ramsay, with the assistance of Gen. de Lisle, then commanding a composite regiment of cavalry at Hounslow, was largely responsible for initiating a number of the younger officers into polo. At the last two stations he did much to stimulate their interest in hunting. At no time, however, did he allow his love of horses to deter him from being an unusually capable infantry company commander.

In 1909 he returned to South Africa as 2IC of a peace-time mounted infantry battalion.

From then onwards our ways lay in different directions. I had gone eastward and did not return for many years. I saw nothing of his meteoric career in the 1914 war, in which, after a short but brilliant excursion into the Royal Flying Corps, he became a most successful commander of a hard-fighting division.

In 1922 I paid a short visit to the brigade he commanded near Aldershot and was much impressed by the brilliancy and efficiency of his command.

On our retirement we lived for a considerable time within 10 miles of each other. I was able to shoot and ride with him and renew my early affection and admiration, the latter stimulated by the manner in which he threw himself into new interests and thereby overcame what must have been a grave disappointment in his premature retirement.

The most spectacular of these was his private riding school, in which he trained young horses without saddles or bridles, but by word of mouth.

A strong vein of family affection made the death of his father, Brigadier-Gen. Ramsay, a heavy blow. He was to suffer again when his brother, Bertie, the admiral responsible for the Navy's share in the "D" Day landing, was killed when a aeroplane in which he was flying to a conference crashed.

So passes the oldest Regular officer of our Regiment, a very lovable character, a most gallant soldier, whose great regret was that his rapid promotion prevented him from commanding one of our battalions in peace.

Frank Ramsay in his earlier days has been accused of intolerance. His intolerance was solely of inefficiency, slackness and lack of zeal. Where these evils did not exist he was always a kindly friend, ready to help his juniors from his own great store of natural gifts.

ARCHIE STEWART

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1954, AT 2.15 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollock, M.C., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major D. C. L. Nolda, Capt. K. J. Carter (representing Major A. R. Waller, M.C.), R.S.M. P. Donovan, R.S.M. E. Pike, C.S.M. R. Budden, C.Sgt. E. Dodkins, Drum-Major C. Holford, B.E.M., Mr. G. H. E. Duffield, Mr. J. R. Bell, M.B.E., Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Col. G. Beach, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O.

1. **Membership.** The Chairman informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Lt.-Col. Rooke tendering his resignation as a member of the Committee due to continuing ill health. The meeting accepted his resignation with deep regret. The Chairman said he would write to Lt.-Col. Rooke expressing the Committee's regrets and their high appreciation of his long and loyal membership.

The Chairman also informed the meeting that at an *ex officio* Committee meeting held on May 27 it was approved that Brigadier O. H. Tidbury, M.C., be invited to join the Committee of the Regimental Association.

He had received a reply from Brigadier Tidbury regretting that he could not accept the invitation for personal reasons.

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

3. **Secretary's Report.** The Secretary's report, having been circulated with the Agenda, was adopted.

Report. Grants. During the period April 1 to August 31, 1954, grants to the value of £957.7s. od. were paid in assisting 122 necessitous cases. Of this sum, £25 was received from other societies in co-operation.

The Secretary requests authority to expend a sum not exceeding £600 in assisting necessitous cases during the quarter ending December 31, 1954.

Reunion. Approximately 5,000 letters have been despatched notifying Association members of the Regimental reunion.

All local papers in the county of Middlesex have been asked to bring this event to the notice of the public. The Chairman said that the Boroughs and urban district councils have also been asked to exhibit posters at their headquarters and to date 17 have consented to do so.

Major Jones has kindly arranged to distribute posters to all drill halls under the jurisdiction of the Middlesex Territorial Association.

Query re Grants. Major Nolda asked on behalf of the O.C. 1st Battalion whether serving other ranks were entitled to assistance from the Regimental Association. The Chairman informed him that the charitable funds were available for serving as well as past members of the Regiment if recommended by the Commanding Officer.

4. **Finance Committee's Report.**

(a) Lt.-Col. Fox endorsed the Secretary's application for approval to expend a sum not exceeding £600 in assisting necessitous cases for the quarter ending December 31, 1954.

(b) He informed the meeting that a legacy for £100 had been bequeathed by the late Mrs. Annie Noakes, widow of Lt. Noakes, to be used for the benefit of blind or disabled ex-members of the Regiment. It was recommended that it be placed in the War Memorial Fund.

(c) Lt.-Col. Fox also informed the meeting that a grant of £250 was received last year from the Middlesex County Council in order to assist with the improvement of gardens and surrounding

spaces at Albuhera Close. £150 of this had already been expended and a further sum would be needed to carry out the further improvements recommended in the report submitted by the Chairman of the War Memorial Committee and detailed in Minute No. 8.

(d) He stated that Col. Beach had promised to approach the Middlesex County Council to ascertain whether there was a possibility of a further grant being made to enable these improvements to be completed.

(e) **Donations to Other Charities.** The Committee recommended for consideration of the Executive Committee that donations to other charities be as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Regular Forces Employment Association	50	0	0
Family Welfare Association	5	0	0
Royal Soldiers' Daughters Homes	8	0	0
S.S.A.F.A.	10	10	0
Forces Help Society	10	10	0
Gordon Boys' Homes	5	0	0
British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association	10	0	0

Lt.-Col. Fox moved the Finance Committee's report be adopted. Carried unanimously.

5. **Salaries of Regimental Association Staff.**

(a) The Association considered an application from the Secretary and Secretary's Assistant for a cost-of-living bonus for 1954. After discussion the meeting approved that the Secretary's salary remain at £178 per annum with £50 expenses (tax free) and that a bonus of 15 per cent. (less income tax) be made for 1954. Also that the Secretary's Assistant's salary should remain at £200, plus travelling expenses, plus a bonus of 15 per cent. for 1954 (less income tax).

(b) The meeting resolved that the salaries of the Regimental Association staff should not be based on the principle of the "rate for the job".

(c) It was approved that the following resolution be recorded in the Minutes:

"That the Committee expresses its highest appreciation of the services of the Secretary and Secretary's Assistant."

6. **Journal Committee's Report.** Major Nolda informed the meeting that he was having difficulty with the publishers because of the recommended revised numbers of the journals (i.e. three per year). He was not in a position to make a report at this meeting, but would report fully at the next.

7. **Regimental History Committee's Report.** Lt.-Col. Ellis informed the Committee that:

(a) He had met and discussed several points with the Editor.

(b) A few chapters had needed redrafting.

(c) It was hoped the History would be ready for publication in the spring.

The Committee approved that the production be left in the hands of Lt.-Col. Ellis.

8. **War Memorial Committee's Report.** In the unavoidable absence of Col. Beach the Chairman read his report.

As a result of a meeting held at Albuhera Close, attended by Col. Beach, Lt.-Col. Roberts and Major Jones, it was agreed to recommend the following improvements:

(a) **Hedge on North Boundary.** To plant a Myrobalan plum hedge interspersed with selected flowering trees at an estimated initial cost of £15.

It was agreed that Major Jones should request Enfield U.D.C. to give permission and to undertake to plant this hedge.

(b) **Gardens of Certain Properties.** It was agreed to request the local council to undertake the following work:

No. 2 (Barry): to level and turf side plot only.

No. 8 (Saunders): to level and turf front garden and half back garden.

No. 17 (Worley): to level and turf front garden.

No. 18 (Midlane): to level and turf remainder of front garden.

Major Jones was instructed to obtain estimate and order the work to proceed as soon as possible.

Major Jones was also instructed to write to tenants at No. 4 (Wildbore) reference condition of back garden and No. 5 (Barber) regarding condition of front and back gardens. On both cases tenants to be informed that the Regimental Association was not satisfied with the standard of their gardens.

Complaints. Major Jones was instructed:

(a) To write to all tenants concerning the use of the main grass plot, i.e. to be used as a playground by children of tenants only; not to be used by adults or for the playing of football.

(b) To have a notice board constructed and erected forbidding the game of football on this plot.

Labour. Lt.-Col. Roberts undertook to provide certain labourers with tools to carry out the following tasks:

(a) Clear and level access point on east side of site (between Nos. 8 and 9).

(b) Clear weeds from access point on west side of site (between Nos. 16 and 17).

(c) Clear weeds from council plot bordering Lavender Hill.

(d) Cut grass on plot of No. 3.

(e) Other specific tasks as indicated by Major Jones.

Further Meeting. It was agreed to hold a meeting of the Housing Sub-Committee in October to observe on progress.

The Regimental Association agreed to the report.

It was also agreed that the exterior painting of the cottages be commenced in October if possible or early in March if this was not practicable. It was anticipated that the cost would be between £400 and £450. Major Jones was instructed to obtain six tenders.

The Chairman of the Regimental Association, the Finance Committee and the Memorial Cottages Committee affirmed with considerable apprehension that after payments had been made for

(a) the painting of the cottages, and

(b) the garden improvements

there would be no more income lying to the credit of the Memorial Cottages Account. Future expenditure would, therefore, have to be strictly controlled.

It was agreed that the Memorial Cottages Housing Sub-Committee should co-opt experts, not members of the Regimental Association, in order to advise on technical matters.

(End of Memorial Committee's report.)

As there seemed to be some doubt as to the responsibility of the Memorial Cottages Housing Sub-Committee, Lt.-Col. Roberts, in reply to questions, stated that:

(a) The Sub-Committee is required to visit Albuhera Close at least quarterly and to make recommendations above £20 to the Regimental Association for the improvement and maintenance of the land and homes.

(b) Authority up to the sum of £20 per quarter is delegated to the Sub-Committee to act without reference.

(c) The members of the Sub-Committee are: The Chairman of the Memorial Committee (now Col. Beach), O.C. Depot (now Major Marshall), R.S.M. Depot, O.C. 7th Battalion (now Lt.-Col. Ellis), R.S.M. 7th Battalion.

(d) Meetings will be convened by the Chairman of the Memorial Cottages Committee.

(e) A member unable to attend will nominate a deputy.

Mrs. Peacock. The Secretary was instructed to acknowledge Mrs. Peacock's letter of September 9, 1954, and to request her to nominate six boroughs in the county of Middlesex in which she would like to reside. Upon receiving this information the Secretary should write to the respective Housing Committees and to various agents in order to ascertain if they could find accommodation for Mrs. Peacock.

9. **Regimental Reunion.** The Secretary reported the progress made to date. It was stated by Col. Browne that the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayors of Finchley and Hendon had been invited to attend.

Brigadier Rackham and Lt.-Col. Ellis raised the question of the entertainment of guests (such as mayors and civil dignitaries) at Regimental functions.

While they agreed with the policy of entertaining these officials, they expressed uncertainty as to how and when was the most suitable method of carrying this out.

No decision was reached and it was agreed that the matter be more fully discussed at a future meeting.

10. **Report of Meeting of ex officio Members.** This report was circulated with the Minutes of the meeting of May 27, 1954, and reaffirmed that only officers (past or present) were eligible for the chairmanship of the Regimental Association.

The Chairman informed the meeting of this decision and stated that the Colonel of the Regiment was in full agreement with this decision.

11. **Personal.** Lt.-Col. Roberts thanked all members for the loyal support they had given to the Regimental Association during the past year.

He reminded them that at the next meeting in February it would be necessary to elect a Chairman.

Owing to increasing age and indifferent health, Lt.-Col. Roberts stated that he felt that he could no longer carry out the duties of Chairman. He therefore hoped that he might be released from the

chairmanship (which he had now held for six years) and that his successor be elected next February.

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

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 23, 1955, at 2.30 p.m. at the Middlesex Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.1.

A. W. CLARK, Major,

Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.

Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
October 12, 1954.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1954, AT 4.35 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D., Major P. D. H. Marshall, Major D. C. L. Nolda, Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Col. G. Beach, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., 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. T. S. Wollock, M.C., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Capt. K. J. Carter (representing Major A. R. Waller, M.C.).

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.

Report. The sum of £445 4s. od. has been received in respect of entrance fees and subscriptions for 1954.

Fourth reminders have been sent to 20 members who have not paid their subscriptions to date.

Several National Service officers who have completed their service have resigned from membership of the Club.

The following amounts were expended during Cricket Week, etc., in connection with the following:

	£	s.	d.
Cricket	148	7	8
Dinner	60	8	0
"At Home"	8	14	6

3. **Officers' Club Dinner, 1955.** The Secretary informed the meeting that he had been offered Friday, July 8, 1955, by the United Service Club for the Officers' Club dinner.

As Lt.-Col. Ellis informed the meeting that all officers of the 7th Battalion would be at annual training in camp on that date, the Chairman informed the meeting that he would endeavour to arrange for an hotel or restaurant to accept a booking for June 17 or 24.

O.C. Depot was requested to instruct his Administrative Officer to obtain from Hyde Park Hotel, Dorchester Hotel and Grosvenor Hotel a quotation and tentative booking for either of the two dates.

The United Service Club (Senior) had no date to offer other than July 8.

4. **Grants.** The Committee approved that a donation of £5 ss. od., as recommended by the Finance Committee, be made to the Royal School for Daughters of Officers of the Army.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.45 p.m.

A. W. CLARK, Major,

Secretary, Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club.

Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
October 12, 1954.

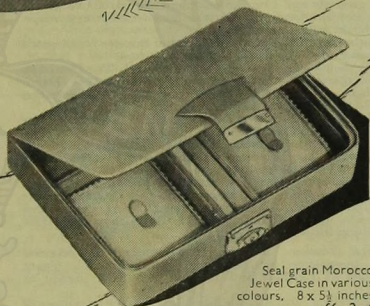
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