



THE DIE-HARDS

The Journal of
THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT
(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



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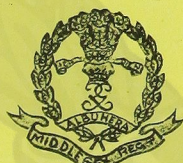
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The Die Hards

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



VOL. XII No. 1

APRIL, 1955

PRICE 1/4

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57th and 77th)
The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.
"Mysore," "Serangapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenoes," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular,"
"Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa 1900-02."
The Great War—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg,"
"Messines, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg,"
"Bellevue, 1915," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "Albert, 1916," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood,"
"Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Bapaume,"
"1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Pillcken," "Langemark, 1917," "Menin Road,"
"Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre,"
"Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Baillieu," "Kemmel," "Schepenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal
du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy,
1917-18," "Struma," "Dofran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Surva," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915,"
"Rumania," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine 1917-18,"
"Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Muran, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

Regular Battalion

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

Militia Battalions

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

Territorial Army Battalions

7th Bn. (1/7th Bn. and 2/7th Bn. amalgamated after 1939-45 War.
8th Bn. Now 11 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.).

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The Royal Rifles of Canada.

NEW ZEALAND.

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

HONG KONG REGIMENT.

British Army Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.

Colonel of the Regiment: Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall, C.B.,
M.C., D.L.
Officer Commanding 1st Battalion: Lt.-Col. J. E. F.
Willoughby, O.B.E.
Officer Commanding Depot: Major A. R. Waller, M.C.
Officer Commanding 7th Battalion: Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis,
O.B.E., I.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 TRIPPLICATE, AND BE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and signed, stating whether it is desired to
publish the contributor's name or not. Rejected manuscripts, etc., will only be returned if accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope. The
Editor will thankfully receive Contributions from past or present members of the Regiment or others interested, but necessarily reserves to himself the
right of publication. All communications concerning the paper, including Advertisements, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards"
Journal, The Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.
Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to Secretary,
Regimental Association, and crossed "— & Co."

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 5/- (Post free)



Chief Editor: Major D. C. L. Nolda

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

EDITORIAL

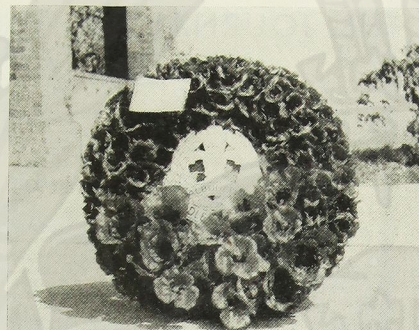
It is a happy coincidence that will bring the 1st Battalion to England this summer, in the year that will mark the 200th anniversary of the raising of the 57th Foot. It is sad, though, that the bicentenary celebrations cannot be held at home, as by December the Battalion will have taken up its new duties in Cyprus. However, those who will be with the Battalion on this historic occasion will know that the thoughts of all members of the Regiment will be with them.

As the Battalion nears the end of its present tour we are conscious of the success with which it has carried out its many duties and we share with all ranks in Austria their evident contentment and pride. We know that they will be equally successful in Cyprus.

The year 1955 is also a significant one for the Journal. It has shown a better financial position than for many years with a 50 per cent. reduction in the annual subsidy which is necessary to keep it going. It is hoped further to improve the finances of the Journal by reducing the number of issues to three this year. In addition, fresh efforts are being made to attract more advertisers, but this is largely dependent on the total number of copies sold per year. If the Journal is to be self-supporting, it must greatly increase its sales. There is still considerable room to do so in the various units of the Regiment, where, without exception, the number sold is most disappointing.

In this issue we welcome the first of what we hope will prove to be regular contributions from the Hong Kong Regiment. Of all our alliances, this one is the most alive and it is proper that the Journal should do all it can to foster the friendship between the two Regiments.

The Colonel of the Regiment and all ranks wish to convey their deepest sympathy to the relatives of the soldiers who lost their lives or were seriously injured in the tragic fire while serving with the 1st Battalion in Austria.



The wreath from the Regiment which was laid on the Memorial at Saitwan

UNVEILING OF THE SAIWAN BAY WAR MEMORIAL

Sunday, February, 1955

One of the most impressive ceremonies seen in Hong Kong since the war was held at Saitwan Cemetery, when the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, unveiled a granite Memorial to Commonwealth victims of the Pacific War.

The cemetery lies on the slope of a 1,000-foot hill, looking across the bay towards the mainland. It is a naturally picturesque setting, and the new Memorial takes the form of a shelter with a forecourt at the entrance of the War Cemetery. In the centre of the Memorial is the Stone of Remembrance. A replica of those found in Commonwealth War Cemeteries all over the world. At the far end is the Cross of Sacrifice.

In his address, the Governor said that the service commemorated the memory of 2,200 persons whose names were inscribed on the panels of the Memorial and who had no known grave, and also of 2,200 others buried in Saitwan, Stanley, and other cemeteries on the Colony, who came from all parts of the Commonwealth. Although they were of different races and creeds, they all had this in common, that they died in the cause of freedom, and in preserving their memory the free world must strive for peace.

After the unveiling and dedication, wreaths were laid on the Memorial, including one from the Regiment which bore the following inscription: "In proud remembrance of All Ranks, 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), who died in the defence of Hong Kong in the ensuing years of captivity." Later, wreaths were also laid at Stanley Cemetery, including the grave of Lt.-Col. L. A. Newnham, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), who was executed by the Japanese in 1943 and was posthumously awarded the George Cross.



Capt. Moore laying the Regimental wreath at Saitwan



Saitwan Cemetery

1st Battalion Notes

EDITORIAL

"The time has come, the Walrus said..." And round the unfortunate editor, with the finger of time laying heavy on his mind, there reigns an air of deep melancholy at his own miserable efforts to amuse and of boredom from his own half-completed and rather sketchy pot-pourri of information.

However, as only a comparative handful will bother to glance at this editorial and most will ignore it altogether, these fears are only partly justified.

TRAINING

Winter in Austria is normally a time of deep snow and a cold frost, and this year, after a very belated start, we only just managed to avoid an exception.

In late December the Battalion took to skis and tried to forget both tactics and trenches, of which we had had our share in the only exercise held last quarter—Exercise "Brass Monkey" in November. True to its title, it occasioned more meteorological remarks from frost-pinched participants than the B.B.C. could profitably use in a month. We certainly acquired to some degree the art of keeping ourselves warm when the whole of Nature was directing her energies in the opposite direction. Such learning will serve us well in the exercise to be held in March, when we act as "Aggressors" against the American Forces in Austria.

The rest of our training has been confined either to Company or ski training or numberless cadres.

The first Company to climb the long steep hill to Schmelz was "A" Company on December 28. Alas, the cable railway is not running this winter and all moves to and from Schmelz have to be carried out on foot. Other companies followed in turn and the aim

is for all companies to have completed two periods each of ten days ski instruction by the time the snow disappears. In case someone may think that a visit to Schmelz in a very cheap holiday, they should bear in mind that work there lasts as long as the light allows, and skiers are required to perform on their skis with full equipment and weapons before the end of their last ten days' training.

VISITORS

The Battalion was honoured from October 22 to 30 by a visit from the Colonel of the Regiment. Shortly after arrival he inspected the Battalion on parade, and thereafter showed an unflagging interest in all the various activities both inside and outside the Battalion. There was little left that he had not seen by the time he bade us *au revoir*. He also managed to fit in a visit to see "B" Company who were on International Guard Duty in Vienna at the time. We were all very sorry indeed when the time came for him to leave us and return to England.

On November 26 we were honoured by the first visit to the Battalion of Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador and High Commissioner for Austria, Sir Geoffrey Wallinger, K.C.M.G. His stay was all too brief, lasting only a few hours, but we were all very pleased and proud to welcome him here. He inspected the Battalion on parade and later walked round the barracks, seeing everyone at work. After lunch in the Officers' Mess he spoke to the officers on "Present-day Austria," and so interesting was he, and so absorbed his audience, that it was long after schedule that he eventually left us.

The Right Reverend Dr. Ingle, Bishop of Fulham, spent a busy 24 hours with us in January when he

conducted a Service of Confirmation at which eight members of the Garrison were confirmed. The following day he spoke to the whole Battalion in the Garrison Cinema and gave us a most interesting and entertaining talk.

Major A. R. Waller, M.C., who is commanding the Regimental Depot, came to spend a few days with us in February. He was very keen to see all the nefarious activities and deeds perpetrated by the Battalion. In particular he found the ski slopes over the week-end to be an absorbing part of our winter life. He was duly initiated into this strange sport, and on his last visit to a not-quite-so-steep slope was seen to descend with ever-increasing confidence and velocity, wisely choosing to hurt his pride on the difficult turns rather than his anatomy.

Major-Gen. R. E. Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Austria paid a lightning visit to the Garrison on February 17.

CHRISTMAS

The first signs of Christmas were heralded by a most successful Corporals' Club dance on December 11, and the tempo gradually worked up to the actual holiday, which started at mid-day on Christmas Eve. A well-supported grand tombola was held in the N.A.A.F.I. Canteen that night, and next morning a small games competition was held in the same place before lunch.

An excellent Christmas dinner was provided by Sgt. Medlock, A.C.C., and his staff. The officers, warrant officers and sergeants acted as waiters—but despite this handicap the service was amazingly speedy. The Commanding Officer gave a short but extremely effective Christmas exhortation towards the end of the meal, and declared the inter-company decoration competition to be a draw between "A" and "B" Companies.

Boxing Day witnessed an attempt at organised potted winter sports, but the festive air rapidly became too much for the contestants and judges alike. Eventually an armistice was declared and the officers, warrant officers and sergeants carried out a tactical withdrawal to the Sergeants' Mess in order to thaw out their blood-streams with some anti-freeze.

SPORT

The Battalion achieved some most encouraging sporting successes in the last few months. Neither the weather nor the unending numbers of duties have been kind to us and it is heartening to see a spirit amongst the various teams that sets out to conquer these setbacks and also succeeds.

The standard of rugby has improved a hundredfold due to the energies of Capt. H. J. Evans and Lt. J. S. B. Pollard and the wholehearted enthusiasm of all company teams. An excellent 15-a-side inter-company competition was held in October and November, the standard being amazingly high. The Battalion 1st XV were unbeaten and now await the next half of the season in order to play off the B.T.A. final against R.E.M.E./R.A.O.C. Seven of the team were selected to play for B.T.A. against Zagreb in Yugoslavia. It would have

been even more but for the short notice and time required to obtain passports.

The Battalion soccer team was slightly disappointing in that they did not finish with the comparative promise under which they started the season. They seem unable to remain in top gear all the time. We lost unexpectedly to R.A.S.C., Austria, in the Army Cup in the first round and again to the R.A.O.C. in the B.T.A. semi-finals. The B.T.A. League continues, however, and we have high hopes.

The inter-company open and novices' boxing competitions produced all the usual surprises and some very good fights. "S" Company were quite outstanding in the boxing world and won both with ease.

The ski team did more than any honest man could have forecast and might even have done better still if the team captain, Lt. M. V. Hayward, had not crocked himself a fortnight before the Army Championships. To achieve second place in the Army Unit Competition with a team of second-year skiers is nothing short of miraculous and the greatest credit rests with Lt. W. G. A. Crumley, who led the team, and all the other members. We congratulate them all most heartily, particularly Lt. Crumley and Pte. Greenwood, who finished third and fifth in the Individual Championship.

Cpl. Lowater and Pte. Greenwood have been selected for the Army team in the international individual and team patrol races.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Major J. W. G. Ormiston, who has been with the Battalion since Warley days, firstly as Battalion 21C and then commanding "S" Company, has just left to become an instructor at the Joint Services Staff College. He will be sadly missed, but we congratulate him on an excellent appointment.

Major I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., left us in December to become a student at the Joint Services Staff College after having held in turn the command of "B" Company and then the arduous post of Adjutant, an event which few subalterns are likely to forget and all ranks will miss. His successor in the adjutural chair is Major P. L. Pearce Gould, to whom we extend a very warm welcome. Major R. D. Hutchings "stood in" as Adjutant for three months during the interregnum.

Capt. B. A. M. Pielow left in early January to become Adjutant to the 7th Battalion and the lure of civilian life claimed 2/Lts. P. Walden and M. Sibley.

The whole Battalion went into mourning when R.S.M. R. Tarrant bid us all farewell on December 5. His familiar figure, outstanding personality, understanding and drive will be missed by all ranks. However, we are delighted that he has got his commission, look forward to seeing him and his family again soon and wish them all the very best of good fortune. We congratulate R.S.M. M. Wild on his promotion and look forward to a long and happy era with him in the chair, or, perhaps more correctly, on the square. *Le Roi est mort! Vive le Roi!*

The most recent arrivals are Capt. C. H. Mievville, M.C., and 2/Lts. R. Andjel, D. E. B. Haydon and M. F. Mather, whom we are delighted to have with us.

MISCELLANEOUS

There are always various items which do not lend themselves to headings and so, alas, they must be placed under this very uninspiring title.

"C" Company, and in particular C.S.M. MacMillan, are to be congratulated on winning the inter-company drill competition judged in October by the Colonel of the Regiment. Their drill, marching, turnout and steadiness on parade were outstanding. It must be added, however, that only a few very meagre points separated the first three companies, which indicates a very high standard throughout the Battalion.

"C" Company took over international guard duties in Vienna from the Americans on February 1 and "A" Company are just about to hand them over to the French. Both companies have been severely handicapped during rehearsals by the snow and ice, but the standard remains extremely high despite all adversities.

We congratulate Capt. W. M. M. Deacock and H. J. Evans and Lt. W. G. A. Crumley on their promotions and the latter on his Regular commission. We also wish well and keep our fingers crossed for Capt. G. Kent and C. H. Mievville on their recent examinations.

Finally, a word on Cyprus. Those of us who will be going with the Battalion to Cyprus in the autumn are haunted by alternate dreams of romantic ruined cities, of tents and nissen huts, of sun-baked sands and warm blue seas, of acres of mud and absence of hot water, of palm trees and temples, of barbed wire and guard rooms. But, no matter the dreams, every man in the Battalion realises that in Cyprus lies a new life, a fresh horizon and another field in which to conquer.

STOP PRESS

It has just been announced that the Battalion won the unit championship in the B.T.A. ski competition. This is a first-rate effort in any event, but particularly so as two of our leading skiers were unable to take part as they are now away ski-ing for the Army team.

Only very meagre information is available at the moment and I give it below:

TEAM EVENTS

Downhill: Battalion, 2nd; S.S.I. Blight, A.P.T.C., (attached 1st Middlesex), 1st.
Salom: Battalion equal 1st with R.E.M.E., B.T.A.; S.S.I. Blight, A.P.T.C., 1st.
Langlauf and Patrol: Battalion, 1st. By virtue of placings in Army Ski Meeting.

CLASS "A" NOVICES

Downhill: Battalion, 2nd; Pte. Harris, "A" Company, 1st.
Salom: Battalion, 3rd; Pte. Harris, "A" Company, 2nd.

CLASS "B" NOVICES

Salom: Battalion, 1st; Pte. Pease, "A" Company, 1st; Pte. Cox, "S" Company, 2nd.
Dotenhill: Battalion, 2nd.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Owing to the division of the Company into two halves we are not doing as well in the realm of sport this year as in previous years. In the Albuhera Competition "H.Q." 1 is lying third to "C" and "S" Companies, and "H.Q." 2 is sixth. Three competitions have taken place since September: The Fifteen-a-side Rugby, the Open Boxing and the Basketball. "H.Q." 1 came second in the Rugby with "H.Q." 2 sixth, a

combined Company team came second in the boxing, and "H.Q." 1 and "H.Q." 2 came fifth and fourth respectively in the basketball, a disappointment caused mainly by injury.

The Company responded surprisingly well to the appeal for Rugby players launched at the start of the season and both halves of the Company managed to find fifteens—all those who took their courage in both hands to learn the game are to be congratulated. "H.Q." 1 were favourites in the competition but lost to "B" Company in Vienna by 8 points to nil in an exciting match; we did well in the forwards but found the opposition threequarters too good for us, though Cpl. Fulton and Pte. Homer played well, and of the learners Cpl. Small and Bds. Marriot proved a useful second row. "H.Q." 2 suffered severely from injuries: C/Sgt. Wright dislocated a shoulder, Pte. Goodall cut his eye and S.S.I. Law hurt a foot, so they had to rely largely on their learners, ably guided by 2/Lt. Humber, Cpl. Elliott, Pte. Frost and Pte. Kerr. Ptes. Lakin and Driver of the M.T. and Pte. Cooper (Officers' Mess) soon learnt the game and played consistently well throughout the season.

We were unable to enter for the Novices Boxing, but a combined Company team came second in the Open—Cpl. Boreham and Pte. Downey were runners-up in the lightweight, 1st and 2nd string respectively, and Pte. Spice and L/Cpl. Robinson were 2nd string in the middleweight and heavyweight respectively; Pte. Spice also is to be congratulated on being awarded the Best Loser's Cup. In the basketball we did not do as well as usual, since many experts of the Band ("H.Q." 1) and Drums ("H.Q." 2) are no longer with us, but still we managed to win the friendly competition held over Christmas.

In Battalion sports we have been well represented: Sgt. Grogan, Cpl. Mead, L/Cpl. Young, and Ptes. Mercer, Wright, Driver and Homer have played in the Soccer XI; Capt. Evans, Lt. Pollard, Lt. Lobb, Cpl. Elliott, Cpl. Fulton, L/Cpl. Tate, and Ptes. Frost and Homer in the Rugby XV; the Bandmaster, Cpl. McCorry and innumerable bandmen in the Hockey XI, and now we seem to be doing quite well at ski-ing. Pte. Greenwood was a member of the Battalion team which came second in the Army Championships, and he himself came fifth in the Army Individuals. We also hope to see Bds. Coe and Pte. Cooper in the Battalion Novices Team for the B.T.A. Championship. Lt. Pollard, Ptes. Hopkins, Cooper and Carroll passed B.T.A. ski tests whilst at Schmelz.

There is now only the Albuhera soccer, hockey and athletics to be decided, in all of which we hope to do well. With the Company finding two teams, our chances of winning the shield are not bright this year, but at least we hope to improve our positions in the final order of merit.

SIGNAL PLATOON

Our ranks have swelled somewhat in the last three months, due mainly to the posting in of 21 new signallers at the end of the autumn cadre. We have had to say good-bye to some older members of the platoon:

L/Cpl. Durrant, Pte. Rice and the Gould twins have left us for civilian life, Pte. Anderson has gone to "B" Company as batman to Major Clayton whose wireless operator he was in Korea, Pte. Turill is with "A" Company, and Pte. Wheat is doing temporary duty as "H.Q." Company arms storeman. In spite of this we are 44 strong, though our ranks will be sadly depleted again when the Battalion moves to Cyprus—we shall have to leave behind more than half our number, including Lt. J. S. B. Pollard who, after two years as R.S.O., is going to the Depot, Sgt. Metzger who is off to seek his fortune in Canada, and many others, including Pte. Harvey, who was with the platoon in Hong Kong days.

When our October field firing with "A" Company at Schmelz was completed we returned to Zeltweg to prepare for the American Exercise, only to find it postponed until March. However, the cadre started as planned with the R.S.O., Sgt. Bailey and Cpls. Mead, Cheesman and McCorry devoting most of their time to instructing, whilst we prepared demonstrations and did an advanced cadre. There was a pause of practically a week for Exercise "Brass Monkey," an aptly named Battalion Exercise, held in country around Feldkirchen. It was a mobile scheme, so the cadre had little chance to practise their line-laying—in spite of the cold nights, we enjoyed ourselves—notwithstanding frozen charging engines, motor-bikes, wirelesses and batteries. Thank goodness we had fine weather by day and a landscape that was both beautiful and favourable to wireless communication.

The cadre finished, we were called upon to man the Schmelz signal exchange on the reopening of the camp, this time for ski-ing, and since then the platoon has been there, again with "A" Company, on a 10-day ski course. Apart from those on leave, most people seem to have got some ski-ing in—the Vienna detachment in the Vienna woods and the Zeltweg exchange, signal centre and internal security operators on the local slopes; only the unfortunate S.D.S. clerk, Pte. Harden, who sleeps by day, has yet to emerge on to the slopes. Pte. Hopkins was unlucky enough to have a nasty accident in the patrol race on the last day of our ski course, and is now in Klagenfurt hospital—we wish him a speedy recovery. Ironically enough, the previous day he passed his B.T.A. Novices test, together with the R.S.O. and Pte. Cooper—Pte. Poole had bad luck, failing over "the bumps" and Cpl. Small and Pte. Lyons were cheated by injury. However, Pte. Greenwood is the real star of the platoon on the ski slopes—he has been at Schmelz since the finish of the cadre and is a member of the Battalion Patrol Team that is doing so well this year. We wish him a place in the Army team and further success—perhaps the 1956 Olympics.

In other sports we have done quite well: Cpl. Mead and L/Cpl. Young play regularly in the Battalion soccer XI, the R.S.O. and Cpl. Fulton play in the rugby XV, whilst Cpls. Turner and Small have played for the 2nd XV. Cpl. Mead and Pte. Baker play rugby for the Company and Ptes. Lyons, Mendoza and Poole have all played in their company teams, so we hope to build up the Platoon XV once more. Cpl. McCorry plays on the

wing for the Battalion hockey XI and Cpl. Small and Pte. Lyons play basketball for the Company. In the realm of shooting, Cpl. McCorry and Ptes. Howlett and Pearlman return consistently good scores in the monthly competition and Cpls. Turner and Small shoot in the Company 22 team, which is already in the final of the B.T.A. competition. Pte. Pearlman also showed himself to be a keen boxer in the inter-company competition.

We must congratulate Sgt. Metzger, Cpls. Fulton, Small and Hunt and L/Cpls. Young, Pritchard and Coleman on their promotions. Cpls. Fulton and Hunt are at present at Hythe on an R.S.I.s' course and must be further congratulated for passing in with 85 and 77 per cent. respectively. Lt. W. G. A. Crumley goes to Hythe on the next course in May and joins the Platoon "to learn the trade" as soon as his ski-ing is over; no doubt he will take over from the present R.S.O. in U.K. Ptes. Merton and Garrett are at present on the Battalion potential N.C.O.s' cadre, which keeps them well up to the mark. Pte. Fuller is perhaps the most over-worked member of the Platoon—R.S.O.'s batman and Battery Storeman—but Pte. Moore at Schmelz and Pte. Wootton in the Stores would no doubt disagree.

Finally, welcome to Mrs. Mead, who has just arrived in Zeltweg on the last train to bring families out, and congratulations to L/Cpl. and Mrs. Pritchard on the birth of a son.

M.T. Platoon

During the past four months the Platoon has lost a great many of its older stalwarts. Outstanding among our losses was the departure of C/Sgt. Wright on promotion. He had served with the Platoon as Technical Sergeant or Platoon Sergeant for so long that it seemed impossible that there could be an M.T. Platoon without him. We miss his quiet sense of humour in the office and his wealth of experience in all matters concerned with transport.

Sgt. Hope has left to go to the Depot and Cpl. Pitcher has returned to the R.E.M.E. Depot to await a new posting. Our good wishes go with them, as they do with all other members of the Platoon who have recently departed on posting or release.

Cpl. Pitcher had been attached to the Battalion since 1948 and we shall not only miss him personally, but also his ingenuity and improvisation on the next U.S. manoeuvres.

The quarter has been relatively quiet in as much as the weather has cut down the number of schemes, but the Platoon has been kept busy putting their house in order for the spring manoeuvres and preparing for the annual inspection. Painting and cleaning are now the order of the day and the barrack rooms are swiftly becoming unrecognisable under this shock treatment.

We congratulate Sgts. Milner and Adams and L/Cpls. Buckley and Adams on their well-deserved promotions.

Band

Since September several of our members have left military life to become civilians. We say goodbye to L/Cpl. "Red" Holt, to Bds. "Turkey" Dawson and to Bds. Duncan, all of whom have purchased

their discharge. Bds. Peapell, the "Old Gentleman," completed his service with us and is now in Civvy Street.

As replacements we have Bds. Rosenberg and Arnott, both pianists. There has been some skirmishing around the solitary piano, but Bds. Burleigh displayed a Napoleonic sense of strategy by moving into the Band Stores, where the piano is kept. He is therefore sitting pretty—to wit, at the piano.

Royal Military School of Music. L/Cpl. Christopher has returned from R.M.S.M., Kneller Hall, bringing with him a wife, Alicia, whom we welcome, and a shocking line of patter, which is still as unwelcome as it was when he left. Bds. Lester and Carson went to Kneller Hall in September. There have been loud complaints from Lester about the amount of spit and polish deemed necessary there.

Student Bandmaster Bentley has refused the North Staffs Regimental Band, we are told. Perhaps he has no taste for another stay in Hong Kong. He is said to be waiting for a kilted band. Having seen him in jungle green shorts, we can hardly wait to see him in a kilt. Student Bandmaster Bayton has passed his War Office examination. We will not give you the full title, because we cannot remember it, but it sounds quite awe-inspiring.

Since the news came out that our next station is Cyprus, we have been showered with propaganda assuring us that the place is the original Garden of Eden, with all modern conveniences, of course. There is ski-ing there, at Troodos, but we seem to remember hearing a friend lamenting the number of bone-snapping tree stumps lurking just beneath the surface of the snow.

Bds. Aburrow borrowed much money from the Regimental Institute in order to buy himself a new tenor saxophone, gorgeously gold lacquered. The P.R.I. will be drawing Aburrow's pay for the next year or so.

Bds. Evans—greatest menace since the emergence of the "Yellow Peril," a persistent messer-about of every electrical appliance that he finds unguarded—has, we gather, fallen in love. Anyway, he now has a parting in the shock of hay he calls his hair, and he seems quieter.

That is all for the present. May we say goodbye from the Band quarters, thought by many to be the land of the lout-eaters.

"There is sweet music here that softer falls,
Than petals from blown roses on the grass."

Corps of Drums

At the end of the year we had to say a fond farewell to three old members of the Corps of Drums, Ptes. Sweetman, Palmer and Palmer, and we wish them the best of luck in civilian life. They had put in excellent service with us and they will be hard to replace.

We took part in the service at Klagenfurt on Remembrance Sunday and marched past with the combined units stationed there. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded at the cemetery.

With the rest of the Battalion we took part in Exercise "Brass Monkey," carrying out our operational role of C.O.'s escort and Battalion H.Q. defence platoon. We also found our feet under winter warfare conditions.

After this exercise we settled down to some serious practice prior to going on leave. At last came that magic morning of December 22, when many a man was heard to say, "How nice and peaceful now the Drums are on leave." No sooner was leave finished than we were again required in Vienna for the International Guard change with "C" Company and, according to all accounts, acquitted ourselves to everyone's satisfaction.

"A" COMPANY

If we are to believe that variety is the spice of most people's lives, then life in "A" Company for the past three months must surely be described as "piquant." We have for the most part indulged in a life of such varied activity that having now settled in Vienna, which is at once the military haven for the mildly indolent and the social haven for the faintly excessive, life and its inevitable routine seem comparatively monotonous.

Since the last issue of this Journal we have been well-busied by Zeltweg, well-bruised by Schmelz and spreadeagled by Christmas, not to mention our recent return to and revival of Vienna. Zeltweg kept us well occupied with those little fatigues which make life run so smoothly except for those that have to do them. The guard room became a familiar sight to the Company—in a dutiful capacity, that is—and we were lucky/unlucky enough to provide the guard on Christmas Day. Cpl. Silley, with only four days to serve in B.T.A. and anxious not to forget too soon what the army was like, volunteered to command the guard that day. When duties allowed, we knuckled down to some serious training and to a large extent concentrated on night work. Nights spent in the hills are seldom wasted, though someone should explain to a certain composite force of enemy that *Gasthaus* is not necessarily a pseudonym for "assembly area."

During the turn of the year several men of the Company attended a drill and duties cadre and returned to the Company later in the proud possession of flat feet, sore throats, and stripes. L/Cpl. Wheat and L/Cpl. Weatherall should particularly be congratulated on obtaining "B" Grading.

Exercise "Brass Monkey" was comparable to a bad dream; painful to experience but easy to laugh at afterwards. The climate might conceivably have been a little cooler in the polar regions at the time, but not by much. The decidedly unmilitary weather reports which floated over the night air from time to time bore much evidence of this. However, despite the lack of heat and sleep, there was little lack of spirits and energy at the appropriate moments. Although half the Company would by now be firmly installed in the roll of honour as a result of a desperate charge on the third day, we were not entirely unsuccessful in making the enemy feel a little cut-up about events. One afterthought—who borrowed the blankets?

The last few months have witnessed the departure of many old members of "A" Company. We were more than sorry to see C.S.M. Wild disappear, though in his new appointment as R.S.M. there is not a man in the Company who does not wish him all the luck he deserves. He was a personal loss to the Company

in that he had been with us since early Worley Barrack days, when he took over from C.S.M. Cooper. His successor, to whom we extend our welcome and almost immediately bid farewell is C.S.M. Goodge. He, alas, departs to the 7th Battalion in early March.

Three N.C.O.s who had been with us for quite a while, departed this Austrian life and returned to the Depot to a life of instruction and dearer cigarettes. They were C/Sgt. Breame, Sgt. Muirhead and Cpl. Linzell. Good luck to them in their new jobs. Not long afterwards we lost Cpl. Butcher, Ptes. Clarke (45), Pettitt, Thomason, Hill and Smith (94) to the Administrative Unit, Klagenfurt, where we trust they are upholding the reputation of "A" Company with the sweat of their brows.

Civilian life also claimed its usual toll of victims and leading that band of happy slackers was 2/Lt. P. A. Walden. He came to us quite a few months ago and directed most of his energy to play acting and cross country. We are sorry to see him go and trust his future will produce as many laughs as his presence did for us.

A very stout pillar of the Company faded away when L/Cpl. Bond left his typewriter and returned to England to try his hand at the bar (the legal one). Cpl. Silley followed swiftly on his heels, and with him went Pte. Graham, who nearly prolonged his service yet further when he found his kit didn't quite match his documents. Anyway, the ending was happy enough and he faded away in the appropriate style without further delay.

2/Lt. M. Nornworthy has left us for a while, as have also a few aspirants to N.C.O.-ship, for the purpose of instructing and instruction.

On December 21 "Reluctant Heroes" was launched on the stage of the Globe Cinema. The Company was well represented in this, providing the producer, most of the actors, and the scene shifters. It was a far greater success that we had dared hope for, in spite of the rather recent and slightly superior predecessor on the London stage!

Our sport is best left unmentioned. It has not been successful, though it was not from lack of trying. The rugby team did quite well, but the games it lost were due almost entirely to lack of tackling, for which there is no excuse. The football team won as many games as it lost and our novice boxers showed a fair amount of promise. Our greatest success was probably in the potted sports at Christmas when the Company rapidly became uncontested, its immovability doubtless originating from the recent festivities.

We must extend a word of welcome to the newcomers of the Company—to Capt. C. H. Mieville, M.C., who came to fill the vacant post of 2IC Company and who, during Major Allott's leave, commanded the Company. Although a newcomer to the ski-slopes a few weeks ago, he is far from being a novice now; and 2/Lt. M. Mather who joined us from the Depot in January—to C/Sgt. Dodkins who took over from C/Sgt. Breame after a year or two of toil and tribulations at the Depot. For some time now the Company has been under strength, but recent reinforcements have furnished us with our full complement.

One addition to the Company we have not mentioned, and for this addition our warmest congratulations go to Major and Mrs. Allott, to whom a son was born on November 24, 1954. We feel he is already destined for a military career, but he has got a few years still to go before the Army try to make him decide.

After a double fortnight's ski-ing holiday at Schmeltz, where most people had to choose between hurting their pride or themselves, the Company advance party moved to Vienna and proceeded to make the living quarters habitable for the main party, who followed them up two days later on February 4. With the experience of previous visits behind them, the Company soon settled into the routine. This time we have the added duty of the International Guard at the Allied Control Building. The next change-over on March 1 is our immediate task, for which much military preparation is being made. We hand over to the French then. At the moment our long-service men and our latest arrivals are conjuring up dreams of Cyprus, while the rest of us have already almost run out of dreams of mid-July and home.

"B" COMPANY

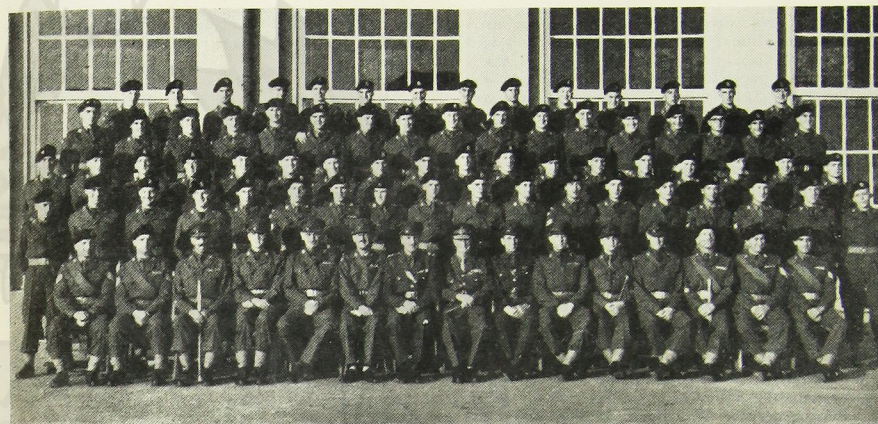
The last quarter can be divided roughly into four parts: our last month in Vienna, which included the visit of the Colonel of the Regiment and handing over International Guard duties to the French; Christmas and the New Year, with the majority of the Company on U.K. leave; Schmeltz and ski training; the arrival of most welcome reinforcements and field training prior to the U.S. exercise to be held in early March.

We were delighted to welcome the Colonel of the Regiment to Vienna for his three-day visit and we hope that he enjoyed himself as much as we enjoyed having him with us. He showed the greatest interest in all he saw and certainly did not let the grass grow under his feet. Whilst he was with us he judged the Company in the Battalion drill competition and appeared to be pleased with what he saw. Alas, we ended up a very close second to "C" Company, to whom we lift our hats for achieving what we honestly conceived to be the impossible.

The Company photograph, taken immediately after the competition, is interesting in that it included four old "B" Company Commanders: Major Chattey (now Battalion 2IC), Major Burrows (the then Adjutant), Major Hutchings (the present Adjutant) and Major Clayton. It only goes to show that the dear old "Kremlin" just could not survive without the active support of the Company in training its *elite*.

The guard change with the French took place on All Souls' Day, November 2, and, for some obscure reasons, the Band and Drums were not allowed to give their customary concert before the change, nor were they allowed to play us on to the parade ground to the Company favourite, "Roses Von werthersee." However, the parade went without a hitch and the slow march past was again acclaimed by the Russian G.O.C., who evidently has not been promoted to the supreme command of the Siberian salt mines as a result of his previous hand clap.

The Vienna Garrison athletics team, strongly reinforced by Battalion athletes, trounced both the



"B" Company in Vienna, after the Drill Competition, photographed with the Colonel of the Regiment and the Commanding Officer

American and French teams in a triangular competition held in October. The British produced the winner and runner-up in nearly every event and Pte. Robinson ("D" Company) won both 800 and 1,500 metres by the proverbial street; in fact, he lapped both Americans in the latter event.

We were more than grateful to the Vienna Garrison educational staff for their intensified efforts to educate the Company. They achieved excellent results: Sgt. Callaghan (to his own amazement!) managed to get that elusive second and 14 others wangled their thirds, with a further 15 passing their oral tests.

Perhaps our greatest achievement in Vienna, in that it was so unexpected, was the winning of the Albuhera inter-company 15-a-side Rugby competition with five wins and a draw. Two-thirds of the team had never played before, but, despite injuries and postings, they managed to pull out what was required on every occasion. The best effort was the 8-0 win against "H.Q." 1, who were hot favourites and bulging with Battalion and B.T.A. players. These successes were due largely to the enthusiasm and example of Major R. D. Hutchings and Cpl. Dixon.

The Company soccer and hockey teams also distinguished themselves in the Vienna Garrison leagues. We have some very promising players in both games and look forward to the Albuhera competition with hope and confidence, despite the fact that many of our star turns have left us on release and posting.

We were extremely sad to lose our 2IC, Major Hutchings, in November, but congratulate him on becoming Adjutant. We know this appointment is only a stop-gap one and we sincerely hope that he will be back again with us soon. Capt. B. A. M. Pielow replaced Major Hutchings as Company 2IC and did yeoman work during his two and a half months with us. We are delighted that his talents have not gone unobserved, as

he has now left us to become Adjutant of the 7th Battalion, but, all the same, we are most sorrowful at losing him and his family. We wish them the best of luck and hope to see them again when we return to U.K. in July.

On return to Zeltweg in early December our numbers were decimated by leave; many were overdue owing to Vienna duties. However, those of us who were left had a truly festive Christmas and New Year and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking Sgt. Medlock, A.C.C., and his staff for the right royal Christmas dinner that they produced and for all the extra hard work they put in on behalf of the Company and the Battalion. We certainly appreciated the results of their toil. Ptes. Briggs and Anderson, after obtaining official sanction, took over a barrack room in the block, formed a committee and working party and set about organising an evening banquet on Christmas night. As a result the Company spent a first-rate evening in a well-decorated room with plenty of "personal anti-freeze," music and good food. They are to be congratulated on their efforts and we hope that their idea has come to stay.

The results of the novices' and inter-company boxing competitions were disappointing compared to last year, when we won them both. Admitted that they came at an awkward time just after Vienna and before Christmas and that unavoidably the dates were changed; however, we feel that our collective efforts leave much to be desired and we will let the matter rest at that. The only saving grace in this instance was the efforts of the individual. Cpl. Westfall and Pte. Hatchett put up excellent performances in winning their weights in the novices' competition. Pte. Hall also did very well to win the best loser's prize, whilst 2/Lt. "John L. Sullivan" Higton won his novices' semi-final with the most perfect knock-out imaginable. Alas, in doing so he damaged his thumb and thereby deprived us of a

humdum final with Cpl. Westfall. In the inter-company competition, when most of our acknowledged boxers were declared medically unfit to box, Cpl. Westfall did well to finish as runner-up in the light heavies and Pte. Briggs, a last-minute substitute, put up a very courageous fight against an obviously superior boxer.

So far we have spent 10 days ski-ing at Schmelz and we look forward to our next spell there in about three weeks' time. Our first few days were spent on the nursery slopes learning to slow down (to stop would be an exaggeration!) and to carry out elementary (and sometimes painful) turns. Soon, however, the light (slightly shaded, perhaps) came to most of us and we were taken to the Winterleiten hut and subjected to the tender mercies of the so-called beginners' run and the Sterngrasse. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and are most grateful for the help and assistance given to us by our expert Austrian ski instructors. We are very pleased that Lt. Crumley, a novice from last year, has been selected for the Battalion ski team and is now taking part in the Army Championships at Bad Gastein. We also congratulate 2/Lt. Highton and Ptes. Jarvis and Debley on being selected for further training as potential entries in the B.T.A. Novices' Championships at the latter end of February.

Our .22 shooting team has been doing excellently in practice, but, alas, has not brought home the bacon yet in the B.T.A. monthly shoot. Now that the gaps made by leave are closing, we think we will make the grade and qualify for the finals.

The U.S. exercise to be held in March is looming close and we have at least 70 per cent. new faces in the Company since our last exercise. Therefore our energies are being devoted to field training, despite the rather inclement weather. We have no doubt whatsoever that the Company will do its stuff in no mean manner and we look forward to the exercise with pleasant anticipation.

We congratulate Sgt. Ford, Cpls. Dixon, Donnelly, Westfall and Conway and L/Cpls. Tarry, Aylward, Newland and Windsor on their well-deserved promotions and we bid sad *adieu* to 2/Lt. J. M. A. Talbot on posting to "C" Company and all those well-known faces who have left on release or posting. We welcome 2/Lt. D. E. B. Haydon and the new draft to the Company.

"C" COMPANY

We sit down to write these notes at Schmelz. The Company came here on February 10 and for the next few days our chief aim in life is to learn to ski. The snow is in excellent condition, the Austrian instructors are eager and already some of us are beginning to overcome the first disappointment of discovering our inability to move over the snow with skis.

Plodding up snowy slopes and living at approximately 5,000 ft. make a man pretty exhausted and as we relax in the evenings we are in the mood to look back over the last four months and review our achievements and our disappointments.

As far as "C" Company is concerned, the chief events during the last four months have been inter-company rugger, basket ball, boxing and drill com-

petition, also our tour of duty in Vienna, which culminated in the International Guard change on February 1.

In the sporting world we are disappointed in our performance on the rugger field. In spite of the hard work and unbounded enthusiasm of C/Sgt. (now C.S.M.) Thorogood, we came fourth. The Company was represented by 2/Lts. McManus and Sibley, Sgt. Hartard (who parted company with a piece of one ear in the course of a game), Cpls. McIntosh, Lowater and Roche, Ptes. Green, Harper, Tippetts, Penfold, Harrison, Grainger and other stalwarts.

At basket ball we were more successful and won the league. The high degree of skill introduced by Sgt. Potter and the efforts of 2/Lt. Sibley, Cpls. McIntosh and Norris, Ptes. Goodwin and Bentley and other enthusiasts produced a team of which we were all proud. However, in Vienna on two occasions the French Army team easily outclassed us and showed us we had a lot to learn. Our defeats at the hands of the French were compensated by the two very good social and gay evenings.

Both the novices' and the open boxing competitions took place while the Company was in Vienna. We sent back some bold representatives, but Pte. Green was the only one to win his weight, winning the open heavyweight title. 2/Lt. McManus and Sibley, L/Cpl. Harrison and others did their best, but only collected bruises.

The inter-company drill competition was taken by C.S.M. McMillan as a personal challenge, and it was clear he was only prepared to accept first place. All ranks were roused by his determination and achieved victory on the day.

On November 30 the Company moved to Vienna. The sophisticated life of a large city after rural Zeltweg was a welcome change for us all and we soon settled down to the routine of Vienna Garrison. The celebrations for Christmas and the New Year were of a high order and all ranks were delighted with the arrangements for our enjoyment. An excellent Christmas dinner, two all ranks' dances and other events were shared with the members of Vienna Garrison. However, on the evening of Boxing Day we held a Company smoker and sing-song, which was strictly confined to "Die-Hards."

During January our endeavours were mainly directed towards the International Guard change on February 1, when we took over duties from the Americans. The only interruption to our normal routine was an exercise run by H.Q. Vienna Garrison, which appeared to us to be somewhat confused, but no doubt was of value to those chiefly concerned. Towards the end of January life was dominated by the preparations for the parade and we all got to know well the officers and men of the American guard, both on the parade ground and socially. February 1 was a dull and mild day and the International Guard change was carried out satisfactorily. 2/Lt. Andjel carried the Regimental Colour, the first time ever by a National Service officer in the Battalion.

Whilst in Vienna 2/Lt. Andjel arranged a series of visits to the many places of historical interest in the city. Luxurious palaces, priceless art collections, crown jewels,

and so on, all provided attraction, but it is unanimously agreed that the crypt under St. Stephen's Cathedral was the greatest attraction of all, with enormous piles of human bones, representing something like 20,000 skeletons.

The last few months have witnessed inevitably the departure of familiar faces. Major Dawson left us in November to attend a course at the Senior Officers' School and is now back, but commanding "H.Q." Company. C.Q.M.S. Thorogood left us in January, but our regret at his departure was compensated by his promotion to W.O.2. Sgt. Hartard, after a brief but successful and useful career in the Army, has gone to South Africa, where we all hope he will be equally successful as a civilian. Arrivals in the Company include Major Bennett, 2/Lt. Andjel from Eaton Hall, 2/Lt. Talbot from "B" Company, C/Sgt. Wright from M.T., and Sgt. Edey. The reinforcements who joined us recently include some bright faces and we are optimistic about the future. Amidst all this change C.S.M. McMillan remains as the only really permanent feature of our Company life. He is quite undaunted and very quickly instils the spirit of "Shiny C" into all the new arrivals.

SUPPORT COMPANY

Major J. W. G. Ormiston, who has commanded the Company for the last eight months, was suddenly taken ill on New Year's Eve, had a three-week spell in hospital, and is now on local sick leave, prior to leaving the Battalion on February 23 to become an instructor at the Joint Services Staff College. His leadership in the Company and on cricket and hockey fields will be sadly missed. We welcome Major V. A. Thomas, M.C., as our new Company Commander.

We bade good-bye to 1954 in a veritable blaze of glory as we won the novices boxing competition with ease and romped home in the inter-company boxing competition with ten winning finalists out of eleven. We thank Sgt. Redmond and Pte. O'Rawe for their hard work in training our novices and Company team—it was a job well done.

We enjoyed our tea in bed on Christmas morning and did full justice to the magnificent Christmas dinner provided for us.

Our .22 shooting team has not yet come up to expectations, or at any rate to Support Company's standard of last year. Still there is yet time for us to qualify for the final and put "H.Q." Company in the shade.

The 100 yards range has seen a lot of us and great improvement is visible, not only in scores but also in weapon handling.

The Anti-Tank Platoon has deserted us for the idle life of Vienna, where they are helping out "A" Company. They will be away for some two months and will, alas, miss the U.S. manoeuvres in March.

The Company is well represented on the Battalion potential N.C.O.s' cadre with ten potential field-marshals. They seem to be having an interesting and busy time, judging from the noise issuing from the cadre room. They have our fullest confidence and we wish them every success.



SUPPORT COMPANY BOXING TEAM
Winners of Battalion Open Competition

Back row (left to right): Pte. Dollard (bantamweight winner), Pte. Shepherd (3rd string welterweight winner), Sgt. Redmond (Company coach), Pte. Wadmore (2nd string welterweight winner), Pte. Ball (1st string lightweight winner), Pte. Blackwell (2nd string lightweight winner).

Front row (left to right): Pte. Sullivan (2nd string middleweight winner), Pte. O'Rawe (1st string middleweight winner), Major J. W. G. Ormiston (Company Commander), Pte. Petrie (1st string welterweight winner), Pte. Kent (light heavyweight winner).

It is always sad to say good-bye to any one, but particularly so in the case of three such stalwarts as Ptes. York, Bell, and Downey. The former was always a tower of strength in the cricketing world and, of course, Bell, in addition to being Company Clerk, was the automatic choice as Company and Battalion scorer (and mascot).

We welcome all new arrivals, who seem to have settled down remarkably quickly.

MORTAR PLATOON

During the last quarter the Platoon has slowly been losing some of its old mortar-men, and by the next issue of these notes we shall be left with the proverbial two men and a dog. Sgt. Power has left us for Malta, where we believe he will still have something to do with Support Company, Sgt. Walters is off to the 7th Battalion, L/Cpls. Jakeman and Jones cannot be prevailed upon to stay, and Capt. W. M. Deacock is off to don his red beret once again. At the moment we await 2/Lt. T. J. Humber, who will return fresh from his course ready to run cadres and form a new platoon for Cyprus. We congratulate Cpl. Green on his second stripe and a most excellent "C" at Nether-avon.

Capt. W. M. Deacock and Cpl. Green represented the British element in the athletics meet in Vienna, and some of our taller men have had the honour and pleasure of being attached to the duty company in Vienna.

The only times that the Platoon has been together, have been for Exercise "Brass Monkey" and the skiing at Schmelz. "Brass Monkey" taught the Platoon

how to keep warm and how to keep the wheels rolling—anybody who was unable to learn these two essentials must have been most uncomfortable indeed! The battle procedure of advance to contact was practised, modified, and in some cases improved upon. The communications battle was also partially won, by creating intricate nets of sets and stealing other people's frequencies. At least our rear link net never failed to receive the magic words "tea's up" loud and clear!

For the first time in Austria the Platoon had the opportunity of undergoing a ski course. Previously the only training was that sneaked between duties whilst the Platoon was administering Schmelz last year. This has meant that the instructors have had to eradicate the faults that have been self taught, and start again. We feel flattered that Ptes. Fletcher, Cox and Bradley have been selected as potential Battalion novice entries for the B.T.A. ski championships. The remainder of the Platoon are slightly battered but none the worse for wear, and looking forward to the coming American manoeuvres. Capt. W. M. Deacock is again up at Schmelz as Camp Commandant, but the Platoon looks forward to being reunited and "in action" shortly.

MACHINE-GUN PLATOON

Towards the end of November we started a cadre which, after numerous interruptions, finished at the beginning of January. Sgt. Young once again being the chief instructor.

Congratulations to the boxers of the Platoon, all of whom did so well in the novices and open boxing competitions. Ptes. Spurge and Smith (86) have spent the whole of the winter at Schmelz with their Platoon commander training for the ski championships. Pte. Spurge has improved beyond all recognition and was one of our chief hopes in the Army downhill and slalom. However, he had the worst possible luck in the downhill race and sprained his ankle. He has very nobly put back the date he is to leave B.T.A. for demob, so that he can take part and represent the Battalion in the B.T.A. championships.

The whole Platoon was at Schmelz on ski training from January 30 to February 10. It was a most enjoyable interlude. Pte. Castle had the bad luck to break his leg, but he is now recovering in the B.M.H.

Congratulations to Sgt. Clarke on his promotion to Sergeant; it is with regret that even that did not persuade him to change his mind and sign on for a further period. We are due to lose a lot of people in the next few months, and Sgt. Young can be seen walking about with a dotted line ready for them to sign on.

At the end of this month we say good-bye to some of our old hands: Cpl. McDonnell, Ptes. Spurge, Holmes, Smith (86), and Lloyd. We wish them all the best of luck in Civvy Street.

On November 24 a six-a-side knock-out tournament was held at Zeltweg. Ten teams entered and the winners were "H.Q." (represented by the Band), who beat "A" Company 2, 3-0, in the final.

The season ended with home and away fixtures against No. 12 Wireless Squadron (from Graz), who we defeated each time by 4-1.

These notes would not be complete without mention of the departure of R.S.M. Tarrant on his well-deserved promotion. He has been a stalwart member of the Battalion team for many years and has helped to turn the tide in many a grim battle. People come and go, but he seemed to be the sheet anchor of the team. To say that he will be difficult to replace is an understatement, and I know that all hockey players will join me in wishing him good fortune in his new appointment, and, most of all—good hockey!

Other members of the Battalion team who have left us recently are Cpl. Silley, Bdsn. Duncan and Bdsms. Dawson. We wish them success in their chosen career, and hope that they find the opportunity to continue the sport of their choosing.

RUGBY

The first half of the rugby season passed all too quickly, due in part to the condition of the ground, which delayed the start of the season until early October and brought it to an abrupt close in late November.

October was devoted to the inter-company Albuhera 15-a-side league, which was won by "B" Company, the duty company in Vienna, with "H.Q." 1 second; "A" Company, being the numerically weakest company at the time, were given noble assistance by "D" Company, but no company found it easy to field a full team for each round. "H.Q." Company had two teams to find, "S" Company were handicapped by injuries and Schmelz commitments and "C" Company by leave. Also many established players were not with us: "A" Company missed 2/Lt. I. M. E. Lloyd in the forwards, "B" Company were without Lt. W. G. A. Crumley, whilst "H.Q." Company found L/Cpl. Tate, last year's B.T.A. and Battalion scrum half, practically irreplaceable until Cpl. Fulton filled the gap so nobly. "S" Company lost Pte. Kent through injury and Cpl. Green was away at Netheravon. "C" Company were the hardest hit by injuries of any company. It is very much to the credit of the captains of the company teams and to all those who came forward to learn the game that the competition was such a success, producing as it did a surprisingly high standard of Rugby football. "B" Company won the competition with five wins and a draw; they started as rank outsiders, but proved themselves to be a good all-round team with strong outsiders. The competition aroused great interest in the Battalion and, contrary to expectations, went with a swing. It is hoped that 15-a-side Company Rugby has come to stay.

The B.T.A. knock-out competition took place in November with the Battalion entering two teams without difficulty; in fact, as a result of the company rugby competition, there were so many players to pick from that places in the 2nd XV were keenly fought for. As a preliminary a weakened Battalion XV played R.A.S.C. (Austria) in a friendly match and won by a convincing margin, 26-0. Sgt. Lewis (R.A.S.C.), Cpl. Green and Pte. Homer were outstanding in a good three-quarter line. In the first round of the competition the first team travelled to Klagenfurt to play Royal Signals (Austria), who had defeated us last year in both the knock-out and the seven-a-side, but we could only draw somewhat

unconvincingly 6-6, 2/Lt. M. Norsworthy dropping a goal some five minutes before no side. The three-quarter line were very ragged, Sgt. Lewis having left us the previous week for civilian life. On the same day the 2nd XV, captained by 2/Lt. T. J. Humber, entertained a combined R.A.M.C./R.E. (Austria) team at Zeltweg and secured a convincing win by 20-0; L/Cpls. Tarry and Harrison and Pte. Whiting were outstanding in a good team. In the first round replay the 1st XV beat Royal Signals (Austria) 6-3 in extra time at Zeltweg on a pitch that one hour before the kick-off was waterlogged. In the mud bath that ensued the Battalion forward rushes proved the winning factor, though Sgt. Hartard and L/Cpl. Newland played well in the backs. It is impossible to single out any Battalion forward for praise, as all played well and were quite unrecognisable after half-time. However, Capt. H. J. Evans showed that he had lost none of his old skill in two years at the Depot and 2/Lt. R. Andjel proved a useful reinforcement.

In the semi-final of the B.T.A. knock-out our two teams were unfortunately drawn against each other at Zeltweg; the first team, though without Capt. Evans, through injury, and Sgt. Hartard, who we were all very sorry to see leave the Battalion the day after the Signals replay, won an exciting match 6-5, Pte. Saunders kicking a penalty within seconds of no side. This was not a happy match for the first team, who may have been somewhat stale, but had no excuse for the way the second team showed them up. Major R. D. Hutchings, who captained the 2nd XV, played his usual robust game and was without doubt the most effective forward on the field. The first team, having narrowly scraped its way through in a rather unconvincing manner, had then to meet the R.E.M.E./R.A.O.C. team in the B.T.A. final, but early frost postponed our meeting until the second half of the season in March.

With Rugby in B.T.A. over for 1954, eight players from the Battalion visited Zagreb, Yugoslavia, on a three-day tour with the B.T.A. team to play the Mladost Club. This was the first visit by any foreign Rugby side to Yugoslavia and a great fuss was made of us; only the one fixture was played, but that before 10,000 people in the People's Stadium, which is usually used for soccer; in fact, the rugby uprights were merely screwed to the football posts and the try line was 5 yards in front of the posts! The game was on the third day of the tour, and after two days of receptions, students' balls and sightseeing tours we were none too fit, but, after all, it was fair for both sides, as our hosts came too. Imagine our surprise, however, when 15 completely different students appeared before us on the pitch. In spite of all this, we managed to win by a narrow margin, 14-11, though our opponents were fit and fast with plenty of fight; their woollen shirts made scrummaging memorable for the front row. Their knowledge of the game is good, though they tend to forget the offside rule and they are very keen to learn. Considering their previous fixture had been with Belgrade, whom they discovered play French 13-a-side league (and yet still they drew 9-9), they gave us a very good game.

We now look forward to the start of the second half of the season in March, when we shall be returning the

hospitality of the Yugoslavs, playing off the final of the B.T.A. knock-out competition, running our own inter-company seven-a-side competition and entering the Battalion team in the B.T.A. and, perhaps, the B.A.O.R. sevens. We fear we may lose some stalwarts before then: Capt. Deacock, Lt. Lobb and 2/Lt. McManus are due to go on courses and Lt. Crumley may still be ski patrolling somewhere. However, the will to win is there and there is plenty of talent, both exploited and as yet untried.

The Battalion team for the first half of the season was as follows: Pte. Green ("C"), L/Cpl. Newland ("B"), 2/Lt. M. Norsworthy ("A"), Pte. Rayner ("C"), L/Cpl. Harrison ("C"), Cpl. Dixon ("B"), L/Cpl. Tate ("H.Q."), 2/Lt. A. E. McManus ("C"), Lt. J. S. B. Pollard ("H.Q."), Capt. H. J. Evans ("H.Q.") (captain), Capt. W. M. Deacock ("S"), Pte. Saunders ("D"), 2/Lt. R. Andjel ("C"), Lt. Lobb ("H.Q."), Cpl. Elliott ("H.Q.") B.T.A. team to Zagreb.

Also played: 2/Lt. P. E. Highton ("B"), Sgt. Hartar ("C"), Sgt. Lewis ("D"), Cpl. Fulton ("H.Q."), L/Cpl. Whitbread ("D"), L/Cpl. Roche ("C"), Pte. Homer ("H.Q."), Pte. Frost ("H.Q."), Pte. Whiting ("D").

Anti-Tank Platoon

The main item of interest since the last issue of *The Die-Hards* has been the firing of the annual gunnery course at Hohne Ranges, B.A.O.R., which took place from October 8 to 19 last year. It is true to say that the visit was a great success, and all ranks of the Platoon gained invaluable experience and knowledge for the future.

After loading the 17-pounders and carriers on to railway flats at the aerodrome sidings, and after satisfying the vigilant representative from the Austrian railways regarding the secureness of our lashings and blocks, the train finally departed in the late afternoon of October 8. In spite of the fact that it took nearly three days to reach our destination—owing to frequent halts at main stations—the journey proved both interesting and comfortable. The accommodation was excellent, while in the impressive dining-car, kindly supplied by "Q" Movements, B.T.A., we enjoyed the excellent cuisine that was provided by a most enterprising Austrian cook specially loaned for the occasion. Also in this connection, the two dining-room orderlies must not be forgotten, namely Ptes. Hawkins and Waters. These two stalwarts of the Platoon worked indefatigably all hours of the day during both journeys, and carried out their duties in a most exemplary manner to the benefit of all.

We eventually arrived at Bergen sidings on the morning of the eleventh (where the happy, smiling face(?) of the Platoon sergeant awaited us, Sgt. Moyse having arrived two days before with the advance party), and after unloading, drove to Hohne Camp. What had been called a camp proved to be a great number of very large modern barracks, possessing every imaginable facility for training and recreation, and the Platoon soon settled themselves into their temporary abode with

enthusiasm. The barrack accommodation could not be bettered anywhere, and the fact that the NAAFI was situated just outside the door was an additional advantage which was appreciated very much by all ranks.

Regarding the actual shooting, we are glad to be able to report that the results were excellent, notwithstanding the fact that ammunition was restricted and that the weather was far from ideal throughout our stay. Zeroing was soon completed, and the detachments quickly settled down to service shoots against stationary and moving targets at fighting ranges. A considerable proportion of the Platoon had had no previous experience of live firing, and it was pleasing to see the efficiency of the D.C.s in distance and lead judging, and the instant reaction of the No. 3s in passing on the corrections to the remainder of the gun numbers—the results of many hours of dry preparation back at Zeltweg.

In fact, the Range W.O. was heard to exclaim that it was the best infantry anti-tank platoon he had seen!—but whether this statement was spontaneously genuine or the customary polite expression reserved for all visiting anti-tank platoons we were never able to discover. At any rate, it must be recorded that the W.O. was a long-standing member of the R.A.C. and not an old "Die-Hard"! The last morning, with visibility restricted in patches, each detachment tried a "long shot" with their remaining ammunition, at moving targets between 900 and 1,200 yards distance, and a close inspection afterwards, confirmed that over 75 per cent. of the rounds had found their target. It was a satisfying grand finale to our training, and all members of the Platoon played an individual part in achieving such a good result.

Although we had several days spare before returning, they were not wasted. A visit to a neighbouring Canadian Tank Regiment, Strathcona's Horse, was arranged, and proved most instructive and entertaining. We were shown all the mechanical perplexities of their Centurion tanks, while some of the Platoon were fortunate in seeing the "other side," by being included as tank crew during a realistic and frightening battle run. A visit was also made to the remains of the notorious Belsen Concentration Camp, while a last excursion to the nearby town of Celle proved most enjoyable. Finally we departed on October 16, and arrived back at Zeltweg without mishap three days later.

A special word of thanks is due to the staff of H.Q. Hohne Ranges, for making our stay so comfortable and interesting. Nothing was too much trouble, and it was their excellent administration which helped to make the visit such a success.

Since returning from Hohne, the Platoon has not been idle. A six-week 17-pounder cadre was held during December-January for the benefit of the 14 new members who joined the Platoon at the end of November. Most satisfactory results were obtained, which augurs well for the future, and in particular Pte. Turner is to be congratulated on his excellent grading. In the sporting world we have done equally well, and we were delighted when four members of the platoon, Ptes. Wright (61), Sullivan, Wadmore and Young were included in the "S" Company team

which won the inter-company boxing competition. All of them fought extremely well, and all but one managed to win their individual bouts. At the moment, we are looking forward to a lengthy stay in Vienna, and feel sure that our attachment with "A" Company will prove a happy one.

With regard to personalities, we are sorry to say good-bye to Ptes. Downey and York recently.

Pte. Downey will be missed from the Carrier Drivers, while the cheerfulness and sporting ability of Pte. York will be hard to fill. All ranks wish them the best of luck in Civvy Street. On the other hand, we are glad to welcome back Cpl. Higgins into the anti-tank fold again, after a long absence of 18 months in Civvy Street. If any other ex-anti-tank gunner is thinking of coming back to the army again, we can guarantee him a special welcome from his old Platoon. What about it?

Assault Pioneer Platoon

The last quarter has brought about a lot of changes within the Platoon. Firstly, we congratulate C/Sgt. Dive on his well-earned promotion to colour-sergeant, but we are very sorry that he had to leave the Platoon. We have also lost Pte. Harris, who has departed on a special course for service with the S.A.S. in Malaya; with him goes all our best wishes.

The new entries to the Platoon have all successfully passed the assault pioneer cadre which has been run by Cpl. Rock. Special note must be made of Pte. Love, who has done exceptionally well.

We have had a very pleasant ten days up at Schmelz ski-ing, and although we are not up to championship standard, we can more than hold our own against Company H.Q.

Congratulations go to L/Cpl. Edwards on his recent promotion.

SERGEANTS' MESS

True to form, the Mess strode through the last lap of 1954 leaving many a memorable function and occasion behind it.

The postponement of the U.S. Army fall manoeuvres was greeted by all with rejoicing in the heart and, of course, disappointment in the eye. All that is, except R.Q.M.S. Griffiths, who was denied the sadistic pleasure of giving us an R.Q.'s farewell. Our glee was dampened by the announcement that the Battalion would take part in a five-day exercise in mid-November. It was very aptly designated "Brass Monkey," and sufficient to say that we all survived, although to this day we often hear awesome discussions on the dreadful hardships endured by "B" Echelon.

The days following "Brass Monkey" saw frantic and somewhat secretive activity in the Mess. The ante-room was elevated to the dignity of poop deck, whereas the bar suffered a slight setback and finished up as the fo'c'sle. On November 25 the secret was out: Ye Olde Pirate Ball. What a roaring success it was, too. Bos'n Kenrick and motley deck hands are to be congratulated on their efforts and the result thereof. Admission was limited to those suitably attired, which meant that everyone got in. The officers and their ladies are to be

congratulated on their effort, the Commanding Officer being, perhaps, the most fearsome pirate of them all. The good pirate ship *Zeltweg* soon resounded to the clang of cutlass and rapier and many a poor soul was drowned deep in *Gosser* or soda water when boarders were repelled.

December, bringing with it that familiar savour of celebrations, brought also a more sorrowful note, December 5 being the day R.S.M. and Mrs. Tarrant would be leaving us. A farewell dinner on December 4 was followed by a rather overshadowed social and dance, during which R.S.M. and Mrs. Tarrant were presented with a most impressive timepiece by his successor, R.S.M. Wild, on behalf of us all.

Mr. and Mrs. Tarrant left in a blaze of glory on December 5. They were towed to the guard room in a jeep by the Mess members, preceded by the whole Band and Drums. The Battalion turned out to say farewell and there were many shouts of "Good luck, sir." At the entrance to camp the tow ropes were removed and the car accelerated towards Zeltweg Station, followed by the Mess members in two T.C.V.s. An impromptu but very successful get-together followed and, as the station waiting room was rather draughty, we adjourned to a convenient *Gasthaus*. The train eventually pulled in and, in due course, puffed out again into the distance, leaving a sad and subdued gathering. We soon recovered, however, as we always do, and we all heartily congratulated R.S.M. Wild and assured him of the loyalty and support we had been privileged to afford his predecessor.

The Christmas festivities opened with a most successful Christmas draw on December 18, C/Sgt. Wright and Sgt. Orme having organised a most attractive and useful array of prizes. Sgt. Harris was followed by many an envious eye as he staggered from the presentation with the greatest part of a pig, Austrian pattern, draped over his shoulder.

Christmas Day was heralded in, as usual, by hordes of bright and cheerful Mess members happily issuing early morning tea to appreciative occupants of gaily decorated barrack rooms. Sgt. Lemaitre insists to this day that he really did aim for a certain man's mug and not his eye. The Mess members were entertained in the Officers' Mess at noon, after which the combined strength of both Messes advanced on the cookhouse and did their stuff with the troops' stuffing. The married members then shared their frugal rations with the less fortunate and all settled down to a most enjoyable time. The officers challenged the Mess to a snowball fight on Boxing Day and subsequently wished they had not.

New Year saw the Mess at rather depleted strength with "C" Company in Vienna, "A" Company at Schmelz and a number of members on U.K. leave. The Officers' Mess was in much the same condition, but they came over just before midnight to join us in a most enjoyable farewell to 1954 and greetings to 1955.

The weeks behind us have seen the all too frequent change of faces. We welcome most warmly all new faces and are always loath to see an old 'un go. C.S.M. Graham has left us for East Africa, C/Sgt. Whitehead to B.A.O.R. and C/Sgt. Bream to the Regimental Depot

together with Sgt. Hope. We congratulate the following on their promotion: C.S.M.s Perry and Thorogood, C/Sgts. Potter, Wright and Dive and Sgts. Ford, Milner, Adams, Metzger and Clarke.

Although the snow was rather late this year, ski-ing conditions are now quite good and the steady workers amongst us, who cannot find time to winter at Schmelz, snatch every opportunity to demonstrate their "snow-ploughs" and "stem-turns." In fact, a vehicle can be seen each weekend snaking its way toward Rachau, where the slopes are only bettered by those at Schmelz—but the glühwein tastes the same anywhere!

ATHLETICS

After the B.T.A. athletics in September, plans were afoot for a triangular inter-Allied meeting in Vienna. This should have taken place on September 29, but had to be postponed at the request of the French element until October 16.

"B" Company, who were duty company in Vienna, were invited to produce some representatives for the British element and to these were attached some Battalion athletes. Training took place in Vienna and Zeltweg. It was, however, rather late in the year for peak fitness to be expected and there was much speculation as to the possibilities of the British team and the Battalion representatives in particular.

The day of the meeting proved clear and sunny in contrast to the chilly weather experienced formerly. The athletics stadium in Vienna was hung with the flags of the Allies and a large crowd was present to support its various teams.

After the first event it became clear that the British element were by far the fitter athletes and it could be seen that, although the Americans had good material, their athletes were not in very good condition. Included in the programme was an "izzy dizzy" race, where teams had to spin with their head on a baseball bat and then run a relay, and also a grenade throwing event, at both of which the French showed great skill. From the Battalion Pte. Robinson cleared the field in the 1,600 metres in 4 min. 42 sec. and Pte. Homer won the 100 metres in 11.6 sec. The Battalion also raised the bulk of the winning 100 metres relay team (46.6 sec.) with Ptes. Green, Homer and Ashman.

The final results were: British, 90 points; Americans, 45 points; French, 27 points.

The following were the results of the Battalion representatives placed in the meeting:

100 Metres.—1st, Pte. Homer (11.6 sec.); 3rd, Pte. Green.

200 Metres.—1st, Pte. Green (24.2 sec.); 2nd, Pte. Ashman.

400 Metres.—3rd, Capt. Deacock (53.1 sec.).

800 Metres.—1st, Pte. Robinson (2 min. 6.8 sec.).

1,600 Metres.—1st, Pte. Robinson (4 min. 42 sec.).

High Jump.—2nd, Pte. Smith (86) (5 ft. 3 in.).

Discus.—2nd, Capt. Deacock (108 ft. 2 in.).

Ptes. Homer, Green and Robinson and Capt. Deacock attained Battalion standard medals in all their events.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

The Battalion team have had a most successful first half season which ended on November 27. The second half commences in March. The team is at present second in the league to the Royal Signals, level on points but with one game in hand.

As usual the team can never be a permanent one owing to leave and release, our latest losses being Sgt. Longman and Ptes. Tier and Warn.

Pte. Bentley is now team captain and has played many fine games since changing his position from right-back to centre-half. Our chief scorers have been Ptes. Mercer, Kirk, Homer and Driver.

Although doing so well in the league our cup performances have been extremely disappointing. Games that should have been won have been lost by poor positional play, holding the ball too long, trying to beat that extra man, and easing up. All these faults we intend to rectify in March.

In the Army Cup we lost to the R.A.S.C., 3-1, in a truly unaccountable manner. In the B.T.A. Cup we started as favourites, and after having had our revenge by beating the R.A.S.C. 4-1 in the last round, we went and lost to the R.A.O.C. 3-2 in the 2nd.

The results were:

LEAGUE GAMES			
v. R.A.S.C.	.. .. .	Won	2-1
v. R.A.P.C./R.E.	.. .. .	Won	8-6
v. K.A.U.	.. .. .	Won	5-3
v. B.M.H.	.. .. .	Won	0-2
v. R.E.M.E.	.. .. .	Won	4-0
v. F.S./R.M.P.	.. .. .	Won	13-2
v. Royal Signals	.. .. .	Drew	3-3
v. R.A.S.C.	.. .. .	Won	8-5
ARMY CUP			
v. R.A.S.C.	.. .. .	Lost	3-1
B.T.A. CUP			
First Round	.. .. .	
v. R.A.S.C.	.. .. .	Won	4-1
Second Round	.. .. .	
v. R.A.O.C.	.. .. .	Lost	3-2

BOXING

It was unfortunate that the seasons in Austria necessitate that the majority of the sports counting towards the Albuhera Shield should be decided in the space of about two months. Nevertheless, the novices' and open company competitions were fought off in December. It is not often that one can say that a novices' competition was of a higher standard than an open, but such was the case this year. In the former, companies spared no effort in getting entries, and the fact that some eighty boxers fought from four companies speaks for itself. The boxing throughout was, if not always skilful, certainly enthusiastic, while the finals between Pte. Rawlings and L/Cpl. Steadman, both of "A" Company, Pte. Wadmore ("S" Company) and Cpl. Speck ("A" Company), and the eliminating round between Pte. Hall ("B" Company) and Pte. Rawlings ("A" Company) stand out as exceptional. Although this competition did not count towards the Albuhera Shield, a tally was kept and showed that "S" Company won with a clear lead of 74 points over "A" Company, who were second with 53 points.

It may have been that the open competition came

too shortly after the novices', but the entries even so were poor. Glancing round the NAAFI on December 15, when the finals took place, one felt that many could have been in the ring fighting for their companies rather than being content with merely watching. The standard of the boxing itself was low, in fact two finalists did not have to fight at all. But one aspect brightened the evening, for out of 11 weight and string winners, "S" Company had obtained 10. A lot of the credit for this must go to Sgt. Redmond, "S" Company, who had got hold of his boxers and obviously made a thorough job of creating a really fit team. The result was again an easy win for "S" Company with a lead of 15 points over the next company.

The Commanding Officer presented the prizes at both competitions, and we are indebted to Major Mycroft, R.A.E.C., and S.M.I. Wilson, A.P.T.C., who very kindly came up from Klagenfurt to assist us in the judging, which was carried out this year from the ring. The detailed results of both competitions were as follows:

NOVICES BOXING COMPETITION			
"S" Company	.. .. .	74 Points	
"A" Company	.. .. .	53 Points	
"B" Company	.. .. .	38 Points	
"C" Company	.. .. .	21 Points	
WINNER			
Bantam:	Pte. Dollard ("S")	Pte. Hossack ("S")	
Feather:	Pte. Harrison ("S")	Pte. Allen ("B")	
Light:	Pte. Wright ("S")	Pte. Young ("S")	
Light Welter:	Pte. Wadmore ("S")	Pte. Speck ("A")	
Welter:	Pte. Rawlings ("A")	L/Cpl. Steadman ("A")	
Light Middle:	Pte. Sullivan ("S")	L/Cpl. Harrison ("C")	
Middle:	Pte. Hatchett ("B")	Pte. Brooks ("S")	
Light Heavy:	L/Cpl. Westfall ("B")	2/Lt. Highton ("B")	
Heavy:	L/Cpl. Hardcastle ("A")	Pte. Beavis ("B")	
Best Loser:	Pte. Hall ("B")		
OPEN BOXING COMPETITION			
"S" Company	.. .. .	32 Points	
"H.Q." Company	.. .. .	17 Points	
"C" Company	.. .. .	5 Points-3rd	
"A" Company	.. .. .	5 Points-4th	
"B" Company	.. .. .	4 Points	
WINNER			
Bantam:	Pte. Dollard ("S")		
Feather:	Pte. Wright ("S")	Pte. Harris ("A")	
Light:			
1st String:	Pte. Ball ("S")	Cpl. Boreham ("H.Q.")	
2nd String:	Pte. Blackwell ("S")	Pte. Downey ("H.Q.")	
Welter:			
1st String:	Pte. Petrie ("S")	Pte. Blackwell ("H.Q.")	
2nd String:	Pte. Wadmore ("S")		
3rd String:	Pte. Sheppard ("S")		
Middle:			
1st String:	Pte. O'Rawe ("S")	Pte. Spice ("H.Q.")	
2nd String:	Pte. Sullivan ("S")	L/Cpl. Westfall ("B")	
Light Heavy:	Pte. Kent ("S")	L/Cpl. Robinson ("H.Q.")	
Heavy:	Pte. Green ("S")		

HOCKEY

The hockey season got off to a quiet start in late September with a Battalion trial match to select a Battalion team to play our old opponents, K.A.U.

The K.A.U. match took place on October 7, 1954, and was classed as a B.T.A. trial, the object being to see if any changes were necessary in the B.T.A. side to meet the touring team from Yugoslavia, Rade Koncar, at Klagenfurt later that month.

We lost the match against K.A.U. 6-3, but it was a closer game than the score suggests. At one time we were losing 4-0, made a fighting recovery to 4-3, then fell away in the closing stages while K.A.U. added two more goals.

The Battalion was represented in the B.T.A. team against Rade Koncar by Lt. (Q.M.) Waldron, R.S.M. Tarrant, Bds. Jackson and Sgt. Grogan. The team had an easy victory by 5-1.

Our third fixture of the season (on October 10) found us opposing our first Austrian opponents—the Academic Hockey Club of Vienna. They spent the weekend with us at Zeltweg and were accommodated in the Sergeant's Mess, where they were nobly entertained the night before the match—which probably accounts for our victory by 3-2.

They proved themselves true Continentals by their demonstrations and protests when we rattled in three goals in the first few minutes of play, but when they scored a couple of times in the second half they were much more placid.

The usual cry went up from time to time that the promising youngsters were not given a chance in the Battalion team, so the time-honoured match, "old 'uns" versus the young 'uns" was arranged. As one of the "old 'uns" is responsible for these notes, I am pleased to report success for the old guard (score 4-2).

The end of October found a large contingent of the Regiment in Vienna for the International Guard change-over, so a return match was arranged with the Academic Hockey Club. A hard-fought struggle resulted in a draw 2-2, our goals being scored by Cpls. McCorrie and Taylor.

The following evening we were entertained by the members of the club and their wives at Grinzing, where the wine (and garlic) flowed fast and furious—too fast for one member of the team, who, strange to relate, had to be put to bed!

SKI-ING

For the first time the Battalion entered a team in the Army Ski Championships, which were held at Bad Gastein from February 4 to 10. We entered for all five events—the individual patrol race, unit patrol race, downhill, slalom and langlauf—the last four counting towards the champion unit trophy.

The team showed considerable promise in the final stages of training at Schmelz, but a serious blow was struck when Lt. M. V. Hayward, the team captain, twisted his ankle and retired from the fray.

At Bad Gastein the team excelled itself. In the first race, the individual patrol race, the team ran well and would have done even better still if their shooting had been up to the same standard as their ski-ing and their fitness. As it was, Pte. Greenwood was 10th, Cpl. Lowater 15th, Lt. W. G. A. Crumley 17th and L/Cpl. Harrison 18th out of a field of 67. We were the only unit to get all four runners in the first 20. We are greatly indebted to Maj.-Gen. R. E. Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O., for our langlauf skis, which helped us very much. We did

not, unfortunately, have long in which to get used to them, but they made a lot of difference.

Our unit patrol team consisted of the same four runners, who were also nominated as the Infantry "A" team in the Corps Championship. Once again the team ran splendidly, but shot badly. Despite the shooting, the team were second to 44th H.A.A. Regiment, R.A.

Conditions for the downhill race were appalling—deep new snow and a blizzard during the actual race itself. These conditions made the ground very difficult for fast ski-ing and visibility was practically nil. Every member of the team had at least two falls and Pte. Spurge had the bad luck to twist his ankle, thereby being unable to finish. Lt. Crumley was 23rd, S.S.I. Blight (A.P.T.C.) 25th, Pte. Greenwood 41st and the team fourth.

With only three starters in the slalom it was essential to avoid disqualification, and the runners were perhaps over-conscious of this and a little on edge. S.S.I. Blight had falls on both runs and, despite these setbacks, managed well to finish 15th. Both Pte. Greenwood and Lt. Crumley had very eventful if somewhat precarious runs before finishing 38th and 40th respectively. The team was placed fifth.

The final and most vital race was the langlauf, on which depended the final placings in the Unit Championship. Pte. Greenwood, Cpl. Lowater and L/Cpl. Harrison all had magnificent races, finishing very strongly as 11th, 15th and 19th. Lt. Crumley, perhaps feeling the cares of office and team captainship, came in a very exhausted 38th.

The Battalion team did extremely well to finish second to the Scots Guards in the Unit Championship. Our team was not composed of super experts, as was that of the Scots Guards, but they showed great spirit, plenty of guts and the will to win throughout.

Lt. Crumley and Pte. Greenwood finished third and fifth respectively in the unit best all-rounder competition, two very creditable performances for second-year skiers.

The meeting was a most enjoyable and unique experience for the team, who, contrary to the opinion of most critics, fully justified the time and trouble spent on their training. Without doubt the team's forte was in the long-distance races, where fitness and determination played a major role.

We are more than grateful to our stalwart and long-suffering instructors, Simon and Jacky of undecipherable surnames. Their patience, encouragement and drive were an enormous help.

The Battalion team consisted of: Lt. W. G. A. Crumley, team captain, who took part in all events; S.S.I. Blight (A.P.T.C.), downhill and slalom; Cpl. Lowater, patrol (individual and team) and langlauf; L/Cpl. Harrison, patrol (individual and team) and langlauf; Pte. Greenwood, all events; Pte. Spurge, downhill.

Depot Notes

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On January 1, 1955, Major Marshall handed over the command of the Depot to Major Waller and left to attend several courses before joining the 1st Battalion. His period of command was a most happy and successful one and included a number of great occasions. The Regiment owes him a great debt for the way in which he helped to organise the welcoming home of the 1st Battalion from the Far East in December, 1952; the many functions culminating in the magnificent parade on Horse Guards Parade and the service in Westminster Abbey, owed their success very largely to his endeavours. The Coronation and the affiliation of the Middlesex Home Guard to the Regiment were other highlights during his period of command. Mrs. Marshall, too, has earned our gratitude for the way in which she has upheld the tradition of service which the Army has always enjoyed in the wives of its commanding officers. We wish them both, and their children, every happiness and success in the future and hope to see them frequently.

Major A. R. Waller, M.C., comes to the Depot from a tour of duty as 2IC and Training Major of the 7th Battalion. We welcome him and Mrs. Waller and their two daughters and hope that their stay here will be a very happy one.

REGIMENTAL EVENTS

On October 29 Seymour Hall was again the scene of the Regimental reunion, and once more the occasion was an outstanding success. Over a thousand members of the Regiment and their friends attended and many old acquaintances were renewed. An amusing and original cabaret was enthusiastically received and there was dancing to the band of the Life Guards under the direction of Capt. Thirtle, who, many will remember, is the former Bandmaster of the 1st Battalion.

The reunion was honoured by the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Lord Latham of Hendon. Among many distinguished members of the Regiment present was Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks. Gen. Bucknall was, unfortunately, unable to attend, as he was visiting the 1st Battalion in Austria. Major Marshall read a letter from the Colonel of the Regiment and addressed the assembly on his behalf.

Altogether it was a most enjoyable and memorable occasion and those responsible for organising it, particularly Lt.-Col. Roberts and Major Clark, the Chairman and Secretary of our Association, are to be congratulated and thanked for their hard work in making it so.

On Saturday, November 6, the annual ceremony was held at the Regimental Plot in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. The Rev. J. M. Scutt, M.A., read the prayers and Col. Browne, representing the Colonel of the Regiment, laid the Regimental wreath and planted the first cross. The following were present:

The Lord Lieutenant and the High Sheriff of the County, the Mayors of Twickenham, Harrow, Wood Green, Acton and Hendon, and the Chairmen of the Urban District Councils of Friern Barnet, Uxbridge, Northwood, West Drayton, Enfield and Hayes; the Commanding Officer and Adjutant of the Depot, and a number of other members of the Regiment, serving and retired.

On Remembrance Sunday, a service was held in the Gymnasium, followed by wreaths being laid on the War Memorial. Wreaths were laid by Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., on behalf of all ranks of the Regiment; 2/Lt. W. G. A. Crumley on behalf of the 1st Battalion; Major P. D. H. Marshall on behalf of the Depot; Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E., on behalf of the 5th Battalion; Major L. F. Baker on behalf of the 7th Battalion; Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby, T.D., on behalf of the 11th Battalion the Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex), T.A.; Col. J. B. Woodward, O.B.E., on behalf of the County of Middlesex Home Guard; Mr. H. H. Hull, M.M., on behalf of the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club; and by several individuals. Twelve battalions of the Middlesex Home Guard were represented. At the March Past following the ceremony Col. Browne took the Salute.

On November 23 we were visited by four journalists from different parts of the Commonwealth, who displayed great and friendly interest in the function of the Depot. On the same day members of the Medical Research Council attended a conference here and outline plans were discussed for certain experiments which they propose to make here with the approval of the War Office. Very briefly, they want to find out, by scientific measurement, exactly how many calories are taken by the recruit during training, and how much energy is expended; the figures should show whether the recruit is over- or under-worked, and it follows that in due course changes in methods of training may result from these experiments. The guinea-pigs are 12 selected recruits of the 29th Intake who arrived on February 17, and who are to spend much of their training wearing masks of distinctly space-fiction appearance, and carrying various electronic devices and a wireless transmitter on their backs.

On Sunday, December 12, the G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, Lt.-Gen. Sir Francis W. Festing, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., inspected a parade of the Middlesex Home Guard in the Wembley Pool Car Park. R.S.M. Donovan was the Parade R.S.M., and C/Sgt. Dodkins, Sgt. Pullen, Cpls. Shinn, Butler, Biggadike and Townend also took part. Most of them appeared that night in the Television Newsreel record of the event.

The Christmas Period

A Service of Lessons and Carols was held on Friday, December 17, in the Depot Chapel. As last year, our padre, the Rev. J. M. Scutt, M.A., very kindly brought

along his choir from Edgware and the service was a movingly pleasant one. It was also one of the first occasions on which the new gas heaters, which were recently installed, were put into use; they proved to be most effective.

On December 18 the children's party took place in the Gymnasium, and though attendance was smaller than anticipated the affair was, as usual, a riotous success. Father Christmas, who bore a remarkable resemblance to C/Sgt. Dodkins, made a dramatic entry down a chimney and distributed a fine display of presents.

The Christmas dinner was held on December 23, and thanks to the efforts of the Quartermaster, Lt. Weller, M.M., and Sgt. Stubbings, A.C.C., a splendid meal was served. The Commanding Officer wished all ranks a Merry Christmas, and all was set for everyone to go off on leave. Then the proverbial bolt arrived from the blue. While the men were still eating their dinner a telephone message was received from Headquarters, London District, cancelling all Christmas leave. A most threatening situation had developed on the East Coast, and it was feared that high tides over the Christmas period might result in serious floods, similar to those which caused so much havoc in January and February, 1953. The War Office ordered that some reserve of troops should be at hand to deal with possible emergencies.

The Adjutant reported the strength of the Depot as five officers and 140 men. Shortly after the initial message was received, we were ordered to keep three officers and 75 men ready at six hours' notice to move, and to send the remainder on leave. The 75 unfortunately were recruits of the 27th Intake, all the drivers and two cooks. On Friday morning this state of readiness was reduced, firstly to two officers and 35 men, and soon afterwards to one officer and 25 men. On the Saturday morning this was again reduced to one officer and twenty men. Capt. Flavell gallantly volunteered to be the officer on duty, and the men who were kept behind were selected from those living closest to the Depot. As they were at six hours' notice to move, these men were allowed to go home for six hours each day, so that nearly all of them did manage to have their Christmas dinners with their families.

Fortunately the flood situation did not develop as badly as had been feared, and we were not called upon to help. The final stand down came on the morning of Monday, December 27. The whole affair had put something of a damper on our Christmas festivities, but it was recognised as a national duty, and there were no hard feelings.

The end of the Christmas period was marked by a near-tragedy on Tuesday, December 28, when a fire broke out in No. 6 Married Quarters, which might have caused serious damage. Fortunately L/Cpl. Hanshaw was passing the quarter at the time, and with great courage and energy beat the flames out single-handed before the arrival of the fire-fighting services. His act was reported to and noted by the G.O.C. London District.

On January 3 we had another visit from the Mobile Blood Transfusion Team. Ninety-two volunteers gave

blood—a "good bleed," to use the team's rather macabre expression.

Major Waller paid an official visit to the 1st Battalion in Austria in early February. He travelled out in Major Dawson's celebrated car, and some anxiety was felt when the newspapers reported very bad road conditions in Austria. However, they reached Zeltweg safely. The visit was a very brief one, and the Commanding Officer returned to the Depot on February 17.

Our two medical officers (we always felt rather grand having two, but Capt. Carter, R.A.M.C., has now left us temporarily) alarmed us by predicting a serious influenza epidemic. During the first week in February it began to look as if they might be right. Recruits of the 28th Intake suffered the worst, and over a period of several weeks nearly half of them spent some days in bed. But the bout soon died down, and the health of the Depot is now quite sound, apart from the colds which always abound at this time of the year.

By the time these notes appear in print we hope that the memory of this winter's weather will be fading. Suffice it to say that it has been appalling, and that training, sport, and the affairs of the Depot in general have been curtailed by it. We are looking forward to a good summer; we remember doing exactly the same last year! But who knows, this year we may be lucky.

Recruiting

Regular recruiting by direct enlistment has continued at a satisfactory rate. The number of conversions by N.S. men to regular engagements has remained disappointingly low. Perhaps the warmer weather to come may persuade more people to take the plunge.

Two drafts have been sent to the 1st Battalion recently; one 50 strong in December, and one of 80 in February. The next draft, a rather smaller one, will probably leave in April and will be the last that we shall send to Austria before the Battalion returns home.

Personalities

Arrivals on the permanent staff from the 1st Battalion during the last quarter have included Sgt. Hope as Sergeants' Mess caterer, Cpl. Crittenden, as M.T. Corporal, L/Cpl. Ambler, and L/Cpl. Eales, who has been appointed Provost-Corporal. We wish them a happy tour at the Depot.

Cpls. Langford and Friggens have left us for the 1st Battalion. Cpl. Willmoth from the Q.M.'s Stores, Cpl. Cass after 18 months of sterling service as M.T. Corporal, and Cpl. Adair, after equally sound work in the Orderly Room, have left on release. Pte. Houtman received a compassionate discharge, and Pte. Easton was discharged for medical reasons, his leg injury sustained at P.T. having failed to respond adequately to treatment. To all of these we extend our thanks for their good service to the Depot, and we wish them success in their new spheres.

C.S.M.I. Caruthers is leaving the Army shortly, but he is still on our strength while he is taking a pre-release course at No. 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E. We wish him the best of luck in his new career. S.I.

Baker has temporarily taken over the Gymnasium until a permanent P.T. instructor is posted to us.

We congratulate L/Cpls. Eales and Tanner on their promotion to Corporal, and Pte. Hanshaw on being appointed Lance-Corporal.

The Future

1955 is of course the 200th anniversary of the raising of the 57th, and this great Regimental occasion will be duly celebrated. The details are not yet settled, and depend very largely on the movements of the 1st Battalion. Whatever form they take, we are sure that they will provide a suitable opening to the third century history.

On the subject of the anniversaries, 1955 is also the 50th anniversary of the Depot at Mill Hill; this occasion is the subject of an article elsewhere in these notes.

TRAINING COMPANY

The passing-out parade of the 26th Intake of Recruits took place on Friday, November 26. The atrocious weather conditions caused the ceremony to be drastically cut. Col. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., inspected and addressed the Intake under cover in the main drill shed.

Medals were awarded as follows:—

Best All-round Recruit . . . 23067821 Pte. R. Traer
Best Rifle Shot . . . 23067834 Pte. D. Lawrence
Best L.M.G. Shot . . . 23056954 Pte. P. Horridge
Highest Physical Efficiency 23217974 Pte. P. Smythe

Altogether 82 parents and friends of the recruits braved the elements to watch the parade.

The arrivals and departures of the instructing staff have been quite considerable during the past few months. The overall situation in regard to N.C.O.s available to instruct the recruits has much improved, with the result that the less experienced N.C.O.s have been able to attend courses and refresher cadres.

C/Sgt. Dodkins, Sgt. Dacosta (at present attending the platoon weapons course at Hythe) and Sgt. Clements have left us to join the 1st Battalion.

To these N.C.O.s especially, we in Training Company wish the very best of good fortune, to which they are certainly entitled, having spent two very full and successful years at the Depot, training the young N.S. men with whom they are now about to serve.

Cpls. Prior and Biggadike have taken their leave of us and are now civilians, and to them we wish the best of everything.

The second passing-out parade during the quarter was that of the 27th Recruit Intake on Friday, January 14, 1955. The officer taking the parade was Col. J. Sykes-Wright, D.S.O., O.B.E., Brigade Colonel, Home Counties Brigade. Again inclement weather caused the parade to be held under cover; this time in the Gymnasium.

Medals were awarded as follows:—

Best All-round Recruit . . . 23083860 Pte. D. Emery
Best Rifle Shot and Highest
Physical Efficiency . . . 23087094 Pte. N. Vigor
Best L.M.G. Shot . . . 23221981 Pte. S. Bigg

A total of 158 parents and friends of the recruits attended to watch the parade.

Newcomers to Training Company to fill vacancies and as replacements during the last quarter were C/Sgt. Breame, Sgt. Muirhead, Cpls. Ebbage and Patterson, L/Cpls. Linzell and Stamp. All were posted from the 1st Battalion, and we hope their tour of duty at the Depot will be a happy and successful one. A warm welcome is extended to Sgt. Nicholson, who decided, having spent nearly a year as a civilian, that his bread could be buttered more easily as a Substantive Sergeant in the Regular Army!

OFFICERS' MESS

During December, January and February the training of Reserve Officers by the Home Postal Depot, Royal Engineers, has been in abeyance, so at times numbers in Mess have been quite low. However, for about three weeks in November and December we had seven officers from West Africa attached to us; one of these took part in the last Olympic Games. Most of them left us for units in B.A.O.R. before returning home. We hope they enjoyed their stay; their sense of humour was most refreshing.

The Regular and Militia Officers' Dinner was held at the United Service Club on December 3, 1954.

The following officers attended:

The Colonel of the Regiment presided.

Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, Major B. Wilmot Allistone, Lt.-Col. G. B. Ayre, Lt. M. T. Beagley, Major R. C. H. Bellers, Col. M. Browne, Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, Major I. F. Campbell, Capt. K. J. Carter, Capt. B. K. Clayden, Major P. Collins, Capt. C. N. Clayden, Lt.-Col. D. Y. Cubitt, Major G. C. Dawson, Lt. R. T. Douthet, Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, Lt. R. D. Fisher, Capt. P. W. Galvin, Capt. R. E. Guest, Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Lt.-Col. A. G. Hewitt, Major E. L. Heywood, Capt. S. E. Honess, Capt. A. N. Jordan, Major L. H. Owen Josephs, Major F. A. L. Lawrence, Capt. N. F. Legge, Lt. I. M. E. Lloyd, Col. A. M. Man, Lt.-Col. C. M. M. Man, Lt. B. H. Marciandi, Major P. D. H. Marshall, Major H. N. MacL. Martin, Major D. C. L. Nolda, Capt. G. G. Norton, Major J. W. G. Ormiston, Lt.-Col. F. G. Parker, Major P. L. Pearce Gould, Brigadier N. P. Procter, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Capt. D. B. Rendell, Major J. N. Shipster, Lt.-Col. L. F. Sloane Stanley, Col. W. A. Stewart, Major E. F. Thompson, Brigadier O. H. Tidbury, Major A. R. Waller, Col. G. P. L. Weston, Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollock, and Lt. S. C. W. Weller.

The next dinner is again being held at the United Service Club, but this time on August 5, 1955, when the 1st Battalion will be in the United Kingdom, so this should prove a real Regimental reunion.

On December 8 the Queen Mother opened a new Red Cross Home for the aged and infirm at Highwood Hill—very close to the "Rising Sun." Major and Mrs. Marshall had been invited to attend, but Major Marshall was called away and Major Heywood accompanied Mrs. Marshall. Her Majesty was charming, and after the opening ceremony toured the whole building and spoke to the old people, some of whom had gone to great lengths to prolong their stay for the

occasion! The only blot was the weather, which was deplorable.

On December 22 the Mess held a Christmas dinner party which officers' wives and lady friends attended. Much good work was done by Capt. Flavell, Lt. Marciandi and Lt. Fisher, who were responsible for all the arrangements.

The party was voted a great success. The meal was excellent, the presents from the tree amusing, and the one parlour game not too taxing to the brain. The Mess Room was cleared after dinner for dancing.

Eggs and bacon were served in the early hours and, strangely enough, its transpired later that the food for breakfast for officers living in the Mess had mysteriously disappeared!

Those present were:—

Col. M. Browne, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. B. Ayre, Major I. R. Burrows and cousin, Major and Mrs. R. C. H. Bellers, Capt. K. J. Carter and lady, Capt. and Mrs. B. K. Clayden, Capt. Deacock and lady, Lt. Fisher and lady, Capt. and Mrs. Flavell, Major Heywood, Lt. and Mrs. Jennings, Major Lee and sister-in-law, Lt. Marciandi, Major and Mrs. Marshall, Lt. Pollard and lady, Lt. I. G. Thomas, Major and Mrs. Thompson, Major and Mrs. Waller, Lt., Mrs. and Miss Weller, Lt. and Mrs. Williams (M.O.).

On December 23 the members of the Sergeants' Mess paid their customary visit to us before we all went over to Christmas dinner.

Christmas leave was somewhat upset by officers and men being held in readiness for flood duties. Fortunately their services were not required, though the disruption of leave at the period was unfortunate.

Major Waller officially took over the reins of office on January 1. Unfortunately, owing to extensive dry rot in the C.O.'s quarter he has been unable to move in, but we hope that he will be happily installed long before these notes actually appear in print.

We welcomed Major and Mrs. Waller and bade farewell to Major and Mrs. Marshall at a cocktail party held in the Mess on January 14, 1955. Numerous staff officers from Headquarters Eastern Command, London District, and the War Office had been invited, and it was a great pity that a heavy snowfall on the 13th made travelling difficult and therefore attendance was less than we had hoped, but those who braved the elements seemed to enjoy themselves. Once again our thanks are due to Lt. Marciandi for all the excellent arrangements he made.

Visitors or stayers for shorter or longer periods have been Lt. Crumley, Lt. I. G. Thomas, who leaves us with our best wishes for the future, 2/Lt. Mather, Lt. Birch, 2/Lt. Murray Leslie, 2/Lt. Ashton (who as Pte. Ashton figured in a B.B.C. broadcast reported in *The Diehards* for June 1954), Major Halford Thompson, R.A. (from Austria), Major Ormiston (fit again now, we hope), Major Pearce Gould, Major Dawson, Lt. McManus, Capt. C. N. Clayden, Capt. Honess, Col. A. M. Man, Lt.-Col. Man, and Col. Walden who, once again, suddenly put in an appearance unexpectedly, and Brigadier G. P. L. Weston.

These notes would be incomplete without wishing

well to Major "Joe" Lee, H.P.D., R.E., who recently left us for M.E.L.F., and we welcome Major Fancourt in his stead. "Joe" must have been delighted with Scotland's victory at Murrayfield!

We gratefully acknowledge the presentation to the Mess by the United Service Club of two pictures, on the occasion of the amalgamation of the Senior and Junior United Services Club. The first is a fine oil painting of the 1st Duke of Wellington in middle age—this now hangs in the entrance hall of the Mess; the second is a black and white signed copy of "Steady, the Drums and Fifes," which was presented by us to the "Junior" many years ago.

As most serving and retired officers will already know, a Regimental dinner night is now being held monthly on the first Thursday in every month, and it is hoped that officers who find themselves in a position to do so will take this opportunity of joining us on these evenings.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The last notes were closed by saying how we looked forward to seeing many old familiar faces at the Regimental Reunion. Amongst many people that we saw and renewed acquaintance with were Sgt. Birmingham, who is at present with the East Surrey Regiment, and ex-Sgt. Bill Davies, M.M. and Bar. The Depot Mess had a coach to take them to and from Seymour Hall, which solved a lot of problems. We had a near mishap on the way to the hall when the coach narrowly missed smashing into the back of Major Marshall's car. We'd have all been posted!

Early in December the R.S.M. and C/Sgt. Dodkins were invited to tour a small brewery near the "Elephant." After a lunch and a quick but instructional inspection of all departments they arrived at the sample room. When they came to leave they were presented with a couple of "Varger-like" pin-ups advertising the brew. These now occupy a niche in the bar. We consider them hard-earned prizes.

Just before Christmas the Mess received invitations to attend a cocktail party at Australia House. As it happened, most members were already involved in a Choral Service in the Regimental Chapel, so only three members could attend the party. Readers may remember that on a previous visit a Middlesex sergeant fell or rolled down the marble staircase. Just two days prior to this visit an admiral had been killed doing exactly the same thing. It made the three Middlesex representatives go very, very carefully on the staircase, on leaving Australia House after the usual good friendly session with the Aussies.

Sgts. Simpson and Edey left the Depot at the beginning of December to take a draft to 1st Middlesex, but to make up for the loss we were able to welcome in C/Sgt. Breame and C.S.M. Graham. C/Sgt. and Mrs. Breame have now moved into quarters, where at present the moves are fast and furious. The new quarters have now been taken into use and we've seen some fine jockeying for position. Lt. Tarrant paid us a visit on arriving in U.K. for some well-earned leave, and we've also seen Lt. Jennings who is at present serving with the 11th Parachute Battalion T.A.

At Christmas Bill Landreth helped the Mess caterer to decorate the Sergeants' Mess and was able to spend the Christmas celebrations in the Mess prior to going on leave and then reporting to H.Q. Northumbria District in Catterick.

The Sergeants' Mess Christmas dinner was at 1900 hours on December 22, and all members had an extremely good tuck-in and blow-out. After we'd eaten ourselves almost to a standstill, the ladies came in and we started the Sergeants' Mess Draw. Only C/Sgt. Markham and Sgts. Mason and Partridge appeared to win anything! The R.S.M., C/Sgts. Taylor and Dodkins, with over a 100 tickets between them didn't get a single prize and went away murmuring, "Never again." Sgt. Stubbings, with two daughters, won a toy tank and a car with a siren. Sgt. Clements was last seen playing with these in the top corridor outside the members' bunks in the early morning. R.Q.M.S. Redpath visited over Christmas.

The Mess purchased a radiogram just before Christmas. Sgt. Mason, who was Mess caterer, selected the records, and now we find that we've a complete selection of Joan Reagan's recordings. C.S.M. Budden has been heard complaining about no dance tempo, so it looks as if the next batch of records will be undiluted Victor Silvester. To help out in the social life, the billiards table has been recovered, etc., and now all the members are potential Joe Davises.

Sgt. Partridge, who took over from Sgt. Mason as Mess caterer, is now in the process of handing over to Sgt. Bob Hope who has joined us from 1st Middlesex. Mrs. Partridge gave birth to a boy on Christmas Day, and we congratulated the proud parents. Fiendishly clever, of course, the parents only have to buy one present a year, instead of two.

The Mill Hill Motor Club is going great guns. Sgt. Muirhead, our latest arrival from the Battalion, has a brand new motor-bike. This caused a stir, some members claiming that new vehicles were not allowed. Sgt. Da Costa has sold his car and has now a motor-bike to travel to and from Hythe, where he is at present on a course. R.Q.M.S. Etheridge's car is a sweet runner—on the spot! The "Pheasant" is also reputed to be selling his gallons-per-mile Riley! He should try walking, for he must get fit for his drill course that he will attend in the near future.

The Armourer-Sergeant took the plunge with the New Year, in spite of all that Mess members, married and single, could say to try to persuade him to remain single. The best of luck, Tiffy; you'll need it!

On the "going away" side, R.Q.M.S. Lount has been demobbed, C/Sgt. Dodkins and Sgts. Clements and Ellis have been dispatched to the Battalion. Sgt. Hook is still at the Depot, Sgt. Nicholson has re-enlisted and will replace him in the near future. We always knew that Nicholson wouldn't remain in Civvy Street for too long. Ellis was only held at the Depot for a short while, on being turned loose from hospital.

The Sergeants' Mess was honoured by a visit by both Major Marshall and Major Waller early in the New Year. Everybody circulated and chatted furiously for a couple of hours and all voted it a pleasant evening and wished for more.

We received the sad news that Joe O'Keefe had been killed whilst serving with the Malayan police. To Mrs. O'Keefe and her three boys goes our deepest sympathy.

We congratulate C/Sgt. Taylor on taking and passing his Clerks B1 trade test, which of course means that he now moves into a larger house.

CORPORALS' CLUB

In the Corporals' Club at the Depot these days it is an ever-constant sea of changing faces. You never know when you walk into the club who you are going to find has just arrived or who has left us, either for civilian life, the 1st Battalion, or one of the many stations in the British Empire.

Now we sadly say good-bye and good luck to Cpls. Cass, Biggadike, Willmott, Pryor and Adair, who have entered once again the civilian life, also to Cpl. Friggins, who is to have his first taste of soldiering with the 1st Battalion, and to Cpl. Langford, who we think the Battalion will welcome with open arms back to his old occupation as N.C.O. IC the Pioneer Shop.

Quite recently Cpl. Friggins, who by this time we had taken to be a confirmed bachelor, decided to get married and did so, so surprising the whole of the Corporals' Club.

L/Cpl. Giles also took unto himself a wife—a very pretty young lady from Yorkshire, and so to these two young couples we send our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future.

Also to Cpl. Tanner for his well-deserved promotion to Corporal, and we only hope that he will be as efficient in his work as his predecessor Cpl. Adair, and so keep up the good name of our hard-working Orderly Room.

So with these words we will close our notes for this quarter, and in doing so extend our best wishes to the 1st Battalion's Corporals' Club in Austria.

SPORT

Soccer

One of our principal difficulties lies in the fact that our team always contains a high proportion of recruits; as these are only available to play for ten weeks or so before they are drafted away, the team is constantly changing.

The weather has caused the cancellation of a number of fixtures, and of the 14 games we have played, we won 4, drew 1, and lost 9. Our worst defeat was on October 27, when a powerful H.Q. Eastern Command Team beat us 11-0. Most of our games have been in the London District Minor Units League, which includes the King's Troop R.H.A., H.Q. A.A. Command, H.Q. Eastern Command, H.Q. London District, 20th Company R.A.S.C., R.H.Q. Grenadier Guards, R.H.Q. Coldstream Guards, the Guards Independent Parachute Company and the Police College, Hendon.

Our position in the league is next to the bottom, and the record does not look too good, but the season has been very great fun, and all our games most enjoyable.

The following are now the Depot team: Cpl. Dyson (capt.), Cpls. Peck and Townsend, Ptes. Ward, Thorpe, Burton, Rose, Finch, Makepeace, Allen and Ellingham.

Hockey

Of the 20 fixtures arranged to date, only eight have actually been played, the cancellations were nearly all due to the appalling weather conditions. Of the seven remaining on our list, we hope that we shall be able to play most of them, if not all.

The season started disappointingly with two crushing defeats, 1-5 against the R.A.F., Hendon, and 1-6 against the R.A.E.C., Beaconsfield. In both these games we never found form, and were decisively outclassed. A brighter spell followed. A really hard-fought game against the Queen's Depot ended in a 4-3 victory; Pte. Rowson scored three of our goals and 2/Lt. Lumsden the other. Then the "giants" of H.Q. Eastern Command, who beat us last year in the finals of the London District Championship, came under our fire; both sides were rather startled when we beat them 4-1. Pte. Lakin (2), Capt. Carter (1), Pte. Rowson (1).

In this year's District Championship we drew against the R.A.O.C. Depot at Feltham in the first round. Our defeat 1-7 was a blow, but a well-deserved one. Our pride recovered, however, in our next game, on an ice-bound pitch against the R.A.F., Hendon, which we won 4-1, Lt. Williams (R.A.M.C.) and Pte. Rowson sharing the honours.

We visited the East Surreys' Depot on January 26, having heard the most alarming stories of their prowess. In the event we were unlucky to draw 3-3, having led almost throughout the game. The scorers were Lt. Williams (2) and Pte. Rowson (1). Against the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall on February 9, we were unfortunately unable to produce our full team, and were narrowly defeated 3-4. Our goals were scored by Pte. Lakin (2) and Pte. Rowson (1).

Three victories, one draw, and four defeats can only be called a moderately successful season. But what there has been of it has been a most pleasant and enjoyable one.

The following have played for the Depot during the season: Major Marshall, Cpts. Flavell, Carter and Clayden, Lts. Marciandi (captain), Weller, Williams (R.A.M.C.) and Thomas, 2/Lts. Crumley and Lumsden, R.S.M. Donovan, C.S.M.I. Carruthers, C/Sgt. Taylor, Sgts. Dickie (goalkeeper) and Weller, Cpl. Townend, Ptes. Rowson, Speakman and Lakin.

The Regimental Museum

On February 28, 1955, a Military Museums Meeting was held in the Officers' Mess, followed later by a visit to the Museum and tea in the Officers' Mess.

Officers from the Life Guards, Guards Depot, Infantry Depots in London District, Mr. L. E. Buckall, and Lt.-Col. P. F. I. Reid, Irish Guards, attended the meeting.

Unfortunately Major Gen. R. E. Barnsley and Col. R. J. L. Ogilby, D.S.O., D.L., who has recently given £100,000 to start Army Museums Trust, were unable to attend because of illness. Very complimentary remarks were made about our Museum, and Mr. Buckall said that he looked forward to being able to bring Col. Ogilby when he is fit.

Mr. L. E. Buckall, a trustee of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust, explained in detail the aim of this trust. He stated that Col. Ogilby has endowed a trust, to be known as the Army Museums Ogilby Trust, with the great sum of £100,000 as its nucleus. Far from competing with regimental and other museums, the primary object of the trust is defined as being "for the encouragement, equipment, care and maintenance of existing regimental and army museums." The trustees are enjoined to provide and pay for technical assistance and expert advice, to offer the services of experts in arrangement, maintenance and display; and to give financial help where the museums are open to the public. Another object is to increase interest in the promotion and fostering of regimental and military tradition.

Col. Bernard Fergusson has written that it is not given to many men to be able to do what Col. Ogilby has done. By a generous stroke of singular vision he has put both the past and the future in his debt. We are indeed indebted to Col. Ogilby for this wonderful trust which he has just founded.

Mrs. John Whiteman, widow of Capt. John Whiteman who was killed in the early days of the Great War, has presented three magnificent rifles to the Museum.

One of the rifles was the personal weapon of General Louis Botha and it was given to Capt. Whiteman by the General at the end of the South African War.

Of the other two, one belonged to General Botha's brother, Christopher Botha, and the other was taken from Majuba Hill. The history of the two latter rifles is not known.

All three rifles are beautifully balanced and quite obviously made by an expert. Once mounted they will be a splendid exhibit in the Museum.

On his return from East Africa, Lt. (Q.M.) Harry Jennings has also presented a rifle to the Museum. Unlike the rifles of the South African War, this one is so primitive it has to be seen to be believed. The bolt consists of a single piece of iron that looks not unlike the modern earth pin. The movement of the bolt is solely dependent on a tough rubber band and the barrel consists of a heavy iron pipe.

The rifle was taken from a member of "General Tanganyika's" gang in the Nyeri district of Kenya by a patrol of the 23rd Battalion The King's African Rifles.

It is probable that the firer's life was more endangered than that of anyone else.

A "Simi" or short cutting sword (*panga*), used by the Mau Mau, has been presented by O.R.Q.M.S. B. Soper.

The double edges are extremely sharp and one imagines that this weapon is far more deadly than the hand-made guns of the Mau Mau.

Mr. A. K. C. Purcell, who served in the 2nd Battalion from 1908 to 1914 and who was R.Q.M.S. at the Depot from 1924 to 1930 has presented a book, "Records of the 77th Regiment," written by Major H. H. Woolright, Royal Chelsea Hospital Pensioner, a certificate dated 1885 which was presented to his father, an ex-Quartermaster-Sergeant in the Regiment, and an album of photographs of the 1st Battalion, taken in 1910, when

they were stationed in Allahabad, and a clarinet over thirty years old. Mr. Purcell has already been thanked most warmly for these gifts.

Col. A. M. O. A. Passingham has very kindly presented a photograph of the officers of the 4th Battalion, taken whilst they were stationed at Aldershot in 1911.

There is much property and many historic records that cannot be shown owing to lack of space, but it is hoped to establish a library and picture gallery as an annexe to the Museum in due course.

All serving and retired members of this Regiment are reminded that the Museum is open daily, and Mr. Smith, the curator, will always be pleased to welcome visitors.

OLD COMRADES' NOTES

These notes are compiled for and on behalf of the members of the Old Comrades' Club at the Depot and are from them to you, not from me. I am only one of them, an "Old Die-Hard," but not by any means the oldest; there are many more, both old and young. It is to the young "Die-Hards" that I feel we should address ourselves, the "Old Comrades" of the future: "Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away," but life goes on and the Regiment goes on, and the Regiment is history.

As far as a soldier is concerned there are two sorts of history:

- (a) The authentic history as compiled by the historians.
- (b) The soldiers' history as compiled in his own mind from his personal knowledge of affairs and happenings, and, not least, the persons he rubs shoulders with during his period of service.

The soldier's history is very unlikely to get into print, and I am sure you will agree that a great deal of it would not bear printing, but it can be heard when "Old Comrades" meet, and I am sure you will also agree that we all derive the very greatest of pleasure in relating our history in good company. I can talk intelligently upon the soldier's history from about 1914 until 1936 and a little less about it from 1945 up to the present, and it is about the latter period that we as "Old Comrades" are rather worried. Where are all the "Old Die-Hards" who have left the Regiment since 1945? We want you to come along and tell us all about it. Those of you who are still serving will feel that you would like to keep in touch with one another when you leave, so why not make a point of joining the Club before your discharge by just forwarding 2s. 6d. annual subscription to:

The Secretary,
"The Die-Hards Club,"
Ingils Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.

Now up to the present the Club has been very largely in the hands of the very old timers as far as the Chairman and Committee are concerned, the Secretary is always a serving officer stationed at the Depot. I am sorry to have to say that this has been more or less unavoidable, due to the non-attendance of younger "Old Comrades," and we now feel that a determined effort should be made to rectify this. The Club is open

on the last Saturday in each month, from 7 p.m. Will you please come along, become a member, and volunteer to become Chairman or a Committee member. By this means the younger "Old Comrades" can arrange things to their own liking in the way of entertainment and the older "Old Comrades" will have the opportunity of modernising their history, and we assure you we are all for it. Talking of history, there is probably something in this issue of the Journal relating the fact that 1955, in the month of March, completed 50 years of history for Ingils Barracks—the Regiment came to Mill Hill in May 1905.

Ladies are always welcome at the Club, more especially if they happen to be "Old Comrades." It therefore gives me great pleasure to wish the first baby born to the Regiment at Mill Hill "Many happy returns"; the lady in question still visits the Club, and in fact has on many occasions given her services in the way of preparing refreshments, etc., for our benefit. From us all to you, the daughter of a great "Old Die-Hard" and the wife of Major Honeybun, we will drink your very "Good Health" on "Albuhera Day."

Our very best wishes to all "Old Comrades" to the 1st Battalion and all Territorial units of the Regiment.

Thanking you, and trusting you will soon pay us a visit at Mill Hill.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Depot will celebrate its half-century at Mill Hill on Saturday, May 21. A detailed programme has not yet been settled, but the events of the day will revolve around a ceremonial parade and the opening of the new gates by the mayor of Hendon. It is hoped that the Lord Lieutenant of the County will be able to take the salute at the parade, which will include two guards of honour, one dressed in the uniform of 1905, and the other in modern dress.

Invitations to attend the parade are being sent to members of the Regiment, past and present, and to relatives of the Permanent Staff and recruits of the Depot. The NAAFI will be open to serve refreshments to relatives; the Old Comrades' hut will be available for members and their friends, and the official and private guests of officers, warrant officers and sergeants will be entertained in their respective Messes.

In the evening an all-ranks dance will be held in the Gymnasium. A special church service will probably be held on the Sunday morning. On Monday morning—well, that, we fear will be like any other Monday morning.

THE MOVE FROM HOUNSLOW

On April 4, 1905, the Depot of the Regiment moved from Hounslow to its present location. There are very few ex-members of the Regiment still living who remember the occasion, and we are most fortunate in having a mine of information close at hand in ex-Sgt. Baldry, who was actually on the Depot Staff at the time of the move.

Mr. Baldry joined the Colours in 1896, and after recruit training at Hounslow and Shorncliffe, he joined the 1st Battalion in India. He came to the Depot, as the medical lance-corporal on the Permanent Staff,

shortly before the change of station took place. He stayed with the Depot until October 1907, when he was posted to the 4th Battalion at Londonderry on promotion. He continued to serve the Regiment for another 10 years, until he was invalided out of the Army in 1917. He now lives in one of the Regimental Memorial Cottages at Enfield. By a strange coincidence Mrs. Baldry also took part in the move of the Depot, although at the time she had not met her future husband. She was employed as nursemaid to the Quartermaster's children, and moved with them from Hounslow. Although, as is inevitable after a lapse of time of half a century, many details of those days are forgotten, Mr. and Mrs. Baldry between them have a fund of information and reminiscence which makes a fascinating study for those who know the Depot as it is today.

The move involved more than just the Depot of the four Regular Battalions. The Depots of the 5th and 6th (Militia) Battalions of the Regiment, and of the 7th (Militia) Battalion of the Rifle Brigade moved too. The total number of men involved was about 250. They marched to Hounslow Station led by the bands of the 21st Lancers, the 2nd Lincolns, and the Royal Fusiliers. As the train steamed out the massed bands played "Auld Lang Syne." From Mill Hill Station horse-transport carried the heavy baggage to the Barracks, and the men marched.

The Barracks itself presented a very different picture to that which greets the visitor today. The difference was mainly one of setting, for the principal buildings are, of course, the same now as then; though in 1905, fresh from the builder's hands, and the last word in barrack design, they must have had a sparkle that the dignity lent by time can only compensate for, not recapture. But in 1905 the swift growth of Greater London, like a monstrous stain spreading across the surface of a map, had not yet engulfed Mill Hill, the Barracks stood in open countryside, and must have been the pleasanter for that contrast. One row of married quarters stood then in splendid isolation, where now they look down upon nearly a hundred of their modern counterparts, and we wistfully note that those twenty-nine quarters were for the families of the Depot Staff, whereas today they are "leased out, like to a tenement or a pelling farm," to the whole of London district. The growth of the metropolis had its parallel in the rapid expansion of the armed forces, which has resulted in the mushrooming of rows of ugly huts through the camp, and in the appearance of a complete R.E.M.E. workshop at the foot of Bittacy Hill. However, while man-made growth may have robbed us of much, one of the finest features of the Barracks today, its trees, were only seedlings then; many came as gifts from civilian neighbours, whilst others were planted often by the Depot officers themselves in early morning fatigues under O.C. Depots.

The organisation of the Depot seems to have been similar in many ways to its present structure. The Commanding Officer was Major Eustace, and the Quartermaster, Lt. Lee. The only other officer whose name Mr. Baldry can remember was Lt. Willoughby of the training staff, the father of Lt.-Col. John Willoughby, now commanding the 1st Battalion, but

search has revealed that the other officers were Capt. Osborne, Capt. Jardine and Lt. Thomas. Mr. Baldry clearly remembers R.S.M. Sullivan, whom he describes as "a wild Irishman" and a great disciplinarian, and R.Q.M.S. Amor, who later served as Q.M. to the 5th Battalion before and during the 1914-18 War. The normal tour of duty at the Depot was two years. There were three training companies, and recruits underwent a three-month programme, mainly in foot drill, rifle drill, and manual exercises. There were no miniature or 30-yard ranges and musketry was not taught. The machine-gun, mounted on a form of artillery field-gun carriage, was taught to a very limited extent. The Permanent Staff travelled to Pirbright annually to fire their musketry courses. Later the Permanent Staff and recruits for two months carried out their musketry and tactical training at Shorncliffe (St. Martins Plain and Folkestone).

Recruiting at that time was intensive, and Mr. Baldry remembers as many as 20 recruits a day coming in at some periods. There were usually four recruit squads being trained at any one time. There was a District Recruiting Office situated in "C" Block.

Dress in 1905 had not succumbed to the modern blight of universal drabness. Walking out was only permitted in scarlet, with all the trimmings of yellow facings, peaked caps, white waist-belts, and white gloves. Working dress was khaki, but the recruits wore blue serge, and canvas for fatigues.

On the subject of comforts and amenities generally, Mr. Baldry's memory was not severely taxed—there weren't many. The move was a popular one with the troops because the living accommodation was an immense improvement upon that at Hounslow. Twelve men slept in each of the new barrack rooms. There was no M.I. Room, and a civil practitioner, Dr. Martin of Hammers Lane, served the Barracks. A barrack room was used as a sick-bay, and hospital cases went to the military hospital at Warley in Essex. Meals were eaten in the barrack rooms, as dining halls were not instituted in the Army until 1906. The vast NAAFI organisation did not then exist, and the canteen was run by Dickinsons, a firm of contractors, the man in charge being an ex-Q.M.S. Terry. Sports grounds were rather rougher then than now, but soccer and hockey were played in the surrounding fields.

Entertainment had to be sought for outside barracks. "The Adam and Eve" and "The Three Hammers" had not been rebuilt and were described as shacks or, by kindlier souls, as country inns; the Railway Hotel was much the same in appearance as it is today. There were of course no cinemas, and the nearest popular place of entertainment was the Holloway Empire; this and London were reached by train from Golders Green. A horse-bus ran from Golders Green to Church End, Finchley, but late-returning revellers usually missed the last bus and apparently thought nothing of walking back to barracks.

Pay and rations in 1905 should be of interest to the modern recruit. The daily ration for one man was $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of meat and 1 lb. of bread, and the remainder had to be bought by compulsory stoppages from the soldier's own pay. The pay of a recruit was 1s. 1d.

a day, and the stoppages, for extra food, cooking, washing, haircutting, and boot repairs amounted to 5½d. a day, so that his spending money amounted to about 4s. 6d. a week.

In the tensions of 1955, and after the violence and revolutions of the preceding decades, it is very difficult to reach back and attune the mind to that other world of 1905. But looking at it through Mr. Baldry's eyes many parallels appear, and many of the changes are of degree, not of kind. Mr. Baldry does not think that the Army is what it was; he thinks the modern Warrant Officer and N.C.O. cannot compare with those he remembers in his youth, and he derided the three years overseas tour as mollicoddling. Perhaps in 50 years' time those lucky ones among us who have not been atomised or hydrogenised or otherwise disposed of by the wonders of the age will be saying much the same of the Army that may then exist. And perhaps we shall agree with whoever it was who said:

"Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose."

OBITUARY

GABRIELLE MARY FLAVELL

The tragic news of the sudden death of the infant daughter of Capt. and Mrs. J. S. C. Flavell, on January 13, 1955, came as a great shock to all ranks of the Depot We extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved parents.

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Capt. and Mrs. James Flavell desire to express with deep gratitude their sincere thanks for the many kindnesses, letters and beautiful flowers received in their recent bereavement.

REINTRODUCTION OF MESS DRESS

The press gave some prominence recently to the announcement that Mess dress has been approved for wear by regular officers. The following is an extract from a letter sent to all officers of the Regiment on the instructions of the Colonel of the Regiment:

"The Colonel of the Regiment has noted with pleasure the reintroduction of Mess dress for regular officers, thus bringing the Army into line with the other two services. . . .

"He hopes that officers who are in possession of pre-war Regimental Mess dress will wear it on appropriate occasions, viz.:

"Dinner nights (when No. 1 dress is normally worn) and on other special occasions.

"Dining at Royal Naval and Royal Air Force Messes and on special entertainments such as Service dances.

"The Colonel of the Regiment considers that the pre-war pattern Regimental Mess dress is too expensive to purchase and maintain, but there must be no question of a lowering of standard.

"He has instructed the Regimental Dress Committee to consider a modified type of Mess dress which, when approved by him and the War Office, will become the official pattern.

"Officers not in possession of pre-war Mess dress will not purchase this dress until such time as the new pattern is approved."



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

In the New Year's Honours List we were delighted to see that Her Majesty the Queen had graciously appointed the Commanding Officer as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. We feel that this is a very richly deserved award for Col. Ellis's services to the Battalion and the Regiment in the years since the reforming of the Territorial Army. The command of a Territorial Battalion today is an increasingly difficult one, calling for considerable sacrifices, and we all know and appreciate the enormous amount of work and time that the Commanding Officer devotes to our interests.

The permanent staff of the Battalion have changed considerably during recent weeks. Major A. R. Waller left us in December on appointment to command the Regimental Depot. His successor as 2IC and Training Major is Major E. F. Thompson, M.C. Major Thompson was previously serving in West Africa in a staff appointment. Capt. B. A. M. Pielow has arrived from the 1st Battalion and has succeeded Capt. K. J. Carter as Adjutant. C.S.M. Cooper, Sgt. Eastap and L/Cpl. Ricketts have left us. C.S.M. Cooper is going to join the Nigeria Regiment in West Africa and Sgt. Eastap will rejoin the 1st Battalion after a 3-in. mortar course at Netheravon. We wish them all the best of luck in their new appointments. L/Cpl. Ricketts is now in civilian life and we wish him well.

In November the 7th Battalion Officers' Club held their annual dinner at Battalion H.Q. Always an enjoyable event, on this occasion it was particularly pleasing to have such a number of past officers of the Battalion at Hornsey. Col. C. H. Pank, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., was in the chair and many other distinguished past Commanding Officers were present. After dinner Col. Ellis presented Major Rex Waller with a travelling clock on behalf of serving officers as a token of their appreciation of his assistance over the past years.

It is hoped that the dinner will be held at Hornsey on alternate years in the future.

The Motor Cycling Club have been continuing to enter for sporting events and our team is gradually improving in its attempt to gain a first-class award. L/Cpl. Ricketts managed to gain a second-class award in the Civil Service Motor Association Trials on November 28, and at the Twickenham Trials on February 13 our team was placed ninth amongst the Army teams. Our team consisted of Cpl. Organ, Cpl. (now Sgt.) Rogers and Pte. Byne. Any experienced motor-cyclist in the Battalion will be welcome in the club.

Two successful smoking concerts have been held at Hornsey on November 27 and February 5. A local concert party gave their services voluntarily and pro-

vided us with a pleasant evening's entertainment on both occasions. Our Old Comrades were strongly represented in the audience and we were very pleased to see them.

The Children's Christmas Party was held on December 18. Major Percy Newman, assisted by wives and ladies, again arranged the party with great efficiency. Over 150 children came and all received presents from Father Christmas (well represented by C.S.M. George Cooper).

An extremely successful regimental dance was held on New Year's Eve. About 250 members of the Battalion and Old Comrades and their wives and ladies attended. The New Year was seen in traditional style and spirits. Our thanks are due to Capt. Gunnell, R.S.M. Pike and his helpers for this very enjoyable party. We hope that our Albuhera Dance to be held on May 14 will be a similar success. Perhaps more of our serving members will be able to attend them.

At annual camp this year we will take our part in the Divisional crossing of the River Avon. With this in mind our studies are directed to the opposed crossing of a river. On February 12-13 Brigade H.Q. held a T.E.W.T. at the Duke of York's H.Q. It was well attended by company commanders and specialist officers. Even the Quartermaster was in attendance (!), and we were given a good idea of what will be required of us at camp.

It was interesting to learn from *The Times* in January that the old Hampstead Drill Hall (previously thought to have been demolished) was in fact the building now occupied by the Everyman's Theatre at Hampstead. In a similar connection we have recently been informed that the old Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Drill Hall at Castle Yard, Highgate, is to be demolished. This hall dates back to 1840, as recorded on a large stone set in the end wall. Sir Thomas Bennett, who is dealing with the demolition on behalf of the Governors of Highgate School, has kindly offered this stone to the Battalion. It is hoped to find a new site for it at our present Highgate Centre.

The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes have held several functions recently.

The Sergeants' Mess have recorded these elsewhere in these notes. The Officers' Mess held a cocktail party on February 18. Amongst the guests were the Mayor of Hornsey and the Chairman of the Enfield Urban District Council. The Mayor of Hornsey, Alderman M. L. Burns, J.P., has recently been appointed as Lord-Lieutenant's representative for Hornsey.

On February 26-27, approximately 30 senior warrant officers and N.C.O.s attended a T.E.W.T. at Folkestone. Although the temperature was extremely low, spirits were high, and good answers were given to the various problems.

"S" Company have been very active recently, especially in the Mortar Platoon. The training of the N.C.O.s of the Platoon by Capt. Garrett has been very satisfactory and the Platoon is now up to establishment with trained N.C.O.s. Training has taken place on the first and third Tuesdays of the month and on one Sunday. The Sundays prior to Christmas were

devoted entirely to T.E.W.T.s at Enfield and were well attended. Similar exercises are now to be carried out with signal communications within the Platoon. In January the Platoon held their first call-up of N.S.M. since annual camp. Attendance was extremely good and there were only four men who did not attend. The Anti-Tank Platoon have regretfully said good-bye to Captain Leighton who has gone to "A" Company. He had commanded the Platoon for a number of years and will be missed in the Company. He has been succeeded by 2/Lt. M. J. Beaumont, who is now finding out the intricacies of anti-tank gunnery.

Drum-Major Holdford has at last managed to field a football team (in fact, two). The Corps of Drums played the Rest at the Regimental Depot on Sunday, February 20. The result was: Corps of Drums 1, The Rest 3.

We now have a number of boxers training for the Divisional boxing competition on March 18 and 19. Our officer IC boxing, 2/Lt. M. S. Gedye, has high hopes of our entrants and we expect to make a good showing in this event.

A list of a number of N.C.O.s who have recently been promoted is shown elsewhere in these notes. We would like to take this opportunity of congratulating them.

Annual camp this year will be held in the Salisbury Plain area and we will be accommodated in Windmill Hill Camp, near Ludgershall. However, from what we hear, a lot of time will be spent in the field and the camp will only be a *pied-a-terre*.

BATTALION RIFLE CLUB

The .22 rifle shooting season has proved to be a very busy and not unsuccessful one for the Battalion team. The keenness and enthusiasm of the members, some of whom travel long distances in extremes of weather, augurs well for the open ranges season, which will soon be here.

On Monday, February 21, the Battalion team beat our old rivals, 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex), in the quarter-finals of the Middlesex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association knock-out competition. It proved to be an exciting and close match, as the results shown in the order of firing reveal below.

7th Middlesex	11th Parachute
points	points
90	92
94	94
90	93
91	91
95	93
95	90
555	553

Our opponents for the semi-finals are not as yet known. To have reached this stage is no mean feat, as all units in Middlesex are entered for this competition, a total of 35 teams competing in all.

It was a sad loss to the Battalion team when Sgt. Tony

King decided to try out his luck in Australia. To take on a more happy note, it is encouraging to record that several new members have joined and in a few cases have fired in the Battalion team most successfully.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last notes we have had many changes in the Mess and we have had to say reluctant farewells to C.S.M.s Burrell and Simmonds, C/Sgt. Leggett and Sgts. King, Bates and Jones. We can ill afford to lose the old-established Mess members and we can assure them that they will be greatly missed. However, we hope that they will look in to see us whenever the opportunity occurs. This latter remark, of course, does not apply to Sgt. Tony King, who is leaving us to emigrate "down under" to Australia, and much as we would like to see more of him we can hardly expect him to drop in from Australia. We wish him and his family the very best of luck in their venture and we feel confident that if there is any shooting to be done "down under", then Tony will more than uphold the honour of the Regiment and of the 7th Battalion.

We welcome as new members Sgts. Hartard, Longman, Leggett, Frazer and Curry and we hope that they will enjoy their Mess life with us.

Despite the evil weather to which we have been subjected for the past few months, we can report two successful social occasions recently. We held a social evening on Saturday, December 4. A fair proportion of members and ladies were present and a good time was had by all, but we were sorry not to see more of our younger members there. We need their support. Our annual dinner on Saturday, January 15, was a great success, but we very much regret that, owing to illness, the C.O. and Mrs. Ellis could not be with us. However, Major and Mrs. Thompson ably deputised, and we were glad of a chance to meet our new 2IC and Training Major. As usual, the Permanent Staff members spared no efforts to make the evening a success and the thanks of all members are due to them and, in fact, to all those concerned. Before leaving the subject of our annual dinner we should record how pleased we were to have the pleasure of the company of Capt. and Mrs. Gunnell and our other guests from the London Scottish and our own ex-members. We hope that they enjoyed their evening with us.

It is difficult to decide who is really to blame, but it is significant that since R.S.M. Pike rejoined us we have all become domino fiends. At first it was just a quiet pastime, but now it appears to be an obsession and even our once genial caterer, Bob Burrows, is now most upset if someone has the audacity to interrupt him in his pondering, whether to make it "sixes about" or "blanks about," by asking for a drink. The purpose of the game seems to be pointless, because the same person always seems to win, and it is rather a strange coincidence that Sgt. Carter has suddenly found it possible to buy a house, whilst his brother-in-law, Sgt. Wotton, is able to run a vintage car. It is rumoured, too, that should the R.Q.M.S. ever win (which is highly improbable), then flags will be flown on all public buildings in Hornsey for one week.

We close these notes, as usual, with our very best

wishes to all "Die-Hard" Sergeants' Messes, wherever they may be.

BAND

The Battalion Band continues to thrive under the baton of Bandmaster Gilyatt, recently returned from a spell in hospital. They provided a programme of music for the dinner of the officers, past and present, of the 7th Battalion, which was held at the T.A. Centre, Hornsey, on October 12.

The Band also played one Sunday morning at the Regimental Depot War Memorial houses, but, owing to the cold weather, most of the occupants observed the proceedings from behind their windows in the warm security of their homes.

A special attempt is being made to interest local authorities in Middlesex in engaging the Band for public concerts and so far we have six confirmed engagements, which will provide a much needed income to the Band Fund.

As February drew unwillingly towards its icy close the Adjutant was startled to receive a letter announcing that a Field Security Section proposed visiting the Band of the 7th Battalion in order to inspect their security arrangements. Why the Band should have been singled out for attention in this way remains a mystery. Perhaps subversive music is to be found amongst the dusty portfolios of the Band Stores. We shall see.

Major E. F. Thompson, M.C., having taken over as Training Major from Major A. R. Waller, M.C., has now become Band President. During his recent tour of duty in West Africa he was also Band President of the Band of the Nigeria Regiment. He tells us that what these gentlemen lacked in musical ability they made up for in numbers and enthusiasm.

There are no changes of personnel in the Band to report but vacancies do exist for anyone who wishes to join. The Band practice night is Wednesday, at 8 p.m., and anyone who is interested in joining the Band can meet the Bandmaster at that time.

PROMOTIONS

(October 12, 1954, to February 25, 1955)

OTHER RANKS

To C.S.M.—Sgt. J. Webb.
To Colour-Sergeant—Sgt. D. Jackson and Sgt. A. Carnie.
To Sergeant—Cpls. G. Rogers, T. Frazer and G. Leggett; Ptes. R. Longman, A. Hartard and J. Curry.
To Corporal—L/Cpls. T. Hall, G. Cooper, C. Taylor, J. Ridler, L. Dudley, L. Wilson and R. Wheeler; Ptes. A. Phillips, T. Stower, J. Tebb, M. Woodhouse, K. Ransom, G. Haxton and B. Biggadike.
To Lance-Corporal—Dmr. Burton, J.; Ptes. G. Chacksfield, T. Bond, L. Giltneane, T. Taylor, P. Thickbroom, D. Halsey, J. Hall, D. Evans, B. Smith and R. Ripsher.

OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Commanding Officer .. Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D.
2IC and Training Major .. Major E. F. Thompson, M.C.
Adjutant .. Capt. B. A. M. Pielow
Assistant Adjutant .. Lt. B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C.
Intelligence Officer .. Lt. H. D. Tydings
Quartermaster .. Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E.
R.M.O. .. Capt. M. P. Ward, R.A.M.C.
Padre .. Rev. J. H. Fuller, R.A.Ch.D.

11th Bn. THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT

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

The Battalion has now nearly finished the winter period of training, the Christmas festivities are over, and the more seasoned T.A. members are drinking hard in the canteens to enable next year's children's parties to be paid for. A start has been made on the 1955 training, classifications are being carried out, and the boxing season is nearly over.

Boxing

The inter-company novices' boxing competition was held at Hounslow on Tuesday, February 3. It was a very successful evening with several knock-outs and plenty of punches going in each direction, the most obvious failing being the lack of fitness of most of the competitors. There were seven bouts, in four of which officers took part, equalling the previous record for an 11th Battalion meeting in 1950. The results were as follows:

Feather .. Lt. Smith ("D"), walk over.
Light Welter .. Pte. Stocking ("D") beat Pte. Dolan ("D").
Welter .. Lt. Brooks ("A") beat Pte. Canoll ("D").
Middle .. Pte. Gibbs ("C") beat Pte. Watson ("C").
Light Heavy .. Lt. Price ("C") beat Lt. Cullimore ("B").
Heavy .. Pte. Williams ("C") beat Lt. Cpl. Day ("C").
Best Loser .. Pte. Watson ("C").
Winning Company .. "C" Company.

The inter-company open Boxing tournament took place at Hounslow on Thursday, February 24. There were many excellent and aggressive bouts, with a very welcome number of new faces in the ring. The prizes were presented by Brigadier W. D. Tighe-Wood, M.C. The results were as follows:

Bantam .. Pte. Ralf ("S"), walk over.
Feather .. Lt. Cpl. Gordon ("S") beat Pte. Wilson ("A").
Light .. Pte. Thomas ("D") beat Lt. Smith ("D").
Light Middle .. Lt. Cpl. Cox ("C") beat Pte. Nicholls ("H.Q.").
Middle .. Pte. Johnstone ("C") beat Pte. Bloomfield ("H.Q.").
Light Heavy .. Sgt. Cowell ("D") beat Lt. Price ("C").
Heavy .. Pte. Williams ("C") beat Lt. Cpl. Kemp ("H.Q.").
Light Welter .. Pte. Topper ("D"), walk over.
Welter .. Pte. McNamara ("S") beat Lt. Brooks ("A").

Battalion H.Q., Support, and "H.Q." Companies

The winter's training has taken its usual course, with the training being varied between specialist training and the lighter relief of basketball and 22 shooting. A very successful Children's Party was held in the Drill Hall at Hounslow on the Saturday before Christmas, complete with the now traditional huge Christmas trees, the conjuro, tea, and films of great antiquity. "H.Q." Company welcome Sgt. Goodall as their P.S.I., Sgt. Phillips was given a great "send-off" when he left; the Sergeants' Mess Ball provided a suitable occasion to congratulate him on retaining his sanity after his T.A. tour!

"S" Company consider themselves very lucky in that they are retaining the services of their "regular adviser," C.S.M. Vasey, for another year. The Company H.Q. is also enriched by the presence of newly promoted C/Sgt. Henry Rae.

R.S.M. ... W.O.1 E. J. Pike
Bandmaster ... Bandmaster W. J. Gilyatt
R.Q.M.S. ... R.Q.M.S. N. J. Howes
O.R. Sergeant ... C/Sgt. C. J. Munds

"H.Q." COMPANY

Company Commander .. Major R. J. P. Cummins
M.T.O. .. Capt. P. J. T. Lane
Signals Officer .. Lt. G. R. Chadwick
Assistant Signals Officer .. Lt. G. C. Ross
Messing Officer .. Lt. J. F. A. Weil
P.S.I. .. C.S.M. V. Corner
C.S.M. .. C/Sgt. D. Jackson
C.Q.M.S. .. C/M. C. Holdford, B.E.M.
Drum Major .. Sgt. J. E. Moran
M.T. Sergeant .. Sgt. D. Rodbard
Signals Sergeant .. C/Sgt. A. Carnie
O.M. Steward .. Sgt. S. Smith
Sergeants .. Sgt. G. Payne
Sgt. K. Iddenton

"S" COMPANY

Company Commander .. Major L. F. Baker
Mortar Platoon Commander .. Capt. R. G. Garrett
Mortar Platoon 2IC .. Lt. J. M. Phillips
M.M.G. Platoon Commander .. Capt. M. A. B. Clutson
Anti-Tank Pl. Commander .. 2/Lt. M. J. Beaumont
Assault Pioneer Pl. Commander .. 2/Lt. J. G. J. Grobel
P.S.I. .. C.S.M. A. Cooper
C.S.M. .. C.S.M. F. Hutchings
C.Q.M.S. .. C/Sgt. W. Payne
Mortar Platoon Sergeant .. Sgt. W. Payne
M.M.G. Platoon Sergeant .. Sgt. F. LaRoche

"A" COMPANY

Company Commander .. Capt. J. D. Gunnell
2IC .. Capt. R. L. Leighton
Platoon Commander .. Lt. A. H. Catchpole
Platoon Commander .. Lt. M. Joseph
Platoon Commander .. 2/Lt. M. J. Hickey
P.S.I. .. C.S.M. F. Firman
C.S.M. .. C.S.M. L. Montague
C.Q.M.S. .. C/Sgt. G. Hills
Sergeants .. Sgt. R. Carter (R)
Sgt. W. Sexton
Sgt. M. Young
Sgt. D. Jones

"B" COMPANY

Company Commander .. Lt. A. R. K. Hardcastle
2IC .. Lt. J. M. Phillips
Platoon Commander .. Lt. N. C. Berry
Platoon Commander .. Lt. G. L. Blacktop
Platoon Commander .. Lt. S. de M. Enthoven
P.S.I. .. Sgt. M. Eastop
C.S.M. .. C.S.M. J. Webb
C.Q.M.S. .. C/Sgt. M. Leahy
Sergeants .. Sgt. J. Leighton
Sgt. D. Charge

"C" COMPANY

Company Commander .. Capt. P. J. A. Pielow
2IC .. Lt. O. G. Richards
Platoon Commander .. Lt. T. M. H. Wollocombe
Platoon Commander .. Lt. C. A. Lamb
Platoon Commander .. C.S.M. G. Bignell
P.S.I. .. C/Sgt. A. Brooks
C.Q.M.S. .. Sgt. F. Carter
Sergeants .. Sgt. A. Hartard

"D" COMPANY

Company Commander .. Capt. M. E. Baldwin
2IC .. Lt. S. J. Carter
Platoon Commander .. Lt. R. M. Fox
Platoon Commander .. Lt. R. D. Wilson
Platoon Commander .. Lt. M. Crowder
P.S.I. .. 2/Lt. D. E. C. Vince
C.S.M. .. Sgt. D. Weller
C.Q.M.S. .. C/Sgt. R. Colbourne
Sergeants .. Sgt. R. Richardson
Sgt. B. Wright
Sgt. R. Longman

Not on Strength of Companies: Major T. W. Creighton, Capt. J. W. Scott, Lt. J. F. Willmer, Lt. M. McDavid, Lt. M. D. C. Watkins, Lt. P. A. Stocken, Lt. G. J. Riches, Lt. I. N. Henderson

"A" Company

The newest Company is managing to keep its tail up in the Middlesex Depot at Mill Hill, under the command of Lt. David Brooks.

"B" Company

"B" Company at Ealing had a highly successful annual dance and children's party, both directed by Capt. Reckitt. The credit for the scrumptious spread, which the children enjoyed after being entertained by Cpl. Bowditch, goes to the W.V.S., with whom the Company have the closest liaison. L/Cpl. Kelly acted as Santa Claus.

The training in the New Year has been centred around an officers' and N.C.O.s' cadre run with great enthusiasm and efficiency by Major Lee. This should serve them in good stead during the summer months. An interesting aspect of the cadre is the regular attendance of officers and N.C.O.s from the 6th and 10th Middlesex Home Guard Battalions. This should go far to foster an association which was previously only social.

C/Sgt. Crosby is to be congratulated on his promotion; the Company are unlikely to go short of tea during the coming summer.

"C" Company

"C" Company at Wealdstone have emphasised the sporting side of the T.A. with such success that they have already won the Battalion novices boxing, the Battalion cross-country competition, and have hopes of further triumphs. They managed, in addition, to find time for an interesting and highly educational air-photo course at the Duke of York's H.Q.

"D" Company

No notes have been received by the Battalion Editor.

Officers' Mess

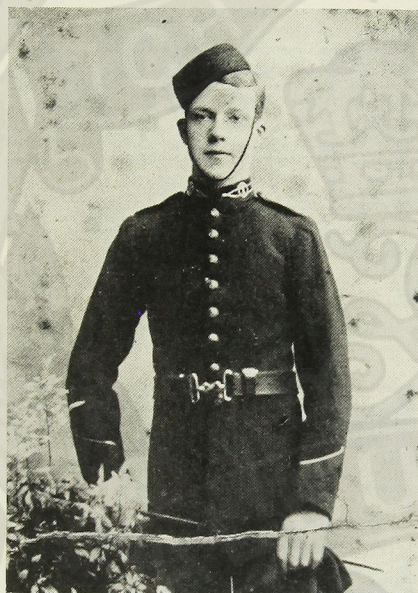
There have been two changes in the regular staff of the Battalion during the winter: Capt. (Q.M.) Jim Stone left us in November to take up an appointment in Germany, and we are very glad to welcome Lt. (Q.M.) Harry Jennings of the Middlesex Regiment in his place. We shall all miss Capt. Chris Mievile, M.C., who has returned to the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment in Austria after his tour with us as our Adjutant. He managed to achieve an excellent balance between efficiency and the "T.A. spirit." His sense of humour, which helped him survive the T.A., will undoubtedly assist him at the present time in learning to ski. He has been replaced by another Middlesex Regiment parachutist, Capt. Naps Jordan.

The Mess, thanks to the patient hard work of our "chief regular adviser" and Mess secretary, Major Don Appleton, who has on occasions been seen behind the scenes cutting sandwiches with great gusto, has had a very successful winter. Our activities included a Christmas cocktail party before the Sergeants' Mess ball, a dinner with our ladies at the May Fair after Christmas, and a dinner in the Mess at Hounslow to

say good-bye to Brigadier W. D. Tighe-Wood, M.C., and the Bandmaster, Major Glyn Gilbert, both of whom are leaving the Brigade. They leave us greatly in their debt; it will be very difficult to find a team who can equal them; they knew "T.A. form" better than we know it ourselves!

8th BATTALION NEWS

I have recently been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Hounslow Branch of the British Legion and amongst other old 8th Battalion members I have had the great pleasure of meeting Mr. A. E. Bowles, M.M., and Mr. A. Daws and from them have obtained their record of service.



Vol. A. F. Daws, 2nd Vol. Battalion, Middlesex Regt.

Mr. A. Daws

Joined 2nd V.B., D.C.O. Middlesex Regiment . . . 1894
Duty in London, Queen Victoria's Jubilee . . . 1897
Volunteered for service in Africa with C.I.V. . . 1899
Carried on with 2nd V.B. on expiration of engagement.
Paraded at Horse Guards for presentation of medals by King Edward VII . . . 1901
Merged with 2nd V.B. into 8th Middlesex Regiment, T.A. . . . 1908
Member of Colour Party at Windsor Castle for presentation of Colours by King Edward VII . . 1909
Awarded T.F. Medal.

Transferred to T.A. Reserve 1913
Re-enlisted Royal Engineers; served with 9th Field Company, R.E., and 581st Fortress Company, R.E. 1915
Wounded and gassed 1918
Transferred to Army Reserve 1919
Members of escort of ex-Servicemen at burial of "Unknown Warrior" at Westminster Abbey 1919
Member, Hounslow Branch, The British Legion, The S.A.W.V.A.
Alfred Frank Daws, 46 Cromwell Road, Hounslow.

Mr. A. E. Bowles, M.M.

Extract from The Duke of Cambridge's Own *Fall In*, Saturday August 26, 1916:

"R.S.M. A. E. Bowles was born at Teddington, Middlesex, in 1879. He joined the 2nd V.B. Middlesex (Hampton Company) in 1896 and was promoted corporal 1897. He gave up his stripes, with many others, to join C.I.V.s; took part in the whole of the hard work and marching in Africa that the Battalion was asked to do, and when the Battalion was resting prior to coming home acted as cyclist orderly to Lord Kitchener in Pretoria. Queen's Medal and four bars. Promoted sergeant in 2nd V.B. Middlesex in 1901; Hythe course

in 1902 and took the Colours in 1912, which had been held by his predecessor for 15 years. R.S.M. Bowles has never missed an annual training and was one of the first to get the T.F. medal. Was made C.Q.M.S. on adoption of platoon system. He landed in France with his Battalion March 9, 1915, and was soon in the thick of the fighting. They had only two Regular staff with them, apart from the Adjutant—R.S.M. Stead and C.Q.M.S. H. Smith. Stead received his commission and was killed a few days later. Smith took R.S.M. and was wounded May 24 and R.S.M. Bowles was then asked to take the rank he, as a Territorial, had never thought of attaining, and being the third R.S.M. in just over 10 weeks of landing. But none can deny that this rapid promotion was richly deserved."

R.S.M. Bowles was awarded the Military Medal and continued to serve with the Battalion until the end of 1919.

He is now an active member of the British Legion and the South Africa War Veteran Association.

He and Mr. Daws are still great pals, both having kept in touch since the South African War.

We were able to entertain them at the drill hall and they were thrilled to see their old Colours and some of the silver, including the Middlesex Justices Shield, for which they competed in 1913.

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

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

At the time of writing the last article, our future seemed extremely well advanced—an excellent report again from annual camp, and the building up of a magnificent *esprit de corps* within the Regiment. Now we have been cast into limbo with our very existence much in the balance. To quote William Shakespeare: "To be or not to be, that is the question." For all we know this may be our swan song, but we still remain confident as the battle is still to be won or lost.

All this has cast a gloomy shadow over other activities, such as the all-ranks' Christmas dance and the officers' and sergeants' New Year's Day ball, and only last week our Brigade ball held in our Drill Hall.

As always happens, now that our existence is uncertain, the Drill Hall is being given its five-year clean up and repair, and we wonder how many, and who will be left to see it finished.

"P" BATTERY

Christmas has passed once again, and the heavy round of socials and dances is over. It was pleasing to see that members of the Battery gave good support to these functions, though it would be even more pleasing to achieve 100 per cent. attendance.

Congratulations to Capt. K. T. Dennis and the aircraft recognition team on winning the Inter-Battery Cup for the second year running. It was duly filled by the O.C. at the all-ranks' ball, but strange to relate, the teams' drinking ability was not as good as their "spotting."

Congratulations are also offered to L/Bdrs. Milsom and Chignell, and Gnr. Zimmerman, on passing the Class 1 "spotters" test.

The small-bore team seemed to develop spots before their eyes during the miniature range competition. We were considered the favourites for this cup also, but we only achieved second place.

All week-end training has been cancelled for the last two months, so there has been no opportunity for the whole Battery to be on parade together. The same old faces are to be seen each drill night, but until a full parade is possible, only specialist training can take place.

N.S. men continue to run out at an increased pace. So far, they have all been in a civilian employment which is unsuitable to allow them to take on a volunteer's commitments, so we say farewell to some very useful members of the Battery.

Whether there will be a contribution from this Battery in the next issue of the Magazine is a moot point at the moment. Change and rumours of change go on around us as A.A. Command slowly breaks up.

However, we are not called "Die-Hards" for nothing, so we must just wait and see.

"Q" Battery

Like most T.A. Batteries, the recent War Office announcement about reduction of T.A. anti-aircraft units has, to say the least, stunned us. With the fun, frolic and success of our last camp still fresh in our minds, it is hard to think that for many of us that may have been our last camp.

Our Battery Captain, Capt. P. W. Pughe, has left us on moving into Kent. We wish him every happy

ness and success. He was dined out with due ceremony in the Officers' Mess on Wednesday, February 9.

After a brief period as our P.S.I., B.S.M. Strange has returned to the uncertainties of civilian life; with him go our best wishes.

Piercing the gloom were the Christmas festivities, as usual, very festive. It has been suggested that we provide the B.S.M. with a tin-opener for his newest baby.

Lacking inspiration, let us hope that in the next issue we shall not, along with "S.L." Battery, be saying R.I.P., but *Ad multos annos*.

OFFICERS' MESS

Also a rather dismal place at the time of writing these notes. This too has been completely redecorated by the Association, including curtains, to which has been added a considerable sum of Mess money for items like Mess Waiter's kit, lighting arrangements, etc.

We wonder who will have the pleasure of using these palatial rooms.

Major George Wickers, R.A., our Quartermaster, has completed his military service, and Capt. Paul Pughe, for domestic reasons, has left the Regiment. We wish them every success and happiness in Civvy Street, with an earnest wish for our own chairs and bowler hats to be indented for and kept dusted.

We planned a dining out for them both, but unfortunately Major Wickers was unable to attend—still we were able to look after the bodily and spiritual needs of Capt. Pughe.

Our next function will probably be a dining in evening for those remaining, by those departing.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Officers' and Sergeants' Annual Ball

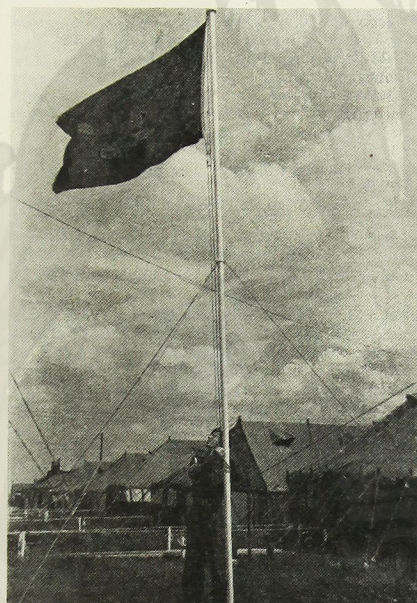
The annual ball for the officers and sergeants of the Regiment was held on Saturday, January 1, 1955, and from the beginning to the end it was a resounding success. The attendance from both Messes and by guests was much better than that of former years and the relaxed, happy feeling which prevailed throughout the evening was evident soon after the ball commenced.

Both the M.C. found by the Sergeants' Mess (Sgt. F. W. Silvester) and the other M.C. found by the Officers' Mess (Lt. N. A. Lockett) did an excellent job of work, for which they were deservedly congratulated.

During the evening there were several pleasant interludes and among them were the following: Our Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. B. A. G. MacFadden, T.D., R.A., spoke at some length on our recent history and touched on the uncertain future of the Regiment. Mrs. B. A. G. MacFadden, Commanding Officers' wife, kindly presented the prizes of the evening. B.S.M. E. Lockyer is to be congratulated on the magnificent buffet, on which he had worked so hard.

All Ranks' Ball

This will be fully reported elsewhere, but we must take this opportunity to thank B.Q.M.S. Spivey for all his interesting work for the Regiment.



A new flag now proudly flies in the old 9th Battalion lines

Regimental Children's Party

It is very pleasant to report on this occasion because it was so successful. To be aware of this it was only necessary to see the look of rapture on the children's faces, all 132 of them, throughout the evening.

Training

A very successful training day was held on Sunday, February 6, 1955, for the sergeants (commonly known as Nos. 1) and W.O.s in gun drill and mechanism.

Farewell

On the evening of February 9, 1955, the Sergeants' Mess held a small farewell party in the Sergeants' Mess for Major (Q.M.) G. Wickers, R.A., and B.S.M. N. Strange. A grand time was had by all. The P.M.C. presented B.S.M. Strange with a lovely clock suitably inscribed, a present subscribed by Mess members. B.S.M. Strange said a few words in farewell. He hopes to be able to rejoin the Regiment at a later date.

We took this opportunity to present a bottle of whisky to Mr. C. R. Maggs, O.C.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)), to show him our appreciation of all members for his untiring efforts. It will be recalled that as Pioneer Sergeant he was the "scourge of the 9th."

RIFLE CLUB

We have just completed a busy period of shooting. During October, November and December a rifle course of instruction was held with several lessons that included .22 shooting on the miniature range (this has produced at least three new members of the club) and we hope all those who attended the course have benefited.

On Wednesday, December 15, bounty night, an inter-battery and individual .22 championship was held, Searchlight Battery emerging battery champions and Gnr. Tron individual champion after a shoot-off with B.Q.M.S. Barnden, who both scored a possible 40 in the competition and 15 against nine in the shoot-off. A silver challenge cup was presented to Searchlight Battery with a keepsake for each member of the team and a silver spoon was presented to Gnr. Tron on December 17 at the all ranks' ball.

On December 21, 60 members of the Regiment and their friends fired in a good luck shoot, which took place on the miniature range during the evening after the children's Christmas party, and we are very pleased to report that everyone taking part received a prize. This year the prize table seemed to be the best so far. This was no doubt due to the help given to us by the following: Mr. Brazier, of Kenton Park Farm, who donated a gentleman's toilet set; Messrs. Meux Brewery, two dozen bottles of beer; Messrs. Fremlin's Brewery, two dozen bottles of beer; Messrs. Scribbans-Kemp, a presentation box of biscuits; and Messrs. Cantrell and Cochrane, six bottles of squash. We are very much indebted to the above for their generosity. We were eliminated in the first round of the Middlesex T.A. Association .22 knock-out competition by the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, who beat us by 30 points. Unfortunately, three members of the team were absent, but B.S.M. Packer sportingly stepped in at the last moment, so that, with the reserves, we were able to muster seven (six highest scores to count).

SCORES

B.Q.M.S. Barnden 90, Bdr. Anderson 89, Gnr. Tron 82, L/Bdr. Smeth 81, Gnr. Blow 80, Pte. Youngman-Smith 76, B.S.M. Packer 51. Total (for six highest scores) 498.

7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment: Total 528.

We congratulate the 7th Battalion on beating us. If we cannot win, we would rather lose to our old friends from Hornsey than anybody else, and may R.S.M. Pike take them through to the final.

A three months' intensive training course of instruction has just started on rifle and Bren on Wednesday evenings with many periods on the miniature range, at the end of which we hope we shall get some more new members for the club.

As our usual scribe was unable to compile these notes, it fell to my lot as Secretary to deputise for him, so I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Lt.-Col. and Mrs. MacFadden for the very nice presentation made to me at the all ranks' ball. I can assure them that their health was drunk several times over Christmas by my wife and myself.

The club wishes all readers all the best for 1955 and plenty of good shooting.

L.S.

SCIENCE MUSEUM VISIT

The two Regimental aircraft recognition courses forsook their studies of Sabres and M.I.G.s on November 24 to delve into aviation's past in a visit to the Science Museum aeronautical collection at South Kensington. Mr. Wilson, of the Museum staff, was an admirably informative and entertaining guide to the group of 35, who could not help feeling that the spotter's job today is considerably more difficult than it must have been in, say, 1914, when top speeds of 60 m.p.h. were common.

3rd DIVISION OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, 1939-47

Officers who served in 2nd Battalion between 1939 and 1947 will probably like to know or be reminded of the existence of the:

3rd Division Officers' Association, 1939-47,

Hon. Secretary, Hugh Gunning,
65 Turney Road,
Dulwich Village, S.E.21.

The Association holds an Annual Dinner, which was held this year at the Naval and Military Club on March 26.

R.W.A.F.F.

All officers and ex-officers who have at any time served with the Royal West-African Frontier Force are reminded of the existence of the R.W.A.F.F. Dinner Club. A reunion dinner is held annually in London, that for 1955 taking place in October and for 1956 probably in May. The type of commission held by an officer or ex-officer (i.e. regular, short-service, emergency, N.S., etc.) is immaterial, the sole requirement of membership being service with West African troops in any part of the world. Further particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, R.W.A.F.F. Dinner Club, Bisterne, Normandy, nr. Guildford, Surrey.

THE HISTORY

of the

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

1919-52

The History of The Middlesex Regiment, 1919-52, which has been in preparation for several years, is at last nearing completion.

The final draft is in the hands of the publishers and the book should be available for issue in October this year.

It is anticipated that the cost to past and present members of the Regiment will be 18s. 6d. a copy and to the general public 25s.

Order forms will be circulated to all members, past and present.

THE COLOURS

Introduction

In reprinting the following article, we remind readers that there is in the Regimental Museum at the Depot, a fragment of the Colours carried by the 57th at the Battle of Albuhera. This is tattered and pierced by shot holes, a reminder of the gallantry of those who fell that day in keeping the Colours flying.

Object

1. The British Regular Army dates from the Restoration. The object of this article is to trace, briefly, the purpose of its Colours over the past three hundred years.

Early History

2. Although the Army dates its formation from 1661, the practice of carrying Colours continues back through the Royalist and Cromwellian armies, when the hue of a Colour corresponded to the title of a unit (e.g. the Red Regiment carried a red Colour). In 1639 it was written of the "office and duty of a Colonel of a Regiment" that "hee ought to have all the Colours of his Regiment to be alike in colour and fashion to avoid confusion so that the soldiers might discern their own Regiment from the other troops." In the Middle Ages, when much of a soldier's body was covered in armour, identification was achieved only by leaders using their coats of arms or heraldic designs upon shields and on pennons or banners carried from the shaft of the lance.

It is clear, therefore, that on the formation of the standing army the purpose of Colours was essentially a practical one, i.e. to assist identification.

The Warrant of 1747

3. The practice of using Colours to carry the armorial bearings of a leader continued for almost a hundred years. In 1747, however, a warrant established that "no Colonel to put his Arms, Crest, Device or Livery on any part of the appointments of the Regiment under his command" and "that the second Colour (i.e. the Regimental Colour) be of the same colour as the facings of the Regiment and to bear the Regimental Number."

At this time "facings" comprised the lapels, cuffs and turnback of the coat. The Colours were still being used, therefore, as a means of identification, and this practice of carrying the Regimental Number on the Regimental Colour continued until 1881, when the numbers were replaced by the new territorial titles.

Colours in Battle

4. The Colours were carried in the centre of the front rank where they could be easily seen and recognised. Their presence in the battle undoubtedly had a high morale effect, and once battle was joined, the Colour Party became an obvious target and the centre of the most bitter hand-to-hand fighting. The rate of mortality amongst ensigns was high, for the importance of a victory was generally gauged by the number of guns and stands of Colours that were captured.

With a view to giving the ensigns some local protection, the rank of Colour-Sergeant was introduced in 1813. "It is His Royal Highness' pleasure that the duty of attending the Colours in the field shall at all times be performed by the Sergeants" and "that they shall bear above their chevron the honourable badge of the Regimental Colour supported by two cross swords."

5. Writing of Waterloo, Sgt. William Lawrie, 40th Regiment, says:

"About 4 o'clock I was ordered to the Colours; this, although I was used to warfare as much as anyone, was a job I did not at all like. But still I went as boldly to work as I could. There had been before me that day 14 Sergeants already killed and wounded and the staff and Colours almost cut to pieces."

6. Although the carrying of Colours in battle involved considerable loss of life amongst those who bore them, the practice continued until comparatively recent times. Such were the losses amongst Colour parties in the Crimea that in the later battles of that campaign some commanding officers ordered their Colours to the rear once battle had been joined.

At the disaster of Isandhlwana, 1879, two subalterns received posthumous V.C.s for their endeavours to save the Colours, and from this date the practice of carrying Colours in battle gradually came to an end. They were last carried in battle at Laings Nek in 1881.

Battle Honours on Colours

7. The system of placing battle honours on Colours did not start generally until the Peninsular War. As a mark of Royal favour, certain regiments had been authorised to place a badge (e.g. the White Horse of Hanover or the current Royal cipher) on their clothing and appointments, including the Colours. Between 1661 and 1812, however, there were three solitary instances where a battle honour was placed on a Colour. The first occurred in 1768, when as a result of a spirited cavalry action, Elliott's Light Dragoons (later 15th Hussars) were authorised to place the word "Emsdorf" on their helmets and on their guidons.

The next instance occurred in 1784, when the four Regiments which had taken part in the Siege of Gibraltar were permitted to place the word "Gibraltar" upon their Grenadier and Light Infantry caps, their accoutrements, and drums, and likewise upon the Colours.

After a lapse of 18 years those regiments which had fought in Egypt in 1801 were authorised to place a sphinx with a wreath of laurel and the word "Egypt" on their appointments, including the Colours.

Rifle, Hussar and Lancer Regiments

8. An experimental Rifle Corps was raised in 1801. Their role was a skirmishing one in open order. Concealment was important and there was thus no necessity for the use of Colours. The experimental Rifle Corps ultimately became the Rifle Brigade and as the experiment proved successful other regiments were converted to a rifle role; for example, the 60th Regiment was converted in 1824 and from that date ceased to carry Colours. Four other regiments were subsequently converted.

They are now amalgamated into the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and the Royal Ulster Rifles, and they also on conversion ceased to carry Colours.

Certain Light Dragoon regiments were converted to a hussar role in 1807. The role of hussar was considered analogous to that of a rifle role and accordingly these regiments gave up carrying guidons. This was eventually confirmed by an order of 1834. Other Light Dragoon regiments were converted to a lancer role at varying dates from 1815 onwards and they also on conversion gave up carrying guidons.

Summary

It is clear that the original purposes of Colours were to aid identification and to act as a guide and a rallying point in battle. They were a part of the appointments of a regiment; battle honours, as they were gradually introduced, were placed not solely on the Colours, but on the clothing and other appointments, such as drums and bells of arms.

The history of many of our regiments is bound up

ACCOUNT OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY DINNER

By Col. M. Browne

The Dinner held at Grosvenor House on January 21, 1955, will long be remembered by all ranks as an outstanding feature in our history.

For the Regiment this dinner was unique as it was held in the year in which the 200th anniversary of the raising of the 57th Foot in 1755 under Col. Arabin, and the 50th anniversary of our arrival in early April, 1905, at Inglis Barracks as the new Regimental Headquarters and Depot of the County Regiment. The Regiment's connection with Middlesex commenced in 1782, when the 57th Foot added to its historic number the term West Middlesex, to be paralleled in 1807 by the 77th Foot being called East Middlesex after that number.

By the kindness and forethought of County Alderman A. N. H. Barnes, J.P., the Chairman of the County Council, it was decided to add to the list of toasts on the programme one for the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own). That toast was proposed by County Alderman Sir William Grimshaw, J.P., doubtless because he had presided as chairman of the County Council at a lunch given to all ranks of our 1st Battalion by the County Council in the Drill Hall of the London Scottish, following the Lord Lieutenant's presentation to their Drummers of 20 silver bugles in recognition of the gallantry of the Battalion during the operations in Korea in the early and most arduous part of the campaign. The reply was to have been made by the Colonel of the Regiment, but by bad fortune he was ill with a severe attack of influenza, which confined him to his home. His place was taken by the writer of this account.

By good fortune the second toast prior to the Regimental one was "The County," and was proposed by the Rt. Hon. Harold MacMillan, P.C., M.P., Her Majesty's Minister for Defence.

In a brilliant speech the Minister commenced by a glowing eulogy of our Regiment set out in splendid

with deeds of considerable heroism around the Colours. The willingness of so many to grasp the Colours when others had fallen and unhesitatingly accepting risks far beyond those normally occurring in battle constituted examples of self-sacrifice of the highest order. Since 1804 Colours have been entitled to the highest military honours.

The reason why Colours are carried by some regiments and not by others is clear and depends on their role in the past. It may be argued that, as there is no difference now between the role of dragoon guards and lancers then, therefore there is no reason why the latter regiments should not now bear guidons again.

These regiments who now carry Colours have done so continuously from the date of their formation almost without exception. Care must be taken that the honour and sanctity of these Colours does not change through a wholesale adoption of Colours throughout the Army occasioned by a desire to display battle honours which could equally well be borne in other ways as they have been in the past.

language, never to be forgotten. He displayed an intimate knowledge of our Regimental history, even to the extent of pronouncing correctly "Inglis," the name of the Commander who made use of the historic words "Die hard my men, Die hard," on the field of Albuhera on May 16, 1811, from which we have derived the right to be known as "The Die-Hards," a name which has ever inspired our ranks to fight to the bitter end and to lay down their lives to maintain untarnished the honour and glory of the Regiment in which they serve and whose crest bears the words "Ich Dien."

After having consulted the Colonel as soon as I knew the task of replying would fall upon my shoulders, I was able in addition to offer our thanks to the County for the generous manner in which, led by the Lord Lieutenant, the people had financially and directly by many deeds supported all our needs, including the Prisoners-of-War Fund, 1939-45, the War Memorial Fund to build 20 cottage homes at Enfield for disabled soldiers, the special fund to provide comforts for all ranks of the 1st Battalion during their year in the Korean campaign, the fund which presented 20 silver bugles to the 1st Battalion in memory of the gallantry and endurance displayed throughout a bitter winter in Korea, and finally the financial aid given to the Regimental Association to enable help to be given to past and present members in distress of all kinds. In fact, some £60,000 in all was the generous gift made from all types of people, rich and poor, to show their gratitude and especially to the 1st and 2nd Battalions of their Regiment, now amalgamated, and also the Territorial Battalions of the Regiment (7th, 8th (11th Para. Battalion) and 9th, now 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A.).

Before the toast was drunk, the Band played the Regimental March which combines those formerly used by the 1st Battalion, "Sir Manly Power," and the 2nd Battalion, "Paddy's Resource." This present March was composed by a Director of Music, Capt. A. E. Thirtle, A.R.C.M., towards the end of 1948, when the two Regular Battalions were amalgamated.



ANNUAL CAMP, 1954
A party from the Regiment visit 7th Hussars

THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

We of this Regiment are proud to have been given the opportunity of contributing to *The Die-Hards Journal*. It is yet another proof of the living state of our alliance and we trust that news of our daily doings will prove of interest to the reader.

The writer feels that a short summary of the background to this Regiment might well start our first article.

Background

Hong Kong is a small colony containing a proportion of nearly every race. The majority is Chinese, with a large proportion of Portuguese, Indian and Eurasian. There are a number of British expatriates in business and many of the Chinese, Portuguese and Eurasians hold British nationality.

In 1949 universal conscription between the ages of 18 and 45 for all British subjects and for all those born in the Colony was introduced. From these resources was formed the Hong Kong Regiment. It consists in the main of Chinese and Portuguese, with a fairly large British element. They are all intermixed and we have, consequently, minor difficulties of language, race and previous experience.

We hasten to add here, however, that we do not regard ourselves solely as a conscript force, but, as is the case

with many of us, as a Regiment of volunteers keeping alive that spirit.

History

In 1854 the Volunteer movement was first started in the Colony. It was soon to be known as the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps.

This line has continued unbroken and, although elements of the other Services have been added, we regard ourselves as the direct descendants of the H.K.V.D.C. On February 14, 1951, this contention of ours received Royal approval, when the Colours of the H.K.V.D.C. were presented to us on parade for safe keeping by His Excellency the Governor. We were proud to have your Band on parade with us that day.

The Alliance

In 1937 our friendship really started when the 1st Battalion was posted to Hong Kong. This friendship grew, culminating in the battle of 1941, where we stood together and mutually suffered the privations of the camp period.

We were never more pleased to welcome any unit to the Colony than when the 1st Battalion returned here in 1949.

As a result of the efforts of Col. Browne, we were most proud when His Majesty The King graciously approved our alliance on August 14, 1950.



Training

Our establishment is based on that of a Regular infantry battalion. Somewhat like the Territorial Army at home, our training is based on a number of hours, field days and 15 days' camp in the year. We are, however, hindered by only having one drill hall and consequently have to stagger our company evening parades throughout the week. This leads to the sense of rarely feeling a unit as a whole, for even in camp, due to our civilian commitments, we attend in two halves and it is only the Permanent Staff who can contrast and compare our respective merits.

Our day-to-day training is carried out at Regimental H.Q. and we spend, on the average, a weekend a month either on exercises in the New Territories or firing on the open range. We are particularly keen on shooting and in January entered a team for the Hong Kong Bisley. We pride ourselves that in competition against many Regular Service teams we came third.

Our annual camp last year took place between November 6 and December 5, the cooler time of the year. We were under canvas on the airfield at Sek Kong, a spot well known by the 1st Battalion in 1949, but now vastly altered. It was good training and we carried out a series of exercises, culminating in a 5-day scheme devised by our C.O. We were glad when the time came to return to camp.

During the period of camp we were honoured to welcome such distinguished visitors as His Excellency the Governor, who is Honorary Commandant-General of the Royal Hong Kong Defence Force (who, incidentally, left with a souvenir in the shape of a jungle hat with our Regimental flash sewn on), and the

Commander British Forces, Lt.-Gen. C. S. Sugden, C.B., C.B.E.

At present we are extraordinarily busy on preparation for the annual review, a series of large-scale exercises and the Force Rifle Meeting. Meanwhile, our routine training continues.

The photograph above shows the Colours, together with the silver of the Hong Kong Regiment.

The Steeple Cup, which was presented to the Hong Kong Regiment by His Excellency the Governor of Hong Kong on behalf of the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), is in the photograph directly beneath the Colours. The inscription on the cup reads, "Presented by The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) to The Hong Kong Regiment to Commemorate their Alliance on 14th August, 1950."

The Middlesex Cup

On March 13 the annual review of the Royal Hong Kong Defence Force takes place. We are using this occasion for the presentation of the Steeple Cup, which we were proud to receive from you to mark our alliance. The cup will be handed by the Adjutant (Capt. H. J. A. Moore), representing the Colonel of the Regiment, to the Governor, who in turn will hand it to our Honorary Colonel (Col. Hon. Cedric Blaker, M.C., E.D.). This cup will then take an honoured place amongst our Regimental silver.

Personalities

Col. Hon. Cedric Blaker, M.C., E.D., has taken over the Honorary Colonelcy of the Regiment from Col. H. B. L. Dowbiggin, O.B.E., E.D., who has retired on

reaching the age limit. Col. Dowbiggin recently visited the Depot and showed great interest in the cottage homes.

Major H. A. de B. Bothello, M.B.E., E.D., visited the Depot whilst on home leave. He is a member of the Supreme Court of the Colony.

Capt. F. E. C. C. Quah, E.D., who commanded the Regimental Coronation contingent and visited the Depot in June, 1953, is fully occupied with training our Regimental Band.

R.Q.M.S. W. T. J. Lane, M.B.E. (ex 1st Battalion), has been appointed Lieutenant (Q.M.), the Hong Kong Regiment.

NEWS LETTER BY M.B.

We heard with sorrow of the death of Brigadier "Stumps" Green's father in Hove. He had been ill for some time, and earlier in the year the Brigadier had flown home to see him. He rallied, but to our sorrow his only son could not be present at the end.

In a letter dated December 27, Vyvyan Holt sent me greetings for Christmas and the New Year. I was sad to learn that he is due to retire in about a year's time. All will recollect that he was Minister in Korea, and contrary to international custom was taken prisoner and kept until that war ended. He suffered great hardship and returned to England very ill and with his eyesight seriously affected, and in consequence will be unable to carry on working after retirement. He fears it means living in a seaside boarding house for he could not bear to live in London.

There are many who will be filled with sorrow to hear this news for he was well beloved in the Regiment.

In his letter he referred to a meeting with Commander Tupper, a son of Col. Tupper of the 9th Middlesex. This naval officer remembers all the older officers of that Battalion, and sent his best wishes to Col. Beach with whom I now live.

I read with sorrow of the death of Mrs. Davy, wife of Col. Davy living at Budleigh Salterton. Illness had been her lot for some time, and death came peacefully and suddenly, saving her much pain. Col. Davy, in a letter of January 12, 1955, refers to Dundas' death and says he had met him only a week or so before death, at that also came suddenly. He had met George Brown who seemed fairly well, which was good news to me. Col. Davy expected to move to another home in about two months' time.

On January 20 Gwen Applebe wrote to me from her Garden Cottage. She still rides and teaches that art, and dancing. She sent me messages about the Whitcombes we knew in Madras where he was our B.M. Now he is a Major-General. Like many of us she was terribly upset over Beryl Tidbury's death, and says how she treasures memories of her in Ahmednagar days, where we were all so fond of her.

Sidney Emery paid a brief visit to London on January 18 and we met and dined at Scotts. We always enjoy seeing him, he is so interested in the Regiment and so forthright in his comments on the Army today. He won two M.C.s in the 1914-18 War.

I find that in the December Journal I erred in saying

"The Thin Red Line," Caton Woodville's picture of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was in a museum. My information came from a member of that Regiment. Col. Haggard, a member of "The Rag," told me it is in Messrs. Dewar's firm in Haymarket, and there I saw it in all its beauty.

Also I learn that Capt. Waugh's uniform I mentioned is not a tunic but a "coatee" as tunics were not introduced in the Army until 1855. He goes on to say that the lax method of now calling all forms of military coats "tunics" is much to be deplored. A tunic proper is the "full dress" coat worn from 1855 to 1914. The habit crept in during the 1914-18 War when many ill-informed people referred to the Service dress jacket as a tunic. I am sorry to have misled people and apologise, accepting a very proper rebuke.

Dorothy Longe wrote on January 7 to say that during her visit to South Africa she fears she will miss the Hervey del Courts, as she arrives in August and they leave in March. As she will be there until October 17 she trusts to see them on their return from U.K. Her ship passes Cape Town on the way out, continuing as far as Beira in Mozambique, and returning the same route. She asks where the Turley Jones have gone to live, and relates how often she stayed with them in Colchester, when he was in the 2nd Middlesex, and at Southampton when he was Inspector of Transport, but since has never had a line. I hope he will now write to Dorothy.

Hervey del Court on December 27 from Hermanus writes that he now hopes to attend the Regular Dinner and Party on August 5 and 6 next, as he misses Cricket Week due to engagements in Holland up to June 21, 1955. He asks me to encourage retired officers to join the Officers' Pension Society. I do so gladly, but am equally backward, as I never felt it would help.

Mervyn Crawford writes to say on January 12 that he had just finished a holiday in St. Moritz with his sons under the auspices of the Combined Services Winter Sports Association at much cheaper rates than under other organisations.

On January 9 I heard that the Archie Stewarts were off to Tenerife.

On December 31 I heard Kim Honess was to do a month at a Land-Air Course at Old Sarum from January 2, then in April he is to go to the Royal Military College of Science and finally to Taunton as D.A.A.G. S.W. District. Thus he hopes to be in U.K. for the next two years, and to see the 1st Middlesex on their return next July, and be able to attend Regimental functions once again.

On December 31 and again in a letter arriving December 22 I heard from Major Harold Glass, who sent me some photographs of General Ramsay, and other Regimental relics. In the earlier one he said: "I am in dry dock, but hope to be afloat in the spring." We all hope so and long to see him again in our Mess.

I also received some relics of General Ramsay from his sister, Mrs. E. R. Kearsley, who lives near Wrexham, but his medals have been left to a distant cousin.

On December 20, in a letter Col. Samuel mentions how General Ramsay, then a Captain in the 2nd Middlesex, was fleeced by card sharps whilst en route to

Fratton Racecourse. He has lost the use of his right eye, and although he still has the use of the other, he is apt to bump into people on crowded pavements.

On December 18 I heard from Bob Guscott, who tells me they are both in the best of health, and doing much gardening. Like myself, he was sad to read of the death of so many of our Old Ranks. He offers to put me up should I ever visit Bexhill-on-Sea. One day I may give them a shock by appearing.

Dick Smith writes from the Federation Military College at Port Dickson, Malaya. He could not find Drum-Major Drew so we have sent him his address. He had met the Jeffcoats in Singapore and says Jeffcoat looked overworked and buried under paper. That is fairly general in these days. We owe it largely to the typewriter. People wrote less when it had to be done in manuscript.

Major Newton wrote on December 14 to say his son Carruthers was back in the Colonial Service (he was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Regiment) and is in Kenya 7,500 feet up in the Aberdare Mountains, a very peaceful locality from what we read. His elder son, Brian, had just returned from the Persian Gulf as radio officer in *The British Resource*.

On December 15, 1954, I had a letter from Major Tuckey, civil secretary at the Joint Services Staff College. He sent me a special card containing a photograph of Sir Winston Churchill's map room in the secret bombproof H.Q. near R.U.S.I. He was looking forward to the arrival of Ian Burrows as a student on the next course and John Ormiston as an instructor on the Directing Staff. Like many of us, he considered both were admirably chosen, the former for his knowledge of Russian (interpreter). Mervyn and Mrs. Crawford had paid him a visit—and he had seen Joe Weston at the Rag in a party bound for the I.D.C. Ball. He saw John Worton and family at Haileybury recently, where he had gone to see Walden's youngest son—another potential member of our Regiment from that school to which we owe so many good officers.

On December 15 I received from Archdeacon Ormonde Birch a letter from Melbourne to tell me he will arrive in U.K. on April 12, 1955. He asked after the Archie Stewarts, for they and I are the only ones left, I think, of the officers he knew at Dinapore, when the 1st Battalion was there under Col. Bertram Ward 1910-12, and he was our Chaplain. He has a cousin in Mill Hill. Last time he lunched with me at the Junior he told me I was living in unbridled luxury, so what he will say when he sees the United Service Club I fear to think!

I heard on November 16 from Rev. Father Lawrence Jackson, once our Chaplain at Colchester in 1932. He later left the Army and went to Madras where he was on the Cathedral staff, a church well known to many of us in the 2nd Middlesex. He is now in Malabar.

On December 3rd, 1954, in a letter Rev. R. U. Butler (son of Lady Butler who was a model for the drummers in his mother's picture "Steady the Drums and Fifes") asks me for Service details of Henry Butler, I imagine a member of the family. They are

as follows: Ensign, March 2, 1847; Lieutenant, March 23, 1849; Captain, November 6, 1854; Brevet Major, September 23, 1854. In 1850 he arrived at Malta from the Crimea and on June 23, 1861, as a Major, reached New Plymouth, Taranaki, New Zealand, to serve in that war. He carried one of the 57th Colours at Inkerman, and finally retired as a Major-General in the 'eighties, so I assume he was of the same period as General Henry Kent of the 77th.

On November 20, 1954, I heard from Roly Gwyn that he had at long last visited the Jimmie Reid's home near New York—Jimmie had just recovered from an operation. They drove back to Washington through Pennsylvania and visited the battlefield site of Gettysburg, preserved as a national memorial. He was appalled at the casualties in so small a war.

He tells me that the Joint Services Mission is minute, consisting of General Prior Palmer, Brigadier Eubank (Chief of Staff) and five Colonels (R.A.C., R.A., R.E. Signals, and himself covering Infantry and Q Movements). He has two G.S.O.(1)s working with the U.S. Army, one at their Infantry School and Board, the other spends his time between H.Q. of an Airborne Corps and an Army Aviation School. His job entails vast travel by air, rail, and car, visiting many schools, etc. He soon realised what a vast country the U.S.A. is compared with our tiny island.

He referred to the visit of the Queen Mother, who won all hearts by her charm, dignity and obvious interest. He became unofficial attaché for the reception at the British Embassy, and how well we know he must have done it. Her Majesty shook hands with some 2,000 guests. Mrs. Gwyn returned to U.K. on December 16 to be with their two boys.

On November 25 I heard from Mrs. John Whiteman about the three Boer rifles sent to our Museum, one belonged to General Louis Botha. As usual, she sent me £5 for the Regimental Association, a sum I have received every year from 1940 onwards.

On November 17 I had a letter from Joan McDowell telling me her daughter Daphne had gained a scholarship to Ashford (Middlesex) County Grammar School, and that Col. Mirams was trying to get her son Gordon into Christ's Hospital. Joan is still busy teaching in a Government school in Middlesex.

I have met Bernard Ash, the well-known author whose book on the 1939-45 War dealt with our Depot in 1940, and the campaign in the Middle East. Many of us are therein portrayed under other names. The 1st Kensingtons is one Battalion he writes about. We have a copy in the Mess if anyone would care to read a most enjoyable and true story of war.

On October 25 I received a letter from John Moore who is with the Hong Kong Regiment. He is very pleased with the cup presented by the Regiment (1st Battalion and Depot) to their allied Regiment. We do not know the presentation date, and have left the choice to John Moore.

General Sir Brian Horrocks and myself attended the Florence Nightingale Centenary Service at Westminster Abbey on November 4, 1954, at 12 noon—a beautiful

and impressive service. The Lord Bishop of Croydon delivered the sermon and the Lesson was read by the Chaplain-General. The Dean was in charge. We represented the 57th and 77th Regiments. Afterwards I lunched with the General in the House of Lords.

Extracts from "London Gazette"

REGULAR ARMY
October 19, 1954
Lt. B. A. M. Pielow (362478) to be Captain, May 6, 1954.
Lt. G. G. Norton (303233) to be Captain, July 15, 1954, with precedence next above R. M. Cain (389245).

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—CLASS III
October 22, 1954
L. C. H. Benbow (407474) from T.A. National Service List to be Lieutenant October 21, 1954, retaining his present seniority.

REGULAR ARMY
October 26, 1954
Major J. R. B. Worton (17572) having exceeded the age limit for retirement is placed on retired pay October 26, 1954, and is granted the Hon. rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.
The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the award of the 4th Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration upon the following officers:

COMMANDS AND STAFF
Br.-Col. (Hon. Brigadier) H. A. D. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., D.L. (7738) retired.

REGULAR ARMY—MEMORANDA
October 29, 1954
The undermentioned Lieutenant-Colonels to be Lieutenant-Colonels on the Employed List (1) on the dates shown:
R. A. Gwyn (49853) from Middlesex, March 31, 1954, with seniority January 15, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY
2/Lt. G. J. Riches (428524) from Regular Army National Service List to be Second-Lieutenant, October 12, 1954, with seniority May 16, 1953.

REGULAR ARMY
November 2, 1954
Major R. W. D. Sword, M.C. (44205) retires on retired pay, September 30, 1954, (substituted for the notification in *Gazette (Supplement)* dated October 1, 1954).

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS
Lt. P. T. C. Case (321813) relinquishes his commission November 3, 1954, and is granted the Hon. rank of Captain.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST
The undermentioned Cadet to be Second-Lieutenant, September 14, 1954.
22984818 Lennox William Medlock (437738).

TERRITORIAL ARMY
November 9, 1954
2/Lt. M. S. Gedy (427386) is granted acting rank of the Lieutenant, November 7, 1954.

REGULAR ARMY
November 12, 1954
Major and Br. Lt.-Col. J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E. (58173), to be Lieutenant-Colonel, March 31, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—NATIONAL SERVICE LIST
2/Lt. D. E. C. Vince (429042) from Regular Army National Service List, to be Second-Lieutenant, October 25, 1954, with seniority, July 25, 1953.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—EMERGENCY COMMISSION
November 30, 1954
Lt. R. J. H. High (285375) relinquishes his commission, August 3, 1954, on enlistment in the Canadian Military Forces.

REGULAR ARMY
December 3, 1954
2/Lt. P. W. Birch (426250) to be Lieutenant, August 8, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY
2/Lt. M. Crowder (427395) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, December 2, 1954.

REGULAR ARMY—SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

December 10, 1954
22972020 Cadet Peter Joseph Rogers (438189), to be Second-Lieutenant, October 9, 1954.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST
The undermentioned Cadets to be Second-Lieutenants, October 9, 1954.
22932606 Ronald Andjel (438158).
23000504 Michael Edmund Devereux Bosworth (438159).
22992886 David Edgar Beues Haydon (438163).

REGULAR ARMY
December 14, 1954
Lt. W. M. M. Deacock (380848), to be Captain, December 15, 1954.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION
2/Lt. N. D. W. Leak (429129), to be Lieutenant, December 14, 1954.

REGULAR ARMY
December 21, 1954
Lt. H. J. Evans (397874), to be Captain, December 22, 1954.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS
Lt.-Col. (Hon. Col.) F. Walden (17951), having attained the age limit of liability to recall ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, December 28, 1954.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION
Capt. J. Brown (317467) (Employed List 4), from Active List, to be Captain, January 1, 1955, retaining his present seniority.
Capt. (Q.M.) E. C. Vine (154180), ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, January 1, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—CLASS III
January 4, 1955
Capt. (Hon. Major) E. F. H. Earle (170484), from Reserve of Officers Class II, to be Captain, July 18, 1954, retaining his present seniority and the Hon. rank of Major.

GENERAL LIST—REGULAR ARMY
January 7, 1955
The undermentioned W.O. Class I, to be Second-Lieutenant on the date shown:
0200112 Robert John Tarrant (439334), December 7, 1954.
The undermentioned Second-Lieutenant to be Lieutenant, on the date shown:
R. J. Tarrant (439334), December 7, 1954.

ARMY CADET FORCE—LEICESTER AND RUTLAND
Major Henry Marsh (44933), (late Middlesex Retired)), to be Lieutenant, October 4, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—NATIONAL SERVICE LIST
January 18, 1955
2/Lt. G. J. Riches (428524), is granted the Acting Rank of Lieutenant, January 16, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY
January 28, 1955
Lt. M. A. B. Clutson (407168), is granted the Acting Rank of Captain, November 17, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY K.R.R.C.
Capt. C. H. Tidbury (354305) (son of Brigadier O. H. Tidbury, M.C.), is granted the Acting Rank of Major, January 26, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY
February 18, 1955
Lt. William Gordon Anderson Crumley (428793), from National Service List, to be Lieutenant, February 19, 1955, with seniority, January 30, 1955.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST
2/Lt. W. G. A. Crumley (428793), to be Lieutenant, January 30, 1955.
23017958 Cadet Martin Fordham Mather (439102), to be Second-Lieutenant, December 18, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—NATIONAL SERVICE LIST
February 22, 1955
2/Lt. S. le M. Enthoven (429511), is granted the Acting Rank of Lieutenant, February 20, 1955.
2/Lt. S. le M. Enthoven (429511), from Queen's to be Second-Lieutenant, January 24, 1955, with seniority, July 11, 1953.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION
March 1, 1955
2/Lt. R. W. Augwood (429930), to be Lieutenant, February 27, 1955.

Correspondence

To the Editor,

I apologise for an error in one of my contributions to the Journal, in which I stated "The Thin Red Line" was painted by Lady Butler. I am now instructed that it was painted by Caton-Woodville. My informant was an officer of the Regiment therein depicted.

I have also learnt, from a recent copy of a letter written by Rev. R. U. Butler to Lt.-Col. Howell on February 3, 1955, that a cousin of his father (Lady Butler's husband), Major General Henry Butler of Bally Carron, Co. Tipperary, carried the Regimental Colours as an ensign in 57th at Inkerman.

I think this fact was mentioned in one of my articles but in less detail.

(Signed) M. BROWNE.

Letters exchanged between Lt.-Col. Coleman, 31st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, and Col. Browne:

Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P.,
Depot, The Middlesex Regiment,
Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.

Dear Col. Coleman,

Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., D.L., Colonel of the Regiment, has instructed me to reply to your letter 31/1040-1, January 10, 1955, and to say that he remains most anxious that, whether changes may arise, the alliance with your Regiment shall continue.

He is very mindful of the many years during which it has existed and all changes in our Regiment have not altered the close friendship borne by all ranks of the Middlesex Regiment for your distinguished Corps, which remains constant.

The Middlesex Regiment also has suffered many reductions, but we remain "The Die-Hards," which we were when the first alliance was built, and it has survived two world wars.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) MAURICE BROWNE.

We hope you will be able to send our Journal here a small account of your activities for inclusion therein.

* * *

CANADA

31/1040-1

Department of National Defence Army
31st Field Regiment, R.C.A., C.A. (M.),
Sarnia, Ont.

January 10, 1955.

The Commanding Officer,
The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.),
Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W.7, London, England.

Dear Sir,

A reorganisation of the Canadian Army (Reserve Force) took place during the summer of 1954, following which it was designated the Canadian Army (Militia).

The change, in so far as this unit was concerned, was that, effective September 30, 1954, the 63rd Field

Battery at Sarnia was disbanded and it was replaced with the 12th Field Battery at London, effective October 1, 1954. The 31st Field Regiment, R.C.A. (M.), has since October 1, 1954, therefore been comprised of:

Regimental Headquarters,
26th Field Battery, both located at Sarnia;
48th Field Battery, located at Watford;
12th Field Battery, located at London.

Prior to the Militia reorganisation there had been one Artillery Regiment located at London, the 7th Medium Regiment, R.C.A. (R.F.). It was amalgamated with the 31st Field Regiment, R.C.A. (M.), and its personnel, in so far as its W.E. allowed, formed the 12th Field Battery. Personnel for whom no vacancies existed in that Battery were taken on strength as supernumerary to establishment or posted to other vacancies on the W.E. of the Regiment.

The Regiment is now a part of 18th Militia Group rather than of 1st Division Artillery (R.F.).

(sgd.) (J. H. COLEMAN, M.B.E., E.D.),
Lt.-Col., R.C.A.,
Commanding Officer,
31st Field Regiment, R.C.A.,
C.A. (M.).

Engagements

REED—BRISTOW.—The engagement is announced between Barry St. George Austin Reed, M.C., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Reed, of Wendacre, Burtons Way, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks, and Edna (Michael) Patricia, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Bristow, Fullers Hill, Chesham, Bucks.

KITCHENER—WILLIAMS.—The engagement is announced between Geoffrey Kitchener, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), elder son of Major and Mrs. R. C. Kitchener, of Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey, and Jennifer, only daughter of Dr. and Mrs. H. Parry Williams, of Ansty, Warwickshire.

Births

NORTON.—On January 2, 1955, to Barbara (nee Jones), wife of Capt. Geoffrey G. Norton, The Middlesex Regiment, a son (Barry John).

FLAVELL.—On February 17, 1955, to Betty, wife of Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), a son (Jeremy Paul), a brother for Anthony.

Deaths

SWAINSON.—On October 9, 1954, at Ootacamund, Madras, Lt.-Col. F. E. Swainson, at the age of 83. Col. Swainson was buried with military honours.

WHITING.—On October 31, 1954, ex-C.S.M. R. C. Whiting died at his home in Wealdstone, and his cremation at Golders Green was attended by a representative of the Regiment.

LYNCH.—At his home in London on December 5, 1954, ex-Pte. W. D. Lynch. Unfortunately his brother, ex-Cpl. J. Lynch, was unable to let us know in time for the Association to send a wreath or be represented at the funeral.

HEMMING.—Suddenly at his home in Canvey Island on December 8, 1954, ex-Sgt. G. E. Hemming, who served for 20 years in the Regiment and saw service in South Africa. He was 73 years of age.

TIDBURY.—We deeply regret to announce the sudden death of Mrs. Beryl Tidbury, wife of Brigadier O. H. Tidbury, on January 5, 1955. Her funeral was private, but members of the Regiment attended the memorial service held on January 16.

FLAVELL.—We are sad to report the death of the little daughter of Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, Gabrielle Mary, after a short illness on January 13, 1955. The sympathy of all our members was expressed to the parents.

O'KEEFE.—Ex-C/Sgt. C. A. O'Keefe, known to many of the Regiment as he served in both Battalions, and was discharged to pension in 1952 after 26 years' service, we regret to announce, was killed in an ambush in Kuala Lipis, Malaya, on January 16, 1955, while serving as a police lieutenant with the Malayan Police. A letter of sympathy was sent to Mrs. O'Keefe on behalf of the members of the Association.

SUTTON.—George Ward Sutton, late 7832 of the 2nd Battalion, died on January 22, 1955. He enlisted in the Regiment in May, 1902. A letter of sympathy was sent to the widow.

A MEMORY OF MRS. BERYL TIDBURY

To many members of the Regiment the sudden death of Beryl, wife of Brigadier Ord Tidbury, came as a great shock. As someone said to me, she wore herself out by her sense of duty to her fellow men, women and children. Many in the 1st Battalion will remember her devotion to the Hong Kong Fellowship, formed to help those whose relatives were prisoners-of-war for four long and cruel years (1941-45) in the brutal grip of the Japanese. Notes received from Japan and Hong Kong of their fate were circulated to all and gave comfort to many. Services were held in many churches in London and the Dean of Westminster presided at some, including one held in St. Martins-in-the-Fields, others were held in the Tower of London; a number of meals were also provided for relatives.

In her work help came from David Man, a member of the Colonial Office, whose brother Christopher was a prisoner. Finally, when those prisoners who survived returned home, Beryl Tidbury met them at Liverpool and Southampton, and a great gathering was finally held at Inglis Barracks.

During the command of Brigadier Tidbury of the 1st Battalion she gave the same loving care to the families, to the boys of the Battalion, and to each and everyone who needed help and kindness. Beryl will never be forgotten and will ever be remembered as a loving mother and devoted wife, and a friend to all who needed love and help.

Mrs. Tidbury will also be remembered as the founder and president of the Cambridge Club which was formed in the 1st Battalion in Singapore in 1936.

IN MEMORY OF LT.-COL. F. E. SWAINSON

Fred Swainson was born on January 24, 1873. He came from a distinguished Church family, his father being a Prebendary. He died on October 9, 1954, at Ootacamund, Nilgiris, India, and was buried with military honours on the next day. I can only assume these honours were provided by Indian troops stationed there, for he was treated always with great respect and often dined in their Mess.

Fred Swainson joined the Middlesex Regiment on December 9, 1896, and was selected to command the 2nd Battalion on September 28, 1920. On retirement he built a house in Ootacamund, and lived there till his death some 18 months after his wife died following a bad fall there.

He will be ever remembered as a very gallant officer. I have a vivid memory of him brought in seriously wounded through the lung during Loos in September, 1915, where he was commanding a company of our 1st Battalion, in which all but a few were killed or wounded in that terrible action.

All through the preceding months of trench warfare I remember Fred as a dauntless company commander. Curiously, also, he caused me great concern by his refusal to obey many orders, not of a fighting nature, which often led to rebuke, and frequent visits by myself up muddy trenches to bring him into line and to make my own peace with him, for I often bore very rude messages and received them from him. He was, however, always a kindly man, who looked after his troops like a father, and no trouble was too great to administer to their needs. I did not rejoin the 2nd Battalion till he had completed his command (September 28, 1920, to same date in 1924).

I often wondered how he would have received me had I arrived earlier, for he was a quick-tempered man, and our Quartermaster in Ahmednagar once left his Orderly Room followed by a bulky volume of Army Regulations because he had ventured to tell his Commanding Officer he could not do something he had set his mind on.

Again on arrival at Singapore he was told by a senior A.S.C. officer that the transport for baggage was in a certain place, and at once he ordered it to be moved to another site, although, as this officer later told me in 1926 during my voyage to India to join the Battalion, Fred did not know the port and chose a wrong and inconvenient place. Had he told him in a less decided fashion I feel sure all would have been well and possibly heavy charges for excess baggage to be carried would have been avoided by the P.R.I.

Major Heywood, who served in the 2nd Battalion all through Swainson's command, tells me that, on taking over from Col. Blakeney (first C.O. after 1914-18 war), Fred Swainson turned all the skill and efforts of the Battalion to planting trees in Abbassia (barracks at Cairo) and to improving the area generally, as he was to do later at Ahmednagar, where innumerable hard tennis courts and gardens were installed. The trees at Abbassia must have given shade and joy to all the troops there for 30 years till we moved our forces to the Canal Zone, now in turn being evacuated.

Col. Swainson was commanding the Battalion when the Prince of Wales, the Colonel-in-Chief, visited the Battalion in Singapore. No C.O. could have entertained him better, for Fred knew the East well, could speak the local language, and was able to show the Prince many interesting and exciting scenes not normally viewed by visitors to that great Eastern port.

Finally, may I say that few in our Regiment made such an impression on all ranks, who loved him dearly and would have followed him, however dangerous the task, to the end. Such commanders are but rarely given to a battalion.

Mrs. Swainson died about 18 months before him and was a brilliant rider and rifle or gun shot, far better than most men. She continued to ride and win races in India after reaching an age at which most ladies retire gracefully to ease and leisure. M.B.

A MEMORY OF MAJOR ALAN CHARLESWORTH DUNDAS, O.B.E.

Alan Dundas was born May 10, 1880, and died at Exmouth on October 14, 1954. He had suffered for some years from the same serious disability which took from us the late King George VI. A partial recovery left him in a weak state for some time and then a recurrence took him away. Col. George Brown attended the funeral and laid there a Regimental wreath.

Dundas joined the Regiment on July 29, 1903, having come to it from a well-known Church family, his father being Dean of Hobart, Tasmania, and later Vicar of Charnminster and Archdeacon of Dorset. He entered the Army as a university candidate, so that he was older than the normal ensign from the R.M.C., Sandhurst. He became a major on July 29, 1918, during the first Great War and was wounded. He was appointed a T.A. Adjutant to 1st/8th West Yorkshire Regiment April 4, 1914, to September, 1915. He then served as G.S.O.3, Home Forces, for six months and then as Brigade Staff Captain for four months and was a D.A.A.G. for two years up to November 16, 1919. He was mentioned in despatches three times in 1918 and 1919 and was awarded the O.B.E.

I first met him on joining the 1st Battalion in early 1923; he served with me there as a Company Commander until his retirement on July 30, 1926.

He was in his early days known by the nickname "Peg Top," as he always wore somewhat tight trousers with wide ends. He was a good rider and played polo, but I do not remember him playing any other games except tennis.

He has left a widow, Clara, after 45 years of very happy married life and one son, Lt.-Col. Hugh Dundas, a gunner officer, who is now a lieutenant-colonel and A.A. and Q.M.G. in the Canal Zone, where he is serving on an Infantry Divisional Staff.

He lived for many years after retirement at Aldershot, where he took a leading part in the Army Cadet Force in the second World War, holding the rank of colonel.

During his service at the Regimental Depot at the end of the first World War he bought a comfortable house at

Gravel Hill, Finchley, now occupied by Col. Dawson of the Black Watch, who purchased it from him. I often visited him there, as I was at the War Office from 1919 to 1922. M.B.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1955, AT 2.30 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wolcombe, M.C., Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, M.C., Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major A. R. Waller, M.C., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major D. C. L. Nolda, R.S.M., P. Donovan, R.S.M., E. Pike, C.S.M., R. Budden, C/Sgt. J. Bream, 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 E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Brigadier N. P. Procter, Col. E. M.C., Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., Drum-Major C. Holford, B.E.M.

1. Election of Chairman. Major Waller, as Vice-Chairman, informed the meeting that, in view of Lt.-Col. Roberts's decision to retire from the chairmanship of the Committee, the Colonel of the Regiment, Gen. Bucknall approached Lt.-Col. Fox to ascertain whether he would accept the appointment of Chairman. Lt.-Col. Fox had replied that he would be agreeable to accept the chairmanship in about six months' time. Lt.-Col. Roberts was then requested to retain the chairmanship until Lt.-Col. Fox would be free. Lt.-Col. Roberts agreed willingly.

Personal. Lt.-Col. Fox expressed his great appreciation at the honour of being offered the chairmanship. He regretted that he was too busy to accept the appointment for another six months, and was glad Lt.-Col. Roberts had agreed to carry on temporarily. Lt.-Col. Fox stated that he would only be filling a gap until such time as a Regular or ex-Regular officer was available for appointment to the Chair, as he felt on principle that this type of officer was the most suitable for the chairmanship.

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 accepted by the Committee.

Grants. During the year ending December 31, 1954, 275 necessitous cases were assisted at a cost of £1,738 14s. 10d.

Reunion, 1955. Application has been made to the Seymour Hall for the allocation of the hall for the Regimental Reunion on a Friday evening in October next. It is expected that a date will be given after the authorities have reviewed applications at the end of March.

4. Finance Committee's Report. Lt.-Col. Fox explained the audited accounts for 1954. He informed the meeting of the following points:

Regimental Association Accounts. The accounts of the Association for the year ended December 31, 1954, were presented to the Finance Committee by Capt. H. A. B. Claypole and were approved in the form submitted subject to making a provision in the income and expenditure account for £83 10s. 0d. in respect of expenditure incurred on the Regimental History in excess of the original estimates.

The Secretary was instructed to give effect to the following recommendations which were agreed:

(a) *Association Charitable Fund.* It was recommended that a grant of £100 be made to the O.C. Depot for Chapel furniture.

(b) *War Memorial Fund.* £500 from cash in hand to be placed in deposit account.

Grant. The Finance Committee had considered an application from the Queen Elizabeth Training College for Disabled and approved a grant of £5.

General. The Auditors have drawn our attention to the method of claiming the 15 per cent. cost-of-living bonus approved by the Executive Committee. The Committee approved that the payments made in the accounts and balance sheets to be correct.

It was also approved that Mrs. Brooks's salary be £4 per week and not £200 per annum as previously recorded in the Minutes, plus reimbursement for travelling expenses as already authorised.

The Finance Committee considered an observation by the Auditors on the Secretary's expenses and gave instructions that the £10 previously allocated to the Memorial Fund shall in future be added to the charges made under this heading to the Association funds.

Old Comrades' Club. The Finance Committee considered an application from the 9th Battalion O.C.A. for assistance in maintaining their club and after discussion it was decided that the application be referred to the Executive Committee meeting for a decision on the principle involved.

Lt.-Col. Fox moved adoption of report and Brigadier Rackham seconded. The report was unanimously adopted.

5. *Journal Committee's Report.* Major Nolda informed the meeting that expenditure for the year had been reduced from a deficit of £137 in 1953 to a deficit of £184 in 1954. It would, however, be necessary for financial assistance to be granted from Association funds for future years.

Contributions to the Journal, with few exceptions, have to be amended extensively before being accepted for publication. He is taking steps to try to remedy this.

Major Nolda also informed the meeting that he was hoping to increase the income from additional advertisements during the coming year. Report adopted by the Committee.

New Chief Editor. Lt.-Col. Roberts invited any member of the Committee to suggest someone to act as Chief Editor in place of Major Nolda, who is due to rejoin the 1st Battalion. As no name was submitted, members were asked to consider the matter and to forward recommendations as soon as possible to the Secretary or O.C. Depot.

6. *War Memorial Committee's Report.* External Redecoration. The Memorial Committee received estimates for the external redecoration of all dwellings and agreed, subject to scrutiny, to accept the estimate from Messrs. Moulton, Holford Road, Enfield, to carry out the work at a cost of £355. Mr. Blackmore was invited to scrutinise the estimates and give his technical advice concerning the same. Mr. Blackmore was also invited and agreed to undertake the duties of Clerk of Works to supervise the redecoration.

The Committee decided to recommend the following colour scheme:

All gutters and pipes to be black.

All sashes and frames in cream.

Doors and pillars of each house to be painted in variegated pastel colours, each pair of houses to be of similar colour tones.

Mr. Blackmore to examine and approve best tints, using Dulux paint.

It was agreed that work by contractor should commence immediately after Easter, 1955.

Grant by Middlesex County Council. Col. Beach informed the Committee of the grant of £250 by Middlesex County Council. The Committee expressed their appreciation and thanks for this generous grant.

Site Improvement. Major Jones informed the Memorial Committee that an estimate of £75 6s. 6d. had been received from Enfield Urban District Council to carry out site improvements. This estimate has been accepted and much of the work had been done.

Mrs. Peacock's Tenancy. Lt.-Col. Roberts informed the Committee that the Secretary had applied to six Borough Councils and to over 50 agents in order to try to obtain alternative accommodation for Mrs. Peacock, now residing in No. 9.

The result was entirely fruitless. The Committee decided that endeavours should not be abandoned. Brigadier Rackham stated that he would endeavour to assist through other channels.

General. Lt.-Col. Roberts thanked Brigadier Rackham for his kind assistance. He also expressed the great appreciation of the Committee for the splendid efforts which were being made by Major Jones, Mr. Blackmore and Mr. Crump. The appearance and condition of Albuhara Close has greatly improved as a result of their work.

7. *Regimental History Committee's Report.* In the absence of Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis a statement on the progress of the publication of the Regimental History was made by O.C. Depot.

The history has now been securely cleared by the War Office and the final draft is with Gale and Polden, who were printing in galley proof. These proofs should commence arriving in March a chapter at a time and, provided they were immediately read and checked by the author and co-ordinators and returned to the publishers, the book should be ready for issue in October, 1955.

There were still a number of items to be completed, such as maps, photographs and Roll of Honour, and these were in hand.

A representative from Gale and Polden explained the two alternative methods of publication. In brief, they were as follows:

(a) That the history should be printed by the publishers and that distribution and sales should be carried out by the Regiment.

(b) That the publishers should undertake to put the book on the market, handling all distribution, sales, review copies and copies to libraries, etc. In this case the price of the history to the public would be higher than (a) above, but that copies for members or past members of the Regiment would be at a preferential price. It was agreed to accept the second alternative.

The question of price was then discussed. Gale and Polden's representative explained that, provided they were guaranteed a thousand copies, the price would be 18s. 6d. to members and past members of the Regiment and 25s. to the public.

It was felt that it might be difficult to sell such a large number and O.C. Depot was instructed to obtain a quotation from the publishers for a guarantee of 750 copies.

He was also asked to prepare a circular to be sent out by the Regimental Association in order to determine the demand from members and past members of the Regiment.

8. *Regimental Reunion, 1955.* Lt.-Col. Roberts informed the meeting that an application has been made to hire Seymour Hall for a Friday in October, but he would not know the date until the end of March. He asked the meeting to consider what sort of cabaret

entertainment they recommend, if any, and to state their views at the next meeting.

9. *Congratulations.* Proposed by Mr. Duffield that a letter of congratulation be sent to Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis on the award of the O.B.E. conferred by Her Majesty in the New Year's Honours List. Carried unanimously.

10. *Assistance to O.C.A. Clubs.* Lt.-Col. Fox stated the case of the 9th Battalion O.C.A. Club and asked the meeting if it was the intention of the Committee in principle to assist the O.C.A. clubs. After discussion the Committee agreed that the subject be left to the discretion of the Finance Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.30 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 25, 1955.

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1955, AT 4.30 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Chairman), Major D. C. L. Nolda (1st Battalion), Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, M.C. (2nd Battalion), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L. (3rd Battalion), Lt.-Col. T. S. Wolcombe, M.C. (4th Battalion), Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P. (6th Battalion), Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (9th Battalion), Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D. (co-opted legal adviser), Major A. R. Waller, M.C. (Depot), R.S.M. P. Donovan (Depot), C.S.M. R. Budden (representing R.S.M. 1st Battalion), Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P. (8th Battalion), Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D. (7th Battalion).

1. *Election of Member to Represent 5th Battalion vice Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O.* Proposed by Col. Browne, seconded by Major Waller and approved by the meeting that Major E. L. Heywood be invited to represent the 5th Battalion.

2. *Election of an Additional Member to the Committee of the Regimental Association.* The meeting decided to invite Capt. F. G. Ashby, M.N., to become an additional member of the Committee of the Regimental Association. (Late 8th Battalion and now employed by 11th Parachute Battalion.)

3. *Rules.* It was agreed that the Rules of the Association need revising and it was proposed that a sub-committee composed of Major Waller, Lt.-Col. Allen and Major Hardcastle carry out the revision for presentation to the Association at the Committee's later date. The Secretary will convene a meeting for a date suitable to the members.

4. *Annual Meeting.* It was proposed by the meeting that the first post-war General Meeting of the members of the Association should take place prior to the Regimental Reunion in October next at the Seymour Hall.

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1955, AT 4.50 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wolcombe, M.C., Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, M.C., Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major A. R. Waller, M.C., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major D. C. L. Nolda, Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D.

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

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

Report. The paid membership of the Officers' Club at the end of 1954 was 419. Several National Service officers resigned as they were unable to meet their subscription.

Club Activities for 1955:

Golf: Spring Meeting at Hendon Golf Club, Friday, April 20, 1955.
Home Counties Brigade Golf Meeting, Canterbury Thursday, May 5, 1955.
Autumn Golf Meeting at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, Hants, on Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25, 1955.

"At Home." Dorchester Hotel, Friday, June 17, 1955.
Dinner: Dorchester Hotel, Friday, June 17, 1955.
Cricket: Sat., June 18, 1955 Club v. Free Foresters.
Sun., June 19, 1955 .. v. Hampstead Heathens.
Mon., June 20, 1955 .. v. Cryptics.
Tues., June 21, 1955 .. v. Incogniti.
Wed., June 22, 1955 .. v. I. Zingari.

3. *Adoption of the Officers' Club Accounts for 1954.* Lt.-Col. Fox explained the accounts to the Committee. Lt.-Col. Fox moved that the accounts be adopted; Col. Beach seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

4. *Officers' Club Dinner and "At Home" for 1955.* Lt.-Col. Roberts explained the arrangements for the Dinner at "At Home" at the Dorchester Hotel and it was approved that the following charges be made:

Dinner: 15s. per member. Non-member; £1 10s. 0d. (To include one glass of port.)

5. *Cricket Week Expenditure.* The Committee approved of the following expenditure during Cricket Week, 1955, etc.:

Cricket	£150
"At Home"	£40
Golf	£50
Tennis	£25
Dinner	£100
Total	£365

6. *Entertainment of Civic Dignitaries.* Lt.-Col. Roberts informed the Committee that recently he had had conversations with a large number of civic dignitaries concerning their entertainment by the Regiment.

They were unanimous in expressing their enjoyment of the special hospitality given them during visits to the Depot. They also unanimously stated they preferred this type of entertainment rather than being invited to purely Regimental affairs. The Committee received this report with satisfaction.

7. *Grant, Depot Officers' Mess.* Major Waller informed the Committee that the Finance Committee had recommended a grant of £10 towards the maintenance of the Depot Officers' Mess and he asked the Committee if this amount might be increased in order that the Mess could be maintained in a suitable condition befitting the home of the Regiment. After discussion it was proposed by Lt.-Col. Robbins, seconded by Col. Man, and approved by the Committee, that a grant of £25 be made for the current year and the amount of the grant be reconsidered next year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.15 p.m.

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

THE "DIE-HARDS JOURNAL"

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1954

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
1953	£	s. d.	1953	£	s. d.
705	Cost of Printing and Distribution (Four Issues)	034 1 9	267	Advertisements	280 3 10
60	Salary and Expenses	60 0 0	211	Subscriptions	239 7 6
6	Sundries	5 15 6	357	Grant from Association Charitable Fund, being Excess of Expenditure over Income for year	184 9 11
4	Audit Fee	4 4 0			
£835		£704 1 3	£835		£704 1 3

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1954

1953	£	s. d.	1953	£	s. d.
73	ACCUMULATED FUNDS:		25	MUSEUM, at Cost	25 0 0
336	Balance, January 1, 1954	72 18 3		DEBTORS:	
41	BANK OVERDRAFT	172 18 11	70	Advertisements	75 0 0
			2	STOCK OF JOURNALS	— — —
				ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE FUND:	
			357	Grant due for year to date	184 9 11
4	Audit Fee	4 4 0			
£454		£284 9 11	£454		£284 9 11

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

4 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.
February 8, 1955.

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Chartered Accountants.



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OUR REPRESENTATIVES VISIT ALL DEPOTS

46

The Die-Hards

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

4 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.4.
February 8, 1955.

HALL, WINDER & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

The Die-Hards

47

EXPENDITURE					INCOME						
Total 1953 £	Renny Fund			Association Fund	Total 1953 £ s. d.	Total 1953 £	Renny Fund			Association Fund	Total 1953 £ s. d.
	£	s.	d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£	s.	d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
GRANTS AND ALLOWANCES:						GRANTS AND DONATIONS:					
34	Sundry	—	—	—	—	500	Army Benevolent Fund	—	—	500 0 0	500 0 0
50	Regular Forces Employment Association	—	50 0 0	50 0 0	862	51st Highland Division Trust Fund	—	25 0 0	25 0 0	—	—
60	Sundry Charities	—	54 18 0	54 18 0	—	M.C.C. Sunday Entertainments Fund	—	600 0 0	600 0 0	600 0 0	600 0 0
5	Depot Chapel	—	—	—	33	O.C. Depot, Middlesex Regiment	—	30 14 0	30 14 0	30 14 0	30 14 0
100	Regimental Museum	—	—	—	255	P.R.I., 1st Battalion ditto	—	136 9 0	136 9 0	136 9 0	136 9 0
50	Officers' Club Charitable Fund	—	—	—	10	P.R.I., 5th Battalion ditto	—	—	—	—	—
1,868	Individual Cases	559 18 10	1,178 16 0	1,738 14 10	10	O.C., 7th Battalion ditto	—	10 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0
2,167		559 18 10	1,283 14 0	1,843 12 10	10	O.C., 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A.T.A. (9th Battalion)	—	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
36	Wreaths	—	40 9 0	40 9 0	1,680		—	—	—	—	—
172	O.C.A. Reunions	—	131 8 8	131 8 8	—		—	1,402 4 0	1,402 4 0	1,402 4 0	1,402 4 0
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:						"DIE-HARD" CLUBS AND O.C.A.S:					
52	Postages	18 9	42 0 11	42 19 8	1	Uxbridge	—	2 4 6	2 4 6	2 4 6	2 4 6
59	Printing and Stationery	1 1 0	65 15 5	66 10 5	1	Mill Hill	—	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 2 0
611	Salaries and Expenses	164 0	42 7 8	62 7 8	7	2/7th Battalion O.C.A.	—	—	—	—	—
49	Travelling and Office Expenses	—	68 11 9	68 11 9	1	9th Battalion O.C.A.	—	5 3 6	5 3 6	5 3 6	5 3 6
4	Cheque Books	—	3 0 0	3 0 0	1	Ealing	—	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
38	Audit Fee	15 15 0	22 1 0	37 16 0	4	Hornsey	—	—	—	—	—
357	Grant, <i>Die-Hards</i> Journal (Deficiency for year)	—	184 9 11	184 9 11	470	Subscriptions and Donations	—	—	463 10 5	463 10 5	463 10 5
36	Coronation Expenses	—	—	—	1,592	Interest on Investments (gross)	746 2 6	842 10 4	1,588 12 10	1,588 12 10	1,588 12 10
150	Provision for Maintenance—Cottage Homes and Chapel, Mill Hill, and Houses, Enfield	—	450 0 0	450 0 0	1	Profit on Sale of O.C.A. Badges	—	6 4 8	6 4 8	6 4 8	6 4 8
—	Expenditure incurred on Regimental History in excess of original estimate	—	83 10 0	83 10 0	33	Profit on Sale of Regimental Ties	—	2 10 4	2 10 4	2 10 4	2 10 4
69	Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	4 8 11	—	4 8 11	—	Interest on Deposit Account	—	20 9 0	20 9 0	20 9 0	20 9 0
		—	—	—	—	Income Tax Recovered on Covenants	—	45 14 8	45 14 8	45 14 8	45 14 8
		—	—	—	—	Excess of Expenditure over Income for year	—	37 13 3	37 13 3	37 13 3	37 13 3
£3,800		£746 2 6	£2,834 8 4	£3,580 10 10	£3,800		£746 2 6	£2,834 8 4	£3,580 10 10	£3,580 10 10	£3,580 10 10

COTTAGE HOMES ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1954

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
1953	£	s. d.	1953	£	s. d.
24	Land Agent, Eastern Command, for Rent..	24 0 0	22	Grant from Eastern Command in aid of Rent	22 0 0
7	Water Rate	7 1 8	58	Interests on Investments (gross) ..	58 14 6
14	Insurance	14 0 0	18	Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ..	18 6 8
2	Audit Fee	2 2 0			
51	Repairs and Maintenance	51 17 6			
£98		£99 1 2	£98		£99 1 2

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1954

1953	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	1953	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
ACCUMULATED FUND:					INVESTMENTS PER ANNEXED SCHEDULE:				
Balance at January 1, 1954..	3,627	18 5			(a) At Mid-Market value at December 31, 1938..	678	3 9		
Less: Excess of Expenditure over Income for year	18	6 8			(b) At Cost or Par Value ..	1,195	13 3		
3,628			3,609	11 9	1,874			1,873	17 0
PROVISION FOR FUTURE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE:					(Mid-Market Value at December 31, 1954, £1,700)				
Balance at January 1, 1954..	66	10 0			PROPERTY at Cost	1,653	0 7		
Add Grant from Regimental Association Charitable Fund received during year	100	0 0			CASH AT BANKERS	170	251	6 2	
67									
CREDITOR:									
Audit Fee	2	2 0							
£3,697			£3,778	3 9	£3,697			£3,778	3 9

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information supplied and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.
4 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.4.
February 8, 1955.

HALL, WINDER & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

OFFICERS' CLUB CHARITABLE FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1954

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
1953	£	s. d.	1953	£	s. d.
Grant	20	0 0	43	Dividends from Investments (gross) ..	43 7 0
25	Donation—King Edward VII Hospital for Officers	— — —	—	Interest on Deposit Account	1 15 11
2	Audit Fee	2 2 0	—	Donation	1 7 6
81	Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	24 8 5	50	Grants:	
£108		£108	15	Association Charitable Fund	— — —
				Officers' Club Account	— — —
£108		£108			

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1954

1953	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	1953	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
ACCUMULATED FUND:					INVESTMENTS AT COST per annexed Schedule				
Balance at January 1, 1954..	1,448	0 2			(Mid-Market Value at December 31, 1954, £1,330)	1,269	5 8		
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ..	24	8 5			CASH AT BANKERS:				
1,448			1,472	8 7	Current and Deposit Accounts	205	4 11		
CREDITOR:									
Audit Fee	2	2 0							
£1,450			£1,474	10 7	£1,450			£1,474	10 7

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information supplied and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.
4 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.4.
February 8, 1955.

HALL, WINDER & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

OFFICERS' CLUB ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1954

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
1953	£	s. d.	1953	£	s. d.
DONATIONS:			484	Subscriptions and Entrance Fees	457 16 0
5	Royal School for Daughters of Officers	5 5 0	68	Interest on Investments (Net)	76 15 10
5	Empire War Memorial Fund	— — —	10	Interest on Investments held in Trust for 3rd Battalion (Net)	10 2 8
15	Officers' Club Charitable Fund	— — —	2	Profit on Sale of Officers' Club Ties	2 2 6
25	Depot Chapel Fund	25 0 0	7	Interest on Deposit Account	4 7 3
			5	Refund of Income Tax re Defence Bonds ..	— — —
Cocktail Party	60	2 9			
Less: Receipts	31	1 0			
Expenses of Cricket Week	185	17 11			
Less: Receipts	37	12 6			
141			148		
46	Golf Meeting	112 18 0	51		
	Dinner	52 10 0			
49	Less: Receipts	60 8 0			
	At Home	15 0 6			
17	Less: Receipts	6 15 0			
16	M.C.C. Season Ticket	8 14 6			
7	Wreaths	10 0 0			
	ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:				
60	Salary and Expenses	5 6 6			
21	Postages, Printing and Stationery ..	60 0 0			
9	Audit Fee	33 14 5			
		9 9 0			
90			103		
3	Provision for Income Tax on Bank Interest	1 16 0			
182	Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	93 19 0			
£576		£551 4 3	£576		£551 4 3

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1954

1953	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	1953	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
ACCUMULATED FUND:					INVESTMENTS AT COST:				
Balance at January 1, 1954..	4,057	17 7			Per annexed Schedule	3,986	12 4		
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ..	93	19 0			(Mid-Market Value at December 31, 1954, £4,319)				
4,058			4,151	16 7	CASH AT BANKERS:				
CREDITORS:					Deposit and Current Account	147	16 3		
9	Audit Fee	9 9 0			STOCK OF TIES	20	2 6		
3	Income Tax, 1954-55	2 0 6			STOCK OF CRICKET BALLS	8	15 0		
12			11	9 6	DEBTOR	—	— —		
6	SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID IN ADVANCE	— — —			HELD IN TRUST FOR 3RD BATTALION:				
FUNDS HELD IN TRUST FOR 3RD BATTALION:					Investment at Cost per annexed Schedule	509	10 4		
512	Balance at January 1, 1954..	511 16 7			(Mid-Market Value at December 31, 1954, £574)				
					Cash not re-invested	2	6 3		
£4,588			£4,675 2 8		£4,588			£4,675 2 8	

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information supplied and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.
4 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.4.
February 8, 1955.

HALL, WINDER & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1954

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
1953 £		£	s. d.	1953 £		£	s. d.
	ACCUMULATED CAPITAL FUND				ESTATE ACCOUNT (1-20 Albuhera Close):		
	Balance, January 1, 1954..	34,732	0 9	41,656	At Cost	41,655	13 10
	Add: Donations	28	13 0		(Note.—The above houses have been built on land held on lease expiring 2148. This lease is held by Enfield Urban District Council as security for loan <i>per contra</i> .)		
	Income Tax deducted from Covenant received to April 5, 1954	32	2 10	—	INVESTMENT AT COST per annexed Schedule	250	0
	Legacy—Mrs. Annie Noakes	100	0 0		(Mid-Market Value December 31, 1954, £250)		
	Interest on Investments	0	14 2	106	CASH AT BANK	52	5 11
34,732	Less: Secretary's Expenses	34,902	10 9	41,762	INVESTMENT AT COST per annexed Schedule	41,957	19 9
		10	0 0		(Mid-Market Value December 31, 1954, £400)	400	0 0
6,849	LOAN ACCOUNT:				(Note.—Income from this Investment is credited to Capital Fund)		
	Enfield Urban District Council	6,802	3 6		DEBTORS:		
151	LOAN REDEMPTION RESERVE MAINTENANCE FUND:	197	16 6		Tenants—Net Amount re Rates, Gas and Electricity	10	14 8
	Balance, January 1, 1954..	30	0 0		34 INSURANCES PAID IN ADVANCE	33	15 0
30	Add: Donation, 2 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment	35	0 0		501 CASH AT BANK	708	0 8
					14 CASH IN HAND	14	3 0
			65 0 0				
41,762	ACCUMULATED INCOME FUND:						
	Balance, January 1, 1954..	409	5 7				
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	177	6 1				
409	SUSPENSE ACCOUNT:						
	Balance, January 1, 1954..	149	7 1				
	Add: Housing Grant received from Enfield Urban District Council during year	350	0 0				
		499	7 1				
	Less: Interest on Loan	205	2 7				
	Amortisation Provision	47	2 7				
149		252	5 2				
				247			
	SITE IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT:						
	Balance, January 1, 1954..	90	5 3				
	Add: Grant Received from Middlesex County Council during year	250	0 0				
		340	5 3				
90	Less: Expenditure during year	23	6 6				
				316			
				18			
	CREDITORS:						
	Audit Fee	15	15 0				
	Tenant—Rent and Maintenance Paid in Advance	6	0 0				
17							
			16 1 0				
£42,427		£43,124	13 1	£42,427		£43,124	13

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1954

1953	£	s.	d.	1953	£	s.	d.
45	Insurances	..	..	45	0	0	0
25	Salary—Housing Manager	..	..	250	Rents	..	..
10	Audit Fees	..	..	52	Maintenance Receipts	..	..
2	Postages and Sundries	..	..		
1	Ground Rent	..	..		
25	Repairs and Maintenance	..	..		
108	Balance, Excess of Income over Expenditure	..	..		
	for year	..	..		
£312		£312	0 0	£312		£312	0 0

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

4 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.4.
February 8, 1955.

HALL, WINDER & CO.,
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The Die-Hards

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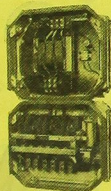
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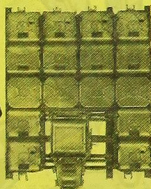
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